

# Evaluating the impact of a Finnish Law against food waste and the potential effects on donations of surplus food

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SESSION C - FOOD REDISTRIBUTION

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1



# Law against food waste

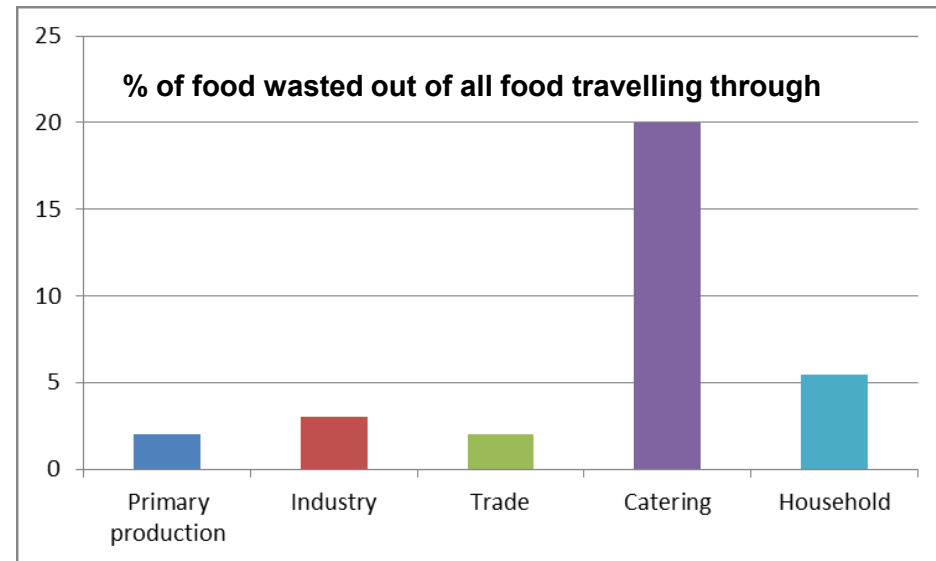
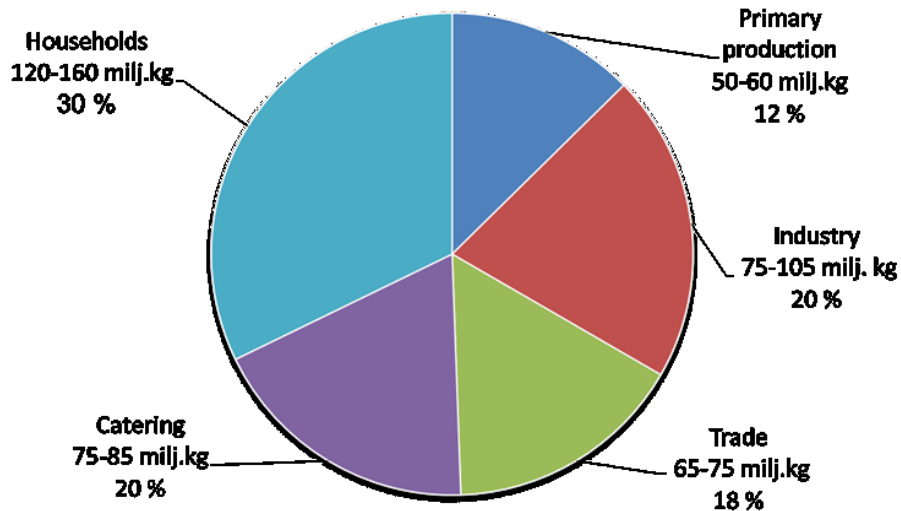
- National background
- Legislative initiative -content
- Legislative initiative -evaluation
- The way forward



# Background



FINLAND 10 - 15% of all food is wasted



# Legislative initiative -content

- More than a hundred (out of 200) MPs signed a bill 29/2016 of the Food Act (23/2006) proposing that **edible food removed from sale**, should be used in a beneficial way or set for distribution.
  - Applicable for retail, bakeries, food catering (municipalities), other operators
  - Place available in their own premises OR set for distribution by charity organization
- The initiative aims **to reduce food waste and reduce the amount of foodborne waste.**



# Legislative initiative -evaluation

- the costs related to the monitoring and implementation of the bill (vs. current)
- the effect of the bill to the amount of food waste and food donations (vs. current)

Note, national food donation guidelines available since May 2013!

Guidelines how to facilitate school lunch distribution available since 2014.



# Legislative initiative -evaluation

- Questionnaire
- SAMPLES
  - Trade: 90% of food sold in Finland (K, S, Lidl)
  - Bakeries: 60% of bread sold in Finland
  - Food catering (municipalities) provide 450 milj meals per year, respondents 10%
  - Food safety authority, Evira
  - 4 charity organizations distributing over 3 milj/kg food annually



# Legislative initiative –evaluation results

1) amount of food donations, 2) cost to the operators

## RETAIL

- donations will not increase for there is no 3rd party/charity
- placing available at their own premises increases costs significantly: labour, safety, new equipment (cold storage), the cost will be placed on consumer price

## BAKERIES

- donations will not increase for there is no 3rd party/charity
- cost to the operators will double from current (book keeping, sorting, storage, distribution), smaller operators can not handle the costs.

## FOOD CATERING (municipalities)

- donations will increase, limiting factor is 3rd party – who will take food?
- extra costs from labour, disposable plates, cooling, storage



**Common to all: No more bureaucracy**



# Legislative initiative –evaluation **results**

## Food safety authority



- Food donations do not increase cost (donation guideline 2013)
- Placing available on premises means increased bureaucracy and costs





# Charity organization



- Charity organizations distribute efficiently large amounts of food
  - Currently more food can not be distributed without significant increase in funds.
- Vulnerable groups, such as low income people, are in need of healthy and balanced diet
  - quality, quantity and continuous availability of donated food?
- Improvements in the process (not in the amount of food):
  - regularity and activity over holidays (christmas and summer)
  - wider collaboration and written contracts
  - areal equality – large country!



# The way forward



- In addition to the international agreements Finland has national strategies including food waste reduction:
  - Food policy report 2017
    - action plan end 2017
  - National waste management plan (Sept 2017)
- Under evaluation voluntary agreements eg. material efficiency including food waste
- Research:
  - Prime Minister's offices project "How to develop legislation to reduce food waste?" The final project report including policy brief will be completed on 31.12.2017
  - Wastestimator, tool to measure food waste in households and restaurants, results available in the fall of 2017

