

REPORT

2024



SUSTAINABILITY



and #zerofoodwaste!

**Certified** 

our purpose

# es im-perfect®



#### We are... the employment insertion company of Fundació Espigoladors

es im-perfect® is the employment insertion and food transformation company of Fundació Espigoladors, a social organization that addresses three key social needs through an innovative and empowering model: we fight for food recovery, to ensure the right to healthy and sustainable food for everyone, and to create job opportunities for people at risk of social exclusion.

In 2018, we opened the workshop of the es im-perfect® brand to reinforce our commitment to social justice and the circularity of our project. In 2024, we inaugurated a new production center in El Prat de Llobregat to build a new future with much more space!



#### We are... a socially responsible sustainable brand

We are an activist brand of plant-based preserves committed to environmental sustainability and social justice.

At our workshop, we produce vegetable pâtés, marmalades, and sauces made with local fruits and vegetables that are discarded from the commercial circuit due to imperfections, price drops, or production surpluses.

At es im-perfect®, we reinvent them and give them new value through a sustainable model based on the principles of the circular economy. Furthermore, the es im-perfect® workshop is also a space of socio-occupational insertion for people at risk of social exclusion.

"We are es imperfect": we give job opportunities, we give a voice, and we give a new life to every vegetable that the market has left behind."

imperfect



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im-perfect®

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our purpose

# Our **Products**

flavor. They are 100% plant-based and 200% committed".

es im-perfect®

"We make preserves that have as much heart as they do



SOCIAL INTEGRATION





SUSTAINABILITY AND CARE FOR THE PLANET



DEFENDING LOCAL AGRICULTURE



+70% OF FRUITS OR VEGETABLES\*



DAIRY-



100% NATURAL **INGREDIENTS** 





**VEGAN** 



GLUTEN-FREE

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**Certified** 

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purpose

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### **PRESENTATION**

### Ideal packs for impact gift giving!

company welcome pack Newborn welcome

Dreamer Pack

(2 x 110 g)

Two vegetable pâtés

Christmas bound

wedding favor

... or any special occasion

# Gift packs

es im-perfect®

Want to be part of the solution?



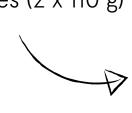
#### Cheese Pairing Pack

Apple and cinnamon marmalade (30 g), pumpkin and orange marmalade (30 g), and onion marmalade (30 g).



#### #AUFood Matters Pack FOUR

Two jams (2 x 160 g) and two vegetable pâtés (2 x 110 g)





#### #AllFoodMatters PackFIVE

Two jams (2 x 160 g), two vegetable pâtés (2 x 110 g) and one tomato sauce (1 x 295 g)



#### Eight Pack

Three jams (3 x 160 g), three vegetable pâtés (3 x 110 g) and one apple compote (1 x 220 g)





niques i somiadores que creuen en les egones oportunitats



im-perfect®

es

2

our purpose

change

# es im-perfect®

Reducing global per capita food waste by half is part of one of the Sustainable **Development Goals** (SDGs) agreed upon by the United Nations for 2030.



















Certified



This company meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact.



in vulnerable situations.

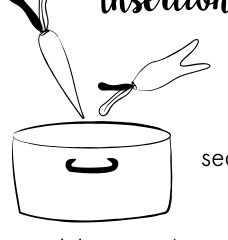
... for everyone!

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# Social and green economy model

We bet on the circular economy as the only possible paradigm for sustainable production!





We transform preserves in our workshop of secondchances.

We promote sociooccupational insertion for people in vulnerable situations.



Our productive process is aligned with a green, social, and circular economy model

**MODEL** 

our purpose

es im-perfec

# We got certified as a B Corp company

es im-perfect® is an insertion company, which means that we are committed to providing job opportunities to people who have a harder time finding work.

At es im-perfect®, we rescue those fruits and vegetables that don't meet the supermarket's beauty standards. You know, the ones that have a little "wrinkle" or "spot" but are still just as delicious. By giving them a second chance, we are fighting against food loss and food waste and taking care of the planet. That's already incredible, and we're very proud of it!

But it's not just talk—we also proved it with the B Corp certification. A certification that allows you to scrutinize every area of the company to spot all the outstanding things we do and all the ways we can improve—and we will keep doing so.

Being B Corp means joining a global movement of companies that choose to do things differently, correctly, and responsibly. As the saying goes: "there is strength in unity", and together we can show that businesses must be (and are capable of being) profitable while taking care of the planet and people at the same time.

> Being B Corp is not a medal; it's a way to say loud and clear: we can do business that embraces the planet and people."



es

our engine

# Food loss and food waste (FLFW)

Food fit for human consumption that is discarded from the agri-food chain for various reasons, caused by the dynamics of the current agri-food system and consumer society.

A problem with economic. environmental, and social implications.

The study "Driven to Waste: Global Food Loss on Farms" carried out by the WWF (2021) estimates that global food loss and food waste is at 40%, not 33% as previously indicated (FAO, 2011).

# our purpose

One-third of the food produced worldwide ends up in the trash. At the same time, in Catalonia and throughout the rest of Spain, about 25% of the population lives at risk of poverty\*, facing challenges in accessing job opportunities and healthy food. (FAO, 2011)

\*24.4% in Catalonia (AROPE rate, Idescat, 2023) 26.5% in Spain (AROPE rate, INE, 2023)

We emerged to reverse this paradoxical situation with a model that creates positive environmental, economic and social impact in an integrated and

# Food loss and food waste in the primary sector

In the primary sector, fruits and vegetables are discarded from the commercial circuit for various reasons related to aesthetic standards or stemming from the dynamics of the current agri-food model.

This situation aggravates the precarisation of farming, in addition to the waste of resources.

At a global level, losses occurring on farms amount to 15.3% of all food produced — a figure that places the spotlight on the very first level of the supply chain. WWF (2021)



our purpose

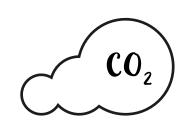
im-perfect®

Of

methods

# The environmental impact of FLFW

At least... 30% of all resources used in the production of food will end up being wasted.



3,300

million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions released



Habitat and ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss due to the use of agricultural land.



 $250 \text{km}^3$ 

water used

> Pollution of available freshwater (aquifers and rivers).

28%

agricultural

surface used

Soil degradation due to the use of fertilizers, pesticides...



38% total electricity destined to food production

Methane gas production from the decomposition of food waste in landfills.



Source: Drawdown Project (2020)

#### FLFW IS A CLIMATE ISSUE



#### If food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest emitter of CO2 (8%)

Reducing this 8% of greenhouse gases would keep global warming under the 2 degree limit, as pleaded in the Paris Agreement (Drawdown Project, 2020).

our purpose

our engine

COVER

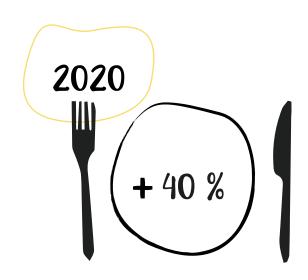
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# The right to healthy and sustainable food

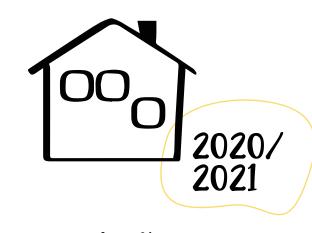
**IMPACT** 

25.8% of the Spanish population is at risk of poverty or social exclusion<sup>(1)</sup>, affecting nearly 12 million people. The economic and financial crisis of 2008 generated significant social inequalities and a state of social emergency. In 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic once again impacted the most vulnerable groups disproportionately.

In our country, a significant portion of the population faces serious difficulties in meeting their basic needs, including access to adequate healthy food. Currently, the right to food, despite being a fundamental and universal right, is far from being guaranteed for the entire population. Unequal distribution of wealth and the mechanisms of the current agri-food model are two factors that hinder this right from being realised.



Demand for food aid since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>(2)</sup>



13,3% of Spanish households experienced food insecurity between July 2020 and July 2021, a figure that, before COVID-19, was 11,9 %(3).

(1) Risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE), 2024. Source: INE (National Institute of Statistics) (2) Font: Banc dels Aliments de Catalunya (2020) (3) Font: "Alimentando un futuro sostenible" (Moragues-Faus, 2021)

# our purpose

"We refuse to live in a world where food is thrown away while people go hungry. It's that simple."

"The right to food is the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free of fear."

Jean Ziegler, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2001)

The concept of the right to food goes beyond calorie intake; it also considers other dimensions such as the ability to access food freely (through one's own means) and ability to choose what to eat/

"Conserves que cuiden" (Preserves that take care) for the right to healthy and sustainable food

Since the beginning of COVID-19, we have developed a line of preserves aimed at supporting communities in vulnerable situations

of all food produced is lost or wasted along the journey from the farm to the table

1.300

million tons of edible food



es im-perfe

We work for social justice

our engine

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our purpose

# The right to dignified labor

The right to decent work is a fundamental and essential right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment."

Although this right is recognized, **job insecurity** remains a reality for certain groups. This problem is especially acute, for example, for migrant women. Various factors such as lack of language skills, their environment, lack of a social support network, or limited access to resources mean that many of these women, after completing their migration journey, face a complete exclusion from employment o pportunities.

These are obstacles, on another note, faced by all migrants.

The **legal framework does not help either**, , as it forces newcomers to remain in a situation of administrative irregularity (for at least 2 years) or limits their access to public sector jobs.

At es im-perfect®, we work to eradicate this situation and guarantee job and training opportunities for people in vulnerable situations.

Women are more likely than men to live below the poverty line, with a rate of 23.3% compared to 19.9% for men (IDESCAT, 2020). In 2023, the employment rate in Catalonia was 72.3% for men and 66.5% for women (INE, 2023).



The workshop of second chances

### An innovation lab for food recovery!

Our offices, workshop, and logistics center are located in a industrial unit at carrer del Vallès, number 57-59, in the Fondo d'en Peixo industrial park in **Prat de Llobregat (Barcelona)**.

THE WORKSHOP

This strategic location allows us to be very close to the primary sector: near in the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park and just 2 km from Mercabarna, Barcelona's wholesale market.



With the support of Singularis Projects for the promotion of the social economy and cooperativism. Promoted by the General Directorate of Social and Solidarity Economy and financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy. With the support of the 2023 call of the Strategic Food Plan of Catalonia (PEAC in Catalan), in the line of promotion of transformative projects and for territorial rooting within the agri-food sector. In collaboration with: Conca de la Tordera and Agrícola del Prat Cooperatives and Hortec Sccl.



THE TEAM

transformation

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#### Governing Board 82 % of Fundació Espigoladors

Mireia Barba, President and cofounder Jaume Oller (Tandem Social), Secretary Jordi Bruna, Treasurer Ada Parellada, Board member Joan Maria Sala, Board member

#### 18 % Mireia Barba es-imperfect®'s sole administrator

#### **Guidance to** individuals

Agustina Martínez-Vivot Hardoy

#### Administration

Lídia González Luís J. Catalina Morales Hernández Zohra El Hawari Tatiana A. Hernández Molina

#### **Kitchen assistants**

Ahmed Lakrih Anna Ma Arjona Macias Bautista Muñoz Cañizares Debora Miro Martin Dounia El Guassam El Hassania Ouzif El Farouji El Hossain Tafristan

# our engine

"Our secret ingredients are the people." And no, we don't mind revealing them."

Erick Chavez Hernández Fatima Zahra Lefdali Hafida Barrak Hanane Aichi Hatim Mouflih Ibrahim Hajjoubi Qirris Ihssan Ben Alilou Imaddedine Guyab Jaime Amurrio Camacho Jessica C. Bezerra Goncalvez Karim Mostaqim

Karima Adoul Karla S. Hernandez Ventura Khadija Gohuat Maruf Hassan Hama Meryem Saaid Nezha Ghani Ouaadia Azarkan Pedro Del Arco Garcia Rabha Ouklallouch Rachida Djebari Tahiri Radya Benayad El Hauari

Ratiba Benthami Khouader S. Ivania Girón Perez Saida Chafki Samira El Aissaoui Susana Martinez Dominguez Vanesa Perez Ruiz Xavier Peñalver Perez Youness El Karchaoui

### Head of production

Marta Carreras Valldeperas

#### Sales

Albert Moreno Pérez

#### Communication

Anna Garreta Tarruella

#### Warehouse

Victor Vendrell Prades

### Internships

David Martinez Roig Laura Alcalde García Shania C. Palma Chauca

### Workshop tech staff

Barbara Jocelyn Aubaud G. Paola Suarez Vargas

#### Volunteer

Andreu Barba Sopeña



# methods of transformation

### Guidance to individuals

Individuals as the main ingredient!

We support people and their families in all areas of life, beyond just employment insertion. We do this with skilled professionals; through a comprehensive and holistic model that takes into account the context we are in to adapt to each person's individual situation.

The **employment insertion pathway** is an individualized socio-educational tool through which we carry out various intervention and support measures aimed at promoting the integration of workers into the regular labor market.

These pathways typically last between 6 months and 3 years. Through this process, we define a set of services, benefits, mentoring, guidance actions, personalized and supported paid work experiences, training in basic, interdisciplinary, technical, and professional skills, as well as workplace and social acclimatization. These actions aim to resolve exclusion situations and facilitate learning, knowledge, and the acquisition of general and specific skills and abilities that help workers effectively perform their tasks on the job.

Training, close support, and the bonds we build with the workers are the characteristics that define us. Through this working methodology, we can achieve significant changes and create opportunities and spaces where people can prove they are capable of moving forward.

"We believe in people, and we show it every step of the way, with training, support, and a job with a future.



**AWARENESS** 

Maquila

production

businesses, and organizations.

At es im-perfect<sup>®</sup>, we offer a **food surplus** 

transformation service aimed at farmers,

We produce vegetable preserves, both organic

and conventional, with customized recipes and

This service addresses a real need in the agri-

food sector: Imanaging surpluses generated by

overproduction, storage, transportation,

or market aesthetic criteria. Perfectly edible

fruits and vegetables are discarded every day.

It's a transformative model where all involved

parties benefit, providing sustainable and fair

formats, maintaining the highest standards of

quality, food safety, and sustainability.

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### methods of transformation

# es im-perfect® production

We make pâtés, marmalades, and sauces from locally sourced fruits and vegetables that have been discarded from the commercial circuit due to aesthetic reasons, overproduction, or price drops. We rescue them and give them new value following the principles of the circular economy.

All our preserves are crafted artisanally, using 100% natural and plant-based ingredients, without artificial colorings or preservatives, to promote healthy, balanced, and quality nutrition. Additionally, our workshop is also a socio-employment insertion space for people in vulnerable situations, thereby supporting fairer and more inclusive food systems.

"We transform im-perfect fruits into food full of dignity and collective consciousness"



#### Surplus Surplus Surplus

When there are market price drops bellow costs of production and harvesting, farmers are forced to leave their crops on the field.

# Stains and spots

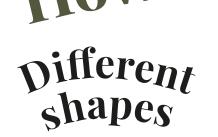
The market excludes fruits and vegetables that don't have smooth and uniform skin.

## **Overripe**

solutions within the food chain.

... due to spending a long time in grocery stores' shelves, but delicious if transformed into marmalade or compote!

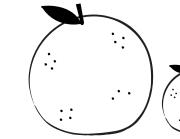
# How are im-perfect fruits and vegetables?





Nosey eggplants, two-legged carrots, heart-shaped potatoes... often don't make it to the shops.





Did you know there are fixed minimum and maximum sizes for certain fruits and vegetables to be commercialized?

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method

### methods of transformation

"We like explaining our story as we know that sharing is the best way to multiply the impact."



# Inspiring awareness visits to the production center





our production center in

El Prat de Llobregat with the aim
of raising awareness about food loss
and waste, as well as the socioemployment insertion work
we carry out as a social enterprise.





Promoting a change in social awareness is essential to building a better world and tackling global challenges such as food loss and food waste, sustainability of the agrifood system, the right to sustainable and healthy food, and social justice.

# **Awards and Recognitions**

- Alimentos de España Award from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Category: Food Waste Reduction
- · Finalist in the PITA Awards (Agri-food Technological Innovation Awards) from the Department of Climate Action, Food, and Rural Agenda
- Pinyol Award for Solidary Action Against Unemployment for the most innovative initiative of the year
- Rosa Maria Garriga Awards a la Millor Iniciativa de Sostenibilitat. "Dones pel Futur": the Catalan Association of Women Managers and Businesswomen



with

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### La Marga, marmalade from Barcelona's bitter oranges

As part of the project "Recovery and Transformation of Bitter Orange from the Streets in the City of Barcelona," promoted by the Barcelona City Council and the Espigoladors Foundation, we transform bitter oranges collected from the streets of five districts of the city: the goal is for them to stop being waste and to give them a second life. We collect them with the collaboration of local organizations and residents, and we turn them into a jam in our workshop called La Marga.

13,400

With the participation of: Sant Andreu District, Gràcia District, Ciutat Vella District, Les Corts District, Sant Martí District

of bitter oranges 2.871 kg recovered and transformed

> marmalades prepared and distributed to social and community-based organizations



## **Edible Cities**

to change the world

An initiative that aims to encourage a paradigm shift regarding the use of urban fruits, as well as to promote greener, more circular, and edible cities where waste is transformed into resources for the community.



#### Palau de la Generalitat's Pati dels Tarongers

Fundació Espigoladors has collected bitter oranges from the Pati dels Tarongers at the

Palau de la Generalitat, and in our workshop, we made a jar of bitter orange marmalade, which is included as a gift for the institutional visits of the President of the Generalitat of Catalonia.



1.572 kg = 2.400 units

#### Urban(EAT)a: promoting food recovery of Catalunya's fruit trees

Hand in hand with Fundació Espigoladors, and under the motto "Our towns and cities are meant to be eaten," in 2023 we participated in **Urban(eat)a** with the goal of promoting new ways to encourage food recovery in towns and cities through the edible fruits of urban trees.

With the participation of the city councils of: Canet de Mar, Esplugues, Mataró, Reus, Sant Andreu de la Barca, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Torredembarra, Viladecans.



1.572 kg

10.000

of bitter oranges recovered and transformed

marmalades elaborated and distributed amongst social and community organizations

Promoted by: Department of Business and Work, Generalitat of Catalonia. Funded by: Ministry of **Labor and Social Economy** 

with

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methods

# to change the world

## Preserves that take care...

#### for the right to healthy food

We strive to facilitate access to vegetable preserves with social and environmental impact for people at risk of social exclusion, through collaboration with social organizations and food distribution services that assist groups facing food insecurity.

Thanks to this **networked work**, we provide these groups with vegetable preserves that are healthy and have a triple impact.

















An initiative

born in a time

of crisis

# 20.060 kg vegetables recovered

of fruits and

**42.125** preserves prepared for ✓ third-parties

# Maquila products for the primary sector

#### We support the agricultural sector by channeling their surplus produce

In our workshop, we also produce products for third parties, offering an option for producers, organisations, and companies wanting to promote food recovery through the sale of conserves with positive social and environmental impacts.



# Foodback mercabarna's food recovery center



We receive a portion of the food that arrives at Foodback, the food recovery centre where all plantbased surpluses arrive from Mercabarna. We take advantage of this abandonded-yet nutritious and delicious - food by transforming it into conserves. Pear, apple, and mango jams, cream of pumpkin, tomato sauce, just some of the products we've elaborated and distributed to different social organisations.

5.033 kg

of fruits and vegetables recovered

preserves prepared





of fruits and 50.487 kg vegetables

preserves prepared and distributed to organizations for groups in vulnerable situations

# to change the world

# Flocks Against Food Waste

As you surely know,
"On the farm,
nothing is ever thrown away!"

We participate in the collaborative project Flocks Against Food Waste (Ramats per al malbaratament alimentari), which explores how to connect surpluses from the agri-food industry with nearby livestock farms, especially in urban environments. The goal is to recover traditional food recovery practices while seeking the legal, logistical, and economic viability of this model. The project is carried out jointly with Mercabarna – Foodback, the l'Escola de Pastors i Bastores de Catalunya, el Gremi de Carnissers i Xarcuters de Barcelona, and Fundació Espigoladors.

"Ajuts per a la preparació de projectes de grups operatius de l'EIP-AGRI" within the Strategic Plan of the CAP 2023-2027 to combat food waste.

Supported by the Departament of Climate Action, Food, and Rural Agenda and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

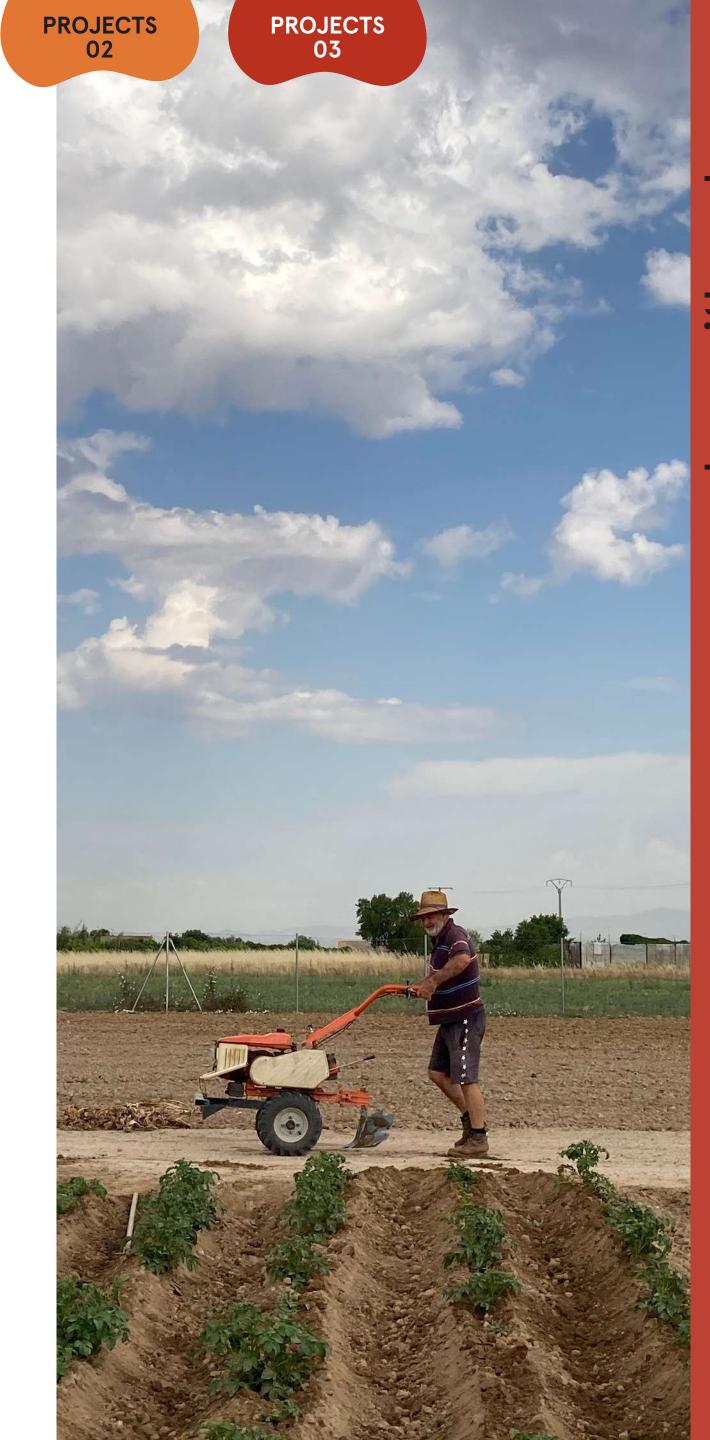
# **Feeding Inclusion**

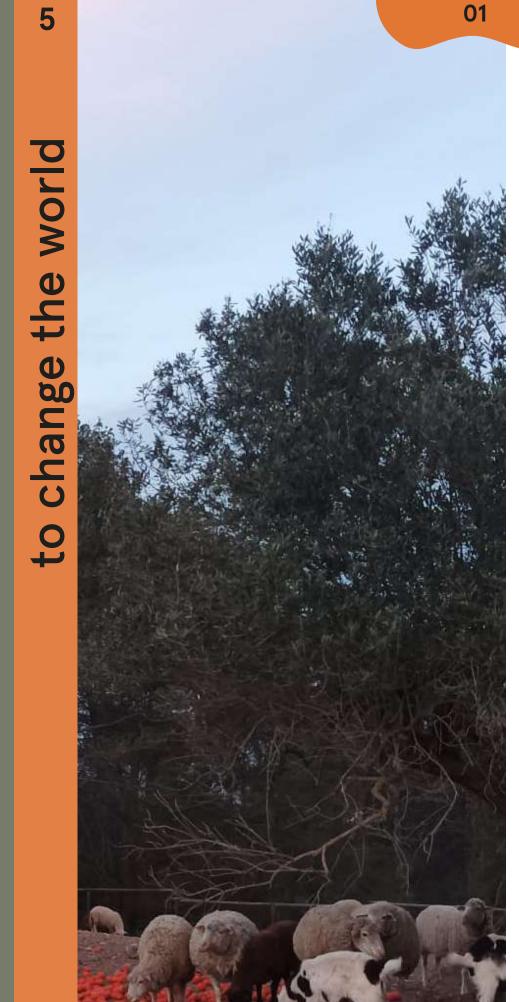


The social organizations Heliconia and Fundació Espigoladors, along with the social insertion enterprises Agrícola Salvia and es im-perfect®, promote this initiative aimed at strengthening local agri-food systems in Catalonia and the Community of Madrid by improving sustainability (in its three dimensions: environmental, social, and economic) through various actions led by two insertion enterprises working in the production and processing of fresh foods.

Supported by: the Departament of Social Rights in the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR in Catalan). Financed by: the European Union through the Next Generation EU program.

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**PROJECTS** 

es im-perfe

# engine our onr

# world numbers change

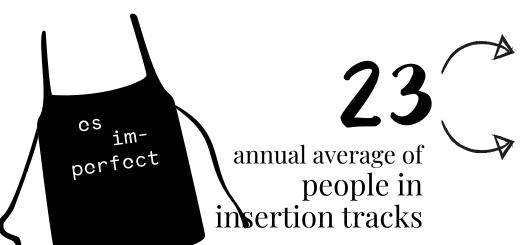
to

methods

## numbers with soul

"When you hear that a preserve can change lives and save water, it is not magic. It is work done with purpose".

2024



women 24% men

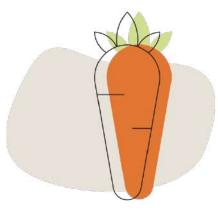
664.933 plant-based preserves prepared



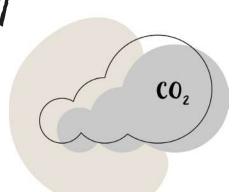


303.289 preserves distributed to organizations for groups in vulnerable situations

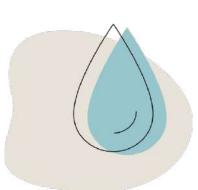




tonnes of fruit and vegetables recovered and transformed



laps around the world by car 238 tonnes of CO, emissions avoided



Olympic 1.080 swimming pools million Liters of water saved

engine

**GENERAL IMPACT** 

# numbers with soul

world numbers change

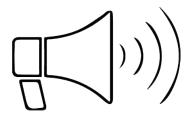
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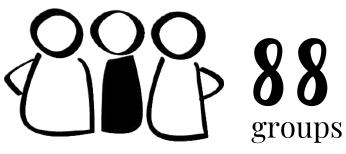
Awareness & communication actions

2024

visits to the production center



@esimperfect



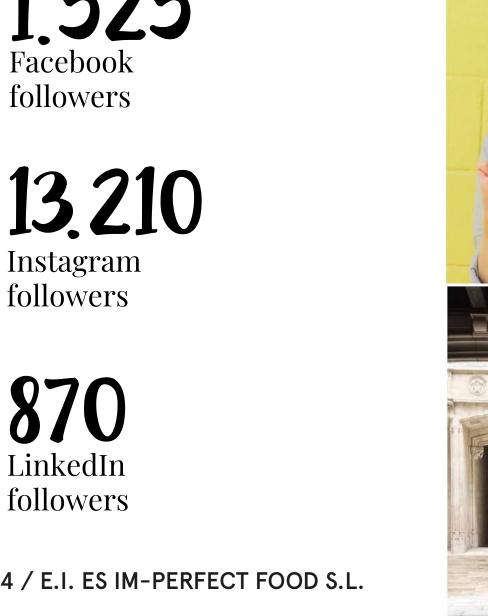






























es im-perfect®

our purpose

the world

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to

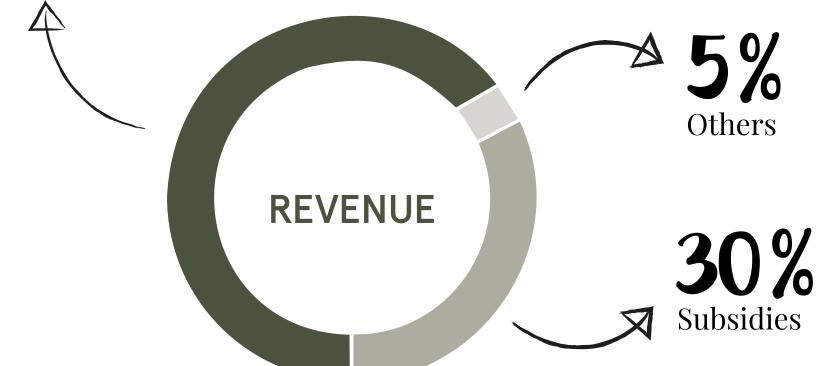
methods

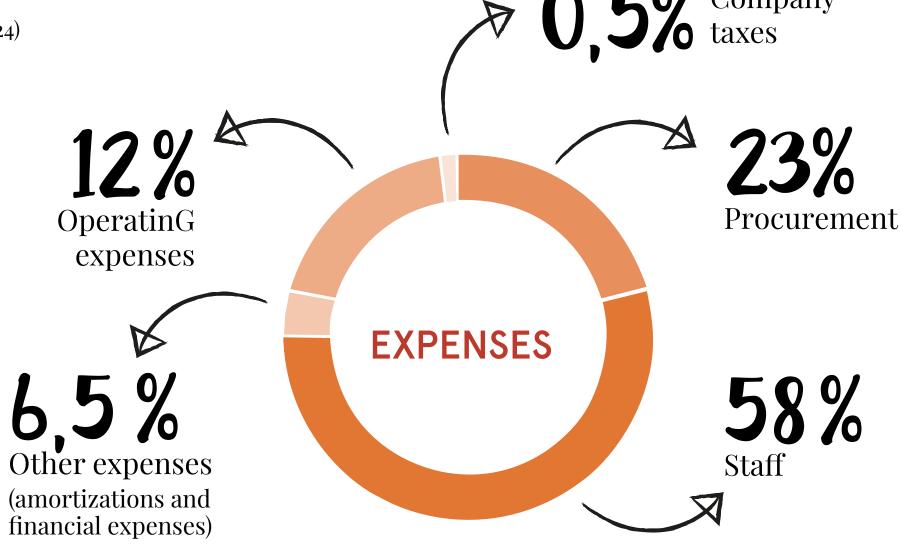
numbers

# numbers with soul

### Financial balance (January 2024 – December 2024)

62% Sales and services provision





1.218.617,99 €

€ 1.206.388,27 €

INVESTMENTS 204.420,14 €

Launch of the new production center

methods

## We want to inspire an attitude for life: imperfect, conscientious and sustainable







We are a B Corp because we meet high standards of social and environmental impact.

A movement of committed individuals dedicated food recovery!