MONTEMOR-O-NOVO PORTUGAL

AGENDA 21 AS A CATALYST FOR LOCAL FOOD STRATEGIES

This food policy snapshot is based on an interview with the SMEA working group and the Head of the Support Division for Planning and Economic Development of the Municipality of Montemor-o- Novo, the SMEA strategy monitoring team (MED - University of Évora), two regional partners (Slow Food Alentejo and Marca - ADL) and the external consultant for the strategy development phase. Written by Cicília Delgado, NOVA University of Lisbon, CICS.NOVA, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, NOVA

In 1992 the United Nations formulated an action plan for sustainable development based on the Agenda 21 phase. Written by Cecília Delgado, NOVA University of Lisbon, CICS.NOVA, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, NOVA

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ENABLERS

The existence of an active community allowed consideration of a considerable number of partners around local food issues, including the FREIXO DO MEIO USERS’ COOPERATIVE, the MINGA, the local academic community, and other external stakeholders concerned and committed to ensuring the sustainability of the food sector and local provision. These barriers were overcome with the creation of the SMEA strategy. This process is now underway, despite pandemic delays.

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This market is now a key meeting point for local producers and consumers. Although barriers need to be overcome to execute the remaining actions, the Local Council included a vision of the food strategy in its review of the Municipal Master Plan (September 2021). The strategy targets set for the next 10 years confirm that Montemor-o-Novo intends to support local producers and consumers through the services subcontracted to the external team of the University of Évora - MED. This process is now underway, despite pandemic delays.

Of the 14 priority actions, the monitoring of SMEA continues through the services subcontracted to the external team of the University of Évora - MED. One action, the refurbishment of the local market financed by the Local Council, has been completed. This market is now a key meeting point for local producers and consumers. Although barriers need to be overcome to execute the remaining actions, the Local Council included a vision of the food strategy in its review of the Municipal Master Plan (September 2021). The strategy targets set for the next 10 years confirm that Montemor-o-Novo intends to support local producers and consumers through the services subcontracted to the external team of the University of Évora - MED. This process is now underway, despite pandemic delays.

BARRIERS

When seeking to develop a vision of the local food system, stakeholders and partners realized that they did not have a roster of local producers. They also discovered that they did not have the capacity to carry out some of the food strategy actions foreseen, such as school canteen provisioning. These barriers were overcome with the creation of the SMEA cooperative, which incorporated small farmers and increased local capacity.

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