



# Voluntary agreements in practice – experiences from Hungary –

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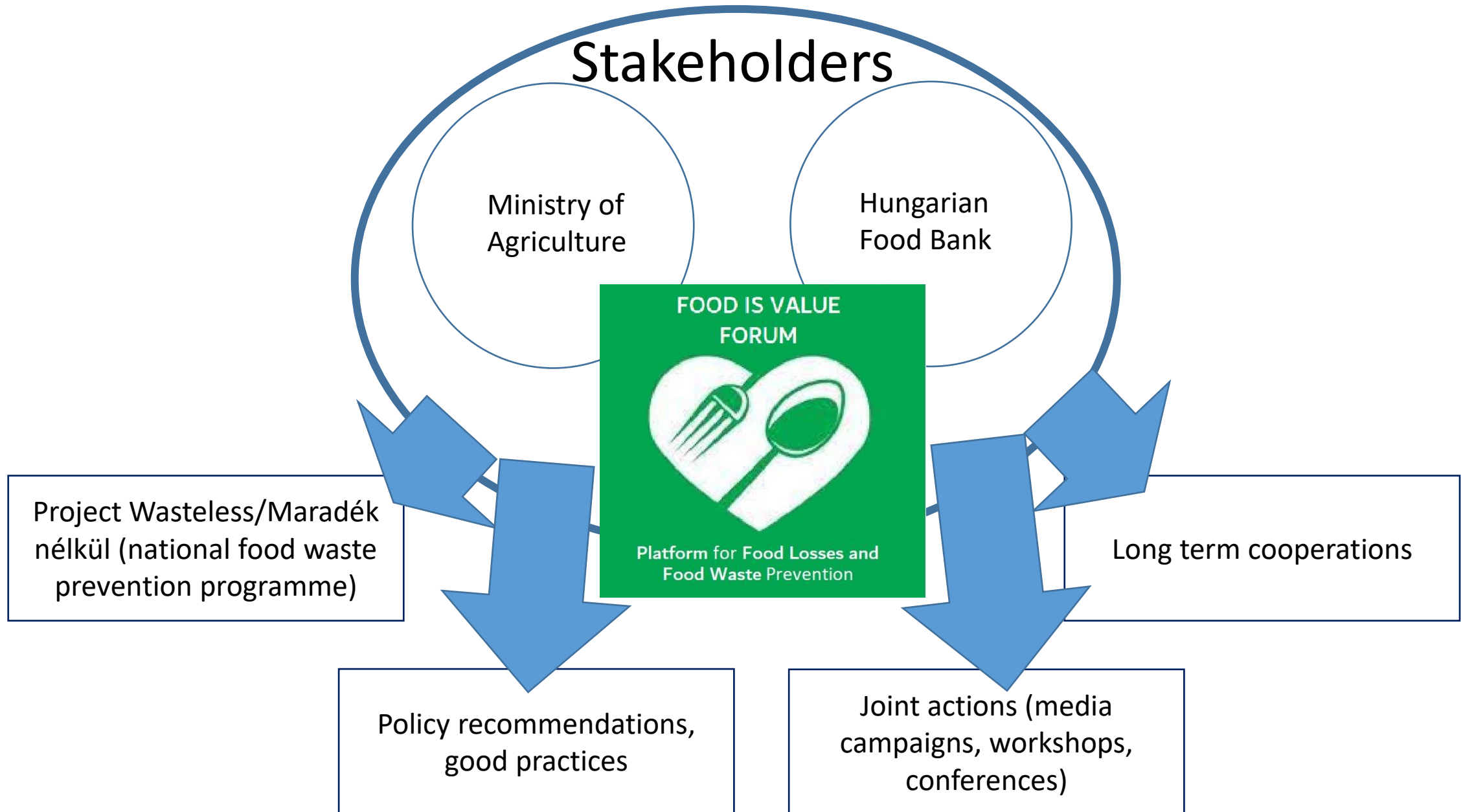
Hungarian Food Bank Association

Action & implementation sub-group meeting  
EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste  
On-line, 24 June 2022

# Context (policy framework; food waste diagnosis)

- Food is Value Forum: stakeholder platform covering the whole food chain. Established by the Hungarian Food Bank Association (HFBA) and the Ministry of Agriculture in 2016
- Donations are subsidised by the government: corporate tax base can be reduced by 120% of the donated food's value
- Project Wasteless (Maradeknelkul.hu) – national food waste prevention programme: 2016 – consumer campaign and working groups
- During Covid-19: economic support connected with food donation for food producers (per employee support, 10% of support had to be repaid for the community as food donation)
- Donation opportunity after 'best before' is integrated in national law and supported by official guidelines
- Establishment of the Food Rescue Center (FRC): collecting durable food near to expiry, which had not been offered to any other charity organisations

# The structure of voluntary agreements



# Objectives; target audiences

- Main objectives:
  - assessing and significantly reducing the amount of food waste in Hungary
  - raising awareness and motivation to take action
  - strengthening knowledge and information flow between stakeholders
  - identifying problems and solutions
  - collecting and adapting domestic and international good practices
- Target audiences:
  - food business organisations, non-profit organisations, public administration, R&D and education institutions

# Key actions undertaken

- Knowledge sharing
  - Newsletter
  - Workshops, meetings, networking
  - Best practice development & field studies
- Guidelines
  - Guideline for donation in the processing and distribution sectors
  - Guideline for the donation of surplus food in the catering sector
  - Guideline for „food saving events“
  - EU guidelines for food donation
- RDI projects
  - FUSIONS, REFRESH, Strefowa, iREXFO, LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV
- Promotion of food donation
  - HFBA, Nébih, Food Rescue Center
- Awareness-raising
  - Project Wasteless (Maradeknelkul.hu), Live without waste! (Élj maradéktalanul!)
- Regular workshops and conferences on current issues
  - Annual conferences. Last one: September 2021: donation options of expired food, mandatory FW reporting of Member States
- Participation in EU stakeholder forums and expert groups
  - EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
  - European Consumer Food Waste Forum

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# Monitoring progress (impacts; results achieved so far)

- Results:
  - Food donation actions of HFBA
  - Consumer surveys: 8 surveys on consumers' FW attitudes, behaviours, and practices (2 COVID-19 quarantine surveys)
  - Physical measurement of FW in households: 3 surveys since 2016
  - Obligatory annual food waste report for the big retailers from 2022
  - Joint activities, media campaigns, such as *Élj maradéktalanul*
  - 150+ million media reach (15 times / capita) since 2016
  - Active connections and cooperations between stakeholders
- Impacts:
  - Awareness of citizens and companies are developing
  - Amount of FW in households decreased by 4% between 2016-2019 (26,000 tonnes per year)
  - HFBA (2021): 8000 tons of food donated to 250 000 people, involving 550 charity organisations
  - Strategic cooperation (HFBA-Munch)
  - Food business operators awareness and FW reduction actions (Tesco, SPAR, Lidl, Munch)

# Thank you for the attention!

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