

The German Network of food councils

Overview and potential dialogues on Right to food

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Food Council Dresden & Region

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Created between 2019 and 2023

Network platform: 70+ Food councils

Goal:

To influence the food policy from farm to fork >> **food system transformation**

Mostly volunteers and some project based work on:

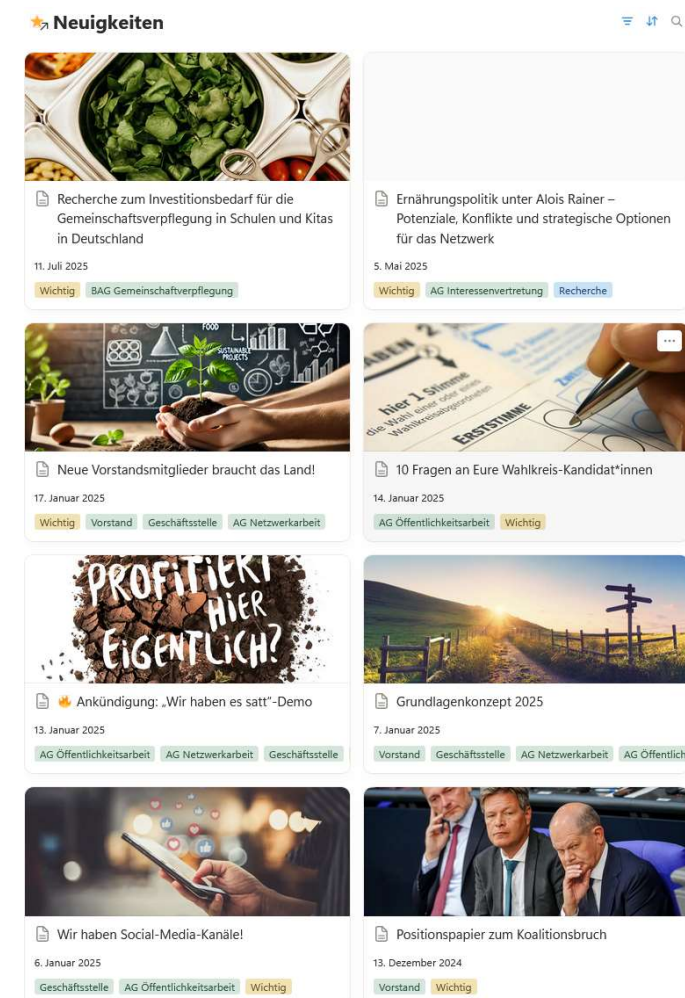
- Exchange on food policy issues
- Develop positions
- Working groups + assembly



<https://ernaehrungsraete.org/2023/03/16/das-netzwerk-der-ernaehrungsraete-ist-gegruendet/>

Focus on food democracy:

- Creation of local food policies & participation
- Sustainable food chains (agriculture, nature, climate)
- Food literacy & consumer education
- Social justice & food sovereignty
- Public community catering & procurement
- Trade, markets & value chains



<https://ernaehrungsraete.notion.site/>



77 Food council – Germany, November 2025

44 Food councils

+ 33 Initiatives „ Work im process“

➔ 26 are founding members of the network

<https://ernaehrungsraete.org/das-netzwerk/mitglieder/>

In the process of setting up –

➔ **with different local organisations:**

- Some associations (legal entities)
- Some projects/ actions / Networks within an association - environmental initiatives
- Citizens' initiatives (Total voluntary)

[Ernährungsräte und ER-Gründungsinitiativen](#)

Food poverty in a surplus society

Germany: 1.5 to 2 million food bank users

https://www.tafel.de/fileadmin/media/Publikationen/Flyer_Broschuere/2023-08-31_Imagebroschuere_EN_Web.pdf

EU: 11-13% of the population cannot afford nutritious meal at least every 2nd day (EU negative ranking in 6th position)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20250828-1>

16.2 % poverty rate (Germany: risk 15,5%, 2023)

Berlin city:

Ca. 160.000 food bank users (4% of the population)

- provides food to individuals at 56 collection points (72.000 users)
- supplies 400 social initiatives and care organisations (92.000 guests)

Berlin Food Policy Council

Food poverty tracker Pilot

260+ participants in questionnaire-based survey, with oversampling of people with mild to strong food insecurity (**FIES questions**)

Of those affected by food poverty:

76% ate only a limited selection of foods;

73% were unable to eat a healthy and balanced diet;

39% had to skip meals;

15% sometimes went without food for entire days due to financial hardship

25% often/ very often go without food to cover other living expenses

62% often/ very often buy less sustainable products than they would like

Solutions – Promoted by Food Councils and others

- Free-of-charge school meal programmes + food quality improvements
- Increase in social welfare allowances
- Food education in schools and new parents
- Food banks & charitable food donations, incl. for pensioners
- Public canteens, community kitchens
- Foodsharing initiatives
- Improvements in hospital food quality
- Social / food produce prescription (pilot project in Berlin)
- Improve the affordable access to local/regional food (pilot project in Dresden and Region)

[COLLECTIVE REPORT](#): GERMANY and THE RIGHT TO FOOD LIST OF ISSUES in relation to Article 11, with reference also to Articles 7, 9, 10 and 12

https://ernaehrungsrat-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Right-to-Food-submission_FINAL.pdf



Topics for an exchange of experiences, mutual learning, and joint strengthening:

- **State responsibility** and the provision of/access to healthy, sustainable food versus the individual role; (**Intersectoral action**)
- **Human rights and their collective realization.** Access to sustainable and healthy food as a common good for all citizens.
- **Food poverty** and the different manifestations of **food insecurity**, such as micronutrient deficiency and obesity, as **social and health problems** (State recognition).
- Paths and strategies for **mobilization and social participation.** Building coalitions and commitment for a common agenda by mobilizing people and institutions and developing individual and collective capacities aimed at realizing human rights.
- Production and dissemination of **knowledge.**

Muito obrigada.

Vielen Dank.

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Mãos Entrelaçadas. Candido Portinari.
Estudo c.1955.

<https://www.portinari.org.br/acervo/obras/15726/maos-entrelacadas>