



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 01 · AUGUST 2026

AKLI BALADI

Local food policies for Italian and
Palestinian cities

Greetings
from Turin!

A picture of each partner city will
accompany us throughout all
newsletters



MARCH - AUGUST 2026

OPENING NOTE

Months of work, multiple sessions, a shared vocabulary.

We close these months with a milestone worth telling in full: the cycle of seven webinars on urban food policies, first outlined in March during the Steering Committee, came to a close in mid-July with the last session dedicated to gastronomic tourism.

It was not just an item to tick off, but an important narrative thread that held together, for four months, the voices of Italian and Palestinian cities, universities, cooperation agencies and third-sector organisations that make up the partnership.

Every session called for genuine teamwork, simultaneous Italian-Arabic interpretation, coordination across time zones and different agendas, gathering and distilling practices to put in dialogue with one another, and the result is a shared body of knowledge that will remain available to the partnership well beyond the end of the cycle.

In parallel, work on the ground has not stopped. In Beit Jala, the refurbishment of the Hosh Kattan multi-purpose space is under way, designed as a future centre for promoting local products and food education.

In Bethlehem, the tenders for the covered market's photovoltaic system and the market restructuring has been published: a concrete infrastructure intervention made possible by Akli Baladi's contribution. In Bergamo, a new avenue for Jericho's UNESCO candidacy is being explored through the DELICE network.

Interested partners are dialoguing with producers of honey, dates and oil to assess the possible interventions to make supply chains more widely visible.

And the partnership's research teams continue their work on the pre-feasibility studies and the Strategic Monitoring Survey, the tools that will support partners in shaping their own food policies.

***Attached, below, a short summary of the webinars is available.**

7

WEBINARS HELD

4

MONTHS OF THE CYCLE

10

CITIES & INSTITUTIONS

30+

SPEAKERS

The webinar cycle wraps up: 7 of 7

Between 26 March and 15 July, we completed the full cycle designed to build a shared vocabulary on urban food policies between Italian and Palestinian cities. The thread running through all seven sessions was always the same: start from a theoretical introduction and then move to concrete cases, Italians or Palestinians, and use them as the basis for a shared reflection on tools, skills and strategies that can be replicated elsewhere.

1	26 MAR	Urban food policy, a new paradigm for public administration	Held as part of the Steering Committee, the keynote for the whole cycle: building a shared vocabulary between Italian and Palestinian administrations.
2	13 MAY	Local markets and food policies	Case studies from Bethlehem, Turin and Jericho.
3	20 MAY	Food value chains: olive oil, dates and honey	With FAO, the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and local cooperatives.
4	10 JUN	Food poverty and access to food	With the Food Insecurity and Poverty Observatory and Caritas.
5	22 JUN	Urban and peri-urban agriculture	Urban–rural linkages for food production, with FAO, CIHEAM and Slow Food.
6	1 JUL	Food education and school feeding programs	With the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the School Meals Coalition.
7	15 JUL	Food awareness and heritage: gastronomic tourism	Gastronomic tourism and food heritage, closing the cycle with the Délice network.

THANK YOU

To all the speakers and moderators and to every partner who opened the doors of their practices. Material from all seven sessions remains available to the partnership, starting with the syllabus now in preparation.

What is happening

Bergamo

CITY OF BERGAMO

Working with the Municipality of Jericho, the City has explored an alternative route to its UNESCO nomination through the DELICE Network, opening initial contacts to assess feasibility against the commitments required of member cities. The dedicated team, European Projects Office, UNESCO Office and Deputy Mayor, meets internally once a month.

Beit Jala

BEIT JALA MUNICIPALITY

Refurbishment works continue at the Hosh Kattan multi-purpose space: demolition of the old staircase, structural and reinforced-concrete works on floors and roof, internal partition walls, a new mixed steel/reinforced-concrete staircase with a storage room beneath it, façade and floor finishing, and mechanical and electrical works. The goal is a centre for promoting local products and food education.

NEXT STEPS

Preparatory activities for the new space; the Municipality's Facebook page will share the works shortly.

Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality has published Tenders for the supply and installation of a 40 kWp photovoltaic system on the roof of Bethlehem's covered market (the Gross Market), an intervention made possible by Akli Baladi's contribution through funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). Technical supervision is carried out by the municipal technical offices.

NEXT STEPS

Bid opening set for 21 August 2026; tender documents available from the Municipality's offices starting 18 July.

Pavia

UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA

Coordinated preparation and logistics for the project meeting held on 30 April with the University of Bethlehem, dedicated to training partners on the Strategic Monitoring Survey, and finalised the monitoring video tutorial, shared with the coordination team for distribution to all partners. Also took part as a speaker at the webinar on olive oil, date and honey value chains.

Turin

UNIVERSITY OF TURIN

Coordinated the preparatory meetings for the "Dialogues on Cities", alongside an online exchange with the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) on the pre-feasibility studies and on shared teaching around food policy. Also prepared and circulated a questionnaire to Palestinian partners and APLA and handled the overall logistics of the seven sessions.

NEXT STEPS

Work on the series syllabus; launch of the pre-feasibility studies with Palestinian partners.

Hosh Kattan, course by course

Demolition and structural works, the new mixed steel/reinforced-concrete staircase with its storage room beneath, façade and floor finishing, and the tiled service areas now nearing completion — on their way to becoming a centre for promoting local products and food education.



STORAGE ROOM BENEATH THE NEW
STAIR

VAULTED HALLS · TILING AND MEP
FIT-OUT

COURTYARDS, FAÇADE & STEEL
STAIRCASE

Bethlehem Gross Market

Rehabilitation of the market's core spaces, including the new roofed circulation corridor, upgraded sanitation and waste facilities, reorganized loading and parking areas, and the renovated commercial units now taking shape, evolving from a fragmented public market into an organized, healthy urban regeneration anchor for Bethlehem.



REHABILITATION AND URBAN
REGENERATION

CENTRAL FOOD MARKET

ACCESS & CIRCULATION

PROJECT PULSE

Where each workstream stands

Webinar cycle	Completed: 7 out of 7 sessions delivered between March and July, with simultaneous Italian-Arabic interpretation at every session and average attendance growing session by session.
Strategic Monitoring Survey	Video tutorial available, partner training completed on 30 April 2026; data collection under way with partners, aiming for a first consolidated picture in the coming months.
Pre-feasibility studies	For the institutional governance of local food systems in Palestinian cities: work launched with PIBS and the University of Bethlehem, with an initial methodological exchange between research teams.
Infrastructure works	Refurbishment of the Hosh Kattan multi-purpose space in Beit Jala continues; in Bethlehem, the tender for the covered market's photovoltaic system has been published, with bid opening on 21 August.
Cooperation pathways	In Bergamo, exploration continues, together with the Municipality of Jericho, of a candidacy to the DELICE network as a lever for international promotion for both cities.
Reporting	The monthly partner update template is now consolidated; updates are collected regularly, with the aim of making the newsletter an increasingly timely and shared tool.
Terra Madre 2026	Work in progress: Akli Baladi's contribution to the event is being defined together with the partnership.

UPCOMING

- 01** Defining Akli Baladi's participation in Terra Madre 2026 (under way)
- 02** Continuing work on the pre-feasibility studies for the institutional governance of local food systems
- 03** Work on the webinar cycle's syllabus
- 04** Collecting updates from partners through the dedicated template
- 05** Sharing materials and recordings from the webinar cycle across partners' social media channels

For doubts or questions, do not hesitate to contact us at:

aklibaladi@comune.torino.it



AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

2. LOCAL MARKETS AND FOOD POLICIES

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

10:00-13:00 pm Italian time/11:00-14:00 pm Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Egidio Dansero**, Università degli Studi di Torino
- **Raoul Tiraboschi**, Slow Food
- **Samar Hussary/Saed Dorra**, ACAD
- **Abdulmomen Afana**, APLA

PRACTICES

- **Ziad Alsayeh**, Bethlehem Municipality
- **Maria Vitetta** and **Erica Ribetti**, Città di Torino
- **Mohammed Isayed** and **Wiam Erikat**, Jericho Municipality
- **Sabrina Campani**, Coldiretti Reggio Emilia
- **Rulla Sarras**, Beit Jala Municipality
- **Rasheed Hajji**, Al Bireh Municipality

Moderators:

Daniela Silvi, Città di Torino and **Riccardo Bruno**, Università degli Studi di Torino

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AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

3. FOOD VALUE CHAINS AND LOCAL PRODUCTS: OLIVE OIL, DATES AND HONEY

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

10:00-13:00 Italian time/ 11:00-14:00 time of Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Ciro Fiorillo**, FAO
- **Sana' Abu Ayyash**, Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture
- **Raoul Tiraboschi**, Slow Food Italia
- **Maria Sassi**, Università degli Studi di Pavia
- **Beatrice Ferlino**, Università degli Studi di Torino

PRACTICES

Oil

- **Saed Jasser Dorra**, ACAD
- **Serena Barilaro**, Comune di Sesto Fiorentino

Dates

- **Samar Michael**, ACAD
- **Antonio Rinaldi**, Genoma

Honey

- **Haneen Njoom**, Al-Auja Agricultural and Women's Cooperative Association
- **Vincenzo Panettieri**, FELCOS

Moderator: **Riccardo Giovanni Bruno**, Università degli Studi di Torino

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AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

4. FOOD POVERTY AND ACCESS TO FOOD Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

10:00-13:00 Italian time/ 11:00-14:00 time of Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Giuseppina Bifulco**, Università degli Studi di Torino
- **Francesca Felici**, Osservatorio Insicurezza e Povertà Alimentare
- **Ahmed Jaber**, APLA

PRACTICES

- **Federica Giuliani**, Città di Torino
- **Giacomo Gentile**, ATS Pro Terra Sancta
- **Raneen Qumsieh**, Caritas Jerusalem
- **Claudia Alessandri**, Caritas di Bra
- **Emilio De Pascale**, Dora - Emporio Solidale Reggio Emilia
- **Wiam Erikat**, Jericho Municipality
- **Nazar Al Halteh**, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Jericho
- **Muhannad Grouf**, Al Qamar Charity Association

Moderators: **Tamara Taher** and **Riccardo Giovanni Bruno**, Università degli Studi di Torino

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AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

5. URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE AND URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Monday, June 22nd, 2026

10:00-13:00 Italian time / 11:00-14:00 time of Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Guido Santini**, FAO
- **Francesca Volpe**, CIHEAM
- **Ohoud Enaia**, APLA
- **Luca Battisti**, Università degli Studi di Torino

PRACTICES

- **Enrico Corgnati**, ORME
- **Amanda Romero**, Slow Food
- **Mohammad Najajrah**, Bethlehem University
- **Emiliano Ramaoli**, Università di Pavia
- **Alaa Swaiti**, Dura Municipality

Moderator: **Riccardo Bruno**, Università degli Studi di Torino

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AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

6. FOOD EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, July 1st, 2026

10:00-13:00 pm Italian time/11:00-14:00 pm time of Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Ola Abu Hlal**, Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the State of Palestine
- **Peter Defranceschi**, ICLEI Europe
- **Andrea Magarini**, Comune di Milano, MUFPP, School Meals Coalition
- **Mazin Qumsyeh**, Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability

PRACTICES

- **Annalisa Rabotti**, Città di Reggio Emilia
- **Alberto Ritucci**, Città di Torino
- **Safaa Ghaliz**, Università di Scienze Gastronomiche di Pollenzo
- **Cristina Sossan**, Comune di Milano, MUFPP
- **Francesca Preti**, Comune di Sesto Fiorentino
- **Alice Carradori**, Qualità & Servizi

Moderators:

Riccardo Bruno, Università di Torino and **Luigi Bisceglia**, University of Bethlehem

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AKLI BALADI WEBINARS

7. FOOD AWARENESS AND HERITAGE: GASTRONOMIC TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, July 15th, 2026

10:00-13:00 Italian time/ 11:00-14:00 time of Palestinian Territories

OPENING

Maria Bottiglieri, Città di Torino

OVERVIEW

- **Giacomo Pettenati**, Università del Piemonte Orientale
- **Felipe Garcia**, The Food Capitals by Délice
- **Francesca Baldereschi**, Slow Food
- **Ohood Enaia**, APLA

PRACTICES

- **Claudio Cecchinelli**, Comune di Bergamo
- **Elena Di Bella**, Città Metropolitana di Torino
- **Fadi Batarseh**, Azienda Cremisan
- **Raed Saadeh**, Jerusalem Tourism Cluster
- **Lorena Belli**, Comune di Reggio Emilia
- **Amani Abu Zayyad**, Al Aizariah Municipality
- **Vida Qamar**, "Casa Nova", Custodia Terra Sancta
- **Lorenzo Ceribelli**, Opera Diocesana Pellegrinaggi (ODP), Torino

CLOSING REMARKS

Riccardo Bruno, Università degli Studi di Torino

Moderators:

Daniela Silvi, Città di Torino and **Tamara Taher**, Università degli Studi di Torino

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