

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT

### Municipalities' action to prevent Food Waste in urban settings

In light of current consumption patterns, urban settings emerge as food waste (FW) hotspots. CHORIZO research underlines the role of local governments in addressing FW, both directly as food consumers themselves, or indirectly by promoting change among citizens and businesses.

Measures implemented by cities within their own operations involve:

- Creating infrastructure for improved planning, storage, and shorter supply chains to enhance efficiency and sufficiency in municipally-operated food services.
- Raising awareness among personnel, building their capacity and promoting habit change.

Indirect measures include:

- Interventions to change consumption habits of actors by making evident the socioeconomic, nutritional, and environmental consequences of FW.
- Empowering local actors around production – e.g. through community gardens.
- Engaging with and supporting SMEs and HORECA actors with certification schemes and financial aid.
- Combating food poverty with redistribution initiatives, either by backing existing efforts or leading partnerships.

Key success factors for municipality-led initiatives are resources (staff and funding), stakeholder mobilization, and effective monitoring systems. Municipal backing significantly enhances the success of community- and private-sector-led efforts.

Integrated action is key, combining various levers while addressing FW, nutritional needs, and food security. PPP appears crucial for providing an enabling framework for third parties. Municipalities are urged to advocate to higher levels of government for strategy advancement and resource allocation.

CHORIZO will develop targeted multi-sectoral innovation products to enhance capacity and drive change in urban food systems.

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