

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 6 May 2021 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	For a sustainable future food system
CONVENED BY	Jacques Vandenschrik (President, European Food Banks Federation) & Angela Frigo (Secretary General, European Food Banks Federation)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9217/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

300

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 69 19-30 143 31-50 68 51-65 18 66-80 1 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

124 Male 173 Female 3 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7	Agriculture/crops	25	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	5	Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	9	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	14	Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology	22	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	218	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business	5	Member of Parliament
28	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	11	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
130	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
43	International Non-Governmental Organization	7	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
24	Science and academia	42	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” was organised by the European Food Banks Federation in collaboration with Česka Federace Potravinových Bank and took place online on 6-7 May 2021. FEBA recognised the urgency to take part in the UN Food System Summit for the utmost importance of sustained and meaningful actions at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. FEBA developed an ad hoc website, which was user-friendly and easy to access with the ultimate goal to make the event open to a broad public. The different sessions were broadcasted via YouTube and Facebook, and the YouTube channel was also embedded on the ad hoc website. Online meetings facilitate a wide dissemination, during and after the event, and FEBA tried to reach as many people as possible – especially Food Bankers in Europe and in the world and leading experts. Moreover, in order to engage as many people as possible, FEBA organised an interpretation system in English, Italian and Czech and throughout the 2 days of the event, a graphic facilitator designed the flow of the conference live. During the Working Tables (6 different groups), each participant had the possibility to present himself/herself, interact with the facilitators and work together thanks to a digital dashboard to list Working Tables’ recommendations to present in the restitution session. Moreover, in order to let participants think ‘out of the box’, before starting to work in the different Working Tables, participants engaged in creativity workshops. These group activities were designed to discover the characteristics and potential of divergent thinking: a creative mind is flexible and open to new knowledge, makes connections, adapts to unexpected events and is able to find new ways of solving problems, has more fun, is able to recognize, accepts and appreciates differences, sees failure as an opportunity to learn, embraces possibility and the unknown, anticipates events and develops unique and useful ideas.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 addressed an important theme: “For a sustainable future food system”. It was reminded that during these difficult FEBA members have reconnected with the significance of small and concrete gestures of attention particularly for those in need. For Food Bankers, the daily dedication to people consists in recovering, sorting, storing and redistributing food that could become waste. It emerged how this is the miracle of circular economy at work. That food, rather than be discarded is not only regaining its full nutritional value but becomes the testimony of human solidarity for charities and their beneficiaries in need. This is how 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. FEBA organised the event to better explore the complexity of the food systems and their closely connection between each other where a systemic approach is required for a transformation. To do so, a multi-stakeholder inclusivity was at the core – both looking at the list of participants from different backgrounds and nationalities and the topics discussed. Engagement was a key aspect of the FEBA Annual Convention 2021 where participants brought their personal and professional experiences in the field to explore new ways and challenges for the future contributing to a vision, common objectives and final outcomes for the Food System Summit and its future resilience.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” was organised in order to gather as many participants as possible from different backgrounds and nationalities to enrich the dialogue. It was therefore important to recognise the urgency of sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the 2030 SDGs underlying the direct impact on Food Banks and actions to be taken to tackle food loss and waste. It was clearly defined since the beginning the importance of this UN Food System Summit Independent Dialogue as contribution to the Food System Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food system transformation where Food Banks are key actors. The declination of this key aspect was evident in the high-level panels discussion, as well as in the different Working Tables. All the participants recognised the complexity of the food systems and committed to work together in a systemic approach. FEBA informed the participants before the Dialogue, shared materials and the programme to allow everyone to participate and be involved. Moreover, during the conference FEBA gave the possibility to use the interpreting service in English, Italian and Czech and to always address questions and comments via different channels (functional email address, social media etc). Last but not least, FEBA decided to organise the 6 Working Tables on key topics for Food Banks in the food system transformation (data collection and digital transformation, corporate partnerships, communication & storytelling, young generation, volunteering and new boundaries for food redistribution) dedicated these spaces of discussion only for FEBA members and some external experts. This aspect was of fundamental importance to allow fruitful and straight to the point discussions.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” was organised in collaboration with Česká Federace Potravinových Bank and took place online on 6-7 May 2021. FEBA Annual Convention 2021 has been recognised as a UN Food Systems Independent Dialogue and wanted to offer opportunities for all participants to engage directly 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. Adaptation to change is the nature of Food Banks. They have 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.

FEBA Annual Convention 2021, as a UN Food System Independent Dialogue, had the primary goal to gather Food Banks, stakeholders, officials of European institutions and international organizations, researchers and professors from worldwide universities to be protagonist of the UN Food Systems Summit, as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, the Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. The discussions, both in plenary sessions and high-level panels and in the discussion groups (Working Tables) were structured around the 5 UN Food System Summit Actions Tracks. Themes, topics of discussion and key messages were not addressed as different siloes but with an integrated approach trying to underline the possible trade-offs with other tracks, identifying possible solutions to deliver wide-reaching benefits. In fact, key cross-cutting levers of change can draw on the expertise of actors actively participating to the FEBA UN Food System Summit Dialogue “For a sustainable future food system”.

FEBA Annual Convention “For a sustainable future food system” has been an accelerator of new and innovative ideas also to give a strong contribution to the next International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (29 September 2021). Finally, 2021 marks the beginning of the programming period 2021-2027 with new EU strategies and policies, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Next Generation EU, the REACT-EU initiative, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the European Social Fund Plus, and the Common Agricultural Policy.

Solidarity and collaboration emerged as a way of coming 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. 2021 can be regarded as the foundation stone for a profound renewal of our food system, bringing it at the centre of the political agenda and going beyond the “business as usual” approach. Our food systems can overcome historical criticalities – crises, disruptions, fragmentation, interdependence, national self-sufficiency – by means of a massive digitalisation, by facilitating the dissemination of best practices, innovations and new technologies from farm to fork, and by ensuring that both profit and non-profit food business operators can understand the benefits of such transformation.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
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- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The starting point of all the discussions was to explore the role of Food Banks within the Food System transformation and the role of Food Banks in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy. The COVID-19 crisis spot a light on the important role played by Food Banks in Europe contributing to food security in really complex conditions. Food Banks reacted very quickly to the increased demand for food aid and the challenge to recover and redistribute food surplus to those in need. During the crisis, the close cooperation with all the actors of the food supply chain – from farmers to food business operators helped to save precious food resources from being wasted.

At the same time, the food system is transforming towards a more sustainable future. The questions addressed by the different speakers were what exactly it is necessary to transform and the reason why, and most importantly how. In fact, the food system transformation is a process of fundamental change in the structural, functional and relational aspects of the food system that leads to more equitable relationships and more benign patterns of interactions and outcomes. The key aspect is the key word "relationship" because the main target of the food system transformation is, indeed, provided by a set of relationships.

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 "for a sustainable future food system" tried to identify the most important challenges for this transformation, recognising their complexity. Food systems are very complex entanglements of relations, some of them are visible, but many of them are hidden and they should be recognised in order to face this challenge. It emerged how food system transformation is a process of democratisation, a process that needs to blur the boundaries between the different actors, the public and the private sectors and the civil society. Food Bankers are very practical and concrete people, therefore the Annual Convention 2021 was the occasion to indicate some key aspects to move from the grand vision of the food system transformation to the practicalities of it. In fact, Food Bankers have been defined as "practitioner policy-makers", together with the external experts and partners involved and the researchers. All these actors should be courageous and bold deciding a normative stance and the desired outcomes at the start of the process of this key transformation.

Four pillars have been recognised in this respect: bringing together the social and the natural, creating or strengthening positive flows and interactions within and between food systems, making space for pluralism and connecting food with other public goods (health, well-being, the environment, the welfare system). In this context, there are some tangible and interrelates goals for food system transformation such as the generation of co-benefits, the strengthening of linkages, social inclusion and connectivity. In fact, food insecurities are indicative of underlying socio-economic and environmental problems that need to be addressed holistically. Connecting food with other complex systems and policy priorities is a key factor, both for the private and NGO sectors.

Food Banks are important actors in this food system transformation where it is necessary to connect food with other important aspects and priorities in the governments arena, health, welfare, housing and transports. Food Banks can be protagonist of this transformation to be empowered and become active agents of change especially in overcoming the new liberal tendencies to individualise food insecurity and to dump the responsibility of this problem to single individuals and the solution of the problems to civil society organisations and the volunteers working more on the symptoms than on the causes. Food Banks can become 'community hubs' closely connected to transformative initiatives going on at local level. Moreover, Food Banks play a vital role in diversifying the knowledge-base that is needed for food system transformation, being at the core of every process of democratization in the food system transformation.

A key message from the FEBA Annual Convention 2021 is that it is essential to think systemically: all food business operators are pieces of a single picture representing the food systems. The European Food Banks Federation wants to accept this responsibility by engaging in concrete actions, contributing to the ongoing debate, and being part of the choices that will follow giving value to food and taste to the future.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

The Working Table 1 started from the experience FEBA had on the project of the Online Observatory of Food Donation started in 2020 being the only digital touchpoint where most of the information about Food Banks in Europe are condensed. In this context the Working Table's discussion started with a question: what is the future of data collection and digital transformation for FEBA members and the development of digital tools in the Food Banks' context?

What are the main challenges in collecting and using data within Food Banks?

- Resistance to change
- New way of looking at data and digital transformation and have a new mindset
- Understand which type of data we do need
- Capability to involve charities in the data collection process

Some challenges are more technical, while others more related to competences and culture, some others related to multi-stakeholder perspective that must be involved in the process.

At the same time, Food Banks have a clear idea on how data can be used in the future to foster their activities:

- Data that can engage more donors and stakeholders
- Data as fundamental information to make good decisions

Participants also worked together to identify hypothetical investments need to boost the data collection process and digitalization of FEBA members related to technology: software to collect, shape and share data in order to publicly share meaningful information. Participants also underlined the importance of creating a community of IT experts within the FEBA network who can work together to let all the Food Banks to improve their own digital transformation pathways.

In this journey FEBA is considered a pivotal actor with a unique understanding of how important has been the first step made by FEBA and the Pilot Group of 8 members in 2020.

The main goals for the future are to focus, have energy and the desire to work together to build a better infrastructure that can let Food Banks collect, share and take out meaningful information throughout data.

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KEYWORDS

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | ✓ | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

In this Working Table there was the chance to have both representatives from the private sector and FEBA members. The Working Table started with an exercise of associating words in relation to partnerships. It was found that the collaboration between Food Banks and the private sector is not only a matter of recovering and redistributing food but it goes beyond, it is a collaboration for the common good.

The Working Table participants first discussed about what the Food Banks and private Companies give and get in this collaboration exploring the Food Banks' views and the ones of the corporations.

While collaborating with Food Banks Companies give food, technical support, long-term perspective, operational efficiency, donations and volunteers. On the other hand, a fruitful corporate partnership with Food Banks, let Companies get: customized service, marketing opportunities, feel with the public, eyes on the ground, extensive coverage, a jump into reality, rapid solutions, professionalism, and flexibility.

While collaborating with Companies, Food Banks give: immediate impact, continuity, expertise, readiness to operate, reliability, and flexible way to go beyond profits. On the other hand, a fruitful corporate partnership with Companies, let Food Banks get: continuity, necessary support to survive, marketing opportunities, trust and continuity of the relations over time, food, and donations.

Then participants discussed about what hinders a fruitful partnership. One of the first issue highlighted is that for Companies it is often difficult to combine business priorities and pressure with the values and the main goals of the Food Banks. On the other side, Food Banks suffer from the different perceptions, goals and visions on what is the common good. Participants then highlighted the common necessity to overcome obstacles created by different goals and visions.

The last part of the discussion focused on how COVID-19 boosted corporate partnerships and the fact that this challenging period was an accelerator for corporate partnerships and the collaboration between the private sector and the Food Banks in Europe.

How to keep this relationship over time for a post-Covid Europe?

Both private actors and Food Banks must invest on trust, shared goals, legal agreements, a clear and frank communication, a more efficient coordination, long-term relations, raising local awareness, engage volunteers from the Companies, rely on Food Banks' logistic ability and invest on skills.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

The Working Group's participants were a mix between Food Banks and external participants and this mix brought a great engagement and great insights that opened up very interesting discussions. The Working Table started describing the current context of COVID-19 that very much impacted the food redistribution organisations and the communities. Food Banks have been seen as front-line heroes of the pandemic, there are images all over the world of warehouses highlighting the passion and the commitment in supporting communities. Working Table's discussion explored what has been the impact of COVID-19 on the Foodbanking Narrative and how Food Banks position themselves in the hearts and minds of the stakeholders such as partners, supporters, volunteers and the teams.

There has been an awareness-driven around food waste and food insecurity but it is important to re-structure the narrative of who Food Banks are and what they do. Does the narrative in the media reflect the organisations where Food Bankers operate? Food Bankers can tell stories on ambition, passion, motivation, entrepreneurship and the impact Food Banks are having on the people and on the planet.

The role of this workshop was to kick start the discussion whether there is a need to refresh the narrative and the position of the Food Banks and to do recommendations for FEBA.

Food Banks are indeed seen as food package providers to feed the poor, to support charities, volunteers at the door of the supermarkets etc.

But how Food Banks would like to be seen in the future? Food Banks are not the producers or the users – Food Banks are the dotted line that connect the needs. This connection of need is something really powerful to communicate.

The bigger role of FEBA is to continue the discussion on this topics as an opportunity to look at branding and reposition ourselves in the hearts and minds of the stakeholders and looking at having a shared language.

There is a new role for Food Banks as very important actors in the food system that can work towards a more sustainable future where it is important to build a common understanding. It is a very complex environment where build awareness is a key. The lack of understanding, where complexity is the enemy, can be damaging and limiting the future growth.

Food Banks need to reframe the narrative to improve understanding and build broad-based support.

Time is right to reframe and reshape Food Banks' position and it is time to go!

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

26 participants from all over Europe, from France, many from Italy, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany and the UK participated in this Working Table. All of the participants had very different backgrounds, some from academic research and institutions, some from national Food Banks and others from corporations and companies.

During the first part of the discussion, participants talked about how young people can contribute to a sustainable food system in innovative ways and what Food Banks can do to involve and communicate with young people.

First of all, young people have a new mindset and attitude, they are increasingly aware of and care about issues such as sustainability, because they directly affect their future. A second key point was education. Educating young people about food and sustainability and involving them from an early age is key. For example, now often it's the kids that teach the parents new behaviours. Another buzzword for how to involve young people in food banking activities was „empowerment and participation “. They want to be engaged and be part of the processes and the organizations. Hybrid ways of involvement for example combining volunteering, training and workshops etc. could be a key factor for Food Banks. Another interesting thought on how to engage young people was through gamification, this could be school or university contests and projects, or hackathons, because many young people have an entrepreneurial approach.

The participants talked about what added value young people can bring to the Food Banks and how they imagine the future of Food Banks. Digital skills for instance and the appreciation for more horizontal and less hierarchical ways of working will be a great asset for the future. Also establishing and strengthening partnerships with corporations, for example by hosting events in relation to food banking topics and engage young professionals. It was also mentioned, that in the future, it will be crucial to empower and engage the beneficiaries more, to address the root causes and follow a holistic approach, so that Food Banks become more of a community hub. Also being eco-friendly not only due to saving food, but also looking at the means of transportation and packaging for instance.

It was a very interesting and fruitful discussion and new insights, because of the different backgrounds.

One key message that the participants want to share is that young people are the leaders of change and through Food Banks' involvement young people can really be protagonist of the future of our countries, of Europe and the world.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

During the Working Table participants focused on 4 topics related to volunteering and the Food Banks.

- Development of cross-sectoral partnerships at local level by analysing the changing relations between Food Banks and local authorities, NGOs and charities, academia, the not for profit sector and the for-profit sector to see how these stakeholders can work together to respond to communities' needs. The COVID-19 crisis has shown the need to rethink strategic partnerships and to adapt the modus operandi of the different actors;
- The employee volunteering or corporate volunteering as an alternative way to respond to the lack of volunteers, due to the health crisis. The pandemic has limited if not stopped the engagement of elderly volunteers, has brought young volunteers to Food Banks but then created a new gap when younger volunteers have returned to universities and schools. . The discussion stressed the need for employee volunteering to ensure a return in investment, as well as the need to ensure the balance between the effort required when engaging employee volunteers and valuing their wider social impact. Changing volunteers' profiles: : Participants highlighted different and changing situations for younger and older volunteers, before, during and after COVID19 and they also discussed the possibility to explore the so called "tasks-based" volunteering offers, to reply to the changing nature of work and lifestyles rather than keeping to the traditional "role based" approach.;
- Participants discussed the European Solidarity Corps Programme which enables young people to travel abroad to volunteer full time. Participants discussed whether this Programme could be a good solution for those Food Banks that struggle to have permanent human resources available.

These are the main aspects to work on for Food Banks relying on volunteers to better match the offer of people across Europe who want to volunteer and Food Banks' needs and how they can organise their volunteers in the most efficient and proper way.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

This Working Table focused on new boundaries for food redistribution. Participants started by reflecting on trends of the food systems following also the interesting discussions during the FEBA Annual Convention's plenary sessions. The facilitator of the Working Table also presented an overview on COVID-19 and its huge impact on the consumers changes in terms of food waste, the sources of surplus food for Food Banks and the changes and learnings. Participants agreed that the Food System is changing and Food Banks have a pivotal role to play in contributing to a more sustainable food future. Food Banks feel that it isn't very much recognised and the environment where they are operating.

The Working Tables started to list some of the challenges Food Banks are facing especially in terms of redistribution of food and the difficulty to connect with the network of donors.

Another important challenge for Food Banks is to change the sources of food and working on the optimization of the process. Participants discussed the challenge to concentrate on a balanced and diversified diet especially to look for new sources of food concentrating also on fresh and perishable products. In this context, technology can be a great boost also from a logistical point of view and even though FEBA is doing a great work on digital transformation and data collection, FEBA members need a lot of resources and capacity building for innovation and technology.

The discussion also focused on the new poor and the challenges and stigma associated with accessing food. Moreover, participants discussed the need to connect producers and the availabilities of food at the farm level but the lack of economic incentives stop the process of bringing producers on board.

Participants also discussed on the need to invest on Food Banks also to position themselves in a new light to receive the support of policies and governments, as innovative partners that contribute to solve a huge challenge such as food waste. Food Banks within the Food System play a crucial role in connecting the different actors.

Food Banks are like hubs that know the charities' needs, the sources of food, where the food surplus is and they make all the different pieces of the puzzle come together to get this food where is needed.

Participants also discussed about the idea of having new technological model collaborating with start-ups to reinforce the network. FEBA is a big network with a lot of expertise and knowledge and these start-ups can support the developing of new models for logistic, to extend the life of products and providing new ways of accessing food.

The working table listed 3 recommendations for FEBA:

1. Need of a continuous work at policy level with the EU and International institutions and also at national level underlining Food Banks' importance in the food system transformation and the role they had during the crisis to have also a stronger voice with the private sectors and the food producers.
2. Need to work collectively to engage businesses and develop partnerships. FEBA is an umbrella organisation and can open doors that probably an individual organisation cannot. Therefore, it is crucial to keep on with the dialogue between the FEBA network.
3. Establish a FEBA Partnerships Working Group to support connection between Food Banks and all the external actors involved in this processes and share best practices on new models of food redistribution and the capacity building that Food Banks need.

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
			Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” some speakers explored the needs for a food system transformation and the role played by food waste prevention. In fact, there is an increasing agreement that the food system currently in place is no longer sustainable. A first hint of this assumption is the huge quantity of food that is wasted or lost throughout the food supply chain (8% of GHG emissions, ¼ of the water used in agriculture is wasted, massive use of lands and deforestation etc.). Moreover, the containment measures during the COVID-19 pandemic have drastically impacted the essential flow of food from farms and producers to consumers. The food supply chain is broken and needs to be changed: following the transition from a linear to a circular economy, it is now needed to use this momentum as an opportunity to re-design and move to a food system model with future resilience. On the other side the problem of food insecurity in Europe is growing with millions of people in precarious situations and in need. Moreover, there is a climate emergency and many analyses declared that governments around the world will not meet the Paris Agreement’s targets without tackling food loss and waste. Therefore, it is evident how food loss and waste prevention is an integral part of the food system transformation. During the FEBA Annual Convention 2021 “For a sustainable future food system” some game-changer aspects were identified in this regard starting from the interconnectivity of this process. What are the key aspects that need to be transformed within the food system? Everything it is interconnected and to face a problem it is necessary to look at the entire picture with all the interconnectivities. Regarding the food loss and waste, it is fundamental to look at the framework of public and private actors and the role played by governments, businesses and civil society organisations. These actors should have a better understanding and a more mature approach to think about accountability and processes across that systems. The first game changer is about the private-public partnerships and the links between governments and businesses that work in the food supply chain to adopt all the measures necessary to get the targets. In this relation, the European Union is working to build a solid framework to facilitate the cooperation and coordination between the stakeholders, the public authorities and the civil society organisations such as the Food Banks. Another crucial issue to look at to transform the food system is the level of food waste at household consumption and the consumers’ education and the involvement of grass-roots organisations as Food Banks in this movement for change. Another important point is work to close the loop of food waste and to put in place the miracle of circular economy where Food Banks play a crucial role to redistribute food for human consumption. During the conference was highlighted in fact the central role Food Banks have to address all these issues in the food system transformation.

In this context, one of the main challenge is the farmer’s engagement by businesses to reduce food loss and waste and getting governments to prioritise this issue on the different agendas. Most of the countries and governments are addressing the Paris Agreement’s targets but without mentioning the importance to tackle food loss and waste. Therefore, raising awareness it is really important but to really act towards these objectives actors need funding – to have proper storages, good infrastructures, know-how etc.

COVID-19 demonstrated the fragility of the food system where the slogan ‘build back better’ emerged illustrating the need for change. This situation forced the Food Banks to emerge demonstrating the fundamental contribution for the food system’s resilience and to support the most needed in our societies. In this context, the support to Food Banks should be put in the agendas, for the role that they can play globally. COVID-19 has given visibility that pre-existing problems and demonstrated how broken the food system is. In this framework, the situation gave visibility to the Food Banks that very quickly adapted to the situation. Therefore, it is the time for Food Banks to start seeing themselves integral and active parts of the food system transformation and policy makers must looking at Food Banks with the same eyes as well.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / Graphic recording Opening remarks**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_01_Opening.png
- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / Graphic recording - High level panel part 1**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_02_Panel.png
- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / Graphic recording - High level panel part 2**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_03_Panel.png
- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / Graphic recording - Panel Czech Republic**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_04_Panel-CZ.png
- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / Graphic recording - Creativity Workshops and Working Tables**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_Day_2_Creativity-WorkshopWTs-restitution.png
- **FEBA 2021 Annual Convention / International Panel**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FEBA_2021_Day_2_International-Panel.png

RELEVANT LINKS

- **FEBA Annual Convention 2021 "For a sustainable Future Food System" - WEBSITE**
<https://annualconvention.eurofoodbank.org/>