

Surplus food redistribution during the COVID pandemic crisis

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Hungarian Food Bank Association



- 👉 Founded in 2005
- 👉 Member of the European Food Banks Federation
- 👉 Supply from 150 companies, mainly in the food processing and retail sectors
- 👉 Redistribution via 400 charity partners, providing food for 250 000 needy people in Hungary
- 👉 Distributed 8400 tonnes of food surplus in 2020



Social impact of COVID

- Food banks experienced an increase in the demand for food.
- Increased numbers of individuals needed help accessing food as:
 - Unemployment has increased
 - Schools have been closed



Food surplus caused by market changes

- HORECA closing – surplus stock + surplus at the supplier side
- Schools closing – school fruit and milk suppliers
- Retail – changing habits, less family events



Reaching capacity limits



- Food surplus offerings strongly increasing
- Operations mostly financed by donations, „cross-financing” and volunteering – resources reaching their maximum limits
- ~15% of charity partners closing down their operations!
- External financing would be needed for securing operation (e.g. involving FEAD/ESF+ funds in redistribution activities)



Cooperation within the FEBA network

- Adaptation/ technology upgrade - keeping „business as usual” without any personal meetings
- Regular (online) meetings to share knowledge –
 - Better understanding threats and opportunities
 - Better prediction of the next period
- Joint efforts for increasing financial funding of extra activities



Cooperation within Hungary

- Food is Value Forum” - Hungarian FLW Platform
- Coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Hungarian Food Bank
- 50+ members from all sectors

Main objectives

- Knowledge sharing
- Awareness raising
- Actions/projects



Connecting NEPAP

- A great example of a Public-Private-NGO partnership
- Food processing companies helped by the National Economy Protection Action Plan were donating food via the Food Bank and other charitable organisations
- Result: +100.000 food donation packages



Live Wastlessly

- Consumer educational campaign
- Coordinated by the MediaUnion Foundation supported the Food is Value Forum, sponsors and many media channels
- Online, TV, radio, outdoor, PR campaign, educational road show.
- Good news - less household food waste even when eating more at home!



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Main lessons learned

- Cooperations are key, both FEBA and the Food is Value Forum are working well
- Long term sustainable financial background of redistribution activities is getting more and more crucial
- Crisis put more emphasis on the social aspect in the redistribution activities but the environmental aspect became also stronger – especially at the consumer level



Thank you for your attention!

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