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Territorial analysis of the socio-spatial organization of food heritage preservation by women's cooperatives in Lebanon

Wednesday, 3 December 2025

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Documentation Center

**Mūne as a culinary heritage
and vector of territorial development in Lebanon:**
the socio-spatial dynamics of the preservation of traditional "mūne"
foods by women cooperatives,
an application to the case of the Beqā' Valley

Dr Rita JALKH - CIHEAM Montpellier

Economic development strategies increasingly rely on the local scale and the mobilization of territorial actors. In Lebanon - a country marked by instability and socio-economic difficulties - popular cuisine and the traditional practice of *mūne* (food preservation) can play an important role in rural development. Today, rural food cooperatives continue this practice by valorizing products from local farmers and employing women.

The study conducted in the Beqā' Valley shows that *mūne* goes beyond simple food preservation: it constitutes a structuring socio-economic lever. The cooperatives are grouped into four categories according to their organizational features, spatial embeddedness, level of external support, and regulatory compliance. They maintain strong rural-urban linkages, depending both on local farmers and on urban markets. Their mobilization is supported by forms of geographical and organized proximity, which reinforce both their territorial and relational embeddedness. Ultimately, these cooperatives appear as key actors for safeguarding culinary heritage, strengthening food security, and supporting local development in a fragile Lebanese context.

Introduction:

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Animation:

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Doctoral thesis
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at UPVM, UR LAGAM,
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