The rules of food sharing
Policy challenges in urban systems

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Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
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This presentation draws on research from SHARECITY, a collaborative project involving a multidisciplinary team and the participation of many food sharing initiatives internationally. All outputs from the project are available online: Website: http://sharecity.ie/ Twitter @ShareCityIre
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www.sharecity.ie
ERC Grant Agreement No: 646883
SHARECITY Aims & Objectives

To establish the **significance** and **potential** of food sharing economies to transform cities onto more sustainable pathways

1) Develop deeper **theoretical** understanding of contemporary food sharing

2) Generate **comparative international** empirical data about food sharing activities within cities

3) Assess the **impact** of food sharing activities on urban food sustainability

4) Explore the governance of urban food sharing in comparative perspective

Food sharing definition used - having a portion [of food] with another or others; giving a portion [of food] to others; using, occupying or enjoying [food and food related spaces to include the growing, cooking and/or eating of food] jointly; possessing an interest [in food] in common; or telling someone about [food].”

(Davies and Legg, 2018: 237)
Today’s roadmap

• Urban food policy and food sharing
• Food sharing case studies and the SHARECITY policy challenges database
• Insights from our empirical material
• Conclusions and next steps
### Urban food policy: multi-scalar and multi-sectorial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale of plan/policy formation</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Supra-national</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status of plan/policy</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land use planning &amp; urban development</td>
<td>Dublin Berlin London</td>
<td>London Dublin</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Dublin Berlin London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; well-being</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food system</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Provenance and legal status of policies affecting food sharing in Dublin, Berlin and London.

How does it impact food sharers?

“Sure, yes. I mean, I think there’s quite a few from I would say the local to the federal level. You know, like, say, for instance, the Farm Bill, which is a federal agriculture act and policy, that really impacts like all of our food and how food is grown here, how food is imported and exported. So that definitely impacts us as eaters and growers as well as advocates.”

(Cooking and eating, New York)
Food sharing policy challenges: Data collection

- Athens
- Barcelona
- New York
- Melbourne
- Berlin
- London

- Growing
- Redistributing
- Cooking and Eating

Logos: Food Justice Truck, 596 Acres, foodsharing.de, Vall de Canmasdeu, Edible Garden City, 3000 Acres, FoodShift
Methodology

1. All interviews coded in NVivo for Policy Challenges node
2. Policy Challenge quotes collated by city, sector and key policy area
3. Headline summary of policy challenge from quotes and clustering
4. Further categorisation into unique and common challenges
5. Only common challenges were considered for our analysis presented here
Common policy challenges: Growing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy areas of food sharing governance</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food risk, safety</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Land use planning, urban development</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health, nutrition, well-being, exercise</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Food security</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Waste</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most frequently identified policy area: Land use planning, urban development

“I mean because of this history of urban renewal as well as like histories of redlining which tend to have affected the same neighborhoods, not always but that’s where they are the highest concentrations of vacant city owned land. And so those tend to be the neighborhoods where we focus because where there is land that the city has abandoned there's also opportunity to create those resources that neighborhoods are craving to create.”

(Growing, New York)
Common policy challenges: Cooking & eating

Most frequently identified policy areas:

- Food risk, safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy areas of food sharing governance</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food risk, safety</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Land use planning, urban development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health, nutrition, well-being, exercise</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Food security</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Waste</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other – particularly funding challenges & complex bureaucracy

But, I mean, that is a big problem generally, as you know, like all around the world is that people are terrified of being sued the whole time. So much food gets wasted because people don’t want to give it away because they’re worried it won’t be used properly.”

(Cooking and eating, London)
Common policy challenges: Redistributing

Most frequently identified policy areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy area</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food risk, safety</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Land use planning, urban development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health, nutrition, well-being, exercise</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Food security</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Waste</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other – particularly the lack of policy co-ordination and a policy gap/lag in relation to redistribution

“Because as soon as money is involved, as soon as we try to sell on, we would be a food business or some kind of food dealer and that means we would have to go through the same strict hygiene laws that make this food obsolete in the shops in the first place. We get the food as food waste because of the hygiene laws like with the sell by dates and the bits... .” (Redistribution, Berlin)
Investigating ‘other’ policy challenges

Common ‘other’ challenges:

1. **Funding and bureaucracy** are key challenges mentioned by more than one initiative in each sector.

2. Challenges resulting from grassroots initiatives wishing to be **autonomous** were raised by multiple initiatives across all sectors but only one cooking initiative flagged this as an issue for them.

3. **Legal liability issues** were raised by initiatives in each sector but more frequently by growing initiatives.

**Redistribution** - Lack of policy co-ordination was the most frequently mentioned challenge for redistribution initiatives, followed by concerns about a **lack of policy** in relation to redistributing food.

**Cooking/eating** – After funding and bureaucracy, cooking initiatives also raised issues of having their activities co-opted by other organisations (public/private) as a form of **greenwashing** and falling between policy sectors (e.g. policy gap).

**Growing** - After funding and bureaucracy, growing initiatives were most frequently concerned about **not having a champion in policy circles**.

Despite the collective weight of the ‘other’ category, established policy areas remain the most frequently identified challenging area in each sector.
Preliminary conclusions

1. Food sharing initiatives articulate **multiple** and **diverse** challenges related to existing policy: some common across all sectors, some sector-specific and some locationally specific.

2. **Food risk, safety** was most frequently identified arena of policy challenges by cooking/eating & redistribution initiatives.

3. **Land use planning** was most frequently identified by growing initiatives.

4. There is scope for greater co-ordination to meet these challenges across all food sharing initiatives **within urban areas** and greater **trans-urban co-operation** amongst sectors of food sharing initiatives in order to share experiences and discuss responses.

Next steps
Next steps: Challenges & responses

SHARING-FUTURES multi-stakeholders workshop: Dublin, 26-27 Sept. 2019

- 35 International participants with different backgrounds: academics, policy-shapers, practitioners and futurists.

Aim

- Identify additional challenges
- Identify existing responses to policy challenges
- Brainstorm innovative responses to challenges
- Contribute to development of a manifesto of sustainable food sharing
Thank you!

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