

Brussels, 6 May 2021

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 For a sustainable future food system

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” is organized by the European Food Banks Federation in collaboration with Česka Federace Potravinových Bank and will be held online on 6-7 May 2021.

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 is recognised as a UN Food Systems Independent Dialogue. It is an opportunity for 300 participants from 39 different countries, including FEBA members, officials from the European institutions and international organisations, business partners, leading experts and other NGOs, to engage in proposing pathways towards sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative actions.

COVID-19 has placed the global economy under tremendous strain. While throwing many people into food insecurity overnight, this crisis has highlighted **the importance of food security in Europe.**

Since their first establishment, FEBA members have daily worked facing **the challenge not just to prevent food waste but also to ensure its safe delivery and redistribution to charities helping people in need.** Particularly in 2020, they provided tangible responses in a challenging context, contributed to improving the efficiency of food business operators, increasing significantly and rapidly their operations, with an agile determination, a continuous process innovation, and a widespread coverage on the ground.

In 2020 in Europe **335 Food Banks** belonging to the European Food Banks Federation redistributed **860.000 tons of food to 12.8 million most deprived people through 48.126 charitable organizations** thanks to the professionalism of **37.016 co-workers (85% volunteers)**.¹ These figures are a picture of 2020: an increased activity, a growing number of people in need, and more people willing to help.

Solidarity and collaboration may be a way of coming out of this pandemic crisis better, stronger and together. The support of public authorities, businesses, charities, volunteers, and citizens has proven that it is possible to grow through adversity.

¹ This is the aggregation of data provided by FEBA Full Members at European level. Due to technical difficulties the number of beneficiaries, food quantities and co-workers in 2020 were not available for Tafel Deutschland e.V. (Germany). These numbers are replaced with data 2019.



“For food bankers, the daily dedication to people consists in recovering, sorting, storing and redistributing food that could become waste. And there is the miracle of circular economy at work.”, said Jacques Vandenschrik, President, European Food Banks Federation. “Food Banks closes the gap between humanitarianism and humanism. The concern for each individual with a personalized response to his/her specific need is the bond between beneficiaries, charities, partners and Food Banks.”

To think systemically and engage in concrete actions, contribute to the ongoing debate, and be part of the choices that will follow giving value to food and taste to the future, the European Food Banks Federation is organizing its Annual Convention 2021 **“For a sustainable future food system”** .

To learn more, we invite you to **join us for this virtual event** on 6 and 7 May by visiting annualconvention.eurofoodbank.org.

The FEBA Annual Convention 2021 is possible thanks to a financial support from the European Union and with the contribution of General Mills Foundation.

For more information

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About the European Food Banks Federation

Established in 1986 and based in Brussels, the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) is a non-profit organization and works in collaboration with 24 Full Members and 5 Associate Members in European countries. FEBA mission consists in representing its membership at European and international level, supporting and strengthening its members in Europe by providing training, sharing best practice and knowledge, and developing partnerships, and fostering the creation of new Food Banks.

FEBA brings together 335 Food Banks which are committed to prevent food waste and reduce food insecurity. In 2020 our Full Members redistributed 860,000 tons of food to 12.5 million most deprived people through 48,126 charitable organizations thanks to the professionalism of 37,016 co-workers (85% volunteers). In addition to surplus food from the food supply chain, FEBA members also redistribute food from the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD) and the EU Fruits and Vegetables withdrawal scheme, as well as from corporate and individual donations.