

Call for expression of interest to participate in the European Commission pilot project 'European Consumer Food Waste Forum'

Notice of call for expression of interest

The amount of food wasted during its production and consumption is staggering. While around 20% of food produced in the EU is lost or wasted¹, some 33 million people cannot afford a quality meal every second day. In addition, food waste has a significant environmental and climate impact. It puts an unnecessary burden on limited natural resources, such as land and water use². Globally, if food waste were a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter, after China and the United States³. Food waste reduction is thus key for the establishment of sustainable food systems and the deployment of a circular bioeconomy, in which biological resources are used sustainably.

The highest share of food waste generated in the EU is estimated to be generated at the consumption stage, including households and food services¹. Therefore, **reducing consumer food waste** is critical to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3, calling for halving per capita food waste by 2030. The future Commission proposal to establish EU-level targets for food waste reduction – a key deliverable of the Farm to Fork Strategy⁴ - aims to accelerate the EU's progress in this area.

Consumer food waste (in- and outside of the home) - whilst influenced by the food supply chain and the food environment - is essentially a behavioural issue. The Recommendations for action in food waste prevention⁵ developed by the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste contain a list of recommendations for action to curb consumer food waste. However, there is a clear necessity to develop these recommendations further, substantiate them by data, develop practical applications and case studies, and find new ways to encourage and support consumers in adopting new habits to reduce food waste.

In order to support the development of the pilot project *European Consumer Food Waste Forum*⁶ and address prevention of food waste at the level of consumers, the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety is seeking support of the Joint Research Centre. In this regard, the Joint Research Centre is looking to establish a **multi-disciplinary forum of**

¹ Sanchez Lopez, J., Caldeira, C., De Laurentiis, V. and Sala, S. 2020. Brief on food waste in the European Union, Avraamides, M. editor(s), European Commission, 2020, JRC121196. Available at https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/jrcsh/files/kcb-food_waste_brief_print_hq.pdf

FUSIONS. 2016. Estimates of European food waste levels. Available at <https://www.eu-fusions.org/index.php/publications>

² FAO, 2019. The state of food and agriculture. Available at <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-agriculture/2019/en/>

³ FAO, 2011. Food wastage footprint and climate change. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/bb144e/bb144e.pdf>

⁴ A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, 2020. Available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0381>

⁵ EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, 2019. Key recommendations for action in food waste prevention. Available at https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-05/fs_eu-actions_action_platform_key-recmd_en.pdf

⁶ Definitive Adoption (EU, Euratom) 2021/417 of the European Union's general budget for the financial year 2021 (L93/1480-81). Available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021B0417&from=EN>

researchers and practitioners in the area of consumer food waste prevention. The forum will gather data and identify various evidence-based, practical solutions to reduce food waste at the consumer level, including household and food services. The forum will issue research- and evidence-based recommendations and develop tools to help reduce consumer food waste, aiming to produce a compendium of best practices to facilitate uptake of effective interventions. These will contribute to the work of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste and that of other players to help reduce consumer food waste.

The forum's deliverables will be **multi-level**, that is taking into account the role and needs of consumers as well as other key players engaged in food waste reduction such as national governments, local authorities, educational institutions, primary producers, companies, non-governmental organisations, and other relevant target groups. The forum will identify and develop **multi-dimensional** tools to support the implementation of effective food waste prevention interventions, taking into account consumers' motivation as well as the opportunity and their ability to initiate and change food waste-related behaviour. Such tools will also include recommendations to improve action design, monitoring and evaluation of interventions as well as knowledge sharing in this field. The effectiveness of the various interventions will be evaluated, and recommendations will be provided as regards the possible link of food waste prevention with other initiatives and/or areas (e.g. nutrition, donations, community actions, ICT solutions, etc.).

Key questions to be addressed by the forum include:

- What are the drivers of consumer food waste and levers for behavioural change?
- What are the current activities to address reduction of consumer food waste, in particular in the EU Member States? How do they perform as regards their feasibility, reach and effectiveness?
- What recommendations and research protocols can be put in place to improve the current situation?
- Considering that actors engaged in food waste prevention (e.g. national, regional and local authorities, industry, consumer- and other NGOs) would benefit from access to a multi-dimensional, multi-level, and evidence-based set of tools⁷, what format and content should these tools have?

Call for expression of interest

The European Commission is seeking individuals with a track record in **consumer food waste prevention interventions**, that is who have a scientific background and/or practical experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of such interventions. We are looking for individuals from different organisations (e.g., academia; government; primary producers; industry; non-governmental organisations; research institutes; international organisations) and with expertise in a range of disciplines and thematic fields including, but not limited to:

⁷ For example, [a calculator](#) to quantify economic and environmental benefits associated with an intervention, guidelines for the design and evaluation of prevention actions.

- Behavioural change interventions/programmes
- Behavioural science
- Communication
- Consumer science
- Economics
- Education
- Environmental science
- Food policy
- Food science/food safety
- Food waste prevention
- Measurement and evaluation of food waste initiatives
- Nutrition
- Public health
- Social marketing
- Social sciences.

When defining the overall composition of the forum, the Commission shall aim at ensuring a manageable group (10-15 collaborators) covering a range of fields of expertise and experience related to food waste prevention and also reflecting the diversity of the EU's food cultures.

Workload, place of delivery and allowances

The forum is expected to be created in October 2021 and to operate until July 2023. The majority of the work will be carried out remotely.

As required, tasks and meetings may be held at Commission premises (or at any other premises where an event organised by the Commission would take place) in a physical, virtual or hybrid format, in line with public health measures in force linked to Covid-19. Applicants should consider that meetings, in general, involve preparatory work. As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will also be conducted in English. Therefore, excellent working proficiency in the working language is a prerequisite.

Selected participants should be prepared to attend meetings, to contribute actively to discussions in the forum, to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, to develop documents, examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, to examine specific questions and to act, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on ad hoc basis.

Travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the forum shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions in force.

Application procedure and closing date

If you are interested in becoming part of our forum, please [submit your application via EUSurvey](#). We also encourage you to [register](#) in the Commission's experts' database.

The **deadline** for submission of applications is **12 August 2021**.

Selected candidates will be informed by **17 September 2021**.

The list resulting from this notice is valid until **31 July 2023** and can be used by the Commission to appoint replacements for participants in the forum, as necessary.

In applying, applicants accept the procedures and conditions described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

More information about the procedure is published in the [Terms of Reference for the Call](#).

Contact

For any further information on this call, please contact: JRC-FOODWASTE-FORUM@ec.europa.eu by referring to the call in the subject of the e-mail.

Personal Data Protection

The European Commission is committed to personal data protection. Any personal data is processed in line with the Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Please read the [privacy statement](#).