

## **UNVEILING HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE: SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE HOUSEHOLDS FROM VOJVODINA REGION, SERBIA**

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### **Introduction**

The prevention and proper management of household food waste is a collective challenge. Food waste is a multifaceted and complex problem that raises social and ethical concerns, but also deeply affects the environment. In this sense, addressing the problem is a priority that requires actions that target our entire food system. Around 88 million tonnes of food waste is generated in the EU every year and the associated costs are estimated at €143 billion. While an estimated 20% of all food produced is lost or wasted, 33 million people cannot afford to eat quality food every other day (according to Eurostat, 2018). FAO reported, that 1.3 billion food wastes are generated worldwide in a year.

### **Experimental**

The purpose of this study was to examine the attitudes and behavior of families in Vojvodina region in Serbia regarding food waste and to estimate the monthly amount and economic value of discarded food waste in households, using a self-filling method. The questionnaire consisted of 19 questions, which were filled in by a total of 193 people.

### **Results and discussion**

The average age of the applicants were between 18 and 40 years old. According to the results 80,9% of the respondents are concerned about food waste trying to avoid it if possible. 64,8% of respondents are from the countryside, and 35.6% of those are involved in composting. The weekly amount of food waste in households was reported between 250 g-1kg.

The research revealed that the young and the middle-aged are concerned about food waste and avoid possible waste wherever possible, which does not reflect composting habits. Limiting food loss and waste can therefore help both the fight against hunger and environmental problems such as climate change. In order to reduce these values, it is definitely necessary to do something - not only here but throughout the world. For example: they must reduce the amount of food waste generated during production and distribution, they must reduce the amount of household waste, they must encourage food donation, they must monitor and evaluate the implementation of EU measures to prevent food waste. Many people are aware of the harmful factors of the activity, yet it is believed that they do little to avoid it.

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## **References**

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