

Second meeting of the REFRESH project partners

On the 7th and 8th of September it took place at the headquarters of CREDA-UPC-IRTA in UPC's Baix Llobregat Campus, in the ESAB building in Castelldefels (Barcelona), the second meeting of the partners of the EU REFRESH project, in order to examine progress and jointly define future actions against food waste.

Second meeting, in Barcelona

One year after the launch of the project in 2015, more than 60 representatives of 26 project partners, including a delegation from China, gathered to share the knowledge generated to date, to explore potential synergies among the work packages and to align strategies to face the next three years.

Two intensive days of work

The first day comprised multiple side meetings in which participants of each work package had the opportunity to discuss their progress and collaboratively think about the most appropriate ways to face the tasks ahead.

The second day contained an extensive program of presentations about the latest developments attained in each work package. All members had the opportunity to present their preliminary results and explore possible synergies among different work packages. Discussions covered all areas of the project, including consumer behavior insights, food waste measurement, business engagement, socio-economic modeling, Life Cycle Analysis and Life Cycle Costing, policy and governance, and valorization and innovation.

Anti-food-waste catering and experience

As a way to implement the culture of sustainability, and consistent with the objective and values of REFRESH, the social enterprise Espigoladors prepared all catering services. They used gleaned food or food from local companies with social impact, organic or fair trade food, reusable or compostable materials, biodegradable soap, and waste recycling and organic waste composting; a delicious way of demonstrating that it is possible to be sustainable. In addition, once the meeting was ended, those that were interested enjoyed a fantastic Friday morning gleaning tomatoes in a nearby field in collaboration with Espigoladors.

Next steps

In the course of the coming years it is expected that all work packages will progress adequately. Thus, generating new data, enhancing comprehension, setting processes of mutual learning between different EU countries and project partners, and finally developing new ways to tackle food waste in Europe.

REFRESH ("Resource Efficient Food and dRink for the Entire Supply cHain") is an EU funded project taking action against food waste. 26 partners from 12 European countries and China work towards the project's goal to contribute towards Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level and reducing food losses along production and supply chains, reducing waste management costs, and maximizing the value from unavoidable food waste and packaging materials. REFRESH runs from July 2015 until June 2019.

Pictures included on the following page.

Press release

Castelldefels, España (ES)
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