

LAV PLATFORM – AVOIDING FOOD WASTE

Project “Avoiding losses in the food industry: research transfer to SME practice”

Background: Numerous tools for avoiding food waste have already been developed within national and international projects. Examples include support in collecting and monitoring data; the provision of material to raise awareness and to educate people; and avoidance and recycling concepts for business practice. It is hard to keep track of the large number of tools available, and the search for suitable aids for companies is extremely time-consuming. For this reason, in particular small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) are often unable to access existing solutions for avoiding food waste.

Project objective: The aim of the project is therefore to search for relevant tools from science and practice, to pool them, and make them available to SMEs via an internet platform in the form of a toolbox. It will then be introduced to the food industry. Both the development of the internet platform and the transfer of results to the public will be conducted within a participatory process involving companies and multipliers. Practice partners include craft businesses, industry, trade and the hospitality and food service sector. Supporting multipliers include association representatives from various sectors of the food industry, and the trade press. The toolbox developed within the project containing tools to avoid food waste will be published via the internet platform “LAV – Avoiding Food Waste” after its practicability has been tested and optimised by the project partners. The platform will be structured by sector and topic, enabling SMEs to gain quick access to the tool required.

Procedure: The project objective will be realised in four work packages. Work Package 1 involves a comprehensive search for tools (for example, check lists, sets of measures, guidelines, manuals, information brochures or technical tools such as apps, cost calculators and online seminars) as well as best practice examples and a compilation of the requirements to be met by the internet platform (together with the project partners). Work Package 2 involves planning the content of the internet platform: the tools identified will be checked for suitability using a scoring mechanism developed with the assistance of the project partners, and the relevant tools will be selected and structured by sector and area of activity. At the same time, a web designer will create the first version of the LAV platform, where the selected tools will be made available. In Work Package 3, the internet platform and the tools it contains will be evaluated and tested by the project partners. The LAV platform, the selection of tools, and

the tools themselves will then be revised or translated, if necessary. In addition, new tools will be developed, if required. Work Package 4 will be tackled at the same time as Work Packages 2 and 3. The aim of Work Package 4 is to transfer the project results and the LAV platform to the public. This will be achieved by developing a concept for transfer to the food industry, and by cooperating with the multipliers and the national and European research network. The project will be integrated into teaching at Münster University of Applied Sciences by way of projects, and Bachelor and Master's theses.

Continuation: The intention is to secure the internet platform beyond the duration of the project in cooperation with the food and waste industry, public funding bodies and NGOs, ensuring that the platform will be updated continuously.

LAV platform: <http://www.lebensmittel-abfall-vermeiden.de/>

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