

# 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

### PREAMBLE

**WE**, European young citizens and Local Authorities, agree to this Charter, titled "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", taking on an explicit commitment to contribute to the fight against food waste and for the right to food.

**WE BELIEVE** that the right to food is a fundamental human right and it should be treated as such.

**WE CONSIDER** that the coexistence of food waste and undernourishment represents one of the more serious social, economic and ecological contradictions of our times;

that in light of the definition of food security at the World Food Summit, namely that it exists "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life", we believe that a lack of access to "sufficient, safe and nutritious food" is a violation of fundamental human dignity.

### IN SIGNING THE DON'T WASTE OUR FUTURE CHARTER 2015

We commit to the adoption of new and more responsible models of consumption and sustainable lifestyles, and to implement concrete actions to fight food waste as a partnership of young and older alike in order to guarantee the right to food for the next generation;

We commit to take responsibility for presenting, disseminating and adopting this Charter.

### WE BELIEVE THAT

Although the problem of hunger is the result of injustice and not of the lack of food per se, and while food security is best ensured through equity, democracy and people's sovereignty to determine their own food systems, food waste is a threat to the right to food and to a guarantee of a sufficient supply for all;

A change in our lifestyles is one of the steps to be made towards the reduction of inequality of access to food and the promotion of food security;

x European Youth and Local Authorities can together play a key role in the prevention of food waste in Europe by promoting new models of responsible consumption and more sustainable lifestyles;

x The Milan Charter<sup>1</sup> represents a collective commitment concerning the right to food, that we endorse and we are prepared to fulfill.

## WE CONSIDER IT INTOLERABLE THAT

x Each year, 1.3 billion tones of food is wasted or lost in the food supply chain;

x About 805 million people worldwide are estimated to be chronically undernourished and 160 million children suffer from malnutrition at the same time as so much food is wasted;

x There are such considerable inequities in the distribution of basic human resources such as food, that in turn lead to inequalities in individuals' life chances;

## WE ARE AWARE THAT

x Food waste is unsustainable, and not only affects the right to food of millions of people, but also involves the loss of limited natural resources, such as land, water and energy, that are used in different stages of the food value chain;

x Food waste is a practical obstacle to the global fight against hunger and poverty both in countries with problems of development and in Europe, while a growing world population implies an ever increasing demand for food;

x Only by a systemic approach, that involves all social and institutional actors, can these global challenges and problems be addressed to ensure the sustainability of our future.

## 1. WE, EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1.1 Pay more attention to food labels, in order to promote an awareness and a responsible consumption;

1.2 Pay closer attention to expiry dates, preferring the purchase and the consumption of nearly expired food;

<sup>1</sup> The Milan Charter is a document that sets out the principles and objectives on the subject of nutrition, environmental sustainability and human rights. It was proposed at Expo 2015 during the Milan Universal Exposition (1 May – 31 October 2015). The Milan Charter is intended to be a document that communicates Italy's proposal on the topics of the Universal Exposition, a tool to guide the debate on food waste, the final statement of the Universal Exposition, to be delivered to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as a document addressed to the international community.

- 1.3 Ask companies to emphasize the theme of food waste on their labels, and to create clear labels of expiry dates. Find a way to use food labeling to highlight the degree of water and energy consumption across the entire Food Supply Chain relevant to the product on sale;
- 1.4 Make other students, our families, administrators and other citizens more aware of the food waste and its impacts, by using all forms of communication, particularly social media to share direct and engaging ways to reduce food waste;
- 1.5 Avoid choosing food for its appearance (especially fruit and vegetables);
- 1.6 Encourage consumers, producers and retailers to rethink the aesthetic norms for food, so that it doesn't have to be uniform in appearance;
- 1.7 Promote a preference for seasonal, locally grown and organic food (especially fruit and vegetables), in light of the health benefits and more sustainable origins of such produce, paying attention to the promotion of local production rather than be influenced by commercialized food production;
- 1.8 Cook with greater care and attention to avoid waste;  
Set aside what can be used later (e.g. food scraps for pets/other animals);
- 1.9 Make well-informed, targeted and day-to-day shopping plans (shopping list, food diary) and buy only the food that is strictly necessary for the purpose;
- 1.10 Not being too shy to ask for 'doggy bags' in restaurants, and encourage others to do the same;
- 1.11 Organize workshops, possibly with Peer to Peer Approach, in primary schools and kindergartens to educate younger children about food waste;
- 1.12 Organize events where students, teachers, parents and local authority representatives will use "ugly" vegetables, etc. and cook food for other people. Eventual proceeds from such events will go to help charities and families living in food poverty;
- 1.13 Create co-operative school kitchen gardens (subject to available space);
- 1.14 Use a series of engaging tools in public spaces to inform people about healthy and unhealthy food;
- 1.15 Suggest that schools will become food distribution centers. For example students will bring vegetables, fruits or anything is going to expire, share out and give them to families living in food poverty;
- 1.16 Use a compost heap at home;
- 1.17 Adapt our individual behaviour to fight against water waste, for instance through: reducing the consumption of water for personal hygiene and for cleaning in general, using rainwater in a domestic setting, use glass bottles instead of plastic bottles for the collection of drinking water, encourage the use of domestic tap water when of sufficient quality.

## ASK OUR LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO:

- 1.18 Encourage supermarkets to initially reduce the price, and then to be encouraged to donate, food that would otherwise be wasted or thrown away;
- 1.19 Promote pro-healthy food television programmes involving influential people/celebrities;
- 1.20 Rethink existing food conservation and distribution standards;
- 1.21 Allow food to be accessed by other people if it is not collected from farmers so that it is not wasted;
- 1.22 Campaign to create awareness on waste taxes: the more you waste, the more you pay in taxes;
- 1.23 Allow food banks and NGO's to act as filters to help decide who can access surplus food;
- 1.24 Encourage the use of tap water, providing data and certifications on its quality to facilitate its use;
- 1.25 Promote 0 km water consumption;
- 1.26 Label the 'water footprint' of various products, commodities and services.

## 2. WE, EUROPEAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES, COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

- 2.1 Promote, in partnership with other stakeholders, events, campaigns, guides and other actions to inform about food waste, and to raise awareness about problems, impact, practices and solutions, also through activities such as Diet and Environmental Education in schools, World Citizenship Education and International Cooperation;
- 2.2 Involve stakeholders as an integral element of formal and informal education relating to food waste;
- 2.3 Ensure that our "Fight against food waste, Responsible Consumption and Global Right to Food" becomes mainstream; Being both mediator and facilitator, promoting the issue in our territories/local communities and engaging other Institutions at Regional, National and European levels;
- 2.4 Promote food supply chains that guarantee a right of access to food (short in terms of distance and local "from field to fork" products) thus minimizing food waste;

- 2.5** Take action for food reclamation and redistribution, allowing the collect unsold/unsuitable for sale/soon-to-be-expired/expired food from market places for appropriate redistribution (e.g. charities, care homes,..); using open data, taxation, digital apps, online platforms; promoting last-minute-markets and more sustainable urban planning;
- 2.6** Share and promote responsible consumption and relevant local practices (e.g. nutrition education, promotional meetings – in school and authority premises – about organic and “zero distance” products);
- 2.7** Modify or establish food policies for school meals through the introduction of minimum/zero waste menu (e.g. replacing “commercial” snacks with seasonal fruit and fair trade products, and involving parents, young people and staff in defining the most appropriate diets);
- 2.8** Promote and implement initiatives of international cooperation to support sustainable development at a local level (e.g. the right to food and food sovereignty) as detailed in the framework of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2015-2030;
- 2.9** Encourage the planning coordination among Local Authorities and information sharing of projects tackling food waste;
- 2.10** Support the public in the greater availability of composters and their use in domestic and public premises;
- 2.11** Create initiatives and programs to reduce waste by promoting opportunities for the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- 2.12** Address the effects of the economic crisis by taking action to eliminate social stigma and to ensure dignity (e.g. social markets, social jobs);
- 2.13** Engage in permanent networks of organizations and individuals to facilitate the dissemination and systemization of good practice against food waste, as well as participation in joint projects.

### **3. THE EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOINTLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO:**

- 3.1** Encourage producers to provide their surplus for free or at a reduced price through reduction policies that develop better links between farmers and consumers to fight the food waste caused by unsold vegetables and fruit;
- 3.2** Preserve and promote both personal and collective behaviours that address food waste;
- 3.3** Influence other decision-makers across Europe, at national level and among other Municipalities/local government entities to take measures against food waste;
- 3.4** Publicize the results of actions taken concerning food waste reduction and responsible consumption. This can be done through social media by spreading data to certificate and monitor reports by independent consultants already in use;

- 3.5 Develop communication campaigns promoting local products to achieve lower environmental impact (e.g. Zero-food-miles);
- 3.6 Strengthen cooperation between territories to promote sustainable local development through the adoption of political, social, environmental and cultural sustainability models;
- 3.7 Work on three levels: education for young people; accessibility for families to the initiatives; and direct involvement of food producers in order to support initiatives coming from schools and civil society;
- 3.8 Suggest changes in legislation in order to allow schools' canteens, bars and restaurants to create 'social meals' (currently unlawful in most countries);
- 3.9 Identify potential uses of currently less favored foods that have been rejected for aesthetic reasons (e.g. 'ugly fruit program') through better education;
- 3.10 Make an agreement with waste collection providers for the provision of and proper use of recycling bins including food waste bins as well as general waste bins (e.g. in schools and public spaces);
- 3.11 Promote and periodically monitor the implementation of activities to fight food waste through the establishment of joint working groups and the organization of initiatives that reward good practices and changes in behaviours in order to create clear guidance for households and businesses on a process of penalties for non-compliance (and rewards for good practice) in line with current waste regulations including food waste separation;
- 3.12 Convince more shops and supermarkets to lower prices as products approach expiry dates.

## 4. THE EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOINTLY CLAIM TO:

- 4.1 Promote the creation of national and international laws against food waste, enforce equal redistribution of food and standardize regulations in all European countries in order to fight against food waste and to guarantee an equal right to food;
- 4.2 Not throw away food simply due to its appearance. Every year a lot of food is thrown away because it does not look nice or appealing. Due to strict regulations on the appearance of fresh fruit and vegetables, many perfectly edible goods end up as waste. These aesthetic commercial requirements should be abolished;
- 4.3 Create a clear agreement between all those involved in the food production sector, between the various countries, and between countries and EU institutions, and enforce them. To address the problem of food waste we need clear agreements with farmers, producers / transporters, food industry, retailers and consumers (organizations). The European authorities and the various national governments should then ensure that these agreements are enforced and respected;
- 4.4 Promote crop differentiation at local level to encourage biodiversity protection and more seasonal food;

- 4.5** Stop unfair trade practices (e.g. land-grabbing). The codes of conduct that address and regulate these unfair trading practices have to be set and implemented;
- 4.6** Involve young people in decision-making on all sorts of topics, but particularly with regard to food waste, because wasting food means wasting the future of young Europeans;
- 4.7** Encourage the use of 'doggy bags'. Restaurants should encourage this service and commit to providing doggy bags to customers who request them;
- 4.8** Put more instructions on food packaging showing how to recycle the component items;
- 4.9** Promote an exchange of good practice among different local governments to encourage a better management of school canteens, especially in order to increase the distribution of better quality food to meet consumers' preferences and needs;
- 4.10** Increase funds and awareness raising campaigns in order to make the fight against food waste a daily habit of all citizens, giving young people, students, civil society and associations a fundamental role in this field. The Internet and social media can be used to increase awareness (especially among younger generations) and can be used for crowd-funding campaigns;
- 4.11** Encourage school canteens managers to calibrate food production more closely with the actual consumption of students;
- 4.12** Increase international cooperation initiatives as a contribution to the achievement of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the framework of the 2015-2030 Agenda, supporting territorial cooperation to share knowledge and expertise, as we all belong to the same planet;
- 4.13** Have more transparency and honesty: food waste must be clearly identified and quantified through a standard monitoring system at local level which collects data about several categories. The data should be accessible to everyone and should hold people accountable regarding their waste;
- 4.14** Create an international European system of taxes and incentives for local authorities and the private sector in general to remove food waste from general waste, especially when it is disposed of in landfill;
- 4.15** Raise awareness among companies about the issue of food packaging, in order to use less and better quality packaging;
- 4.16** Limit intensive food production in order to promote sustainability. Support local and independent farmers and promote quality over quantity;
- 4.17** Track all stakeholders who may be involved at a local level in actions against waste.

## THE AUTHORS OF THE CHARTER

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” was created through a participatory process, which involved 40 secondary schools, 1540 students, 160 teachers and 55 Local Authorities from 7 European countries through the realization of more than 160 meetings organized in modules, workshops and participatory workshops. The final version of the Charter was developed with a participatory approach and was launched during the 1st European Forum of Young and Local Authorities against food waste and for global right to food, held the 21st and the 22nd of October in Milan Expo-2015.

## SCHOOLS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT HAVE ELABORATED THE CHARTER ARE:

### SCHOOLS

**BELGIUM** Maria-Boodschaplyceum School / Athénée Royal de Ganshoren, Brussels Region;

**CYPRUS** Linopetra Lyceum, Limassol / Linopetra Gymnaseum, Limassol / Agios Athanasios Gymnaseum, Limassol / Grammar School Limassol / Makedonitissa Gymnaseum, Nicosia;

**FRANCE** Lycée Blaise Pascal, Orsay / Lycée de l’Essouriau, Les Ulis / Lycée Francisque Sarcey, Dourdan / Lycée Geoffroy de Saint Hilaire, Etampes / Lycée René Cassin , Arpajon;

**ITALY** Lombardia: ITSOS “Albe Steiner”/ ITIS “Ettore Conti” / IIS “Oriani-Mazzini” / IIS “Bertrand Russell” di Milano / CFP “Achille Grandi” / IIS “Spinelli-Molaschi” di Sesto San Giovanni.  
Toscana: Istituto d’Istruzione Superiore “Vittoria Colonna” di Arezzo  
Umbria: Istituto Istruzione Superiore Polo Tecnico “Franchetti-Salviani” di Città di Castello / Liceo Classico “F. Frezzi-Beata Angela” di Foligno / Istituto Istruzione Superiore “Orfini” di Foligno / Associazione “CNOS FAP” di Foligno / Istituto d’Istruzione Superiore Artistica Classica Professionale di Orvieto / Istituto Tecnico Tecnologico Statale “Alessandro Volta” di Perugia / “Istituto Istruzione Superiore Artistica Classica Professionale” di Orvieto / Istituto Istruzione Superiore Professionale-Tecnico-Commerciale “A.Casagrande”-“F.Cesi” di Terni / Istituto di Istruzione Superiore “Ciuffelli-Einaudi” di Todi.

**PORTUGAL** Escola José Belchior Viegas, São Brás de Alportel / Escola Secundária de Loulé, Loulé / Escola E.B. 2,3 Engº Duarte Pacheco, Loulé / Escola E.B. 2,3 Dr.António de Sousa Agostinho, Almancil / Escola Secundária Drª Laura Ayres; Quarteira.

**SCOTLAND** Knightswood Secondary School / St Paul’s Secondary School / Shawlands Academy School / Hyndland Secondary School from Glasgow.

**SPAIN** IES Torres de los Herberos, Dos Hermanas de Sevilla / IES Olivar de la Motilla, Dos Hermanas de Sevilla / CES Alfonso XI, Alcalá la Real de Jaén / IES Vázquez Díaz, Nerva de Huelva / IES Carmen Laffón, San José de la Rinconada de Sevilla.

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

**BELGIUM** Commune De Ganshoren; Bruxelles Ville.

**CYPRUS** Agios Athanasios Municipality, Engomi Municipality.

**FRANCE** Conseil Départemental d’Essonne.

**ITALY** Agenda21 Est Ticino, Città Metropolitana di Milano, Comitato Italiano Città Unite (CICU), Comune di Agrate Brianza, Comune di Arluno, Comune di Cassina de' Pecchi, Comune di Cislino, Comune di Cornaredo, Comune di Locate di Triulzi, Comune di Rozzano, Comune di Sesto, Provincia di Pavia.

Provincia di Arezzo.

Comune di Città di Castello, Comune di Foligno, Comune di Orvieto, Comune di Perugia, Comune di Terni, Comune di Todi.

**PORTUGAL** Câmara Municipal de Loulé, Municipality of Loulé; Câmara Municipal de São Brás de Alportel, Municipality of São Brás de Alportel.

**SCOTLAND** Glasgow City Council.

**SPAIN** Municipality of Nerva, Province of Huelva, Municipality of Alcalá la Real, Province of Jaén.

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