



# Food Sharing in Cities: Analysis of Challenges, Risks, Costs and Investments



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International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund University, Sweden

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# What is food sharing?

Collective acts around food across the food system, namely:

Cooking and eating  
together



Growing or  
composting  
together



Redistributing  
surplus food



Sharing food space,  
tools, knowledge  
and seeds



<https://cultivate-project.eu/>



Co-designing food sharing for resilience

**CULTiVATE**

Co-designing food sharing for resilience



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# CULTIVATE project

## Aim

To create more sustainable, resilient and healthy urban and peri-urban food systems supporting the EU's inclusive climate mitigation and adaptation ambitions by strengthening sustainable food sharing initiatives (FSIs)

## Consortium

19 Partners; 80+ participants; municipalities; universities; FSIs; MUFPP; ICLEI; ICONS; Cascoland

## Objectives

Built with and for five key groups: FSIs; policy makers; food supply actors; researchers; and citizens, the objectives are to:

- Support them to navigate diverse food sharing landscapes and cultures
- Help them understand, engage with, develop, replicate, scale out and strengthen sustainable food sharing

Objectives will be achieved through a ground-breaking online social innovation support platform

## The Food Sharing Compass



# CULTIVATE Food Sharing Compass

Understand food sharing landscapes

**SHARECITY200 Database**

Interactive AI supported tool

Identify Costs, Benefits & Impacts

**Food Sharing Calculator**

Sharing Solutions SIA platform  
CBA guidelines



Expand engagement  
**Library of Citizen Engagement**  
Novel serious game development

Support Appropriate Governance of food sharing

**Menu of Good Governance Options**

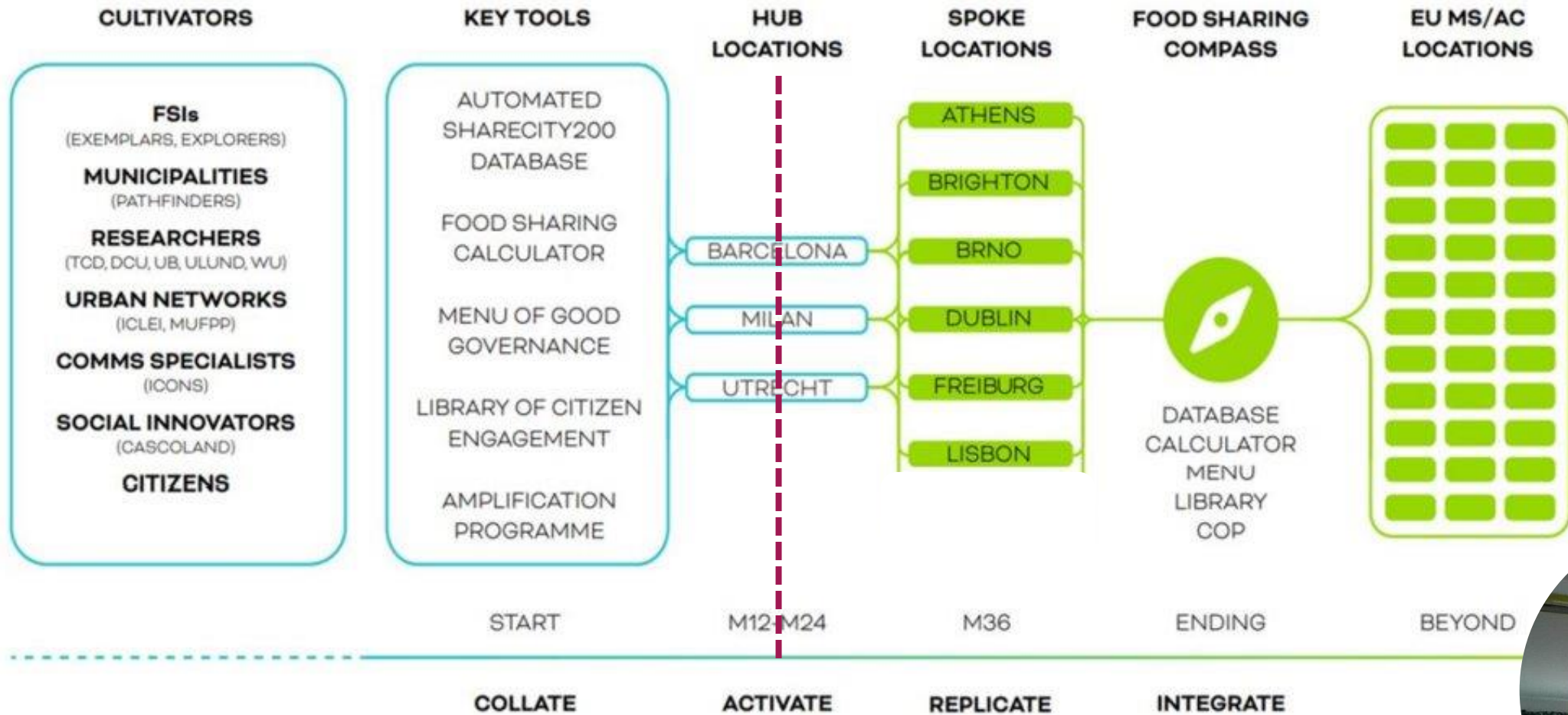
Principles, processes and protocols



**CULTIVATE**



# CULTIVATE Project Process





# CULTiVATE

## WP 3 – Cost-benefit analysis of food sharing initiatives

### WP Lead: Lund University

*Yuliya Voytenko Palgan, Vera Sadovska, Oksana Mont, Andrius Plepys (IIIEE, Lund University)  
Anna Davies and Simona Herbaj (Trinity College Dublin)*



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# WP3 team: Lund University and Trinity College Dublin



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# WP3 and Food Sharing Calculator

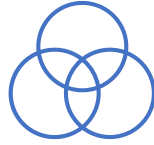


## Task 3.1

Mar 2023 – May 2025

### ANALYSIS

of costs, investments, challenges, drivers, success factors of FSIs



## Task 3.2

Jul 2023 – Jun 2025

### ASSESSMENT

of social, economic, environmental impacts of FSIs



## Task 3.3

Aug 2024 – Dec 2025

### FOOD SHARING CALCULATOR



## Task 6.2.2

Jun 2025 – Oct 2026

**REPLICATION**  
of the food sharing calculator in Spoke cities

- **Food Sharing Calculator** - an online decision-support tool to assess the costs, benefits, social return on investments, success factors and barriers for establishing food sharing activity
- **For whom?** - food sharing investors (public, private, philanthropy), FSIs, citizens
- **What for?** - to identify the investments needed to establish and maintain food sharing activity, to **optimise** economic, social, and environmental returns



# Costs, investments, challenges, drivers, and success factors to establish and maintain FSIs



## Task 3.1

Mar 2023 – May 2025

### ANALYSIS

of costs, investments, challenges, drivers, success factors of FSIs

- Step I – **Systematic literature**
  - Categorisation of challenges, risks, costs and investments of food sharing
- Step II – **Mobile research labs**
  - Capture the perspectives of actors beyond FSIs
  - Validate and refine the categorisations with data from Hub cities



► Input to the **Food Sharing Calculator**



# Step I – Systematic literature review

- **Article:** *Challenges, risks and costs of food sharing: Insights from a systematic literature review* – submitted to Journal of Cleaner Production
- A systematic literature review of **52 articles** on food sharing
- Categorisation of **challenges**, **risks** and **costs** for establishing and maintaining FSIs
- **Strategies** and **investment needs** for FSIs' operation and development
- Next: **validate** and refine these frameworks in mobile research labs and use them as a starting point for **the food sharing calculator**



# Challenges of food sharing



- Resources
- Regulations
- Network management
- Image
- User participation
- Organisational management

Source: Sadovska, V., Voytenko Palgan, Y., Mont, O. 2024. Challenges, risks and costs from a systematic literature review. Submitted to the Journal of Cleaner Production





# Risks of food sharing

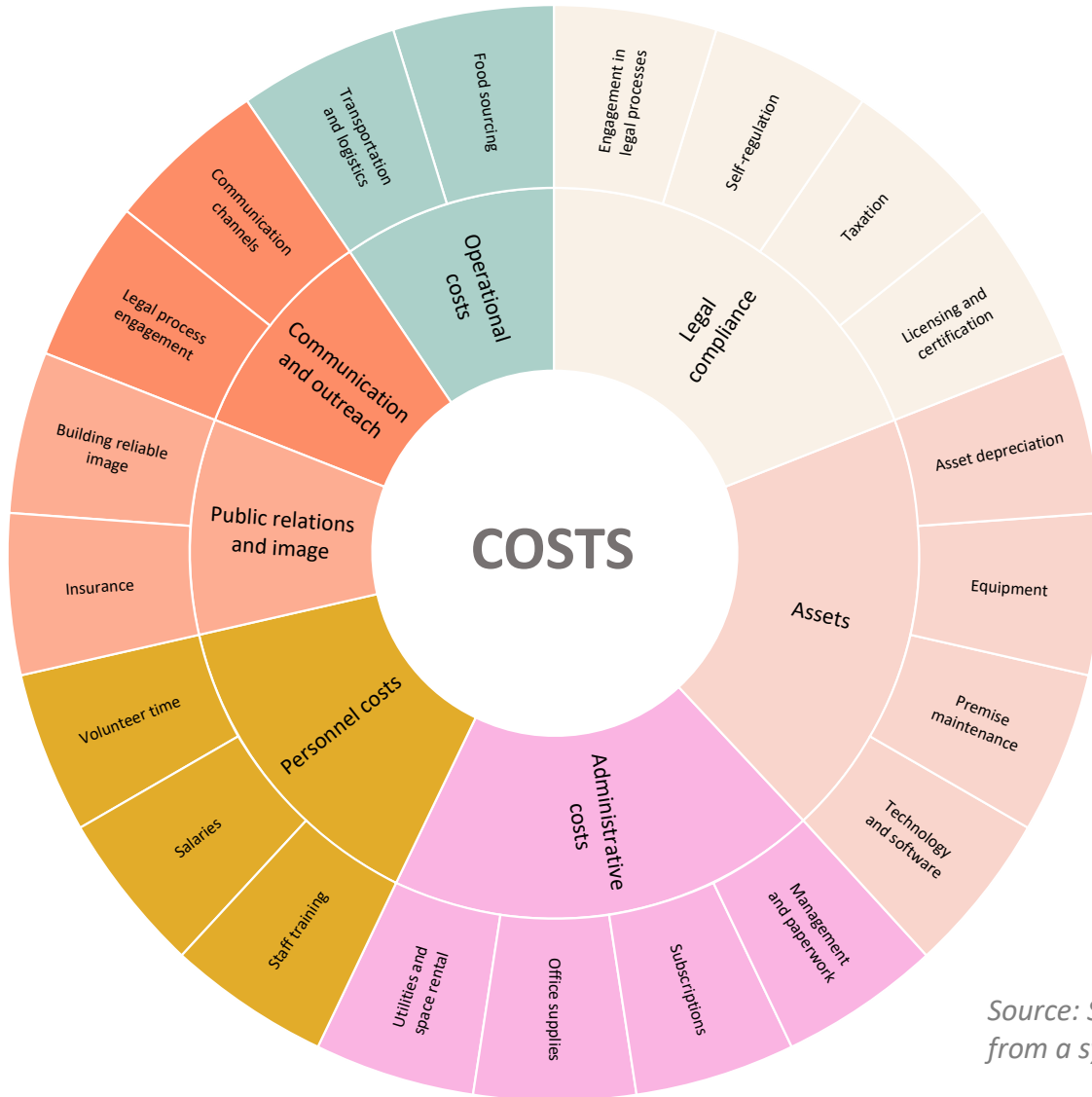


- Regulatory uncertainty
- Justice and inclusivity
- Rebound effects
- Health and safety
- Trust
- Operational risks

Source: Sadovska, V., Voytenko Palgan, Y., Mont, O. 2024. Challenges, risks and costs of food sharing: A systematic literature review. Submitted to the Journal of Cleaner Production.



# Costs of FSIs



- Legal compliance
- Assets
- Administrative costs
- Personnel costs
- Public relations and image
- Communication and outreach
- Operational costs

Source: Sadovska, V., Voytenko Palgan, Y., Mont, O. 2024. Challenges, risks and costs of food safety initiatives: a systematic literature review. Submitted to the Journal of Cleaner Production.



# Investment needs of FSIs

INVESTMENT NEEDS	COST CATEGORIES	INVESTMENT CATEGORIES
Money	Operations	Food
	Administration	Utilities, rent, office supplies, subscriptions
	Assets	Hard- and software, equipment, premises certification
	Personnel	Salaries, training
	Public relations and image	Insurance
	Legal compliance	Licenses, certification, uniform for personnel, taxes, legal representation
Human resources	Operations Administration Personnel Communication and outreach Public relations and image Legal compliance	Time, knowledge, skills
Space	Operations	Food storage space
	Administration	Operational premises (buildings, plots)
Equipment	Operations	Vehicles
	Assets	Hardware (computers, mobile phones), kitchenware and kitchen equipment, gardening equipment (landscaping tools)
Software	Assets	Mobile phone apps, websites, programmes

## Stakeholders who facilitate food sharing

- Health authorities
- Municipalities
- National and local governments
- Retailer
- International policymakers



Source: Sadovska, V., Voytenko Palgan, Y., Mont, O. 2024. *Cleaner food sharing: Insights from a systematic literature review*. *Small Scale Food and Drug Production*

# Conclusions and future research

- Justifying empirical research and a need for mobile research labs (MRLs):
  - Importance of capturing the perspectives of actors beyond FSIs
  - Needs to validate and refine the frameworks with empirical data

## Highlights for future research

- Specific lifecycle phases of FSIs
- Different types of FSIs
- Roles of stakeholders





# Mobile research lab in Barcelona this week



An innovative data collection method with roots in ethnography. It is a collaborative process for in-situ analysis by a research team of a complex and broad societal phenomenon manifested in activities of a variety of organisations and societal actors (Mont 2018).



► **Who joins?** 4 researchers from Lund University, Sweden; + FoodCloud, Ireland; ICLEI



Mon, 18 Mar	Tue, 19 Mar	Wed, 20 Mar	Thu, 21 Mar	Fri, 22 Mar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of Barcelona</li><li>• PEMB</li><li>• Community kitchen, Sant Antoni market</li><li>• Xarxa d'Aliments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hort al terrat</li><li>• Mercabarna</li><li>• Terra Pagesa</li><li>• Food Back</li><li>• Cuchara</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Espigoladors</li><li>• Cuina de barri</li><li>• La Botiga</li><li>• FoodCoop BCN</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of Barcelona</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BLOC4BCN community kitchen</li><li>• Can Batlló Cantina</li><li>• La Garro Sants co</li></ul>





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Дякую за увагу!



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