



# Towards a Common Food Policy for the EU

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# What is IPES-Food?

Since 2015, IPES-Food has been working to inform policy debates on food systems reform around the world, using:

- **Holistic approach.** Bringing together different disciplines & different sources of knowledge to capture food system complexity.
- **Political economy focus.** Understanding what reforms are required to build sustainable food systems, and *how* these might occur in a context of major power imbalances?

IPES-Food's Work programme combines 1) **policy-oriented research** (global) and 2) **policy development processes** (regional).



# Why do we need an EU food policy? (i)

## 1. Food and farming systems are in crisis

- **Health risks.** More than half of adults in the EU overweight & more than 20% obese
  - **Environmental impacts.** Food systems account for up to 30% of global GHGs.
  - **Socio-economic challenges.** 1 out of 4 farms disappeared from the European landscape between 2003-2013
- ➔ The current model delivers cheap food, but is very costly in social and environmental terms, and cannot be sustained...



# Why do we need an EU food policy? (ii)

## 2. Fragmented governance, conflicting objectives & missed synergies

- To align actions across different **policy areas** (agriculture, trade, environment, development, food safety)
  - e.g. despite supposed alignment with climate & development goals, EU agri-trade policies encourage farmers in high-emitting sectors (e.g. meat & dairy) to seek new export markets.
- To align actions across different **levels of governance** (European, national, local)
  - e.g. local initiatives poorly-supported at EU level.



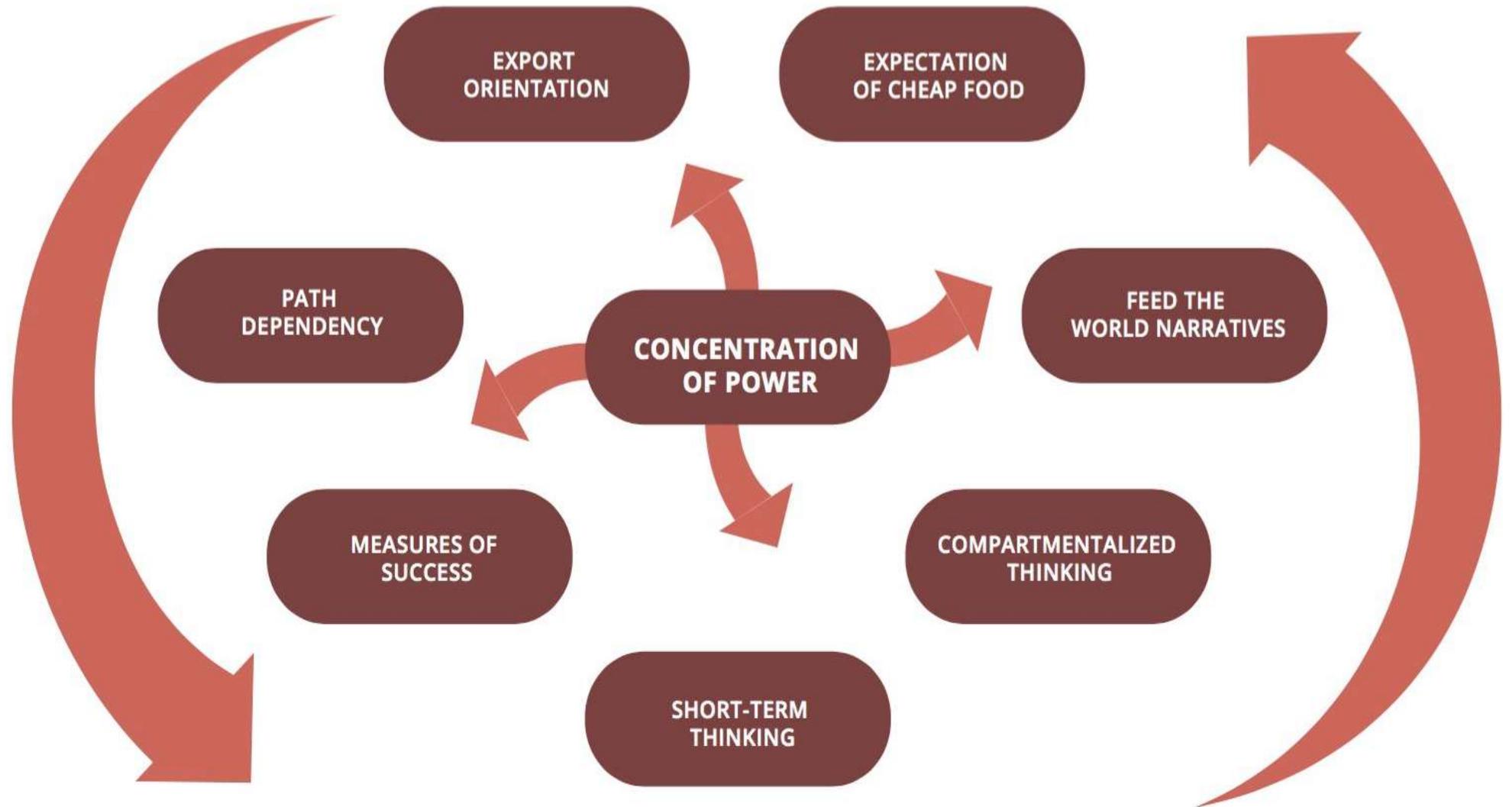
# Why do we need an EU food policy? (iii)

## 3. Need long-term vision of what food systems should look like, created in a participatory way

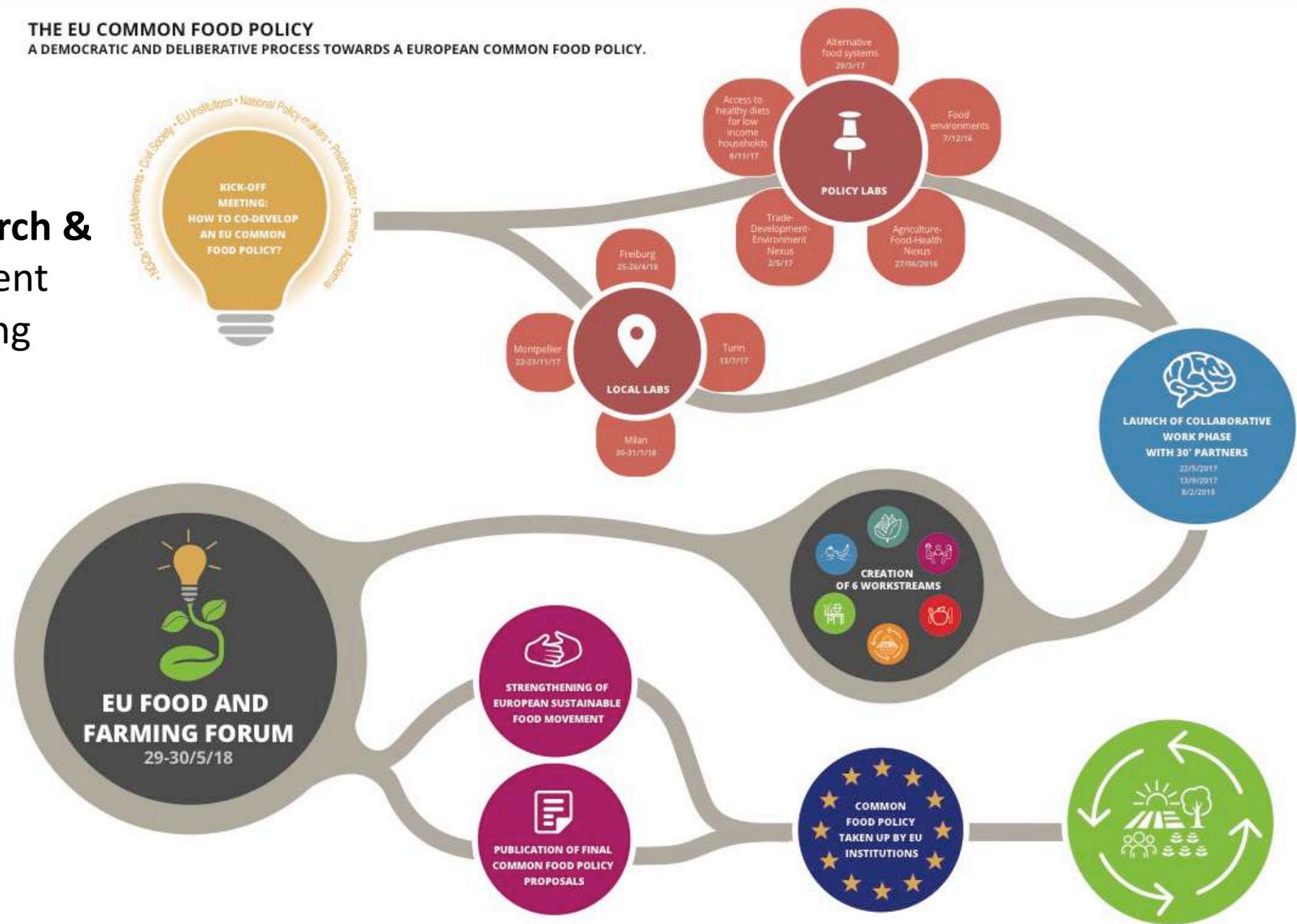
- To spark coordinated shifts in production, distribution, consumption, etc. (i.e. system-wide transition)
- To move from short-term to long-term thinking
- To bring more constituencies around the table & build shared ownership of the policies governing food systems



# Integrated food policy can overcome structural barriers to change ('lock ins')



**A 3-year process of research & reflection:** Bringing different voices to the table & asking different questions

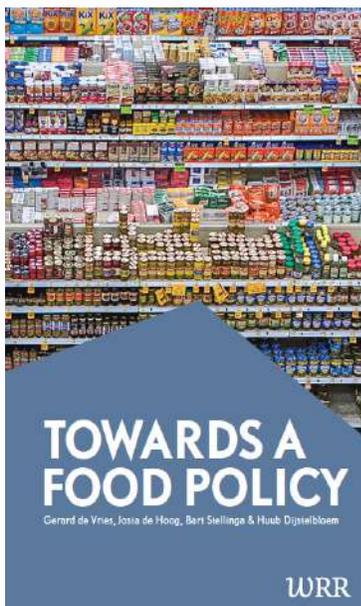


# Integrated food policies already exist in the EU...



- Urban food policies
- City-region food policies
- National food policies

Support for integrated food policy at EU level is growing:



- **EESC** opinion on "More sustainable food systems (May 2016)
- **CoR** opinion "Towards a sustainable EU food policy" (March 2017)
- European Commission's in-house scientific advisers (the **JRC**, the **European Environmental Agency**, **SCAR**)

# A Common Food Policy for the EU: The Proposal

What will the final Common Food Policy proposal look like?

- Proposals mostly focused on EU level
- Proposals with greatest consensus throughout process
- Proposals that reinforce each other & need to happen in parallel
- Distinction between short-, medium- & long-term objectives
- Proposals relating to governance itself: creating the conditions for sustainable food initiatives at multiple levels



THANK YOU

