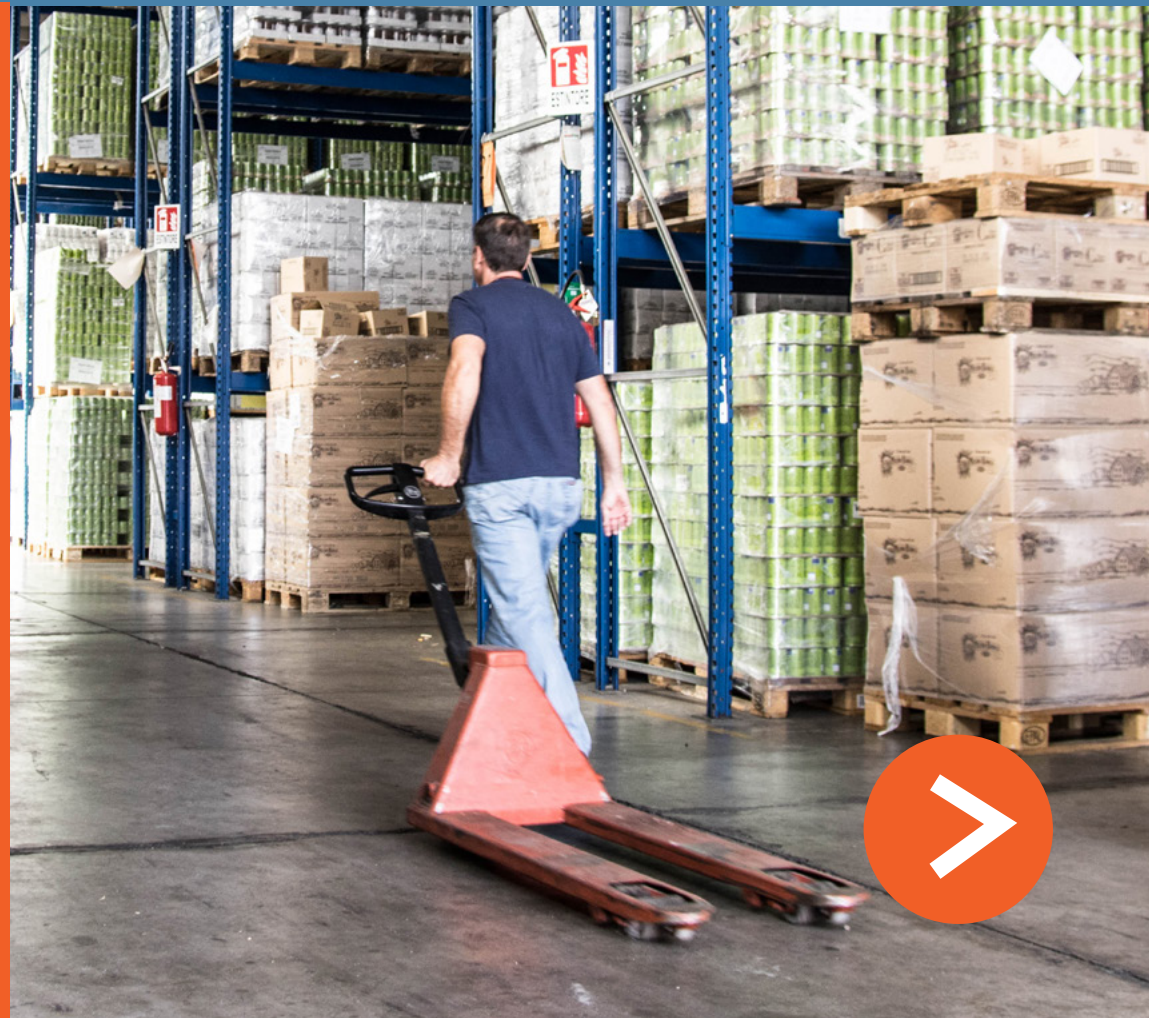




FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation 2020 Implementation Report





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< 1.

The FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation: an overview

With the purpose of alleviating the worst forms of poverty, such as food deprivation, child poverty, and homelessness, within the European Union, the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) was set up in 2014. For the period of the programme (2014 – 2020), over €3.8 billion in current prices have been earmarked by the EU to pursue this objective. Complemented by the Member States' own resources, the value of the fund amounts to a total of around €4.5 billion.

Member States can use the fund in two ways:

- for a food and/or basic material assistance operational programme (OP I); and/or
- for a social inclusion operational programme (OP II).

In 2019, 26 Member States were supported by the FEAD, out of which 22 opted for OP I and 4 chose to implement OP II.¹ Being the only EU fund to specifically target the most severe forms of poverty, the FEAD has proven to be pivotal for improving the wellbeing of particularly vulnerable citizens. Besides fostering the provision of food and/or basic material assistance, the fund has supported Member States in their efforts to foster social inclusion.

¹ European Commission, Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Summary of the annual implementation reports for the operational programmes co-financed by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived in 2019, 30 August 2021.



Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion fell for a seventh consecutive year.

21.4%

in 2018

21.9%

in 2019

However,

107M



people remain at risk of poverty and social exclusion.¹





13M

people supported by
FEAD per year between
2014 - 2018.²

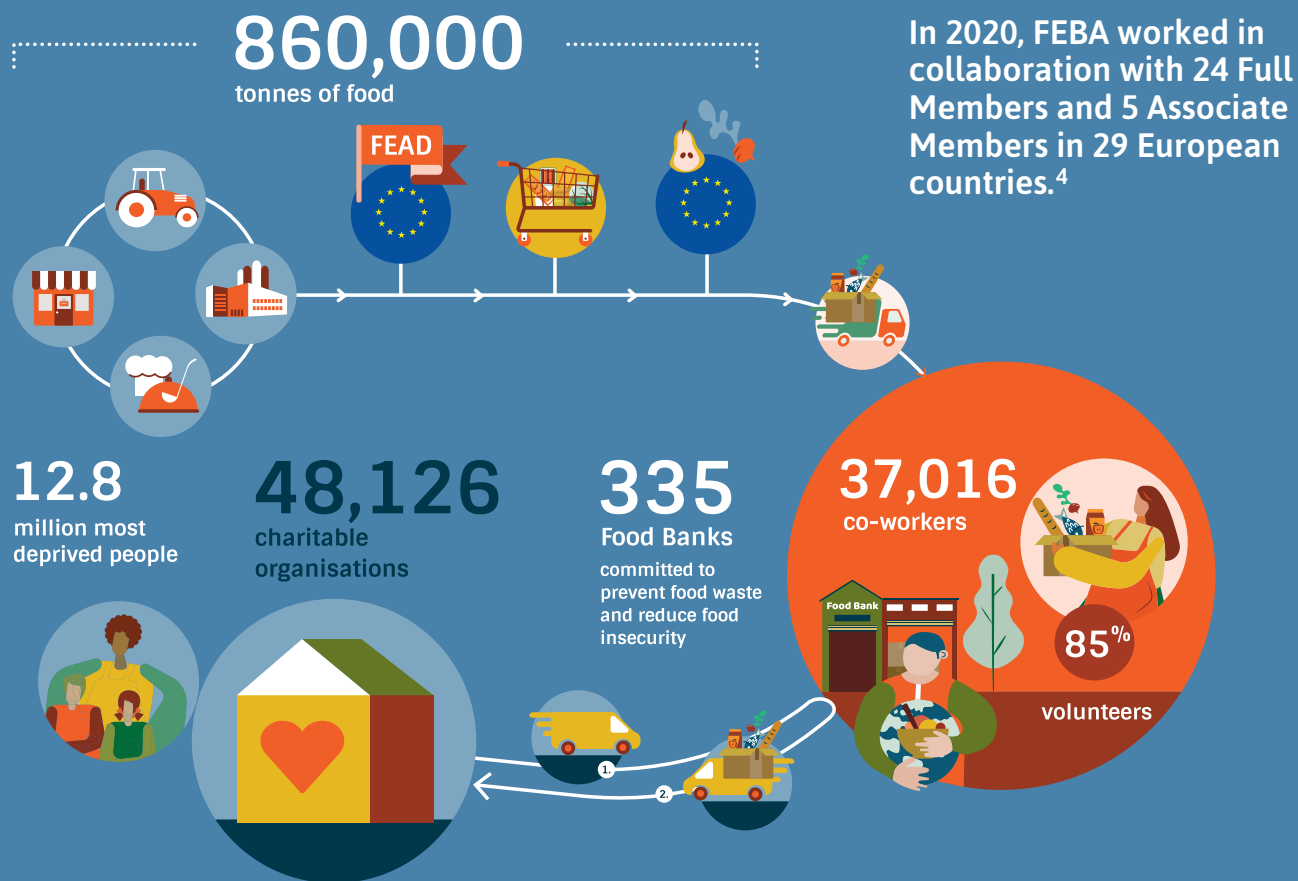


1.6M

tonnes of food were
distributed between
2014 and 2018.³



Contribution of FEBA membership to our circular food system in 2020



^{2,3} European Commission, Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD): Key Facts and Figures, 2020.

⁴ This is the aggregation of data provided by FEBA Full Members at European level. Due to technical difficulties the number of beneficiaries, food quantities and co-workers in 2020 were not available for Tafel Deutschland e.V. (Germany). These numbers are replaced with the 2019 data.





< 2.

FEAD 2020 Highlights

On the occasion of the first FEAD Community Annual Conference on October 2020 FEBA published “FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation: 2019 Implementation Report” with key highlights on the implementation of FEAD in FEBA members in 2019.

On the occasion of the **Annual Conference of the FEAD Community** taking place in Brussels on 19 October 2021, FEBA publishes a new report “**FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation: 2020 Implementation Report**” with the aim to feature new highlights and feedbacks about the implementation of the FEAD from the ground, in one of the most challenging year of our age.

Pursuing the objective of **assessing the quantitative and qualitative impact of the FEAD**, FEBA encouraged **11 FEBA Members** benefiting from the Fund in 2020 to fill out a survey on its implementation and provide important information on the FEAD implementation at national level in **Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain**.⁵

⁵ No information from FEBA Member in Portugal.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2020/559 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the outbreak of COVID-19, 24 April 2020.

⁷ The REACT-EU initiative and the ESF+.



The survey was tailored to reach the objective of **disclosing the specific impact of the FEAD components in 2020**, focusing on challenges and opportunities. Additionally, it envisaged to **shed light on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on FEAD activities and further discover the effects of EU Regulation amendments⁶ and newly introduced instruments⁷**.

This report presents the answers provided by all 11 FEBA Members involved in the implementation of the FEAD in 2020.





11

FEBA Members received food stemming from the FEAD and/or national funds/ programmes: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain.

90%

benefited from foodstuff

33%

from hygiene products

17%

received technical assistance and/or were able to improve the capacities of Partner Organisations

Total amount of food received through FEAD support by 11 FEBA Members



162,466

tonnes of FEAD food redistributed

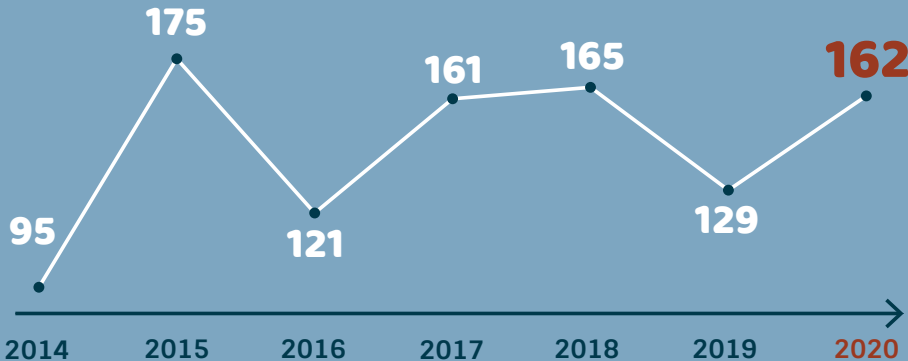
19%

of the total amount of food redistributed by the entire FEBA network in 2020

11 FEBA Members received quantities of FEAD food varying from



Quantities of FEAD food redistributed by FEBA members (2014-2020, thousands of tonnes)



58%

of the responding Members undertook accompanying measures, among them workshops on food waste prevention, dietary needs, or budgeting. Moreover, some offered guidance regarding psychological and physical wellbeing or cooking classes.



+7M

deprived people benefited from food and/or basic goods from the FEAD as well as other sources (e.g. surplus or donated food stemming from the supply chain or food collections) thanks to the daily operations of FEBA Members in Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia and Spain.



24,912

local Partner Organisations were supported in 2020 by FEBA Members benefiting from FEAD food and/or basic material assistance.





Economic support and related types of costs reimbursed

8%

planning of the programme

67%

administration, transportation, storage

25%

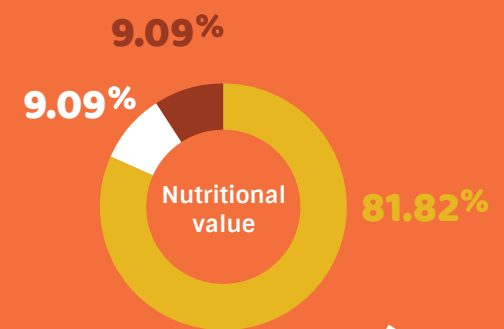
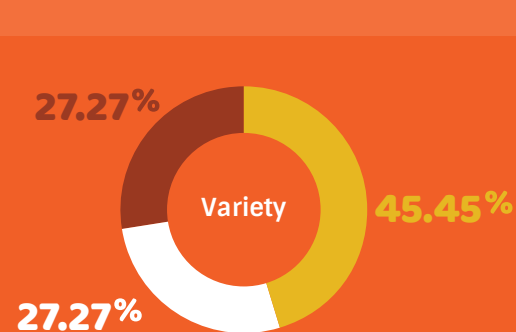
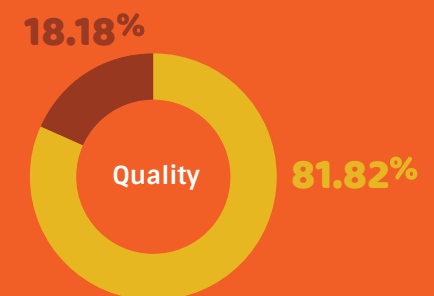
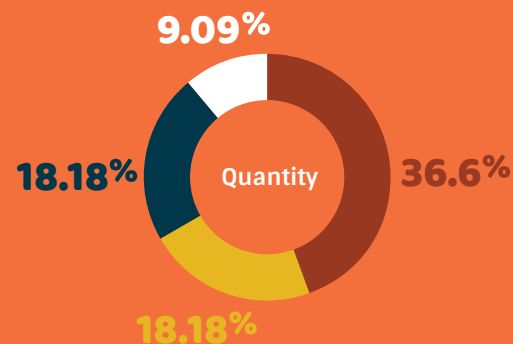
accompanying measures



Evaluation of quality, quantity, variety, and nutritional value

Evaluating the quality, quantity, variety, and nutritional value of the redistributed food, the respondents painted a positive picture of the FEAD. In terms of variety, it encompassed staple food, such as flour, oil, pasta, or rice, but also fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dairy, canned, and frozen products. Additionally, some Members received coffee, tea, chocolate, or baby food.

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor



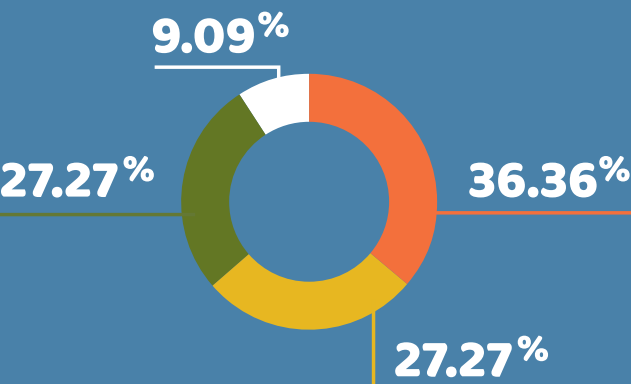


Main challenges in 2020

The survey further shed light on the main challenges faced by the FEBA Members in 2020. Amongst the most pressing ones were storage and logistic issues (60%) as well as the insufficiency of economic resources for administrative, transport, and storage activities (60%). Both the refusal of food aid by local Partner Organisations and the lack of collaboration with Managing Authorities were reported by 20% of the respondents. Finally, 10% experienced difficulties regarding the collection of data about the programme implementation.

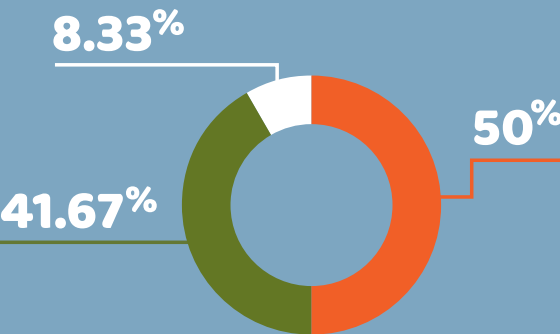
Collaboration with Managing Authority

● Excellent ● Good ● Neutral ● Bad



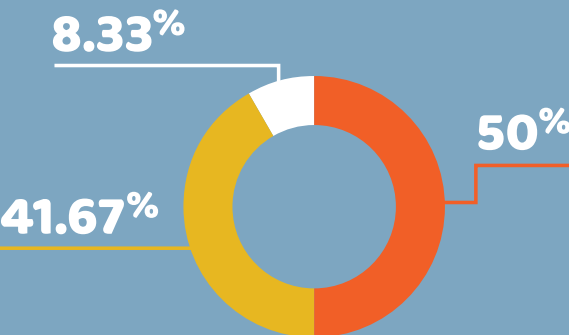
Adequate involvement in monitoring activities

● Yes ● No ● I don't know



Reasonability of administrative burden

● Yes ● No ● I don't know





Main opportunities

Regarding the main advantages of taking part in the FEAD, 67% of the respondents highlighted the complementary nature with the core activity of Food Banks (i.e. surplus food recovery and redistribution), making it a valuable source of food and/or material assistance. 58% of respondents stated that the Fund supported the establishment of a trustable relationship with local Partner Organisations and 25% mentioned that FEAD supported them in taking into account the specific needs of the Partner Organisations.

The survey disclosed several additional positive aspects inherent in FEAD.

75%

of respondents stressed that the availability of FEAD facilitated to address the needs of local Partner Organisations.

67%

of respondents replied that the FEAD had a positive impact on the diet of the most deprived in terms of quantity and variety of food redistributed.

40%

of respondents affirmed that the availability of FEAD allowed local Partner Organisations to shift their resources towards other social inclusion activities (e.g. health, education or vocational training).

58%

of respondents declared that the FEAD supported the path towards social inclusion, fostering positive outcomes for charitable organisations and end recipients.



58%

of respondents noticed a smoother cooperation with local Partner Organisations.

67%

of respondents acknowledged the facilitated collaboration with regional entities (e.g. social service, public administration).

50%

of respondents stressed that the important contribution of the FEAD as regards the inclusion of local Partner Organisations and end recipients in the local community.





< 3.

FEAD and the European Food Banks at the time of COVID-19

This pandemic has thrown many people into food insecurity overnight, highlighting the importance and fragility of food security in Europe. In 2020, COVID-19 posed enormous challenges to the operations of FEBA Members.

In 2020 FEBA Members redistributed +12% of food in comparison with 2019 levels. Moreover, FEBA Members on average declared a 6% increase of the number of local Partner Organisations supported and 34.7% of final beneficiaries.

”

Published in September 2021, our latest report **“COVID-19: A unique opportunity for real change”** discloses a continued increase in food demand for

90% of FEBA Members⁸, resulting from an increase in the total number of people in need of assistance.

64%

of the FEBA Members responding to the survey affirmed that the pandemic affected their daily activities in relation to FEAD.



Experienced problems included:

- difficulties concerning the delivery of goods to the warehouses of Partner Organisations,
- the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), or
- the redistribution of food packages to the end recipients.

⁸ FEBA Members in: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK.



Furthermore, the respondents mentioned a decrease in volunteering personnel and a mental burden affecting the health of Food Bank workers as well as people in need being confronted with the challenges concomitant to the pandemic.

However, these unprecedented circumstances also opened up for new opportunities to become more resilient and efficient. The dedication of volunteers and staff alike allowed for the maintenance of assistance to the most vulnerable in society – directly or through trustable relationships with local Partner Organisations.

Some respondents described a necessary rethinking of processes in terms of food redistribution logistics, leading to the installation of mobile centres and the implementation of home deliveries.



”

75%

of the survey participants did not notice any impacts of the amendment of EU Regulation No 223/2014 envisaging to introduce specific measures to modify FEAD in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Those who experienced effects specified them as facilitations regarding logistics and monitoring, and further highlighted the increase of flexibility relieving the administrative burden resulting for instance from simplified delivery documentation.

< 4.

Outlook: the integration of the FEAD into the ESF+

Concluding a journey started in 2018 and following the vote of the European Parliament on 8 June 2021 and the approval of the Council of the EU, the [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1057](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 was published on the Official Journal of the European Union of the ESF+ Regulation on 30 June 2021.



With a budget of €88 billion for the period 2021-2027, its goal is to face the worst aspects of the pandemic in term of poverty and social exclusion and to implement the action plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights.



The new ESF+ merges:

1. European Social Fund (ESF)

2. Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)

3. Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

4. EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)



For the period 2021-2027, the ESF+ is one of the main funding instruments to invest in people and to help Member States achieve the targets set out in the [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#).





Key points of the new ESF+

- **Member States need to allocate 25% of ESF+ funds to social inclusion;**
- **All Member States will devote at least 3% (on top of 25%) of their ESF+ resources to provide food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived. The co-financing rate is fixed at 90%;**
- **Member States with a level of child poverty above the EU average should use at least 5% of their ESF+ resources to address this issue. All other Member States must allocate an appropriate amount of their ESF+ resources to targeted actions to combat child poverty;**
- **Capacity building for social partners and civil society organisations: all Member States need to allocate an appropriate amount (at least 0.25% for MSs with country-specific recommendations).**



The European Social Fund 2014-2020 has proved to be a crucial tool to promote employment, education and inclusion. Since 2014, the ESF has supported over 33.4 million people across the Union. The Fund has also helped to cushion the blow of the pandemic by providing much-needed funding for short-time work schemes, youth employment measures, training, among others. EU countries could flexibly reallocate cohesion funding to where they needed it most under [CRII](#) and [CRII+](#).



Under [REACT-EU](#), the ESF is expected to receive a top-up of around

€17.5b of which €1.2 billion have already been approved.





On the other side, established in 2014, the **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)** has been addressing the worst forms of poverty in the EU, such as food deprivation, child poverty and homelessness, with a **total allocation of €3.8 billion** (current prices) for the programming period 2014-2020. The **EU provides up to 85% of funding**, which is complemented by the Member States' own resources. This brings the total value of the fund to around €4.5 billion.



Sole European fund to address the most severe forms of poverty, the FEAD has been instrumental to meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable citizens. Furthermore, in addition to alleviating poverty through food and/or basic material assistance, the FEAD has introduced innovation offering possibilities to Member States to trigger real processes of social inclusion.



About this Report

The results of the survey circulated to FEBA Members benefiting from FEAD gives voice to the daily work of implementing the FEAD on the ground, mainly redistributing food to local Partner Organisations. This report also aims to provide food for thought to feed the planning, design, and implementation of the new ESF+ funds dedicated to material deprivation, starting from the learnings of the FEAD (2014-2020) and looking at the future, for a more inclusive Europe for all.

FEBA Members will be key players in the realisation of the ESF+ at national level, and FEBA will favour the dialogue between the European Commission, Managing Authorities, its members, and local Partner Organisations for the benefit of final beneficiaries.





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