



Food Loss in Greece

Policies

As part of the FOLOU project, a policy analysis was done, identifying what is already established in terms of objectives, targets and financial aid for food loss, as well as the current gaps in the regulatory and policy overview.

Table 1: Highlights and gaps in the national/regional policy framework of Greece

Highlights	- There is a qualitative target to reduce food loss along the production and supply chain. - The Electronic Waste Register is currently used to report food waste. However, one can also report food loss in regards to meat and fish (primary production level). This platform and its Guidelines could serve as a good starting place for monitoring food loss at the national level. - An inter-ministerial FWL working group under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (referred to in the National Action Plan for Circular Economy - Implementation Action 1.3) was formed in 2019 but it is still not active.
Gaps	- There is no clear distinction between food loss and food waste in the legislation (no definition of food loss). - There is no quantitative target to reduce food loss by 2030. Therefore, there are no identified actions and measures to reduce food loss.

Table 2: Policy analysis in Greece

1. Territory	Greece
2. Level	Country
3. Is a specific law / regulation for food loss in place?	
☐ Laws and regulations on food loss	☐ Under development
☒ Other laws / regulations containing provisions on food loss	
☒ Soft law policies on food loss	☐ Under development
National Waste Prevention Program (NWPP) Guideline: Reporting food waste (par.4 article 20 of law 4819/2021 (A'209))	
4. Governance	
Law formulation and adoption	Ministry of Environment and Energy
Law implementation and enforcement	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Monitoring of compliance	Secretariat-General for Waste Management Coordination (Ministry of Environment and Energy) Directorate General of Food, Directorate of Food Quality & Safety, Department of Policy & Legislation (Ministry of Rural Development and Food)
5. Definitions (tick if available)	
☐ Food loss	☐ Under development
☐ Food waste	☐ Under development
☒ Food loss and food waste jointly	☐ Under development
6. Objectives, targets and obligations for food loss prevention and reduction in laws / regulations and governmental soft law policies	



☐ Quantitative objectives			
	Ambition		
	Timeline		☐ Under development
☒ Qualitative objectives			
Law 4819/2021	Ambition	A reduction of food losses along the production and supply chain.	
	Timeline	2030	☐ Under development
NWPP 2021-2030	Ambition	A 30% reduction in food waste per capita compared with produced food waste of 2022 at retail and consumer level, and the reduction of (1) food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services, as well as in households, and (2) food losses along the production and supply chain.	
	Timeline	2030	☐ Under development
Reporting and verification		Yes	No
Are reporting obligations on the progress towards reaching the objectives in place?		☒	☐
Have indicators to evaluate progress towards reaching the objectives been specified?		☐	☒
7. Measures and actions on food loss prevention and reduction in governmental policies			
Type of measures		Yes	No
Measuring and reporting obligations		☒	☐
Obligations to create food loss prevention and reduction plans			
By companies (PP businesses, food processing companies, etc.)		☐	☒
By public actors (municipalities, provinces, regions, etc.)		☐	☒
Fiscal incentives for food loss prevention and reduction		☐	☒
Grants for food loss prevention and reduction		☐	☒
Grants for improved food loss measuring (precision farming, earth observation, digitalisation, etc.)		☒	☐
Non-financial incentives for food loss prevention and reduction		☐	☒
8. Steps in the value chain targeted by objectives and measures for food loss prevention and reduction			
☐ Primary production, pre-harvest			
☒ Primary production, post-harvest (including on-farm storage)			
☒ Food processing			
☒ Wholesale and retail			
☒ Household consumption			
Are any of the following primary production sectors targeted by specific objectives/measures for food loss prevention and reduction?			
☐ Grains and pulses	☒ Fruit and vegetables	☐ Roots and tubers	
☒ Meat and dairy	☒ Fish	☐ No objectives/measures by specific commodities, but for all of them in general.	
9. Measurement and reporting of food loss in legislation and governmental soft law policies			
☒ Measurement and reporting system for food loss in place			☐ Under development
☐ With specified quantification methods		☐ Without specified quantification methods	
☐ Measuring food loss in primary production, pre-harvest		☒ Measuring food loss in primary production, post-harvest (including on-farm storage)	
☐ No measurement and reporting system for food loss			
Are there any specific measurement/reporting obligations or quantification methods for any of the following primary production sectors?			
☐ Grains and pulses	☒ Fruit and vegetables	☐ Roots and tubers	



☒ Meat and dairy	☒ Fish	☐ No objectives/measures by specific commodities, but for all of them in general.
10. Budget for food loss prevention and reduction		
☐ Dedicated budget for food loss prevention and reduction defined		☐ Under development
☐ No dedicated budget for food loss prevention and reduction		
☒ Do not know		
Comments		

Table 3: Public objectives related to food loss

Overall objective / target	Source
The law 4819/2021 introduces the food waste hierarchy as a mean to achieve the national food waste reduction target by 2030: - avoiding the creation of food waste, such as by reducing: - organic waste from food production or - unsuitable materials and products for consumption or processing, - use of unsold food fit for human consumption through donations and redistribution or further processing of food for human consumption; - use as animal feed or re-processing into products, including "former food", as defined in point 3 of Annex A' of Commission Regulation (EU) 68/2013 of 16 January 2013 on the list of feed raw materials (L 29) not intended for food, - use for fertilizer/soil improver in agriculture or for energy production through biogas; - incineration with energy recovery, - disposal, such as by incineration or landfill. <u>Specific objectives:</u> - By 2030, the reduction of food losses along the production and supply chain. - The reduction by thirty percent (30%) in relation to food waste produced in the year 2022 of food waste per capita at retail and consumer level. - Encouraging the donation and redistribution of food, with priority for human consumption over their use as animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products.	Law 4819/2021
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
Only the below food commodities are specifically addressed (Article 20): - Meat and dairy - Fish	Law 4819/2021 Guideline
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	2022-2030
Obligations	
	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
Through the Electronic Waste Register (EMA) users can register mainly food waste however it also enables users to monitor food loss for the commodities of meat, fish, milk and eggs at the primary production as "animal tissue waste". (as per the Guideline: Reporting food waste (par.4 article 20 of law 4819/2021 (A'209)).	Actors – provision Ministry of Environment and Energy Actors – use Primary producers
Means of verification	Actors



It is indicated that the Ministry of Environment and Energy will review the national quantitative target by 1.1.2024 at the latest.	The Ministry of Environment and Energy
Other aspects	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
Article 21: In the context of waste prevention, environmental protection, in the sense of preventing the disposal of products to landfill before they become waste, as well as the relief of vulnerable groups, the law sets measures encouraging the donation and redistribution of food. It allows free redistribution of food, in the event that food products are received or seized by competent authorities for reasons unrelated to food safety, for the relief of vulnerable social groups, provided that such goods do not endanger public health (including food donation to public services, companies, municipalities, churches) and a 20% reduction of taxes is envisaged in cases of food donation.	Law 4819/2021
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	2022-2030
Obligations	
The law sets obligations for donors as the minimum requirements for public health.	Actors – compliance
	Donors
	Actors – enforcement
	The Ministry of Environment and Energy
Measures	
	Actors – provision
	Actors – use
Means of verification	Actors
None yet.	
Other aspects	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
In the updated National Waste Prevention Programme for the period of 2021-2030, the following main pillars of measures to prevent food waste are included: - improving knowledge about food waste production; - supporting food donation for human consumption; - promoting food waste reduction in the primary sector; - enabling the food processing, manufacturing and trading sectors to reduce food waste; - implementing the circular economy principles in the catering and related services sector (e.g. restaurants, hotels, cafeterias), including canteens (e.g. in schools, universities, hospitals, courts, public services) to reduce food waste; - informing and raising awareness among households and the catering sector about changing behaviour in food consumption and management	NWPP 2021-2030
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	2021-2030
Obligations	
	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
The NWPP includes 25 indicators, 8 actions, and 6 measures related to food waste.	Actors – provision
	Actors – use



	primary food production sector food processing and manufacturing sector retail and other distribution of food restaurants and care services households
Greece has established mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in its updated National Waste Prevention Programme (2021-2030), aligning with EU requirements. These mechanisms include coordination bodies and committees that involve representatives from various sectors such as government ministries, businesses, and interest groups. For instance, the development of national indicators and monitoring frameworks for the circular economy is overseen by an inter-ministerial committee and the National Circular Economy Council. These entities review and contribute to the policy's progress and its adaptation over time. A Food Waste Prevention Monitoring and Management Platform1 has been established as part of the country's broader circular economy strategies, Furthermore, Greece has implemented initiatives like the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project, which includes stakeholder mapping and engagement activities, such as needs assessments, collaboration on food waste prevention, and regional alliances for waste management in sectors like agri-food.	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	<i>All value chain actors</i>
Means of verification	Actors
According to Article 57 of Law 4819/2021 the 'NWPP is evaluated by the General Secretariat of Waste Management Coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Energy at least every fifth year and revised as appropriate and, where relevant, in accordance with articles 16 to 21 and 25 of the law. The following overall indicators for waste prevention are set: • reduction (%) of produced municipal waste per resident per year — on the basis of equivalent population • produced municipal waste per million euros of GDP on an annual basis In addition, to more effectively monitor the progress of the implementation of the measures, it is proposed to monitor indicators per action Food waste: • Indicator Action 1: Establishment and operation of a monitoring system for food waste production • Indicator Action 2.1: Undertaking a study for the barriers/limitations to food donation; creation of specifications/criteria for the suitability of food for donation • Indicator Action 2.2: Establishment of national guidelines and/or further legislation • Indicators Action 2.3: Establishment of economic incentives; number of enterprises making use of financial incentives • Indicator Action 2.4: Implementation and operation of the platform for food donation; number of users/year; number of cooperation agreements concluded between donors to and charities benefiting from the platform • Indicator Action 3.1: Integration of the thematic module for food waste in agricultural vocational training programmes • Indicator Action 3.2: Creation of a guide to be used by agri-food businesses • Indicator Action 4.1: Number of pilot projects to reduce food waste generated in the food industry • Indicator Action 4.2: Number of small and medium-sized enterprises receiving support; number of companies that have	General Secretariat of Waste Management Coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Energy



adapted their procedures with a view to reducing the generation of food waste • Indicator Action 4.3: Number of training programmes implemented in food supply sector; number of employees by sector participating in training programmes • Indicator Action 4.4: Number of volunteer agreements concluded • Indicator Action 4.5: Number of campaigns, incentives, etc., for encouraging the sale of visually unattractive food and close to 'best before'/'use by' date food • Indicator Action 4.6: Optimisation of the labelling of packaged food • Indicator Action 4.7: Number of workshops held; number of participants attending workshops • Indicator Action 5.1: Number of companies that received the relevant information; number of companies that have adapted their procedures with a view to reducing food waste • Indicator Action 5.2: Number of training programmes implemented in catering sector; number of employees by sector participating in training programmes • Indicator Action 5.3: Number of companies offering leftover food as a 'package' • Indicator Action 5.4: Number of businesses with the special mark • Indicator Action 5.5: Number of agreements concluded in catering sector • Indicator Action 5.6: Integration of food waste reduction in the Hellenic Food Authority guidelines • Indicator Action 5.7: Number of public contracts written where specific terms on food waste reduction are mentioned • Indicator Action 6.1: Percentage reduction of food waste and food loss in the households • Indicator Action 6.2: Number of campaigns per target audience; number of households affected by the campaigns • Indicator Action 6.3: Number of consumers who received information • Indicator Action 6.4: Number of actions undertaken by municipalities; amounts of subsidies granted	
Other aspects	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
The National Action Plan for Circular Economy (NAPCE) is a road map with a four-year duration (2021-2025) and includes 71 actions that will allow the country's economy to become sustainable and at the same time competitive. This plan is fully aligned with the directions of the revised EU circular economy action plan and it is compatible with national waste planning and related development policies at sectoral and national level, taking into account all relevant waste legislation launched in 2020-2021. The aim of these actions is to contribute substantially to, the transformation towards a circular economy, the development of new business opportunities and the strengthening of existing entrepreneurship, the creation of new markets for certain products and the establishment of rules, incentives and funding tools in order to develop the economy towards a new and more sustainable direction.	NAPCE
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	2021-2025
Obligations	
	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement



Measures	
- Recovery of Waste from intensive poultry or pig rearing units - Formation of special plan to reduce food waste - Formation of special plan for bioeconomy - Action “Research-Create-Innovate” - Special actions for Aquaculture, Industrial Material, Innovation in Culture - Monitoring of National Goal for reducing food waste	Actors – provision
	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Development and Investment
	Actors – use
Means of verification	Actors
Monitoring of specific goals set	The Ministry of Environment and Energy
Other aspects	Actors
The General Secretariat of the Natural Environment & Waters of the Ministry of Environment & Energy (MEEN) is the coordinating authority on circular economy issues. MEEN presides over the Inter-ministerial Committee and the National Council – Advisory Committee of Productive and Social Agencies for Circular Economy, which are expected to be permanent bodies and will contribute to the formulation of policies for circular economy.	
Comments	
While Law 4810/2021 and the NWPP 2021-2030 have been designed for food waste only, some of the provisions contained may have (indirect) effects on food loss.	
1) https://circulargreece.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LIFE-IP-CEI-Greece-Overview-Eng.pdf	

Table 4: Budget and financing of activities on food loss in Greece

Budget allocated to the implementation of the law / regulation			
Amount	Timing	Provided by	Purpose / description
€13.4 billion	2023–2027	European Union Fund and Greek budget	To finance Greece's New Common Agricultural Policy Plan . The country's olive sector is eligible for financial aid under this scheme.
€15,934,810	01/11/2019 – 31/10/2027 (8 years)	Life Programme of the European Union and Green Fund	The integrated LIFE project LIFE-IP CEI-Greece aims to contribute towards the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, the National Waste Prevention Plan and the National Strategy for Circular Economy.