


# Food Loss and Waste Monitoring sub-group

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**COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/1597**  
of 3 May 2019  
supplementing Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste  
(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

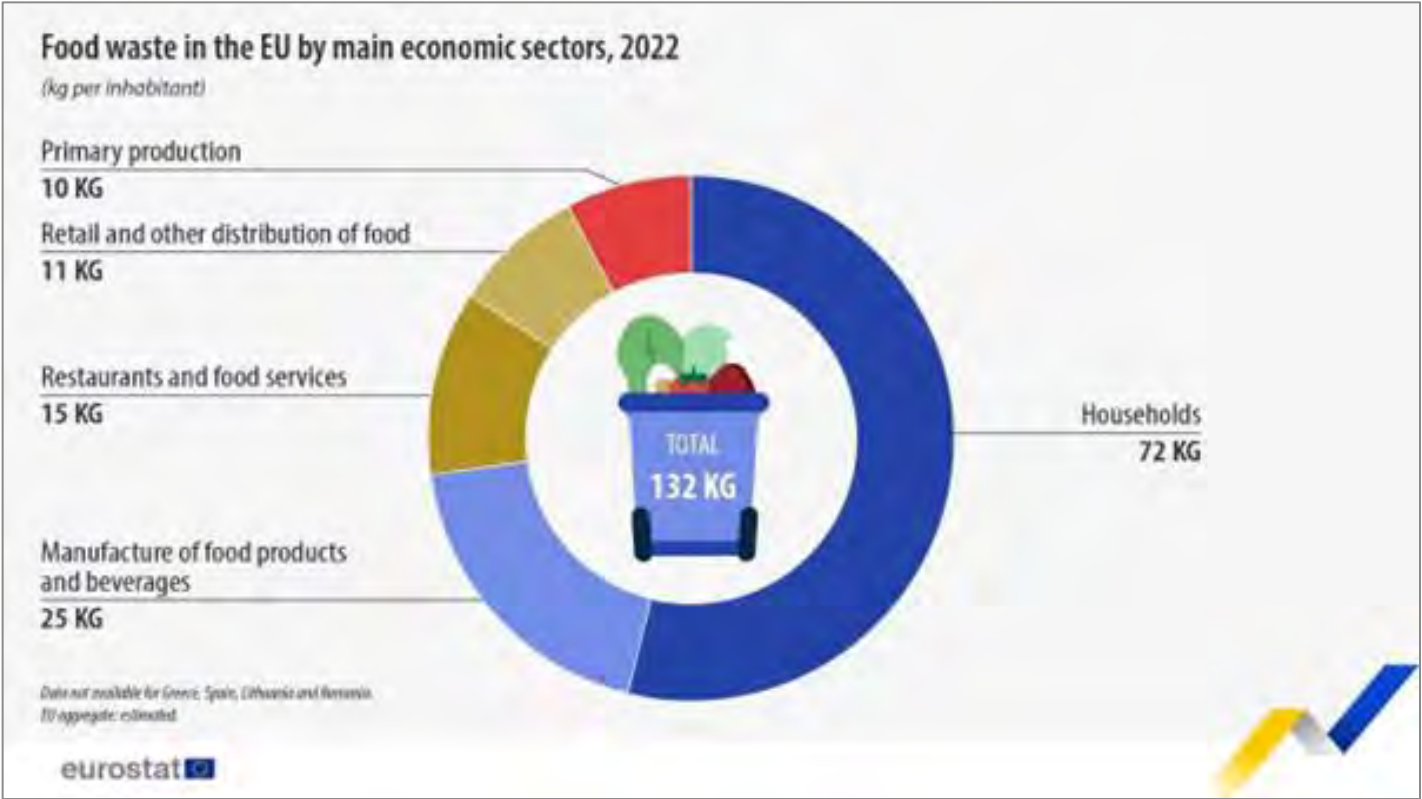
Having regard to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (<sup>1</sup>), and in particular Article 9(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- Directive 2008/98/EC lays down an obligation for Member States to include food waste prevention into their waste prevention programmes and to monitor and assess the implementation of their food waste prevention measures by measuring the levels of food waste on the basis of a common methodology. The Commission is to establish that common methodology and set out minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste on the basis of the outcome of the work of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.
- The definition of 'food loss' laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (<sup>2</sup>) encompasses food as a whole, along the entire food supply chain from production until consumption. Food also includes inedible parts, where those were not separated from the edible parts when the food was produced, such as bones attached to meat destined for human consumption. Hence, food waste can comprise items which include parts of food intended to be ingested and parts of food not intended to be ingested.
- Food waste does not include losses at stages of the food supply chain where certain products have not yet become food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, such as edible plants which have not been harvested. In addition, it does not include by-products from the production of food that fulfil the criteria set out in Article 5(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC, since such by-products are not waste.
- Food waste is to be prevented and reduced along the whole food supply chain. As the types of food waste and the factors contributing to the generation of food waste differ significantly between the different stages of the food supply chain, food waste should be measured separately for each stage.
- The attribution of food waste to the different stages of the food supply chain should be carried out in accordance with the common statistical classification of economic activities in the Union established by Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (<sup>3</sup>) as NACE Revision 2. In the absence of a pertinent NACE Rev. 2 classification, the attribution to 'households' should be carried out by reference to point 1.2 of Section 8 of Annex 1 to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (<sup>4</sup>).
- While Commission Decision 2000/532/EC (<sup>5</sup>) establishing a European List of Waste does not always allow for a precise identification of food waste, it can provide guidance for national authorities in the context of measurement of food waste.
- Agricultural material referred to in Article 2(1)(f) of Directive 2008/98/EC and animal by-products referred to in Article 2(2)(b) of Directive 2008/98/EC are excluded from the scope of that Directive and should therefore not be measured as food waste.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 8.  
<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).  
<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1).  
<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics (OJ L 332, 9.12.2002, p. 1).  
<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Decision 2000/532/EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/984/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste (OJ L 226, 8.9.2000, p. 3).

Source: [The EUROPEAN COMMISSION 2019](#)



Source: [EUROSTAT 2024](#)

# Food Loss and Waste Monitoring sub-group

Topics from the meeting 3rd April 2025 (09:30 – 13:00 CET)

Topic 1: Household food waste monitoring and granular data for targeted policies/interventions

Topic 2: Monitoring and defining food loss and waste in fisheries and aquaculture



# Topic 1: Household food waste monitoring and granular data for targeted policies/interventions

- [Is weighing food waste better than a questionnaire? Insights from a study of measurement](#) **Valerie Lengard Almlí**
- [National representative surveys on household food waste: comparisons of the results of three assessments in Italy](#) **Laura Rossi**
- [Automated quantification tool to monitor household food waste](#) **Mattias Eriksson**
- [Treasure rather than trash: innovations in the measurement of household food waste](#) **Erika van Herpen**
- [Household food waste data, monitoring and insights informing policy recommendations in the UK](#) **Estelle Herszenhorn**



Photo © Jannicke F. Remme v/SINTEF Ocean

## Topic 2: Monitoring and defining food loss and waste in fisheries and aquaculture

- [Food loss data from the Norwegian seafood industry](#) **Magnus Myhre**
- [Barriers and opportunities for food recovery in the seafood and cruise industry](#) **Linn Eide**



- *There is a need for more granular data – especially at household level – to ensure targeted policies.*
- *Self-reported food waste is often underestimated, and technology provides more accurate tracking.*
- *Digital tools, such as sensors, smart-bins, AI-photo recognition etc. offer new opportunities to go beyond surveys and traditional waste audits/waste compositional analysis*

# Inputs on topic for next meeting are welcome

- Aina Stensgård NORSUS / Nofima / Matvett-Consortium

# Action and implementation sub-group

## The role of packaging in reducing food waste

- Reducing food waste is a crucial step for greater sustainability. DG ENVI has an open call on waste reduction. More dialogue is needed in the application of PPWR because (active) packaging is a tool to do it
- Packaging has a key role: research is focusing on the development of active packaging that increases shelf life
- The benefit is collective, to achieve this we need a collective effort to finance the introduction of these innovations. As with all green deal measures like the electric cars
- In Italy a support of active packaging in the Operational Plans of the Common Agricultural Policy of 50 million euro per year would provide a benefit of 1 million euro. The EU would spend 1 to get back 20
- There are many studies and virtuous examples of this

# The applied research on active packaging



FONDAZIONE  
EDMUND MACH  
dal 1874



## Processing

SISTERS compostable HOME packaging

- Innovation in biobased packaging solutions for flexible and rigid packaging to reach a HOME compostable solution:
  - Stretch film, flow pack, thermoformed and thin injected packaging



- The materials employed are based on PLA and Biodolomer® (compound based on PLA)
- Enzymes are added in form of masterbatch:
  - % depends on the thickness of the packaging (5-10%)
  - The enzyme is activated under composting conditions (humidity, temperature and pH) to allows the disintegration of the plastic.



Cofunded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

GRANT AGREEMENT N° 101037796

SISTERS

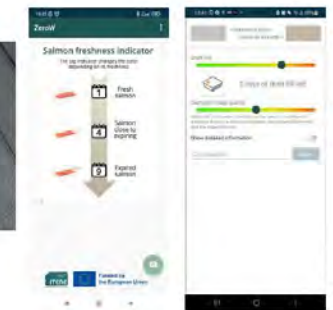


ZeroW project

## 3 ZeroW TRAY

SMART LABEL AND A READING MOBILE APP

Reading mobile app:



ZEROW



# What does the market think: we need EU help!



We have the technology to fight the food waste

Active packaging: a clever idea, a valid contribution

The cost of the innovations is in charge of the supply chain

There is an increasing demand to reduce the use of chemicals as antimicrobial agents

The benefits are gained by the community level (retailer & consumers)

Essential oils exhibited different antibacterial and antifungal properties

If the benefit are community-based, the EU must support the introduction and cost

On small and soft fruits in which the oxidation processes caused by superficial fungal. There is a benefit of 3 days

Roma, 7 marzo 2025  
Prot. 5\_2025

SANTE FOOD WASTE TEAM

EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (E03421)

DG Health and Food Safety European Commission

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The Bestack Consorzio, a member of the "EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste," has assumed the position of co-chair of the "Action and Implementation" (AI) sub-group as of January 1, 2025. In the interest of the collective fruit and vegetable sector, it has sought the broadest possible consensus in proposing content of common interest for the 2025 agenda.

The Interprofessional Organization Ortofrutta Italia, officially recognized in Italy by the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with national regulations and the terms of Regulation (EU) 1308/13, intends to contribute to the work of this "Action & Implementation" sub-group within the Food Losses and Food Waste Commission of DG SANTE. This commitment aligns with its interprofessional nature and mission.

From our perspective, representing the entire supply chain, including professional production enterprises (and their collective organizations), trade, and distribution, the following objectives could be identified:

- Considering that more than half of total food waste (nearly 55%) is produced after the product has been purchased by the EU consumer, with only about 7.5% attributable to agricultural production and slightly over 8% occurring at retail points of sale, efforts should primarily focus on addressing waste at the consumer level.
- The protection and shelf-life extension of fruit and vegetable products through appropriate packaging solutions and adequate consumer behaviour are fundamental prerequisites to preventing or significantly reducing waste.
- Given that food waste accounts for 16% of greenhouse gas emissions from the EU food system and that its environmental impact reaches nearly 10% (more than twice that of packaging and containers), the reduction of food waste becomes a key priority for the environmental sustainability of the agricultural production and the entire supply chain.

The application of the LCA methodology to calculate the environmental impact of any given product, complemented by a precise measurement of waste reduction, becomes an essential methodological approach.

Being these remarks considered, the Italian fruit and vegetable sector, represented by its Interprofessional Organization, identifies two primary needs:

- Enhancing the role of sustainable packaging solutions that extend the shelf life of fruit and vegetable products, maximizing their commercial value, mitigating the impact of costs on agricultural production, and emphasizing the issues of food waste and environmental impact, with renewed attention to hygiene and health aspects. Pilot projects involving agricultural production, the broader supply chain, and the packaging industry should be encouraged and financially supported to this end.
- Promoting the use of packaging and packages that extend the shelf life of fruit and vegetable products and reduce waste. In the fresh fruit and vegetable sector, for instance, expenses for such active packaging solutions could be made eligible under Operational Programmes of Producer Organizations (POs).

Best regards

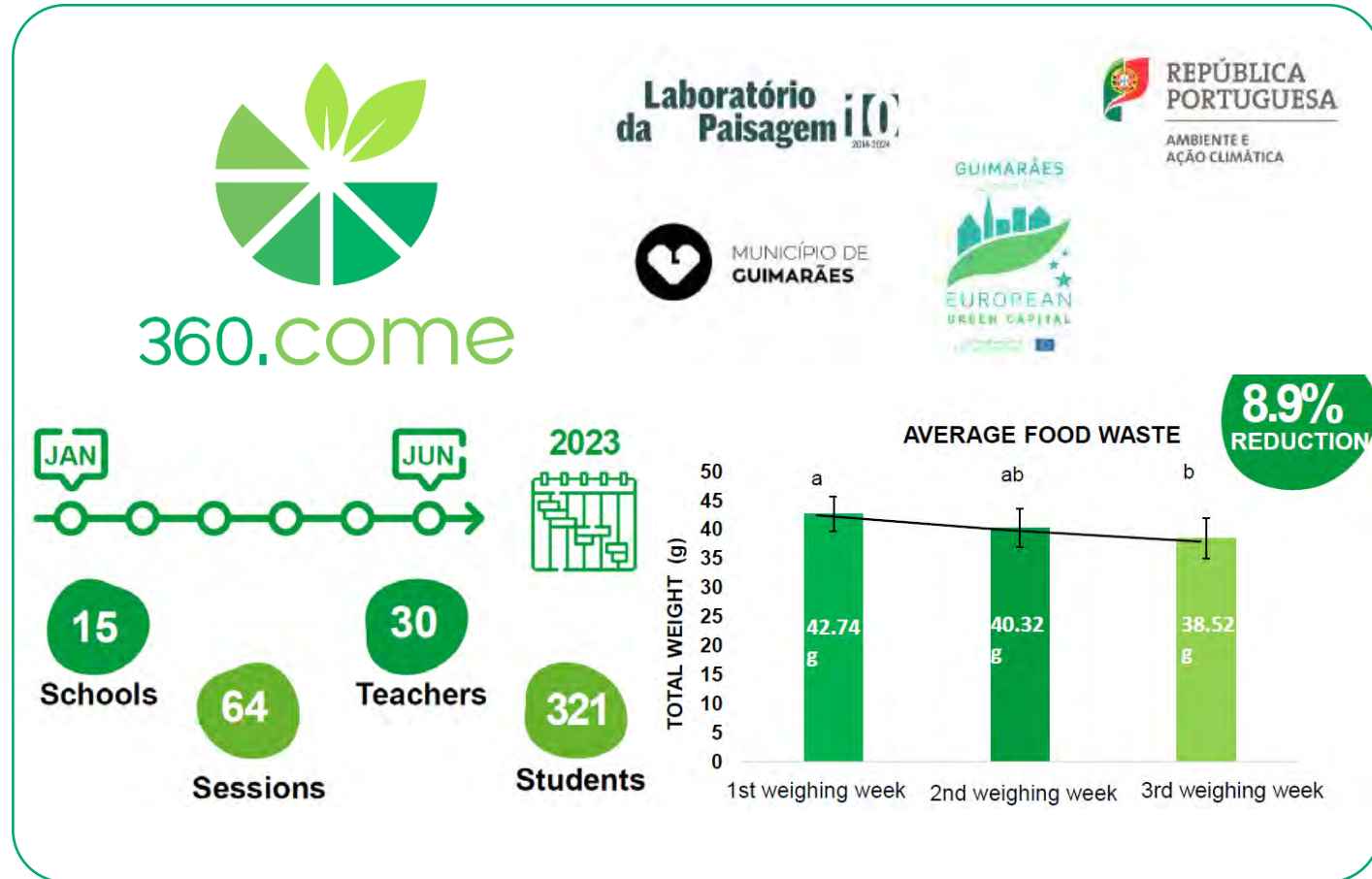
Ortofrutta Italia



EU Platform on FLW 17<sup>th</sup> meeting  
11 June 2025

# The role of cities

- **Eurocities**, a network of over 200 European cities, advocates for stronger EU support for urban food systems, including funding, and clearer mandates to reduce food waste. Through initiatives like the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the organisation promotes climate action, inclusive food systems, and shorter supply chains to minimise waste and build sustainable cities.



# The role of cities in reaching food waste reduction targets



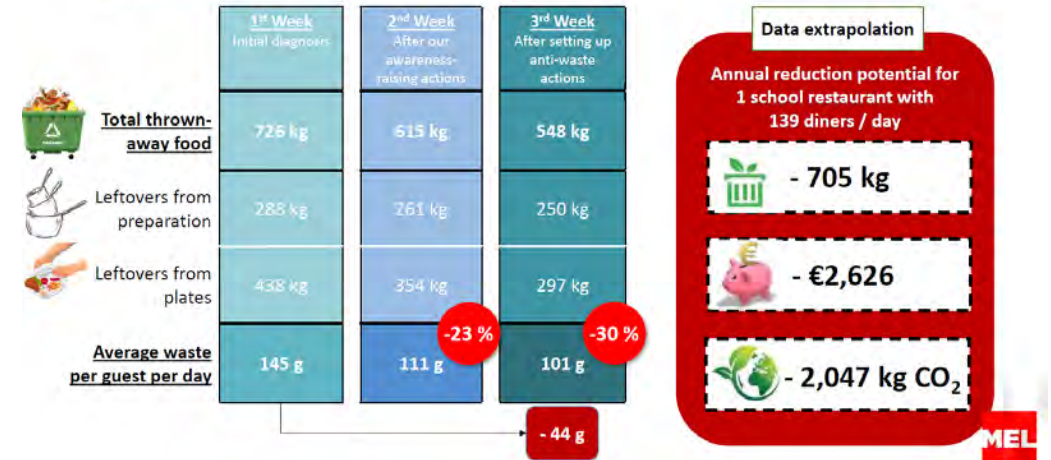
## Cooperation with food donation systems: Tallinn Food Bank

- Shops order less food
- The company's food waste is decreasing
- Thanks to the city's notification, restaurants, caterers, and event organizers also donate food



## 1. Support schools to reduce food waste in canteens

### 6. Overall results: Year 2023-24



*Innovation&Culture  
builds Value in  
everything*

Thanks to  
Everyone



[www.bestack.com](http://www.bestack.com)

[www.imballaggioattivo.it](http://www.imballaggioattivo.it)

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# Consumer FW prevention sub-group

## Workshop on reducing consumer food waste through effective actions at national level

20 May 2025, onsite in Brussels (6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the subgroup)

**Objective:** support and strengthen national programs, helping Member States deliver on the EU 2030 target of a 30% reduction in consumer food waste.

### Results:

- 1) Input from practitioners from food businesses, NGOs, academia, and public authorities across the EU, consolidated and in flashcard format.
- 2) An interactive workshop that brought together MS reps and experts to share experiences and lessons learned.
- 3) Workshop summary report combining both (upcoming, will be shared with the platform)

Representatives from Hungary, France, Slovenia, and Scotland showcased in an interactive panel diverse approaches, inspiring collaboration. Through a World Café format, participants exchanged both technical insights and personal reflections on overcoming real-world challenges from national, regional, and local initiatives.



# Workshop on reducing consumer food waste through effective actions at national level

## Key topics discussed:

- ✅ **Designing effective interventions** – What works in changing consumer behavior
- 🤝 **Stakeholder engagement** – Building strong public-private partnerships
- 📊 **Program sustainability** – Ensuring long-term funding and institutional embedding
- 📈 **Measuring & monitoring** – Tracking impact to drive progress

A strong sense of openness encouraged honest dialogue, making this not just a technical exchange but a collaborative push toward impactful, scalable solutions.

Next step: share the **summary report** of the meeting with all Platform members, together with the **feedback from the practitioners' interviews**



# Food donation sub-group

5 June 2025, onsite in Brussels (4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the subgroup)

## Topics:

- 1) Presentation by Germany on a proposal to introduce a definition of 'charitable food business operator' in the General Food Law – Regulation (EC) 178/2002 – and discussion with members
- 2) Ongoing work on barriers and opportunities to facilitate food redistribution

## Objective:

- to develop recommendations to tackle barriers for redistribution of surplus food in the EU
- to prioritise **recommendations through SLIDO 'votes'**

# Food donation sub-group

## How?

- Based on 'notes' on 4 topics of regulatory nature:
  - Liability
  - Traceability
  - Food information to consumers (labelling, incl. date marking)
  - Hygiene (freezing of meat, and donation of food of animal origin from retail to retail)
- Rapporteurs for each topic: EuroCommerce, FEBA, FoodCloud and Germany

## Next steps:

- Draft recommendations based on the SLIDO ranking – will be sent to subgroup members for comments
- Draft report to be distributed to all Platform members for feedback
- Validation procedure through Q3 and Q4 2025, and publication in 2026