

LOCAL FOOD WASTE HUB

SELINUNTE

From pilot project to scaled experiences in the city:
The Local Hub against food waste in Piazzale Selinunte



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As part of its **Food Policy**, since 2018 the Municipality of Milan has established several local Food Waste Hubs in collaboration with local, private, institutional, and third-sector actors.

The objective is to recover edible food from large retailers in the city, Milan wholesale market Foody-Sogemi, selected open street markets, and private company canteens, and redistribute it to vulnerable families.

The first five Hubs launched are:

- **Hub Isola**, started in 2019, in District 9
- **Hub Lambrate**, started in 2020, in District 3
- **Hub Gallaratese**, started in 2021, in District 8
- **Hub Foody Zero Sprechi**, launched in 2021, within the SoGeMi fruit and vegetable wholesale market
- **Hub del Centro**, launched in 2022, in District 1



Hub Isola



Hub Lambrate



Hub Foody



Hub Gallaratese



Hub Centro

The city system of Neighborhood Hubs is expanding

The **Local Food Waste Hub system**, which facilitates the recovery and redistribution of surplus food through a vast network of partners, was selected as the winner of **the 2021 Earthshot Prize**, the global environmental prize established by Prince William and awarded annually to five winners for their contribution to environmentalism.

THE
EARTHSHOT
PRIZE

This recognition allowed the Municipality of Milan to invest additional resources in enhancing and strengthening its network of Local Food Waste Hubs and promoting the international spread of this model.

New actions against food waste

Thanks to the award's contribution, the Food Policy team was able to experiment with a co-planning methodology for involving third-sector organizations, structured into the following phases:

Co-programming workshop (March 2023).

The Municipality issued a public notice to select Third Sector Bodies to co-analyze the context and evaluate the best options for investing resources in solutions that effectively address emerging needs. The first workshop saw over 36 third-sector organizations as participants and 15 partners already involved in actions against waste.

Co-design notice (August/September 2023)

During this phase, based on the outcomes of the workshop, the Municipality issued a public notice inviting Third Sector Bodies to submit project proposals.

Co-planning tables (October 2023).

The Municipality and its partners convened the entities deemed eligible to evaluate the project ideas and define the individual action plans in detail.



Renewal and expansion of the partnership



In 2023, the stakeholders involved in creating the hubs signed a new **memorandum of understanding** titled '**Neighbourhood Hubs Against Food Waste**'.

The Municipality of Milan, Politecnico di Milano, Assolombarda, and Fondazione Cariplo, on the basis of their common objectives, have also strengthened their mutual collaboration through specific operational agreements, envisaging the entry of new parties interested in supporting the activities. These include the **Snam Foundation**, which supports the Milan Polytechnic in monitoring and conducting scientific activities related to the co-design process for strengthening the Neighbourhood Hubs against food waste in 2024.

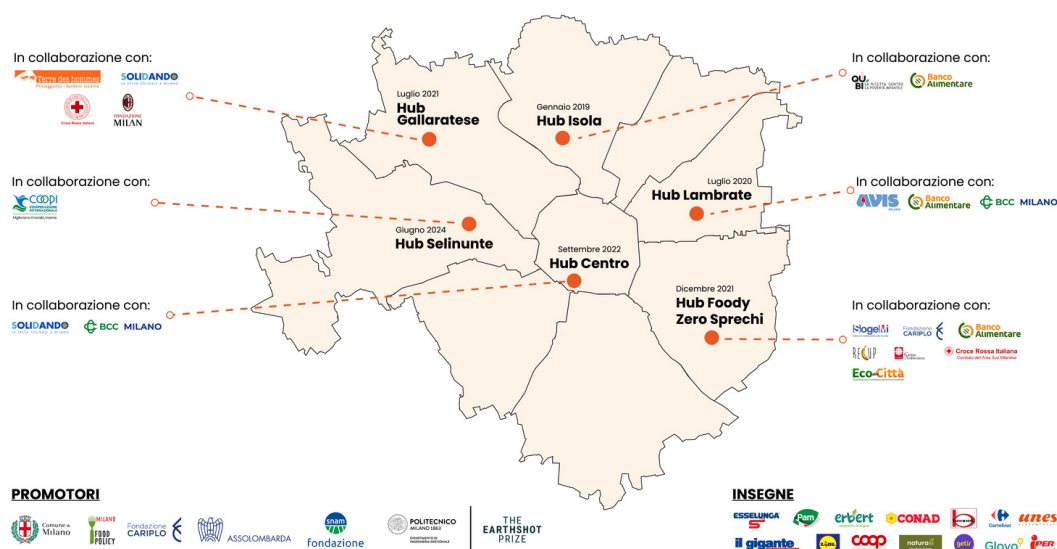
This contribution is intended for the optimisation of logistical processes, the integration of new flows, the sharing of good practices among stakeholders involved in the process and the measurement of surplus flows in and out of the Hubs, also monitoring performance and results. The project partners also discussed granting members the right to use a dedicated collective brand, 'Zerosprechi Hub,' designed by the Armando Testa Group.

Proposals and projects

The co-planning phase resulted in a unitary project and an agreement signed in January 2024, by a large network of operational partners on three specific actions.

The three actions identified are:

- **Action A.** Strengthening of existing Hubs
- **Action B.** Launch of new Hubs
- **Action C.** Integration of municipal markets



ACTION B - Lunch of new Hubs: Hub Selinunte

The aim of this action is to expand the project by opening new Local Hubs in areas not previously covered by similar initiatives, involving the rental, setup, and maintenance of spaces. Among the three hubs that are open or soon to be opened, the **Selinunte Hub** is located in an area undergoing several improvement and social inclusion projects.

The San Siro neighborhood, and specifically Piazza Selinunte, was the subject of the "**San Siro Protocol**", an agenda of agreement between various institutional actors and third-sector bodies to support the redevelopment of the neighborhood.

The Hub as a central logistics hub is located in Piazzale Selinunte and will serve, among others, the areas of Baggio and the Forze Armate in Municipality 7 where the current food distribution and listening desks linked to the **QuBi network** are present.

The collection, delivery, and management of the Hub are overseen by COOPI NGO, which coordinates and brings together local entities involved in food distribution.

This opening creates a logistics hub with distribution capacity across all areas of the Municipality. In this way, the distribution of food expenses will be facilitated in a widespread manner starting from the recovery of the surpluses of the large-scale retail trade and the fruit and vegetable market.

For more than 55 years, **COOPI NGO** has been committed to fighting all forms of poverty, supporting populations affected by wars, socio-economic crises, or natural disasters, and helping them recover and achieve sustainable development.

Since 1999 it has been involved in food distribution in the Milan Metropolitan Area. Starting from 2020, through the Public Call **Luce a San Siro**, it has managed a building, that now hosts the Hub, where 400 food parcels per month are distributed. COOPI is accredited by the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD).

