

# Household Food Waste in Romania - a Literature Review

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## Abstract

Working on the issue of food waste allows having more sustainable societies, due to its economical, social and ecological impacts. From the entire chain, one of the main actors in terms of waste is the household. According to Stenmarck et al. (2016), 53% of waste at EU28 level is produced by households, with food being an important element of the total waste. The aim of the study is to evaluate the situation of household food waste in Romania, a country with big discrepancies in terms of incomes and amount of food wasted - the ninth highest level, according to EU statistics with 6,000 tonnes of food waste per day (European Parliament, 2018). The method used was the narrative review, and the choice of the household sector was determined by the availability and the number of studies on this topic. A consistent number of research articles, EU studies and reports, waste statistics and databases were consulted with the purpose of identifying the main results obtained on this topic and determining the theoretical framework for future studies about food waste consumer behaviour. The results of this literature study reveal that there is an increasing trend in terms of food waste per capita in Romania, in the last years. The main factor, which influences the food waste behaviour, at household level, is the lack of panning in the shopping process. This is due to the lack of knowledge and interest about food waste, but also to the absence of waste prevention campaigns. Other significant factors are the food storage habits, the way of preparing food and the routine. The waste composition shows an important share of food and organic waste at household level. More in-depth studies are necessary to provide the best knowledge in terms of households food waste behaviour and to identify the unsolved problems.

**Keywords:** Romanian consumer, food loss, trend, prevention, behavior

## References

Stenmarck, A., Jensen, C., Quedsted, T., & Moates, G. (2016). Estimates of European food waste levels. FUSIONS EU.

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