D3.4 Observatory on sustainable urban food policies and practices

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Document short abstract	The present document aims at providing a detailed overview of the activities undertaken within the context of D3.4, which are directly connected with the first release of the web Observatory platform. The document describes the taxonomic approach underpinning the structure of the Observatory and lays out a stepwise roadmap for its fine-tuning and future features implementations.

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Document history

Version	Date	Main Changes	Author
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1 Introduction

The Cities 2030 Observatory is a web observatory platform (cities2030.quantitas.it) realized within the context of WP3 and directly connected to the outputs of the activities undertaken within T3.4 – as well as to several activities across other WP3 Tasks. It is structured as a collection of diversified content, which aims to support the design policies targeting the implementation of city region food systems (CRFS) across the European Union (EU) – and beyond.

In compliance with Cities2030 Grant Agreement (GA) and workplans, the currently available version platform – as described in the following sections – necessarily corresponds to a very first release, which will be continuously improved, updated, and fine-tuned throughout the duration of the project. Precisely due to the dynamic nature of platform/deliverable, the following document will be structured in two main parts:

- The first part will focus primarily on the platform 'as is', and, accordingly, on the working methodology and working process that has been developed up until M24 – also mapping synergies and interrelations with other WPs.

- The second part will focus on the future work intended to be undertaken in the following months, both in terms of the platform itself (its structure, functionalities, and technical aspects) and the activities feeding its knowledge base (content collection, data collection, and performance monitoring).

Fig. 1 – View of the Cities 2030 Observatory Homepage

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2 The Platform 'As is'

In compliance with Cities2030 Grant Agreement (GA), a first Issue of the *Observatory on sustainable urban food policies and practices* (D3.4) was released on M24 and is fully accessible either via the dedicated section within Cities 2030 official website or directly at the following uniform resource locator (URL).

Before proceeding to an accurate description of its features, it is important to note that, generally speaking, the platform was conceived to act as an open knowledge repository and an open knowledge aggregator. As such, it is structured as a comprehensive digital archive, where content from a vast plethora of sources is aggregated and categorised, for the purpose of facilitating cross disciplinary research and consultation. This is a defining characteristic, in that not only are interlinks to the original sources encouraged and prioritized within the platform, but they are also envisaged to be part of the research process to all the intents and purposes.

2.1 The Taxonomic Structure of the Observatory

The Cities2030 Observatory, and its content thereof, pivots around a set of four main sections, which are reflected as interconnected webpages within the very structure of the website. These categories are, in a rather self-explanatory way, named as follows: policies, scientific literature, EU projects insights, and official statistics.
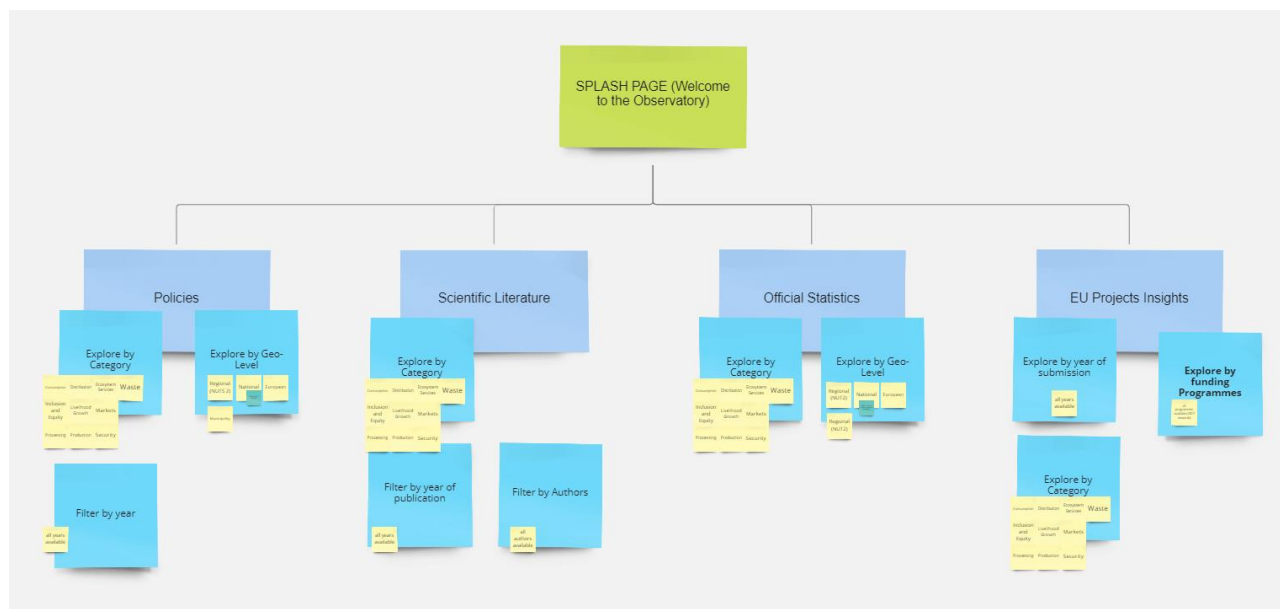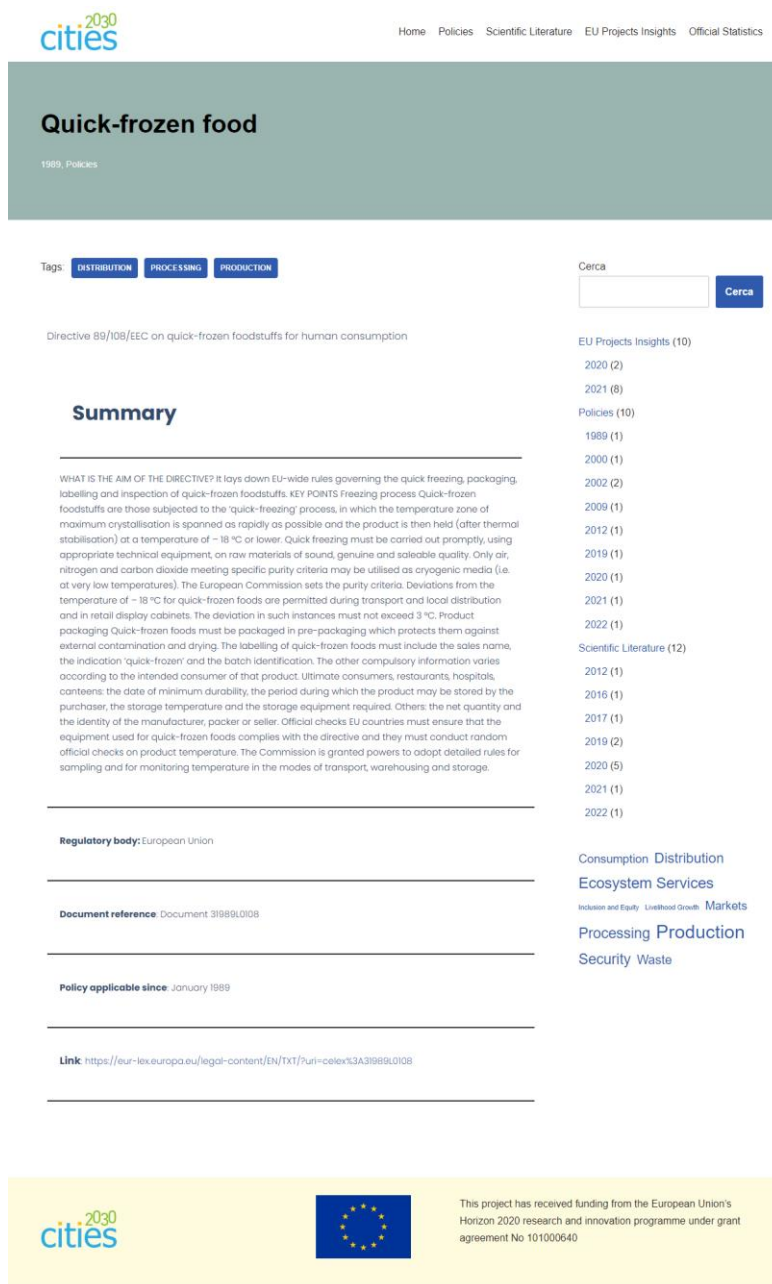

Fig. 2 – Excerpt from Cities 2030 Observatory site map

Despite belonging to the same logical structure, these section – and their respective webpages – feature different elements and display different content types:

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- Policies displays a collection of policies currently implemented by institutions at the regional, national, and European level. For each of the featured policy, the focus is sharpened on providing – respectively – a brief summary of what the policy entails, details regarding the regulatory body under whose jurisdiction the policy is implemented, an alphanumeric reference to the policy document, the date the policy was first introduced, and a direct link to the webpage where the policy document can be access in full.

Fig. 3 – View of Cities 2030 Observatory Policy entry page

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- Scientific Literature displays a collection of peer-review scientific papers sourced from distinguished scientific journals and publications. For each of the featured paper, the focused is shaped on providing – respectively – the article/paper abstract, the names of the authors and contributors, the name of the journal or publication where the article was first published, its publication date, and its Digital Object Identifier (DOI), in the format of a directly accessible hyperlink.

cities 2030

Home   Policies   Scientific Literature   EU Projects Insights   Official Statistics

Theoretical and methodological aspects of designing prospective models for agricultural development

2019, Scientific Literature

Tags: MARKETS

Cerca

[   ]   Cerca

EU Projects Insights (10)
  2020 (2)
  2021 (8)
Policies (10)
  1989 (1)
  2000 (1)
  2002 (2)
  2009 (1)
  2012 (1)
  2019 (1)
  2020 (1)
  2021 (1)
  2022 (1)
Scientific Literature (12)
  2012 (1)
  2016 (1)
  2017 (1)
  2019 (2)
  2020 (5)
  2021 (1)
  2022 (1)

Consumption Distribution
Ecosystem Services
Inclusion and Equity Livelihood Growth Markets
Processing Production
Security Waste

Abstract

The article states that the model of rural economy and rural area development formed in the Russian Federation as a result of transition of the economic paradigm is in deep controversy with actual interests and needs of considerable share of rural population and agricultural producers. The need is reasoned for designing prospective models of balanced territorial and sectoral development of regional agro-food complexes taking into account the specific features of agrarian structure of a region, conditions of development level of agricultural production and rural areas, and aimed at creation of the conditions promoting food security of the country, growth of the efficiency of using the rural development potential, mitigation of controversies between the subjects of agrarian relations and balance of their economic interests. The expediency of using such models as part of the deepening the differentiated approach to the development of rural areas, as stated in the "Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Rural Territories of the Russian Federation – 2030," is pointed out. It is noted that the designed models of balanced territorial-sectoral development of regional agro-food complexes will be a formalized description of the conceptual provisions that determine the evolution of agro-economic systems at the regional level, differentiated according to the structure of the agrarian sector and the development level of agriculture and rural areas, under the conditions of increasing social responsibility of agribusiness, as well as reflecting the state's place as a natural macro-regulator in the process management system of rural development and allowing assessing the economic and social implications of alternative scenarios for the development of agro-economic systems.

Authors: A Ulezko, A Tyutyunikov and A Kurnosov

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![Horizon 2020 European Union Funding for Research & Innovation]

![cities 2030]

Project 'cities2030' | H2020 ID | 101000640 | 'Co-creating resilient and sustainable food systems towards FOOD2030' | www.cities2030.eu

Fig. 4 – View of Cities 2030 Observatory Scientific Literature entry page

- EU Projects Insights displays a collection of information regarding food-related European Project. For each of the featured projects, the focus is sharpened on providing – respectively – a brief description of the project scope and objectives, a link to the project official website, the EU funding programme the project is affiliated to, the project starting date, and the EU funding contribution to the project.

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![Horizon 2020 European Union Funding for Research & Innovation]

![cities 2030]

Project 'cities2030' | H2020 ID | 101000640 | 'Co-creating resilient and sustainable food systems towards FOOD2030' | www.cities2030.eu

Fig. 5 – View of Cities 2030 Observatory Scientific Literature entry page

- Official Statistics gathers official statistics coming from different sources – Eurostat and FAO databases, for the time being. Statistics are organized in quantitative indicators and visualized via two interactive plots. The first plot is a choropleth map, namely a geographical map where each EU country – and project country outside the EU – is allocated a different colour intensity on the basis of the corresponding values indexed by the selected indicator. The second plot is a line chart representing a time series of the selected indicator's values – by default, these are the mean values across the whole of the available countries. Additionally, by clicking on a given country area on the map, users can explore a specific time series for the selected country.

Fig. 6 – View of Cities 2030 Observatory Official Statistics page

In line with the Cities2030 knowledge classification, the items available within each of the four sections mentioned above is further indexed in ten key categories: production, processing, distribution, markets, consumption, waste, security, ecosystem services, livelihood and growth, inclusion and equity. These categories are based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) understanding of the City Region Food Systems (CRFS) – six categories reflect the food supply chain as such, while four represent a set of correlated arenas – and lay the grounds for the ten working

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groups established within the context of Task 3.1. It is worth mentioning that, as part of the Observatory connected activities, these very working groups are envisaged to be key within the content collection roadmap to be carried out in the years ahead.

2.2   Synergies between the Observatory and the Single Click CRFS Platform

As proposed and agreed upon during the project application phase, the Cities2030 Observatory is only one of the several digital tools made available within the context of the project, each of which is developed to satisfy a set of different requirements at different project levels. Cities 2030 official website aside, the great majority of these tools are developed within the context of WP3 and WP6 – under the umbrella of the so-called Single Click CRFS Platform.

Precisely because of the very coexistence of these tools, constant exchange and dialogue with WP6 has been established, in an effort to avoid duplicates and make sure that each digital tool would serve its own specific purpose. Several meeting with WP6 leader UPM and WP6 main actors were held, whereby it was understood that, due to the discrepancies in the development deadlines of WP6 and WP3, WP6 could act as a catalyser of specific requirements by Cities2030 project partners and – most of all – territorial partners. Cities2030, on the other hand could act as a multipurpose platform to address a wider audience also beyond the project consortium – e.g., policy makers, researchers, and informed citizens.

A set of key differences in the design and development between the two working clusters were identified, which are summarised by the following table.

	WP3 Cities 2030 Observatory	WP6 Single Click Platform
Tool type	Research and dissemination tool	Collaboration tool
Userbase	Municipalities (also outside the project), researchers, policymakers, general public	Primarily Cities 2030 partners, living labs, policy labs and stakeholders
Geo Level	Regional, Country, European	Municipality, Regional
Access type	Entirely public access	Mixed access (public and restricted)
Research type	Desk research, data collection	Stakeholder interviews, living labs and policy labs activities
Main Features	Repository of Policies, Repository of Scientific literature, Benchmarking Knowledge, Official statistics, and European Projects Insights	Cities 2030 Community, CRFS Good Practices, SSRI Multi-Actor Approach, S2CP Dashboard, Blockchain for SFSC, Data Integration Management, Sentiment Analysis for Twitter, Geospatial CRFS web services, Cities2030 repository, Blockchain food supply chain digital twin, Blockchain tools for private communications

Table 1 – WP3 Cities2030 Observatory and WP6 Single Click Platform key differences

In conclusion, a productive, collaborative working method has been established between WP3 and WP6, which allowed partners to identify synergies as well as to build a strategically efficient system of digital tools which is already proving beneficial to users within and outside the project.

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3 Future Work

As planned and officially stated in Cities2030 Grant Agreement, the Cities2030 Observatory will be subject to a set of improvements and fine-tuning activities throughout the duration of the project. As a consequence, the previously described state of the platform – albeit kept consistent in structural terms – will necessarily be undergoing a series of qualitative and quantitative changes in the months ahead. In the following section, we will describe those which have already been planned.

3.1 Content collection and development of a cities2030 Observatory CMS

Having described how the Cities2030 Observatory aims to become a comprehensive repository, we necessarily need to deem the number of items and information gathered in the platform as a fundamental factor – possibly the most important of all. In other words, we think that one of the main metrics to measure the efficiency of a tool such as the Cities2030 Observatory should be the volume of content – and related sources – it manages to gather in one, however virtual, site.

Thus, precisely for the purpose of maximizing the volume of the very content we aim to display, it is essential for data collection activities to be extended to the widest plethora of partners and collaborators.

P11 QUA has thereby decided to develop a content management system (CMS), namely a digital tool that will allow project partners to upload content and information via a pre-formatted interface which will guarantee uniformity and intuitiveness even to less tech-savvy users. The Cities2030 Observatory CMS will directly connect content uploaded via the aforementioned interface to the Cities2030 Observatory, thereby making partners autonomous in their contributing to the growth of the Observatory as a comprehensive repository. In other words, upon accessing the CMS restricted area, partners will be able to insert additional policies, research papers, and European projects insights, which will be automatically made available to users of the Cities2030 Observatory public platform.

On a final note, it is worth mentioning that this very possibility might prove an efficient strategy for the afterlife of the project, in that it will allow any interested party (only credentials are required) to keep uploading data even after the end of the Cities 2030 project as a whole.

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