

**PRAMUN X, January 10–14, 2018**  
Gymnázium Jana Nerudy, Prague

# SOCIAL & CULTURAL

Chaired by **Mia** Letić & **Tereza** Jeníčková

---

Topic I:

Creation of a global strategy for a more efficient system of food production, avoiding surplus and waste, as well as enabling local sourcing

## Glossary

- *food loss*: the decrease in quantity or quality of food
- *food waste*: is a particular part of food loss, which refers to discarding or alternative (non-food) use of food that is safe and nutritious for human consumption along the entire food supply chain, from primary production to end household consumer level

## I. Background Information

Even though the world is theoretically able to feed all its inhabitants, the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** estimates that around 795 million people out of 7.3 billion were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2014-2016. An estimated one third of all food produced in the world ends up as waste.

Given the scale of the food supply chain, there are many causes of food waste. Be it the overly selective quality standards or consumer eating habits, which often both result in people throwing away perfectly good food. The most preferable solution to this problem would be the **prevention of food waste** during the production process in the first place, whilst bearing in mind the **3 steps of production**:

1. **INPUT:** The different ingredients, materials, machinery and items which go into the system.
2. **PROCESS:** The different things that happen to the input which change it into the output.
3. **OUTPUT:** The finished food product.

The prevention is not only about the production process itself, however, also about the transportation of goods during which a lot of waste can be created. Inspections and examinations of goods are not always finished to the highest of standards, as well as not aimed directly at the waste of food in general.

Another issue that we are dealing with is, that one has no control over how much food was wasted during the import process. The only thing one can have control over is how much food their country is wasting during the consumption and export process.

## **II. UN Involvement**

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** acts to defeat chronic hunger worldwide by eradicating the causes that lead to it. The FAO tackles rural poverty, one of the main reasons behind famine and hunger in developing areas of the world. It actively engages in strengthening food security through restocking of cattle and crops and delivery of humanitarian food aid.

Food security and sustainable production of edible goods has always been on top of the UN agenda. In September 2015, the UN agreed upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be met in the next twelve years. The second of the seventeen goals focuses on the 'Zero Hunger' aim to fight famine and malnutrition, double the agriculture productivity of small farmers and increase investment in rural infrastructures.

## **III. Bloc Positions**

There is a huge imbalance among the Member States, which is caused by the agricultural as well as economic development. For example, per capita waste by consumers is between 95

and 115 kg a year in Europe and North America, while consumers in **sub-Saharan Africa, south** and **south-eastern Asia**, each throw away only 6–11 kg a year.

In the **European Union (EU)**, food is lost or wasted throughout the entire supply chain, from agricultural production to final household consumption. In fact, every single European citizen is guilty of wasting food unnecessarily.

The **United States of America** wastes around 40% of their food.

What is visible from these statistics is, that food waste is rather a problem of the developed world than the developing. As was mentioned before, this is mainly caused by the lifestyle, purchase power and economic stability in the region.

#### **IV. Questions to Consider**

- How much food is wasted in your country per year?
- Is your country more dependent on exporting or importing of food?
- What is your country's official policy/stance on food waste?
- How has your country reacted to food waste in the past?

#### **V. Sources / Good Sites to Have a Look at**

- [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44956#.WhHB\\_xPWx-U](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44956#.WhHB_xPWx-U)
- [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/Issue3\\_Waste.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/Issue3_Waste.pdf)
- <http://www.fao.org/platform-food-loss-waste/food-waste/definition/en/>
- <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/food-technology/systems-and-control/revise-it/food-production-systems>
- [https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/reducing\\_food\\_loss\\_and\\_waste.pdf](https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/reducing_food_loss_and_waste.pdf)
- [http://static.newclimateeconomy.report/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/WRAP-NCE\\_Economic-environmental-gains-food-waste.pdf](http://static.newclimateeconomy.report/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/WRAP-NCE_Economic-environmental-gains-food-waste.pdf)

Topic II:

## Combating disinformation and fake news

### **I. Background Information**

*“Fake news is harming people and spreading hate. It is short-circuiting democracy.”*

– Laura Boldrini, former spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Even though the phenomenon of **fake news** is not something created by the internet and social media, it has been significantly worsened by them, as ability to share information on social media largely contributes to the fast spread of fake news across the social platforms.

Fake news is often created and propagated by websites lacking journalistic integrity in an attempt to lure more viewers through shocking headlines. However, even journalists with professional integrity will sometimes inadvertently propagate deceptiveness by citing other articles without thoroughly reviewing the original sources first. With media consumers valuing swiftness over accuracy, hard facts are often difficult to discover during developing events. Fake news are often used as a tool by foreign state and domestic actors in order to shape public opinion and national or international policy.

Other important terms include *clickbait*, *circular reporting* or *yellow journalism*.

### **II. UN Involvement**

Mr. Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, stated that in the *Joint Declaration* (see link below) were identified general principles that should apply to any efforts to deal with the issue of Fake News, to prevent censorship, the suppression of critical thinking and other approaches contrary to human rights law.

- Link for the full text of the Joint Declaration:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MdUVyE2NVtyAIKKsbcplsPfdhp-CQG7t/view?usp=sharing>

### **III. Bloc Positions**

The European Union has a set of policies defending media freedom and pluralism, and each Member State has some form of regulations on the media. With fake news becoming an ever more pressing issue, governments are starting to take action to counteract it.

In November 2016, the British intelligence organisation Government Communications Headquarters recently established a new department – *National Cyber Security Centre* – that will work to protect the integrity of the British parliamentary democracy. The Czech Republic similarly launched a unit called *Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats* in January 2017 that answers to the Interior Ministry.

In the United States of America fake news have been recently a debated topic, especially in connection to the recent elections, which have by them been allegedly influenced. President Donald Trump has also referred to the CNN or The New York Times (a reliable source for many Americans) as fake news outlets.

Russia has also been a victim of fake news thanks to the popular website *Vkontakte*, used by Russian-speaking people. Information which would otherwise have spread to the rest of the world, stays at the website and therefore only among the Russian-speaking community, leaving the people with no other reliable source of information.

There is also a new curriculum being introduced in Taiwan and Sweden to teach young students media literacy, including how to identify fake news.

#### **IV. Questions to Consider**

- What are the various forms of fake news?
- What further action can be taken to combat fake news?
- Who should be held accountable for dissemination of fake news?
- What does your country do to highlight reliable journalism and give it more room on social media platforms?
- Which resources are considered reliable in your country? Which are not?

#### **V. Sources / Good Sites to Have a Look at**

- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21287&LangID=E>
- <https://shorensteincenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Combating-Fake-News-Agenda-for-Research-1.pdf>
- <https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2017/03/29/how-media-are-fighting-fake-news-and-disinformation/>
- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/the-real-story-of-fake-news>

- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/0/fake-news-exactly-has-really-had-influence/>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56336#.WhHGDRPWx-U>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57479#.WhHGNDPWx-U>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/3287300/united-nations-declaration-fake-news/>