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DE VALÈNCIA

CEMAS

World
Sustainable
Urban Food
Centre of Valencia



EVENT: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOOD LOSS AND WASTE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION IN CITIES

Date: October 8th

Venue: [Palau de Congressos](#), València

Co-organisers:

- World Sustainable Urban Food Centre of Valencia (CEMAS)
- European Food Information Council (EUFIC)

Context:

- Food waste is a market failure and an environmental failure that results in the throwing away of more than a trillion dollars worth of food every year and that generates an estimated 8–10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Just as urgently, food waste is failing people: even as food is being thrown away at scale, up to 783 million people are affected by hunger each year. [\[United Nations Environment Programme \(2024\). Food Waste Index Report 2024. Think Eat Save: Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste.\]](#)
- The UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 aims to halve food waste at the retail and consumer level and to reduce food loss across supply chains.
- Many food waste reduction initiatives occur at the city level, as they often have the relevant authority to oversee such matters. However, since food waste is an issue that covers many different sectors and levels, a multi-stakeholder, multi-level governance approach is key, which brings with it many challenges, in addition to the issue of lack of data and standards for measuring food waste.
- This event builds on last year's one, organised by the World Sustainable Urban Food Centre of Valencia (CEMAS) and the European Food Information Council (EUFIC), a [High Level Event on Food Loss and Waste, "A multi-stakeholder perspective on food loss and waste reduction strategies"](#).



Objectives of the event:

- To raise awareness of the current situation in the European Union, the objectives set, the legislation in force, the funding programmes and the tools available.
- To promote an exchange of experiences and knowledge between European cities on public policies and initiatives to reduce food loss and waste.
- To create a space for dialogue between cities with the aim of addressing their capacity building. To address the challenges and difficulties, but also the possible keys to success.

Format:

This face-to-face technical event is being held in Valencia, European Green Capital 2024. It will bring together a large range of European cities and city networks. The aim is to foster an exchange of experience and knowledge and to address capacity building in cities. The event will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions and interactive sessions, where participants will be able to share their experiences and ideas. The event foresees enough time for networking in person, and will take advantage of social media and digital platforms to amplify its impact and attract a wider audience.

The morning (9:30-12:15h) will consist of two plenary sessions:

The first plenary session will be: 'Food loss and waste in the European framework', and will address the current situation of food loss and waste in the European Union, as well as the goals to be achieved, current legislation, funding programmes and the available tools to measure, reduce and manage food waste.

The second plenary session will be: 'City experiences'. In this session, some exemplary European cities will present their initiatives and public policies to fight food loss and waste.

The afternoon (13:15-18:00h) session will allow participants to contribute their views and experience with the mediation of facilitators and rapporteurs in parallel workshops.

The main objective of this workshop will be to look at the best strategies and ways to fight food loss and waste, but also to discuss the challenges and barriers that exist at city level and explore ways to build the capacity of cities.



For this objective there will be 3 tables tackling food loss and waste from different approaches:

- **Workshop 1** → Raising awareness of food waste among consumers. What can different stakeholders do?
- **Workshop 2** → How to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration?
- **Workshop 3** → Managing & Valorising Food loss and waste (measurement and re-use).

Participants will be divided into 3 different groups, for sessions of 1 hour. Each group will be at each table for 1 hour, after which they will move on to the next table, so everyone will attend every table. The objective of the workshop is to exchange knowledge and experiences, but also try to discuss and find solutions for the most common difficulties. Participants will all have the opportunity to voice their concerns/experiences.

A summary of the main points of each workshop will be presented in plenary.

The morning plenary sessions will be streamed. The conclusions of the afternoon and the closing ceremony will also be streamed.

The morning plenary sessions, the conclusions of the afternoon and the closing ceremony will have simultaneous translation English-Spanish and Spanish-English. The afternoon workshops will be in English.

After the event, our intention is to prepare a booklet containing all the information about the event, but also compiling the different initiatives to fight against food loss and food waste that are being developed in the different cities attending the event.

In addition, cities will have the opportunity to display a poster on initiatives to combat food loss and food waste that are being developed in their city. Posters should contain the following information: summary, stakeholders involved, keys to success, impact and main challenges. Posters will be displayed in digital versions during the event, as well as published on the [CEMAS website](#).