

**WEEC - World Environmental Education Congress 2015, June 29 – July 2, Goteborg**  
Track 1. Taking Children seriously in addressing Global Challenges

**Workshop on “Good school for good food: reflecting on the role of school education in fostering a democratic and sustainable food system”**

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Today about a third of the food is wasted globally; many children suffer hunger; others face poor diets; obesity and overweight are epidemic; the access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is still precluded to at least 805 million people worldwide: the food system is far to be democratic and sustainable.

The increasing loss of “kitchen literacy” causes a widespread ignorance about what we eat and contributes to the growing disconnection between food producers and consumers.

Notwithstanding these facts, many food and nutrition education projects around the world exist, in particular in the public schools. We have to fully recognize the power of education in forming food competent, healthy and happy children who retain those attributes as adults. It is through our children, teachers, and system of education that we may succeed in fostering a more democratic and sustainable food system.

The workshop reflects on how to translate this thesis in action, policies, programs, services and curricula. It targets people interested in changing the food system: teachers and educators, academics and researchers, policy makers and officers (preferably those who determine what the curriculum will be), farmers, food suppliers and school cafeterias’ managers, NGOs, parents’ and students’ associations.

The participants will discuss about this issue, explore innovative forms of learning and rethink the role of public school education not as a means for teaching about food, but oriented to fulfill the needs of the children and to engage them in fostering democratic and sustainable food communities.

The workshop aims to answer questions such as the following:

- Should we have a joint national/community commitment to use our schools to feed undernourished children by means of universal free meals that meet the highest nutrition standards and offer fresh, seasonal, local food?
- Should food education be a significant part of the standard curriculum and integrated into the lesson plans of every subject?
- Should every child graduating from our public schools be required to demonstrate basic food competency and the skills to grow, prepare and eat healthy food?
- Does public education need to be innovated for achieving these ends and how?

Each participant will contribute from unique perspective and background, reflecting on projects and actions, approaches and methods, policies and services, curricula and competences.

Contents and experiences shared during the workshop will enhance the thematic publication “*Good school for good food*”.

**Organizers:** Elena Pagliarino, Valentina Moiso and Elena Santanera, Italian National Research Council - Institute of Research on Sustainable Economic Growth (CNR-IRCrES), Moncalieri (Turin), Italy

**How to participate?** The participants can send an abstract of their experience, project, reflection (maximum 1,000 words) to [valentina.moiso@ircres.cnr.it](mailto:valentina.moiso@ircres.cnr.it) (deadline: 30 May 2015). The contributions will be discussed during the workshop and they will enhance the thematic publication “*Good school for good food*”.