



# State of play on the Report on Voluntary Agreements

New deliverable of the Platform

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# Background and delivery

- A **report with key learnings** from members' implementation of Voluntary Agreements to drive food waste reduction across EU
- Data collection exercise
- **Questionnaire** based on REFRESH blueprint

REFRESH Policy Brief, March 2019  
eu-refresh.org



## Voluntary Agreements as a collaborative solution for food waste reduction

### Key Messages

- A Voluntary Agreement (VA) is a policy measure that can drive food waste reduction by bringing supply chain stakeholders together under a common cause.
- The objectives of a VA are collectively designed in consultation with all supply chain actors to ensure that each actor's needs and specificities are represented, which facilitates the development of relevant and attainable targets.
- The voluntary and non-legal characteristics of a VA make its structure flexible, which is advantageous as its targets and objectives can be quickly and easily adjusted in response to changing policy contexts.
- The potential for millions € of savings and/or enhanced brand image creates a strong business case for participating members to join a VA, especially if key organisations and businesses are involved.
- To help actors take concrete actions towards establishing a VA within any country, REFRESH developed a Blueprint tool, which details questions that can guide policy makers and the founding members of the VA, in collaboration with the third-party, through each step of the VA.



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# Structure of report - checklist

## **1. Description:**

- year of establishment
- content of VA, commitments, targets and baseline
- funding
- governance
- role of independent third parties
- members/signatories/sectors covered
- measurement methodologies
- transparency of data reporting

## **2. Impacts achieved**

- data on increase/decrease of food waste quantities, either in percentage or amounts
- duration of the period

## **3. Key Learnings**

- difficulties and opportunities encountered

# Contributions

## **Contributions on Voluntary Agreements:**

- DK, FI, DE, GR, IE, NE, NO, PT and SE
- International Food Waste Coalition and WRAP (UK)

## **Other examples of collaborations (not VAs)**

- Solidarity Pact (LU); (EE); the declaration of cooperation for the reduction of food losses and waste (SI) and Stop Wasting Food (DK)

## **Feedback from RO and LV**

# Timeline

## **Feedback collected in 2 rounds:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> input by November 2022 via questionnaire
- follow up in May 2023 on the 1<sup>st</sup> version of the report

## **Next steps:**

Further bilateral requests, final clarifications...

Draft report for consultation with contributors (during this summer)

Validation by Platform prior to adoption of the report at the plenary meeting (October, tbc)