



REPORT



FEBA
SKILL-SHARING
SESSION

SDGs and Partnerships: How to tackle the COVID-19 today and tomorrow together

17 MARCH 2020 / ONLINE MEETING



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Overview

Building on the skill-sharing “Partnerships for the SDG 12.3” on 7-8 November 2019 in Rome, this session aimed to share best practices and experiences about private-public partnerships, going beyond traditional food donation and financial support, and looking for more comprehensive cooperation, in line with the SDGs and the approach of circular economy.

Target



Full and Associate Members

Number of participants

29



Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak the meeting was organized via a video conferencing tool

The skill-sharing session “SDGs and Partnerships: How to tackle the COVID-19 today and tomorrow together” was organized by the European Food Banks Federation in collaboration with Banka Hrane Beograd on 17 March 2020 and took place virtually. During the meeting, Food Bank representatives from 9 European countries shared experiences about the COVID-19 pandemic. Food Bankers, indeed, are daily responding to the challenging situation, supporting charities and helping the most deprived.

Furthermore, the participants had the opportunity to discuss with some international companies on how to tackle the challenges arisen from the current situation.

This skill-sharing session was the occasion to take stock of the situation in the different countries and exchange experiences about private-public partnerships, going beyond traditional food donation and financial support and looking for more comprehensive cooperation, in particular during this challenging period.

This skill-sharing session was hence an opportunity to establish future set of actions to be implemented in the following months and years as regards the partnerships between corporates and Food Banks towards the SDGs.



All the information contained in this report were collected during the online meeting on 17 March. The situation may have evolved and significantly modified since then.

Introduction / How can we work together today and tomorrow?

The skill-sharing session started with a general introduction on the COVID-19 situation around Europe and its impact in each country. One representative for each Food Bank had the opportunity to describe the situation in their country and share the daily challenges the Food Bankers are facing.

Banka Hrane Beograd / Serbia



The government declared the state of emergency and closed most of the activities as well as the borders. The number of confirmed infected cases reached 65 people. Since the numbers were increasing day by day, and in order to protect the most vulnerable population, the government prohibited people over 65 to leave their houses. The traffic was impeded. Despite these restrictions, the cases are escalating.

The Food Bank is still open but adopted special precautions in order to continuing its activities. The main challenge, indeed, is to ensure the safety



of volunteers. A donation from UNDP will help buying safety tools for employees and volunteers.



The Food Bank received a donation of juices, but it is really difficult to redistribute it because many associations are not collecting food since they are not allowed to leave their houses or do not have enough resources.

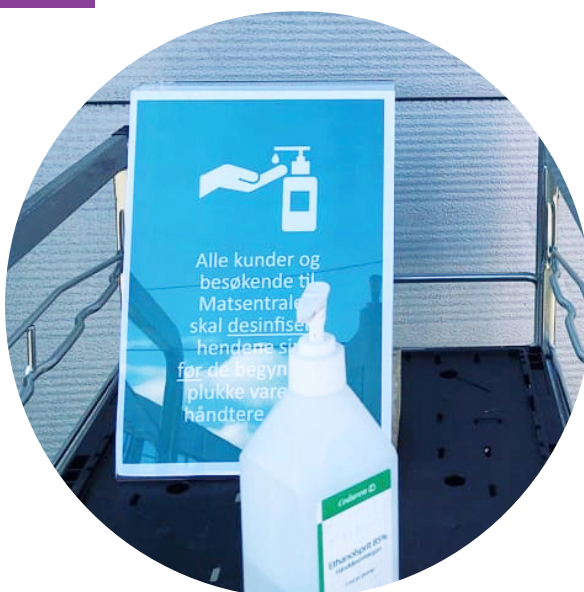


Matsentralen Norge / Norway



The country is in complete lockdown. A lot of stores are closed and most of the employees are working from home.

Most of the Food Banks are open (with the exception of the Tromsø Food Bank). Volunteers are at home so only employees are active and ensuring the daily activities. Most of the charities delivering food are closed.



Food Bank Albania / Albania



The government took strong measures that are limiting the contamination. People are allowed to leave their houses only for a few reasons and most of the population is working from home. Pedestrians are not allowed and a permission from the government is required to walk around and leave the dwellings.

The government has not taken any special decisions regarding people in need yet.



From the perspective of the Food Bank it is difficult to understand what is allowed and what's not in this moment of vagueness.

Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus / Italy



The country is in total lockdown since several days. The network of Food Banks is working (19 out of 21 Food Banks are open) with special measures to protect and ensure the safety of employees and volunteers. At the beginning of the pandemic the quantity of food recovered decreased of at least 30-40% mainly due to reduced production and panic buying of consumers. The government allows Food Banks to continue their work, with special precautions.



From a communication point of view, Banco Alimentare posted on social media some informative messages for the population (for instance, some guidelines on how to manage the food in order to avoid waste at household level). Banco Alimentare also launched a fundraising campaign to purchase masks and other important protective tools.



Federación Española de Bancos de Alimentos / Spain



The country is in complete lockdown. Most of the population is working from home. Several companies stopped their activities because of a lack of resources and raw materials.



The Food Banks are working but they are experiencing problems with charities because they are not able to pick-up the food. The government launched a special program for homeless people.



Sharing experience / The experience of external experts

Cigierre - Compagnia Generale Ristorazione SpA.

Founded in 1995 in Udine, Cigierre - Compagnia Generale Ristorazione SpA -, today stands out as the Italian leader development of restaurants in franchising or directly operated. As part of the Cigierre family these are their brands: Old Wild West, America Graffiti, Pizzikotto, Shi's and Wiener Haus.

Old Wild West has been collaborating with the Italian Banco Alimentare for many years, donating food from their restaurants. Moreover their 180 restaurants throughout the country have adopted a Save Bag for customers who want to take away the food not consumed in the restaurant in order to avoid food waste.



Even during the COVID-19 outbreak, Old Wild West is collaborating with Banco Alimentare, donating all fresh and perishable food products from their restaurants, forced to shut down with a very short notice.

Daniele Crucil
Marketing and Communication
Director, Cigierre



John Deere Foundation

John Deere is the brand name of Deere & Company, an American corporation that manufactures agricultural, construction, and forestry machinery, diesel engines, drivetrains used in heavy equipment, and lawn care equipment. In Europe John Deere's workplaces are located in several countries (France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland and Spain).

For the past years John Deere has already collaborated with Food Banks in France, Germany, and Spain and, last year they tried to increase the engagement of their employees in every European workplace. In particular, thanks to the collaboration with FEBA, John Deere organized volunteering activities in Italy with the Caritas of Vignate and thanks to the support of the Italian Banco Alimentare. Moreover, John Deere made a donation to Caritas for grocery shopping.

At the moment, due to the COVID-19 situation, most of John Deere employees are working from home. Their factories are

Vanessa Buttignon
EU Public Affairs and Citizenship
Manager, John Deere Foundation



Source: This picture was taken during a volunteering activity organized by John Deere in collaboration with Banco Alimentare and Caritas of Vignate near Milan on 14 October 2019.

still open, but they are implementing more rigorous guidelines in order to guarantee a safe environment.



John Deere Foundation is supporting Food Banks and, in particular, focusing on USA and UK. As regards UK, John Deere will organize a big event on 25 April in their branches in Nottingham. For this event John Deere is planning to host a food packaging activity: following strict safety rules, employees will prepare some boxes of food that will be donated to Food Banks. John Deere will buy food and, in order to complete the activity in a safe environment, will provide employees with hand sanitizer, gloves and masks.



At the time of publication of this report, we were informed that John Deere Foundation had to cancel and postpone the food packaging activity in the UK because it was not possible to find the food, probably due to panic buying.

Glovo Italia

Glovo is a Spanish start-up founded in Barcelona in 2015. It is an on-demand courier service that purchases, picks up, and delivers products ordered through its mobile application. Food delivery service remains its most popular service, but other services are available on their application including groceries and pharmacy.

Glovo is operational in more than 20 countries globally and, after Spain, Italy is their second marketplace. Here they have been active for the last 3 years and they are expanding rapidly. In Italy they have a network of 10,000 riders and more than 5,000 partners.

During this dramatic situation Glovo and its services are having a huge impact on the people's lives since they are able to deliver food and basic goods for citizens that are not allowed or able to leave their houses. Their services are also having a huge impact on elderly people that, otherwise, would stay isolated.

Giacomo Lev Mannheimer
Head of Public Affairs, Glovo Italia



As a company with the capability to reach so many people, they feel a very strong social responsibility and they are trying to cooperate with NGOs, especially Food Banks, in order to be helpful for the common good.



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McDonald's Italia

Italy is going through a tough situation and since several days the country is in complete lockdown. For McDonald's Italia – they are present in all the Italian regions with more than 600 restaurants with a franchising system – the collaboration with the Italian Banco Alimentare is a win-win partnership even in this moment of crisis.



McDonald's contacted the Italian Food Bank in order to donate some fresh products (cheese, tomatoes, salads, milk) from their restaurants, forced to shut down with a very short notice. Since their presence in Italy is widespread, a partner able to cover the whole national territory and recover food from all their restaurants was an essential asset and added value.

Tommaso Valle
Head of Corporate Relations,
Mc Donald's Italia

The effectiveness of the support they found in a partner as Banco Alimentare is remarkable and the collaboration is allowing both not to waste huge amounts of food and to help people in need.

After the skill-sharing session, the European Food Banks Federation shared this best practice amongst its membership and facilitated the contacts between Food Banks and McDonald's in every European country where they are present.



Naša Kuća

In Serbia, disabled people are often discriminated and ostracized by society. In Belgrade, Anica Spasov and other parents of adults with disabilities have created Naša Kuća, an association that supports adults with disabilities by enabling them to work. The beneficiaries supported by Naša Kuća also participate in cultural and creative activities.

Naša Kuća is recycling cardboard, but also manufacturing and delivering home meals for the elderly. The preparation of the food is part of their activity as well as the selling. In this way, they are able to support their activity.

Anica Spasov
President, Naša Kuća




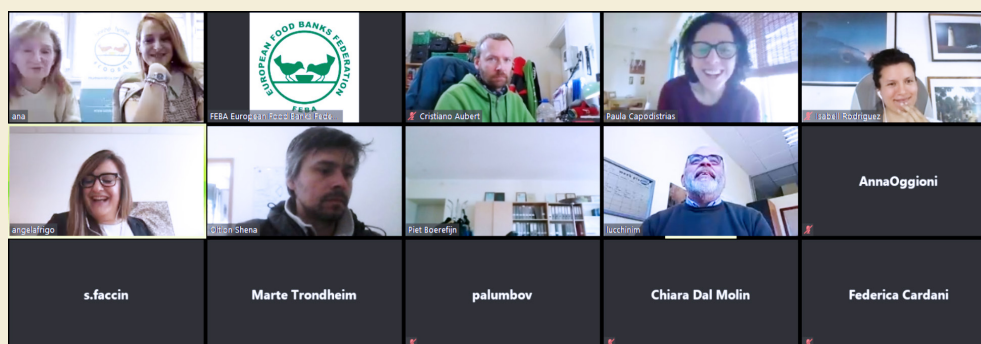
For the moment they were forced to stop their deliveries due to the COVID-19 emergency, but they are using these weeks to process food and prepare jams, marmalades and to preserve them for the future. They are trying to adapt themselves to this new situation while maintaining their mission.



Finally, participants had the possibility to discuss together with representatives from corporates about present and possible future partnerships, underlying strengths, overcoming obstacles, and possible ways of joint actions.

Programme

9h30 - 09h45	Welcome / Agenda and expectations from participants	Angela Frigo, Secretary General, FEBA
09h45 - 10h00	Introduction / How can we work together today and tomorrow?	Angela Frigo, Secretary General, FEBA
10h00 - 11h30	Sharing experience / The experience of external experts: Cigierre, Glovo and John Deere Foundation	Daniele Crucil, Cigierre - Giacomo Lev Mannheimer, Glovo - Vanessa Buttignon, John Deere Foundation
11h30 - 11h45	Coffee Break	
11h45 - 12h45	The experience of external experts / McDonald's Italia and Naša Kuća	Tommaso Valle, McDonald's Italia - Anica Spasov, Naša Kuća
12h45 - 13h00	Wrap-up and conclusions	Angela Frigo, Secretary General, FEBA



Acknowledgement

The European Food Banks Federation takes this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the European Commission for concretely supporting the capacity building of FEBA and its membership.

Thank you to Banka Hrane Beograd for co-organizing the skill-sharing session.

A deep appreciation to Vanessa Buttignon, Daniele Crucil, Giacomo Lev Mannheimer, Anica Spasov, Barbara Terrone, and Tommaso Valle for dedicating their time to our meeting, sharing stimulating initiatives and testifying that a real and constructive collaboration between Food Banks, corporates and charities in Europe is not only possible in everyday life but also a win-win approach to face emergency situations.

Last but not least, many thanks to all the participants who actively contributed to the success of the skill-sharing session!



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