



The 15th Platform meeting and International conference
“Towards Halving Food Waste in Europe”
18-19 June 2024

ACTION FOR PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF FOOD WASTE IN ROMANIA

“TOGETHER WE SHALL REACH SDG 12.3”
18-19 June 2024



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S1.

CURRENT SITUATION

The effect of food waste is a problem that concerns all the world's governments, food waste not only being an ethical and economic problem, but also the cause of high consume of the limited global natural resources.

Achieving the objective of reducing food waste requires the development and implementation of national policies to prevent food waste, by the responsible authorities, with the involvement of civil society, the academic environment and the business environment.

In this sense, Romania was among the first states of the E.U. which regulated the legal framework specific to the field of food waste, which denotes the interest and responsibility of the national institutions, empowered in this field.



S2 . Legislative actions

The national legislative framework applicable to the field of food waste is represented by Law no. 217 regarding the reduction of food waste, adopted in 2016 and Government Decision no. 51/2019, regarding the approval of the Methodological Norms for the application of Law no. 217/2016, which regulates food donation.

The Law was subsequently subjected to improvement through a series of additions/modifications, in order to ensure an efficient implementation of the food donation mechanism, the last modification being brought by the adoption, on 21.03.2024, of Law no. 49.

The defining element brought by Law no. 49/2024 consists in the introduction of the mandatory character for all operators within the agri-food sector to take measures to prevent food waste in order to fulfill the sustainable development objectives assumed, at the European and international level, by Romania.

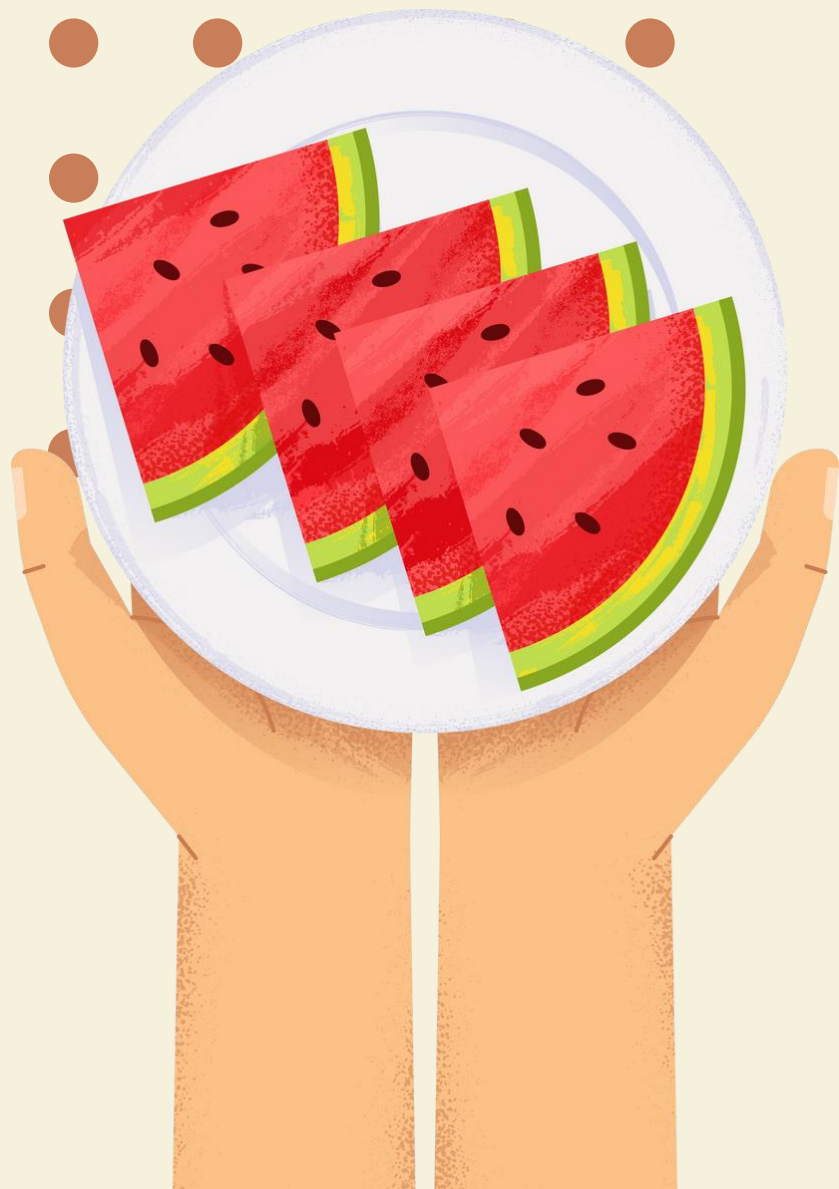


S2 . Legislative actions

By Law no. 49/2024, which seeks to streamline the measures to apply the provisions of Law no. 217/2016 on the reduction of food waste, republished, with subsequent amendments and additions, new duties were introduced for the competent authorities, as follows:

- increasing the level of awareness/responsibility of economic operators on the urgency/need to get involved in the fight against food waste;
- increasing the amount of food donated;
- the development of the National Strategy for the prevention and reduction of food waste;
- ensuring effective management and monitoring of food waste prevention and reduction measures,
- through the creation of the National Platform for the prevention and reduction of food waste.

In order to implement the new changes, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) together with the responsible institutions drafted the Government Decision for the approval of the methodological norms for the application of Law no. 217/2016 on reducing food waste.

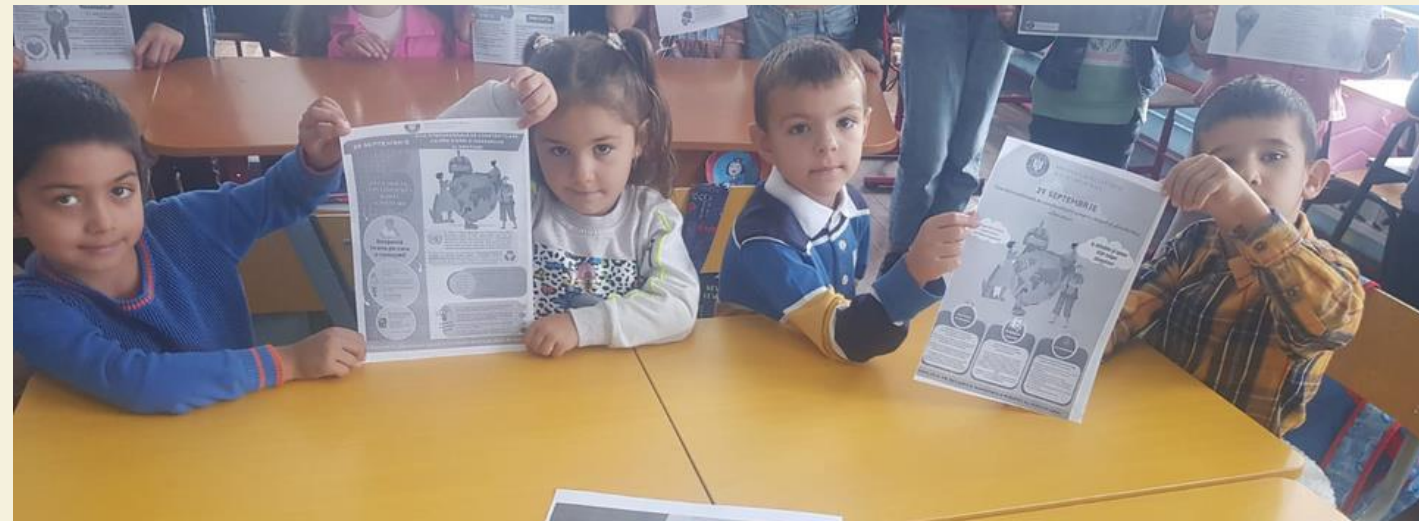


S3. Non legislative actions



- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the authority responsible, at the national level, for the implementation of the provisions of Law no. 217/2016 on reducing food waste, republished. According to the specific legal framework, MARD draws up, publishes and periodically updates the list of receiving operators, in the context of the food donation mechanism, which includes the name of the receiving operator, its address and contact details, the type/category of food products among those that can be the object donation/marketing.
- Until 03.06.2024, 43 entities (organizations, associations, foundations) are registered in the List of receiving operators, published on the MARD website, in the "food waste" section.

S4. Specific non-legislative actions and measures



- Information and awareness campaigns for final consumers;
- The celebration of the "International Food Waste Awareness Day (IDAFLW)", on September 29 of each year;
- MARD's collaboration with European specialized forums/authorities, respectively with FAO, with which it concluded an agreement, according to which it can use in information and education programs an educational package published in 2019, called: "Do Good: Save Food! Educating future generations for a zero food waste world!" ("Save food! Educating future generations for a world with zero food waste"), which includes four books, by age groups, respectively, 5-7 years, 8-9 years, 10-13 years and 14 +;
- MARD, in collaboration with DDD/SGG, of the advertising spot with an anti-food waste message, some launch took place on September 29, 2021, on the occasion of the celebration of the second edition of the International Day of Awareness on Food Waste and Loss. . (IDAFLW) - <https://www.madr.ro/risipa-alimentara.html>.

Specific non-legislative actions and measures

Starting from 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development implements the Sectoral Plan for research and development in the field of agriculture and rural development "Agriculture and Rural Development - ADER 2022", an activity that aims to continue funding the research sector:

- ADER Project 18.1.2 - "Methods to reduce food waste in the agri-food chain, at the national level, in order to prevent and reduce the socio-economic impact, until the year 2030";
- ADER Project 15.1.1. - "The socio-economic impact of food waste at the national level in the current context of crises related to food security and climate change";
- ADER Project 17.1.1: "Research on the evolution of the phenomenon of food waste at the national level, from the perspective of Romania's commitment to achieving the objective of sustainable development".

Specific non-legislative actions and measures

Reported to the year 2020, we have the data obtained from the quantitative impact studies, at the level of the entire food chain, carried out by the National Institute for Research - Development for Food Bioresources - IBA, within the ADER projects, these being expressed as the weight of waste in the annual volume of products, at the level of the entire food chain, as follows:

- Primary agricultural production: 4.20%
- Food processing: 3.79%
- Distribution/retail: 0.86%
- Public catering: 8.63%
- Household consumers, from the urban environment: 6.5%





Statistical data at the level of household consumers, compared to those from a similar research done on another ADER project in 2016, reveals a decrease in the average level of food waste from 10.43% in 2016 to 6.5% in 2020. A prospective analysis in the perspective of 2030, for the chain of household consumers in the urban environment, indicates a continuous decrease in the level of food waste, as follows:

2016 <i>(numerical data from the 2016 impact study)</i>	2020 <i>(numerical data from the 2020 impact study)</i>	2024	2028	2030
10,43 %	6,50 %	4,05 %	2,52 %	2,05 %

S.6 What's new?



- the development of the National Strategy for the prevention and reduction of food waste;
- the establishment of the National Platform for preventing and reducing food waste;
the obligation is established for economic operators:
- to implement at least two measures/actions to prevent food waste, before ordering the neutralization of the generated food waste;
- to upload, by March 31 for the period between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year, in the National Platform for the prevention and reduction of food waste, the annual plans to reduce food waste;
- to upload, by March 31 for the period between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year, in the National Platform for the prevention and reduction of food waste, the annual reports on the amount of food that were transferred free of charge, both for the economic operators recognized as receivers as well as for those recognized as donors.

What are we expecting?

01

- Increasing the level of awareness/responsibility of economic operators on the urgency/need to get involved in the fight against food waste;

02

- Increasing the amount of food donated;

03

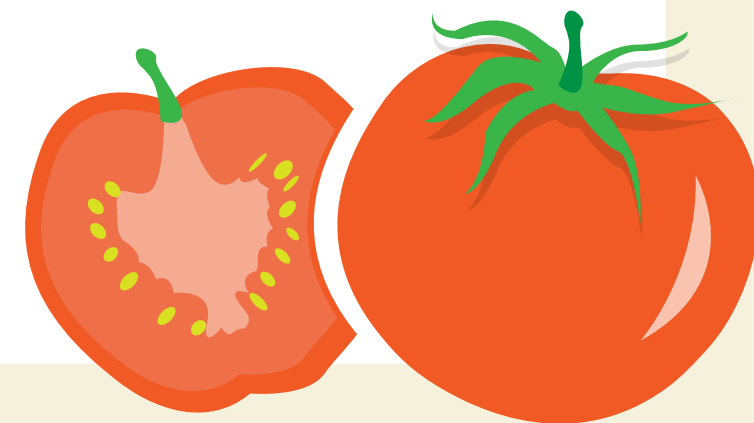
- Increasing the level of awareness/responsibility of economic operators on the urgency/need to get involved in the fight against food waste;

04

- Ensuring effective management and monitoring of measures to prevent and reduce food waste;

05

- Achieving the objective of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030, provided for in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.





Thank you for your attention!