

Fragments relating to food policy

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UPDATE OF THE KRAKOW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

I WANT TO LIVE HERE. KRAKOW 2030/2050

Krakow 2025

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Table of contents

PART II - Conclusions from the strategic diagnosis.....	2
Food sovereignty and local agriculture.....	2
PART III - Strategic plan	4
Food security in Krakow	4

PART II - Conclusions from the strategic diagnosis

Food sovereignty and local agriculture

With regard to agriculture and food production in Krakow, the following problems arise:

1. The agricultural areas of Krakow, being part of the city, are not covered by EU instruments supporting rural development (PROW), and no local action groups are being established there (such as on the outskirts of Krakow: 'LGD Blisko Krakowa', 'LGD Jurajska Kraina', 'LGD Korona Północnego Krakowa', 'LGD Powiatu Wielickiego'). From this point of view, the agricultural areas of Krakow are neither rural nor urban, which has many negative consequences.
2. Local farms supplying high-quality food, located in the Krakow metropolitan area, are disappearing from the region. They are being killed off primarily by the dominance of large retail chains, which, mainly due to their global reach and scale of sales, offer products from the far corners of the world at attractive prices. Due to the small scale of sales, transaction costs and, above all, logistics, the prices of local producers are not competitive.
3. The city's food security, often referred to as food sovereignty, depends on the strength of local agricultural production, which should ensure access to food in terms of both variety and quantity in the event of natural disasters, catastrophic disruptions to supply chains for logistical reasons or war. Such security is ensured by the active functioning of local supply systems and local product sales systems that strengthen profitability and, consequently, the sustainability of local farms, including in particular traditional multi-product farms.
4. From the perspective of Krakow and the metropolitan area, the problem also concerns the market-driven process of land conversion for construction purposes. Our own interviews with farmers on the outskirts of Krakow show that those who intend to continue agricultural production predict that it will be more profitable and effective to convert and sell agricultural land in the suburban areas of Krakow and the metropolitan area and buy much larger farms in other regions of Małopolska, Podkarpacie or Świętokrzyskie. This will threaten the food security of our city.
5. Public authorities do not apply 'green procurement' practices for food products for public institutions, in particular for schools.
6. There are no school vegetable gardens, nor are shared gardens being created that could also be used by schools that are unable to create their own.
7. No coherent city policy has been defined on the role of allotment gardens, parcel gardens and community gardens.

On a global scale, the environmental impact of global retail chains is negative due to their promotion of high-volume agricultural producers using large amounts of chemicals, but above all due to the dominant long-distance transport of products and the associated emissions and indirect environmental costs of transport, as well as the vulnerability of such a food system to supply chain disruptions.

Krakow is a signatory **to the Milan Food Policy Pact**, which calls for the development of a sustainable urban food system. One that will be inclusive of residents, increase the resilience of the city and agricultural areas to adverse changes and crises, be safe and diverse, provide all residents with healthy and affordable food, minimise waste and preserve biodiversity, while adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. In the spirit of the Milan Pact, actions are needed to implement the following proposals:
 - local agricultural markets, i.e. those that limit long-distance transport and make maximum use of agricultural production from nearby farms
 - short food supply chains, aimed at eliminating intermediaries between 'field and fork', i.e. supplies and transactions carried out directly between the producer (farmer) and the consumer.
 - Traceability, delivery routes and guarantees of the declared quality of adapted products.
2. The city should cooperate and support the creation of local markets, organise periodic fairs in city squares, agricultural and food exchanges, and cooperate organisationally and administratively in the creation of cooperatives and 'purchasing clubs' that organise the availability of local agricultural products for the residents of Krakow.
3. The city should promote new IT and organisational solutions (e.g. developed under the 'Local Product of Małopolska' programme) that eliminate intermediaries and reduce transaction and logistics costs for local agricultural markets in the Krakow metropolitan area.
4. The solution to the problem of food sovereignty and local food markets has a metropolitan dimension and requires a decisive strengthening of the City's initiatives within the Krakow metropolitan area.
5. The city should clarify its long-term policy on rural areas and agriculture in Krakow, taking into account, first and foremost, the sustainability and nature of agricultural production, but also the strengthening of rural self-government and the identity of rural settlements, as well as the protection of species and biodiversity associated with farmland.

PART III - Strategic plan

Food security in Krakow

Challenge [##]:

Long-distance, mass food imports for Krakow residents pose a threat to their security

Summary of the diagnosis

The Krakow metropolitan area imports food on a scale that weakens local agricultural production potential and exposes the city to problems in the event of disruption to existing supply chains. From this perspective, including real threats of war, local, diversified agricultural production, particularly in traditional family farms, and the infrastructure of local supply chains (including markets and marketplaces) are elements of critical infrastructure for civil protection.

Response to the challenge [##]

1. The local government of Krakow should join **efforts to ensure that the government recognises the infrastructure of local supply chains as critical infrastructure** in the context of national defence. **Infrastructure for ensuring short and resilient supply chains** is considered **critical infrastructure** in SRK2030.2050. This includes marketplaces, wholesale markets, agricultural exchanges, logistics centres (cold stores), processing plants and food delivery systems. The government's classification of local agricultural market infrastructure as critical infrastructure would also allow access to funds from [the Security and Defence Fund](#).
2. The local government of Krakow should cooperate with the citizens' movement – the food sovereignty coalition – to establish a food policy for Poland.
3. The investment priority in the area of food security for the entire Krakow metropolitan area is the construction of an agricultural exchange dominated by the State Treasury, including both wholesale and retail functions, and an administrative facility bringing together all agricultural services and institutions supporting the production, sale and distribution of agricultural products. The initiator can only be the local government. The initiative should not be limited to the local government of Krakow. SRK2030.2050 indicates in the Functional and Spatial Structure Model potential locations for this exchange, which requires an area of 15-30 ha.

Challenge [##]:

The future of local food production in the Krakow metropolitan area is under threat

Summary of the diagnosis

We are observing a process of concentration of agricultural production, limiting the area of vegetable production and livestock farming, as well as the development of agricultural land that is not protected by law in the city of Krakow.

Response to challenge [##]

1. **Creation of a local forum** to address issues related to short food supply chains and local agricultural markets on an ongoing basis, bringing together institutions and individuals involved in food production, processing and distribution, representatives of the Małopolska Chamber of

Agriculture, the Agency for the Development and Modernisation of Agriculture, the Agricultural Advisory Centre and Centre, representatives of the administration and local authorities of the Krakow Metropolitan Area and the Marshal's Office, the Krakow Metropolitan Area Association, farmers, entrepreneurs, academic experts and non-governmental organisations.

2. **The issue of the currently scattered competences and responsibilities within the Krakow City Council for elements of the city's food system** needs to be clarified: protection of agricultural land, incentives and cooperation with farmers, organisation of sales systems (including marketplaces and producer shops), relations with allotment holders and initiators of community gardens, school gardens and urban farms, promotion of local agricultural production addressed to residents, cooperation in the field of food with neighbouring municipalities and agricultural organisations, etc.
3. A fundamental problem is **inefficient and costly logistics**, ranging from ineffective individualised transport systems to difficulties in packaging products for retail sale. This reduces the competitiveness of local products and the profitability of farms, while at the same time hindering residents' access to local agricultural production. It is necessary to look for ways to streamline and reduce logistics costs and to support experimental organisational and IT systems that offer opportunities to solve this problem.
4. SRK2030.2050 assumes **the maintenance of agricultural land within the city** and plans to develop the current agricultural areas in eastern Krakow in the form of a mosaic of agricultural and green recreational areas. Their production potential and agricultural production structure should be investigated.
5. **Care for the protection of agricultural production areas** suitable for meeting the food needs of the metropolis, especially in the production of vegetables and consumer products, should apply at least to the municipalities associated in the Krakow Metropolis Association.
6. As statutory protection of agricultural land applies only to rural areas, i.e. it does not apply to Krakow, **the scope and conditions for the protection of agricultural land in the city have been included in the SRK2030.2050 Functional and Spatial Structure Model** and should be specified in the POG.
7. **Efforts should be made to diversify food sources** and support smaller farmers in the Krakow food production zone, but also to organise urban farms, school gardens, community gardens and support 'allotment gardens'.

Challenge [##]:

Low demand for local food from public institutions

Summary of the diagnosis

The Krakow local government is not a source of demand for local agricultural production. Schools, hospitals and nursing homes do not purchase products from local farmers due to restrictions in public procurement law and the burden of dealing with multiple suppliers. No producer groups of farmers are being formed that could meet the required quality and quantity standards and facilitate the process of ordering agricultural products by public entities.

Response to the challenge [##]

1. **High-quality food for kindergartens, schools, hospitals and nursing homes is available locally.** In order to maintain its production on traditional farms close to the city, the Krakow local government should create demand for it by using existing legal formulas and proposing appropriate changes to public procurement law.
2. **Properly structured public procurement** should encourage cooperation between local farmers, the creation of producer groups, and the adaptation of production structures to the nutritional needs of schools and other public collective consumers, as well as restaurants.
3. A prosumer approach to food supply systems should be supported, **based on cooperation between food producers and consumers.**
4. The local government of Krakow should **regularly organise (e.g. in Blonia Park) weekly events in the form of agricultural fairs** showcasing the richness of local agricultural production, which would be an effective way of informing residents about the availability of local products in a world dominated by advertising from large retail chains. Advertising that neither individual farmers nor (the few) producer groups in Małopolska can afford.

Challenge [##]:

Limited access of residents to high-quality local food

Summary of the diagnosis

In addition to logistical problems and the marketing advantage of large retail chains, a significant problem is the lack of information about local food and blocked direct sales channels for local agricultural products.

Response to the challenge [##]

1. An important goal of the local government is **to promote locally produced food**, especially from traditional, low-commodity farms offering a rich agricultural production structure suitable for mass catering (kindergartens, schools, nursing homes, restaurants) and individual consumers, addressed to residents-consumers.
2. The results of pilot projects implemented in Krakow concerning **the labelling/certification of local food** in terms of origin and quality should be used.
3. **The quality and availability of high-quality local food is an important element of the quality of life in the Krakow Metropolitan Area** and can be an important instrument for the labour market, encouraging highly skilled people, who are sought after by employers in modern industries and services, to live in Krakow.
4. In order to **streamline direct sales channels for agricultural products**, the Krakow local government should support existing and organise new marketplaces (permanent and temporary), offer premises for producer shops on preferential terms, and support all alternative forms of sale and distribution of local products directly from the farmer, including the activities of cooperatives and cooperatives. It is important to increase the number of places where local food is sold and to diversify the forms of sale (from occasional markets, through 'street markets', permanent

marketplaces of various sizes, producer shops, to market halls and a multifunctional regional agricultural exchange).

5. **The process of renewing market square leases in Krakow is underway.** The new deal should not necessarily lead to a change in management, but should be based on new tender conditions and draft lease agreements that oblige market operators to:
 - a. Setting preferential prices for local producers
 - b. Respecting local certificates of origin and quality, and designating permanent locations for certified food.
 - c. Supervising and taking responsibility for verifying these certificates.

The terms of tenders and lease agreements for market places should be consulted not only with residents, but also with a group of stakeholders from institutions supporting agriculture, farmers, representatives of the Chamber of Agriculture, neighbouring municipalities and provincial administration.

6. Efforts should be made to ensure that '**Local Food Shelves**' are included in chain grocery stores and that a permanent space is designated for certified 'organic' food at marketplaces.