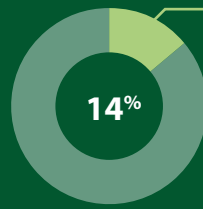
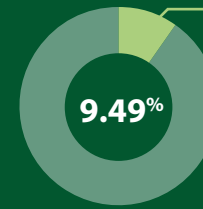


# Sustainable Public Procurement of food: Strategic lever to systemic change

## EU Member States are market actors with great purchasing power



Percentage of budget EU Member States spend on goods and services for public sector (€1,9 trillion)<sup>1</sup>



Percentage of public contracts that are green (2018 data)<sup>2</sup>

## Investing in sustainable public procurement (such as sourcing more organic products) can:



### Protect the environment

- Organic farming **sequesters more carbon**, 37 t/ha (organic) vs 26 t/ha (conventional)<sup>3</sup>
- Organic farming increases biodiversity. Species richness is **30% higher** in organic lands<sup>4</sup>
- Organic farming **reduces water pollution**, saving 20 - 46€/ha/year in France<sup>5</sup>



### Reduce costs for public buyers

- Purchase of organic products can reduce costs through the reduction of waste. In a study on hospitals, **waste was reduced by over £758,000**<sup>6</sup>
- Products labeled “cheaper” upfront can be more expensive in the long run<sup>7</sup>



### Benefit local economies

- Compared to another food-sourcing alternative, the Cornwall Food Programme providing local products to hospital patients generates **£47,000 more** for the local economy for each £100,000 spent<sup>8</sup>
- The United States local farm-to-school procurement led to the farms **purchase more inputs from the local economy**<sup>9</sup>



### Decrease health systems costs

- Providing organic food in public procurement **reduces obesity prevalence by 5%** from projected levels. This translates into 5.2% to 13.2% less costs for the health systems 2020 and 2060<sup>10</sup>
- **Organic food helps prevent chronic disease.** A high level of organic food consumption reduced overweight by 23% and obesity by 31%<sup>11</sup>



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# Benefits of Sustainable Public Procurement

Public procurement is the purchase of goods, services, and works by a public institution. Sustainable procurement goes beyond financial criteria by including sustainability in contracts, such as increasing the use of organic products.

 **Benefits local economy and producers**


 **Increased job satisfaction**

 **Improved children's health and school performance**

 **Save costs and the planet**


 Organic farming **increases species richness in landscapes by 30%**<sup>1</sup>





 Healthier options in school canteens led to:

- **15%** decrease in absences
- **4.5%** increase in their results in English
- **6%** increase in their results in Science<sup>2</sup>



 **Lacto-vegetarian dishes & organic ingredients** cost the same as a meat-based diet<sup>3</sup>

 Organic conversion projects supported by sustainable public procurement create **new knowledge, attitudes, and competencies** among employees and users<sup>4</sup>

 Organic public procurement results in: **Less pesticide exposure** for children and less risk to develop attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)<sup>5</sup>



 Nottinghamshire's local, seasonal spending for school meals generates a return of **£3.11** for every **£1** spent. Local suppliers and business benefited the most, with a return of **£3.6M** or **69% of total spending**<sup>6</sup>





 The city of Turin (Italy) introduced vegetarian school meals 2013-2014. **This reduced the school's carbon footprint of food by 1/3**<sup>7</sup>


Footprint with vegetarian meals



Original footprint

 The city of Copenhagen reached **90% of organic** ingredients in school meals with **no additional cost** thanks to waste reduction and kitchen staff training and empowerment<sup>8</sup>



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Sources: 1 Tuck S., Winqvist C., Mota F. et al (2014), [Land-use intensity and the effects of organic farming on biodiversity: a hierarchical meta-analysis](#) | 2 Belot M. and James J. (2011) [Healthy school meals and educational outcomes](#) | 3 Nuutila J., Risku-Norja H. and Arolaakso A. (2019), [Public kitchen menu substitutions increase organic share and school meal sustainability at equal cost](#) | 4 Mikkelsen B. and Sylvest J. (2012), [Organic Foods on the Public Plate: Technical Challenge or Organizational Change?](#) | 5 Bouchard M., Bellinger D., Wright R. et al (2010), [Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and urinary metabolites of organophosphate pesticides](#) | 6 The New Economics Foundation (2011), [The benefits of procuring school meals through the food for life partnership](#) | 7 Cerutti A., Ardente F., Contu S., et al (2018), [Modeling, assessing, and ranking public procurement options for a climate-friendly catering service](#) | 8 IFOAM Organics Europe (2020) [Best practice in Organic Public Procurement: The case of Denmark](#)



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