



**CircE**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# Lombardy Region: our results in progress

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Wrocław

# My presentation

1. The Food sector and the pandemic
2. An updated legislative framework
3. Our approach
4. Our policy changes
5. Still to be done

# 1. The Food sector and the pandemic

# The food sector in Italy

The extended agri-food chain (agricultural sector, food industry, distribution and Horeca) is the leading economic sector in our country, with a turnover of over 500 billion euros and almost 4 million employees (Tondo, 2021).

## Some of the winning factors of the Italian agri-food industry:

- Wide range of high quality products;
- Certified products at the "Top" of international markets;
- Close links with the territory and with the Italian cultural heritage;
- High safety standards;
- Ability to combine tradition and constant process and product innovation.

(Italian Trade Agency, 2017)



(Beverfood, 2018)

**The importance of this sector is such that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the agri-food sector relatively little.**

Beverfood, 2018: <https://www.beverfood.com/documenti/settore-alimentare-italiano-2017-chiude-positivamente-produzione-132-miliardi-euro-wd111566/>

Italian Trade Agency, 2017: L'agroalimentare in Italia: produzione ed export  
[https://www.ice.it/sites/default/files/inline-files/NOTA\\_AGROALIMENTARE\\_E\\_VINI\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ice.it/sites/default/files/inline-files/NOTA_AGROALIMENTARE_E_VINI_2017.pdf)

Tondo, 2021: <https://www.tondo.tech/blog/2021/06/29/circular-economy-for-food/>

# Some of the main economic impacts on the food sector:

According to an ISMEA survey carried out on a panel of **agricultural companies and the food industry**, the latter **suffered most from the COVID-19 emergency** due to logistical difficulties, personal shortages and the difficulty of complying with health protection requirements. (Crea, 2020)

**The production index** for the food industry in the second quarter of 2020 **decreased by 5.3%** compared to the same period last year (however, in the face of a much more evident reduction in the manufacturing industry, equal to 27.5%);

# Some of the main economic impacts on the food sector

- The **logistical and production complexities** and the **lack of seasonal workers** have affected the functioning of the supply chains and the **difficulties in procuring raw materials**.
- **Export difficulties** that have impacted above all on made in Italy companies engaged in the production of quality wine, beer, cured meats and cheeses;
- Economic impacts related to the **closures of the Ho.Re.Ca.** and the **elimination of tourist flows**. In the second quarter of 2020 compared to 2019, catering showed a 64.2% decrease in the turnover index.

SIMA, 2020: <https://www.mark-up.it/limpatto-della-pandemia-nellindustria-alimentare-italiana/>

Il Sole 24 ore: <https://www.ilssole24ore.com/art/il-sistema-agroalimentare-resiste-covid-luci-e-ombre-questa-pandemia-ADPskY0>

# The trends introduced by the pandemic on the consumer side

While on the one hand **non-domestic** consumption showed a strong contraction, on the other, **domestic consumption** was favored by the restrictions put in place to tackle the pandemic: in the second quarter of 2020, according to Ismea data, the domestic spending of Italian families for food products it grew by 11%.

- Greater use of **online shopping and food delivery** (+ 43.6% the value of e-commerce sales);
- Particular attention is paid to **storable products** and to **healthy food**;
- Preference for **local foods**, avoiding products imported from countries where the number of infections was higher;
- Preference for **packaged or cooked products**;
- + 3.5% GDO sales and + **6.5% small retailer sales** (due to proximity to the home and safety in terms of reduced crowding).

## What happened from the point of view of sustainability and the Circular Economy?

Greater attention of consumers to **the sustainability of the packaging**, and, in particular (from companies side), to the **reduction of formats**.

Greater attention to **product safety** and the origin of raw materials (the issue of **traceability** and **clarity of labels** is important).

Consumer preference for the purchase of **healthy food**.

Increase in **the perception** by businesses and consumers **of food waste as an environmental problem** and cause of **an increase in costs**.



## **2. An updated legislative framework**

## European context


- December 11, 2019: Presentation of the **European Green Deal**
- March 11, 2020: **Action Plan for the Circular Economy**
- May 20, 2020: Presentation of the "**From Farm to Fork**" Strategy

The **Farm to Fork strategy** aims to accelerate our transition to a sustainable food system which should:

- have a neutral or positive environmental impact;
- help mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts;
- reverse the loss of biodiversity ensure food security, nutrition and public health;
- ensuring that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and sustainable food;
- preserve the affordability of food while generating more equitable economic returns, promoting the competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade.

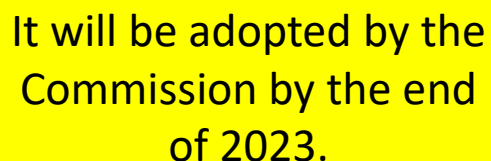
# Farm to Fork Strategy

The strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the common agricultural and fisheries policies as key tools to support a just transition.



## “Legislative framework for sustainable food systems”

Its goal is to accelerate and make the transition to sustainable food systems easier. It will also have as its core objective the promotion of policy coherence at EU level and national level, mainstream sustainability in all food-related policies and strengthen the resilience of food systems.



It will be adopted by the Commission by the end of 2023.



## COM (2021) 689 Final 12.11.2021

“Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis”. Emergency plan to ensure food supply and food security in times of crisis. The plan aims to ensure citizens have a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food at all times.



## Proposal for “Sustainability labelling framework”.

It will cover the provision of consumer information relating to the nutritional, climate, environmental and social aspects of food products.

## Italian context

- Food safety legislation (law no. 283/1962)
- In Italy, the issue of managing any unsold product was dealt with under the so-called **Gadda Law, Law 166/2016** containing specific provisions concerning the donation and **distribution of food for the purposes of social solidarity** and for the limitation of waste.
- New CAMs: decree n. 65 of 10/03/2020  
"Minimum environmental criteria for collective catering and food supply"



# Italian context

## ISPRA: report on food waste (2018)

The goal of **the systemic approach** is the protection of **ecological and social systems** as a whole and of the ecosystem services that are offered to the community, not just the **efficient use of resources or food security**.

## **Art. 199 of the TUA push for prevention of food waste along the entire production, distribution and consumption chain**

The prevention of food waste must affect not only the final phase of consumption but the **entire supply chain**, rethinking it entirely with respect to the dynamics of intervention that have prevailed so far.

The ISPRA Report invites us to look with interest at the **promotion of the short and local, sustainable supply chain, as it is able to reduce losses and waste by 8 times along the entire food chain**.

# Our new Waste management regional programme

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12.5.1	Quadro normativo di riferimento.....	4
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12.5.4.3	<i>Diffusione dei Criteri Minimi Ambientali (CAM) per la Ristorazione collettiva .....</i>	5
12.5.4.4	<i>Diffusione delle Linee guida contro lo spreco alimentare a scuola.....</i>	5
12.5.4.5	<i>Tavolo di lavoro con le GDO.....</i>	5
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## 3. Our approach

**Business and policy GPs helps us to have a wide perspective**

**The business part helps understanding the direction businesses are taking**



## **The Lombardy Region has financed a study for Dairy Sustainability**

**The Municipality of Milan has drawn up a document containing a series of thematic in-depth studies; one of these is dedicated to the "Environmental impacts of transport in the agri-food sector"**

**Peroni: new returnable empty bottles**

**Granarolo invested in a project: complete recovery of the packaging at the end of its life, with 90% of the materials making up the total packaging**

**Dalma is specialized in the enhancement of former food products into feed ingredients.**

## The peculiar phase of our PIs

**ERDF ROP 2014-2020: closing**

**ERDF RP 2021-2027: almost approved (no more room for substantial change)**

**WMRP: approved – it defines strategic lines**

## Therefore, considering:

- **Pandemic trends**
- **Legislative news**
- **WMRP: (Sets the framework)**
- **ERDF RP 2021-2027: the PI to steer**

**What kind of policy change?**

## 4. Our policy changes

## Potential structure of a strategic document framing coming calls

### Scenario introduction

Regulatory intro

Pandemic intro (issues create by the pandemic)

Current trends (not just issues or news, but evolutionary lines of the new scenario)

### The waste management programme

Specify what the waste plan says about food

### Strategic themes

Priority lines of action inspired by good practices

For each of them we must report:

Our good practice / partners' good practice / Response to scenario / Contents /  
Typology: elements for our calls; indication for other DGs / Subjects to be involved

Nb: be incremental - starting from a few strategic themes

# A result already achieved

**GP**

The food hubs

**Our policy change**

A call for projects to promote the hub (28 July)

Municipalities, other local institution

Non-repayable

1 milion euros

## 5. Still to be done

**Final version of the strategic document**

**A link with GPs and pandemic**





# CircE

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**Keep on working!**



*Project smedia*