



EU policy measures for food
waste prevention through
social innovation

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Reducing food waste through social innovation



Setting

European policy
measures for
food waste
prevention

- **Policy** is a course or principle of action, proposed or adopted by a government, party, business or individual, intended to influence and determine coherent decisions, actions, and other matters; usually with a common long-term purpose(s).

SOURCE: Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary, The Free Dictionary and FAO Corporate Document.

through social
innovation

- **SI** has socially recognised goals (in this case, reducing food waste).
- **SI** is grounded in deep reflection on the problem & direct action from those involved in it. It represents co-creation and learning.
- **SI** is people-focused, both in terms of its delivery & its beneficiaries. This aids its diffusion or institutionalisation.
- **SI** is delivered through, and builds capacity for, relationships and collaboration – often through a multi-stakeholder approach. It affects the process of social interactions.
- **SI** is a new combination of activities and / or delivered into a new setting.

*SOURCE: «How can social innovation help reduce food waste?»
FUSIONS WP4*



FUSIONS's policy work: Objectives

1. Contribute to policy making at both the European and Member State levels

2. Identify policy tools to stimulate socially innovative solutions to address food waste

3. Draft recommendations for a Common Food Waste Policy in the EU28

What policy changes at the EU and Member State level to deliver a 30% reduction by 2025?

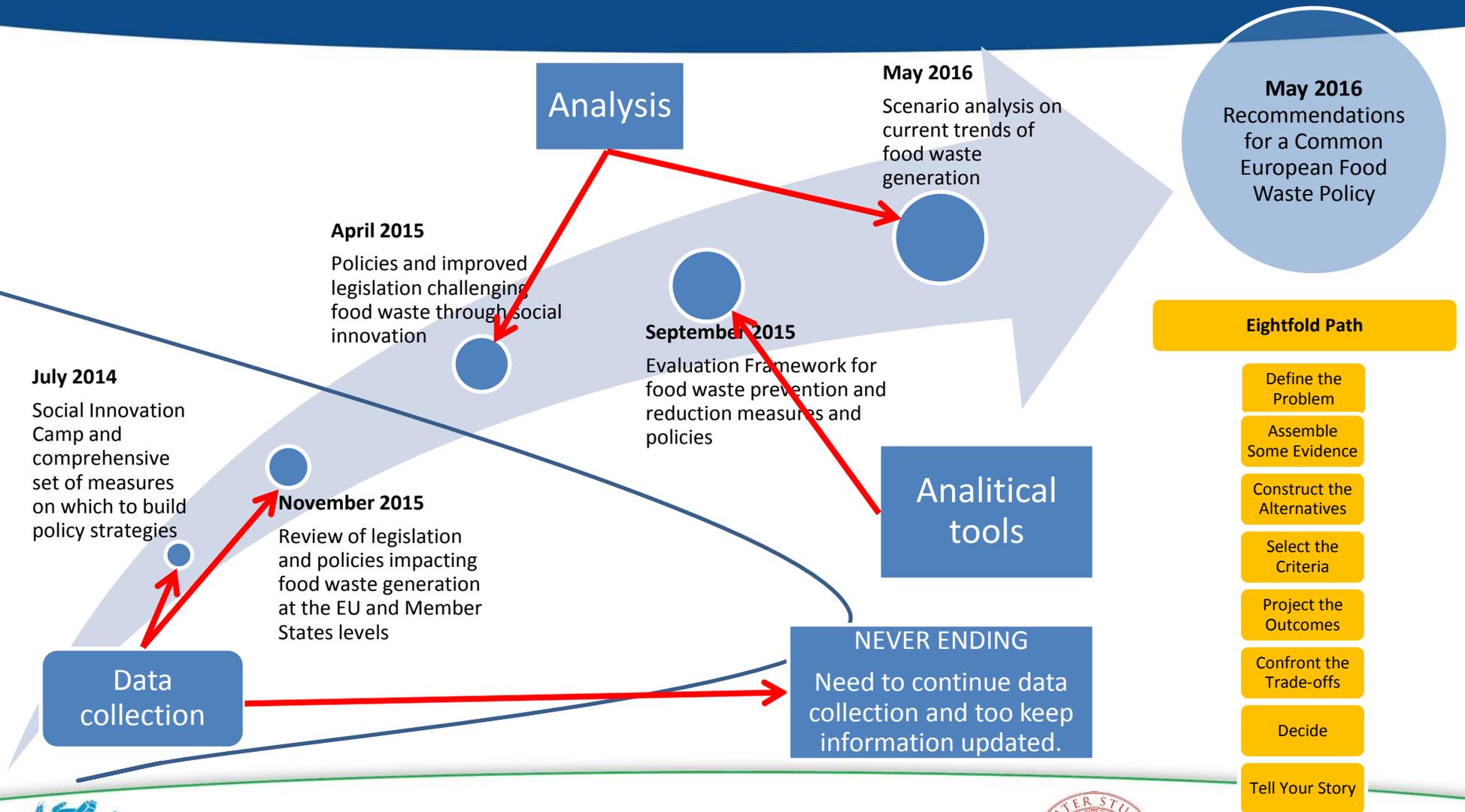


Current **challenges** for policy work on food waste

- Food waste quantification still weak (lack of consistent/comparable data)
- Work on reporting methodologies standardization still ongoing
- A number of different drivers
- Different causes
- Rapidly changing/evolving policy context
- Different policy areas involved
- Difficult to clearly identify food waste streams
- A variety of stakeholders
- Europe is quite diverse



Approach (1)



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Approach (2)

Building on existing initiatives

- Do not replicate, build on existing initiatives, create connection and dialogue

The policy WP is building on FUSIONS knowledge

- Getting the most out of the work of the other FUSIONS WPs: WP1 and WP4 in particular

Public vs private

- Look out of the box: what public policies can learn from private strategies and business decisions?

Learning from other sectors

- What policy tools to stimulate social innovation in other sectors. Can they be effectively implemented for food waste reduction?

Suasive vs normative approaches

- What is the most appropriate policy approach to stimulate social innovation addressing food waste reduction?



Approach (3)



The FUSIONS Social Camp

THE **FUSIONS CAMP (BOLOGNA, APRIL 2014)** was aimed at initiating a dialogue with stakeholders, researchers and policy makers, about how different European policies (Social Innovation, Environment, Corporate Social Responsibility and beyond) could stimulate social innovation addressing food waste reduction.

A **“PRE-CAMP SURVEY”** was launched as CAMP preparatory activity.

The survey was addressed to **185** organizations implementing social innovation initiatives related to food waste prevention and reduction in Europe, with the aim of:

- providing an insight into the main factors enhancing or hindering their activities;
- and collecting their points of view as regards the types of measures and policy actions that could adequately stimulate social innovation in this field.



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Stimulating social innovation through policy measures

The position paper: **Stimulating social innovation through policy measures**

The position paper was aimed at starting to understand which policy measures might best support the *creation, use and scaling* of social innovation initiatives. As such its key inputs are the range of existing social innovation initiatives catalogued within FUSIONS, as well as published research and policy papers. It also draws on the outcomes of the WP3 social camp event.

The position paper provided an initial assessment about how policy is currently being used to support social innovation and opened a number of questions:

- 1) **At what level is policy needed** and what policies at EU, national, local level would help?
- 2) **How does each level of policy interact**, and particularly which level has the most scope to stimulate new initiatives?



Policy review

FUSIONS is developing a review of existing food waste related policies **at the EU and Member State level.**

Food waste prevention policies often operate within complex policy environments in which the impacts of individual interventions are often difficult to isolate from one another and from wider policies and measures.

The policy review will provide a clear picture of existing food waste prevention policies, potential gaps, conflicts and synergies that exist across different policy mixes.

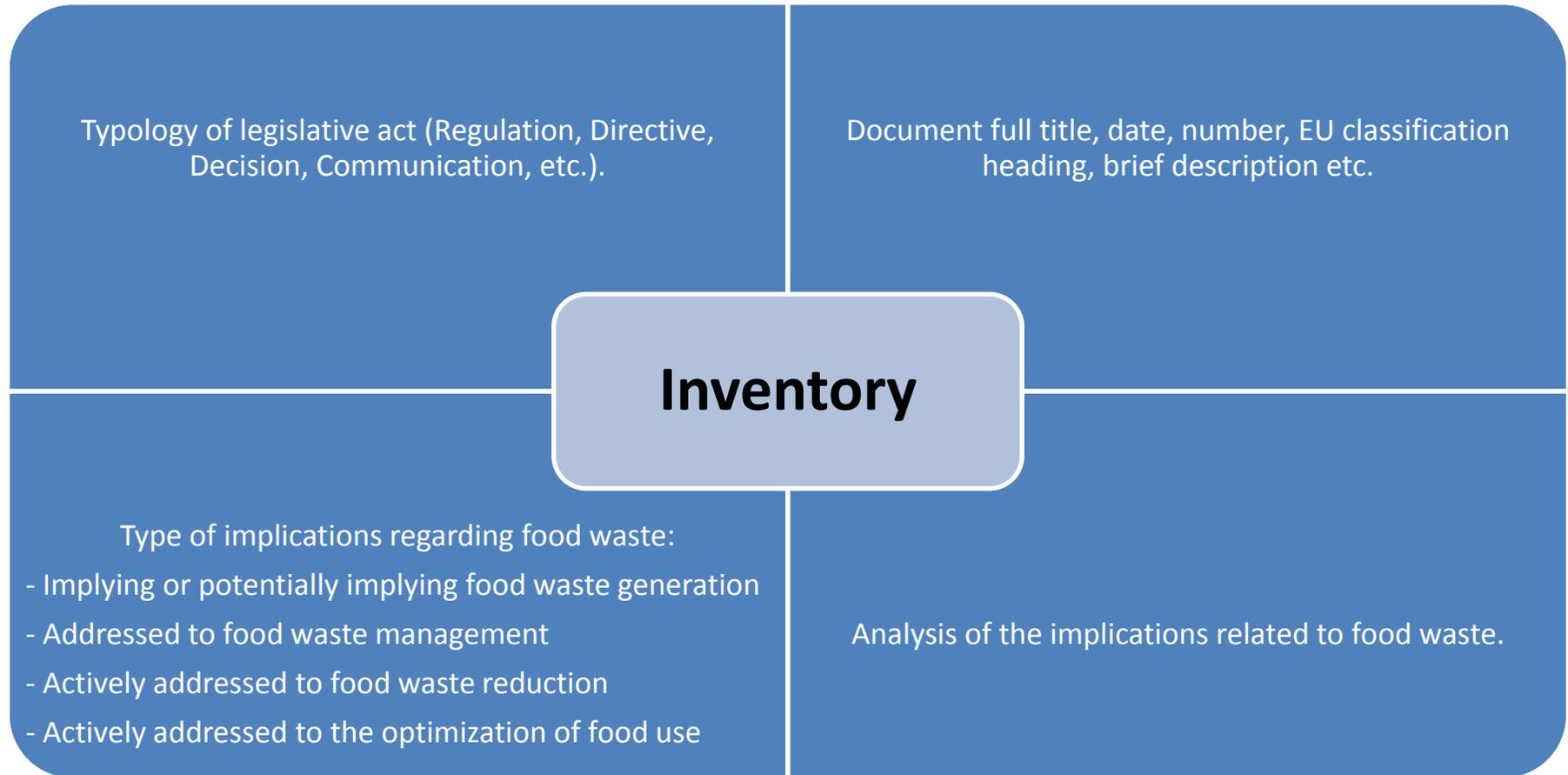
What opportunities for improved policy making?



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Policy review - EU Level (1)

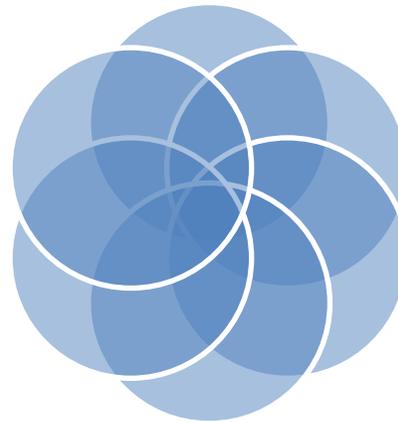


Policy review - EU Level (2)

Results: 53 EU legislative acts in force with implications on food waste were identified (40 acts from the literature review and 13 from a consultation with experts).

8 legislative acts with more than one implication

4 legislative acts potentially implying optimization of food use

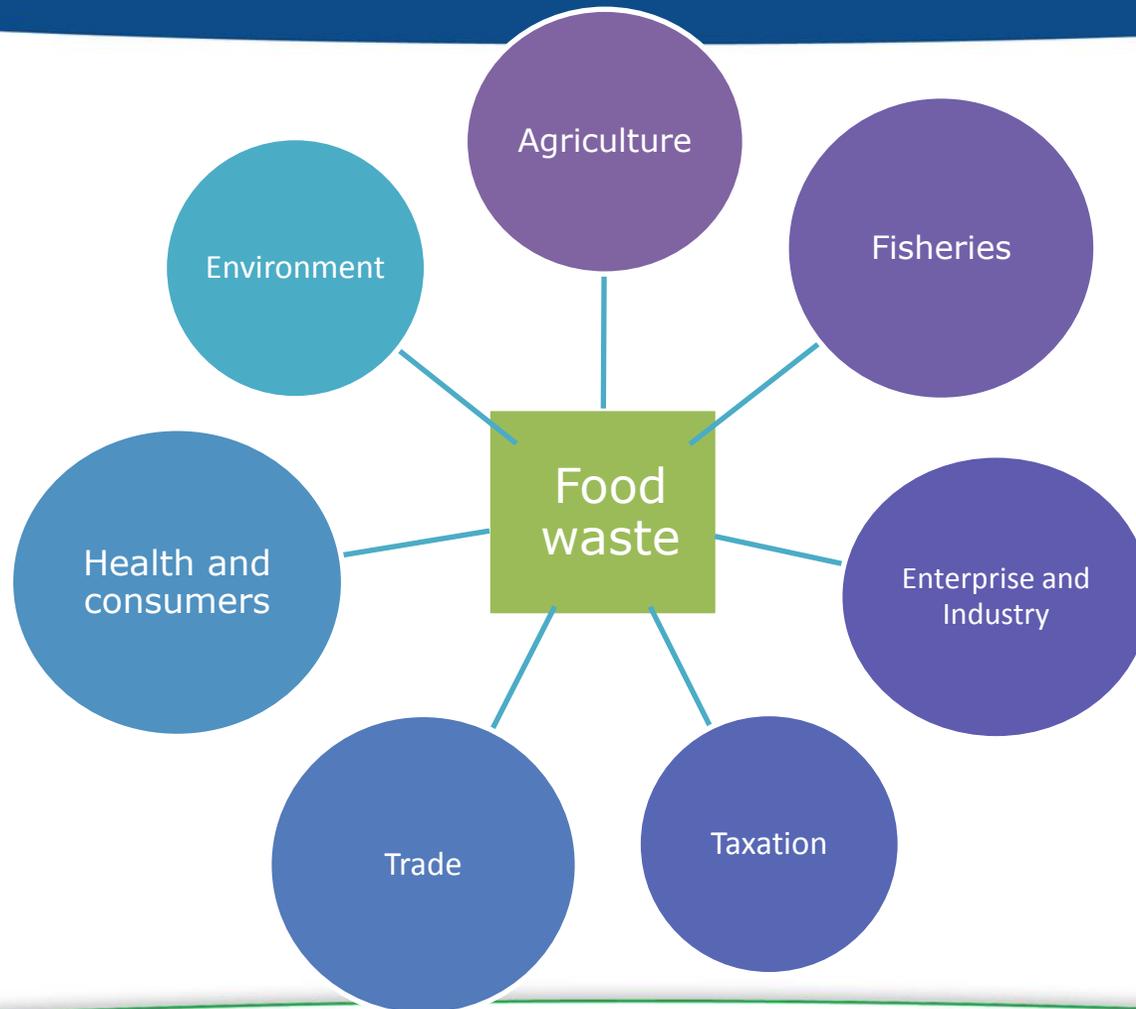


21 legislative acts potentially implying food waste generation

5 legislative acts potentially implying food waste management

15 legislative acts potentially implying food waste reduction

Policy review - EU Level (3)



Policy review - EU Level (4)

Topics and policy measures with implications on food waste (some examples)



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Policy review – National policy mixes (1)

FUSIONS Partners: Netherlands; United Kingdom; Italy; Sweden; France; Norway; Denmark; Austria; Finland; Turkey; Hungary; Greece; Germany.

Other EU Member States: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Portugal, Poland, Spain.

Third countries: Australia; Brazil; China (Hong Kong); Japan; Malaysia; South Africa; United States.



Policy review – National policy mixes (2)



Policy review – National policy mixes (3)

National food waste reduction/prevention plans

- not in place in all the MS; when in place National targets not always so clear
- the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) invited MS to have WPPs in place within December 2013. Not all MS have WPPs in place

Market based instruments

- taxes, charges, permit systems, deposit-refund systems, environmental labeling laws, licenses...
- almost all MS have taxes on food waste

Trading schemes

- environmental quality targets or performance standards

Voluntary and negotiated agreements

- self- regulations by FSC stakeholders
- not in place in all MS
- quite promising looking at SI support



Policy review – National policy mixes (4)

Communication and campaigns

- all countries have communication campaigns in place either governmental or launched by NGOs/CSOs
- consumers as main target

Reports and scientific publications

- by the governments, research institutions, NGOs, CSOs
- have increased in the last 2 yrs but there is still little compared to other sectors

Technical changes

- mainly concern packaging

Other measures

- education programmes



Policy review – National policy mixes (5)

- **Quantity and types of data differ from country to country** but it is possible to identify at least three groups frontrunners (mainly in the North of Europe), followers, late followers.
- In some countries (i.e. Spain, Austria, Italy) laws may be applied in **different ways** from region to region. In Finland there are specific laws for **metropolitan** and **rural areas**.
- The main institutions promoting food waste policies differ from country to country: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agencies etc.



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Policy review

KEY QUESTIONS

- a) What policy changes and improvements are needed at the EU level to meet the target of 30% of reduction by 2025?
- b) What are the roles of different departments, stakeholders, and geographical regions in effecting those changes?
- c) What changes at national level?



Upcoming work: socio-economic incentives (MBI) (1)

Market-based instruments or economic incentives are policy tools that encourage behavioural change through market signals rather than through traditional regulations.

Different categories/typologies:

Actions undertaken by governments, public authorities and organizations: tax measures, depreciation of investments in special “less food waste” technologies, subsidies

Actions undertaken by private actors: voluntary base market instruments & incentives, labels and certification schemes stimulating improved corporate reputation, positive brand impact, strong corporate governance, competitive advantage

Interactions between public governmental policies and voluntary improvements: private incentives designed in combination with complimentary policy initiatives



Upcoming work: socio-economic incentives (MBI) (2)

KEY QUESTIONS

- a) What are the most promising market-based instruments and other socio-economic incentives as specific policy measures for stimulating food waste prevention and reduction (“out of box” views)?

- b) What could fiscal benefits contribute to private investments?

- c) Should governments establish specific taxes or fees by charging food waste produced at the different levels of the food chain through a system of compulsory protocols, targets and standards?



Upcoming work: policy options to stimulate social innovation addressing food waste reduction (1)

As emphasized in the position paper FUSIONS is about creating opportunities - thought policy measures - to stimulate, facilitate, scale up social innovation initiatives addressing food waste reduction.



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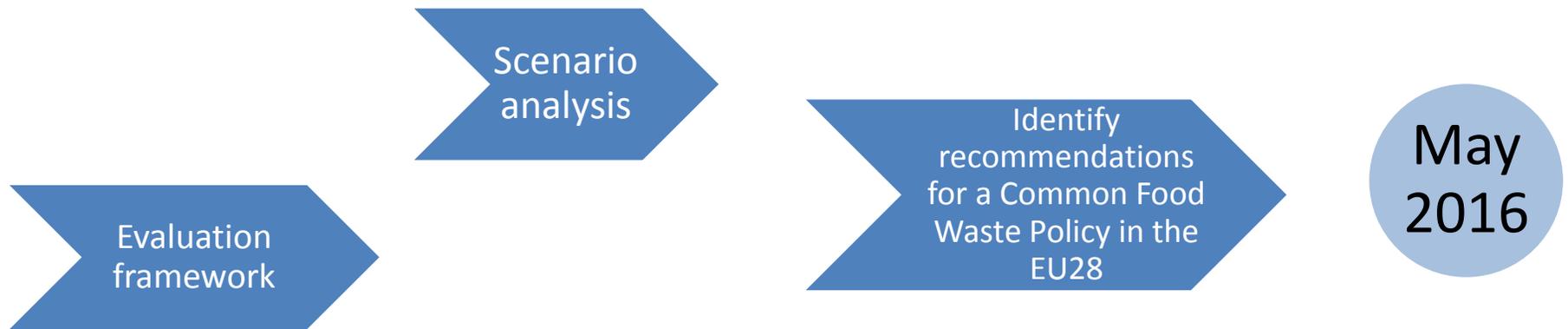


Upcoming work: policy options to stimulate social innovation addressing food waste reduction (2) **KEY QUESTIONS**

- a) What are the policy barriers to entrepreneurship and innovation around food waste prevention?
- b) How can policy be used to facilitate social innovation action? E.g. in the following areas:
 - i. Public procurement
 - ii. CSR & business policy
 - iii. Voluntary agreements
 - iv. Intervening in education
- c) At what level are policies in these areas best able to facilitate social innovation (EU, national, local level) and how can each level be influenced?



Upcoming work (medium term): Scenario analysis & guidelines



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Thanks

Thank you for your attention!

*Looking forward to get your «**out of the box**»
ideas at the WP3 consultation sessions.....*

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