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## CONCRETE ACTIONS FROM CZECH REPUBLIC

6 May 2021

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Full speech

I want to welcome you in our space of the Czech Food Banks. We are a small country in the middle of Europe if you know that. And is necessary for you, for your enjoyment the next presentation and our guests, to introduce you shortly through our history of progress in last year. Our increase in Czech Republic, maybe you know, was full of luck. Good luck and good people and supporters, which became in some months and some years, partners, and friends. This partnership is crucial for us. In 2016 when I founded one of the original Food Banks it was only 1,300 tons of food we recovered, and we distributed to 350 organisations around the country. Now, it is at the end of 2020 after four years we manage over 7,000 tons of food, that is almost 7,000 more than before, 6,000 more than before four years, and we manage it to over 1,000 organisations.

We have a net of Food Banks cooperating and supporting together. Our net is functional that we, they ask for example, to provide protection equipment for people in need, which is actually not connected with food, but it is connected health and with support and with partnership. This was needed as fast as it was possible and we did not want to make any delays, so we made it voluntary, we made it for free and without any administration or commissions or anything like that. And we distributed over seven million masks and over three million respirators to charities, NGOs, towns, villages, and we made it in three weeks. I know that it is not about the food, but it is something that represents for us partnership with authorities, with supporters and with people because people needed us, and we were there for helping them. These actions are possible mostly thanks to our supporters and partners. For three years, three last four years, we had to make a lot of concessions, steps forward, steps back, but we finally always wanted together to fight against the waste food and against the hunger. Accordance and respect to



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each other's mission was with our partnership the clue to the most important partnerships and relationships.

For today, I invited three guests to tell you how we are cooperating and how the Food Banks can be Food Banks supported from many sides. My first guest is from the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture in our country was the first subject helping from our government to Food Banks. This Ministry is a key partner for recovering food from supermarkets, which makes over 80% of our food income. The second guest is from NADĚJE, NADĚJE is a Czech word and in English it means hope. HOPE is a historical, social partner of the Czech Federation of Food Banks. This NGO was by founding many of Food Banks in regions and also was by founding the Czech Federation at the very beginning. They are involved in some internal programmes, and they are distributing hundreds of tons to people, hundreds of tons of food to people in need and they are very important partner on the level of social services and NGOs. And the last but not least of my guests is Mr Krieger, who is the CEO of the PENNY Market chain in the Czech Republic. PENNY Market came only three years ago with a question: how can we help? That is something what I find out that is the best start of partnership. They provide us with a crucial central infrastructure, logistics centre for free. Now they are helping us with the preparation of 10 new warehouses. They became this year the original partner of Czech Federation of Food Banks and I want to share with you how the cooperation with a business stakeholder can be real a partnership because I feel it like that.

These are only a small part of the big puzzle which provides food for more than 100,000 of people in need at the end of the day. I am here, not like a guest, but I am here on behalf of our teams from the Federation of Czech Food Banks and people who are able to connect these resources and to make general support into real operational activities and to get food to the people. So, I am very happy that you can be here, and you can share with me all these ways we went and to see how our partnership is working because I feel that we make a huge progress in last years and we want to inspire, and we want to show you how we do it. And I hope that you will enjoy.



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