Regions and cities, pillars of the EU’s future
FIGHTING FOOD WASTE WHILE BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

10 October 2019

URBACT, INTERREG Europe, ESPON, INTERACT
WASTING FOOD, WASTING ...?
We

• all waste food
• are in a society of abundance leading to waste (Baudrillard)
Foodwaste is embedded in entangled dynamics
Practices

Production–consumption Systems

• Shops, packaging, ...
• Culture,...
• Products and services, ...

Personal histories

• Competences
• Meanings
• Objects

• Possibilities
• Habits
• Values and expectations

• Competences
• Meanings
• Objects
How much do we waste?

- Globally (FAO, 2013):
  - 1/3 of food produced for human food is lost or wasted each year
  - 1.3 million tons of food is wasted each year
  - 750 million dollars (Switzerland’s GDP)

- In Europe (European Parliament, 2012):
  - 88 million tons per year
  - 173 kg per inhabitant
Food loss vs. food waste (FAO, 2011)
How much do Brusseleirs waste?

In Brussels (Bruxelles Environnement, 2010):

- 47% of the normal bin (poubelle blanche) : organic products
- 200 euros loss per year

(Bruxelles environnement, 2013)
Environmental impact of food waste

- Household waste: at the levels of production (production, packaging, transport, storage etc); households (transport, storage, cooking, maintenance, etc.); waste treatment

- Increase externalities due to conventional agriculture (monoculture, expansion, etc)

→ 3.3 gigatons of CO₂ emissions per year, 3rd worldwide polluted just after the USA and China (FAO, 2013):
  - 1 loaf of bread = a 60 W-bulb one for 30 hours
  - 1 kg of meat = daily showers of one person or oil for 60 km by car (Bruxelles Environnement, 2013).

→ 250 km³ of water = annual flow of Volga River = 3 times the Geneva Lake
Social justice and food security

- 870 million people suffer from hunger in the world (FAO, 2013), 925 million people are threatened by undernutrition (FAO, 2009).
- 79 million of European citizens live below poverty threshold
- By 2020, food waste would increase 40% (European Parliament, 2012)
- By 2050, 9 billion people, need for 70% increase of food (FAO, 2009).

→ it is not about augmenting food production but reducing food waste. We have enough to feed everybody (De Schutter)
We are in a society of abundance

- *Wasting is almost a forced daily obligation*
- *Which does not create any cultural value (Baudrillard)*

→ How can we reverse the system and our consumerist behaviours?
→ How can we create a value that can be collective?
→ How can we integrate the fight against foodwaste in our economic system?
Fighting food waste while boosting local economic activity

ESPON, INTERACT, INTERREG EUROPE and URBACT

• What policies or projects can cities develop to encourage businesses, households and public institutions to fight food waste?
• What initiatives can cities take to encourage job creation or business growth in relation to food waste?
• How can local and regional authorities assess the added value and economic return of such projects?
• How food waste management can touch upon social challenges too?
9.30-10.00: Panel interview

*ESPON CIRCTER, INTERREG ECOWASTE4FOOD, URBACT BIOCANTEENS*

10.00-10.25: Discussion tables

10.30-10.40: Further resources

10.40-10.45: Conclusions
SHARING EXPERIENCE
What is the overall scale of food waste?
ESPON CIRCTER: Circular Economy and Territorial Consequences

• A project supported by the ESPON Programme (October 2017 - May 2019)

CIRCTER provides guidance for the promotion of circular economies at sub-national territorial levels

• CIRCTER builds on:
  o new territorial and sectoral definitions of a circular economy;
  o six case studies on regional and local circular economy initiatives across Europe;
  o new set of regional indicators on material consumption and waste generation (including food waste), and sector-specific data on turnover and jobs.
Food waste generation per capita (left) and temporal evolution (right) at NUTS-2 level
How can food waste encourage job creation or business growth in relation to food waste?
BioCanteens in few words

URBACT Transfer Network (2018-2020)

Transfer of Mouans-Sartoux’s Good Practice on ‘sustainable school catering’

7 city partners across Europe

‘Distribution of sustainable school meals as a key lever towards the development of ambitious local food policies, protecting both the environment and citizens’ health’

Fight against food waste as key pillar of the project
Fighting Food Waste with Public Procurement

Planning Procurement
Assessing needs to avoid unnecessary purchases

Inclusion in specifications
(e.g. catering system that has zero food waste)

Specific award criteria and contract clauses
food waste management;
monitoring/weighing of food waste;
Kitchen staff training…

Contract management
e.g. Just-in-time deliveries of small quantities
Mouans-Sartoux’s experience

Dramatic food waste reduction as a key enabler to the switch to 100% organic in school canteens

- 80% in 5 years

From 147g in 2010 to 32g in 2015

0.2€ saved per meal, reinvested in organic food
Mouans-Sartoux's experience

Dramatic food waste reduction as a key enabler to the switch to 100 % organic in school canteens
Opportunities offered by eco-innovations to reduce food waste in project partners’ territories
Tackling food waste at the local level means:
- promoting new economic patterns in the mainstream economy
- increasing volume and diversifying activities undertaken by actors of social and solidarity economy

Resulting in (i) job creation, (ii) economic diversification, (iii) products’ differentiation that all contribute to the reinforcement of a local economy more environmentally friendly and socially responsible
Example of Wielkopolska Region
- Vouchers for innovative solutions limiting food waste to support the transfer of innovations to the economic sectors
- The cluster Food4Good (https://food4good.pl/) funded under ERDF to ease the transfer of knowledge on designing and implementing functional food production while valorizing surplus food products

Example of Region South PACA
Introducing food waste reduction as an explicit political objective, consolidating the existing Regional policies with the aim to put food waste and losses in the explicit priorities of the future regional programmes
Regions with **circular economy strategies** that place a particular emphasis on **food waste** reduction:

- **Scotland** (UK) strategy for CE - Making Things Last
- **Brussels-Capital Region** (BE) Regional Program for a CE
- **Maribor** (SI) WCYCLE Project
- **Basque Country** (ES) CE initiatives
- **Sicily** (IT) Industrial Symbiosis platform
- **Central Germany** (DE): The Bio-economy cluster
Scotland's Food Waste Reduction Action Plan

Ambition: Cut food waste by a third until 2025

Lead organization: Zero Waste Scotland

Measures:
  • **improved monitoring and infrastructure** to support the reporting of food waste;
  • **sector leadership**, supporting innovation, effectiveness and efficiency in Scotland’s public, private and hospitality sectors (focus on: beer, whisky and fish sectors);
  • **public engagement and communication**;
  • supporting delivery of a new approach to food waste through a new **Food Waste Hub**
Good Food Strategy: Towards a sustainable food system in the Brussels-Capital Region

Ambition: 30% reduction in food waste by 2020

Lead organization: Bruxelles Environnement

Measures:

- Reducing food waste at the root
  - Lutter contre le gaspillage alimentaire
  - Rest-o-pack
  - Eatmosphere

- Recycling unsold food items and organic waste according to a circular economy process
  - Récupération d’invendus frais
  - Poules urbaines
  - Récupération d’invendus alimentaires

CIRCTER
How can food waste management touch upon social challenges too?
Individual solidarity initiatives

Local authority management

To promote a global commitment for all the local actors through a systemic policy (i) raising the awareness of people and (ii) supporting a wide range of social initiatives addressing consumers, retailers, restaurants, canteens, …

Results

(i) job creation in social and solidarity sector,
(ii) economic reinsertion for some people
(iii) social investment of all citizens and reinforcement of social links and cohesion at the local level
How can food waste touch upon social challenges?

Social tariffs for school meals
Savings from FW reduction to support disadvantaged families

Redistribution
Giving away to social groceries while respecting food safety requirements.

Savings for social inclusion
e.g. Hiring of 2 municipal farmers from a socially excluded background.

Raising-awareness and education activities
e.g. ‘Families for positive eating challenge’ open to all families.
How important is it to collaborate on such issues with stakeholders, and with which ones?
Stakeholders (all the actors linked to food system)

Network

Local authority

Policy & Action Plan

- Better use
- Reuse
- Sharing

Endorses
Supports

Monitors
Publicises

Formulates
Implement

Contribute
Share experiences
Collaborate

Raises awareness
Creates
Animates

Example: Waste Agency of Catalonia settles a strategic committee gathering 47 organisations
Producers
Harvesting efficiency
Better conservation
Gleaning

Agrofood industries
Processing of unserviceable products
Food processing optimization
New designs of products
New products from wasted food

Catering (schools, hospitals, …)
New behaviors (cookers, children)
Review of the menus

Final users (citizens, retailers, restaurants)
Sharing of uneaten food
Donation of unsold food
Last minute markets
Recooking
Stakeholder collaboration

**Constant dialogue**
Constant monitoring of food waste by canteen staff, educators and admin. team = dialogue on actions to take (e.g. adaptation of recipes)

**Trainings**
- canteen staff on new cooking techniques/how to manage food portions
- educators on activities or messages to convey to children

**Information to children and families**
e.g. on use of food waste sorting line, distribution of small portions…

**URBACT methodology (URBACT Local Groups) proves very useful !**
What would your recommendations be for those seeking to enter into such activities?
FW reduction is a means not the end-goal
Savings need to be reinvested into sustainable food

Constant monitoring of food waste
As key pillar of the economic model and of the food project

Be rebel
Mouans-Sartoux deflected from national nutritionnal recommendations as it led to dramatic amounts of FW

Get inspired by others
Many solutions are already existing elsewhere. You are not starting from scratch!
1. **To know and evaluate the existing initiatives** in the area (from research, business companies, education system, citizen, social organisations …)

2. **To make explicit a local food waste reduction policy**, linked with the other policies and supporting programmes (on waste management, agriculture, circular economy, social responsibility, education, …)

3. **To manage a range of structuring initiatives**, based on existing good practices and innovation supports, and communicate on them to progressively raise awareness of all the actor of the food value chain, from the producers to the consumers
DISCUSSION TABLES
### Table 1
Focus: Education and Solidarity

*Michele PANCALDI, city of Ferrara*

### Table 2
Focus: Economic players

*Samuel FERRET, CIHEAM Montpellier*

### Table 3

**Thibaud Lalanne, City of Mouans-Sartoux, FR**

### Table 4

**Nathand Begoc, City of Mouans-Sartoux, FR**

### Table 5
Focus: Measuring food waste, guiding and planning

**Carlos Tapia Garcia, CIRCTER**
FORMAT OF THE TABLES

Additional cases presented

Focus on dos and don’ts (learnings)

“How can local and regional authorities turn food waste from public institutions, businesses, and households into a resource for the whole society?”
Focus : Education and Solidarity
Michele PANCALDI, city of Ferrara

Table 1
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Focus : Measuring foodwaste, guiding and planning
Carlos Tapia Garcia, CIRCTER

Table 5
Focus : Measuring foodwaste, guiding and planning
Carlos Tapia Garcia, CIRCTER
LOOKING FOR FURTHER RESOURCES
INTERACT : KEEP.EU
How keep.eu can channel your inspiration

Learn more – about what Interreg is doing in this field

• Search by investment priorities T06 (f) (g) (resource efficiency)
  • (6f) promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
  • (6g) supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors

• 24 programmes currently financing projects under these objectives
• The only place for aggregated data on Interreg - Including IPA CBC and ENI CBC

Data on 73 current programmes

Data on over 21,000 projects

45,000 users of keep.eu

Searchable, extractable
How keep.eu can channel your inspiration
How keep.eu can channel your inspiration

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How keep.eu can channel your inspiration
One programme, 10 projects

NB, once you re-filter by theme

Covering food waste, the circular economy and more:

A project aiming to increase the adoption of new circular economy solutions in the 2 Seas area by sustainable up-cycling of agro-, agrofood and fisheries residues in horticulture.

A project which aims to reduce water and fertilizer use in horticulture by using biostimulants and innovative tools. This combination will result in up to 20% reduction of water and 10% of fertilizers, depending on the crop.
A cross-border approach for this project is necessary to:
- Reduce leaching into the North Sea
- Reach critical mass and permeate the entire project in all involved countries
- Share complementary knowledge
Cooperation works

Find out more:
www.interact-eu.net
INTERREG : POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM & PEER REVIEW
Policy Learning Platform

4 services for interregional learning:
How to get more out of the invested funds for regions in Europe

delivered through

www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning + Team of experts
Be active, learn, benefit

Community of 17,000 members covering 99% NUTS II
- Participate in thematic workshops or other #policylearning events
- Participate in online thematic webinars

Knowledge hub with publications and EU policy news
- Policy briefs with insights into Interreg Europe projects
Good practice database
inspire and get inspired

~ 1000
Expert validated
good practices

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/
Expert support
take the shortcut to smart regional solutions

- **Policy helpdesk**
  - ✓ ask the experts and receive policy advice online

- **Targeted matchmakings**
  - ✓ 2 hour, during events or online upon demand
  - ✓ get together with relevant partner regions to share your challenges and good practices

- **Peer reviews**
  - ✓ **Approach:** 2 days onsite; team up with other European regions to get their feedback and recommendations on your concrete policy challenges
  - ✓ **Target groups:** MAs/IBs of Structural Funds/ other local and regional policymakers
  - ✓ **Support by the experts:** identification of suitable peers, guidance and coordination, moderation,
  - ✓ **Budget:** travel & accommodation for 6 peers, translation & catering for host region
URBACT Knowledge Hub

Urban policy and practice in Europe

www.urbact.eu
What do we mean by Knowledge hub?

• All the thematic outputs produced with the aim of ensuring the uptake of knowledge and know-how regarding sustainable urban development for all practitioners and decision makers (a.k.a capitalisation)

• It contains the on-line and printed content produced by the programme since its beginning

• The core element – urbact.eu
CAPITALISATION-DISSEMINATION

Capturing Networks learning

Thematic articles & analysis online

Programme-level capitalisation

URBACT City Festival
Thank you very much for your attention and participation!

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