

**FEBA EU
Working Group
2023 REPORT**



Contents

About this report

This report aims to highlight the activities carried out by FEBA, with a specific focus on the FEBA EU Working Group, in line with the relevant international and EU policy developments of 2023. In 2023, 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 the EU and international level.

The year 2023 was marked by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the effects of inflation not only on food but also on energy costs and other materials. The so-called cost-of-living crisis had a major impact on the Food Banks within the European network.



Key achievements in 2023

- **8 meetings** (7 online and 1 in presence) of the **FEBA EU Working Group** and regular exchanges via email
- **5 peer-to-peer sessions** to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice on food policy and legislation at national level
- Dealing with EU topics at the **FEBA Annual Convention 2023**
- Participation in **6 EU fora**
- Active participation in **over 20 high-level events organised by EU institutions or international and European organisations and stakeholders**
- **6 EU Monitoring Reports** covering the most important updates at the EU and international levels concerning Food Banks' interests
- **1 report** with insights on EU-related topics
- **1 FEBA position paper** contributing to the EU policy-making process
- **4 requests for insights** feeding into EU policymaking
- Circulation and analysis of **2 questionnaires** to monitor the past and future implementation of **EU funding programmes**

What's at stake at international and EU level?

The increase in food prices in Europe has reached its peak between 2022 and 2023. The instabilities of the global food system and the inflation defined the momentum for European Food Banks in 2023 as observed in the socio-economic report drafted by FEBA on the period January to December 2022. This report indicates alarming tendencies with regards to increasing operational costs, increasing number of end-beneficiaries, and a growing gap between food demand and quantities available for redistribution.

However, the year was also critical in terms of progress in EU legislation, for instance when it comes to the introduction of legally binding food waste reduction targets and initiatives towards more sustainable food systems. The legislative review is still ongoing concerning topics like food redistribution, especially in identifying barriers or hurdles to food donation.

When it comes to the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), this has slowly started, phasing out the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) by the end of 2023, however, many open questions and challenges remain. For the majority of FEBA



Members, the process of transitioning from the FEAD to the ESF+ is still in progress and will be further addressed in 2024.

Overall, the year 2023 offered a mixture of promising policy and legislative developments in the field of food donation and redistribution as well as food waste reduction but also underlined existing challenges reinforced by inflation and the cost-of-living crisis as well as changes in the EU funding schemes. Take a closer look at these developments in this year's edition of the FEBA EU Working Group report.

FEBA's contribution to the international momentum



UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

On 24-26 July, over 3,300 participants, including delegations from 182 countries, 21 world leaders and 126 ministers, 225 Non-state Actor organisations, and close to 900 UN system representatives gathered to share efforts and steer global action towards sustainable food systems.

The summit provided a platform for countries to share their food systems journeys through more than 100 voluntary reports, offering vivid accounts of achievements and pointing to the challenges. The global community highlighted the importance of accelerating progress, in particular on access to financing, emphasising the urgent need for debt relief and increased liquidity for developing countries facing crises. The UNFSS+2 culminated in the launch of the Secretary-General's *Call to Action for accelerated Food Systems Transformation*.

The Call to Action focuses on six concrete objectives: **embedding food systems strategies in national policies; establishing food systems governance with a whole-of-society approach; investing in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities; promoting business engagement and accountability for sustainability; including full participation of marginalised groups including women, farmers, youth, and Indigenous Peoples; and ensuring long-term, concessional finance for food systems transformation.**



FEBA contributed to the UNFSS+2 participating in the side event "City, subnational and national governments join actions with multiple actors towards healthy, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient food systems" on 24 July 2023 – led by the Urban Food Systems Coalition, the Local 2030 Coalition, and the Politecnico di Milano – which brought together experts and leaders to discuss how interconnected and innovative solutions can pave the way for transformative food systems that cater to the needs of all, leaving no one behind.





International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste



For the fourth time in a row, FEBA 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 promoted this call to action by organising the FEBA Annual Convention around the date in order to raise awareness and spread the message.



Moreover, leveraging this message, FEBA Members in Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, and Romania organised specific initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns on the occasion of the IDAFLW.



FEBA Annual Convention 2023



The FEBA Annual Convention 2023, entitled “European Food Banks at a critical crossroads”, has been organised by FEBA in collaboration with Federación Española de Bancos de Alimentos (FESBAL) and took place on 27-29 September 2023 as a hybrid event (Madrid/online).

Do the quantities of surplus food recovered keep up with the increased demand for food from charities? Do we innovate and double-down our efforts and focus on securing even more of the surplus food that would otherwise go to waste? Do we pivot our organisation’s mission and focus more on the social issue of material deprivation than the environmental issue of food waste? Or does this crisis mean we are being driven to rethink the core values – giving, sharing, European solidarity, and fighting food waste – of Food Banks today?

FEBA Members came together during the 2-days conference and shared their thoughts and practices on this vital and fundamental set of challenging questions. Participants were actively involved in 9 working sessions, including one on ‘Policy and legislative opportunities. Can we learn from other countries to change the climate for food donation in our country?’.



The Annual Convention brought together

130 Participants
28 countries
12 speakers

EU Policy developments in 2023

FEBA advocates for the interests of its members at the European and international levels. The work carried out throughout 2023 responded and contributed to a variety of cross-cutting EU policy developments.



EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

Tackling food waste means working together with all key players from public and private sectors in order to better identify, measure, and understand food waste as well as find solutions for its prevention.

FEBA has been a member of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW) since it was established in 2016 and has been appointed for the new mandate, from

1 January 2022 until 31 December 2026. The EU Platform FLW brings together EU institutions, experts from the Member States, and relevant stakeholders and will continue to play a key role in mobilising action to reduce food loss and waste across the EU as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy.



FEBA participates in plenary sessions and is an active member of three sub-groups:

- 1. Action & Implementation**
- 2. Food Donation**
- 3. Food Loss and Waste Monitoring**



Key activities

→ Action & Implementation sub-group



May 2023

The sub-group on Action & Implementation focused on the valorisation of former foodstuffs/by-products as feed and other high-value products. In addition to that the Commission updated the group on EU legislation on feed safety and opportunities for use of former foodstuffs and by-products from food production. This was followed by an introduction to former foodstuff processing by European Former Foodstuff Processors Association (EFFPA). Different case studies, research projects, and initiatives were presented to round off the session.



October 2023

This sub-group session was focused on the topic of food waste in the context of bioeconomy, including different presentations and developments. Moreover, participants looked at the valorisation of agrifood by-products in practice.



→ Food Donation



November 2023

The sub-group on Food Donation started with a presentation of the work of this year's co-chair, Les Restaurants du Cœur. This was followed by information on the ongoing assessment of barriers and opportunities for the redistribution of surplus food in the EU, sparking an interesting discussion of the different actors along the food supply chain and their insights.

Next up, a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia presented the governmental support scheme for food donation through the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience followed by an intervention from Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület (FEBA Member from Hungary) on new initiatives to recover surplus food from the HORECA sector.

The wholesale and retail sector represented by the COLRUYT Group and METRO then offered insights into their efforts in regard to food donation. Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület took the floor again to give an overview on the topic of Carbon Credits and related possibilities for Food Banks.



This was followed by an intervention from FEBA on of the recovery of surplus fish directly from landing outlining the food use hierarchy applied in the fisheries sector and explaining the legal framework. While the Common Market Organisation regulation for fishery and aquaculture products does not specifically promote the donation of these products, the option is not excluded. FEBA underscored the main problems, like overfishing, unwanted catches, and discards as well as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The process of confiscation was outlined and the barriers to food donation were clarified, like for instance large distances, unsuitable infrastructure, insufficient capacities and inadequate competencies, timing of recovery activities, and the lack of operating volunteers.

The last topic on the agenda were the amendments of Marketing Standards on Fruit and Vegetables and implied possibilities for food donation, which entered into force on 23 November 2023.



[Discover more about the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste](#)



[Discover more about the Food Donation sub-group](#)



→ Food Loss and Waste Monitoring



May 2023

The sub-group on Food Loss and Waste Monitoring examined solutions to monitoring food waste in the hospitality and food services sector, followed by a presentation of the Horizon Europe projects FOLOU and WASTELESS focused on the measurement of food losses and waste. The session was rounded off with presentations by Eurostat, FAO, UNEP, and EU Member States reporting food waste at EU and global levels.



October 2023

The session looked at research from Wageningen University and Research related to the Dutch national monitor on food waste.

This was followed by a diagnosis of the generation of food waste in the Basque Autonomous Community as well as the mapping of food waste in public meals and waste compositional analysis of Swedish households. The group subsequently looked at national measures of food loss prevention.



FEBA presented the updates on the project of Data Collection & Digital Transformation, focusing on the online Observatory on Food Donation at the regional/local level, which provides an interface for each FEBA Member with infographics and dashboards, updated in real time.

Additionally, the key findings of the assessment of the impact of the socio-economic crisis in the period January-December 2022 were outlined, indicating that the gap between surplus food quantities and food demand increased for the majority of FEBA Members.



European Citizens' Panel on Food Waste

Fostering the direct participatory involvement of European citizens in the definition of EU policy and legislative initiatives, and thereby responding to demands voiced during the Conference on the Future of Europe that took place in spring 2022, the closing session of the European Citizens' Panel on Food Waste took place in Brussels on 10-12 February, allowing 150 randomly selected EU citizens to provide input on how to combat the problem.

Following the notion of embedding participatory and deliberative practices in the European Commission's policy-making process on certain key policy areas, the attendees drafted a set of 23 ideas, which were reviewed and discussed by a group of experts on 10 February. On that occasion, FEBA was invited to provide input on ideas related to strengthening cooperation in the food value chain. Two additional focus groups evaluated proposals on encouraging relevant initiatives in the food industry and supporting consumer-behaviour change.



After another round of deliberations, where the experts' opinions were used to further work on the ideas, they were finally translated into 23 concrete recommendations aimed at boosting ongoing efforts at reducing food waste and presented during a Plenary Meeting.

As a next step, the Citizens' Panel's recommendations will complement the impact assessment and open public consultation carried out by the Commission on the EU initiative to revise the Waste Framework Directive with binding food waste reduction targets.

[Access the Citizens' Panel final recommendations.](#)



Furthermore, the European Citizens' Panel Feedback Event on 7 November 2023 was an opportunity to present the final recommendations. FEBA joined the panel discussion on cooperation in the food value chain and reacted to the citizens' proposals.





Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems (AGSFS)

→ Plenary meetings



12 May 2023

The plenary session was opened with the topic of new genomic techniques, followed by a discussion. Next on the agenda was the state of play of the framework on sustainable food systems. The Commission provided an update on the progress with regard to the new [Framework Legislation on a Union Sustainable Food System \(FSFS\)](#) in terms of timeline and additional challenges. The Commission reminded participants of the aim of the FSFS, namely, to act as an enabler both for public authorities and Food Business Operators. This was followed by a discussion with the various stakeholders. Remaining topics which were covered were the state of play when it comes to plant health and reproductive material and the substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims ([Green Claims Directive](#)).

Lastly, the international outreach activities on the Farm to Fork SFS Chapter and Free Trade Agreement negotiations

were discussed. A proposed amendment to hygiene rules for food of animal origin was presented as well as official controls regulation guidance.



17 November 2023

This meeting started with the state of play of food waste in Europe by DG SANTE as well as the legal progress on the food waste reduction targets. Next up was the revision of the 'engineered nanomaterials' definition of Regulation (EU) 2015/ 2283. In addition to that the Implementation of Regulation (EU) 1107/2009 was discussed. After that Plant Health and Plant Reproductive Materials were on the agenda. To conclude, the topics of Plants obtained by certain New Genomic Techniques and official Controls Regulation Guidance formed part of the session. Two ad hoc meetings took place on 12 July 2023 and 19 September 2023 which focussed on the preparatory work for the monitoring of the Farm to Fork Strategy as well as the Legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems, respectively.

[Find out more about the AGSFS](#)





ESF+ Community of Practice (CoP) on Material Support

The expert group of the ESF+ Communities of Practice (CoP) facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise on ESF+ supervised by the European Social Fund Agency (ESFA). It brings together the Managing Authorities of the Member States and NGOs and organisations that receive the funding.

Five CoPs covering different topic areas have been set up:

- Social Innovation
- Employment, Education and Skills
- Social Inclusion
- Migrant Integration
- **Material Support**

FEBA's Secretary General Angela Frigo has been selected as a thematic expert of the CoP on Material Support.



In 2023, six events were organised online and in person, which were attended by FEBA and its members.



27 April / 1st plenary meeting



29 June / FEAD becoming a part of ESF+: new developments, opportunities, and challenges



26 September / Voucher system implementation



26-27 October / Social Innovation Forum with a session on accompanying measures / Brussels, Belgium



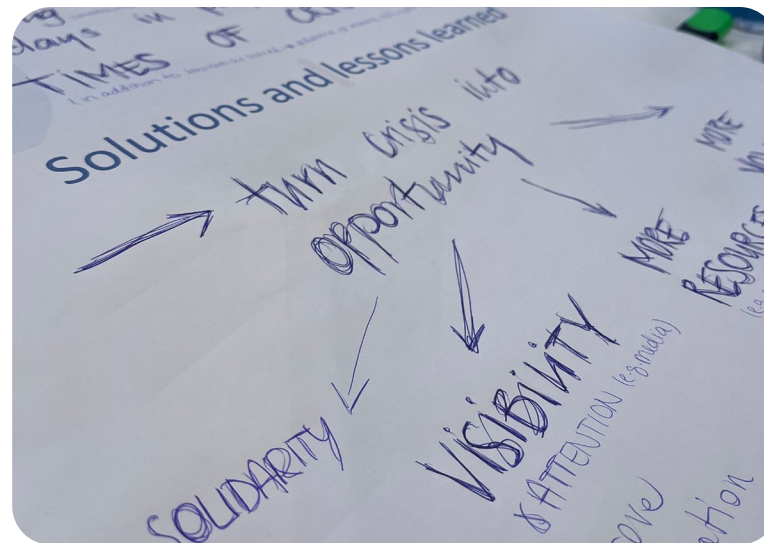
The Social Innovation Forum on 26 and 27 October 2023 in Brussels, brought together members of the five CoPs. The event focused on future activities, cooperation, and links between the CoPs while highlighting the essential aim of the ESF+ SI+ Initiative: upscaling and transferring social innovation. It was an opportunity for providing ample opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas.



**21-21 November / Bridging Communities in Times of Crisis:
Providing Material Support for Vulnerable Group / Warsaw,
Poland**



This event taking place on 21-22 November 2023 in Warsaw (Poland) brought together different actors from the CoPs on Material Support and Social Inclusion. The session gave insights into the implementation of ESF+ from the perspective of various Managing Authorities in Poland. It then shifted the focus towards the audience and interactive sessions on challenges and solutions affecting the current programming period.



The second day of the meeting was coined by site visits to NGOs and international organisations providing material support and/or involved in social inclusion activities, among them “Punkt Pod Parasolem”, a project run by Bank Żywności SOS w Warszawie, which belongs to the network of Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności.



7 December / Reviewing the Work Programme 2023-2024: Progress Update and Future Plan /online



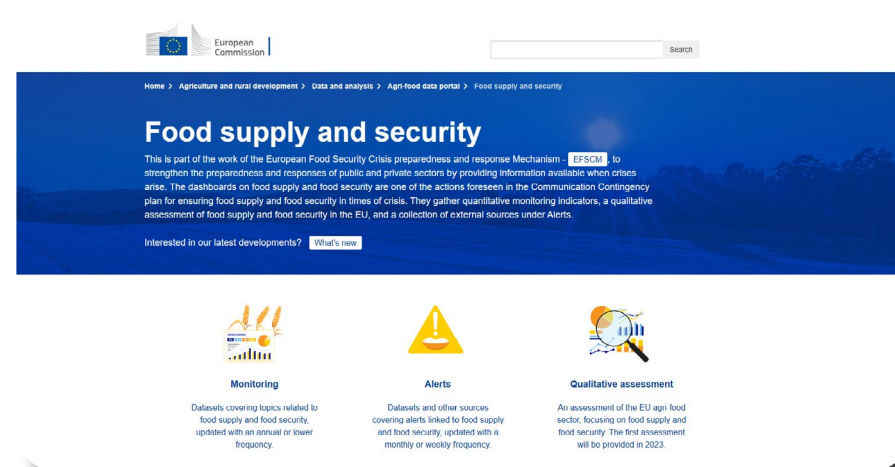
European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)

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 is a member of the Exper Group and takes part in two sub-groups: “Dashboard for the monitoring of food supply and food security” and “Improving the diversity of sources of supply”. In 2023, FEBA attended two plenary meetings as well as several meetings of the sub-groups and contributed to requests for information.



[Find out more about the EFSCM](#)



28 April 2023

Besides presenting the preliminary results of a survey circulated to Member States and non-EU countries to assess the preparedness to ensure food supply and security, the Commission presented the achievements of the sub-group on “Dashboard for the monitoring of food supply and food security” whose members have fed the dashboard for the monitoring of food supply with data. Moreover, the results of the other two sub-groups were presented.

**29 November 2023**

Among others, this meeting focussed on the conducted qualitative assessment of food supply and food security, which has been based on input from Member States, non-EU countries, and EU stakeholders. The results of this exercise created the base for the report [State of Food Security in the EU](#).

The meeting was also an opportunity to share information on mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chains, a debriefing from the 3rd Forum on best practices in the agri-food supply chain on consumer food price increase, the work programme beyond 2023, and the topic of extreme weather events and food security.



Policy and legislative developments and initiatives

A. Sustainable food system framework initiative

Towards the end of 2023, it became clear that **none of the remaining EU sustainable food files are included in the work programme of the Commission for 2024**, confirming stakeholders' assumption that these proposals will not be up for discussion before next June's EU elections. The work programme, entitled 'Delivering today and

preparing for tomorrow', outlines the Commission's plans specifying which proposals it intends to put forward and when – **however, there is no mention of the remaining key agrifood files**. This is a very timely concern in EU policymaking, **as anything that is not discussed before the June elections might not be relevant in the next Commission and Parliament**.

The **notable absences include the announced legislative framework for sustainable food systems**, a key element of the EU's flagship Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy and a central pillar of the Green Deal, which aims to accelerate and facilitate the transition to sustainable food systems. Previously, stakeholders published a [joint open letter](#) on the need to publish the EU legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems before the end of this Commission's mandate.

B. Food waste reduction targets

On 5 July 2023, the European Commission published a [proposal for a directive amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste](#) introducing **legally binding food waste reduction targets**. The **European Green Deal** and the **Circular Economy Action Plan** call for reinforced and accelerated EU and Member State action to ensure the environmental sustainability of the food sector.

While food loss and waste have become a central point of interest at the EU level, with harmonisation measures and the establishment of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste in 2016, this legislative text aims to go one step further. Indeed, this proposal **strives at reducing the environmental and climate impacts of food systems associated with food waste generation**. The consequences of food waste on the environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, land use, and marine eutrophication spurred the Commission to take further action. In addition, it points out that **preventing food waste would also contribute to food security**.

If this proposal is adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, Member States will have the obligation to take any necessary and appropriate measures to reduce food waste by

- **10% in the processing and manufacturing sector, and**
- **30% in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services, and in households**

by 31 December 2030 in comparison with the baseline year 2020. To avoid penalising Member States, which have already been making efforts, national governments are allowed to choose an earlier baseline for the reduction targets, so long as the available data is sufficiently robust.



The European Food Banks Federation welcomes this proposal to tackle food waste at different stages of the food supply chain. When food is wasted, it implies a waste of all resources necessary to produce, transport, and store it, but it also means a lost opportunity to provide nutritious food to charities helping people in need.

Recognising the importance of such a legislative instrument, FEBA actively contributed to the policy making process and its stakeholder consultation phases since the beginning. Indeed, in July 2022, FEBA published its position paper on the proposal of legally binding food waste reduction targets.



C. Updating marketing standards of agri-food products to better address consumer needs and sustainability

In late May 2023, the European Commission put forward a [proposal](#) to amend the existing marketing standards applicable to certain fruits and vegetables, including apples, kiwis, tomatoes, and lettuce.

Currently, products which do not comply with aesthetic standards may not be sold, **even if they are safe for human consumption**. Historically, these rules had been put in place to harmonise the production and to simplify comparison between two products. Due to the regulation, buyers should be able to compare two products only by looking at the price, not at the quality. While this is considered useful by many stakeholders in the industry, it results in large quantities of food waste. For example, a 2018 study estimated that EU marketing standards resulted in an average waste ranging from 3% for tomatoes to 24% for lettuce, compared to a zero-waste scenario.¹

In order to tackle the problem of food waste, the new rules would introduce the possibility to sell these products, if it is done locally and directly to the consumer.

The proposal also simplifies labelling requirements for food destined for donations. Operators will be exempted from listing certain information unrelated to food safety, thus reducing red tape and making donations easier.

As usual, the European Commission published the draft version of the text on its [website](#) in order to receive feedback. Anyone can give feedback, from business associations to citizens. The proposal still has to go through the Council and Parliament to be approved.



FEBA contributed by suggesting that donations of “ugly products” to Food Banks or other food redistribution organisations should be fostered as well. Disposing of perfectly edible food which simply does not meet aesthetic standards is a waste of resources.



¹ Joint Research Centre (European Commission), Nes, K., & Ciaian, P. (2021). [Marketing standards for food products: A review of literature](#). Page 23. Publications Office of the European Union.

D. Addressing material deprivation and fostering social inclusion: transitioning from the FEAD to the ESF+

In 2022, 11 FEBA Members – Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, 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 pursuit of the objectives of these funds, i.e. the support of the most deprived, and will continue on this path under the ESF+.



FEBA aims to facilitate 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.



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](#).²

FEBA is closely monitoring these developments and gathering feedback on possible implications on the activities of its members and the support of the most deprived.

² 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.

FEBA's key policy and advocacy activities in 2023



EU Working Group meetings



FEBA organised 1 in-person and 7 online meetings addressing a large variety of EU-related topics of relevance for FEBA Members.



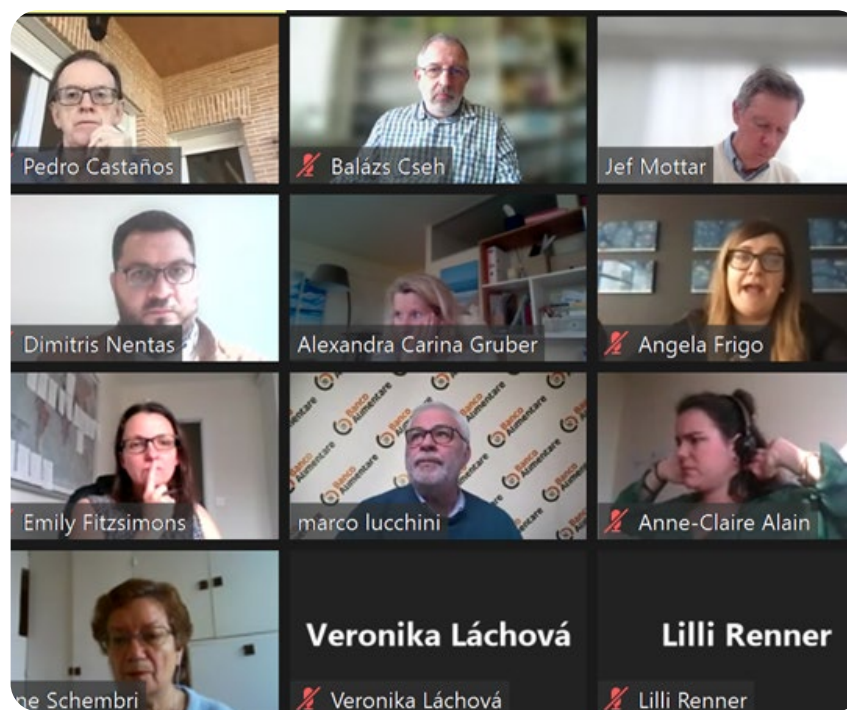
7 February

Summary of important events, developments, and activities foreseen in 2023.



7 March

Insights into the recommendations of the Citizens' Panel as well as the Civil Society Days 2023. This was followed by an open discussion on the progress and status of the implementation of the ESF+ in the different EU Member



States. In addition to that, various surveys circulated among FEBA Members to gather qualitative and qualitative data were presented.

**12 April**

Preliminary insights into the key findings of the report [European Food Banks are a critical lifeline to promote access to food – Assessment of the impact of the socio-economic crisis on FEBA Members \(January – December 2022\)](#) and a recap of the peer-to-peer sessions organised on the topic of food donation legislation in Czech Republic, France, and Italy.

This was followed by an interactive discussion on the progress and status of the implementation of the ESF+ in the different EU Member States as well as the opportunities and challenges related to food donation.

**5 May**

Overview of the past events with a specific focus on the 1st plenary session of the ESF+ Community of Practice (CoP) on Material Support. The session was closed with an outlook on upcoming events.

**6 June**

Presentation by TetraPak about their sustainable packaging solution that can also be used for FEAD/ESF+ products. This was followed by a Q&A session and a short overview on relevant policy reviews and upcoming events.

**4 July**

Summary of take-aways from the [European Consumer Food Waste Forum](#) and a recap of the most recent meeting of the ESF+ CoP on Material Support focusing on the challenges and opportunities in the transition from FEAD to ESF+.

**5 September**

The session focused on accompanying measures with a presentation made by Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności on their activities aimed at fostering social inclusion, previously under the FEAD and now financed by the ESF+.

**5 December**

Recap of activities and achievements in 2023, among them the participation at the recent session of the subgroup on Food Donation, and outlook to 2024 with regards to national and European elections as well as policy developments.



Peer-to-Peer sessions

1 February

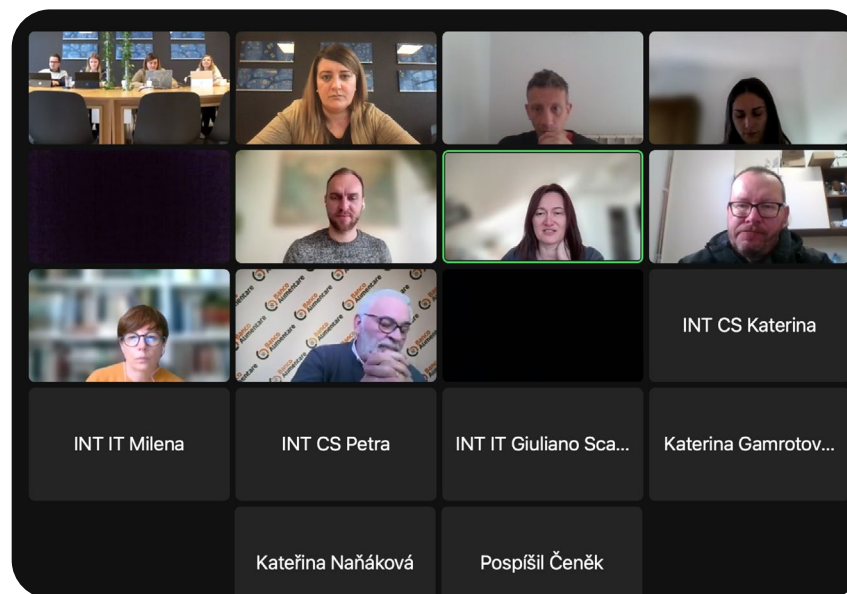
Exchange between **Fédération Française des Banques Alimentaires** (FEBA Member in France) and **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) on the French food waste prevention legislation.

2 February

Exchange between **Česká Federace Potravinových Bank** (FEBA Member in Czech Republic) and **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) on the Czech food waste prevention legislation.

20-23 February

Exchange between **Food Bank Albania** (FEBA Member in Albania) and **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) on fiscal rules.



10 March

Exchange between **Fédération Française des Banques Alimentaires** (FEBA Member in France) and **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) on the Italian food waste prevention legislation.

17 March

Exchange between **Česká Federace Potravinových Bank** (FEBA Member in Czech Republic) and **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** (FEBA Member in Italy) on the Italian food waste prevention legislation.

Conferences



In collaboration with



**ARE EUROPEAN FOOD
BANKS AT A CRITICAL
CROSSROADS?**

**27-29
SEPTEMBER
2023
MADRID**

#WeAreFEBA



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 Citizen's Panel on Food Waste
- European Community of Practice on Partnerships
- ESF+ Community of Practice (CoP) on Material Support



Publications contributing to the EU policy-making process

- Special Edition EU Monitoring Report on Legally Binding Food Waste Reduction Targets (November 2023)
- FEAD, REACT-EU, and ESF+ and the European Food Banks Federation. 2022 Implementation Report (December 2023)
- 6 EU Monitoring Reports 2023

[Discover all EU Monitoring Reports and FEBA's other publications](#)



Participation in high-level events



14 February

Webinar organised by HOTREC on food donation and hospitality / online



22 February

Food, no Waste lunch at the residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania on opportunities and challenges for sustainable consumption / Tirana, Albania



1-3 March

Civil Society Days 2023 at the European Economic and Social Committee / Brussels, Belgium



20-22 March

Food Bank Leadership Institute 2023 / Mexico City, Mexico

-  **20-22 March**
26th European Cold Chain Conference / Barcelona, Spain
-  **13 April**
Roundtable Discussion on Food Aid & Cost-of-Living Crisis at the European Parliament / Brussels, Belgium
-  **26 April**
Nordic Food Waste Summit 2023 / Stockholm, Sweden
-  **7 June**
World Bank, Roundtable Dialogue on Food Security and Person with Disabilities / online
-  **7 June**
FEAD Roundtable on new ways of delivering food and material support for social inclusion / online
-  **24-26 June**
UN Food Systems Summit, 2023 Stocktaking Moment / Rome, Italy and online
-  **11 September**
EESC Study Group on Revision of the EU Waste Framework Directive at the European Economic and Social Committee / Brussels, Belgium

-  **3 October**
A multi-stakeholder perspective on food loss and waste reduction strategies / Valencia, Spain
-  **25 October**
Social Innovation Forum organised by the European Social Fund Agency / Brussels, Belgium
-  **13 November**
Sustainable Food Systems in Developing Countries: The Role of SMEs in Addressing Food Security, Global Hunger and Malnutrition at the European Parliament / Brussels, Belgium
-  **16 November**
EU CAP Network event: 3rd meeting of the Farm to Fork Forum / Brussels, Belgium
-  **4-5 December**
Food 2030: Green & Resilient Food Systems / Brussels, Belgium

Looking forward to 2024

- Spain currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2023. Belgium will take over from January to June 2024. Hungary is scheduled to assume the presidency in the second half of 2024.
- 2024 will see elections taking place in several countries and, in addition, European elections will take place on 6-9 June.

The year 2024 will be marked by the European Parliament elections, whose outcome will determine the new composition of the Parliament as well as the composition of the Commissioners and the agenda for the upcoming years.

This leaves room for uncertainty on the future of policy and legislative priorities at the EU level. However, when it comes to policy and legislative topics of interest to FEBA and its members it is already evident that in 2024



[Read more about Belgium's presidency of the Council](#)



there will be room for focusing on the planning and implementation of the ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation at the national level as well as on the evolution of the food redistribution landscape across the EU to identify hurdles and drivers, overcome barriers, and exploit opportunities.

Acknowledgement

The European Food Banks Federation takes this opportunity to express its deep sense of gratitude for the support granted by the European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion to enhance the knowledge sharing and expertise in the field of policy within the FEBA network.

We sincerely thank all the external stakeholders who enriched the meetings of the FEBA EU Working Group with their knowledge and time.

Most importantly we would like to thank all members of the FEBA EU Working Group 2023 for their commitment at both the national and EU level and for providing valuable insights into the implementation of EU policy on the ground.

A special memory for Jozef Mottar, member of the FEBA Board of Directors and Managing Director of the Fédération Belge des Banques Alimentaires / Belgische Federatie van Voedselbanken,

who unexpectedly passed away in November 2023. Jef was also a committed member of the FEBA EU Working Group.

FEBA was delighted to have the chance to work with the FEBA EU Working Group on these topics and hopes to continue this fruitful collaboration for many years to come.

Thank
you

Editor: Angela Frigo
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Released 2023, Brussels.

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