

FROM FOOD LOSS TO FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP – YOUTH INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Food loss and waste is a pressing issue that impacts not only the economy but also the environment and society as a whole. In Europe, approximately 88 million tonnes of food are wasted every year, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, depletes natural resources, and exacerbates issues such as hunger and poverty. Addressing this challenge requires innovative solutions and active engagement from all sectors of society, including the younger generation.



In this context the FoodE partnership conducted its Kick off Meeting (KoM) in Nicosia on April 4, 2023. Our team, consisting of members from Spain, Cyprus, Poland, and Germany, gathered to discuss our ongoing research and initiatives aimed at addressing the critical issue of food loss and waste in Europe.

During the KoM, we engaged in fruitful discussions about good practices and real-life examples of how we can combat food loss and waste to fight climate change. FoodE is dedicated to raising awareness among youth centers and young people, aged 18-35, and inspiring them to take action in sustainable development and food loss elimination initiatives.



One of our main objectives is to provide youth organizations with a comprehensive framework and advised methodologies on how to tackle the issue of food loss. We are developing an e-Manual that will serve as a guide for young people to collaborate with farmers and foster activities to minimize food loss. This manual, along with other resources, will be available on the FoodE website to ensure a lasting impact in raising awareness. We are also implementing Innovation Days, where young people can acquire knowledge about the food loss problem and engage in knowledge exchange with experts. Additionally, we are creating Food Loss Reduction Ambassadors who will be trained to lead campaigns and programs to inform the public about food loss and actions that can be taken to prevent it or re-utilize damaged products.





Promoting entrepreneurship is another key aspect of our work. We aim to create a business market for unsold products, providing opportunities for young farmers to develop business ideas directly related to food loss. By empowering them with training and knowledge on topics aligned with the highest EU priorities, we hope to increase their labor market opportunities and foster collaborative affiliations with experienced farmers and agro-experts. We are confident that through our efforts, young people will become skilled agri-food entrepreneurs who will permanently integrate the principles of climate protection and adaptation into their professional environment. As they transfer these focal points to their peers, we believe we can create a ripple effect of sustainable and environmentally-friendly agro-businesses, ultimately strengthening the circular economy.



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