



POTRAVINOVÉ  
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FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021  
DIALOGUES



## CONCRETE ACTIONS FROM CZECH REPUBLIC

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Daniel Svoboda – Regional Director, NADĚJE

Full speech

Hello, good afternoon. As has been said, my name is Daniel Svoboda, and I am the Director of the Prague branch of the charity organisation called NADĚJE. Thank you for inviting me to the FEBA Annual Convention to introduce our organisation and our participation in food hub. In English, NADĚJE is translated as hope, that's why the name hope is in the title of this presentation called, 'Food Help In Hope'. Food aid is very important for our work. It must not be missed in our work.

NADĚJE is a non-government organisation. We function in Prague but also in other 24 cities and towns in Czech Republic. We started very soon after the Velvet Revolution and fought communism in 1989, so that's 21 years ago. Today, we have nearly 800 employees and we take care of 2,000 people in need per day. And our mission is to create a strong network of hope. We support elderly people by making it possible for them to spend their old age in homes for elderly people. We support mentally handicapped people and people with other serious health problems, many of them participate in normal life regardless of their troublesome situation. In our clubs we support children and young people who live on the edge of society. We help them in school and also help them have some quality free time and NADĚJE also looks after economically very disadvantaged families. NADĚJE is a Christian organisation but we are not very connected by any church, we are open to all people regardless of religion, any personal ideology or orientation. And last but not least, we look after homeless people. That's my task in Prague. In Prague we help on average 2,500 people without homes a year.



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The people in need in Prague can use our day-care centres near the main train station right in the middle of the city. They feed themselves, take a shower, wash or exchange clothes or charge their phones and here, of course, they get food. In the same place, the homeless people can use the service of our doctors; a general practitioner is available every day, while one day a week we have a dentist, a gynaecologist and a dermatologist. So, we also count 200 people a day in this centre. We have a team of 20 workers on streets every day. They look for forgotten homeless people on the streets and offer help to them. They look for people without housing right, where they are live and where they are sleeping rough.

In Prague, we operate five overnight hostels and two dormitories. We accommodate 250 homeless people every day. In two shelters we accommodate people with health problems and senior homeless people who are without health insurance or with insufficient pension insurance. These people would otherwise be left on the streets without help. According to our data, the number of homeless seniors is growing very fast in the Czech Republic.

As Veronika said, NADĚJE is a long-term partner of the Czech Federation of Food Banks. I think we have been working together since the beginning. I think we daily operate in 25 cities in Czech Republic.

Food help plays an important role in NADĚJE, after all, we help people in need. We have food warehouses in many of our branches in the Czech Republic

NADĚJE distributes food right on the street, it does not matter if it is winter or summer we drive to the far parts of Prague where we contact the needed people. We will give them food and provide medical assistance and any other needed support.

NADĚJE distributes food also to people who are accommodated in shelters and dormitories. These people can prepare their own meals from foods supplied by Food Banks. We can give the food to 250 women and men who every day live in our houses for homeless people.

Many dogs accompany the homeless on their difficult life journey. They also deserve help, good food.

And NADĚJE participates every year, I think twice a year, in the food collection organised by the Czech Federation of Food Banks. Our volunteers help in the department stores with the sorting of selected food and food from this collection will provide food help for our clients for several months.

As I have already said, food help is very, very important for NADĚJE's work. Without this kind of help our work would be more complicated. Three things are important for homeless people: housing, healthcare, and food. Last year we distributed 60 tonnes of food to homeless people in Prague. This would not be possible, it would be impossible without the help of the Food Banks. We are very grateful for the network of Food Banks in Prague and in the Czech Republic. Thank you very much for cooperation with Food Banks, Veronika, and we look forward to fuller cooperation. Thank you for your attention.



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