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**cities**<sup>2030</sup>

# D7.3 Synergies action plan



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## Legislation

Legislation H2020 Framework Programme – Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (OJ 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

Euratom Research and Training Programme (2014-2018) – Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013 of 16 December 2013 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 948).

H2020 Specific Programme – Council Decision 2013/743/EU of 3 December 2013 establishing the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 965).

Rules for Participation (RfP) – Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 of December 2013 laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p.81).

Financial Regulation (FR) – Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1).

Rules of Application (RAP) – Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of I Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1).

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Deliverable D7.3 Synergies action plan

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
CIAB	Cities2030 Advisory Board
CFRS	Cities Regions Food Systems
CODES	Communication Dissemination Exploitation of results Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
HSNC	Healthy Sustainable Nutritious and Culturally appropriate
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
ExeCom	Executive Committee, composed by all WP leaders and co-leaders
EU-U11NUA	FOOD2030, SDG11, UN New Urban Agenda
PMO	Project Management office
UN	United Nations
SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
SYAB	Synergies Action Advisory Board
WP	Work package

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Under the project Cities2030 perspective, synergies aim to generate result-oriented interactions, combining cities' and regions' territorial innovation actions and investments to foster transition towards sustainable CRFS, with substantial quality level research and innovation initiatives, thus contributing to the highest impact in the territories currently engaged in the consortium, and beyond, even also considering the Horizon 2020 Programme as such, e.g., the funding scheme, the policy framework (e.g., FOOD2030, EU Green Deal, Bioeconomy Strategy, etc.), and all interlinked agendas as well, such as the EU Regional Policy, or EU health policy, the European Pillars of Social Rights, to name but these few.

Synergies focus on contributing at 3 levels in a structured and joint effort: the strategic, planning and projects levels. The strategic and planning levels aim at ensuring the project continuity in contributing to pave the way towards policy and innovation frameworks under a long-term vision. Spurring strategic cooperation between all actors of CRFS is paramount. At project implementation level, that is between October 2021 and September 2024, synergies actions aim at impacting on added value for the local regional, and all 3 pillars of the CRFS dimension must be tackled: environment, society and economics.

Synergies actions engage all WP systematically, per their respective focus areas. This means that, among all targeted, identified and selected initiatives each WP leaders and teams connects with these initiatives with a focus on the objectives of the WP. To facilitate the process, the selection process of initiatives follows a practical set of criteria, which are globally defined by the pertinence of the initiative considering: impact (WP1), ethical frameworks (WP2), cooperative mechanisms to generate actionable knowledge (WP3), policy innovation frameworks (WP4), technology and social innovation frameworks (WP5), CRFS digital management systems (WP6), communication, dissemination, exploitation of results and synergies (WP7), large scale transnational project management (WP8), and H2020 Programme ethics and security (WP9).

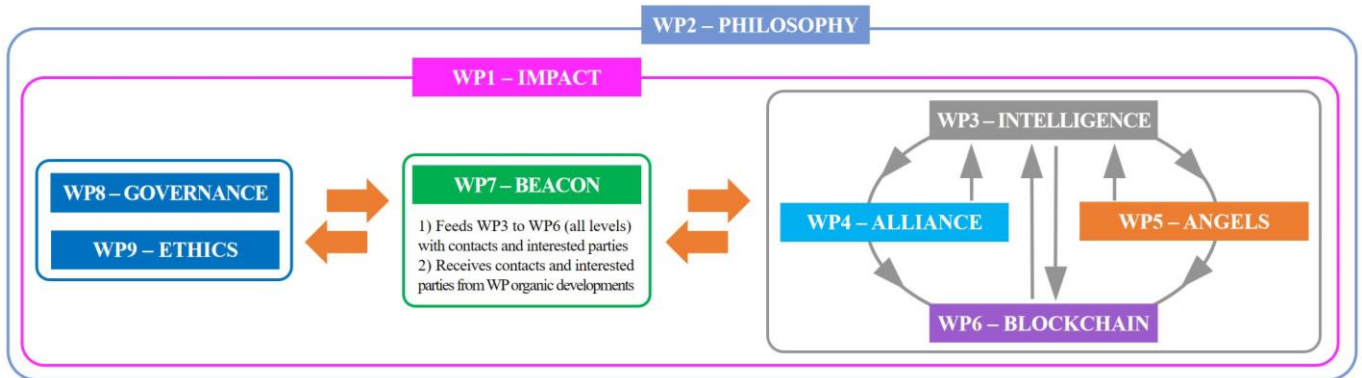
The action plan acknowledge a global consensus on the fact that to envisage and generate synergies, individuals and institutions must develop with an innovative mind-set, which may be globally summarised by a set of guidelines aiming at structuring the concept of synergies, in particular:

- a) linking strategic thinking on research and innovation actions (RIA) and territorial development, connecting the strategic scientific and innovation components with the objective of territorial growth;
- b) practicing a systemic approach to engaging, connecting and empowering CRFS actors, knowledge building and growth instruments in the synergetic platform, per the recommendations of the MUFPP;
- c) recognising and implementing the most promising opportunities of synergies between pertinent focus areas, considering the local and regional realities, and linking with the MUFPP;
- d) synergies between monitoring mechanisms (MUFPP indicators and beyond), to uptake from tailored action plans and implementation practices, and to deliver evidence-based information as to their applicability, transferability, value, efficiency and impact (see the project description, chapter (a).8 – Setting accurate CRFS indicators", page 166 of the GA).

The main aims of the synergies action plan are to structure and foster the creation of synergies to maximise Cities2030 impact on local and regional developments, among many others, impact on sustainable growth and livelihood, job creation, and tackling identified societal challenges. To that end, the action plan proposes a strategic framework and programming, generate guidance and implementation of good practices (interlinking with WP3) and proposes an adjusted monitoring outline based on combined CRFS indicators.

The synergies action plan is highly and structurally embedded in the project's structure and work plan. The figure 1a (below), taken from T7.4-3 action plan (file 'T-7-3-4\_Action\_Plan\_Cities2030\_Rev\_1-1.docx' chapter 4 page 9), illustrates the overall setting between WP7 (host of the synergies action plan) and the remaining WP, considering specially the circularity of the group WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6.

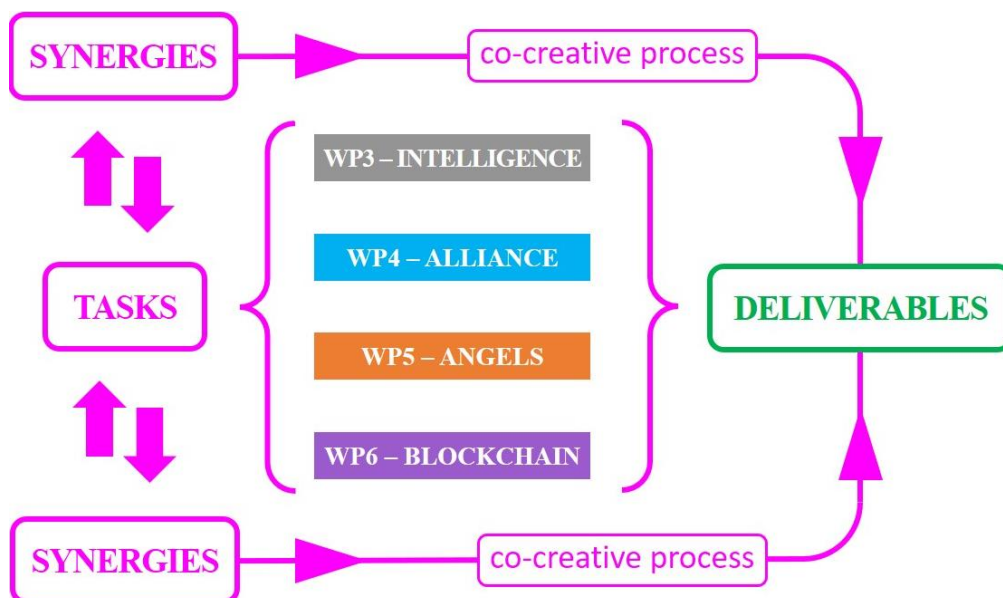
*Figure 1a – Overview of the interlinks between WP7 and other WP*



The figure 1b (below) illustrates the specific setting between the synergies action plan (and related objectives and outputs), and specific tasks undertaken under WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6.

It is straightforward to say some joint-action offer no difficulties when considering synergies, for instance communication and dissemination, whereas other may propose more obstacles, such as co-creative processes to generate a result. Most naturally, results will vary from initiatives to initiatives, however, it is yet reasonable to say that a series of components could be shared such as strategies, methodologies, target audiences, etc. We propose all partners to provide efforts to that end, which is to successfully generate synergies with a number of initiatives to deliver results with complementary (thus different) purposes, yet which can be co-created with the similar (or even the same) frameworks, comprising the aforementioned components, and also for instance impact settings, exploitation of results environments, and beyond.

*Figure 1b – Interlinks between synergies and the project's key tasks*





## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Objectives

The central objective of the deliverable is to identify, coordinate and generate synergies with other initiatives funded by EU's Programmes and beyond. Synergies between the EU's programmes for Research and Innovation have received high political support in the Union under most of the EU's funding schemes programmes, such as the Horizon 2020 Programme. Synergies are counted among the most significant policies to support a vast series of EU's priorities and agenda across pan-European's regions, among them job creation, growth and competitiveness.

The main aim of synergies is to structure meaningful interactions, combining joint-efforts to enhance and optimise the use of resources, ensure alignment with all applicable frameworks, strengthen cooperative mechanisms between all actors of the value chains, and foster place-based funding instruments for innovation frameworks and policy enhancement, thus ensuring a higher impact of all initiatives as a whole, generating significant socioeconomic impacts.

The action plan covers:

- a) sharing information on the projects' developments on a trimestral basis (tentative calendar);
- b) identifying and organising joint-activities for the production of results (alignments);
- c) structuring the production of results to ensure they are complementary and built upon each other;
- d) organising joint-activities for the dissemination of results.

### 2.2 Contextualisation

Cities2030 delivers a series of instruments to support cities to overcome existing barriers to food system transformation, and develop integrated, sustainable and safe urban food system policies and strategies in line with the FOOD 2030 policy priorities, the UN's SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda. This setting drives the selection of all pertinent initiatives developing under this scope considering the criteria listed below, in decreasing level of priority (see also chapter 3 table 3a):

- a) projects funded by the Horizon 2020 Programme under highly corresponding topics e.g., projects 'Food Trails' and 'FUSILLI' (CE-FNR-07-2020), 'FoodSHIFT2030' (CE-SFS-24-2019), 'FIT4FOOD2030' (SFS-18-2017), etc.;
- b) projects funded by other EU's Programme (Interreg, COST, PRIMA, LIFE, etc.) under highly corresponding topics e.g., projects 'FoodChains 4 Europe' (Interreg Europe), 'DRYLANDS' (COST), etc.;
- c) projects funded under EU's tenders (ESA, etc.) under highly corresponding topics e.g., 'Better Training for Safer Food' (GIZ Brussels), etc.;<sup>3</sup>
- d) projects funded by national, regional or local instruments under corresponding topics e.g., 'Wissen Schafft Lebensraum' (Germany), etc.;<sup>4</sup>
- e) any other projects or initiatives framed in corresponding topics e.g., the initiatives VistaMilk Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre<sup>5</sup> and Young Mind FoodLab<sup>6</sup>, etc.

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<sup>3</sup> [Project 'Better Training for Safer Food' \(BTSE\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Project 'Wissen Schafft Lebensraum'](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Project 'VistaMilk' \(Milk by Design\) SFI Research Centre](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Young Mind FoodLab](#)

## 2.3 Strategy

To be effective, when identifying Cities2030 synergies with other initiatives, the selection process must be structured around Cities2030's main aim, specific objectives and anticipated deliverables, whereas approaches and methodologies may differ from Cities2030, since identified initiatives must ensure the best alignment with their respective framework of activities, e.g., targeted audiences, local and regional realities, actors engaged in the activities, setting of the call or tender, policy frameworks, etc.

The key anticipated steps to generate the anticipated synergies are listed below:

- IAAD (P5) delivers a criteria grid and step by step plan (file "D-3-1\_CRFS\_Alliance\_Cities2030\_Rev", tab "Criteria Synergies Cities2030") for the selection process, built upon good practices from existing initiatives and steered by the consortium;
- partners' identify potential synergies and organise this potential with data and insights in the above-mentioned file;
- together with partners, IAAD delivers guidelines to suggest approaches to engage selected initiatives comprising the objectives, message, supporting documents and corresponding media (suggestions), anticipated and potential joint-actions, calendar of activities (tentative), all combined with D7.1;
- IAAD and other partners (volunteering-basis) contribute to the implementation of the synergies action plan considering all partners' realities and their respective suggestions on communication and action with the organisations identified by them.

Regarding risks and the point d) be so kind as to see D7.1 chapter 3.7 and 3.8, respectively.

The design and planning of the joint-activities anticipated under the umbrella of synergies must imperatively be aligned with each WP specifics, also considering interlinks between WP, especially WP4, WP5 and WP6, which are the 3 most interlink WP of project Cities2030.

## 2.4 Calendar

The calendar of activities for synergies must be aligned with the other ongoing projects' activities, especially those that are implemented under WP3 (engagement of actors, surveys, etc.). The field activities are planned for September 2021 (M12) and could even be realigned to October or November 2021.

The table 2.4a (below) shows Cities2020's anticipated calendar activities until M20 e.g., May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

*Table 2.4a – Cities2030 synergies action calendar (tentative)*

Month (calendar) Month (project)	2021									2022				
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	20
<b>Activity</b>														
Guidelines, activities, templates	o													
Validation by partners		o												
Recruitment of facilitators			o o											
Establishment of a focus group				o										
Synergies documentation			o o	o o										
Synergies categorisation (IAAD, P5)					o o									
Engagement of actors						o o	o o	o o	o o					
Synergies planning for year 2022								o o	o o					
Synergies implementation										o o	o o	o o	o o	o o
Synergies impact assessment														o

## 2.5 Outputs

The table 2.5a (below) shows Cities2020's anticipated outputs.

*Table 2.5a – Cities2030 synergies action outputs*

Activity	Anticipated output(s)
Guidelines, activities, templates	Document with practical and actionable information to support the action plan comprising for instance the specific role of each partner, the definition of activities and their respective settings
Recruitment of facilitators	A group of up to 10 facilitators whose role is to assist in the overall implementation of the synergies action plan, and especially develop at the interface of WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6
Establishment of a focus group	A group of up to 5 individuals (partners) whose role is to design, implement, update the synergies action plan and ensure its follow-up (back-to-back developments) and its sustainability as well
Synergies documentation	A set of detailed information which assist to understand the interlinks between the project Cities2030 and the other initiatives with which synergies are generated, summarising the why, what, how, when and who
Synergies categorisation (IAAD, P5)	A summary plan and suggestions to discuss the hierarchisation of identified initiatives subject to synergies with the project Cities2030
Engagement of actors	To avoid repetition and facilitate practicality, the data collection for synergies potential is done with the template used for T/D3.1 file 'D-3-1_Alliance_Repository_Cities2030' tab (sheet) 'Synergies Cities2030'
Synergies planning for year 2022	Calendar of activities for anticipated synergies considering the year 2022 only, a calendar of activities for 2023 will be planned between M25 and M27 (October and December 2022, respectively)
Synergies implementation	A set of materials not precisely defined yet (this will be done between M9 and M10 (June and July 2022, respectively) during the "synergies documentation" phase which will comprise a precise definition of the framework of each initiatives subject to synergies (resources, objectives, calendar, etc.)
Synergies impact assessment	A reporting grid with a set of information pertinent to understanding the impact of the planned synergies on Cities2030 and the initiatives subject to synergies, and beyond, especially the partners (individual and institutional level), the targeted audiences, etc. This impact assessment is realised per the strategy and methodology programmed by WP1

## 5. ANNEXES

#	File name	Short description
1	D-3-1_CRFS_Alliance_Cities2030	Tab "Facilitators CRFS Alliance Cities2030" = list of individuals engaged as facilitators or in the focus group and whose role is to assist in the overall implementation of the synergies action plan (facilitators), and to design, implement, update the synergies action plan and ensure its follow-up (back-to-back developments) and its sustainability as well (focus group)
		Tab "Criteria Synergies Cities2030" = criteria grid for the synergies selection process
		Tab "Synergies Cities2030" = list of selected initiatives
2	D-7-3_Pn_Short_Synergies_Cities2030_Rev	A set of information provided by each partner separately (e.g., one template, one partner), which details the selected initiative, and the activities realised under the umbrella of synergies, especially its framework e.g., why, what, how, when and who, and the impact assessment as well, all partners' provision may then be compiled in one single document