

## Incubator call WCSG 2022

### Local policies and regulations for healthy and sustainable food environments to prevent chronic diseases and promote planetary health

#### Team:

|                                     |                         |            |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--|
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#### Brief outline of the core idea

Diet-related chronic diseases and environmental degradation are major public and planetary health challenges. Diets are not merely the result of individual decisions, but strongly influenced by the food environment. Commercial interests have been allowed to prevail over public and planetary health, in which unhealthy and unsustainable food choices are more affordable and easier made than healthy sustainable food choices. To correct for this market failure, it is essential that governments develop and implement structural, nationwide policies to reverse the unsupportive nature of food environments to redirect consumption practices. Most research in this field addresses (supra)national policies and already effective policy measures to improve food environments have been identified. What has been less understood is the potential of local level policy/regulations. There is a need for a better understanding of food policy leverage points at the local level. To illustrate, we need to identify the legislative opportunities for healthy food zoning (spatial planning) or explore pathways to regulate 'dark kitchens'. In gathering this knowledge, we cannot only build upon theoretical insights and legislation but also have to incorporate practice based evidence to generate knowledge about what local level policies/regulations could work and why. Within the Wageningen Centre of Sustainability Governance, we (researchers from CHL, PAP, LAW and ENP) are fragmentally working in this field of research, but each from our own discipline. By means of this grant, we will strengthen our collaboration and visibility by means of the following activities:

#### 1. Working group meetings on local policies for supportive local food environments

We will strengthen our interdisciplinary collaboration in this field of research and will explore how local food policies and regulations can unlock new pathways to create supportive local food environments (a kick-off meeting and periodical follow-up meetings are organized to share work and foster collaboration (e.g. future grant proposals) in this field of research).

#### 2. Write an interdisciplinary scientific paper on the potential of local policies to create supportive food environments

Based on the meetings, we will conduct a study (budgeted) and write a collaborative paper in this field of research.

#### 3. Organize a summit meeting on local food policies for supportive food environments

We will actively increase our external visibility and connect with other interdisciplinary academics and professional food policy networks active in this area (e.g. via our connections within municipalities, Regiodeal, City deal, Transition coalition) and launch a national learning network in this field of research.

## Relevance to the research of the WGCS

The Wageningen Centre of Sustainability Governance has quickly grown into a leading political sciences hub on food systems research. With this incubator, we aim to contribute to the center's research theme of circular food systems and the cross-cutting research line of transnational regulation and governance, particularly focusing on the potential of lower governmental levels. More specifically, this incubator project would build forth on the previous incubator project on an 'alternative food systems summit', during which food system researchers from the cluster got to know their various lines of research as well as increased the visibility of the center within the social sciences department. In this project, we will also increase the external visibility of the WGCS by organizing a new summit meeting for both scholars and public actors involved in local food policies. For this project we will zoom in on a particular area of expertise within the groups, that of local food policy, thereby integrating CHL's expertise on food environment governance, building upon expertise in PAP on (integrated) urban food policies and policy learning, LAW and social practice perspectives on food consumption in ENP.

## Timeline

|  | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Kick-off meeting thematic working group      |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Thematic working group / networking meetings |     |     | X   |     | X   |     | X   |     | X   |     | X*  |     |
| Food environment summit                      |     |     |     |     |     |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Work on collaborative study                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Draft manuscript - collaborative paper       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | X   |

\* planned to be continued afterwards

## Budget

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Internal meeting costs (e.g. kick-off meeting + coffee/lunch sessions) | €500         |
| Costs for data collection (collaborative study)                        | €3000        |
| Summit + national launch learning network                              | €1500        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>€5000</b> |