Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Republic of Serbia: Food Waste

National Gap Analysis

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## Introduction
- Project description
- Objective of analysis
- Methodology

## Status quo: circular economy in Serbia
- Legislation in place linked directly and indirectly to the circular economy
- Current economic situation
- National stakeholder mapping

## Key challenges and obstacles on the circularity path
- General perspective
- Thematic focus area

## Conclusions and national policy goals
- Recommendations
OBJECTIVE OF ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Objective

• Identify obstacles on the path to a more circular economy in Serbia, from a general point of view, and focusing on food waste management

Approach

• Results of projects on food waste implemented in Serbia in the past period
• National and international statistical data, expected values
• EU documents
• Experiences of EU countries
• Consultation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
• 1st National Policy Dialogue, 5 July 2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Legislation Related to Circular Economy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Public Procurement Development Program of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2019-2023</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Law on Waste Management</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Law on Communal Activities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2027</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014-2024</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Waste Management Program with Action Plan for the period 2022 - 2024</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Law on Energy Efficiency and Rational Use of Energy</strong></td>
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CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION

GDP 2021: 7.5%
Gross fixed capital formation: 14.1%
Agricultural production: 5.0%
Industrial production: 6.3%
Processing industry: 5.5%
| Development and implementation of circular economy public policies, regulations and standards | Lack of **information**, **knowledge**, and **skills** about the circular economy business models | Lack of **awareness** about economic benefits of the circular transition | Availability of adequate **funds and financial justification** for the use of new technological processes | Availability of **grants and subsidies** for circular economy investments | Underdeveloped circular culture among the **consumers** |

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**KEY CHALLENGES: GENERAL PERSPECTIVE**
### KEY CHALLENGES: FOOD WASTE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lack of harmonized national planning documents, amendments to laws and by-laws on the waste management</th>
<th>Lack of voluntary instruments</th>
<th>Lack of economic instruments</th>
<th>Lack of mechanisms for monitoring of progress made in the reduction of food waste</th>
<th>Limited access of food business operators in Serbia to good practices</th>
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<td>Lack of experience exchange between the competent authorities for food waste in Serbia and related institutions EU Member States</td>
<td>No common methodology and reporting on food waste levels on an annual basis</td>
<td>Lack of incentives for the collection of unsold food products and for their safe redistribution</td>
<td>Lack of consumer education on the meaning ‘use-by’ and ‘best-before’ dates</td>
<td>Lack of consumer awareness about about food waste reduction and proper food waste management</td>
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CONCLUSIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Build a **value chain** between the food industry and agriculture - producers of raw materials
2. Improve **regulation of legal conditions for donating food**
3. Adjust **regulation so as not to discourage** the donation of food due to liability concerns
4. Set national or EU-level **quantitative food waste targets and monitoring schemes**
5. Strengthen the capacity of the **Food Bank**
6. Amend the regulations on food **labeling and advertising**
7. Arrange the legal framework for managing food surpluses
Establish **separate collection of biodegradable waste**

Develop **infrastructure for biodegradable waste treatment**

Introduce **incentives in food industry and biodegradable waste sector**

Introduce **landfill tax** to reduce landfilling of biodegradable waste

Organize **informative-educational campaign** on food waste reduction and importance of avoiding food waste

Raise **public awareness** of the importance of food donation