



**MARA PETRUZZELLI**

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Summary of competencies:

- Track record of scientific analysis on sustainability assessment of food systems
- Interdisciplinary background and system-based analytical approach
- Experience in European and international projects
- Working knowledge of Italian, English, French and Spanish

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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**Research Scientist in the Sustainability Assessment of Foods** 2025-Current  
Agroscope, Zurich

- Integration of social, environmental and nutritional methodologies for the sustainability assessment food products
- Implementation of life-cycle approaches to consumption and dietary patterns
- Priority matrix for food waste prevention and reduction

**Senior Officer for School Feeding Programmes** March 2024-March 2025  
Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Secretariat (MUFPP), Milan

- Development, coordination and monitoring of MUFPP international projects on school feeding programmes
- Knowledge transfer and communication activities between MUFPP cities, national governments, international organisations and civil-society
- Data collection and preparation of dossiers.

**PhD in Agricultural, Environmental, Food Science and Technology** 2020-July 2024  
University of Bologna - Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences

Thesis: *“From farm to school: investigating the potential of school food environments to transform the food system”*

Supervisors: Prof. Matteo Vittuari, Prof. Rico Ihle (Wageningen University)

**Visiting PhD at Wageningen University (NL)** May-October 2022  
Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy Group

**Research Fellow for Horizon2020 FoodE project** 2020  
Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Bologna  
Development of sustainability assessment tools of City/Region Food Systems using Life Cycle Thinking approaches.

**EDUCATION**

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**MSc in Economics and Management - Food System Management** 2017-2019  
University of Bologna, 110/110 cum laude | Thesis: *“Understanding opportunities to improve the cost effectiveness and environmental impact of school canteens while ensuring healthy diets”* | Supervisor: Prof. Matteo Vittuari

**Erasmus+ Semester at Wageningen University & Research**

Major: Sustainable Assessment of Animal Systems

## **PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS**

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- Horizon2020 [FoodE](#) (Food System in European Cities) specifically on WP2 ‘*Methodological framework development and case studies sustainability assessment*’;
- Horizon Europe [FOODCoST](#) (FOOD Costing and Internalisation of Externalities for System Transition) specifically on WP6 ‘*Impact Assessment*’;
- Coordination of the UniBo-led living lab ‘[Laboratory for sustainable public caterings](#)’ to co-design solutions for sustainable public procurement practices and draft policy guidance.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### *Most important scientific articles*

- **Petruzzelli M.**, Iori E., Ihle R., Vittuari M. (2025) Can changing the meal sequence in school canteens reduce vegetable food waste? A cluster randomized control trial, «FOOD POLICY», 130, 102784. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2024.102784>
- **Petruzzelli M.**, Amadori S., Ihle R., Fridel M., Vittuari M. Monitoring nutritional, environmental and social sustainability in school food settings: A three-dimensional score-based assessment tool «JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION», 519, 146015. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2025.146015>
- **Petruzzelli M.**, Ihle R., Colitti S., Vittuari M. (2023) The role of short food supply chains in advancing the global agenda for sustainable food systems transitions, «CITIES», 141, 104496, pp. 1 – 8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2023.104496>.
- Specht K., et al. (2025) Measuring the social impact of City-region food system initiatives (CRFSIs): A systematic review of indicators and metrics, «SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND SOCIETIES», 128, 106462. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2025.106462>
- Cirone F., **Petruzzelli M.** et al. (2023) A sustainability scoring system to assess food initiatives in city regions, «SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION», 36, pp. 88 – 99. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.spc.2022.12.022>
- **Petruzzelli M.**, Garcia-Herrero L., De Menna F., Vittuari M. (2023) Towards sustainable school meals: integrating environmental and cost implications for nutritious diets through optimisation modelling, «SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE», 35, pp. 1 – 16. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11625-023-01346-9>.

### *Most important project deliverables*

- Musso V., et al. (2025). [Scenarios Building of Integrated Policy Recommendations and Business Models and Strategies to Internalise Externalities](#). *HorizonEurope - FoodCoST*
- **Petruzzelli M.**, et al. (2022). [Life cycle assessment, life cycle costing and social LCA of 100+ CRFSI](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.
- **Petruzzelli M.** et al. (2022) [Extensive life cycle assessment, life cycle costing and social LCA of pilots and self-assessment tool](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.
- De Menna F., Rufi Salís M., **Petruzzelli M.** et al. (2022) [Methodological Framework to develop Life Cycle](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.

- Graamans L., Rufi Salís M., **Petruzzelli M.**, et al. (2022). [Data Collection Protocol](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.
- Graamans L., Rufi Salís M., **Petruzzelli M.**, et al. (2022). [Data Inventory](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.
- Rufi-Salís M., **Petruzzelli M.** et al. (2022) [Pilot Decision Support Tool](#). *H2020 FoodE – Food Systems in European Cities*.

#### CONFERENCES

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- LX SIDEA (Italian Society of Agricultural Economists) Congress, 2024, Capri (IT) – **Paper presentation**.
- Summer School ‘*Spreading Experiences and Knowledge on School Meals Programmes in ASEAN Cities*’, 2024, Bandung, Indonesia – **Organiser and presenter**. Full programme [here](#).
- European Conference ‘*The Power of Public Food Procurement*’, 2024, Copenhagen (DK) – **Organiser**. Full programme [here](#).
- Emilia-Romagna Regional Conference “*New perspectives on school food. Inform, Involve and Collaborate to measure food quality and sustainability*” 2023, Bologna (IT) – **Organised and presenter**. Full program [here](#).
- XXVI European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Congress, 2023, Rennes (FR) – **Author of an organised session**. Invited speakers include the “Deputy Head of Unit of the European Commission - Governance of agri-food markets DG AGRI”.
- SCORAI-ERSCP-WUR Conference, 2023, Wageningen (NL) – **Paper presentation**
- LIX SIDEA (Italian Society of Agricultural Economists) Congress, 2023, Marina di Orosei (IT) – **Paper presentation**.

#### ONLINE VIDEOS AND PODCAST ON MY RESEARCH

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University of Bologna, 3 minutes research presentation, YouTube Channel: available [here](#)  
 Spotify episode of the ‘*OnFoods – Food and Politics*’ series [in italian], available [here](#)

#### LANGUAGES

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**Italian:** Mother tongue

**English:** C1 Cambridge IELTS | Final Grade: 8/9

**French:** B2 DELF | Final Grade: 94/100

**Spanish:** B2 proficiency, plus B1 certificate by Colegio de Salamanca

#### PRIZES

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner of the “*Youth in Action for SDGs | 2020 Edition*” Call for Ideas, Powered by Fondazione Italiana Accenture.
- Winner MARCO POLO program, an Italian funding grant to support doctoral research activities abroad.

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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- **Team Leader at Slow Food Unisg** - Events organisation and crowdfunding management for humanitarian projects, Bra (Italy), 2015-2017.
- **Scout Educator – Agesci** - Leading educational projects to empower vulnerable people and improve cultural sensitivity among communities, Turin (Italy), 2013-2016.

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