

# MANUAL: ORGANIZING FOOD WASTE HACKATHON

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D.T1.4.2 Food Hack Concept

Version 1  
12 2016

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## A. Organize a Food Waste Hackathon: a great start to #reducefoodwaste

To #reducefoodwaste in Europe a lot of changes are needed. And changes come from people. If you want to become active reducing food waste in your city, town or country, bringing passionate people together for a Food Waste Hackathon is a great start. If you don't have event organisational experience, we guide you through the process and if you have event experience, it might still be useful to go through this manual on how to organize a Food Waste Hackathon to see if there are some things specific for organizing a Food Waste Hackathon.

This Manual is developed as a part of the STREFOWA project. An EU funded project to document, highlight and develop strategies to reduce and manage food waste in Central Europe. Within STREFOWA 5 Food Waste Hackathons were held in the participating countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and Poland. Square Bracket (Austria), who was the main responsible partner for the Food Waste Hackathons had previous experience organizing Hackathons and also Food Waste Hackathons. In this Manual, you find a very detailed procedure, that was developed as support for the project partners to co-organize the Food Waste Hackathons in their country with the goal to be provided open source to you. To support you and to make it easier for you to organize a Food Waste Hackathon in your community to #reducefoodwaste.

In this Manual you find experiences, checklists and a framework to host and organize a Food Waste Hackathon. If you have any questions, concerns or additions to this “How to organize a Food Waste Hackathon Manual”, please contact us at [info@reducefoodwaste.eu](mailto:info@reducefoodwaste.eu). Please also contact us if your event is ready to go live and we can help you promote it on our [Facebook page](#).

### 1.1. What is a Food Waste Hackathon?

Hackathons are originally an IT coding competition. Over the last years more and more themed Hackathons have emerged which use the power of IT to solve pressing problems of our times, like food waste or migration.

The focus of Food Waste Hackathons is to come up with prototypes of apps, websites or bots, that can reduce food waste. To make sure the ideas make sense from a technical point of view, programmers advise and help on how to implement the ideas. Participants ideally have different professional backgrounds, like environmental students, programmers, entrepreneurs, game designers, communication managers, foodsharing activists, food waste experts, marketing experts, designers and filmmakers. The broad mix of professions and people makes the teamwork interesting and the results impactful and just the fact, that you bring together people, that are already active to #reducefoodwaste or are very keen on getting active. If they



meet, everything can happen. Find more information on what a Food Waste Hackathon is here: <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/foodwastehackathons.html>

## 1.2. Doing it for the right reasons

Even though you should reach for the stars and who knows what Marc Zuckerbergs you will have, join your Food Waste Hackathon. You need to stay realistic, you cannot expect to have teams create a completely functioning app, that can be used immediately in one weekend.

- **Being realistic:** you might not only attract experts, but also people, that are completely new in the field. People need time to adjust to this new situation and teamwork among strangers is not always easy and super productive (but it sometimes is).
- Hackathons are a great way to **find and connect already passionate people on food waste in your community.**
- Participants bring ideas and a background in food waste to the Hackathon, so be open to include what the participants have to offer.
- Food Waste Hackathons are **not start up curators**, but anyway might spark something in that direction.

## 1.3. How much time does it take to plan/prepare a Food Waste Hackathon?

Depending on your team size and network we recommend planning 3 months for organizing a Food Waste Hackathon. We recommend setting up a website, [Facebook event](#) and a [ticket system](#) on Eventbrite or other services. In our experience, a good team size are 3 people, organizing one all by yourself might get too much, dealing with food, sponsors, participant management, jury, ...

## 1.4. We like 3 day Food Waste Hackathons

To come up with impactful ideas we have good experiences to let participant emerge for an entire weekend (2 days and one evening) in the topic food waste. The 3 days are spent with presenting food waste challenges (real life challenges from an organisation, supermarket, hospital, hotel, ...), building teams, brainstorming solutions, working on a plan for an application and presenting their ideas and prototypes to an independent jury. One of the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons was only 2 days long and some Hackathons are only 1 day events. All is possible, but less time in general results in less time for all the steps. It depends on what your focus, budget and time resources are and what you think your participants would prefer.

For the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we used this agenda:

### 1.4.1. Agenda of the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons

#### Friday evening: (3hrs)

17-20.00 Get together, challenges presented, networking



#### **Saturday: (10 hrs)**

9:00-18.00 Ideation, Teambuilding, Teamwork, Inspirational talks

#### **Sunday: (11 hrs)**

9:00-17:00 Teamwork, inspirational talks, preparing presentations

17.00 sending presentations to organizers

17:00 Jury will arrive

17:30 presentations from teams (each 3-5 min for Pitch)

18:30 Jury makes decision, while others enjoy snacks and drinks

19.00 presentation of the winner by jury/handing over prizes/ celebration

20:00 official end of the Food Waste Hackathon

#### **1.4.2. Food**

To make it a great experience with time to meet other people and just have a good time, food is essential. You don't want people to leave the Hackathon in every break and head out to the next supermarket or fast food chain. Eating together adds to the experience and you don't want to give people the idea to leave the Food Waste Hackathon earlier :-)

As participants are devoting their time - if you can find funding - it is a nice appreciation to offer food for free. And last but not least you are organizing an event to #reducefoodwaste, so ideally you offer surplus food or other interesting solutions that #reducefoodwaste. This is a great opportunity to include local initiatives that #reducefoodwaste. To avoid food waste at the event, make binding reservations and bring doggy bags in case there is too much. These were the food solution we offered at the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons:

- Jams from Surplus Fruit ([Unverschwendet](#))
- Saved Bread from [Brotpiloten](#)
- A great buffet from [Hotel Mercure Wroclaw](#) with surplus food and many creations to #reducefoodwaste in general
- Plastic containers as gifts for the participants (which came in handy for leftovers from the buffet)
- Catering from surplus veggies from [Iss Mich](#)
- We cooked with surplus food ourselves at the Food Waste Hackathons
- Handed over surplus food to catering to ask to cook it for us

#### **1.4.3. List of meals to consider**

##### **Friday:**

- finger food



### Saturday:

- Breakfast (bread and jam, some rolls, coffee and tea)
- Lunch (buffet style warm food)
- Coffee break
- (no dinner (ends at 6pm))

### Sunday:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Coffee Break
- Dinner (finger food)

## 1.5. Who owns the ideas developed during the Food Waste Hackathon?

It is up to the organizer to predefine ownership of the ideas developed during the Food Waste Hackathon. For the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we decided that the participants should not own the ideas for projects developed at the Food Waste Hackathons. All the ideas and prototypes are open source (Creative Commons), so free for everyone to use and develop further. STREFOWA keeps the right to decide which of the ideas developed at all 5 STREFOWA Hackathons will be used by STREFOWA to build a Food Waste Prevention App that will be non-commercial and accessible for everyone in English.

### 1.5.1. Reason for open source

If participants of a team own an idea, it can cause problems:

- teams are likely to not keep working together after the Hackathon → idea gets stuck
- teams get a lot of the inspiration from the ideas from the presented challenges (they could also claim ownership)
- team members could fight over ownership
- Goal of the Food Waste Hackathons is not to encourage participants to develop business concepts, it is to use the knowledge of different professions to solve food waste as a society.

## 1.6. Participants:

The goal of the Food Waste Hackathon is to get 20-50 people come together for a weekend, to donate their time and skills to solve Europe's pressing problem of food waste. There are also Hackathons of 100 or more people, it is up to you, what size you like to host. Team sizes can vary, depending on the size of the group and personal interests of the participants. We found that a group size of 4 works well. Bigger teams might make it difficult to focus on the task due





to many opinions. Teams with less than 3 might lack certain skills (IT or domain knowledge) to develop a prototype in just a weekend, that is suitable to solve food waste.

### 1.6.1. Ideal teams consist of:

- 1 programmer (IT person, that knows what is possible and can create a prototype)
- 1 domain expert (someone, who knows about food waste, e.g. a person, who works in the institution that deals with food being wasted or wants to use surplus food, student, food waste activist, retailer, farmer, ...)
- 1 designer (or someone, who knows how to make presentations, mock-ups, simple websites, ...)
- 1 marketing person (doesn't need to be a marketing professional, but someone who likes to think about how to put it in words, how to reach possible users, how to implement it, ...)

**Additional participants** from those fields would be valuable:

- Pupils (age 17 -20 years), they bring a lot of knowledge how to use apps, they are the target group of the future, it will be in their hands to waste less food and to use apps to reduce food waste. It might also be interesting for them to participate at a Food Waste Hackathon, because they get to know jobs, that they might consider for their own further education.
- UX Designers: If an app is successful or not is very tied to the user experience of it. Therefore, it is necessary to really think ahead on who will use it, why they want to use it and how easy it is for them to use it. This are important things to consider, when developing a prototype for an app.

## B. Start marketing your Food Waste Hackathon

To kick off the marketing of the Food Waste Hackathon we developed 2 checklists to set the frame and to get an overview of your marketing activities to promote your Food Waste Hackathon.

### 2. Checklist Kick-Off Food Waste Hackathon

This checklist helps you to get started with the organisation of the Food Waste Hackathon and provides an overview to everyone working in the team, what is already done and what still needs to be done. Use the left part of the table to put an X if you have done it, use the right part of the table to fill in with the link or the name of the To Do. You can download the checklists as a PDF under this link: <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/organize-a-food-waste-hackathon.html>



- Set dates:

e.g. Friday from 5-9pm, Saturday from 9am-6pm, Sunday from 9am-9pm

- Set location:

We recommended a co-working space or an event room, in which you have access to or that is provided by your cooperation partners (hotel, school, food bank, ...)

**to consider:**

- a good internet connection is the key
- easy access to a kitchen to provide participants with coffee, drinks, meals and snacks
- a co-working space adds value to the participants (cool location, networking, having a nice time)
- Challenges: Your Food Waste Hackathon will be focussing on those challenges, aligned with your pilot actions:

e.g. Food Waste Hackathon Vienna's challenges were reducing food waste in households and on farms

- Who are your target groups for your Food Waste Hackathon and why would they want to participate?



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- Determine and contact your key partners for your Food Waste Hackathon to **recruit participants**:

e.g.

- schools (17/18-year-old pupils are great participants, they know and use apps)
- universities (IT or environment students, get in touch with professors, that help to promote the hackathon)
- co-working spaces (or often focussing on either IT freelancers or change makers (impact Hub global network, creative industry)
- to recruit the jury
  - > the jury shall be independent (not from your team)
  - > it makes it more interesting if they are known in the field or under the participants e.g. professor, city employee, head of the hotel


### 3. Checklist Marketing Food Waste Hackathon

This marketing checklist helps you to promote the Food Waste Hackathon and provide an overview to everyone working on the team, what is already done and what still needs to be done.

#### 3.1.1. Set up your marketing channels

- Set up a Facebook event: recommended 3 months ahead



Here you find instructions how to set up a Facebook event:  
<https://www.facebook.com/help/131325477007622/>

- Set up an Eventbrite event to make people register, just Facebook clicks are not reliable to plan your event based on how many participants will show up

Here you find instructions how to set up an Eventbrite event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/create>

### 3.1.2. Spread the word about your event

- Write a press release

If you have any press contacts use them and write to them with a short press release. Food Waste Hackathons, especially if they are the first of such kind in your area are a great opportunity to get press coverage before or after your event. Add your press contacts here and how you are going to contact them:

Contact	Who is contacting?	Done

- Find and post in Facebook groups that are related to the topic, like foodsharing, zero waste

Facebookgroup	Who is posting?	Done?



- Place a poster at universities, schools, shops, your office, ...

Places to post	Who is putting it up?	Done?

### 3.2. Tickets:

The participation at a Food Waste Hackathon should be for free or inexpensive, because participants are already donating their time and skills for the good cause of finding solutions to reduce food waste in Europe.

To ensure that participants show up at the event, it is wise to make them register ([Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) is a very commonly used free online tool to deal with registration for events with paid or free tickets) and also demand a deposit of 20 EUR, that will be refunded when attending the event. Here you can see how we handled that for the Food Waste Hackathon Vienna: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/food-waste-hackathon-vienna-tickets-28549089094>.

For the Food Waste Hackathon in Vienna we asked participants to choose a ticket type (student, food waste expert, programmer, ...) and to pay the 20 EUR via Credit Card. Until 2 weeks after the event, you can refund the ticket price as an admin. Simply on the page of the ticket and click on the right at “Refund Ticket”. For the further Food Waste Hackathons, we only handed out participants tickets, as we found some were too confused with the different tickets and didn’t know to whom they belonged. It depends on your way of communicating (only online?) and how used your target audience is, to register for events online.

### 3.3. Provide enough information about the Food Waste Hackathon up front

We struggled during promoting the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons with the issue that our target group- aside from the IT professionals- mainly students, food waste passionists and change makers, in general are not always familiar with the term Food Waste Hackathon. Hearing the word Hackathon, often automatically makes them think it is nothing for them. So, it is important to provide a lot of information about it and try to make it obvious, that pretty much everyone interested in the topic food waste, is a great fit.



### 3.3.1. What is a Food Waste Hackathon and for whom is it?

This needs to be addressed very obviously. Communicate that it is not just for techies, that we all are experts in food waste as customers and members of household that waste food. On our website you can find information about what a Food Waste Hackathon is and use some of the texts for your own communication: <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/foodwastehackathons.html>

### 3.3.2. What are you trying to solve (Challenges)?

What is the goal of your Food Waste Hackathon? Is it very open to food waste in general or do you want to tackle a specific part of food waste to narrow it down? In the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we varied the food waste challenges, matching the STREFOWA pilot actions and the cooperation partners real life challenges (farmer or foodbank, etc).

As the host you can present the challenges yourself or we recommend inviting cooperation partners and presenters that deal with the problem of food waste in their everyday lives. This makes it more interesting and also more likely to produce results, that create impact.

Take a look at the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons and see how challenges were defined:

<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/food-waste-hackathon-hungary.html>

<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/food-waste-hackathon-poland.html>

<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/food-waste-hackathon-vienna.html>

<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/food-waste-hackathon-czech-republic.html>

<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/food-waste-hackathon-italy.html>

### 3.3.3. Jury

Once you found your jury members, share them with your audience. Try to find, well-known jury members, that are respected as experts in their field. It gives the event more credibility and reach and is additionally a great way to give your stakeholders an active role in the Food Waste Hackathon. Important stakeholders like financial supporters, important cooperation partners of your team or decision makers from politics or the field of your Food Waste Hackathon are usually honoured to be judges and are more likely to tell others about the results of the Food Waste Hackathon. They additionally act in favour of the ideas developed at the Food Waste Hackathon when they met the teams and know the background in which the ideas were developed.

- 3-5 people is a good number
- They should cover different fields of expertise and interests
  - > For the Food Waste Hackathon, it is recommended to have one judges from the **IT sector**, that can judge the IT efforts of the prototype developed at the Food Waste Hackathon and also can judge the likelihood of it being successful when finished.



- > One judge should cover the **knowledge Food Waste**. Who is the right person for that can vary depending on the topic of the challenges you present at the beginning of the Food Waste Hackathon. It could be a farmer if you tackle food waste on farms or a person dealing with city waste, when challenging the amounts, people in the city waste.
- > It is fortunate if you find someone who works with Apps or other online services in some sorts. The person needs not to be dealing with Food Waste, but someone who can judge the usability of the app ideas developed. This person might be the IT person in some cases.

In the second part on how to host a Food Waste Hackathon you find a download for handing out to the jury on the day of the Food Waste Hackathon.

#### 3.3.4. Criteria for winning:

- How big is the possible Impact on reducing food waste?
- How well thought out is the idea?
- How well done is the demo developed during the weekend?
- How well done is the implementation strategy?

Here you find a download under “Being prepared for the jury” with more details on the criteras, that can be handed out to the jury for more guidance. <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/host-a-food-waste-hackathon.html?lang=en>

#### 3.3.5. Language:

We recommend hosting the event in your local language. If you are dealing with an international community, e.g. from the Global Impact Hub Network, you might anyway want to choose English as your event language. For the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we hosted the events bilingually, as it was necessary for project reasons. But it was not easy. So, we recommend to stick with one language and make it obvious in your communication and promotion of the event, which one it is.

##### **Advantages hosting in English:**

- Expats, that don't speak your national language can join your event
- You can receive international recognition
- Spread the results easier internationally (you could also translate the summary into English)

##### **Advantages hosting in your local language:**

- Participants feel more comfortable speaking and teamworking
- Challenge givers, jury members are sometimes not so accustomed to speaking English
- No language barrier



### 3.3.6. Remind people

Stay in touch until the actual event with your future participants via the Facebook event, you created, to remind people that it is happening. Especially for events that are for free, often there are drop-outs, that don't show up. Calculate for it and send reminders, also via email, that you collected in the registration process, to remind them of the event, to bring a laptop if they own one. To make it easier for them to find the venue and get there on time, send them directions.

You planned a great Food Waste Hackathon, you have a solid list of participants, so you are ready for the big day. Your Food Waste Hackathon! In this next part, we walk you through the actual day of the Food Waste Hackathon from the view of a host.

## C. Hosting a Food Waste Hackathon

In this part (also available under <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/host-a-food-waste-hackathon.html>) you can find some checklists, tips and structures for hosting the Food Waste Hackathon. Like how to help the team building process and encourage brainstorming and what we found most important when organizing a Food Waste Hackathon.

## 4. Being prepared for the big day

### 4.1. What you need to bring?

Even if a Hackathon has a technical focus and you can expect the participants will bring some laptops (don't forget to remind them in the reminder email shortly before the event), it is good to have plenty of paper, pencils, markers, etc., so that you can document and facilitate creative processes and improve teamwork. Find here our checklist, what to bring when heading out for the big day. Under this link you find the download of the Checklist of what to bring to the Food Waste Hackathon:



**food waste hackathon equipment checklist.pdf**

[Download File](#)

### 4.2. Let participants know what to expect (Agenda)

When hosting a Food Waste Hackathon, you are managing a lot of expectations. Most people have never participated at a Hackathon and even if they have a Hackathon with the focus of solving technical problems and not social problems, like food waste is very different. To avoid





disappointment and confusion, be clear up front. No one reads page long descriptions of things, so it is better to split up information on all your channels (on the website, on Facebook, in the registration process) and also take some time of the beginning of the event to set the stage for the Food Waste Hackathon, by explaining the rules, the procedure and what a Food Waste Hackathon is. Nailing it down to the agenda helps break it down. To make it easier for the participants to know where they are, you can:

- hand out an agenda to everyone or to every group table
- put it on the wall
- tell them where to find it online

Here you can download our presentation that we used at the STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons:



**food hack draha presentation.pdf**

[Download File](#)

#### 4.2.1. Present the jury and the challenges

Having experts present their challenges and real-life scenarios of dealing with food waste, makes the event so much more interesting and sets a good base for the ideation phase. It is not necessary to make the jury come twice to your event, unless they like to, but present the criteria on which the results will be judged at the very beginning. For some of the 5 STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we made this first part open for everyone to come. It was interesting for people, who couldn't or didn't want to join for the entire Food Waste Hackathon to learn more about food waste and network with people interested in solving food waste. There are pros and cons to both inviting external people to join part of the Food Waste Hackathon.

#### 4.3. Help the ideas flow

We tried out different ways to facilitate the ideation phase. All together in a group with one moderator, that took notes and grouped the ideas as they popped up. Another method we did, was to put challenges on paper on dedicated tables and asked the participants to go around and put their ideas to each challenge. It is also possible to divide the groups earlier and then limit the brainstorming on the challenge, that the group has decided on. We prefer now the idea to get input from all participants to all ideas and not to do it publicly (all in one group) as some people might be shy to participate or some people judge ideas from others. This way you get most ideas and can ask the groups to group the ideas in smaller teams.

#### 4.4. Teambuilding is important and can be hard

You never know what expectations people have and how comfortable they are to group with people they don't know. Some are very passionate about an idea, others care more about the social aspects, which group they join. In the beginning we hoped for an ideal ratio of people



with different professions. Depending on the size of your event and the possibilities to structure participants in that way (if you are a teacher you know the participants better and can influence the group building), but for us we realized we cannot control the group building that much. We tried different group building methods. We liked the method most to put the challenges on paper on separate tables, then after the ideation phase asked participants to stay with the challenge they want to work on and then asked people to move to different tables if the group sizes were uneven. If one challenge interested a lot of people, sometimes 2 groups emerged. It happened that a challenge didn't get pick. That is ok too.

#### 4.5. Provide input and guidance

In organizing, we found that people enjoy little breaks of the teamwork in form of little input talks. So, we held different input talks on teambuilding, structure of the idea, marketing and engaging and also pitching. You can download our presentations here (<http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/host-a-food-waste-hackathon.html>), you can also use them when hosting a Food Waste Hackathon, but we recommend using the potential and competences of your team and create similar input talks. What will make your app successful is a modified Business Canvas, that we printed out in A3 for each team, as it helps structure a viable idea.

Additionally, to the input in form of lightning talks it is helpful if organizers walk around and ask if teams need anything and ask them to present their progress so far. This helps mainly to stay focused and the team can receive feedback on possible problems with their idea.

For the Food Waste Hackathon in Vienna we also had external experts and mentors to go around and support teams, to give input and feedback. We found though that for our STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we already had experts from all necessary fields in the organizing team (IT, Food Waste, Communication), that we didn't need external mentors and we found the ratio of mentors vs participants should stay balanced. So, for the other 3 STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons we decided not to have external mentors and found that the lightning talks had more impact on the teams than the personal conversations with mentors.



**ditch to win.pptx**

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**think of it as a business.pptx**

[Download File](#)



**what will make your app successful 3f.png**

[Download File](#)



**food hack poland - prototypina.pdf**

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## 4.6. Presentations of the teams

Set clear expectations how and when presentations of the work of the team are handed over to the organizing team. Calculate enough time for some technical problems or delays. When you have all the presentations, check them before if they work, to avoid problems during the presentations. Be strict about the time line and communicate it a few times during the Food Waste Hackathon, that it is good to practice the talk a few times to make sure they have enough time to finish.

Depending on how many teams are presenting, teams can be given **3-5 Minutes** to present their work. If we had enough time we gave another few minutes for questions from the jury. Sure, more time would be nice, but consider the jury and the audience is sitting for hours if every team takes 15 minutes to present. To make it easier for the presenters to stay in time, it is good to raise warnings (just a A4 paper works fine) how many minutes are left. To end the presentation a timer can be useful to interrupt the presentation. To keep it fair, after the timer went off, only the sentence can be finished.

## 4.7. Being prepared for the jury

The jury is arriving at the moment, when things are busy with handing over presentations and participants are all nervous about their presentation. Dedicate one person from your team, to welcome and guide the jury members. Give them a short summary of the Food Waste Hackathon so far, show them where they will sit. To take notes we prepared for the jury a document with the criteria plus subquestions. If you want you can use the download:



**jury information food waste hackathon.pdf**

[Download File](#)

## 4.8. Celebrate

As a thank for participant's time donation for a good cause, it is great to provide prizes, ideally from fitting sponsors, but also to hand over a nice certificate for the participation. Here you can see how we designed the STREFOWA Certificates.



certificate.pdf

[Download File](#)

Thank the jury for their time, hard work deciding and possibly the prizes they brought along. A thank you, could be also a certificate, a nice bottle of wine or other cool gifts. That you don't forget to thank everyone, when emotions run high, it might be useful to have some slides prepared that mention all supporters and sponsors of the event.

Even if it was a long day, people usually enjoy staying a little bit longer for some party time with snacks, drinks and maybe even music.

#### 4.9. Ask the participants how they liked the event

You can write a short survey on Google Forms in just a few minutes and get valuable feedback about the event and communicate the results to stakeholders. With that you are able to learn more about your organisation and what you could improve the next time. Also use in a wrap for your sponsors and cooperation partners:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MbXPY-5H8zrbYG0FIdc1xk7Rxa4NAIPnMMcRkYSO91g/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MbXPY-5H8zrbYG0FIdc1xk7Rxa4NAIPnMMcRkYSO91g/edit?usp=drive_web)

We had better return rates for the questionnaires if we handed them out in a printed version at the event. It just is an extra work step later for you to get graphics and results summarized, which you can see immediately in Google Forms.

Also, timing might influence the return rate. Right after everyone received prizes and goodie bags it is a great time to ask people for feedback. Just kidding, but it is true. Whatever timing you choose, during the celebration, participants might also not be in the mood to "work" anymore. Either way it is a good idea to ask participants for feedback if you plan to host another Food Waste Hackathon or also want to give feedback to the sponsors and cooperation partners. Here you find the questionnaire we used:



questionnaire\_food\_waste\_hackathons.pdf

[Download File](#)



## D. Conclusion

We think it is great if you are thinking or going through organizing a Food Waste Hackathon. For us as Square Bracket organizing our first Food Waste Hackathon was really fun, we made important contacts in the “food waste scene” and it resulted in us being part of STREFOWA.

In STREFOWA not all the partners were super eager to host a Food Waste Hackathon at first, but in the end all partners had a great experience hosting a Food Waste Hackathon. It is hard work, to plan, organize and host a Food Waste Hackathon, but it is a great opportunity to involve external stakeholders in your work to #reducefoodwaste. If you are organizing a Food Waste Hackathon, let us know and we are happy to support it. Write to us at [info@reducefoodwaste.eu](mailto:info@reducefoodwaste.eu).

These statements reflect the experience we had organizing 5 STREFOWA Food Waste Hackathons:

### Statements from Co-organizers:

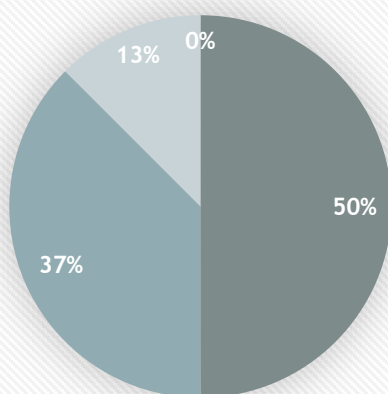
- It was amazing to see people with many different backgrounds voluntarily coming together to work hard for a good cause.
- It is a unique chance to see ideas grow from the very beginning.
- In an atmosphere of joy, fun and laughter interesting ideas spring up like mushrooms
- For us organizing a Food Waste Hackathon was a very been a very new experience. During the planning phase I had thousands of doubts, but then it was a very nice surprise.
- We received a lot of positive reactions from the participants, the schools, we organized it with and one pupil will finish the web/app idea for his diploma exams.
- We got a lot of attention about STREFOWA, the ministry of Education has given patronage to our training course for teachers, the Mayor of Asti asked us to keep informed about our activities, other schools in Asti asked us the info material about our pilot activity in schools.
- It made us reach out to stakeholders, sponsors, that we never had contact with and that will benefit us for future activities.
- We were astonished how the media was interested in our organization and the event
- *“FWH is a great initiative. During three days, a group of people developed innovative ideas to reduce food wastage. What was extremely valuable, that students and professionals met with full of passion and developed very specific solutions.”*



Statements from participants:

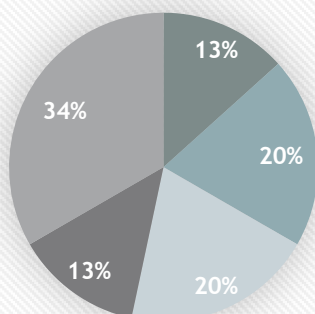
- It was very interesting
- It was perfect
- I learned a lot of new things (IT, Business)
- It could have not been more inspiring!

### How did you like the Food Waste Hackathon Prague?



■ Very good ■ Good ■ It was OK ■ I didn't like it too much

### Which aspect did you find the most inspiring?



■ Food waste presentations ■ Networking ■ Knowledge about Food Waste  
 ■ Technical aspect ■ Teamwork