

Policy Domains

DOMAIN 1 - FOOD COMPOSITION

"Government systems have been implemented to ensure that, where feasible, processed foods and ready meals reduce the amount of energy, critical nutrients (salt, saturated fat, trans fat, added sugar) as well as less environmentally responsible ingredients and portion sizes."

COMP1 | Reformulation of processed foods: The government has set targets/standards/restrictions/prohibitions for the composition of foods for:

- The content of energy, critical nutrients (trans fats, added sugars, saturated fat)
- The use of less healthy and less environmentally friendly ingredients
- The portion size of less healthy and/or environmentally unfriendly foods.

COMP2 | Reformulation of catering meals: Objectives/standards/restrictions have been set by the government for the nutritional composition in meals sold by the catering industry with regard to:

- The content of energy, nutrients of concern (trans fats, added sugars, saturated fat) and sodium.
- The use of less healthy and less environmentally friendly ingredients
- The portion size of meals sold by food companies and delivery services.

DOMAIN 2 – FOOD LABELLING

"There is a government-endorsed system for consumer-centric labeling on food packaging and menu boards in restaurants so that consumers can easily make informed food choices and avoid misleading claims."

LABEL3 | Front of pack labeling: The government endorses consistent, science-based front-of-pack (FOP) labels to intuitively convey nutritional information (e.g. Nutri-Score) and/or environmental impact information (e.g. score based on life cycle analysis). The systems are applicable to all food products and should allow consumers to easily assess the health and/or environmental impact of a product.

LABEL4 | Labelling of catering menus outside the home: Simple, clear and visible indication of the degree of health and environmental friendliness of meals/products on menus in quick-service restaurants is endorsed by the government, allowing consumers to easily interpret the quality, energy value and environmental impact of food and meals sold in these quick-service restaurants.

DOMAIN 3 - FOOD PROMOTION

"The government has an integrated policy to limit the influence of promotion of unhealthy, environmentally irresponsible foods through various channels. On the other hand, the government encourages (the promotion of) healthy, environmentally responsible food consumption."

PROMO1 | Limit advertising broadcast media children: The government has an effective policy to limit exposure to and the strength of promotion of unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly foods to children and young people through the broadcast media (TV, radio).

PROMO2 | Limit online and social media advertising to children: The government has effective policies in place to limit exposure to and the strength of promotion of unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly foods to children, including adolescents, through online and social media.

PROMO3 | Limit advertising children (other): The government has effective policies in place to limit exposure to and the power of promotion of unhealthy, environmentally harmful foods to children, including adolescents, through media other than packaging (PROMO5), online and social media (PROMO2). (e.g. magazines, cinema advertising, product placement, ...).

PROMO4 | Restriction of advertising public spaces children: The government has an effective policy in place to ensure that unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly foods are not commercially promoted to children and adolescents in environments where children congregate (e.g. kindergartens, schools, sports and cultural events).

PROMO5 | Restriction of advertising on children's packaging: The government has an effective policy in place to ensure that unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly foods are not commercially promoted to children, including adolescents, on food packaging.

PROMO6 | Restriction of advertising to adults: The government has an effective policy in place to limit the promotion of less healthy and environmentally irresponsible foods in all of the above media and public places, including:

- Broadcast media (TV, radio)
- Online and social media
- Non-broadcast media other than online and social media

- Public places (e.g. outdoor advertising around train stations, buses, sports and cultural events)

PROMO7 | Active standards management: The government takes action to positively influence social and personal norms of healthy, environmentally friendly food consumption by investing in science-based public campaigns in media and public settings as well as by focusing on education. Campaigns that focus on awareness and education about food waste also fall under this. Moreover, within this active standards management, the government does not award subsidies for the promotion of unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly food products.

DOMAIN 4 - FOOD PROVISION

"The government has implemented policies to encourage a healthy, environmentally responsible food supply in government-funded institutions and the government actively encourages and supports private companies to implement such policies as well."

PROV1 | School Procurement Policy: The government ensures that clear, consistent policies (including nutritional standards) are in place in schools and early childhood facilities for food service activities (canteens, food at events, fundraising, promotions, vending machines, etc.) to encourage healthy, eco-friendly food choices.

PROV2 | Other Public Institutions Procurement Policy: The government ensures that there are clear, consistent policies in public food supply institutions (canteens, food at events, fundraising, promotions, vending machines, etc.) to offer and promote healthy, eco-friendly food choices (e.g., hospitals and healthcare facilities, universities, food standards for public canteens, public events, food banks, armed forces, prisons):

PROV3 | Procurement standards: The government ensures that there are clear, consistent purchasing standards for food in public settings in order to offer and promote healthy, environmentally friendly food choices.

PROV4 | Public support and training: The government ensures that proper support and training systems are in place to help schools and other public sector organizations and their caterers comply with policies and guidelines for healthy, environmentally friendly food services. Supporting measures that combat food waste are also included.

PROV 5 | Support to private actors: The government actively encourages and supports private companies to offer and promote healthy, environmentally friendly food and meals in their workplaces in order to promote healthy, environmentally friendly food choices. Support measures to private actors to reduce food waste in workplaces are also included.

DOMAIN 5 – FOOD RETAIL

"The government has implemented policies and programs to encourage the availability of healthy, environmentally friendly foods and to limit the availability of unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly foods in neighborhoods (e.g., 'spatial' policies regarding density and locations of food providers), hospitality, and retail (e.g., product supply and positioning)."

RETAIL1 | Restrictive zoning laws: Zoning laws and policies are applied by the government to set limits on the density or placement of quick-service restaurants or other outlets that primarily sell less healthy and less environmentally responsible foods.

RETAIL2 | Supporting zoning plans: Zoning laws and policies are applied by the government to promote the availability of outlets that mainly sell healthier and more environmentally responsible food (e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables) and/or access to these outlets (e.g. opening hours, frequency, e.g. for markets).

RETAIL3 | Supply and promotion in supermarkets: The government provides support systems (and evidence-based guidelines) that increase the supply and promotion of healthy, environmentally responsible foods in supermarkets and vice versa for less healthy, less environmentally responsible foods.

RETAIL4 | Supply and promotion in hospitality: The government provides support systems (and evidence-based guidelines) that increase the supply and promotion of healthy, environmentally responsible foods in hospitality and vice versa for less healthy, less environmentally responsible foods.

RETAIL5 | Food waste retail and hospitality: The government provides guidelines and support systems that facilitate the reduction of food waste by supermarkets and catering establishments.

DOMAIN 6 - FOOD PRICES

"Food pricing policies (e.g. taxes and subsidies) are aligned with health and environmental outcomes by helping to make healthy, environmentally friendly foods the easiest and cheapest choice."

PRICE1 | Reduced taxes or levies on healthy, environmentally responsible foods: Taxes or levies on healthy, environmentally sound foods are minimized in the service of their affordability (e.g. low or no sales tax, excise duties, VAT, or import duties on fruits and vegetables).

PRICE2 | Increased taxes or levies on less healthy, less environmentally sound foods: Taxes or levies on less healthy, less environmentally sound foods (e.g. food products high in nutrients, nutrients of concern in food, or less healthy/environmentally sound food categories) are introduced to increase the prices of these foods by at least 20% and, where possible, less healthy, less environmentally sound food choices. Tax revenues are ideally reinvested in infrastructure or VAT reductions to further stimulate the consumption of healthy, environmentally responsible food.

PRICE3 | Subsidies for healthy and environmentally responsible diets: The intent of existing subsidies, including support for the financing of infrastructure (e.g. research and development, support for markets or transport systems) is to benefit healthy, environmentally sound diets (e.g. fruits, vegetables, beans and lentils, whole grains).

PRICE4 | Income support: The government ensures that income support measures for food are aimed at healthy, environmentally responsible food.

PRICE5 | Food waste: The government has a fiscal policy that promotes the reduction of food waste, for example by means of tax breaks on food donations.

Infrastructure domains

DOMAIN 8 – LEADERSHIP

LEAD1 | Political support: There is strong, visible, political support (from cabinets) for improving the food environment and food consumption patterns with a view to reducing diet-related chronic diseases, and socio-economic differences, as well as climate and environmental impacts linked to diets and food losses.

LEAD2 | Objectives: The government has set clear targets for improving the nutritional intake of the population with regard to both critical nutrients and relevant food categories in order to meet the WHO and national recommended intakes, which benefits public health as well as climate and environment. Food waste reduction targets are also included below.

LEAD3 | Dietary recommendations: Clear, interpretive, evidence-based dietary guidelines have been developed and implemented.

LEAD4 | Implementation plan: There is a comprehensive, transparent, up-to-date implementation plan linked to Brussels needs and priorities, to improve the food environment and food consumption in line with national and WHO recommendations and nutrition-related chronic diseases to reduce nutrition-related environmental impacts.

LEAD5 | Reducing inequality: Government priorities have been set to reduce inequalities in nutrition, obesity, and NCDs or protect vulnerable populations.

DOMAIN 9 – GOVERNANCE

GOVER1 | Restrictions on commercial influences in policy: Procedures exist to limit commercial influences on the development of policies related to the food environment when they conflict with improving the nutrition of the population. For example: limitation of lobbying influences.

GOVER2 | Science-based policies: Policies and procedures have been implemented that prescribe the use of scientific research in the development of nutrition, health, and sustainability policies.

GOVER3 | Transparency: Policies and procedures have been implemented that ensure transparency in the development of nutrition, health and sustainability policies.

GOVER4 | Public access to nutrition information: The government ensures that the public has access to comprehensive nutritional information and important documents (e.g., budget documents, annual performance reviews, and health indicators).

GOVER5 | National food database: The government is promoting the development of a national food database with data on the nutritional and environmental impact of food products that are representative of Belgian food consumption patterns.

DOMAIN 10 – MONITORING & INFORMATION

MONIT1 | Monitoring of the food environment: The government has implemented monitoring systems, for the periodic monitoring of the food environment (in particular on the composition of food for nutrients of concern, the balance between animal and vegetable proteins, food promotion for children and the nutritional quality of food in schools and other public institutions) against codes/guidelines/standards/objectives

MONIT2 | Monitoring nutritional status and consumption: The nutritional status and food consumption of adults and children will be monitored periodically against specified intake targets and recommended daily allowances, taking into account both environmental and health impacts.

MONIT3 | Obesity monitoring: The prevalence of overweight and obesity in adults and children is regularly monitored using anthropometric measurements.

MONIT4 | Risk monitoring: The prevalence of diet-related chronic diseases and risk factors for them are monitored periodically.

MONIT5 | Evaluation of food programmes: Key programmes and policies are regularly reviewed to assess their effectiveness and contribution to achieving the objectives of the nutrition, health and environment plans.

MONIT6 | Inequality reduction monitoring: Progress in reducing health inequalities or health impacts in vulnerable populations and social and economic determinants of health is regularly monitored.

MONIT7 | Monitoring (social) norms: There is regular monitoring of personal and social norms related to healthy, environmentally friendly food consumption.

MONIT8 | Monitoring food waste: The government provides periodic monitoring of food losses that make it possible to achieve any targets.

DOMAIN 11 – FUNDING AND RESOURCES

FUND1 | Budget allocation: The budget to encourage healthy, environmentally friendly food consumption is sufficient to contribute to the reduction of nutrition-related chronic diseases and adverse environmental impacts.

FUND2 | R&D funding: Publicly funded research aims to improve the food environment, reduce obesity, NCDs and related inequalities, as well as nutrition-related environmental and climate impacts.

FUND3 | Statutory Health Promotion Institute: There is a statutory organisation with a structural funding stream for health promotion with an objective to improve the nutrition of the population and the related environmental impacts.

DOMAIN 12 – PLATFORMS AND INTERACTION

PLAT1 | Cross-cutting coordination Strong coordination mechanisms exist between departments and levels of government (national, regional and local) to ensure coherence, alignment and integration of policies on nutrition, obesity, nutrition-related NCD prevention and related environmental impacts across all public authorities.

PLAT2 | Public-commercial platforms: There are formal platforms (with clearly defined mandates, roles and structures) for regular interactions between the government and the commercial food sector on the implementation of healthy, environmentally friendly food policies and other related strategies.

PLAT3 | Public-civil society platforms: There are formal platforms (with clearly defined mandates, roles and structures) for regular interactions between the government and civil society organisations on the development, implementation and evaluation of healthy and environmentally sound food policies and other related strategies.

PLAT4 | Systems thinking: Governments work with (local and national) organisations/partners/groups with a systems approach to improve the health and environmental friendliness of food environments at the national and regional level.

DOMAIN 13 – HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

HIAP1 | Integrated health policy Processes are in place to ensure that food consumption and related health, environmental and climate impacts, as well as socio-economic health inequalities, are taken into account and prioritised in the development of food policy.

HIAP2 | Comprehensive health policy There are processes in place to ensure that food consumption, health outcomes, environmental impacts and the reduction of socio-economic health inequalities or health impacts for vulnerable groups are taken into account and prioritised in the development of food policy.