

Preface

Today, the amount of food thrown away worldwide, reaches around 1.3 billion tonnes per year. This book presents the findings of an extensive piece of research on the state of the problem of food waste in Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. The results show that the scale of the problem with regard to food waste varies between each country and is limited by an insufficient number of studies in the area. In all countries except Germany and Sweden, the problem is most prevalent in the area of food waste generated by the manufacturing sector, mostly stemming from unused or inefficient use of by-products. In Germany and Sweden, the main problem is food thrown away by households that is still suitable for human consumption. The values reach 47–65 % and 35 %, respectively. The method to reduce or prevent food waste most often applied across the seven countries is the donation of food. In addition, Germany has initiated a large number of engagement campaigns and activities aimed at reduction of food waste, whereas, Sweden has launched projects only focused on single organisations or institutions. The other reduction and prevention methods are similar to those used for biodegradable waste in the countries included in this study. The results gathered in this study show some potential measures/methods and areas, which may be considered in future work in order to reduce the amount of food waste generated in each of the countries included in the study.

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in the Baltic Sea Region

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