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## **PhD Thesis:**

Rome, Barcelona and Athens, civil society initiatives against food insecurity: the social context affecting the generative process of individual and collective capabilities.

## **Abstract (english)**

In 2008, the economic crisis engulfed Europe destroying employment, production and human security and together with social retrenchments, have produced a significant impact on the living conditions of European citizens, leading to an increase in poverty, social exclusion and the number of people affected by food insecurity.

In this research, the capabilities' perspective is used to analyze: on the one hand, food insecurity going beyond the "availability" of food (in Europe, food is available indeed there is an abundance and food waste issue), highlighting the multidimensional nature of the deprivation experienced by people; on the other hand, to analyze the approach, structure and the impact of the initiatives tackling food insecurity.

In the light of this framework, three different local initiatives will be analyzed in Rome, Barcelona and Athens.

This study envisages enhancing theoretical and practical understanding of the role of the social context in the generative process of individual and collective capabilities, aiming to understand whether the selected initiatives are capabilities-oriented or merely intended to compensate for any insufficiencies.