

# How can food in public spaces contribute to integration?

The European HERA Research project **FOOD2GATHER** focused on the relations between migration, food and public spaces.

The aim was to problematize the possibilities and limitations of food as a driver of opportunities for intercultural communication, integration and living together in European societies.

**For food to be a potential driver of communication and integration, the FOOD2GATHER project underlines the importance of collective support for integration of migrants in public spaces and giving people:**

- freedom to choose and share food
- agency - involving migrants and refugees in planning and cooking of the food
- a safe place
- a possibility to participate and being part of the community
- acknowledgment and recognition
- fairness especially in public spaces
- empowerment in several domains: food solidarity, culinary culture, food business and ecology



Food is served for refugees.  
Picture from Food2Gather project, Italian team.

## Research in six countries

Researchers from six different countries – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway – collaborated with stakeholders and the civil society and conducted research and projects to explore food and public spaces in the context of migration.

## Public spaces

The public spaces varied and included:

- soup-kitchens for refugees
- kitchen workshop in the street for vulnerable migrants
- social entrepreneurs working with migrant children
- interethnic food market
- shared vegetable gardens of youth migrants
- community food events
- asylum seekers' reception centers and food distributions in squats.



Social entrepreneur arranging a surplus table at school. Picture from Food2Gather project, Norwegian team.

## Would you like to know more?

Check out the FOOD2GATHER website: <https://uni.oslomet.no/food2gather/>

- Read reports and publications
- Look at photos
- Listen to the podcast series

The website will take you around Europe through the eyes of researchers, participants, cooks, students, and food lovers to discover more about the role of food in public spaces in a changing Europe.



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