



# Foodsharing: A Sustainable Solution to Food Waste

This presentation explores the concept of foodsharing, highlighting its environmental and social impact and its growing presence across Europe, especially in Germany.

Dr. Kristina Bayer

innova eG



Picture: AI



# Outline



1. What is foodsharing?
2. History
3. The Movement
4. EU
5. Impact
6. Challenges
7. The future of foodsharing
8. References







# 1. What is Foodsharing?

## Community Sharing

Foodsharing strengthens community bonds by sharing extra food. It fosters connections and promotes a sense of shared responsibility.

## Reducing Food Waste

Foodsharing diverts excess edible food from landfills, reducing the environmental impact and fostering sustainability. It provides a practical solution to food waste at a local level.

## Donating Surplus Food

Foodsharing encompasses various methods, including donating to food banks, sharing meals with neighbors, and collaborating through community initiatives.



Picture: AI



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## 2. History of Foodsharing



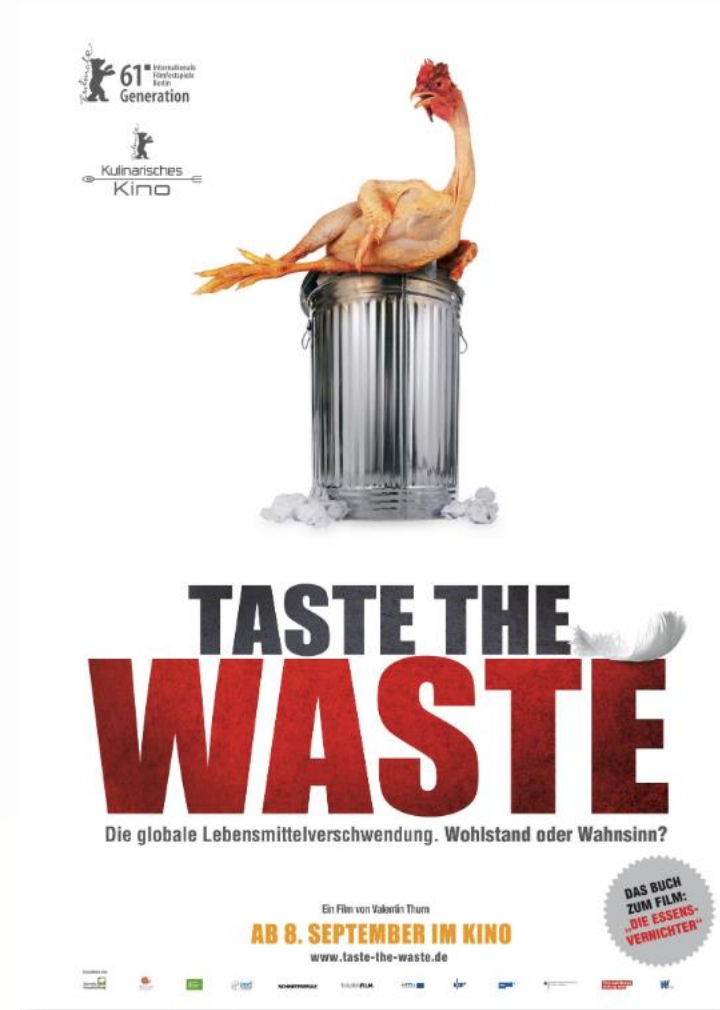
### Über Valentin Thurn



**Valentin Thurn**  
Der Filmemacher  
Valentin Thurn wird  
[INFOS ANSEHEN »](#)

### history

Foodsharing is an initiative that was launched in Germany in 2012 to combat food waste. The concept is based on the idea of rescuing surplus and still edible food from disposal and passing it on to other people free of charge. The initiative is supported by the Foodsharing e.V. association and is now active in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



'At 6pm on the corner by the bakery, I have 12 whites and 5 ryes left. You're welcome!'

'I cooked this lasagne (picture), but my friend doesn't like garlic. The address is... You're welcome.'

'Tonight after 10pm at the back entrance of the supermarket. Bring larger backpacks.'



**Foodsharing**  
105.332 „Gefällt mir“-Angaben • 103.808 Follower

[Nachricht senden](#) [Gefällt mir](#)  
[Suchen](#)





### 3. History: Foodsharing Movement

#### Early Initiatives

Foodsharing in Germany has a long history with grassroots movements and community initiatives.

#### Government Support

The German government has recognized the importance of foodsharing and has implemented policies to support it.

1

2

3

#### Rise of Digital Platforms

Digital platforms like "Foodsharing.de" have emerged, connecting individuals and organizations for food donation and exchange.

# 4. Foodsharing Initiatives Across the European Union

## Digital Platforms

Digital platforms and apps, such as OLIO, connect individuals and businesses to share surplus food.

## Short Shelf Life Focus

These platforms are particularly effective for food with a short shelf life (sandwiches, fresh produce, prepared meals), which is often unsuitable for centralized redistribution.

## Effective Redistribution

Europe:

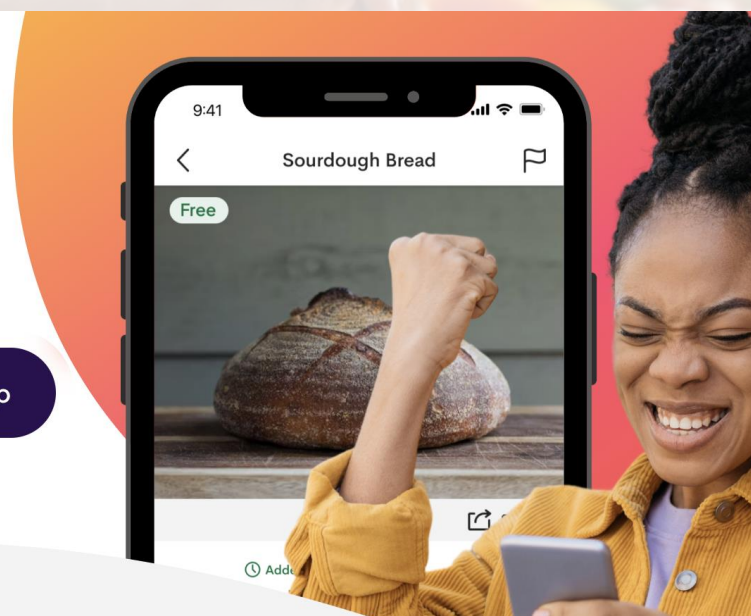
- Milan: Food Waste Hubs since 2019 (save 130 tonnes of food annually)

Various European cities have launched similar initiatives to reduce food waste at the local level. Bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of support from public institutions in some countries

**Share more,  
waste less**

Beat waste with Olio: the app for finding what you need and sharing what you don't with local people.

Get the app



Co-funded by  
the European Union





# 5. Impact of Foodsharing



### Foodsharing: A Growing Movement

200K	48K
Food Sharers	Food Savers
Registered individuals	Volunteers
5K	3500
Businesses	Rescues
Partners	Daily

### Foodsharing: Positive Social & Environmental Impacts

90	£750K	87-156
Tonnes Saved	Value	CO2 Saved
Food saved from disposal	Retail value of saved food	Tonnes of CO2 equivalents saved

## 6. Overcoming Challenges to Foodsharing

1

### Logistical Barriers

Efficient transportation and storage of food are key to ensure its quality and prevent waste.

2

### Legal Regulations

Navigating food safety regulations and liability concerns are crucial for foodsharing initiatives.

3

### Public Perception

Addressing concerns regarding food safety and hygiene among the public is essential for building trust and encouraging participation.





# 7. The Role of Science and Research in Foodsharing



1

## Food Waste Quantification

Accurate data on food waste is essential for understanding its impact and developing effective strategies for reduction.

2

## Food Safety and Hygiene

Scientific research can guide the development of food safety protocols and best practices for foodsharing initiatives.

3

## Behavioral Science

Research into consumer behavior can help understand motivations for food sharing and develop strategies for increasing participation.



Co-funded by  
the European Union





# The Future of Foodsharing: Scaling Up for Greater Impact

1

## Technological Innovations

Digital platforms can connect more people and organizations, improving efficiency and reach.

2

## Policy Support

Governments can create a more favorable legal and regulatory environment for foodsharing initiatives.

3

## Public Awareness

Raising awareness of the environmental and social benefits of foodsharing can encourage wider participation.



# 8. References



Dongo, D., Penna, A.A.D. and Penna, D.D., Andrea Adelmo Della (2024) 'Food waste, voluntary agreements in 15 European states', *FoodTimes*, 2 July. Available at: <https://www.foodtimes.eu/food-system-en/food-waste-voluntary-agreements-in-15-european-states/> (Accessed: 22 January 2025).

Foodsharing Cafe Netzwerk (2023) 'Was ist foodsharing? | Foodsharing Café Netzwerk'. Available at: <https://www.foodsharingcafe.net/26-2/was-ist-foodsharing/> (Accessed: 22 January 2025).

foodsharing e.V. (2023) *Tätigkeitsbericht 2023*. Available at: [https://foodsharing.de/uploads/transparenz/2023\\_Taetigkeitsbericht.pdf](https://foodsharing.de/uploads/transparenz/2023_Taetigkeitsbericht.pdf) (Accessed: 22 January 2025).

Fülling, Julia (2024) *Nachhaltiger Konsum: Repair Cafés, Foodsharing und Co. besser erforschen und fördern*. Available at: <https://www.ioew.de/news/article/nachhaltiger-konsum-repair-cafes-foodsharing-und-co-besser-erforschen-und-foerdern> (Accessed: 22 January 2025).

Schanes, K., Dobernig, K. and Hartl, B. (2022) 'Preventing Food Waste Through Collective Action: The Case of Food Sharing'. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4123929>.

Wickert, S. and Günther, H. (2023) 'Foodsharing statt Wegwerfen: So teilst du Lebensmittel', 24 February. Available at: <https://www.happycoffee.org/blogs/lebensstil/foodsharing/> (Accessed: 22 January 2025).