

THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATED FOOD POLICY

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Abstract. *Careful observation of where food is produced and distributed reveals a mismatch between what is given, what is demanded and what is received. All this becomes an argument for structuring a coherent concept for harmonising food policy, as well as an issue calling for the integration of food policies. The objective of the study is to raise awareness recently and to propose technical and public policy solutions primarily at local community level, within citizens' groups. The solutions that emerged from the study are those relating to highlighting the elements of principle that provide the framework for the realisation of a Territorial Action Programme in food policy, particularly in densely populated areas. This guide is useful for achieving the necessary synergy between agricultural, environmental and social issues that intersect with the provision of quality food and food aid in a unified concept of Romanian integrated food policy.*

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1. Introduction

The food system, as subtly defined by the founder of agrifood economics, Louis Malassis, is "the way in which people organise themselves, in space and time, to procure and consume their food" [19]. This characterisation of the food system in terms of how it is produced, consumed and organised, from a historical and territorial perspective, provides us with a highly relevant framework for analysis, perfectly in line with contemporary concerns about sustainable development.

The overlapping crises of climate change, energy, pandemics, armed conflicts, etc. have the direct or indirect effect of 'starving the planet' through a globally expanding food and freshwater crisis. It follows, of course not only in our view, that for the coming decades the number one priority will be food security and food safety. It is therefore more than appropriate to analyse and develop an Integrated Food Policy that is coherent and as harmonious as possible at systemic level [17, 22, 24].

The usefulness and topicality of the issues addressed is linked including for fruitful deliberations and concerted actions at the INTERFACE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY, the concepts of food systems and drivers of change all need to be clearly understood and used by all.

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