

Reducing food loss and waste: EU action plan

Farm to Fork Strategy

UNECE Roundtable on sustainable food systems -
Digitilisation and food loss and waste reduction
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What is food waste?

Definition

"**food waste**" - means all food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council that has become waste.

Interpretation:

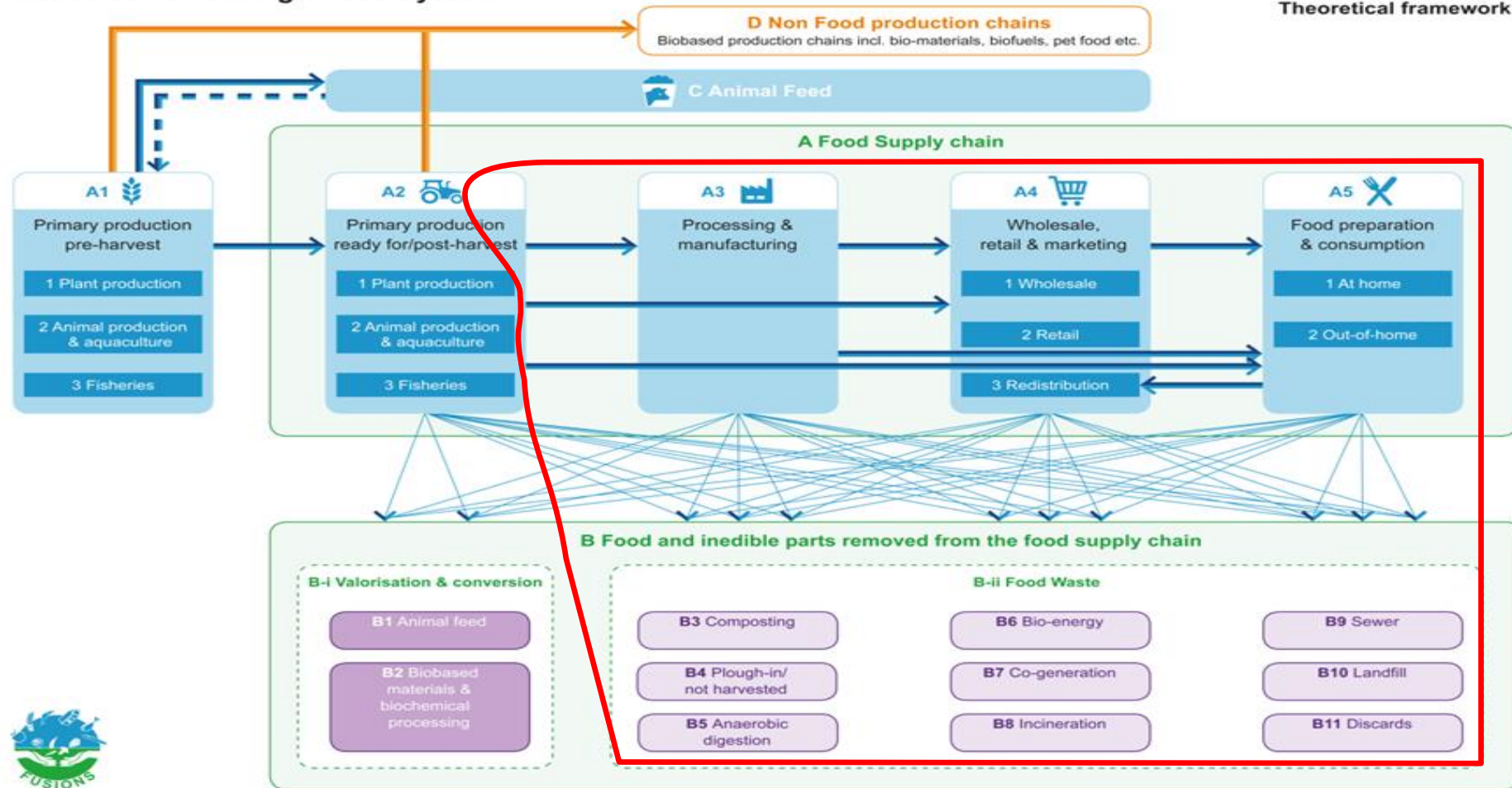
- **food** - as defined and applied in General Food Law - i.e. referring to entire food (including all its parts, both edible and not intended to be eaten),
- which has become **waste** – i.e. which the holder (in this case a food business operator or household) discards or intends or is required to discard



Food waste coverage – research approach (EU FUSIONS project 2016) vs legal coverage (WFD)

Resource flows in Agri-Food System

FUSIONS Theoretical framework

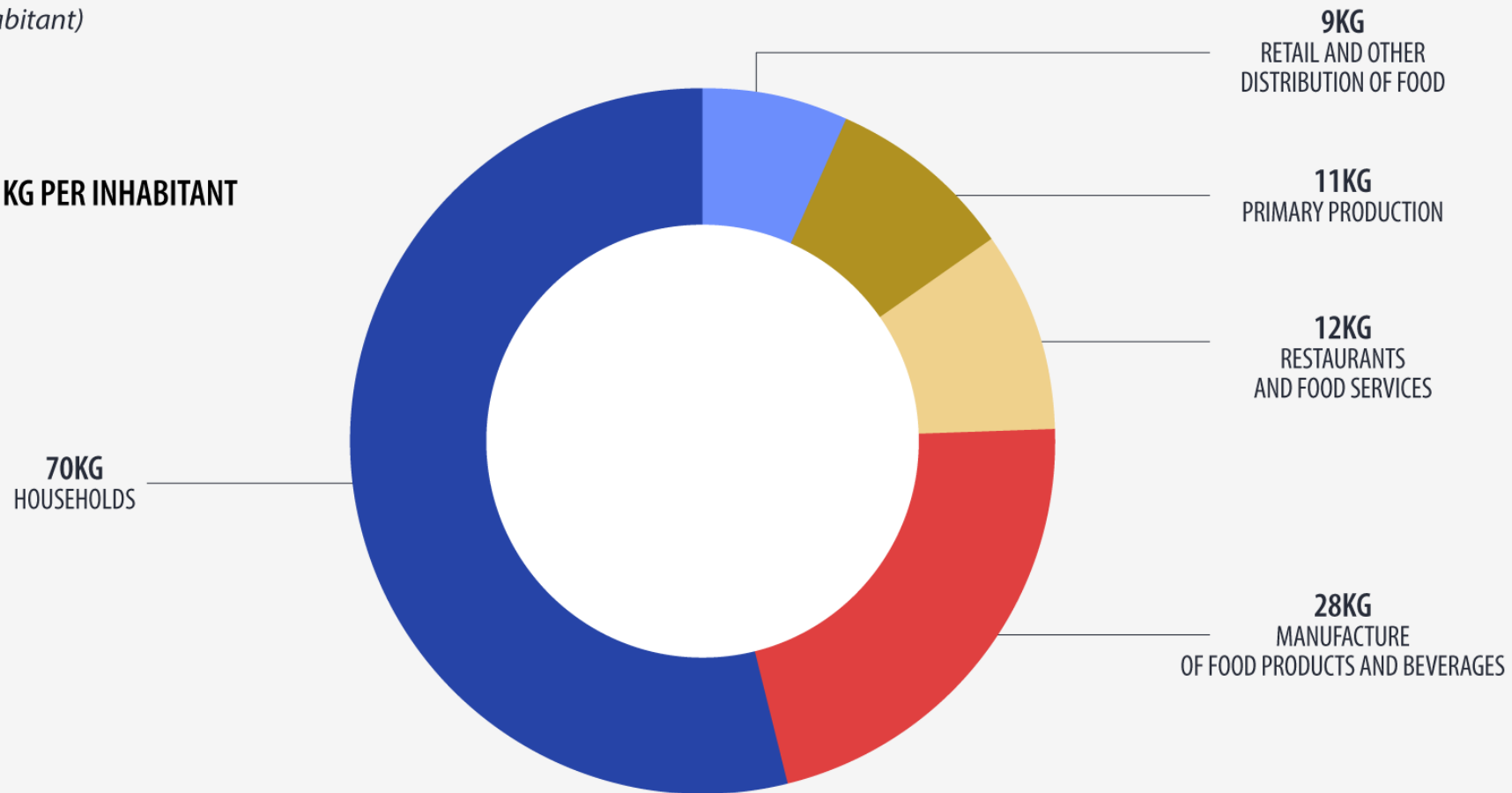


Insufficient reduction of food waste across the EU

Food waste in the EU by main economic sectors, 2021

(kg per inhabitant)

TOTAL: 131 KG PER INHABITANT



Data not available: Czechia, Germany, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Romania.
Due to roundings, the sum of the values for the categories does not match the total.



Food waste in the EU: key numbers and impacts

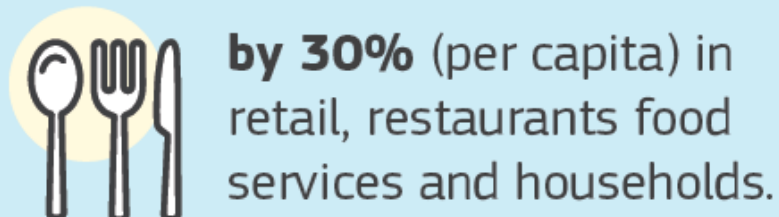
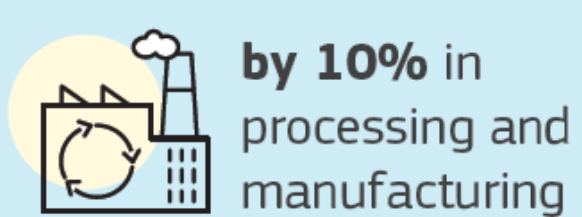
- **16% of total GHG** from EU food system (254 million tonnes of CO₂)
- **132 bn EUR** in associated market value; **9.3 bn EUR** for waste collection and treatment
- **Unnecessary spending:** 4-person household could save about 400 EUR/year
- **Ethical dimension:** over 37 million EU citizens cannot afford a high-quality meal every second day



How to make more progress in the EU?

The EU and its Member States are committed to the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** to **halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer level by 2030**.

To make more progress, and in comparison to 2020, Member States should, by 2030, reduce food waste at national level:

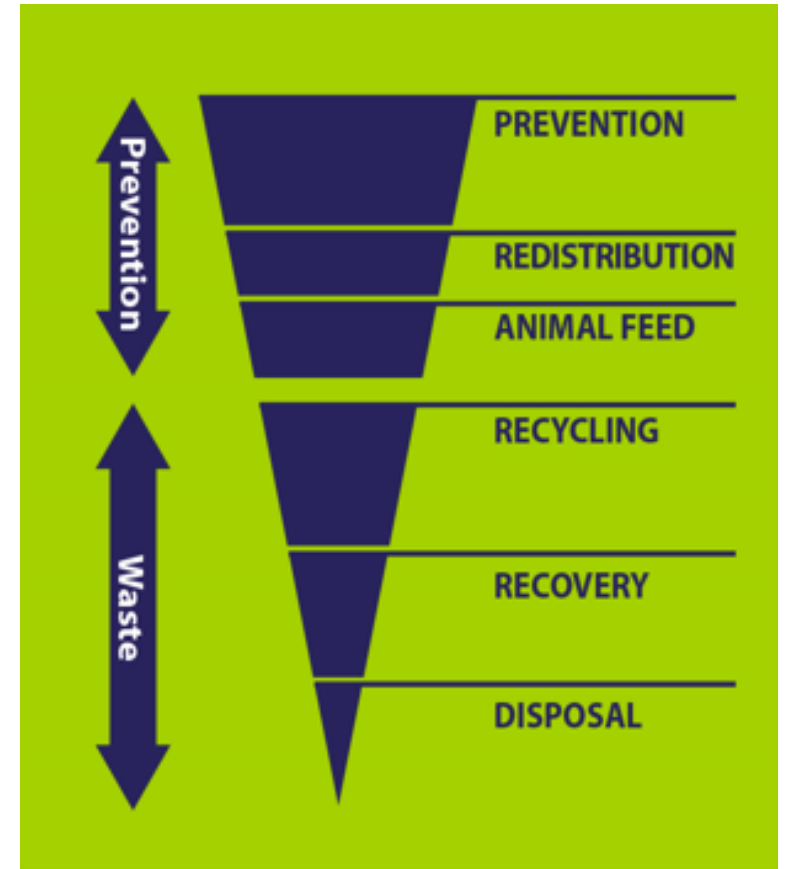


Step-by-step approach: Review progress, adapt objectives (also beyond 2030), and reward early achievers



Food waste prevention: building on the EU toolbox

- Legal obligations for Member States to reduce, measure and monitor food waste
- Common EU methodology to measure food waste consistently
- EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
- Facilitate food donation
 - EU food donation guidelines
- Optimise safe use of food in feed
 - EU guidelines on feed use of food no longer intended for human consumption
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking



Tackling consumer food waste: European Consumer Food Waste Forum

European Commission

JRC TECHNICAL REPORT

Tools, best practices, and recommendations to reduce consumer food waste – A compendium

Candeal, T., Brüggemann, N., Bruns, H., Casonato, C., Dierckxens, C., García-Herrero, L., Gil, J.M., Haglund, Y., Kapitan, G., Kasza, G., Mikkelsen, B.E., Obersteiner, G., Pires, I.M., Swainell, R., Vainioranta, J., van Herpen, E., Vittuari, M., Watanabe, K., Sala, S.

2023
Joint Research Centre
EUR 31572 EN

European Commission

Reducing consumer food waste: recommendations for schools

Food waste is a pressing issue with significant environmental, social and economic consequences. In the EU, nearly 59 million tonnes of food waste (131 kg/inhabitant) are generated each year. The largest share of food waste is generated in households and food services. The food groups that are most commonly wasted are vegetables, fruits and cereals.

Consumers can change many behaviours that lead to food waste (e.g. cooking too much), but their capacity to prevent food waste is influenced by a number of factors (e.g. related policies, lifestyle factors). Reducing consumer food waste requires collaboration between all actors in the food system, in which educational establishments play a key role.

53 % of EU food waste is generated in households (70 kg/person/year).

9 % of EU food waste arises in restaurants and food services, including school canteens (12 kg/person/year).

The role of schools

Educating young children and adolescents about food waste is essential to raise awareness of the importance of preventing and reducing it. Schools play a key role in sharing information about healthy and sustainable food habits that can help shape the behaviours of new generations, including in relation to food waste. Addressing food waste in school canteens can also set a positive example for children and young people and inspire them to take similar action at home.

Taking action against food waste in schools

1 Classroom education programmes

Primary and secondary school pupils can be educated through classroom activities to reduce food waste arising from meals at school and at home. A programme could consist of one or two lessons or be implemented over the entire school year. Monitoring the effectiveness of such programmes is highly recommended, either by measuring food waste before and after the programme or by conducting interviews to get pupils' feedback. Involving teachers, catering staff and parents will contribute to the success of the initiative.

Teaching pupils how to reduce food waste

- Check if educational materials (e.g. those provided by [the Wasteless project](#) in Hungary) are available in your country from the Ministry of Education or other organisations (e.g. non-governmental organisations, public institutions).
- Coordinate with other teachers, educators and canteen staff in your

Some successful examples:

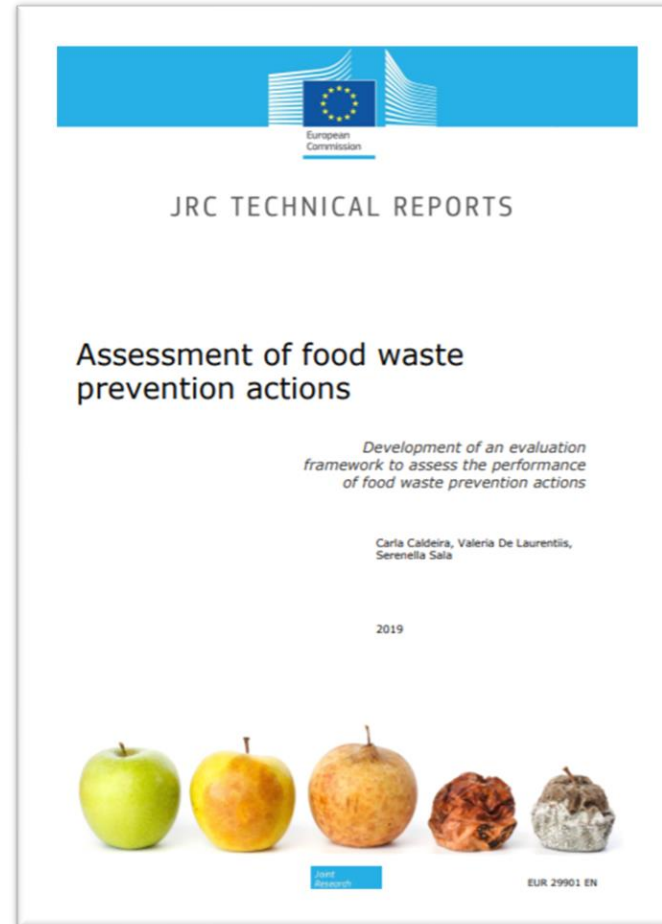
- An [educational package on food waste](#), available in several languages, for primary and secondary school pupils. The package is freely available online and includes a manual with lessons and activities, instructions for teachers, posters and food waste reduction tools for school canteens.
- A [food literacy programme](#) about food and eating for 4- to 12-year-

- 15 Researchers and practitioners working together to address consumer food waste
- Compendium of tools, best practices and recommendations

Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU



Recommendations for action in food waste prevention, 2019



Strengthening the evidence base for food waste prevention



Support key players in taking action food waste (e.g. Single Market Programme)



EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub



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#FLWDay



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Engaging citizens: recommendations of European Citizens' panel on food waste



- Around 150 citizens from across the EU
- 1/3 of the panel young people aged 16-25
- 3 meetings (December, January, 10-12 February 2023)
- **Final outcome: 23 recommendations to step up action against food waste**



Thank you! Keep in touch



https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste_en



https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/



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EU Health and Food Safety