

Food Waste Prevention as a Key Tool for Resource Management in Montenegro

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Abstract

Montenegro is a well-developed country in the Balkans and has recently signed an Association Agreement with EU. Montenegro focuses to align with the EU acquis in the waste area and has transposed the past Waste Framework Directive. However, considerable efforts are still needed on implementation, as well as enforcement both in recycling infrastructure, separate collection and monitoring. Sustainable development is recognised as highly important by the Government of Montenegro, in particular for tourism and agriculture, sectors that play a multiple role in the development of society and economy of Montenegro. Tourism exhibits one of the fastest rates of growth in the world, but it is concentrated in the coastal - central areas. In the northern and rural areas, agriculture contributes to the fight against poverty and is an important factor in preserving tradition and the overall cultural heritage of the Montenegrin villages. The Montenegrin Government is at present interested in harmonising the Circular Economy Directives. The food waste stream is an integral part of the Package. EU member states should aim to achieve an indicative Union-wide food waste reduction target of 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030. Member States should establish specific food waste prevention measures. European initiatives combating food waste have been intensified, bringing together various key players and producing a number of reports, statistical data, best practices and guidance documents. In light of these activities, UN Development Programme has financed in 2019 a technical assistance project for assessment of food waste in Montenegro. The project aims to develop the prevention measures and introduce incentives to reduce it. The project attracted particular attention from personnel of various national authorities, as well as the Chamber of Commerce. The project had four objectives: - Analysis of legal, regulatory and institutional framework for food waste management - Assessment of quantities generated, including the SDG indicators: Food loss and food waste index - Development of national recommendations for food waste management - Preparation of guidelines for future measurements The outcomes of the above four tasks will be presented in this paper. Focus will be given to food donation that entails the highest environmental and social benefits. Being a tourism

services-oriented country, Montenegro has an enlarged food service sector (catering industry) which generates significant quantities of food waste. However, limited knowledge of social organisations as well as liability of donor companies regarding food safety and hygiene, were identified as main barriers influencing food donation.

Keywords: food waste, Montenegro, methodology for monitoring, prevention measures