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FOOD WASTE IN ROMANIA COMPARATIVE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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Abstract: *The main objective of this paper is to assess the problem of food waste in Romania comparative with Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine, in the year 2019. Food that is appropriate for human consumption that is thrown away, whether or not it has been held over its expiration date or allowed to expire, is referred to as food waste. Usually, this is because the product in question has spoiled but it can also be due to market surplus or individual shopping/eating habits.*

• Introduction

Food waste is one of the most critical concerns of our time. In 2019, the world generated 931 million tons of food waste, with household members producing 61% of it. All of this food could feed 2 billion people, which is "more than twice the number of undernourished humans around the world." Each state is obligated to ensure the food security of its citizens. While the population of developed countries and a part of the developing countries are in the positive segment of food security and generate enormous amounts of food waste, at the same time, the population of underdeveloped countries, but also a part of the developing countries, suffer from malnutrition and undernourishment.

Material and method

The study presents a research based on external data, pertaining to food waste in 2019, provided by Our World In Data. Those second-party external data were analyzed and interpreted by the authors, using established methods of economic analysis and interpretation.

• Results and discussions

In the present study, three relevant categories of food waste were considered: food waste per capita in households, food waste per capita in out-of-home consumption and food waste per capita in retail.

In the first case, the analyzed countries are Romania and Hungary. Our country is the 12th state by area of the Europe countries, with 238.397 km² while Hungary occupies the 18th place with 93.030 km². In 2019, the population of Romania was 19.37 million people and at the same time the population of Hungary was 9.771 million people. Romania's GDP for 2019 was \$251,02 billion \$ while Hungary's was 163.99 billion \$.

• Conclusions

After the presented aspects, it can be observed that the situation of food waste differs in all the six countries.

Comparing these three categories of food waste, a thing to reveal is the fact that Serbia is the country with the lowest quantities of generated food waste, 104 kg per capita.

