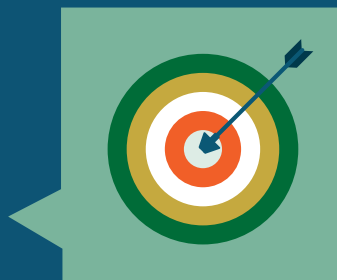




FEBA EU Working Group **2022 REPORT**



Contents

About this report →

What's at stake at international and EU level? →

FEBA's contribution to the international momentum →

EU policy developments in 2022 →

FEBA's key EU policy and advocacy activities in 2022 →

Looking forward to 2023 →

Acknowledgement →



About this report

The aim of this report is to give a concise overview of those EU and international developments and policy initiatives of interest in 2022 that, now or in future, can affect the daily operations of FEBA Members. Moreover, it envisages to summarise the activities carried out by FEBA and its EU Working Group in relation and response to them.

In 2022, the FEBA EU Working Group was composed of **30 Food Bank representatives from 22 FEBA Members – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Spain**. Since its establishment in 2018, the objective of the working group has been to convene the position of FEBA and its members in one single voice and advocate for common interests at both EU and international level.

Considering the perfect storm of a three-fold crisis provoked by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and its impact on Europe, and the growing threat posed by climate change, this work is of particularly high relevance.



Key achievements in 2022

- ✓ **10 meetings** (7 online and 3 hybrid) of the **FEBA EU Working Group** with the participation of **more than 180 Food Bankers** and regular exchanges via email.
- ✓ Organisation of **3 FEBA conferences**.
- ✓ Participation in **4 EU fora**.
- ✓ Active participation in **6 high-level events organised by EU institutions or international organisations**.
- ✓ **5 EU Monitoring Reports** covering the most important updates at EU level concerning Food Banks' interests.
- ✓ **4 policy briefings and reports** with insights on EU-related topics.
- ✓ **3 FEBA position papers** contributing to the EU policy-making process.
- ✓ Promotion of and response to **4 surveys in the framework of EU open Public Consultations**; and
- ✓ Circulation and analysis of **5 questionnaires** to monitor the past and future implementation of **EU funding programmes**.



What's at stake at international and EU level?

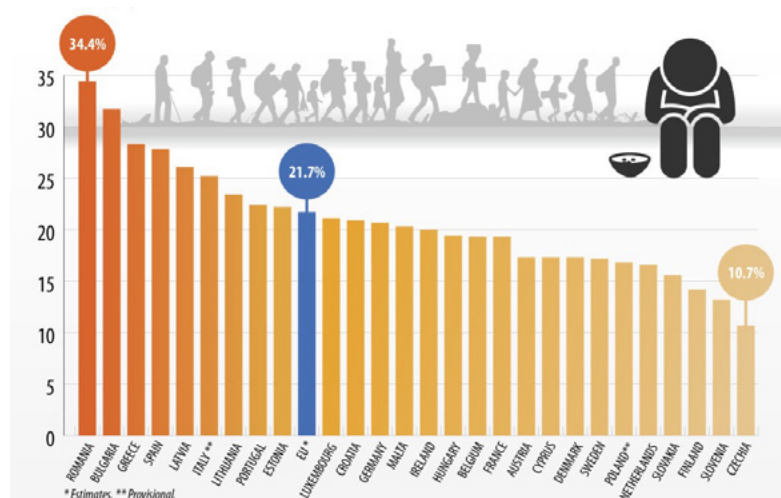
The cost of food has risen rapidly across the globe. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Price Index, in March 2022, food prices hit record levels, the highest seen since the 1990s.¹ **Increased food prices put food affordability at risk and directly translate into a barrier of access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and sustainable food and concomitant food insecurity, especially for the most vulnerable groups.**

Since its outbreak at the beginning of 2020, the **COVID-19 pandemic** has affected economies and societies at their core, **decimating jobs, causing disruptions of supply chains, and laying bare the fragility of our globalised agri-food system.** These unprecedented challenges have threatened the livelihoods of people worldwide and, thereby, have considerably impacted the demand of food. According to Eurostat, 95.4 million European citizens, over one person out of 5, lived on the brink of poverty or material and social deprivation in 2021.²

¹ FAO, FAO [Food Price Index posts significant leap in March](#), 8 April 2022.

² Eurostat, [Over 1 in 5 at risk of poverty or social exclusion](#), 15 September 2022.

Fig.1 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU Member States (% of total population, 2021) Source: Eurostat





Food waste in the EU by main economic sectors, 2020

(kilogrammes per inhabitant)



Belgium, Latvia, Malta and Romania: data not available. Czechia, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden: data are estimated. Cyprus: definition differs (see metadata). As a result, the EU aggregates are estimated.

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

At the end of February 2022, the **Russian invasion of Ukraine** did not only cause a major humanitarian emergency but **has shaken up once again the global food system**, which had just started to recover from the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While having an immediate impact on the Ukrainian population, the consequences of the war are increasingly trickling down across the latitudes of Europe and beyond. **Skyrocketing inflation, a dramatic reduction of buying power, and soaring prices have led to a cost-of-living crisis hitting the most vulnerable groups the hardest.**

It is also important to mention that increases in the **frequency and intensity of extreme climate events** are compromising crop yields and undermining industries like agriculture and aquaculture to satisfy the demand.

In this context, forecasts made by the FAO regarding the accomplishment of SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and social exclusion and SDG 2, particularly to end hunger, achieving food security, and improving nutrition, are looking bleak. At the same time, recent estimates of Eurostat reveal that **European food waste levels continue to be high**.³ Amounting to a total of 127kg per EU inhabitant, 55% of EU food waste is generated in households, while 11% arises from primary production, 18% from food and beverage manufacturers, 9% from restaurants and food services, and the remaining 7% from the retail and distribution sector.

In this context, **Food Banks are needed now as much as any time in recent memory.** They step up to save good food from becoming waste sent to landfill and, in parallel, to meet the increasing need for food relief when communities face unimaginably difficult circumstances.

³ Eurostat, [Food waste and food waste prevention – estimates](#), October 2022.



FEBA's contribution to the international momentum

1. International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

For the third time in a row, FEBA has celebrated the **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW)** on 29 September with its campaign **Food, no Waste**. The IDAFLW makes a clear **call to action for public and private entities from across the food system and consumers to work together to cut food loss and waste** and enhance the efficient use of natural resources, mitigate climate change, and foster food security and nutrition. FEBA has promoted this call to action **collecting, publishing, and disseminating examples of daily actions from its members describing surplus food recovery and redistribution**.

Moreover, leveraging this message, **Federația Băncilor pentru Alimente din România**, FEBA Member in Romania, organised a conference in Bucharest on the occasion of the IDAFLW,



[Check the event webpage](#)

celebrating the impacts and results achieved with institutions, European partners, donors, organisations, members of the Romanian Food Banks, and supporters. **FEBA's Secretary General presented the development, impact, and activities of the network of European Food Banks**, focussing on the enormous importance of food donation in the context of food loss and waste prevention.



2. FEBA Annual Convention 2022

The **FEBA Annual Convention 2022**, entitled “Europe in crisis, Food Banks in action”, has been organised by FEBA in collaboration with Tafel Deutschland e.V. and took place on 13-14 October 2022 as a hybrid event (Berlin/online).

The effects of **climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine** have placed the global economy under tremendous strain. This three-fold crisis provoking crippling supply chains, skyrocketing inflation rates, and spiralling costs of living leads to **food donation becoming a game changer and food security being increasingly fragile**. In this difficult period, FEBA Members continue to work facing the challenge not just to prevent good surplus food from becoming food waste but also to ensure its safe delivery and redistribution to charities helping people in need. **During the 2-day Annual Convention**, FEBA together with its members as well as external partners and stakeholders **shared, discussed, and exchanged best practices** to alleviate the repercussions of the crisis and become more resilient to future shocks.



[Check the event webpage](#)



The conference brought together **224 participants and 19 speakers, moderators, and facilitators from 25 countries.**

**EUROPE IN CRISIS
FOOD BANKS
IN ACTION**

12 OCTOBER 2022
Pre-event Tafel Deutschland e.V.
13-14 OCTOBER 2022
FEBA Annual Convention

BERLIN



EU policy developments in 2022

FEBA advocates for the interests of its members at European and international level. The work carried out throughout 2022 responded and contributed to a variety of cross-cutting EU policy developments.

1. Food waste prevention to enhance food system sustainability

1. EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

Efficiently tackling the issue of food loss and waste demands actions from all players involved. On the backdrop of this, the **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW)** brings together **over 70 stakeholders from both the private and public sector**, representing all stages of the food supply chain as well as Food Banks, international organisations, scientists, EU institutions, and EU Member States eager to maximise the effort behind the **pursue of SDG Target 12.3**, i.e. cutting food waste by half until 2030 and considerably reduce food losses.



[Discover the Platform's work and website](#)

Set up in 2016, the EU Platform FLW entered its second mandate (2022-2026), continuing to constitute an environment for the exchange of best practices, the definition of food waste measurement, and the assessment of progress made.

Since its establishment, FEBA has been a member of the Platform and has actively contributed to the work of its sub-groups.



Key activities

→ Two plenary session interventions

1. **22 February 2022: Reducing food loss and waste, establishing sustainable food systems**

FEBA outlined its **foreseen contribution during the new mandate**, focussing on **data collection and sharing** as well as the **assessment and exchange of good practices** at EU level, while highlighting the importance of leveraging the outcomes at national level in order to create synergies and foster legislative changes facilitating and incentivising food donation.

2. **20 October 2022: Update on the sub-group work**

FEBA summarised the **conducted and planned activities** of the sub-group on Food Donation it co-chaired during 2022.

→ Selection for three topic specific sub-groups (2022–2026)

1. **Action & Implementation**
2. **Food Donation**
3. **Food loss and waste monitoring**



→ Deep-dive into the work of the sub-group on Food Donation

In 2022, **FEBA co-chaired the sub-group on Food Donation**, organising two meetings in collaboration with the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission during which also several FEBA Members were given the floor.



12 July 2022 / Highlights

FEBA presented its online Observatory on Food Donation highlighting the importance of accurate and reliable data to leverage the activities of Food Banks and better address the needs of the most deprived.



● **Tafel Deutschland e.V.** (FEBA Member in Germany) spoke about their partnership with the REWE Group that entails the support of surplus food recovery from supermarkets.

● **Matsentralen Norge** (FEBA Member in Norway) outlined the Norwegian model for food waste reduction, which builds on cooperation between the food industry and national authorities.

● Guided discussion on the need for **traceability and transparency** when it comes to food donation.

8 November 2022 / Highlights

● **Visit of the Banque Alimentaire Bruxelles-Brabant** on 7 November as a side event organised together with the Fédération Belge des Banques Alimentaires / Belgische Federatie van Voedselbanken (FEBA Member in Belgium) with a focus on the recovery and redistribution of frozen food products, in particular of meat.

● **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) explained the impact of national legislative developments on the activities of Food Banks.

● **Toidupank**, FEBA Member in Estonia, focused its presentation on the use of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and REACT-EU for food donation activities.



● **Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület** (FEBA Member in Hungary) pointed out the main challenges and opportunities encountered in relation to surplus food recovery and redistribution.

● **Česká Federace Potravinových Bank** (FEBA Member in Czech Republic) elaborated on the partnership of the organisation with national authorities.

● Guided discussion revolving around (new) **hurdles and drivers for food donation** from the perspective of Food Banks and Food Business Operators.



2. Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems

The **Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems (AGSFS)**, composed of a broad set of 86 organisations representing public authorities, civil society, and food chain actors, has been established in July 2022 with the objective to provide the European Commission with **practical insights and information related to the implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy**.

The expert group discusses a variety of specific topics, such as food labelling, public health and human nutrition, food safety, and crop protection, in order to feed the legislative developments at EU level with on-the-ground experiences.



FEBA has been selected as a member of the AGSFS and has been using this opportunity to advocate for the interests of Food Banks belonging to its membership. Following the first plenary session on 19 October 2022, FEBA submitted a position paper highlighting the relevance of food banking activities for a sustainable food system with food security for everyone and at all times at its core, especially in times of crisis.



[Read our position paper](#)

3. Policy and legislative developments and initiatives

A. Sustainable food system framework initiative

The Farm to Fork Strategy recognises the **inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies, and a healthy planet**. However, the current food production patterns result in **air, water, and soil pollution** while consuming excessive amounts of natural resources. At the same



time, a **high percentage of food is lost or wasted**. With no horizontal regulatory instrument in place, the EU food system is characterised by fragmentation.

Addressing these problems, the European Commission aims to integrate sustainability into all food-related policies through the adoption of a **Sustainable food system framework initiative in the last quarter of 2023**. In the run-up to this, it conducted an Inception Impact Assessment as well as a Public Consultation to gather evidence and opinions from all relevant stakeholders.

In collaboration with its EU Working Group, FEBA completed the survey published by the European Commission and drafted a position paper. The latter highlights that achieving a sustainable, resilient, inclusive EU food system, which incorporates the concept of building back better after the three-fold crisis of the climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine must leave no one behind.

This said, due to their core activity, i.e. recovering and redistributing safe and edible surplus food to charitable organisations providing food assistance to people in need, Food Banks are an integral part of a more sustainable, healthier, and equitable food system for all. Therefore, supporting and easing the activity of Food Banks should be considered as a relevant measure to speed up the shift towards a sustainable food system.



[Read our position paper](#)



Picture above: Food and drink material hierarchy, source: WRAP

B. Revision of the EU Waste Framework Directive

Based on the five-step Waste hierarchy with prevention as the top priority, the **EU's Waste Framework Directive** lays down fundamental principles aligned to the objective of protecting the environment and human health. Nonetheless, **total waste generation is increasing**,⁴ with food waste being a major component, and in response, the European Commission will conduct a targeted revision of the directive in the second quarter of 2023. In order to feed this initiative with practical insights, a Public Consultation has been launched.



Based on the input of its EU Working Group, FEBA completed the survey issued by the European Commission and underpinning the Public Consultation in July 2022 and, therewith, consolidated and communicated the position of its members.

⁴ Official Journal of the European Union, Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, 19 November 2008.



C. EU-level food waste reduction targets

As part of the planned revision of the Waste Framework Directive, and stipulated by the Farm to Fork Strategy, the European Commission envisages the **proposal of legally binding food waste reduction targets by the end of 2023**. In line with the objective of enhancing the sustainability of the food system, this flagship initiative is intended to **limit the environmental impact of the food supply chain** while **increasing the amount of food available for human consumption**.

→ **Recognising the importance of such a legislative instrument, FEBA actively contributed to the policy making process and its stakeholder consultation phases since the beginning.**



October 2021

FEBA responded to the European Commission's call for feedback on the conducted Inception Impact Assessment by submitting a **position paper**.



[Read our position paper](#)



May 2021

In collaboration with its EU Working Group and with a pro-bono support of Global Counsel, FEBA drafted the policy report **Food Donation to Prevent Food Waste- FEBA's position on the proposal for EU-level food waste reduction targets**.⁵

Besides reflecting on the policy options in question, it stresses the relevance of changing the perspective: moving from the notion of reducing food waste towards the idea of increasing food donation as an effective and efficient measure to both prevent the waste of precious resources and raise the food quantities redistributed to people in need.



[Read our interactive report](#)

⁵ The report has been released with support from Global Counsel as part of their [Social Impact Programme](#).



May 2021



FEBA organised the webinar **Food Donation to prevent food waste. Best practices of Food Banks to foster equitable food security in times of social, economic, and environmental crises**, which was attended by 86 participants from 27 countries.

Following a keynote speech by Fabien Santini from DG AGRI and involved in the European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism (EFSCM), FEBA Members from Greece, France, Czech

Republic, Italy, and Ireland presented case studies outlining different approaches to preventing food waste along the food supply chain. The event was concluded with a panel discussion joined by Bartosz Zambrzycki and Cristina Lisetchi as representatives from DG SANTE as well as Bruce Learner from Kellogg Europe.



Watch the [recording of the webinar](#)



The EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) supports the effort to set EU-level food waste reduction targets by collecting data on food waste prevention initiatives, in EU countries and beyond. FEBA encouraged its members to fill in two surveys circulated by the JRC and contribute with details on their activities to the policy-making process steered by the European Commission.



D. Revision of date marking rules

Addressing the need to facilitate the shift to healthy, sustainable diets and to prevent food waste, the European Commission plans to propose the **revision of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC Regulation)** in 2023.⁶

The revision will consider **four components** of the FIC Regulation:

1. Front of pack nutrition labelling and nutrient profiling criteria to restrict claims;
2. Origin labelling;
3. Alcoholic beverage labelling; and
4. Date marking.

As regards the last aspect, the **existing EU rules on date marking** request a clear indication of either a 'best before' date, (date of minimum durability) or a 'use by' date (after which the food should not be consumed) on packaged food products and beverages. Evidence, however, suggests that **confusion over these dates and their current presentation** contribute to the creation of food waste at household level. Hence, the European Commission is intending the change these rules in order to **reduce consumer food waste whilst not compromising food safety**.



Following an Inception Impact Assessment to evaluate the economic, environmental, and social consequences of proposed policy options, the European Commission consulted relevant stakeholders during an open Public Consultation. Based on the feedback received from its EU Working Group, FEBA submitted responses to two EU surveys in November 2021 and March 2022 and thereby answered the call for feedback and experience directed to relevant stakeholders.

⁶ Official Journal of the European Union, Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004, 25 October 2011.



2. Addressing material deprivation and fostering social inclusion

1. FEAD: supporting the most deprived

In 2021, **10 FEBA Members – Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, and Spain – benefitted from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and/or the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU)** as its second amendment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. By conducting their daily activities, they have been key players in the pursue of the Funds' objectives, i.e. the support of the most deprived, and will continue on this path under the ESF+. FEBA aims at **facilitating the dialogue between all the stakeholders involved**: the European Commission, national Managing Authorities, FEBA Members, and local charitable organisations with the final goal of reducing food insecurity and fostering social inclusion for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups in the EU.

On the occasion of the **FEBA Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion 2022**, entitled Strengthening food systems by supporting the resilience and capacity of Food Banks, held in Bucharest on 14 November 2022, FEBA released its new publication **"FEAD, REACT-EU, and the European Food Banks Federation: 2021 Implementation Report"** with the aim to communicate concise insights on the implementation of these Funds on the ground, taking into account amendments and their expediency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Read the [interactive report](#)



Check the [webpage](#) to discover more about FEBA's Annual Forum

Organised by



In partnership with





The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on the global food system also had repercussions on the implementation of the FEAD and REACT-EU in 2022. In the 4 surveys circulated by FEBA in the year, the large majority of Food Banks benefitting from the Funds reported difficulties related to slow or unsuccessful tenders (particularly for staple food items), cancellation of contracts with food suppliers, retrospective adaptation of contracts, and delayed product delivery.



More information in the report [*“Assessment of FEBA Members’ Activities”*](#)



[Discover more about the conference](#)



EU SOLIDARITY THROUGH FOOD

A comparative approach on innovative synergies to support the most deprived

17 FEBRUARY 2022 / STRASBOURG

#WeAreFEBA



On 17 February 2022, FEBA and the Fédération Française des Banques Alimentaires (FEBA Member in France) jointly organised the conference **“EU solidarity through food – A comparative approach on innovative synergies to support the most deprived”**. In the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January 2022 – 1 July 2022), the event took place in a hybrid format both in Strasbourg (France) and online. Arranged under the umbrella of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), the vision has been to contribute to its objectives while providing guidance on the tackling of future challenges, as well as to exploit opportunities related to food aid for the most deprived.

In line with that, the conference brought together an array of **speakers from different backgrounds but nonetheless united in their goal to tackle food insecurity and social exclusion**. Besides representatives from French national authorities, FEBA Members, and international organisations, Ruth Paserman (DG EMPL, EU Commission) took the floor to reiterate the importance of EU funding programme, such as the FEAD, for addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.



In June 2022, FEBA has been contacted by Ecorys, a consultancy company to which the European Commission commissioned the conduct of a study supporting the **preliminary evaluation of the support provided by ESF and FEAD under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives** (CRII and CRII+).

FEBA shared a **tailored survey** with its members in order to assess the use and effectiveness of both initiatives and gathered and analysed the results. In addition to that, **FEBA's Secretary General** was interviewed by Ecorys in September 2022.

2. CARE initiative: responding to the consequences of the war in Ukraine

Provoked by the **invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation**, EU Member States, particularly the adjacent countries, found themselves confronted with a wave of refugees in need for shelter, food, and medical assistance. As an additional emergency response following CRII+ and REACT-EU in 2020 and 2021, respectively, the **FEAD has been amended a third time** in March 2022 as part of the **CARE (Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe) initiative**.⁷

The amended regulation entails the following key benefits for EU Member States:

- **Administrative flexibility:** alterations of certain components of the FEAD programme can be made based on a sole notification of the European Commission instead of a preceding approval request;
- **Extension of 100% EU co-financing** for the accounting year July 2021-June 2022; and
- **Additional liquidity and velocity:** the 2021 FEAD tranche of REACT-EU and cohesion policy programmes are topped up with EUR 3.5 billion in pre-financing payments.⁸

Therewith, the FEAD can be used in a more efficient and extended manner to provide food and material assistance to people in need.

⁷ Official Journal of the European Union, Regulation (EU) 2022/562 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE), 6 April 2022.

⁸ Official Journal of the European Union, Regulation (EU) 2022/613 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 April 2022 amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards increased pre-financing from REACT-EU resources and the establishment of a unit cost, 12 April 2022.



On 4 May 2022, FEBA's Secretary General Angela Frigo was invited to the meeting of the **Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section (NAT)** of the [European Economic and Social Committee \(EESC\)](#) to give insights into the **work of FEBA and its members with regards to the war in Ukraine and resulting rising levels of food insecurity** across Europe.

Highlighting that Food Banks are not emergency organisations and therefore continue conducting their normal daily activities even in crisis situations, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, she presented the timeline of actions and measures taken in the framework of FEBA's **#Alltogether4Ukraine** campaign.

Besides emphasising the **solidarity amongst members of the FEBA network** expressed through food, in-kind, and economic donations as well as the **support received from companies and individuals**, she pointed out that EU commitment evidenced by the CARE initiative is crucial. She further urged EU Member States to **involve and consult civil society organisations** at national level to enable the adoption of targeted measures cushioning the negative effects of the crisis in Ukraine on vulnerable groups.



3. ESF+: transition towards integrated funding

With a budget of almost **EUR 99.3 billion** (current prices) for the 2021 – 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, **the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** is coined to support **the social and economic recovery process** following the COVID-19 pandemic while fostering a **fair transition to a climate-neutral economy** aligned to the ambitions of the [European Green Deal](#) and the [Just Transition Fund](#) as well as the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#).⁹

→ Key aspects

- The ESF+ **combines four previously separated funding initiatives**:
 1. *European Social Fund (ESF);*
 2. *Youth Employment Initiative (YEI);*
 3. *Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD); and*
 4. *EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)*
- **A minimum of 25%** of the shared management funding strand must be allocated for the pursue of social inclusion goals.

⁹ Official Journal of the European Union, 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, 24 June 2021.



- Member States are obliged to use **at least additional 3%** for measures addressing those **facets of poverty that have the highest social exclusion impact, such as food deprivation, homelessness, and child poverty** providing food and/or material assistance with a co-financing rate of 90%.
- To better address material deprivation, **cost of recovery, transport, storage, and redistribution of food donations**, i.e. surplus food, and directly related **awareness raising activities** are eligible under the ESF+.
- Member States will be allowed to **use electronic vouchers** to grant people living in or at the risk of poverty access to food and basic material goods.

In 2023, FEBA will closely monitor these developments and gather feedback on possible implications on the activities of Food Banks and the support of the most deprived.

Chaired by the European Commission, the ESF+ Committee and its Technical Working Group composed of Member State representatives and EU-level partners, regularly come together to discuss issues relevant to the implementation of the Fund's programmes. On the occasion of its meeting taking place in Paris on 9 June 2022, Angela Frigo, FEBA Secretary General, presented best practices carried out by FEBA Members to support Ukrainian refugees and gave an outlook on the long-term effects the cost-of-living crisis can have on the work of Food Banks and the end beneficiaries.

3. Supporting Europe's crisis resilience

European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism (EFSCM)

As enshrined in the *Farm to Fork Strategy*, the European Commission envisages to level up its coordination of a common European response to crises that could affect the EU food system and therewith, potentially put food security in danger. The **European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism (EFSCM)** was established in 2022 to evaluate food-related risks posed by crises and improve the collaboration between private and public stakeholders to effectively reduce and address them.



FEBA has been selected to join this high-level expert group and eagerly contributes to its meetings. During the plenary session on 23 September 2022, FEBA held a speech on the impacts of rising inflation, prices, and the resulting cost-of-living crisis on the activities of Food Banks and the wellbeing of the most deprived.



→ Moreover, FEBA is an active participant of 2 EFSCM sub-groups

1. Dashboard for the monitoring of food supply and food security



Objective

Used as an early warning system, such a dashboard facilitates the analysis of nutritional wellbeing and food affordability, among others.



[Discover the dashboard](#)

2. Improving the diversity of sources of supply



Objective

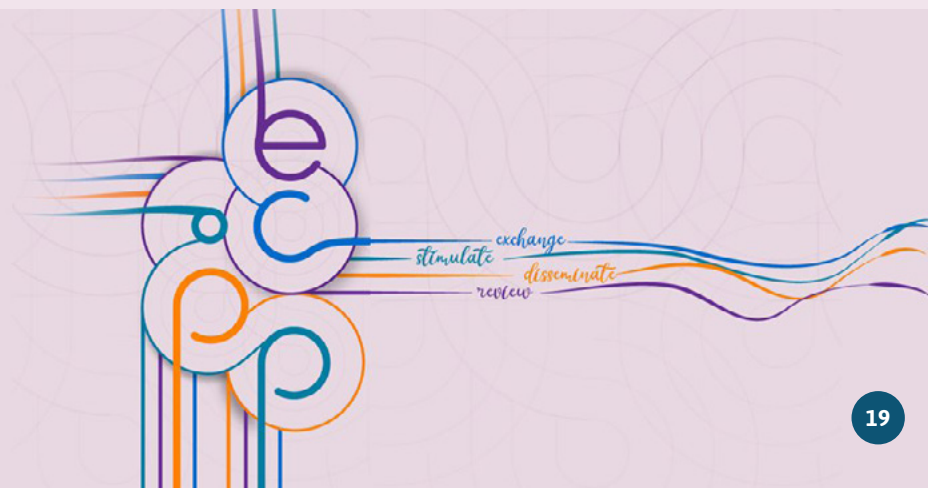
Assisting Commission services to develop draft recommendations on possibilities to improve the diversity of sources of supply, among others between shorter and longer food supply chains.

4. Improving partnerships across Europe

European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECOPP)

In April 2022, the European Commission established the **European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECOPP)** with the objective to further improve the quality of partnership in the implementation of the European funding programmes and promote the exchange of good practices.

The group is composed of a broad array of around 200 stakeholders comprising civil society organisations, Managing Authorities, universities, and social and economic partners, among others.





FEBA's key policy and advocacy activities in 2022

EU Working Group meetings

FEBA organised 3 hybrid and 7 online meetings with more than 180 participants in total addressing a large variety of EU-related topics of relevance for FEBA Members.

08/02 | Summary of important events and developments foreseen in 2022

08/03 | EU-level food waste reduction targets (enlarged, hybrid session)

12/04 | EU response to the consequences of the war in Ukraine

10/05 | FEAD; ESF+; JRC survey on Food Waste Prevention Initiatives

07/06 | 2023 revision of the Waste Framework Directive; use of food vouchers within the ESF+; monitoring of implementation of CRII and CRII+

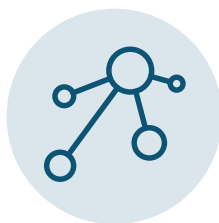
09/07 | Sustainable food system framework initiative; summary of EU Platform FLW sub-group meetings; overview on national food donation legislation

06/09 | Implementation of EU funding programmes; deep-dive into national food donation legislation (extended, hybrid session)

12/10 | Report Assessment of FEBA Members' Activities; French legislation on food donation

08/11 | Joined meeting with sub-group on Food Donation of the EU Platform FLW (extended, hybrid session)

06/12 | Recap of 2022 and outlook to 2023





Conferences



17/02 | EU solidarity through food

A comparative approach on innovative synergies to support the most deprived in collaboration with Fédération Française des Banques Alimentaires

20/05 | Food donation to prevent food waste

Best practices of Food Banks to foster equitable food security in times of social, economic, and environmental crises

14/11 | FEBA Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion

Strengthening food systems by supporting the resilience and capacity of Food Banks. In partnerships with Federația Băncilor pentru Alimente din România

EU fora



→ EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, including 3 sub-groups: Action & Implementation; Food Donation; Food Waste Measurement;

→ Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems;

→ Expert Group on the European Food Security Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism, including 2 sub-groups: Dashboard for the monitoring of food supply and food security; Improving the diversity of sources of supply;

→ European Community of Practice on Partnership.

Position papers contributing to the EU policy-making process



04/04 | War in Ukraine: repercussions on food security in Europe – An alarm call from FEBA and its members

19/07 | European Food System Framework Initiative – The position of FEBA and its members

27/10 | Main drivers of food security - FEBA's response to the public consultation paper circulated among the Advisory Group for Sustainable Food Systems



Participation in high-level events



24/01 | [FAO – Reducing food loss and waste in fruits and vegetables for improving access to healthy diets](#) (side event of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021)

04/05 | European Economic and Social Committee - [Meeting of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section \(NAT\)](#)

09/06 | European Commission, DG EMPL – [Meeting of the European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\) Committee and Technical Working Group](#)

05/10 | FAO – [Food Loss and Waste Reduction in Europe and Central Asia: Regional Conference “Enabling the change”](#)

15/12 | FoodSafety4EU – [Towards the EU FOOD SAFETY FORUM – The new sustainability regulation: how to integrate it into food safety?](#)

16/12 | European Commission – [Citizens’ Panel of the European Commission on food waste](#)

Policy briefings and reports



20/05 | [Food donation to prevent food waste – FEBA’s position on the proposal for EU-level food waste reduction targets](#)

30/09 | [Assessment of FEBA Members’ Activities](#)

30/11 | [FEAD, REACT-EU, and the European Food Banks Federation: 2021 Implementation Report](#)

31/12 | [FEBA Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion 2022](#)

EU Monitoring Reports



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Looking forward to 2023

2022 has been coined by challenges of various kinds, but also by opportunities that were successfully exploited. FEBA is now looking forward to positive developments and promising policy initiatives foreseen at EU and international level in 2023. FEBA will continue to work with its EU Working Group to discuss related topics and advocate for the interests of FEBA Members to facilitate their activities and foster their impact as regards food waste prevention and food insecurity reduction in Europe.

- Endorsed by the FAO and the UN General Assembly, 2023 will be the [International Year of Millets](#), building momentum for the potential of this crop to address climate change and foster food security worldwide.
- The European Commission has adopted the proposal to **designate 2023 as the [European Year of Skills](#)** with the objective to boost competitiveness of the EU economy, foster social inclusion, and reach the goal of green and digital transitions leaving no one behind.
- Taking over the position from Czech Republic, **Sweden** will hold the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January to June 2023**, followed by **Spain from July to December 2023**.



→ Envisaged EU policy developments of interest

Q2 2023

Targeted **revision of the Waste Framework Directive**, including clauses on prevention measures, food waste, and waste oils.

Q4 2023

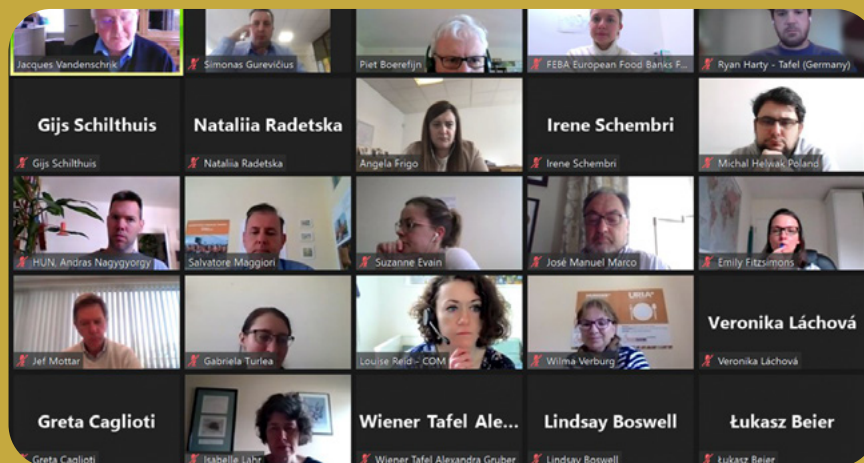
- Adoption of the **Sustainable food system framework initiative** with the objective to integrate sustainability into all food-related policies. Tackling food loss and waste and promoting



- the recovery and redistribution of surplus food is foreseen to play a role in the initiative.
- Proposal of **legally binding Food waste reduction targets** to reduce food waste across the EU (part of the Waste Framework Directive revision)

Additionally:

- As regards the proposal to revise **EU rules on the provision of information to consumers**, which includes also a **revision of the rules on date marking** (“use by” and “best before” dates), no decision has been taken yet. The technical work of the European Commission is ongoing.
- **REACT-EU (2021-2022)**: funds can be used until end 2023.
- **Implementation of ESF+.**



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Last but not least, a sincere thank you to all members of the FEBA EU Working Group 2022 for their commitment at both national and EU level and for providing valuable insights into the implementation of EU policy on the ground. It has been a pleasure working with you and we hope to continue this fruitful collaboration for years to come.

thank
you



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