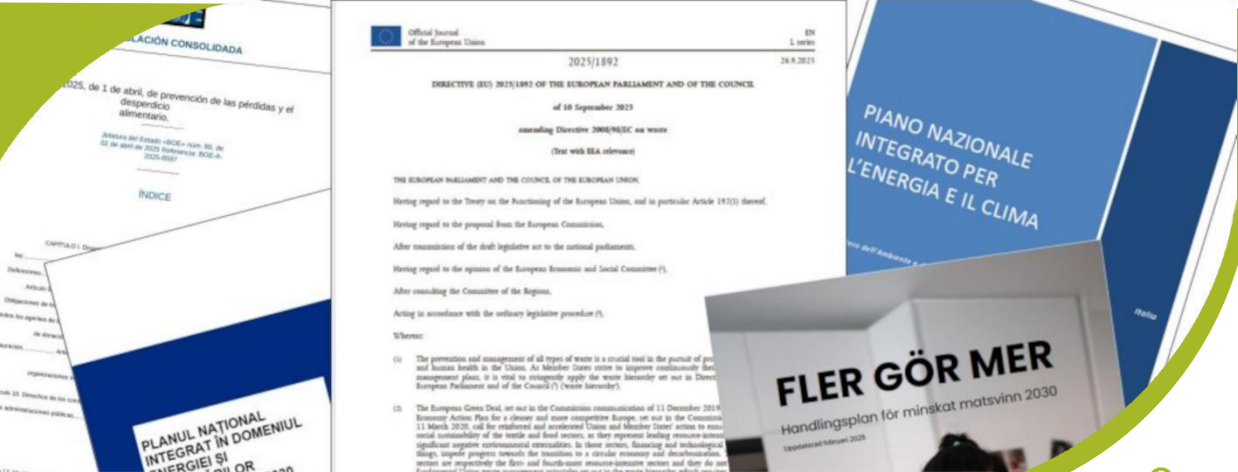




Practice Abstract #2: Assessment of National Regulatory Frameworks for Food Waste: Integration into Environmental Policies



WASTEWISE
Waste Avoidance Strategies for
Environmental Sustainability

Food loss and waste (FLW) represent not only ethical and economic inefficiencies, but a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. As part of WASTEWISE, policy analysis is conducted to contribute both a methodological framework and country-specific information within the European Union (EU) by outlining current regulatory contexts concerning FLW, as well as their potential links to broader regulatory frameworks, particularly those related to climate change mitigation. The analysis focuses on countries inside and outside the WASTEWISE consortium.

Between 2018 and 2025, important progress has been made at the EU in terms of FLW regulation such as the explicit reference to FLW in the Revised Waste Framework Directive and the incorporation of prevention measures into national waste strategies, the obligation to quantify food waste, as well as the establishment of binding FLW reduction targets by 2030 (10% at processing and manufacturing, and 30% per capita at retail and consumption). Nonetheless, EU FLW policies are mainly focused on waste but not in the same extent on its relation to climate change mitigation policies. Lack of monitoring of on-farm losses and a specific definition of food loss are still aspects to be considered.

"Strengthen synergies between FLW prevention and the EU policies"

Most of the countries analysed have adopted the definition and reduction targets of the EU framework through specific national laws, strategies or action plans. However, implementation remains uneven. Differences in FLW definitions and targets between nationally initiated FLW policies, plans and the Waste Directive transposition among EU-Member States are observed. Limited integration of FLW in climate and energy policies, and weak cross-sectoral alignment are additional constraints. This low [policy coherence](#), referred to how well different policies work together, may result in difficulties to achieve multiple objectives.

Tackling the above-mentioned challenges requires strengthening synergies between FLW prevention and the EU policies, harmonising targets and policies, conducting systematic monitoring and cross-sectoral coordination, as well as integrating FLW targets into climate strategies, energy efficiency frameworks, bioeconomy and circular economy initiatives.

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