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# SysOrg: Organic agro-food systems as models for sustainable food systems in Europe and Northern Africa

Presented by Dr. Lilliana Stefanovic, project coordinator as of 01.10.2022  
Joint Project Seminar, Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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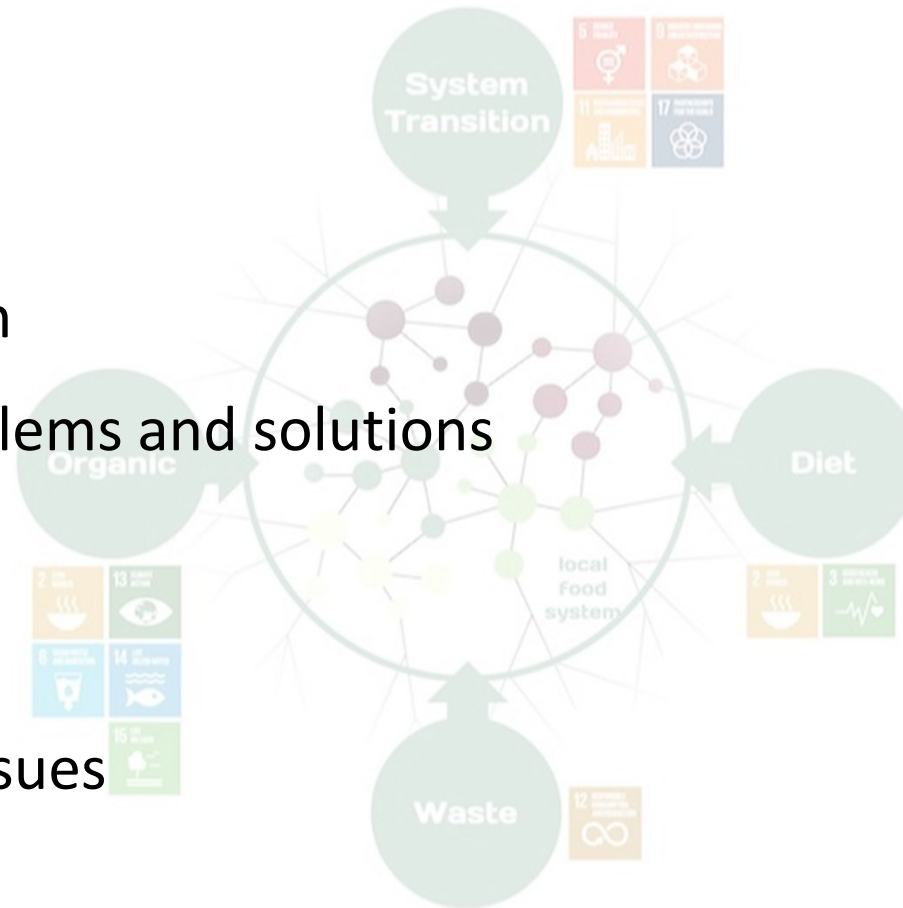


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# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Implementation
3. Obstacles, problems and solutions
4. First results
5. Outlook
6. Cross-cutting issues



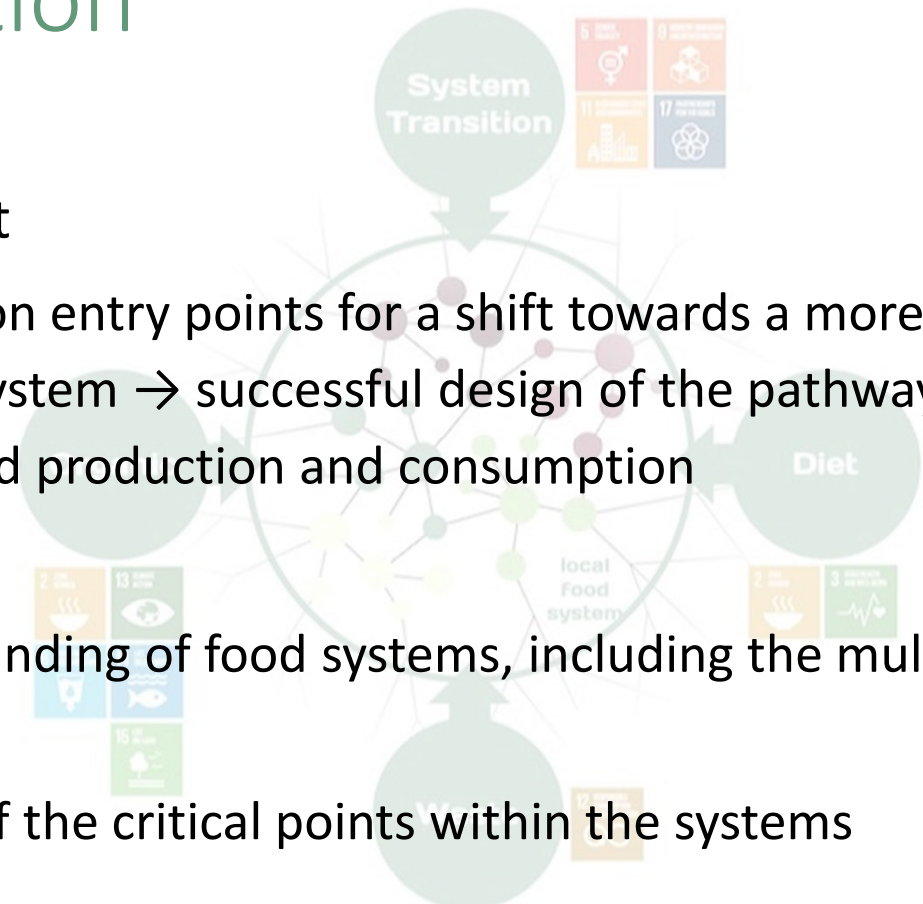


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# 1. Introduction

- Aim of the project
  - Identify common entry points for a shift towards a more sustainable and resilient food system → successful design of the pathways to increase sustainable food production and consumption
- Prerequisites
  - Better understanding of food systems, including the multitude of actors involved
  - Identification of the critical points within the systems





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# 1. Introduction

- Partner countries and institutions

- Germany: University of Kassel & FH Münster University of Applied Sciences
- Denmark: University of Copenhagen
- Poland: Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- Italy: Council for agricultural research and economics (CREA) & International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM)
- Morocco: Ibn Tofail University



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# 1. Introduction

- Questions addressed in the project

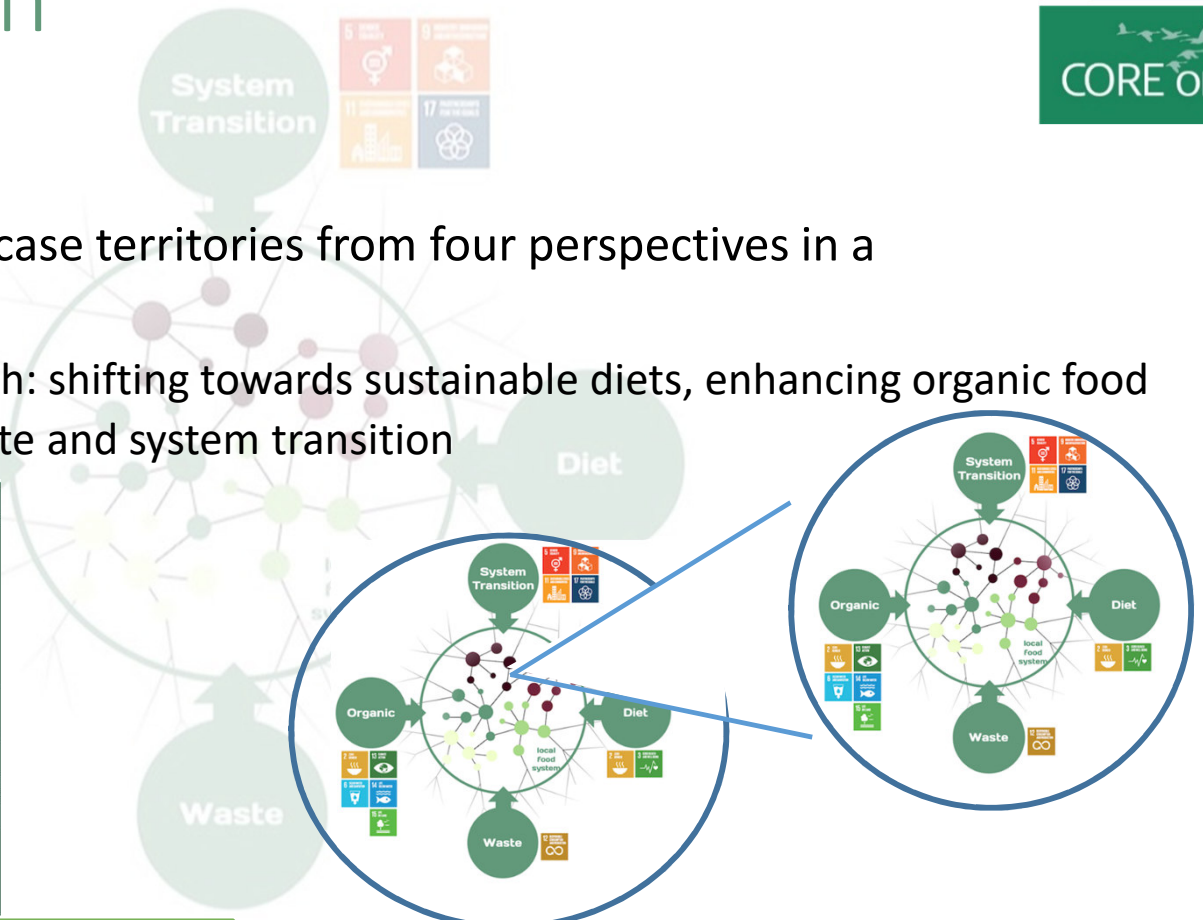
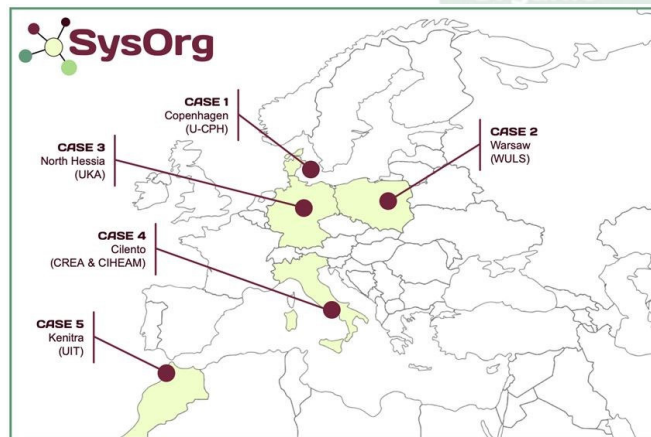
- What is the understanding of sustainability to drive the transformation towards sustainable food systems?
- How can pathways to increase sustainable food production and consumption across the system be successfully designed?
- What are the reasons, motivations, drivers or barriers for actors to opt for more sustainable solutions?
- What are the promising entry points for developing, consolidating and disseminating organic food and farming, reducing waste and shifting to sustainable diets? What are the critical points to bring these perspectives together in a systems approach?

# 2. Implementation

- Approach

- Mapping and analyzing five case territories from four perspectives in a transdisciplinary way

- Multi-stakeholder approach: shifting towards sustainable diets, enhancing organic food and farming, reducing waste and system transition







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### 3. Obstacles, problems and solutions

- Change of project coordination (x2 throughout the project period)
- Pandemic-induced restrictions → first in-person partner meeting in October 2022 → challenges in finding a common ground throughout the first project phase
  - Solutions
    - In-person meeting was very helpful → scheduling another in-person meeting prior to the completion phase
    - More frequent Zoom-meetings and email communication
    - Very specific To-Do lists between the meetings



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## 4. First results

- Methodological Guideline part 1 has been developed by the Project Consortium – set of rules for data collection
- Activities organized
  - Cilento Transnational Multi-Actor Workshop (virtual) on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June 2021
  - Kassel Partner Meeting (in-person) on 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Data collection has been completed in every case territory: desk research, household survey, semi-structured interviews, in-depth interviews
- Data cleaning and descriptive data analysis have been performed





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## 4. First results

- Brief overview of the data (1/2)

- Household survey

- The total of 2,263 respondents in the five case territories participated in the survey
    - Characteristics of the participants: average age 42 years, predominantly females (59,1%), highly educated (bachelor's degree and higher) with high household income
    - Varying intake of different food groups: highest vegetable intake – in Copenhagen, highest intake of legumes – in Cilento, highest intake of potatoes and nuts – in Kenitra
    - Adherence to national dietary guidelines: highest – Danish females, lowest – German females
    - Differences in organic consumption: highest consumption of organic foods – in Copenhagen and North Hesse, lowest – in Kenitra and Warsaw

# 4. First results



- Brief overview of the data (2/2)
  - Number of initiatives investigated (semi-structured interviews)

	North Hestia	Copenhagen	Cilento	Warsaw	Kenitra
Waste perspective	3	2	3	2	3
Organic perspective	3	2	3	4	4
Diet perspective	3	2	8	2	3
Transition perspective	3 (1 for in-depth investigation)	2 (1 for in-depth investigation)	3 (1 for in-depth investigation)	5 (1 for in-depth investigation)	5 (1 for in-depth investigation)



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## 5. Outlook

- Further steps
  - In-depth territory- and perspective-based analysis
  - Cross-case comparative analysis for the identification of:
    - Similarities and differences between the initiatives
    - Obstacles and opportunities to promote the production and consumption of sustainable organic food
  - Preparing peer-reviewed publications
  - Copenhagen meeting in May 2023 and a possibility of another meeting prior to Copenhagen



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## 6. Cross-cutting issues

- Multi-disciplinarity and multi-actor approach due to the project's nature
  - The four perspectives: diet, waste, organic and transition
  - Involved partners and institutions
    - Worked well so far; partly due to the existing long-term collaboration between some partners, however
      - ❖ Pandemic-induced restrictions have complicated the work, especially during the initial phase of the project



Importance of in-person meetings !!!



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# Thank you for your attention!



Any questions?