Results of the "Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste"

Brussels, 29.11.2016
Survey

- **Number of addressed countries:** 29
  28 (EU Member States) + 1 (Non EU country - Norway)

- **Countries that have sent their replies:** 24
  (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NO, NL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK)

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016*
National strategy to prevent Food waste

- **Countries that adopted national strategy**: 15
  (AT, BE, BG, CY, DK, EE, EL, ES, HU, IT, LT, NO, NL, SI, SK)

- **Countries that plan to adopt national strategy**: 8
  (CZ, DE, FI, HR, IE, PT, RO, SE)

- **Countries that did NOT adopted national strategy yet**: 1
  (LV)

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Key elements to prevent Food Waste encompassed in National strategies

- Financial arrangements and support
- Food donation
- Reducing VAT for donated food
- Guidelines addressed to selected sectors of the food chain
- Support of regional food production
- Public awareness – raising through information campaigns
- Initiatives, conferences, programs and forums
- Support of volunteering activities focused to prevent/eliminate Food waste
- Cooperation of public sector with NGOs

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016
Common European definition of Food waste

- **Countries that would welcome a common definition:** 21
  (BE, BG, CZ, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, NO, PT, RO, SK, SE, SI)

- **Countries that are not in favour of common definition of food waste:** 2 (AT, IE)

- **Other** (NL - would prefer a common framework on measuring all secondary resources in food supply chain)

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Body responsible for monitoring Food waste

- **Ministry of Environment** (AT, BE, BG, CZ, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, IT, LT, PT, SK, SI)
- **Ministry of Agriculture** (BE, BG, CY, DE, EE, ES, HU, PT)
- **State Veterinary and Food Administration** (DK, LT)
- **Statistics institution** (SK)
- **Statistics agency** (FI, IE, NO, PT)
- **Government agency/organisation** (BE, DK, HR, IE, LV, DE, RO, SE)
- **Private agency** (FI, NL, NO)

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Use of Catalogue Numbers according to the List of waste

- **16 countries use catalogue numbers** to measure the amount of food waste according to directive 2008/98/EC (BE (Region Flanders), CY, DK, EE, EL, FI, HU, HR, IT, NL, LT, LV, RO, SE, SI, SK)
- **1 country uses catalogue numbers + its own catalogue numbers** (IE)
- **2 countries use its own catalogue numbers** (AT, NO)
- **4 countries do not use catalogue numbers** (BG, CZ, DE, PT)
- **1 country did not answer** (ES)

- **17 of all participated countries (71%) would welcome additional catalogue numbers**

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## Methods used to measure quantity of food waste

|                          | AT | BE | BG | CY | CZ | DE | DK | FI | EE | ES | EL | IE | HR | IEU | IT | LT | LV | NO | NL | PT | RO | SI | SE | SK |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| **Primary production**   | N  | Y  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y   | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | N  |    |
| Direct measurement       |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Survey method and interview | X | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Mass balance (indirect method) |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| **Processing and Manufacturing** | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | N   | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  |
| Direct measurement       | X  | X  | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Survey method and interview | X | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Mass balance (indirect method) |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| **Wholesale, Retail, Markets and Distribution** | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y   | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | |
| Direct measurement       | X  | X  | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Survey method and interview | X | X  | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Mass balance (indirect method) |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016*
Methods vary depending on the sector and MS approach, the most frequent are: **direct measurement, survey method or its combination.**

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016*
In which sector do you perceive the highest amount of food waste?

1. **HOUSEHOLDS** has been chosen by **42,5%** of participated countries as a sector with highest number of food waste

2. **FOOD FACILITIES** has been chosen by **20%** of participated countries as a sector with highest number of food waste

3. **PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING** has been chosen by **17,5%** of participated countries as a sector with highest number of food waste

4. **WHOLESALE, RETAIL, MARKETS AND DISTRIBUTION** has been chosen by **11,5%** of participated countries as a sector with highest number of food waste

5. **PRIMARY PRODUCTION** has been chosen by **8,5%** of participated countries as a sector with highest number of food waste

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016*
Proportion of Food waste by sectors (survey results)

Sectors that create the most Food waste
(Member States view)

- Primary production: 43%
- Manufacturing: 17%
- Wholesale, retail, distribution: 12%
- Food facilities and restaurants: 20%
- Households: 8%

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016*
Food waste along the Food supply chain

- Food waste occurs in all sectors of the Food supply chain
- There is a difference between the amount of Food waste in each sector of the Food supply chain

„What are the main causes of Food waste?“

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016
Causes of food waste in Primary production

- surplus production / overproduction
- strict terms and conditions set out in the contract/ strict standards
- inappropriate harvesting method (manual or automatic)
- leaving the crops on the field
- inappropriate storage conditions
- contamination of the products
- diseases of plants or animals
- weather and climate conditions

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Causes of food waste in Processing and manufacturing

• waste from the processing of raw materials
• changes in the production line, errors in the production line
• inappropriate processing technology
• strict terms and conditions set out in the contract, or strict standards
• overproduction
• inappropriate selection and sorting (quality standards...)
• contamination of raw materials and food products
• inappropriate storage conditions or damaged packaging
• excessive supplies as a result of returns and cancelled orders

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste”, 2016
Causes of food waste in Wholesale, retail, markets and distribution

- failure to comply with the transfer conditions
- inappropriate handling of goods that results in damaged packaging (occurred at the time of transportation or storage)
- storage of products in inappropriate conditions (duration, temperature, ..)
- buying large quantities, excessive orders of foods
- low inspection and sorting of fresh fruits and vegetables
- insufficient time to sell food products (related to „best before“ dates )

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016
Causes of food waste in Food facilities

• size of the portion of served food
• buying large quantities of raw materials
• storage of products in inappropriate conditions (duration, temperature,..)

*Results of the „Survey addressed to the EU Member States about quantification of food waste and preventing Food waste“, 2016
Causes of food waste in Households

• poor knowledge of procedures and a lack of experience in food processing, food preparation and possibilities of the use of leftovers

• excessive food preparation (too big portions)

• buying large amounts of food eg.: big packaging, large quantity

• inappropriate storage

• incorrect assessment of the food as unfit for consumption, which is still safe for the consumption

• lack of knowledge on difference in food labeling („best before“ and „used by“ dates)

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The use of former foodstuffs

20 countries use former foodstuffs

- **Feed**: (AT, BE, BG, DK, GR, HU, IT, NL, LT, NO, SI, SE, SK)
- **Biogas**: (AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, FI, GR, LT, SE)
- **Energy production and organic fertilizers**: (AT, BE, GR, DE)
- **Composting**: (AT, LT, DE, SE)

4 countries do not use former foodstuff (CY, EE, ES, LV)

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Common framework on usage of former foodstuffs for feeding purposes

From 24 participated countries, **18 countries would welcome** common framework of usage of former foodstuffs for feeding purposes

- **Would you welcome the common framework of usage of former foodstuff for feeding purposes?**

  **Yes:** 18 (BE, BG, CY, CZ, EE, FI, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK, SE)

  **No:** 2 (DE, NO)

  **Did not answer:** 4 (AT, DK, ES, IE)

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Cooperation with the parties in Food supply chain

- all countries agreed that the cooperation with the parties involved in the Food supply chain is needed in order to reduce food waste,

Supporting the cooperation through:
• exchange of information and best available practices (19)
• established platform or working groups (18)
• action plans of individual members of the food supply chain (10)

Countries proposed additional options for cooperation:
• networking between actors along specific food chains
• guidelines on the legitimate use of former foodstuff
• waste prevention tool
• cooperation that encourages the measurement of food waste amounts regularly, increasing research and innovation

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Conclusions

• Food waste and food losses present an important topic for MS

• Majority of the countries already adopted national strategy to prevent food waste or plan to adopt such strategy in near future

• Different parties/ competent authorities are involved in monitoring of food waste

• Food waste occurs in all sectors of the food supply chain but the causes of food waste and the quantity of food waste vary significantly

• Cooperation with/between the parties in the food supply chain is crucial
Challenges

• To determine a common definition of food waste (as an important measurable tool for statistical purposes)

• To discuss the possibility of common framework of usage of former foodstuff for feeding purposes or other purposes

• To raise public awareness and knowledge on prevention of food waste (with the main focus on households) - the common understanding of proper food labeling („best before“ and „used by“)

• Good practices in transporting, storage and manufacturing of goods

• Food donation as an effective tool for reducing food waste
Challenges

*Goal for the future:* To continually reduce the amount of food waste through common procedures and cooperation between parties involved.
Thank you for your attention!

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