

Platform on Food Losses discusses EU Donation Guidelines

On June 14th, FEBA's president and General Secretary joined the third meeting of the Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste in Brussels.



The meeting was kicked off by EU Commissioner, V. Andriukaitis who confirmed the EU's commitment to fulfill the UN Sustainable Development Goals: *"The Commissions commitment to the SDG agenda is steadfast and strong. It is our obligation to send this signal around the EU and the world."*

Breaking down EU's regulatory framework on food donation.

The "EU guidelines on Food Donation", will encourage EU Member states to fulfill target 12.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels in 2030. The objective of the guidelines is to: *"Facilitate compliance of surplus food providers and recipients with requirements laid down in EU regulatory framework (food safety, food hygiene, traceability, liability, VAT etc...)"* and is expected to enter its final piloting phase by end of 2017, as presented by EU DG Health and Safety.

Other speakers included representatives from the federations of food bank in France and Italy, who presented their viewpoints on the food waste laws implemented in their countries, and how this affects their work in food banking (Loi Garrot adopted in 2016 and Gadda Law 166/2016 respectively)

Recap of the 6th FEAD network meeting

On June 19th, the FEAD network met in Brussels to discuss and exchange best practices on how to use a "Whole Person Approach" when distributing food aid through FEAD



FEAD food aid is a crucial support to vulnerable people in many EU countries. In many cases it is the first step to get access to other services aiming at getting them out of poverty and social re-inclusion. Read more about the best practice "case studies" on accompanying measures to strengthen social inclusion and rehabilitation.

Food Aid accompanied by other measures

During the network meeting, organizations from six countries presented their "best practices" on adopting a "whole person approach" in FEAD aid delivery. Case studies were given by representatives from organizations in Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and

Sweden. These examples showed accompanying or social inclusion measures in the form of information provision, counselling, or organization of workshops and events. Slovenia presented several counselling services they provided, which included: help from social workers at Mother's homes and safe houses; professional advice on childrearing; home visits for the elderly and the sick and as well as professional help for drug and alcohol addicts.

About the FEAD Network

For the latest news, updates and conversations around FEAD, join colleagues across Europe by signing up to the online group on Yammer. There is also a dedicated group on each FEAD meeting with images and updates about the event, and where it is possible to interact with the event speakers and download their presentations.

Highlights from peer-to-peer visits in Belgium and Portugal

In May and June, FEBA facilitated two peer-to-peer visits to the food banks of Courtrai in Belgium and the Lisbon in Portugal.

Both were very successful and many innovative best practices were exchanged. This program is sponsored by Kellogg.

Visiting the West Flanders food bank

On May 30th and June 1st, three food bank executives from the Ciechanów, Kielce and Oltzyn food bank in Poland visited the West Flanders food bank in Courtrai, Belgium, to exchange best practices and innovative solutions in food banking. The West Flanders food bank is located in Courtrai, a city of 75,000 people whereof 11,000 experience food poverty. In 2016, the food bank distributed 1 500 tons of food to 13,650 people through 82 charities. Read more for the key learnings of this peer visit.

Fundraising at national level

One major learning point for the Polish team, was that 70% of the funding for the West Flanders Food Bank comes from the Belgian Federation. Indeed the federation handles most part of the fundraising for its member food banks managing to raise money from individuals through crowdfunding. This is very different from the Polish system, where each food bank is more or less responsible for funding itself through partnerships and public sector funding. A very useful takeaway for the Polish team, who can replicate this model among their food banks and the Polish Federation.

Time spent to interact with charities

The food bank of Flanders monitors and works in close collaboration with all of its 82 charities to ensure the re-inclusion and progress among all beneficiaries. The food bank volunteers pay monthly visits to the charities, and take the time to discuss the charities' current and future needs regarding food deliveries.

Meeting the Lisbon Food Bank

On June 20th and 21st, the president of the Polish Food Bank Federation, the vice-president of food bank in Ciechanów and the president food bank in Kielce came to the Lisbon Food Bank, a food bank founded in 1991 which today distributes 9 300 tons of food to 400 charities annually

The Portuguese hosts provided thorough presentations on food their sourcing approaches to: fund raising, managing volunteers, managing relationships with charities and distribution of non-food products through their sister non-profit organization "Entrajuda". A visit to the national wholesale fresh produce market (MARL), where the food bank receives surpluses of fruits and vegetables every day, and to Entrajuda, took place. Read more for all the key findings.



Providing management consultancy to non-profits through "Entrajuda"

The non-profit "Entrajuda" was launched in 2014, as a solution to strengthen the non-profit sector by providing access to resources and management practices that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of charities on social inclusion and reducing poverty "Entrajuda" is a great resource for supporting non-profits who need coaching, support in managing their relation with their beneficiaries or with their finances, and is not only useful to the Lisbon food bank partner charities but also to the 1.663 other non-profits across Portugal. Currently "Entrajuda" supplies non-food products to victims of the forest fires in northern Portugal.

Teaching solidarity to 5 000 kids and teenagers

Another inspiring key learning point during the peer visit, was the food banks' efforts to communicate the message of "solidarity" to primary and high school kids and teen agers. In 2016, the Lisbon food bank managed to engage with more than 5 000 of them not only by having volunteers presenting the work of food banks, but also by playing games, doing quizzes and involving the children in annual food drives By talking to children and young adults about

food banks, volunteering has become a widely recognized activity for young people, who see it as a valuable experience to help the vulnerable citizens of Lisbon.

Paper for food – recycling paper to fund food

In 2012, the food raising campaign “Paper for Food” was launched. The simple idea is 100% sustainable, since it links the recycling of paper, to the raising of funds to support the operations of the food bank. Each year schools, partner charities and individuals are encouraged to collect and bring “wasted paper” to the food bank, who then sells it to a recycling company, who returns the value of recycled paper with a monetary donation to the food bank.

All in all both peer visits have provided much learning and many new ideas for fundraising, recruiting volunteers, working with charities and last but not least, showing more solidarity to the people who need it most.

As put by the Director of the Ciechanów Food Bank:

"We received a lot of inspiration during this visit and we encourage others to participate in this kind of peer- to- peer visit. We would also like to thank FEBA and the Kellogg Company for giving us the opportunity for this visit."

Award season for FEBA members

"FoodDrinkEurope/FEBA/EuroCommerce Food Donation Guidelines" nominated at the European Excellence Awards

On May 31st, Angela Frigo represented FEBA at the award ceremony in Brussels hosted by the international communications, PR and public affairs magazine “Communication Director”.

Although “EveryMealMatters- food donation guidelines” did not end up winning, the recognition of this shortlisting is a milestone in itself, which we are proud of! With the guidelines for food donations, we encourage more food manufacturers and retailers to donate their surplus to food banks- in order to reduce their waste and help vulnerable people in their communities.

FareShare wins most prestigious award in charity sector!

On June 8th, FareShare was given the “Charity Award” in the Environment and Conservation category for their major impact on reducing waste, by redistributing surplus from retailers to charities **equivalent to 25.8 million meals** in 2016, which is a record for any charity. The charity award is given and organized each year by Civil Society Media.

The link between reducing food waste and reduced environmental impact is a new added value for food banks to communicate. Research now proves that reducing food waste also reduces CO2 emissions, energy, and water wastage.



Portuguese Federation wins prize for ISO certification

On June 15th, The Portuguese Federation won the Energy Management Award, for becoming ISO 50001 certified. The award was given by the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) a global forum of 24 countries and the EU Commission, which promotes policies and programs to advance clean energy. Congratulations to the Portuguese Federation for their diligent work to not only reduce CO2 emissions by redistributing surplus food, but also for ensuring energy efficiency in their own offices and warehouses by becoming ISO certified.

Wiener Tafel wins "Marketing Award" for the "TafelBox"

On June 13th, The Wiener Tafel, received the “Marketing Award” alongside their partners from Kastner Group (the Austrian food retailer) and The Austrian Chamber of Commerce for their “TafelBox”. “The Tafel Box” is cardboard box “doggy bag”, made to easily bring home food from buffets at hotels, events and restaurants. The TafelBox is made from recycled material and can be purchased at any Kastner retail store. For each purchase, 20 cents are donated



to the Wiener Tafel. The “TafelBox” won the award in two categories “Dialogue Marketing” and “Public Services & Non Profit Organizations” for being a successful campaign and collaboration between various private, public and non-profit bodies. More than 100.000 TafelBoxes have already been distributed, and the WienerTafel partner, Unilever, is also distributing it to its gastronomy clients to encourage reduced food wastage.

Belgian Federation wins CSR award

Late March this year, the Belgian Federation of Food Banks won the CSR Award given by the Royal Belgian Committee of Distribution (CRBD). The Belgian Federation was awarded the prize due to their unique collaboration and distribution from more than 70 companies in the food and beverage industry and 10 in non-food industries. CRBD began as a branch of the Belgian Chamber of Commerce which now operates independently. They provide training, seminars and publications on the newest developments in business and distribution in Belgium.

Google believes in mobile app developed by the Rhône food bank

The story of Proxidon begins at the Rhône food bank in 2015, when tech-savvy volunteers submitted their idea for a food distribution app to the Google Impact Challenge 2015.



Read more about how Proxidon has changed the ways of "traditional food banking".

Many small retailers and local charities connect

The concept of Proxidon was to create an intuitive digital platform to link small retailers with surplus food, to the closest local charity in need of food donations. Until now, small retailers have had a hard time donating their surplus food in small quantity to the local partner charities of food banks. At the same time it is not financially sustainable for food banks to recover small amounts of food from outlets, since it requires the same transport costs as if it were a large food recovery. This problem is now solved by Proxidon, a mobile app which creates a direct link between the retailer with a surplus, to the local partner charity of food banks in need of food. Retailers can enter amounts down to just 2 kg. and if both retailer and charity are registered users, the app will use the geo locator to identify and suggest potential charities in the area, able to receive the surplus products. The potential of this innovative mobile app, was recognized by Google, who sponsored the development and piloting phase of the application among 50 local charities and 50 retail outlets in the Rhône region in 2016.

Useful strategy and growing interest

89 partner charities and 103 retailers are currently using the app in two departments in France (Rhône and Bouches-du-Rhône) The potential for food surplus recovery through Proxidon is currently estimated to be 900 tons, which is the equivalent of **1.8 million meals**, in the event that 1500 retailers use the application. For the time being, 60 of the 79 food banks in France have expressed their interest to use the app. To reach more charities, a training on how to use the app is the first step forward.

Erzi the cat raises funds for the Hungarian food bank

Each year, the Hungarian food bank raises money by having celebrities run marathons to increase awareness about the issue of hunger and food waste.

Read more about the famous cat, Erzi, who was among the runners ran through the street of Budapest to raise money for the Hungarian Food Bank!

In April 2017, Erzi, the famous female cat, managed to raise enough money to distribute 20.000 food bags, consisting of 3-4 kg of varied veggies, fruits, canned and dried goods, to 325 charities across Hungary!

CORRECTION: No, a real cat did not actually run the marathon, but her owner, Gergely Homonnay, did! Gergely Homonnay became famous for writing a blog from the point of view of his cat, Erzi and since then, he and his cat have become popular celebrities, making Erzi Hungary's most famous cat (!)

We thank Gergely and Erzi for their support to the Hungarian Food Bank.

