LIFE-IP CEI-Greece
Circular Economy Implementation
in Greece
LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013

Deliverable C7.D8
Proceedings of the 5th Food Waste Prevention Forum

Executive Summary

The 5th Food Waste Prevention Forum was organised by Harokopio University of Athens and held on 2 July 2026 at the University premises in Athens, within the framework of Action C7.2, “Development of a Stakeholder Food Waste Prevention Forum”, of the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project “Implementation of the Circular Economy in Greece” (LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013). The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN), implemented in collaboration with 19 partners, and co-funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the Green Fund.

Entitled “From the Production Line to the Shelf: Food Waste Prevention in Food Processing and Retail”, the 5th Forum focused on the food processing and retail sectors, aiming to highlight prevention practices, facilitate the exchange of experience, and explore opportunities for cooperation and voluntary commitments to reduce food waste.

Following the opening remarks and a brief presentation of the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project, the Forum continued with presentations on the institutional and legislative framework, the European reduction targets for 2030, food waste measurement and prevention, cooperation and practices applied in the retail sector, as well as examples of the valorisation of co-products and other streams generated by the food industry. In parallel, issues related to cooperation among businesses, public authorities and organisations were presented, together with the role of businesses in implementing prevention measures and contributing to the achievement of the European targets.

In this context, particular reference was made to the voluntary cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Greek Supermarket Association (GSA), which was then in the final stage of preparation and was promoted within the framework of the relevant LIFE-IP CEI-Greece actions on food waste prevention. The agreement was subsequently signed on 21 July 2026 and implemented from September 2026, with the aim of supporting retail sector’s contribution to the EU target of a 30% reduction in food waste by 2030.

The programme concluded with an open dialogue entitled “From the Production Line to the Shelf: Challenges, Solutions and Synergies”, during which participants discussed issues related to measurement, voluntary agreements, cooperation between food processing and retail, food redistribution, the use of technology and consumer awareness. The 5th Forum built on the previous meetings of the initiative, further strengthening dialogue among the stakeholders involved in food waste prevention.