

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

Date: 17 December 2020

Where: Zoom webinar

Time: 11:00 – 13:00

Interpretation available in: Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian

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 2050¹. 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.

The context can vary from country to country, but all the members of the European Food Banks Federation are showing similar challenges such as the growing demand for food, the loss of volunteers, a reorganization of the operational model, and a drop in financial resources. Despite all these difficulties, our members are expressing their full commitment, creativity, and openness to change. They continue to ensure the activity while adapting and innovating their actions to this new 'normal'.

In this context, the Annual Forum "*European Food Banks Federation: competences and creativity to feed the future*" is organised on 17 December 2020 with the objective to take stock of the current situation and spot a light on future trends and a focus on European policies such as the Next Generation EU and the ESF+.

Contributions from FEBA members, officials from the European Commissions and representatives from the Academia will give a comprehensive overview and foster the discussion.

¹ 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.

Programme

Moderator: *Laura Gavinelli, management consultant and trainer*

- 11:00 – 11:15 *Welcome and opening remarks*
Jacques Vandenschrik, President, European Food Banks Federation
- 11:15 – 11:30 *Keynote speech*
Veronica Toffolutti, Research Fellow in Health Economics, Bocconi University²
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Feed the future: the daily contribution of FEBA members*
- Paula Capodistrias, Project Manager, Food Banks Norway
 - Marco Lucchini, Secretary General, Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus
 - Balázs Cseh, President, Magyar Élelmiszerbank Egyesület
 - Veronika Láchová, CEO, Česká Federace Potravinových Bank
 - Emma Walsh, International Partnerships Director, FoodCloud
- 12:00 – 12:20 *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
- 12:20 – 12:40 *Keynote speech*
Roberta Sonnino, Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning, Cardiff University³
- Paul Milbourne, Professor of Human Geography, Cardiff University
- 12:40 – 12:55 *Q&A Session*
- 12:55 – 13:00 *Closing remarks*
Jacques Vandenschrik, President, European Food Banks Federation

² 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.

³ R. Sonnino, H. Coulson, [Unpacking the new urban food agenda: The changing dynamics of global governance in the urban age](#), Urban Studies Journal, 5 August 2020.

