



# FOOD WASTE AND LOSS IN EUROPE: STATISTICS AND FACTS

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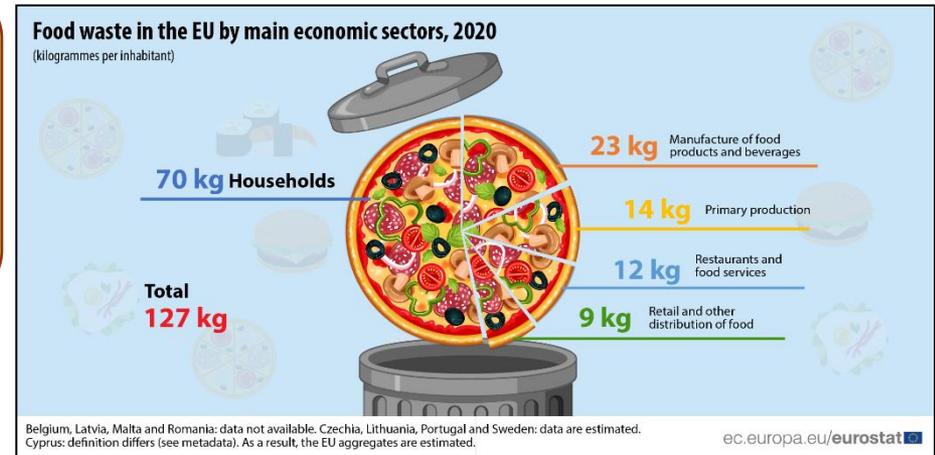


**Workshop exploratoriu  
"Alimentație sustenabilă în contextul schimbărilor climatice"**

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# Food Waste and Loss in Europe: Statistics and Facts

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## Abstract

Globally, it is estimated that around 14% of food production, losses valued at 400 billion dollars, are wasted annually, between the harvesting stage and retail sale to the consumer. In the EU, food waste costs an estimated €143 billion per year, causing at least 6% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Around 20% of EU food production is currently wasted, and halving EU food waste by 2030 could save 4.7 million hectares of agricultural land. 69% of food waste in the EU comes from the household, food service and retail sectors, with the manufacturing and processing sectors contributing the remaining 31%. According to Eurostat, in the main stages of the food chain, the losses are differentiated by European countries. Most of food waste is likely to fall outside the current scope of EU food waste measurement and national reporting, which excludes food left unharvested or used on farms.

**Keywords:** food, waste, loss, Europe

# Global food losses and wasted

Commodity	Range of wastage (Total in chain)		Wastage by region income (1000 tonnes)		
	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High	Total
Cereals	19 % (SSA)	32% (NAM&Oce)	155,800	161,100	316,900
Oil crops and pulses	18% (Ind. Asia)	29 % (NAf, WA& CA)	123,100	121,600	244,700
Roots and tubers	33% (NAf, WA&CA)	60 % (NAM&Oce)	31,500	11,600	43,100
Fruit and vegetables	37% (Ind. Asia)	55% (NAf, WA&CA)	221,600	270,400	492,000
Meat	20% (S&SE Asia)	27% (SSA)	20,000	40,700	60,700
Fish and seafood	30% (LA)	50% (NAM&Oce)	6,700	10,700	17,400
Milk	11% (Ind. Asia)	25% (SSA)	64,700	55,000	119,700
Eggs	12% (SSA)	20% (NAM&Oce)			
<b>Total wastage</b>					<b>1,294,500</b>

## Global food losses and waste per year

around **1/3** of the world's food is squandered, that is

**1.3** billion tons of wasted food at

**1** approx. trillion USD costs

## IFCO

-  **45%** of all **fruit and vegetables**
-  **35%** of all **fish and seafood**
-  **30%** of all **cereals**
-  **20%** of all **dairy products**
-  **20%** of all **meat and poultry**

### Working together to cut food waste and loss

Initiative called "10x20x30" unites food supply chain giants:

**10**  
of the world's biggest food retailers and

by **2030**

**20**  
of their priority suppliers



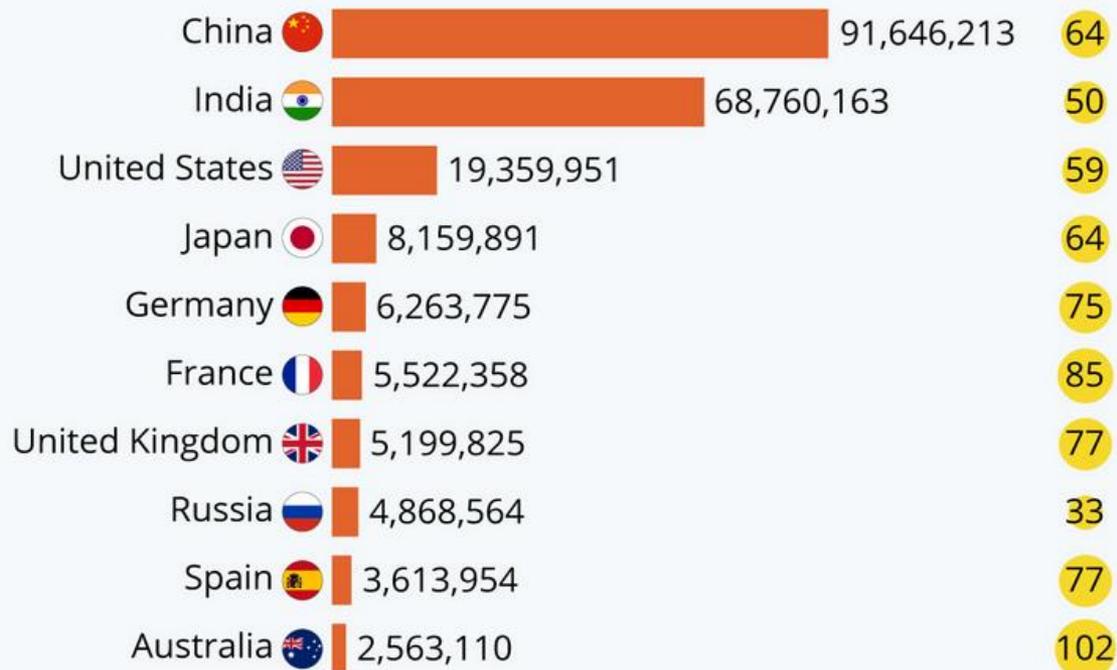
This private sector commitment aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 to reduce 50% of food waste and loss by 2030 worldwide.

# The Enormous Scale of Global Food Waste

Total annual household food waste produced in selected countries\*



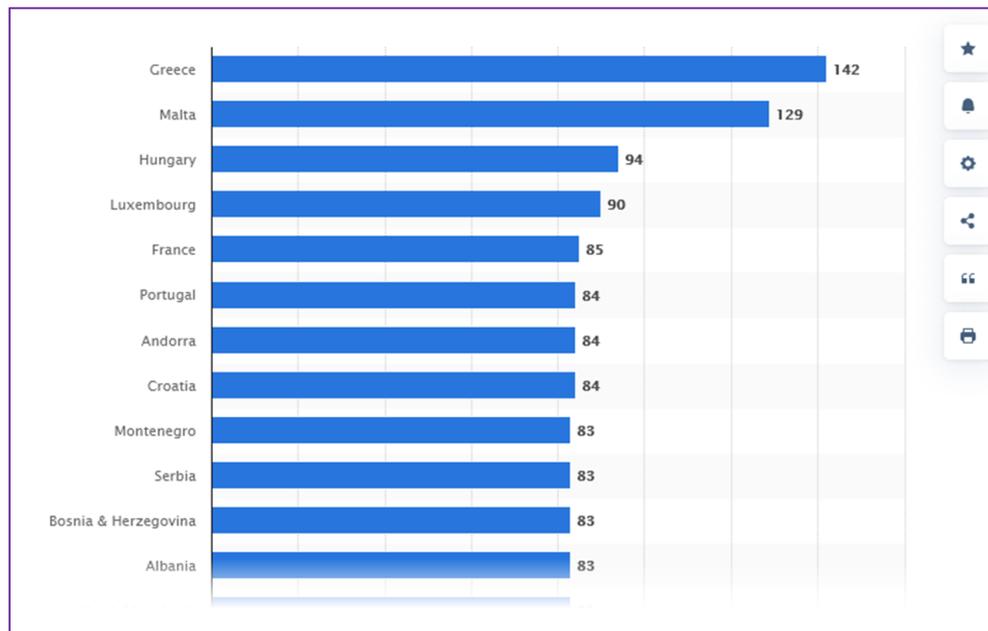
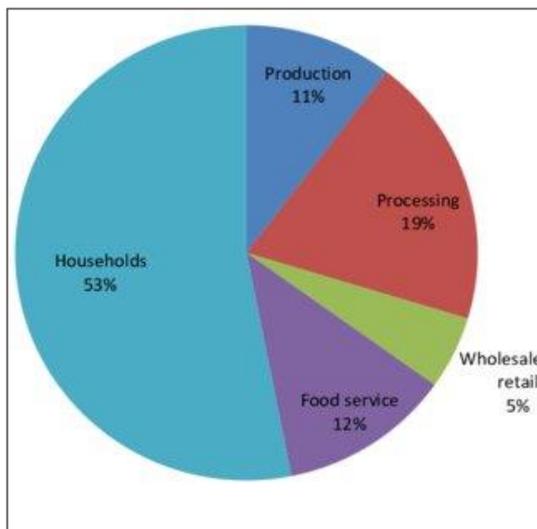
- Total food waste per year (tonnes)
- Estimated food waste per capita (kg)



\* UNEP estimates with high or medium confidence  
Source: UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021



# Food losses and wasted in Europe



## Top food wasting countries in Europe (2023)

Country	Waste (kg/ capita )	Country	Waste (kg/ capita )
Portugal	184	Sweden	87
Greece	191	Bulgaria	86
Denmark	221	Slovakia	83
Belgium	250	Croatia	71
Cyprus	397	Slovenia	68

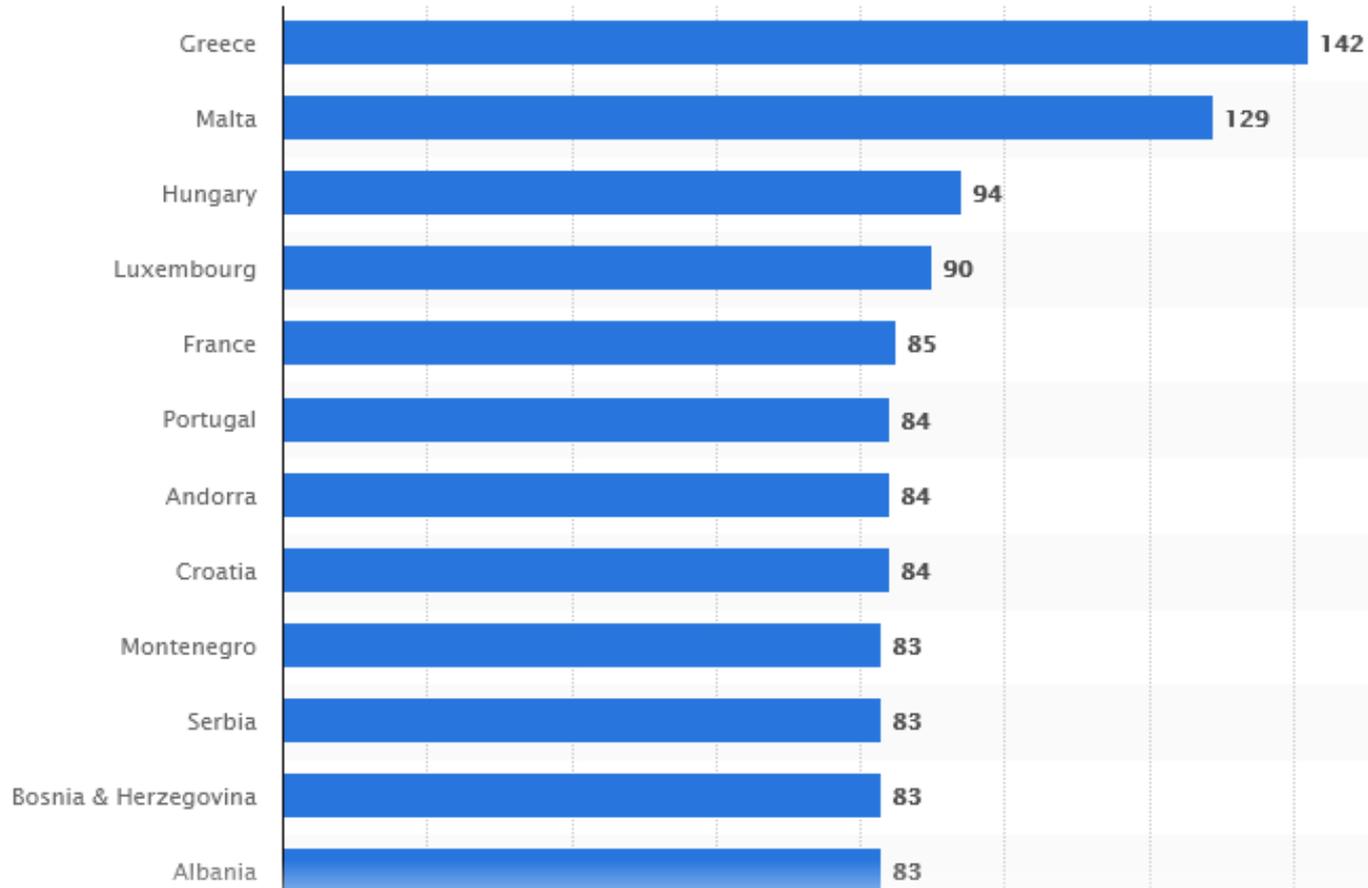
# Food losses and wasted in Europe

## Top European food waste, by stage of food chain and countries

Primary production of food		Manufacture		Retail and distribution		Restaurants and food services		Households	
Country	Waste	Country	Waste	Country	Waste	Country	Waste	Country	Waste
Cyprus	49	<b>Cyprus</b>	190	Cyprus	56	Malta	45	Portugal	124
Greece	35	<b>Belgium</b>	161	Portugal	21	Portugal	36	Italy	107
Bulgaria	33	<b>Denmark</b>	102	Denmark	17	Austria	30	Malta	92
Norway	30	<b>Netherland</b>	59	Estonia	15	Cyprus	2. 3	Luxembourg	91
Lithuania	29	<b>Ireland</b>	44	Greece	14	Portugal	2. 3	Greece	87
.....									
Austria	2	<b>Norway</b>	5	Belgium	6	Italy	3	Croatia	53
Hungary	2	<b>Sweden</b>	5	Hungary	4	Hungary	2	Ireland	48
Germany	2	<b>Slovenia</b>	5	Slovakia	3	Lithuania	2	Slovenia	36
Malta	1	<b>Croatia</b>	2	Bulgaria	2	Bulgaria	2	Spain	30
Slovenia	0	<b>Slovakia</b>	1	Croatia	1	Slovakia	1	Bulgaria	26

Eurostat, 2023

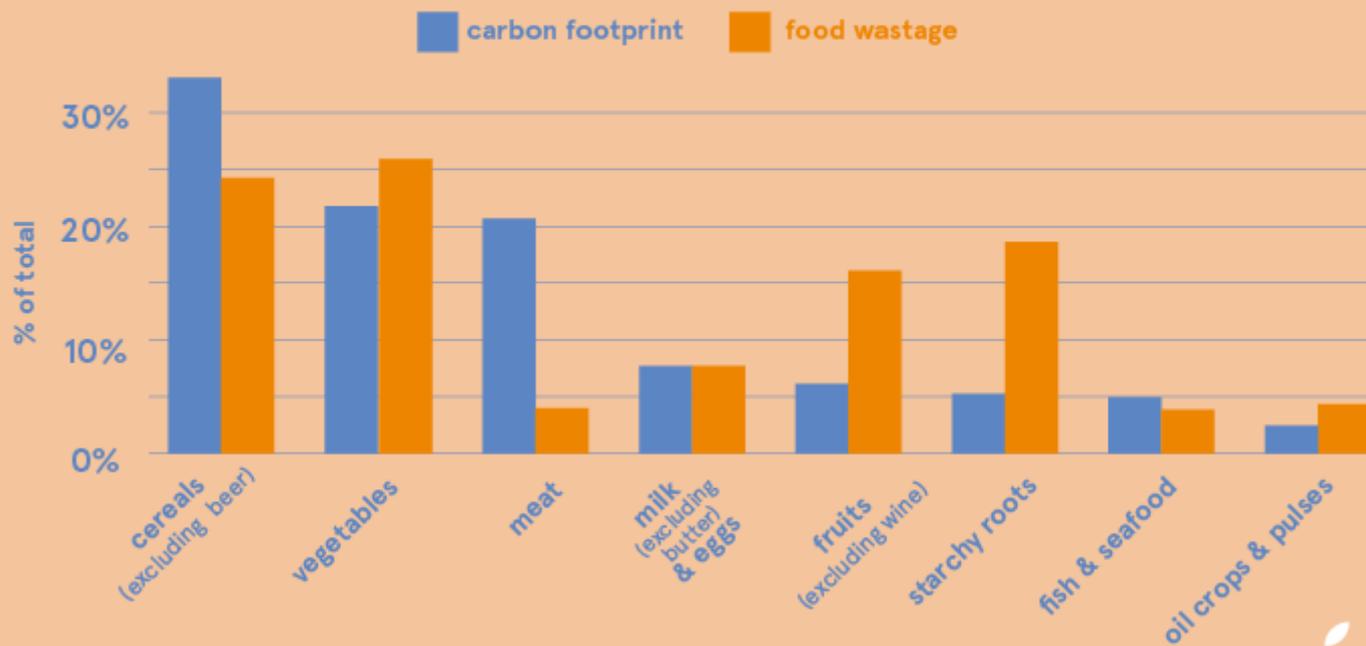
# Food losses and wasted in Europe



Statistica, 2020

# Food losses and wasted in Europe

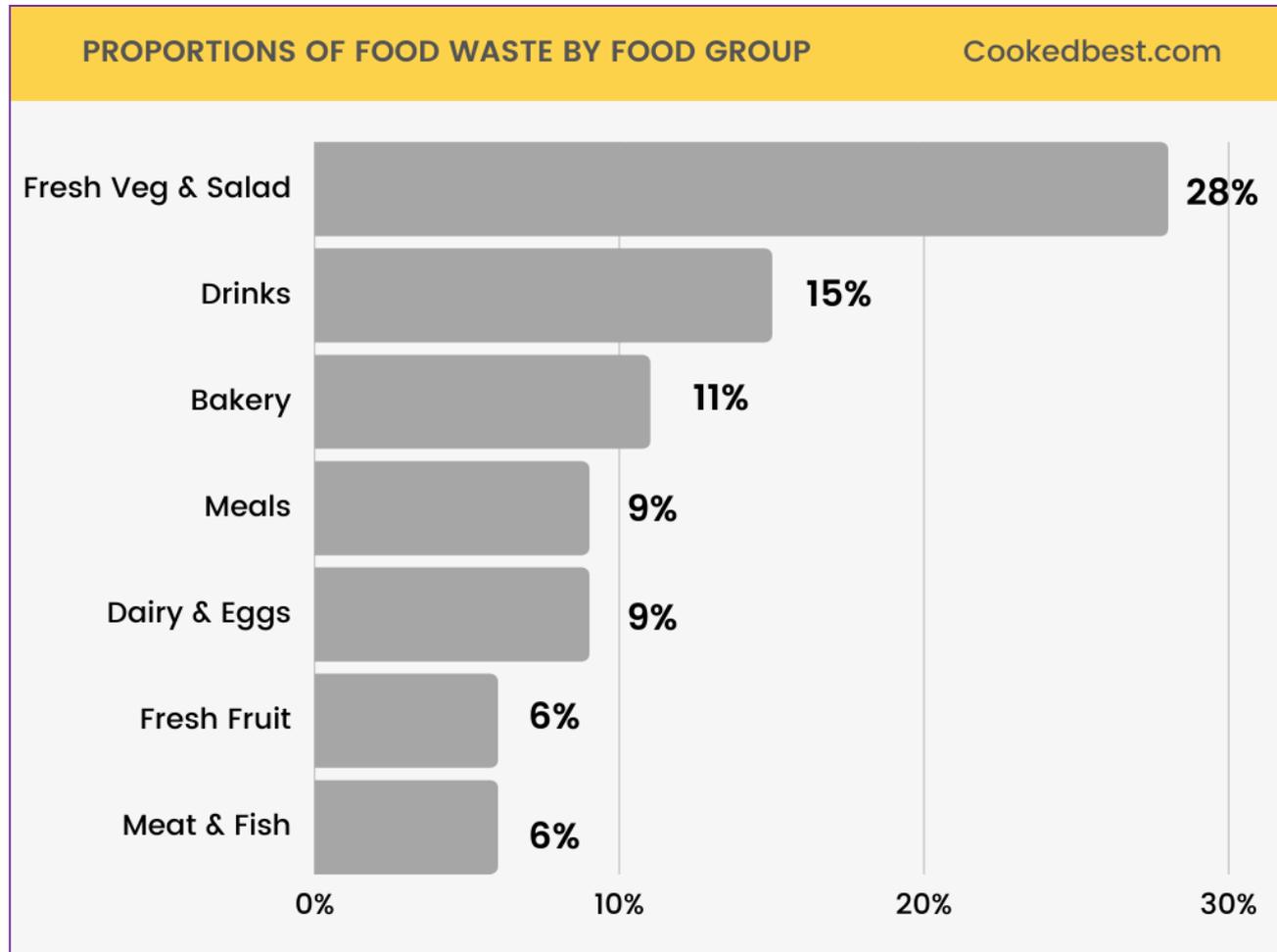
## Contribution of each commodity to carbon footprint and food waste



Source: FAO, 2015. Food waste footprint and climate change.



# Food losses and wasted in Europe



# Drivers of Food Loss and Waste Along the Supply Chain

## Production — Harvest, Slaughter, or Catch



## Storage and Transportation



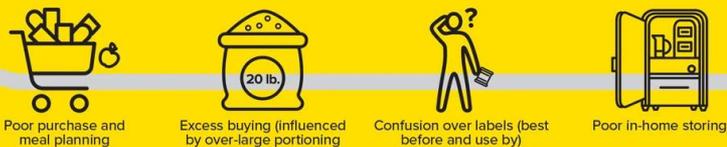
## Processing and Packaging



## Wholesale and Retail



## Households and Foodservice



Measurement is vital to reducing food loss and waste!

## How to reduce your food waste at home



plan your meals



know how to store your food



understand 'use by' vs 'best before' dates



use what you have



avoid serving too much



know your moulds



share extra food with others



repurpose waste where possible



## Tips To Reduce Food Waste At Home

### Plan & Prep

Plan your meals  
Check your fridge before shopping  
Chop Fruit & Veggies ahead of time

### Love Your Leftovers

Date leftovers & take them to work for a simple lunch

### Keep Track

Post a list of perishables to be used on the fridge where you can see it

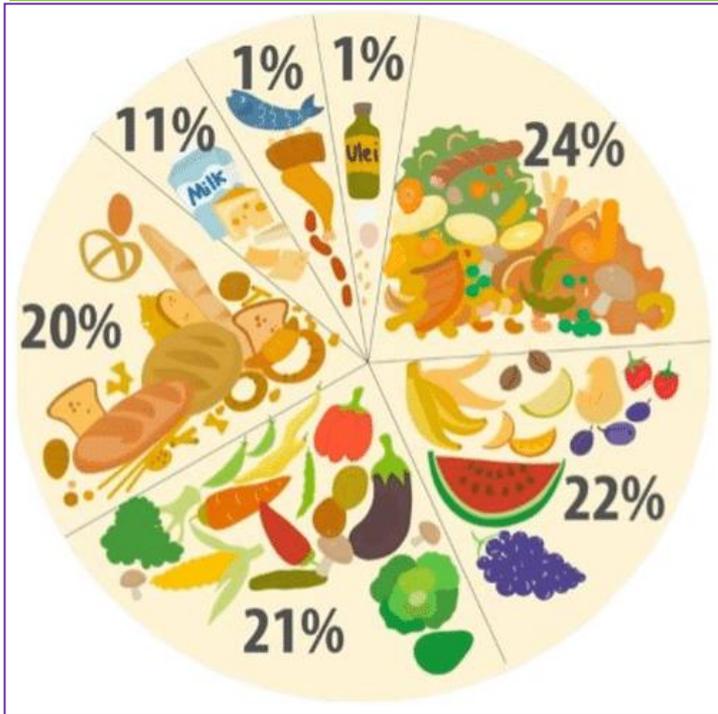
### Make It Work

Use 'Kitchen Sink' recipes to use up what's left in your fridge. Omelets, stirfrys and soups are all good options

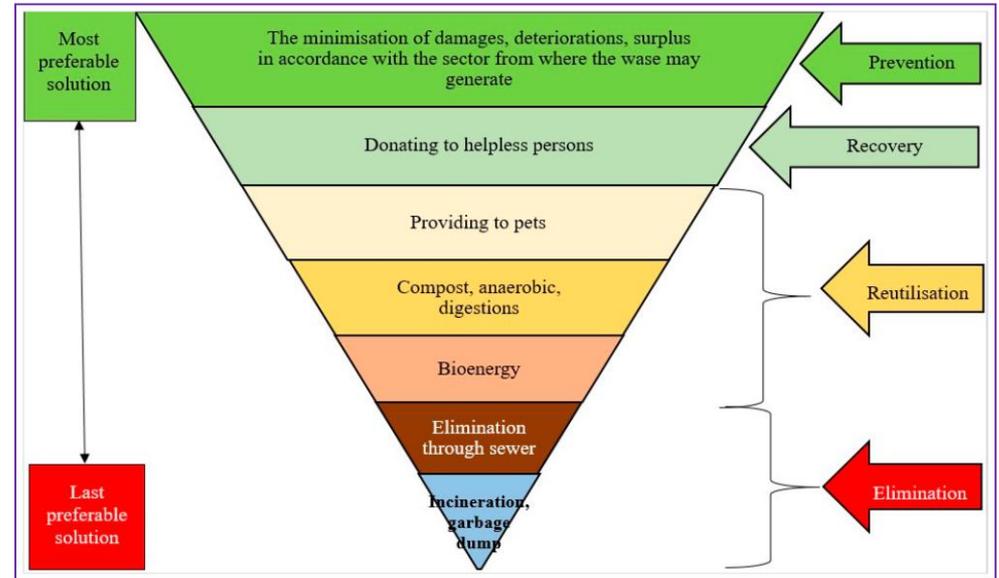
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# Food waste in Romania



The food waste structure in Romania  
Source: Food Waste Romania, (2019)



Food waste scale in Romania  
Source Chereji et al, 2023

# What to do?

- Governmental measures (e.g. Romanian Law 217/2016 concerning the decrease of food waste (amended in 2018))
- Preventing wasted food in households,
- Reduce the waste and loss on the food chain (primary, processing, consumption)
  - Farms - improved storage methods, redistribute food, improve technology
  - Consumption – better food data labels, reduce portion size,
- Civil society initiatives (e.g. Community refrigerator, Social Store, Meal of Joy, Food Bank etc.)
- Organic farming by using organic fertilizer
- Food education program to reduce food waste and improve nutrition

