Planned approach to elaboration of methodology to monitor food waste

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Why do we need to monitor food waste

Policy commitments

- **Global:** SDG 12.3
- **EU:** Commission’s proposal COM(2015)595 final
Sustainable Development Goal 12 – responsible consumption and production

**Target 12.3:** "by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the *retail and consumer level*, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses"

The Proposal amends Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). In relation to food waste it reflects commitment to SDG 12.3 and requires MS to:

- reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain (including households)
- **monitor food waste levels**
- report back on progress.
EU data on food loss and waste are inadequate

- We need these data to:
  - Compare policy efficiency between MS
  - Report against SDGs and other international targets
  - Encourage prevention, as „numbers lead to action“
Food waste and food loss

- The Commission first priority is to address food waste as required by Commission's Proposal.

- The issue of food loss - as an issue outside the scope of waste policy - is planned to be discussed separately with the global actors (UN agencies) and of course within the Platform!
Understanding of food waste in EU Regulatory Framework
Existing legislative framework (1)

General Food Law (2002/178/EC) – definition of food

art 2.
Food means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans (...)  
Food shall not include:

(...)  
(b) live animals unless they are prepared for placing on the market for human consumption;  
(c) plants prior to harvesting;  
(...)
Existing legislative framework (2)


Art 3. "Waste" means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard
Understanding of food waste

Food waste is food (as defined in GFL, including inedible parts) which the holder (FBO or household) discards or intends or is required to discard.

or: Food waste is material which has once been a food and now is being discarded (becomes a waste)
Food waste concept vs earlier definitions

**FUSIONS definition**
“Food and inedible parts of food removed from the food supply chain” to be recovered or disposed (including - composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bioenergy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea).

**2014 Commission Proposal**
"food waste" means food (including inedible parts) lost from the food supply chain, not including food diverted to material uses such as bio-based products, animal feed, or sent for redistribution;
Monitoring of food waste in the Commission’s Proposal
Scope of monitoring of food waste

Food waste to be monitored as specified in Waste Framework Directive should cover only food waste within the scope of WFD.

Two main exclusions from WFD:

- agricultural biomass used in farming, or for the production of energy (art 2.1.f)
- animal by-products except those which are destined for incineration, landfilling or use in a biogas or composting plant (art. 2.2.b)
FUSIONS framework – vs scope of COM Proposal
Approach to monitoring of food waste:

- Based on FUSIONS
- Fits existing regulatory framework
- Uses to the extent possible existing reporting and policy frameworks (e.g. ESTAT waste reporting, Waste Prevention Programmes)
- Able to provide data for SDG 12.3
- Compatible with FLW Protocol
- Focused on resource efficiency of whole food supply chain
How to monitor food waste – some thoughts

- No defined method of data collection: surveys, administrative data, statistical estimations as well as their combination can be used

- Whatever method will be used by Member State it will be necessary to provide more detailed explanation regarding method of data collection

- **FUSIONS manual** and **FLW Protocol** include a lot of practical info on measuring and quantifying food waste at MS level (Manual) and organisation level (Protocol)

- Obligation of separate collection of bio-waste may significantly improve monitoring of food waste
Content of the outline document:
Food waste to be monitored in food supply chain (sector by sector)
Sectors of food supply chain
(as referred to in new art 9 of WFD)

1. Primary production
2. Processing and manufacturing
3. Distribution
4. Food services
5. Households

**Important:** As each sector requires different policy approach, they should be monitored separately.
Step 1 – Primary production

Crops

Harvest

On farm storage, sorting, washing, pre-processing etc.

Processing manufacturing

Pre-harvest losses: Non-food, non-waste

Post-harvest material do not covered by the definition of waste or excluded from the scope of WFD

Waste – material from primary production given to waste operator
(Landfill, incineration, composting, biogas)
Step 2 – manufacturing and processing

- Primary production
- Processing & manufacturing
  - Non-waste
    1. By-products
    2. Former foodstuffs
  - Waste
    - Landfill, incineration, composting, biogas
- Distribution
- Food donation
Step 3 – retail and distribution

- **Processing & manufacturing**
- **Distribution**
- **Consumption (food services & households) + redistribution (food donation)**

**Non-waste**
- Former foodstuffs (no by-products from distribution!)

**Waste**
- Landfill, incineration, composting, biogas
Step 4 – food services

- Distribution
- Food service
- Food eaten (incl. redistribution)

Waste
- Food thrown away (bin or sink) – catering waste
- Landfill, incineration, composting, biogas
Step 5 - Households

Distribution and food services (take away) → Households

Food eaten

Waste

Food thrown away (bin or sink) – catering waste

Landfill, incineration, composting, biogas
Timeline of legislative process
Indicative timeline of monitoring

End of 2017 - Adoption of amended Waste Framework Directive

End of 2018 - Adoption of implementing act establishing a common methodology.

Jan 2020 - Start of the first reporting period
Legislative process

WFD is subject to ordinary legislative procedure. Hence discussion on **definitions, obligations to monitor, waste prevention targets** continues in the Council and Parliament.

**Details of monitoring** – e.g. boundaries of the sectors, dealing with problematic streams (e.g. liquid waste); specific measurement for policy needs (e.g. edible/inedible) – are to be agreed with Member States in the implementing act.
Questions for discussion
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• Food waste
  • Would you like to see more detailed monitoring on EU level (e.g. avoidable vs non-avoidable? by type of food? by treatment of food waste? Others?). If yes, will you be able to deliver such data?
  • What you see as key challenges for implementation of monitoring in practice? In your sector? in your country?

• Food loss
  • Do you already monitor or intend to monitor food loss? If yes, how it is conducted?
Thank you for your attention