



Multi-actor design of low-waste food value chains through the demonstration of innovative solutions to reduce food loss and waste

LOWINFOOD

PRACTICE ABSTRACT No: 16

The S.I.R. platform to donate fruit & vegetable withdrawn from the market

During peak production periods for fruits and vegetables, market prices may fall below levels that make it unprofitable for farmers to harvest the crops. To avoid this, the EU has implemented a system to withdraw these products from the market. The EU compensates the farms through the POs for the quantities of fresh fruit and vegetables withdrawn from the market and intended for free for human consumption (the most desirable destination) or "other destinations" (biogas, animal feed, composting, etc.).

The S.I.R. platform is an online IT tool created for the management of "Withdrawals of fruit and vegetables from the Market" (Reg (EU) 1308/2013) and to facilitate contacts and collaboration between producer organizations (POs) which have to donate these fruit and vegetables and charitable organizations and institutions which receive them for free (as provided of EU Reg 2017/891).

The platform has numerous advantages compared to paper-based management such as, complete dematerialization of all documents, a higher transparency in all phases of the process, an enhancement of charitable distribution of the products (or other secondary uses) compared to the destruction of the product, as it makes the product available in the shortest possible time to all the charities/beneficiaries potentially eligible to receive the product.

Thanks to the LOWINFOOD project, an attempt was made to "export" the SIR platform to Romania, where a demonstration was conducted. A complete simulation of the SIR adoption in Romania has been created, except for the (real) refunding of farmers. The stakeholders (the farmers and the charity with the support of the University of Pitesti as a mediator) monitored their monthly food donation in 2023-2024, to test the platform in their context.

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Additional information

In 2022, nearly 60 million tons of fruit and vegetables were harvested in the European union, with a value of around 70 billion euros. of this, a percentage between 1.5% and 2% was withdraw from the market to be donated to charities, or used for biogas production, or animal feed, or composted.

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ABOUT LOWINFOOD

The LOWINFOOD project, launched in 2020 and coordinated by the University of Tuscia, Italy, is working to deploy and improve a set of 14 innovative solutions to the food waste problem, by demonstrating their effectiveness and market potential. The core activities of the project are all focused on the evaluation of the efficacy of these innovations in reducing food losses and waste, in terms of the amount of food waste avoided as well as their environmental and socio-economic impact.

CONSORTIUM



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La piattaforma S.I.R. per donare frutta e verdura ritirata dal mercato

Nei periodi di picco della produzione di frutta e verdura, i prezzi di mercato possono scendere al di sotto di livelli che rendono non redditizio per gli agricoltori raccogliere i raccolti. Per evitare ciò, l'UE ha implementato un sistema per ritirare questi prodotti dal mercato. L'UE compensa le aziende agricole attraverso le OP per le quantità di frutta e verdura fresca ritirate dal mercato e destinate gratuitamente al consumo umano (la destinazione più desiderabile) o ad "altre destinazioni" (biodigestore, mangimi per animali, compostaggio, ecc.).

La piattaforma S.I.R. è uno strumento informatico online creato per la gestione dei "Ritiri di frutta e verdura dal mercato" (Reg (UE) 1308/2013) e per facilitare i contatti e la collaborazione tra le organizzazioni di produttori (OP) che devono donare questa frutta e verdura e le organizzazioni e istituzioni caritatevoli che la ricevono gratuitamente (come previsto dal Reg UE 2017/891).

La piattaforma presenta numerosi vantaggi rispetto alla gestione cartacea, come la completa dematerializzazione di tutti i documenti, una maggiore trasparenza in tutte le fasi del processo, un miglioramento della distribuzione benefica dei prodotti (o altri usi secondari) rispetto alla distruzione del prodotto, poiché rende il prodotto disponibile nel più breve tempo possibile a tutte le organizzazioni benefiche/beneficiari potenzialmente idonei a ricevere il prodotto.

Grazie al progetto LOWINFOOD, si è tentato di "esportare" la piattaforma SIR in Romania, dove è stata condotta una dimostrazione. È stata creata una simulazione completa dell'adozione di SIR in Romania, ad eccezione del rimborso (reale) degli agricoltori. Gli stakeholder (gli agricoltori e l'organizzazione benefica con il supporto dell'Università di Pitesti come mediatore) hanno monitorato la loro donazione alimentare mensile nel 2023-2024, per testare la piattaforma nel loro contesto.

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