



FEBA ANNUAL FORUM
**ON FOOD AID AND
SOCIAL INCLUSION**



European Food
Banks Federation:
competences and
creativity to feed
the future





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Overview

On 17 December 2020, the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) organised its Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion with the title “European Food Banks Federation: competences and creativity to feed the future”.

COVID-19 has placed the global economy under tremendous strain, and the agri-food supply chain has been affected with disruptions in food supply, a reorganization of food manufacturing and distribution, as well as new food habits of consumers shifting to production and consumption back into homes. At the same time, it is worth recalling that according to the UN, currently 55% of the world’s population lives in urban areas, a proportion that was expected to increase to 60% by 2050*. However, the pandemic is disrupting urban food systems worldwide and posing a number of unexpected challenges for public authorities, food business operators, cities and also non-profit organizations such as FEBA network and their affiliated partner charities that deal with rapid changes in food availability, accessibility, and affordability – especially for disadvantaged people.

Almost all FEBA members experienced an increase of demand for food of about 30%, while at the same time facing a loss of volunteers, drops in financial resources and the need to reorganize their operations quickly to everchanging circumstances. The Annual Forum was a possibility



200 participants
from **33** countries

joining via Zoom webinar and via streaming on Facebook and YouTube

for FEBA members and stakeholders to come together, discuss and take stock of the current situation, as well as shining a light on future trends, especially in relation to what is needed at EU level.

* United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN](#), 16 May 2018.



Introduction



**Jacques Vandenschrik,
President, European Food Banks Federation**

FEBA President Jacques Vandenschrik first called for a moment of silence to remember the 1.6 million persons who lost their lives due to the pandemic so far and the 50M+ who were or are badly affected by the disease. He also recalled that in 2019 the **Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion** was held in the European Parliament on 18 November 2019, a few months before the world learned to spell a now famous alphanumeric acronym: COVID-19.

Last year, the focus of the Annual Forum was mainly on the current food and material assistance provided to the most deprived persons in the framework of the **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)** and the future of the **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** support for addressing material deprivation in the new **Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027**. This subject appears to be still in discussion as it seems to be very difficult to reach an agreement in the trilogue between Council, Parliament and Commission, especially as regards thematic concentration. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus disease has its own pace and has catch up on all of us.



2020 will certainly be remembered by history as the year of the pandemic, another episode in the history of public health crisis. Every single person has lived and worked with the impact of COVID-19 and will live and work with the aftershocks and the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. Whilst COVID-19 has had disastrous consequences on many communities, COVID-19 also has an amazing impact on solidarity and empathy.

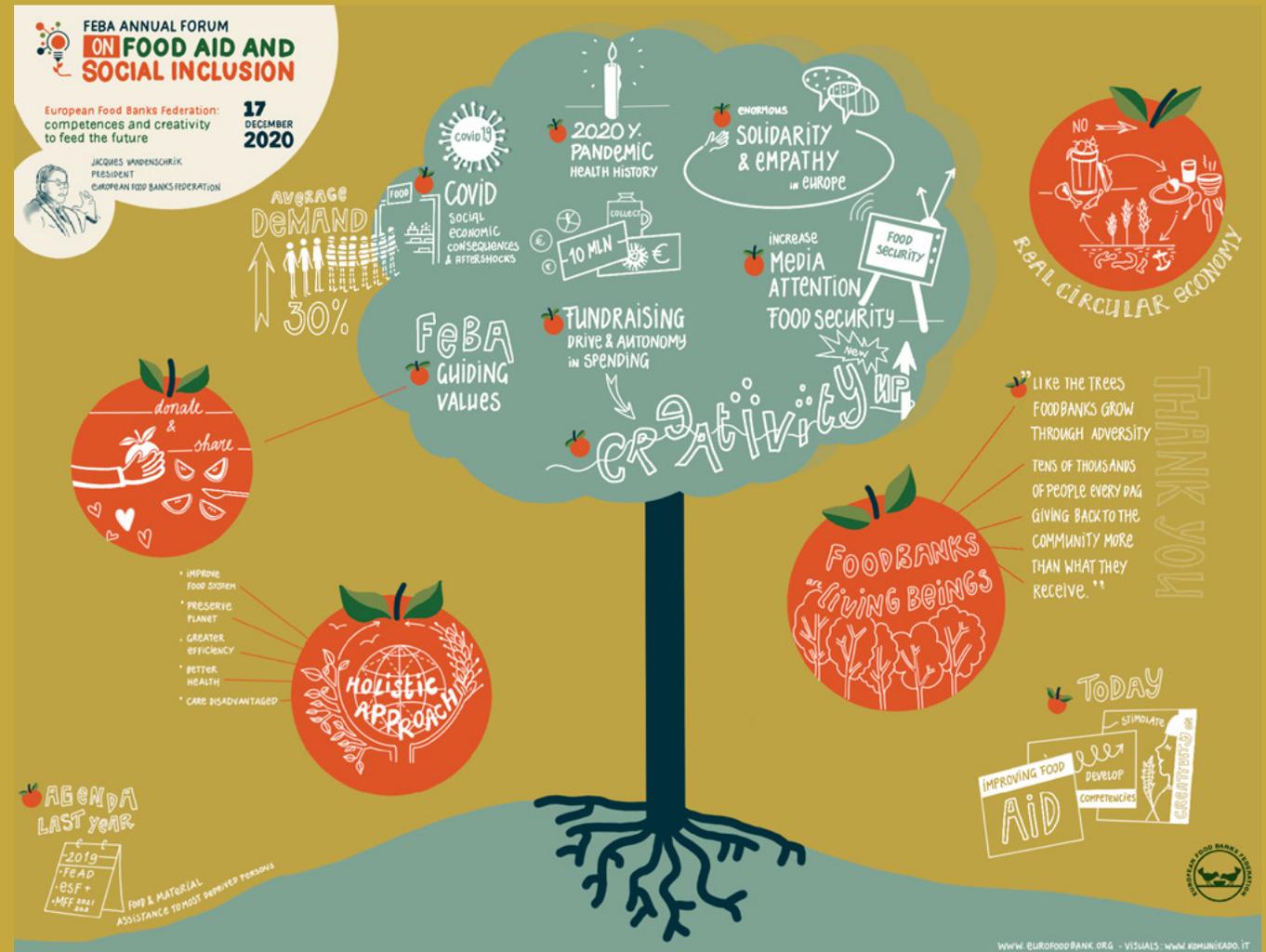
Since the start of the pandemic FEBA has launched a drive to fundraise €10mln for the purpose of assisting its members meeting their most urgent needs and securing their activity. Rather than being directive, FEBA has left it to the various national organizations to select the most efficient way to address the challenges that COVID-19 brought to their communities. As a result, FEBA has registered a fantastic surge in creativity in many diverse fields. New initiatives have taken place and very remarkably in countries where Food Banks have been of relatively recent introduction. In the latest report **“European Food Banks today: commitment, creativity, and openness to change”**, released in September 2020, FEBA highlights a 30% increase in food demand at European level, compared to 2019. The range is very wide – from 6% to 90% – across Europe. Most demands have been met thanks to the overall solidarity and creativity in 2020. President Vandenschrik stressed once again the guiding values and principles of FEBA, which is based on donation and sharing, as it is clearly stated in FEBA Charter that was reviewed and approved by the General Assembly on 17 December 2020.

Moreover, he announced that on the occasion of the Annual Forum FEBA released a new report **“European Food Banks: a wave of solidarity to face COVID-19”** highlighting the challenges and responses to COVID-19 as well as telling good stories from its members.

Never before have we heard and seen food insecurity in the media as today, even in Europe. The people queueing to collect food to feed their families is a sight that we hoped never to

see again. Today, the attention of media and the broader public on food insecurity, a topic which is at the heart of the action of Food Banks, together with food waste prevention, must relaunch a daily commitment. Food Banks belonging to FEBA must take this window of opportunity to make the case for the actions of Food Banks with the local, regional, national and European authorities as well as international organizations. FEBA will use this opportunity to stress its crucial role of course but also to contribute to the necessary holistic approach to improve the food system and preserve the planet resources for a greater efficiency and better health for all, especially the most disadvantaged.

This crisis can be a precious opportunity that can take us back to the roots of solidarity in Europe, and also the roots of the mission of Food Banks, the daily activity in Europe. Like the trees, Food Banks are living beings, made possible by tens of thousands of people every day, and they are growing through adversity because they are giving back to the community more than what they receive. Through food redistribution, Food Banks prevent food waste improving the resilience of the food supply chain, helping the planet, and contributing to food security. The activity of Food Banks is a real example of circular economy and its outcome goes far beyond the starting point.



Keynote speech

Is the COVID-19 pandemic turning into a European food crisis?



Veronica Toffolutti,
Research Fellow in
Health Economics,
Bocconi University

In February, Italy was the first Western country to be hit severely by the coronavirus. The widespread panic for the new virus led many Italians, and soon after many other Europeans, to stockpile food.

COVID-19 and the lockdown has placed the global economy under tremendous stress and has worsened food insecurity. Even though, the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights require states to actively monitor food insecurity under the 'right to food' provision of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, none of the European countries has a food insecurity monitoring system. Despite of that, previous anecdotal evidence showed that in the 2008 financial crisis approximately 13.5 million additional European households were tipped into food insecurity

and the current crisis is already much more severe and is expected to last longer. Food insecurity is not distributed equally, evidence from the U.S. for instance suggests that low-income families, households headed by a single woman and/or Black or Latinx communities, children and seniors are more likely to be exposed to food insecurity. Therefore, food insecurity is a good starting point for understanding social exclusion and material deprivation. This is also supported by data gathered by FEBA: over 90% of Food Banks experienced an increase in demand, which ranged from 6% to 90% .

COVID-19 is exacerbating food insecurity in two ways: a shortage of food triggering price rises and the inequitable distribution of food. Together these threats (outlined below) mean that many in need can no longer afford and access food.

In relation to food shortage, many countries, such as Italy, Germany, France, and the Netherlands experienced unprecedented problems due to the sudden closure of borders, and the consequent halt in the movement of people, as their production chain relies heavily on seasonal Eastern European pickers. Additionally, the agricultural workforce is getting old and declining in general. In parallel, food consumption shifted from large gathering to home cooking, therefore, the market is transforming with customers seeking long-life products, rather than the fresh food. As such the prices of some staples, such as wheat and rice have significantly increased, and some countries decided to stop exports to safeguard their own supply.

V. Toffolutti, D. Stuckler, M. McKee, *Is the COVID-19 pandemic turning into a European food crisis?*, European Journal of Public Health, Volume 30, Issue 4, August 2020, Pages 626-627.

Regarding the unequal distribution of food, her research, using a large dataset from the UK, shows that between April and July 2020, there has been a huge increase of people who are not able to buy food due to economic circumstances. For people who stayed employed and furloughed, the increase was minimal, but for those who were previously employed and now not employed, the increase was significant.

One possible suggestion to face the rise in food insecurity might be a new deal for Europe that emphasized social security and employment policies. At the same time, there is the need to reduce the dependency from international trade. In parallel, COVID-19 led Western European countries to rethink about agricultural workforce, as their system heavily relies on Eastern European workers, the only once accepting such low wages. One possible solution to increase the wages of seasonal workers – without affecting the food final price - and jointly increase the supply of national seasonal workers, is to design them as frontline workers with preferential tax relief.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to rethink the European agricultural system, especially the Common Agricultural Policy, an opportunity that must not be missed.





Feed the future: the daily contribution of FEBA members



Norway



*Paula Capodistrias,
Project Manager,
Food Banks Norway*

Paula Capodistrias, Project Manager at **Food Banks Norway**, confirmed that Food Banks in Norway experienced a significant increase in surplus food received due to the sudden closure of schools, canteens, events, and other commercial kitchens. The peak of the increase happened in March, with 77% more food received compared to the previous year.

At the same, the Food Bank's partner organizations serving food to people in need, also struggled with restrictions and closings. Therefore, Matsentralen kitchen was launched, an initiative that turns large scale surplus food products originally destined to commercial kitchens into ready-made meals that can be easily redistributed through the Food Bank's partner organizations helping people in need. For the project, the Food Bank in Oslo partnered with a local organization that works with employment



integration through their own catering services. With their services also affected by the pandemic, this was a win-win solution for all. The organization picks up the surplus food from the Food Bank, processes it in their kitchen and then brings the meals back to the Food Bank. The project was launched in Oslo, but the aim is to create a manual to replicate the project in all Food Banks across Norway in 2021.

In addition to this, the project of Internal transport was also launched. In the past, the Norwegian Food Banks tried to avoid food waste by not rescuing more food that they actually had the capacity to redistribute further. This sometimes meant that they had to refuse donation offers. Food Banks Norway addressed this problem through a new system of internal transport through which food can be redistributed to other Food Banks in the country, allowing all Food Banks to receive all the food offered to them, even if the volumes exceed the local demand.

Paula Capodistrias stressed the fact that, without the support from actors of the food industry, national foundations and funds made available through FEBA, none of this could be implemented in this difficult period in Norway.

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PAULA CAPODISTRIAS
PROJECT MANAGER
MATSENTRALEN NORGE-NORSJAV

ENORMOUS SURPLUS FOOD +++

COMMERCIAL KITCHENS

Matsentralen Kjøkken launch
MATSENTRALEN KITCHEN PROJECT
fresh meal X 1 MORE

CHARITY KITCHENS & NEEDS

VARIETY

POOL OUT BEST PRACTICE

SYNERGIZE

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Italy



Marco Lucchini,
Secretary General,
Fondazione Banco
Alimentare Onlus

Marco Lucchini, Secretary General of **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus**, underlined how the health emergency in Italy had a strong impact on the economy, and it immediately turned into a social crisis. In fact, small shopkeepers and artisans had to close, while many employees and workers on fixed-term contracts or occasional works had to stop. In this difficult period, Banco Alimentare continued its daily work of recovering and redistributing food surplus, even though every day this chain of solidarity risked failing to meet the growing need.

According to data collected by Banco Alimentare from March until today, the demand for food aid from the charitable organisations has increased up to 40% throughout the country, with peaks of 70% in the southern regions of Italy. Data shows that 77% of already fragile families have seen their economic availability reduced. Today, Banco Alimentare has an agreement with 8,000 charitable structures that reach more than 2 million people in difficulty, compared to 1.5 million people supported in 2019. To face this unprecedented situation, Banco



Alimentare implemented many new projects. In fact, the sudden closure of commercial catering sector, generated large volumes of surplus food and as a consequence, the main restaurant chains contacted Banco Alimentare and within 15 days the Italian Food Bank reached about 200 shops (especially bars and restaurants), as well as their logistics platforms to recover and redistribute surplus food. In the end, Banco Alimentare recovered more than 50 tons of food throughout the country.



A second example concerns the volunteers. During the months of the “total lockdown”, the most serious problem was the impossibility of receiving daily help from many volunteers because they were over 65 or unable to leave their municipality and reach the Food Bank’s warehouse. In order to find a solution, the collaboration between the Food Bank, municipalities, Civil Protection, catering companies, general markets, public transport companies, **Caritas Italiana** and the **Italian Red Cross** allowed the activation of Municipal Operations Centres (COC) to centralise the food aid chain. Moreover, new young volunteers engaged with the Food Bank helping to respond promptly to the growing demand for food. A third example concerns an innovative project (#SOSTegnostraordinario) coordinated by Caritas Italiana and Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus thanks to the contribution of Banco BPM. Caritas gathered information on what kind of food families needed, so they made the weekly shopping baskets according to that. Then the Caritas volunteers delivered the weekly groceries as well as the financial support for other expenses.

He concluded by thanking all the staff of Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus, the non-profit organisations, the national and European institutions that have supported the hard work in these months and with a special thanks to the FEBA President, the Secretary General and the staff for the concrete and untiring support during this period.

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MARCO LUGGAINI
 SECRETARY GENERAL of Fondazione BANCO ALIMENTARE onlus-ITALY






Hungary



Balázs Cseh,
President, Magyar
Élelmiszerbank
Egyesület

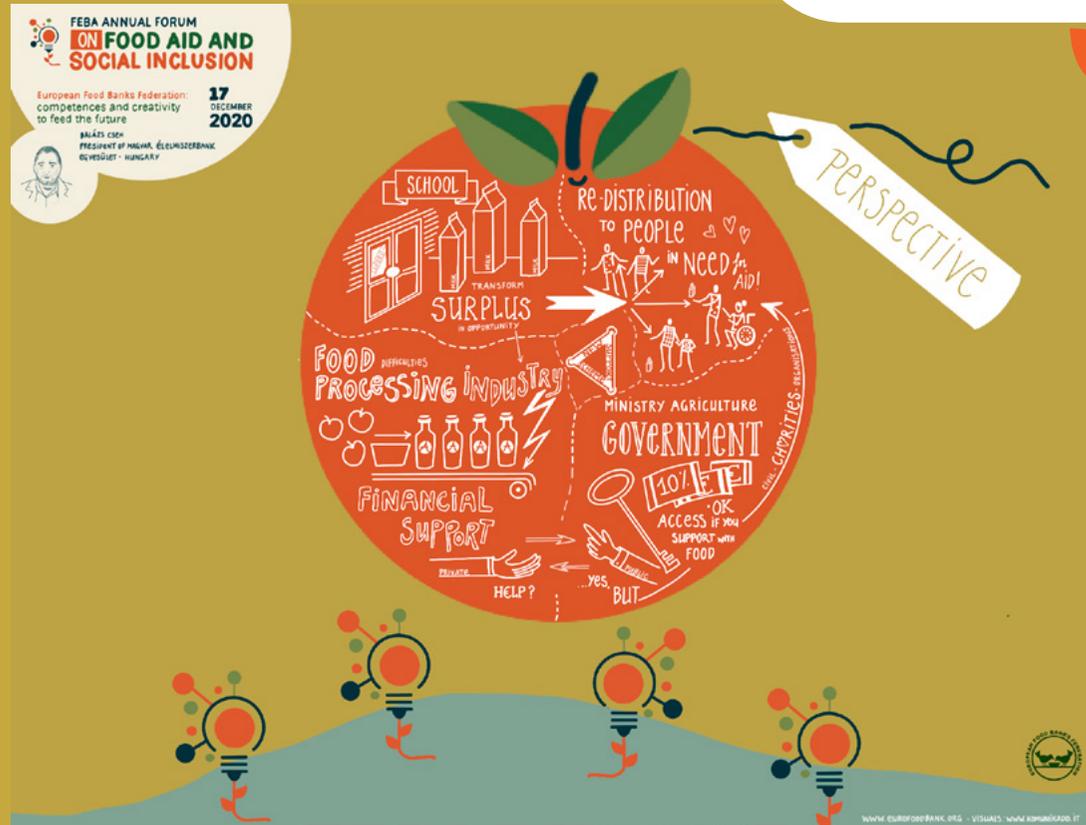
Magyar
Élelmiszerbank
Egyesület



Balázs Cseh, President of Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület, presented the special project they introduced in Hungary during the pandemic thanks to a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food Bank and other third parties.

The first wave of the pandemic hit Hungary hard, the volatility was high and there was huge amount of surplus food from HORECA sector and schools that they were able to collect and redistribute to those in need. They had various different initiatives that focused on indigenous and deprived people, in which they linked economic and social goals. Many lost their jobs, so the need for aid was huge. The Food Banks were supported by the government and food processing companies could pass their surpluses as a charitable donation to the Hungarian society. There was a threshold of 10% that food processors passed back to the society, resulting in hundreds of recipients and €2 millions of value.

This project is still ongoing, so they hope that it will last until next year. 2020 was particularly difficult for deprived people and there is an ever-



higher need for food aid. Their project was successful in collaboration between government and civil organizations. This successful cooperation could serve as a role model for projects in other fields, such as waste reduction for instance.



Czech Republic



Veronika Láchová, CEO, Česká Federace Potravinových Bank

Veronika Láchová, CEO of **Česká Federace Potravinových Bank**, pointed out that they experienced a similar situation as described by the previous speaker in the Czech Republic. During the first lockdown in March 2020, Czech Food Banks had to deal with an increased number of surplus foods, especially fresh food. One of the main activities they started immediately after the closure of schools was a cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture that approached them in relation to their programs “Milk to School” and “Fruit to School”. The Food Banks received the food that would be distributed through the programs and was able to redistribute to people in need, especially the elderly and families. The cooperation was carried out at enormous speed: The Food Banks were able to distribute 300 tons of fresh food and dairy products within three weeks, an unprecedented high amount in such short time. The local municipalities were of great help, since they mobilized volunteers to support the distribution operations. In autumn, during the second wave, they profited from their experience in spring and were able to distribute 400 tons of food in a short period of time. They also cooperated with restaurants and schools again and were able to recover their surplus food quickly. Unfortunately, the situation in autumn was more demanding, because the number of COVID-19 cases were much higher and consequently, fewer volunteers were available. However, the public and actors of the food supply chain

such as retailers were of great support. Their recent food collection yielded in twice as much food collected than in previous years. The Food Bank’s work was greatly appreciated by the general public, but also by politics, which supported the Food Bank financially. An important and new source of food was through a cross-border cooperation with Germany’s Food Banks. If there is surplus food in Germany, it is shipped to the Czech Republic and is immediately distributed there and vice versa. A similar cooperation is being prepared with Austria. Cross-border cooperation is a great opportunity to further increase the variety of food in FEBA network.



Česká Federace potravinových bank



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Ireland



Emma Walsh,
International
Partnerships Director,
FoodCloud

Emma Walsh, International Partnerships Director at **FoodCloud**, stressed that there was an incredible increase in food demand as a result of the coronavirus. FoodCloud runs the national Food Bank network in Ireland and also has technology which is used internationally to rescue food from supermarkets. During the pandemic FoodCloud experienced record high and low volumes of surplus as a direct result of panic buying and also the impact of lockdown. In Ireland they rescued 3,000 tonnes of food during 2020 through their warehouses and technology. Their warehouses experienced a 75% Increase in volume compared to 2019. Despite this significant increase, FoodCloud struggled to keep pace with the demand for food.

In order to ensure food got to where it was needed, FoodCloud engaged very closely with its charity partners; at the start of the first lockdown a team of remote volunteers did a phone survey with all charity partners to understand the anticipated changes to operations. They found that 40% of charities were forced to close as a result of the restrictions, these charities were temporarily removed from FoodCloud's distribution which enabled

more food to be provided to those who were still open. They provided the charities who were open a letter explaining they were delivering an essential service which reduced uncertainty for charity volunteers. FoodCloud experienced their highest ever level of enquiries from individuals who were in need of food, and to support people impacted by the pandemic accessing local services they worked with charities to create the Food Link Map identifying the location of food services, open to the public. Charities reported that they were under significant financial pressure, to support this FoodCloud fundraised and were able to remove their membership contribution for all partners. A chatbot was used to carry out monthly check-ins with charities to see who was open and closed during 2020 as the restrictions constantly changed.





In a survey carried out in July 70% of the respondent charities noted that they had experienced an increase in demand for food due to the impact of COVID-19 on incomes, the closure of schools and self-isolation. To support this increased demand for food, FoodCloud launched their first national food appeal called Food for Ireland.

FoodCloud is the delivery partner for FEAD in Ireland, the food provided through FEAD is long-life, shelf-stable products which was especially important during the pandemic as many charities moved from cooking on site to providing food hampers and this type of food facilitated this with ease. FoodCloud worked with the government to provide a 25% increase in the allocation of food for 50 charities as part of their Q3 FEAD distribution.

FoodCloud observed the importance of food as a way to open doors and connect with those at risk in communities, creating a safety net and fostering solidarity and resilience.

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17 DECEMBER 2020

EMMA WALSH
 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS DIRECTOR,
 FOODCLOUD - IRELAND




Updates from the European Commission



Loris Di Pietrantonio, Head of Unit, ESF and FEAD: Policy and legislation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Loris Di Pietrantonio firstly thanked FEBA and its members on the ground for their work, especially during the pandemic. COVID-19 has not only affected the EU from a health perspective, but also from a socio-economic aspect.



The EU institutions have therefore adapted the current regulations through the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives (CRII and CRII+), that were passed in record time. The aim was to mobilize existing liquidity of €37 billion and to create more flexibility programs such as FEAD, for instance through a co-financing rate for Member States of 100%.

Another important modification for FEAD that entered in April was the possibility to use paper and electronic vouchers to address the issue of having less volunteers on the ground. Through several modifications in the social programs, they were able to reach four million people. The EU institutions almost doubled the usual budget. The new €1.074 billion **MF 2021-2027** includes funds for cohesion policies of €377.7 billion, of which €88 billion are dedicated to the **ESF+**.

What is new in the budgetary, financial and political efforts is the **Next Generation EU**, which includes the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** (€672.5 billion) and allows the Commission to issue bonds on the market to finance this fund. It also includes the **REACT-EU** initiative of €47.5 billion that provides refuelling of the current budget period (2014-2020) and therefore reinforces existing programs, including FEAD.

In relation to the ESF+, negotiations are still ongoing, especially thematic concentration remains a topic of discussion. In relation to the goal of basic material assistance and food provision within the ESF+, the Commission proposed a 2% earmarking, which is supported by the Council of the EU. The European Parliament however aims for 3% on top of the 25% for social inclusion. He hopes that in January an agreement can be reached so that they can start programming. Anyway, there will be no disruption due to the reinforcement through REACT-EU and the eligibility is set at the 1st of January 2021, so that even when programs are introduced later, the expenditures can be recovered.

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LORIS DI PIETRANTONIO
 HEAD OF UNIT FOR CSF & FEAD, POLICY & LEGISLATION, DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS & INCLUSION, EUROPEAN COMMISSION



CARE & SHARE

Thank you
for all your work

NEXT

AGREEMENT REFUEL
BUT DESTINATION TO BE DEFINED.



EFFECTIVE RESOLUTIONS

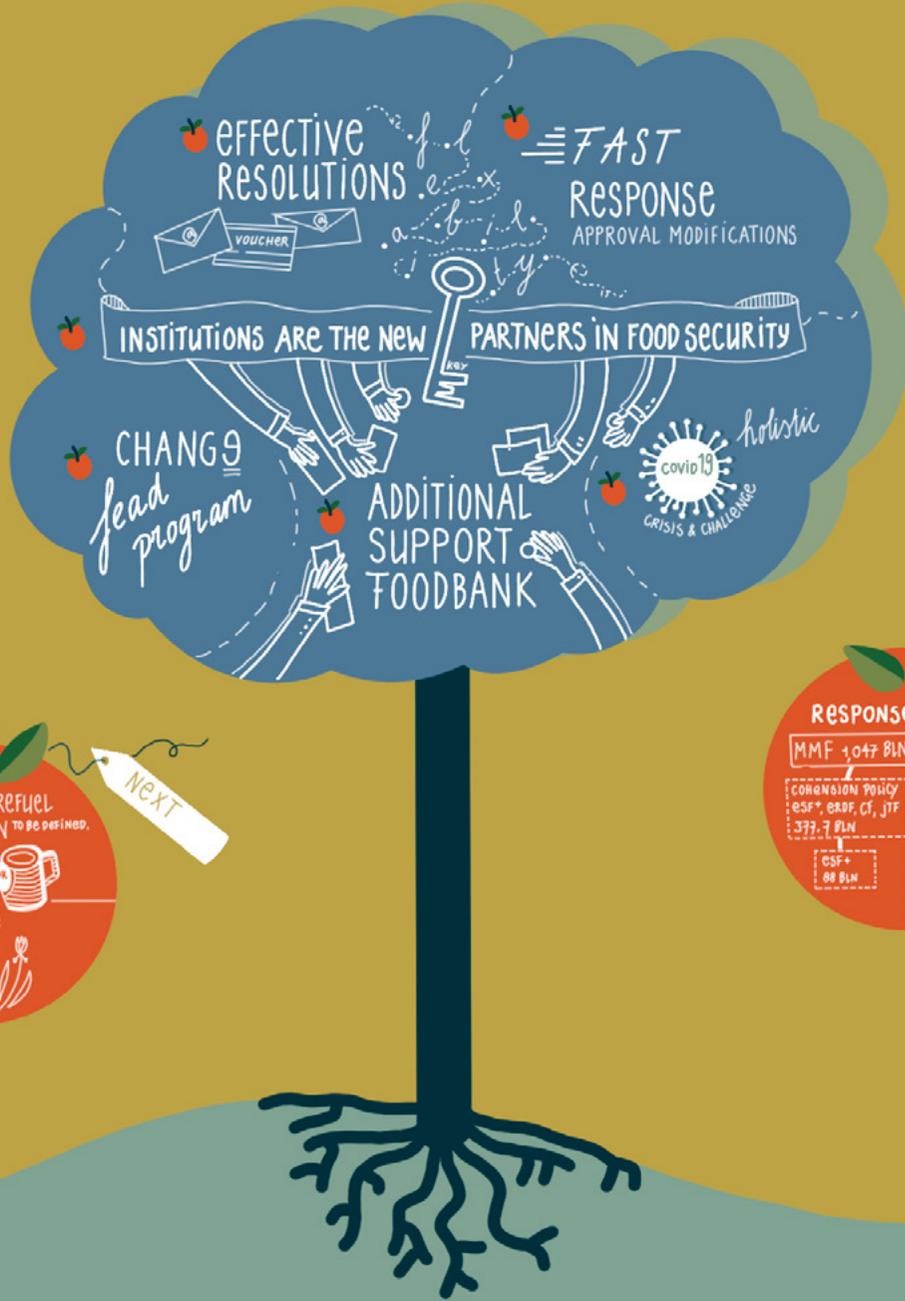
FAST RESPONSE
APPROVAL MODIFICATIONS

INSTITUTIONS ARE THE NEW PARTNERS IN FOOD SECURITY

CHANG9 lead program

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOODBANK

holistic
COVID19
CRISIS & CHALLENGE



Needs

WE NEED TO SPEED UP for the GROUND

2021
MANDATE



FINANCE

RESPONSE TO CRISIS

MMF 1,047 BLN	NEXT 750 BLN GENERATION EU
CONJUNCTION POLICY ESF, ERDF, CF, JTF 377.7 BLN	RECOVERY & RESILIENCE FACILITY RRF 672.5 BLN
ESF+ 88 BLN	REACT EU 47.5 BLN
	TRANSFER TO FEAD ESF ERDF 2014-2020



Keynote speeches

Empowering Food Citizens



Roberta Sonnino,
Professor of
Environmental Policy
and Planning, Cardiff
University

Roberta Sonnino first highlighted the issue of food rotting on the fields due to lack of migrant workers, while at the same time Food Banks all over the world experienced an increase in demand. This underlines the fact that hunger is not an isolated problem, but in fact is related to socio-ecological issues and other grand challenges like climate change, loss of biodiversity, water scarcity and poverty. There is a strong correlation between food security and socio-environmental security, meaning between levels of income and employment, the availability of flows and stocks of natural resources and the ability of society to eat healthy.

City governments play a crucial role in addressing this issue through actions, many have created synergies across the food system, between diverse stakeholders and traditionally disjointed policy areas. We need to continue supporting city actions, because they are the ones that enhance innovative practices and civil society participation and multi-stakeholder collaboration. However, a lot of the proposed solutions, especially in relation to COVID-19, develop a narrative that fetishizes the urban. One example might be the policy focus on “resilient” and “smart” cities, because these idioms give

prominence to aggregated data, arbitrary thresholds, performance indicators and techno-managerial fixes. Performance-based governance and evidence-based policy are inaccurate because they are not able to reflect informal flows that happen at urban level.

To be politically meaningful, the urban food agenda needs to start engaging with issues of power, contesting the role of profit-driven businesses. To be transformative, we need to empower citizens and drive towards participation and inclusiveness and understand whose concerns are prioritized, whose voices are heard, who is empowered – and who is not.





Paul Milbourne,
Professor of Human
Geography, Cardiff
University

Paul Milbourne then further discussed the relationship between food and poverty, that is underlined by the experience of increased demand of organizations providing emergency assistance such as Food Banks. Food poverty goes beyond nutrition and includes the socio-cultural dimension. A lack of food is a manifestation, rather than a cause of poverty, that may vary significantly. The truth is that people who use Food Banks are only the tip of the iceberg, many that experience food poverty do not make use of Food Banks. It is difficult shed a light on food poverty due to its hidden nature, there is still limited evidence. Official statistics are often inadequate and there is inconsistency across countries. Academics paid little attention to everyday food poverty. Lastly, it remains a political silence on food poverty that is caused by a lack of representation of those that experience food poverty. If food poverty is linked to human rights, social injustice, and exclusion, then the answer is not to simply give more food, but to find broader adequate answers as a government. Many still focus on food redistribution rather than social inclusion and anti-poverty actions. A depoliticization of food poverty needs to happen. Food Banks perform a valuable task in responding to hunger and raising the profile of food poverty. There is a danger

of Food Banks being taken for granted in the austerity environment and become normalized and institutionalized. Looking forward, Food Banks play a role as community hubs and resource centres. They have the potential to develop new relationships with and through food, making more use of diverse types of sustainable, healthy food, engage more with other actors, through collective cooking or gardening for instance. At the moment, Food Banks may be seen as rather peripheral actors in the food system, but we have to start seeing them as central actors and catalysts for food system transformation.



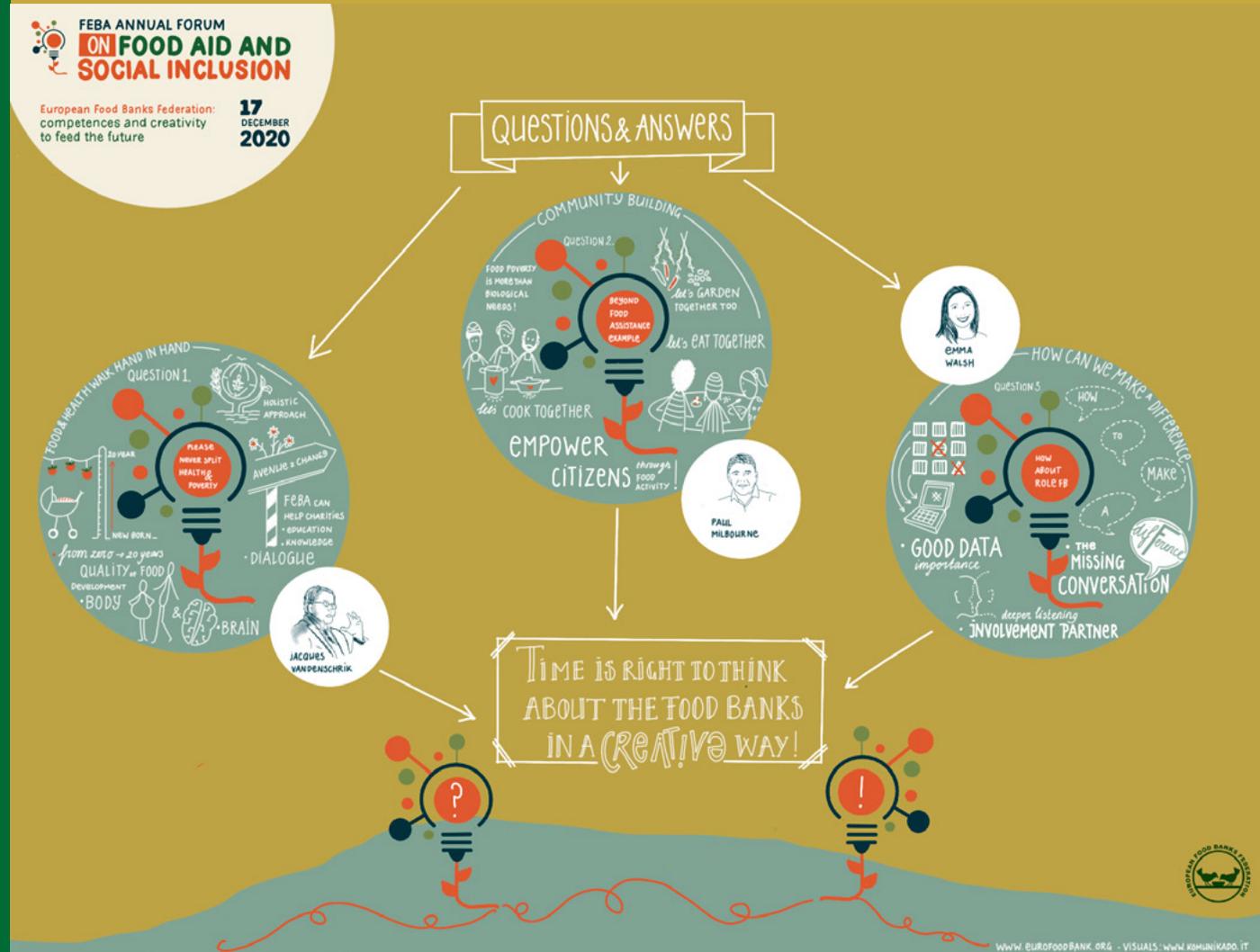


Q&A session

During the Q&A session, Jacques Vandenschrik commented on the interrelation between food and health poverty. He underlined that food insecurity is part of a holistic problem. Food Banks are not specialists in poverty reduction as a whole, but traditionally in relieving one aspect of poverty. Food Banks can supply other things than food to the charities, such as education and knowledge and dialogue between society and people in precarious situations.

Paul Milbourne commented on Food Banks serving as community inclusion catalysts and said that it is about rather than giving food to people and let them go home with it, to bring people together through food.

Emma Walsh, FoodCloud, Ireland commented on the role of Food Banks in relation to the human right to food. During the crisis local charities looked to FoodCloud to talk about this issue, but they realized, that they did not have enough data at hand. There is still a lot of work to do in understand and model the demand.





Aknowledgement

The European Food Banks Federation takes this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission for concretely supporting the capacity building of FEBA and its membership. A deep appreciation to Loris Di Pietrantonio for his contribution on the different updates from the European Commission.

A grateful acknowledgement to Laura Gavinelli for driving us with competence and professionalism throughout the conference.

A deep appreciation to Paula Capodistrias (Food Banks Norway), Marco Lucchini (Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus), Balázs Cseh (Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület), Veronika Láchová (Česká Federace Potravinových Bank) and Emma Walsh (FoodCloud) for their inspiring contributions on the role of Food Banks in Europe in these challenging times.

A special thanks to Veronica Toffolutti (Bocconi University) and Paul Milbourne and Roberta Sonnino

(Cardiff University) for their interesting keynote speeches, giving a valuable contribution to the conference and testifying that a real and constructive collaboration between food bankers and the Academia is possible in Europe!

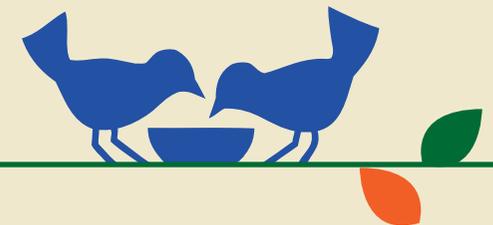
A huge thank you to Marielle Binken, for driving us with the graphic recording of the event in an original and creative way!

Thank you to the interpreters who, despite the challenges of an online conference system, allowed each participant to follow the conference, lifting the language barriers and thus allowing everyone to be closer.

The European Food Banks Federation wants profoundly to thank its members for their daily commitment in preventing food waste and reducing food insecurity in these challenging times. The constant and tireless activity of FEBA members all over Europe makes a real difference and gives a tangible contribution in this demanding period.

Last but not least, many thanks to all the participants who actively contributed to the success of the 2020 FEBA Annual Forum on Food Aid and Social Inclusion.

Thank you !





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