

Journey 5: The fruit: cultivating food autonomy & security in times of crisis

Food autonomy is a pillar of local resilience. In a context of climate change and increasingly fragile global supply chains, the capacity of territories to shape their own food systems is essential to strengthening food security and affordability.

Join us to explore how food production, distribution and access can work together to ensure and guarantee access to quality food for all.

10:00 - 12:30

SITE VISIT: Horta Pedagógica Community Garden

The visit will begin at the Horta Pedagógica de Guimarães, a 10-hectare community garden located in the city's peri-urban wetland area. We will examine how community gardens can serve as a foundational stepping stone toward food autonomy, while also reflecting on their limitations when they are not embedded within broader municipal food policies.

After, we will stop by the Escola-Hotel de Guimarães, a new hotel school and training campus currently under development. The project combines the rehabilitation of historic buildings with new, low-carbon construction, making use of prefabricated timber systems.



12:30-14:00

Lunch

14:00-16:00

Workshop: Making food autonomy cool again

Explore how cities can scale up food autonomy beyond individual projects. City representatives and organisations will share concrete experiences demonstrating how land-use policies, urban-rural cooperation, and alternative food networks can work together to strengthen food security and ensure access to food for all, well beyond community gardens alone.

The session will conclude with a collaborative workshop to develop concrete policy recommendations, grounded in the understanding that food autonomy is not about stockpiling resources, but about cultivating fertile land, strong community networks, and resilient supply chains.

Please note that this document is provisional; the sheet with all logistical details will be provided beginning of April.