

Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we introduce this special issue on **Urban Food Planning**. Conceived as a contribution to the literature on urban food systems and as a platform for disseminating the outcomes of the **FUSILLI project**, this issue has successfully brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from diverse regions across the globe, spanning Europe and the Global South. The editorial process, initiated in September 2024, has now reached its conclusion. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the authors, referees, and colleagues at the *Journal of Planning*, as well as to the editorial team, for their indispensable contributions.

Before providing insights from the issue, we would like to commemorate **Prof. Dr. Yves Cabannes**, who enriched this issue with his valuable reflections on the call and by generously serving as a referee. His passing on 12 January 2025, at the age of 72, represents a profound loss to the international planning community. **We dedicate this special issue to his memory, his priceless ideas, and his lifelong contributions and guidance** in the fields of urban planning, urban local food systems, urban food planning, participatory budgeting, habitat-related human rights, and more. He was both an engaged activist who stood alongside many resistances and a dedicated researcher who worked in more than 60 countries across Europe, Sub-Saharan, North Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. At the end of this editorial introduction, we included obituaries written by his colleagues Prof. Dr. Julio D. Dávila and by Prof. Dr. Robert Biel, both from University College London (UCL).

Food, long considered a stranger to the field of planning, has become one of the most critical and complex challenges that cities face today. Urbanization in most parts of the world has left cities largely dependent on external sources—surrounding regions or less developed countries—for their food supply. Yet, our food systems are proving unsustainable in the face of crises related to climate change, food justice, land grabbing, biodiversity loss, food sovereignty, public health, animal welfare, and resource depletion. The urgency of a new paradigm in city and regional planning, as well as among policymakers, cannot be overstated.

International frameworks, including the UN's New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, the EU Green Deal, and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, highlight the role of cities in transitions of the urban food systems. Although food was long neglected in urban planning, since the 2000s there has been growing academic and policy attention to "sustainable food planning," supported by academia, local authorities, and grassroots initiatives.

Building on this general framework, this special issue addresses discussions at the interface of food, cities, and planning through thirteen contributions: six research articles, two reviews, and five opinion papers.

The first research article examines the relations between multi-scalar actors—from international organizations to vulnerable groups—together with local and rural development policies, emerging local food systems, and governance mechanisms across southeastern and southern Anatolia. The second article investigates urban policies with reference to the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus, applying both qualitative and quantitative techniques in three major metropolitan cities in Turkey.

Focusing on a more local scale, the third article explores spatial multicriteria decision making for urban agriculture in Beylikdüzü (Istanbul). In turn, the fourth article reconsiders the potential of SWOT analysis in designing a local government-centred urban food system in Mamak (Ankara).

Moving beyond the Turkish context, the fifth article addresses the Global North-centric perspective of the urban food strategies literature by examining the case of Guallequaychú, Argentina, which is developing an urban food policy independent of international agreements. Finally, the sixth article investigates governance mechanisms of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA), questioning their contribution to sustainability, innovative capacity and problem-solving potential, based on evidence from 15 European cases.

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Together with these research articles, the issue also features review contributions. The first review article conducts a systematic literature review on spatial planning in the transition of food systems. Following this, the second review examines environmentally sustainable agriculture in Hungary, with a focus on permaculture as an innovative practice.

Complementing both research and reviews, the issue further includes opinion papers. The first opinion paper emphasizes the connections between agri-food and cities from a sustainable perspective through UPA, SDGs and the role of urban planning and governance in sustainability transitions. The second presents insights from the EU Horizon-funded FUSILLI project, which involves 12 European cities, positioning cities as key agents in sustainable urban food system transitions through comprehensive methodologies and city actors to help cities design and implement effective food policies.

The third paper assesses the role of multilevel governance in food system resilience and the need for integrative policies, drawing on the Thematic Partnership on Food, developed under the Urban Agenda for 40 the EU. The fourth contribution reflects the need for a paradigm shift on urban planning in Turkey moving from closed to open planning approaches. Finally, the fifth piece reimagines urban gardens as disaster parks, as the spaces that could guarantee food resilience in times of emergency and crises.

We hope that the studies in this special issue will contribute to the growing literature of urban food planning, inspire new intellectual horizons, and stimulate further research in this field. Once again, we sincerely thank all contributing authors and referees, whose careful evaluations greatly enhanced this issue. We wish you an insightful and enjoyable read.

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On Behalf of Special Issue Editorial Team