



CONCEPT NOTE

Every year about 1/3 of global food production is wasted, that is, 1.3 billion tonnes of food lost in the whole food chain value.

Food Waste is one of the worst social, economical and ecological practices on Earth. While 805 million people are affected by hunger and malnutrition, 1/3 of foodstuffs is abandoned in the fields or thrown away in bins and landfill sites: that is not only environmentally unacceptable, it is morally objectionable.

Since **hunger is not ultimately the result of a lack of food but of inequality of access to food**, and food security is only fulfilled when “all people, at all times, have physical, economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary need” , **food waste jeopardizes the right to food** and the guarantee of adequate nutrition for all. Furthermore, food waste also causes the avoidable and useless waste of natural resources: during the food chain value, soil, water and energy are all wasted and they are themselves increasingly scarce resources in their own right.

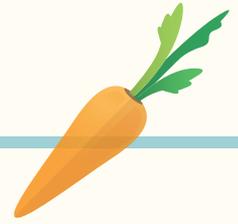
Abandoned waste food produces carbon dioxide, which contributes further to global warming; each year 3.3 billion tons of CO₂ emissions are estimated, producing serious effects on Health and Environment and placing food waste to third place in the emitters of CO₂ after China and the US.

In this context, the “**1st European Youth and Local Authorities Forum against food waste and for the right to food**”, which will take place on October, the 21th and the 22th in the frame work of EXPO 2015, represents on one hand a meeting and dialogue space between young people, institutions and local authorities, in which concrete proposals for the reduction of food waste will be developed. On the other hand, the Forum will be the setting for the elaboration and the launch of the “**Don't Waste Our Future Charter 2015 - A joint European Manifesto of Young People and Local Authorities to promote Food Waste Reduction and the global Right to Food**”.

Through the building of this document, European young students and local authorities get closer and lay the foundation for an international alliance against food waste and for the right to food; furthermore, inside each proper scope, both the actors commit themselves to turn the document into concrete actions against food waste.

The Forum, which is part of the project “DON'T WASTE OUR FUTURE! - Building a European alliance of youngsters against food waste and for new models of sustainable development and consumption in the EYD 2015”, which FELCOS Umbria is leading proponent of, acts on two complementary floors: on one hand, it aims to raise European young people awareness on the issues of food waste, responsible consumption and the relationship with the global right to food, to make them responsible consumers and future change agents.

On the other hand, the project raises awareness among Local Authorities and several public, private and key stakeholders in the participating territories about the topic of food waste, and the role that they must play in the sphere of their respective competences, and in the creation, more generally, of sustainable human development: beginning locally but thinking globally.



Aiming to produce a change both in individual behaviours and in collective decision-making processes, the project has a wider objective of **promoting young people's participation in public life and increasing their democratic engagement with local institutions**, particularly with the municipalities and local authorities to which they belong.

Concerning the specific activities foreseen in the project, about **1400 European students** have been involved in educative modules examining food waste problem from the wider point of view of the right to food. At the same time, the students and the local authorities representatives have confronted each other on the issues of food waste reduction and prevention. In September, in each of the nine territories involved in the project, they will jointly elaborate a territorial proposal against food waste; all these 9 proposals will merge, through participatory activities to be exploited in October during the Forum, into the **“Don't Waste Our Future Charter 2015 - A joint European Manifesto of Young People and Local Authorities to promote Food Waste Reduction and the global Right to Food”**.

The Forum will involve a delegation of **120 Secondary Schools students, 45 teachers, and 25 Local Authorities Representatives** of the 7 European Countries involved (which correspond to the nine territories because in Italy there are three territories involved in the project).

In the first day of the Forum, the students, together with the teachers, the Local Authorities Representatives and the participatory processes facilitators, will debate their own proposals and elaborate the final Charter.

In the second day of the Forum, the LAs Meeting “Localizing and implementing the Charter “DON'T WASTE OUR FUTURE 2015” in the territories” will take place. “Localizing” means considering local contexts, challenges and opportunities, from the setting of achievable aims, to determining the means of implementation. In this vision, the Meeting will be the space for a constructive discussion and engagement between the Local Authorities representatives in order to conceive and plan feasible measures and real commitments at the municipal level starting from the shared proposals of the “DON'T WASTE OUR FUTURE Charter 2015”

After the mentioned Meeting, the Forum will continue with the launch of the Charter which will be presented by the authors themselves in front of the most representative National, European and International Institutions; later on, during the plenary session, eminent speakers will introduce the themes of Food Waste and Right to Food. The audience, composed of the students, the teachers, the Local Authorities Representatives and of all project's partners, will interact both in the theoretical moments and in the debates with the policy makers.

At the end of the Forum, the students will unanimously require to the local, National, European and International Institutions a serious and concrete engagement to reduce Food Waste and to guarantee the Right to Food for all.