

A3.12 Policy actor: Public authorities

Local and national governments play a crucial role in translating the FOOD 2030 priorities into policy actions, thus acting as food policies' **primary targets**. To achieve this, they need to acquire appropriate knowledge of what defines a healthy diet, which are potential diet-related risks for human and animal health, and of environmental and societal values such as sustainability, equity and justice. Insufficient awareness can be even exacerbated by continuous advances in science and different media conveying conflicting messages. For public authorities to implement and sustain appropriate policies, support from all other players of the food system – from the civil society to private and non-governmental actors – is required. However, governments' political willingness to act can be undermined by conflicting interests among the various stakeholders at play or the public opinion if, for example, the identified priorities do not match citizens' ones.

Proportion of mapped policies set by public authorities by GOAL

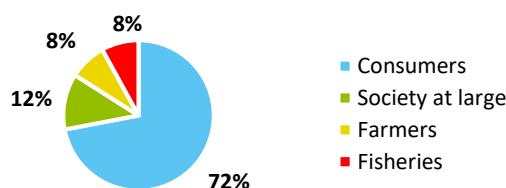


As it emerges from the mapping, public authorities are mostly called in for **food safety** purposes (68%), either for setting up controls on animal and plant products entering the EU or detecting and controlling potentially harmful agents at all stages of the food chain.

Few policies seem to act through public authorities to fight the spread of non-communicable diseases, fat and sugar over-consumption and other health risks directly linked to **dietary patterns**.
How can they make all food system actors aware of such urgent issues and enhance their participation to an ad-hoc and inclusive policy making process?

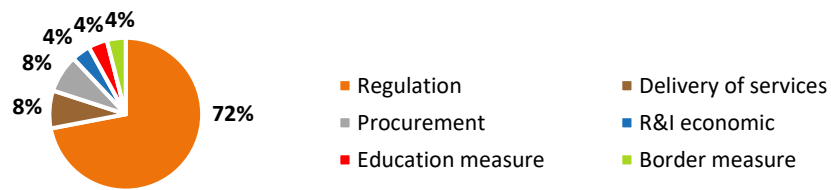
*Why none of the mapped policies tackling **food and packaging waste** are directly carried out through public authorities? How could they use their institutional position to effectively lead a behavioural change towards a **circular economy**?*

Proportion of mapped policies set by public authorities by ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY



*Are public authorities dialoguing enough with the **food industry** – including **SMEs** – to align their interests and marketing strategies?*

Proportion of mapped policies set by public authorities by INSTRUMENT



Regulations are surely the most direct instrument through which local and national public authorities can act (72%).

*Should public authorities rely more on **education policies and trainings** on food and feed law and animal and plant health to support existing regulations on such matters?*