



# Food Waste in the EU: Scale of the Problem, Reduction Targets and Harmonisation Measures

**GS1 Portugal International Sustainability Conference:  
Turning Waste into Value: Pathways to a more Sustainable  
Food System**  
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# EU food waste in the EU



**Almost 58 million  
tonnes of food waste  
every year**



**129 kg of food waste  
per citizen**



**Costs 132 billion euro  
annually**

# EU food waste reduction targets



## **REDUCING *FOOD WASTE***

**Each Member State must reduce food waste at national level by 2030**



By **10%** in processing and manufacturing



By **30%** per capita jointly in retail, restaurants and food services, and households

**#FoodWasteEU**

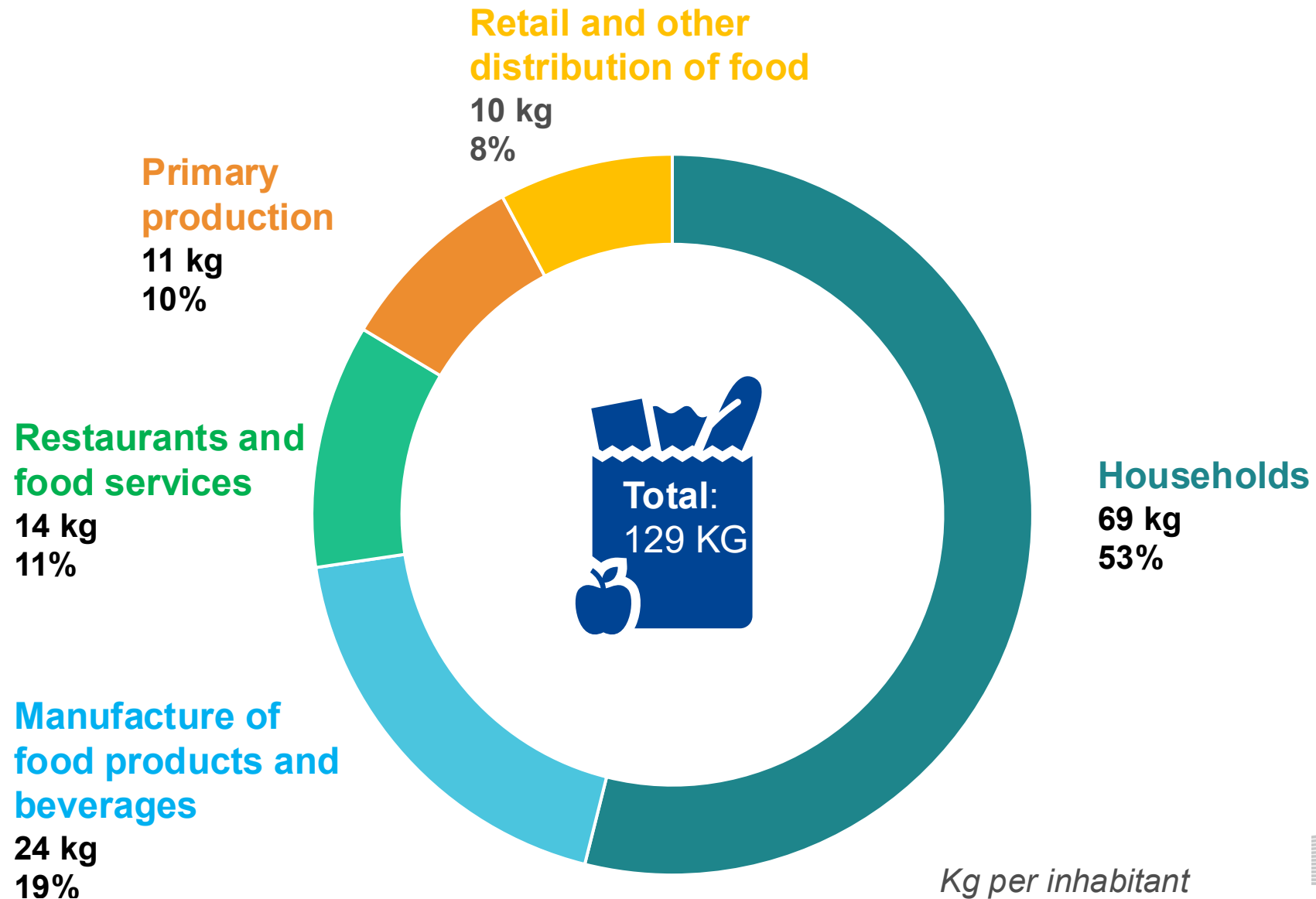


# National food waste prevention programmes

*Member States should take measures to:*

- Raise awareness and support behavioural change to prevent food waste
- Improve cooperation and efficiency across the food supply chain
- Prioritise food waste prevention measures over waste management measures;
- Support training, skills and access to funding, especially for SMEs
- Promote innovation and technological solutions to reduce food waste
- The food waste prevention programmes must also include measures to facilitate the donation of unsold, safe food at a reasonable cost to food business operators. This should be done through donation agreements between specific food business operators and food banks or other redistribution organisations.

# Food waste in the EU by main sectors (2023 data)



*Kg per inhabitant  
% of total food waste*

# EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

- Established in 2016, bringing together EU institutions, experts from the Member States, international organisations and relevant stakeholders
- Aims to support actors in: defining measures needed to prevent food waste; sharing best practice; and evaluating progress made over time

## Thematic subgroups

- Food waste measurement
- Action and implementation
- Consumer food waste prevention
- Food donation

## Members

- Member States, EFTA countries
- EU bodies
- International organisations
- Industry and Retail
- NGOs
- Academia

# Thank you! Keep in touch



[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste_en)



[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/)



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EU Health and Food Safety

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