

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

Action by the Republic of Serbia

Country: The Republic of Serbia

Title of the action: *Promotion of sustainable food waste management in the Republic of Serbia by implementation the circular economy concept*

Focus area: Comprehensive action with the focus on the area 4. Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns.

Description of the action: According to current estimates, approximately 247,000 tons of food are thrown away annually in the Republic of Serbia, that equals as much as 30 to 40 kilograms a year per person. On average, catering facilities prepare 137 meals per day, of which approximately 8 kg of food waste is generated, while the largest health institutions prepare up to 1,000 meals per day. Only 21% of mass catering establishments have knowledge about the proper management of food waste, what this waste entails, as well as what are the concrete procedures for responsible management of this waste stream. The proposed action sets out activities to improve the food management system in the HORECA sector, among retail chains and among consumers. The first planned activity is the realization of a pilot project within which the potential for the introduction of a circular economy for several selected hotels and restaurants will be analyzed and recommendations will be made for the management of food, food surplus and food waste. Based on the results of the pilot project, a model proposal for managing food, food surplus and food waste for the HORECA sector will be developed, which will be presented to the relevant institutions and representatives of this sector. To improve the food management system among retail chains and among consumers, digital tools will be used to improve the traceability and labelling of food products, thus ensuring food safety. These established digital tools will be presented to retail chains, consumers, and citizens at dedicated promotional gatherings.

Timeframe/milestones for the action: Action will be taken and finished in 2023.

Type of action: Information, education-based, capacity-building, voluntary instruments

Economic sector: Economy-wide and specific sectors (Waste management; agriculture; energy)

Reference instruments and sources: <https://eu-refresh.org/index.html>

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: The expected effects of the measure are more rational procurement of food that is wasted the most, greater use of food surplus and a reduction in the amount of waste disposed on landfills, as well as greater use of food waste to produce biofuels and compost.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 2 (2.4); 12 (12.3); 13

Objectively verifiable indicators:

- Amount of collected and treated waste during the pilot project.
- Number of participants on the workshops and other promotional events with the topics related to food waste prevention and appropriate food waste collection and treatment.

Partners: Ministry of Trade, Telecommunication, and Tourism; Chamber of Commerce of Serbia; Ministry of Agriculture, Forest, and Water Management; International organizations; NALED-National Alliance for Local Economic Development

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