

Lithuania's law for donation of food waste

Food Waste Prevention Legislation

- [Dėl Valstybinės maisto ir veterinarijos tarnybos direktoriaus 2016 m. rugpjūčio 26 d. įsakymo Nr. B1-678 „Dėl Labdarai ir paramai skirto maisto tvarkymo aprašo patvirtinimo“ pakeitimo](#)
- [Lietuvos Respublikos pelno mokesčio įstatymas](#)

In September 2016, Lithuania passed a law which aimed to reduce food waste by easing donations for charity purposes. The law clearly defines that food products past their “best before” deadline are still suitable for donations and gives clear guidelines for a safe process. Additionally, the Lithuanian law allows a deduction of up to 40% of tax profits if acting under the Charity law.

LITHUANIA

Level: National

Population: 2.6 million inhabitants

Key figures: 76 kilograms (kg) of food wasted per capita per household per year

FOOD WASTE IN LITHUANIA

In Lithuania, there is little data available on the quantity of food waste besides wastage happening at the household level. Food waste happening at the household level is below the EU average with 76 kg wasted – compared to the EU average of 92 kg – with 30% of it being avoidable. However, it is worth noting that this is also strongly linked to the level of income, as those with the highest income register twice as much food waste as those with the lowest income.

THE LAW'S OBJECTIVES

The law's overall objective is “to reduce food waste and ensure food security for charity and support”. To do so, it focused on the clarification of the guidelines to donate food that is about to be wasted: it specified which entities can act as a charity to donate food waste; what kind of products they can handle; and how to safely handle them.

Additionally, another piece of legislation encourages certified entities to donate food by offering them tax rebate benefits.



MAIN MEASURES

Legislative act	Measures
<p>Dėl Valstybinės maisto ir veterinarijos tarnybos direktoriaus 2016 m. rugpjūčio 26 d. įsakymo Nr. B1-678 „Dėl Labdarai ir paramai skirto maisto tvarkymo aprašo patvirtinimo“ pakeitimo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A rundown of food products that can be provided (or not) for charity and support. Among others, it includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packaged food past the “best before” date; ○ Incorrectly labelled food, provided the label is corrected; ○ Fruits and vegetables that do not meet the declared quality requirements such as appearance, structure, or flavor; ○ Returned packaged food that has been confiscated or collected after an accident; ○ Pre-packed food from mass caterers with the “best before” label; ○ Eggs, up to 21 days after laying. ● A rundown of food that cannot be provided for charity and support – such as alcohol, seafood, and food products whose “use by” date has expired. ● An obligation for charity and support entities to keep the records of the donation of food to ensure traceability. ● The establishment of conditions to safely handle food past the “best before” date. ● A recommendation for an extension of the expiry date according to the “best before” date. For instance, tea, cereals, or honey could be consumed up to 1 year after the “best before” date; while this could be unlimited for vinegar, salt, or sugar.
<p>Lietuvos Respublikos pelno mokesčio įstatymas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taxpayers entitled to provide charity and support – including food donation as per the law above – can benefit from a tax rebate of up to 40% of their profit.

LINK TO THE EU LEGISLATION

[Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Waste Framework Directive\)](#)

[Regulation 178/2002/EC on food \(General Food Law\)](#)



Possible tax reduction
after donations



Possibility to donate food
past the “best before” date



Establishes security
guidelines for food donations

For more good practices, check the [Zero Waste Europe website](#) or the [European Environmental Bureau's brief on the economic incentives to reduce waste](#).

Zero Waste Europe, November 2021

Author:

Pierre Condamine - Zero Waste Europe (pierre@zerowasteurope.eu)

Editors:

Domantas Tracevičius - VšĮ Žiedinė ekonomika

Ana Oliveira - Zero Waste Europe



Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems and the redesign of our relationship with resources, to accelerate a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.



Zero Waste Europe gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the European Union. The sole responsibility for the content of this event materials lies with Zero Waste Europe. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the funder mentioned above. The funder cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.