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FoRWaRD Regional Report

Country: Poland

Partner: Federation of Polish Food Banks

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- EUROPEAN RETAIL ACADEMY
- FEDERATION OF POLISH FOOD BANKS
- CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “THE FOOD BANK”

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTRY

1.1. Please write basic information as macroeconomic data, geography, population, etc.

POLAND IN SHORT



Poland is a country in Central Europe, bordered by Germany to the west; the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south; Ukraine, Belarus to the east; and the Baltic Sea and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, and Lithuania to the north. The total area of Poland is 312,679 square kilometres (120,726 sq mi),^[7] making it the 69th largest country in the world and the 9th largest in Europe. Poland has a population of over 38.5 million people,^[7] which makes it the 34th

most populous country in the world^[9] and the sixth most populous member of the European Union, being its most populous post-communist member. Poland is a unitary state made up of 16 voivodeships. [Wikipedia](#)

Capital: [Warsaw](#)

Currency: Polish złoty

Population: 38.22 million (2011) [World Bank](#)

Government: Democracy, Parliamentary republic

Official language: Polish Language

Food Banks aiming to reduce food waste. Preventing and reducing food waste are the main objectives of the activities of Federation of Polish Food Banks.

Through cooperation between 29 Food Banks and food producers and distributors, Federation tries prevent unnecessary utilization of food. Donated food is transferred from Food Banks to social organizations and then to most needed people. Food Banks associated in Federation provide a food help to 1 mil people in Poland, although other are 2,5 mln people live in deep poverty and more than 6 mln struggle financial difficulties and in many cases need food support.

In 2012 Federation collected 7 427 ton of food through the cooperation with food industry.

Table 1.1: Number of operators across the food chain, 2005
(units)

	Agricul. holdings	Food & bev. manuf.	Food, bev. & tobacco whole.	Special. food retailers	Non- special. food retailers	Restaur., bars, canteens, catering
EU-27	14 406 090	309 702	214 007	508 817	474 688	1 392 298
BE	51 540	7 671	5 402	11 441	6 722	39 952
BG	527 010	5 937	5 741	8 105	22 491	20 932
CZ	41 670	:	:	:	:	:
DK	51 370	1 778	1 821	2 853	3 266	12 077
DE	389 880	32 709	10 187	27 330	20 642	120 514
EE	27 740	425	514	172	920	1 152
IE	132 620	:	1 626	1 964	3 217	9 738
EL	833 120	15 195	15 233	30 037	25 834	79 660
ES	1 069 750	29 353	43 716	122 780	31 295	261 997
FR	567 140	67 985	21 114	47 731	31 190	179 674
IT	1 726 130	:	34 969	115 674	57 127	224 379
CY	45 160	960	489	833	2 171	6 237
LV	128 670	778	1 028	238	2 289	2 255
LT	252 940	1 434	746	174	3 703	2 713
LU	2 450	190	336	254	196	2 341
HU	711 520	6 766	4 092	7 587	18 008	29 593
MT	11 000	:	:	:	:	:
NL	80 600	4 585	6 690	9 780	3 145	31 870
AT	170 350	4 134	2 239	5 474	3 496	30 307
PL	2 476 240	16 998	13 819	28 384	84 064	45 321
PT	323 920	10 268	12 360	31 191	20 292	78 532
RO	4 239 190	10 820	8 219	9 325	62 199	16 651
SI	77 170	826	377	536	964	6 021
SK	68 470	:	419	242	176	954
FI	70 520	1 861	1 059	1 116	3 083	8 675
SE	75 260	3 288	4 368	6 409	5 955	20 816
UK	254 660	6 994	14 104	31 527	28 554	115 083

Source: Eurostat (Food: From farm to fork statistics, FOOD_ACT1, FOOD_ACT5, FOOD_ACT8, FOOD_ACT9 and Structural business statistics: SBS_NA_3B_TR)

Table 3.2: Main structural indicators for the manufacture of food products and beverages

	Enterprises (units)		Persons employed (units)		Turnover (EUR million)	
	1995 (1)	2005 (2)	1995 (3)	2005 (4)	1995 (5)	2005 (6)
EU-27	:	309 702	:	4 688 100	:	850 333
BE	:	7 671	99 251	96 681	26 289	30 423
BG	6 715	5 937	113 909	106 962	1 192	2 812
CZ	5 979	6 082	:	:	:	9 049
DK	2 409	1 778	91 633	85 133	17 136	19 809
DE	:	32 709	878 862	844 775	148 758	148 506
EE	:	425	:	17 365	846	1 094
IE	694	:	46 259	49 438	13 393	21 884
EL	:	15 195	:	83 691	:	10 146
ES	26 753	29 353	363 573	389 065	53 650	87 785
FR	71 589	67 985	619 352	649 143	129 618	142 794
IT	64 199	:	429 257	440 892	72 588	94 717
CY	:	960	9 571	12 671	666	1 269
LV	:	778	:	35 461	:	1 376
LT	1 074	1 434	56 394	52 355	1 273	2 216
LU	217	190	:	:	:	:
HU	:	6 766	131 735	121 826	6 094	9 729
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	5 905	4 585	143 424	124 379	41 680	48 708
AT	4 736	4 134	:	75 885	11 783	12 994
PL	17 978	16 998	413 665	438 833	18 601	34 502
PT	7 684	10 268	112 484	104 942	9 103	11 588
RO	:	10 820	289 093	203 840	4 490	7 171
SI	1 185	826	:	:	1 421	1 649
SK	:	:	:	46 936	1 923	2 624
FI	1 965	1 861	45 167	39 961	8 136	8 989
SE	2 586	3 288	:	:	:	:
UK	8 265	6 994	488 553	463 988	84 429	107 521

(1) Bulgaria, France, Poland and the United Kingdom, 1996.

(2) The Czech Republic, 2004.

(3) Germany and France, 1999; Lithuania and Hungary, 1998; Romania, 1997; Bulgaria, Poland and the United Kingdom, 1996.

(4) Ireland, France and Finland, 2003; Denmark, Italy and Slovakia, 2002.

(5) Germany, France, Austria and Slovakia, 1999; Lithuania and Hungary, 1998; Estonia and Romania, 1997; Bulgaria, Poland and the United Kingdom, 1996.

(6) The Netherlands, 2004; Ireland, France and Finland, 2003; Denmark, Italy and Slovakia, 2002; the Czech Republic, 2001; Slovenia, 1999.

Source: Eurostat (Food: From farm to fork statistics, FOOD_ACT5)

2. FINDINGS OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL INVESTIGATION OF FOOD WASTE AND FOOD RECOVERY

2.1. Please, generally sum up the data, figures and statistics of the waste generated (if data are available) and of existing practices for recovery by your own investigation on national level, for example by desktop research, from internet and from publications, from official statistics and so on.

Food waste in Poland

In Poland, as given in the Eurostat data from 2006, published in a report to the European Commission in October 2010, is wasted nearly 9 million tons of food. Production is responsible for wasting nearly 6.6 million tons of food waste, households more than 2 million tons, while other sources are 0.35 million tons. These figures pointing Poland in 5th position of countries most wasting food in the European Union, after the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the Netherlands. It is need to emphasize, that in Western countries the scale of wasted food is higher among consumers, while in Poland, Eurostat data shows the food industry as a major source of waste. In Poland 30% of respondents admit to food waste at home (Millward Brown SMG /KRC on behalf of the Federation of Polish Food Banks, September 2012). Significantly more likely to throw away food people living in large cities. Among respondents, 75% of respondents admit that educational programs are needed to inform about how not to waste food.

Main causes of wasting food in households?

- not using food in time
- too large portions of meals
- too large shopping
- improper storage
- poor quality of the product
- lack of ideas to use the components for a variety of dishes

Are we aware of the consequences of food waste in Poland?

As for the effects of disposal of food, is 85% of the population is aware that throwing a lot of food costs, 71% believe that it is harmful impact on the environment, and 66% of the respondents stated that the wasted food has a significant impact on prices food and 83% of respondents admit that wasting food is a social problem.

The survey conducted by CBOS in 2005 "culinary tastes, eating habits and consumer behavior Poles" that throwing food often happens to young people, well educated, living in big cities. Clearly it is linked to income levels and assessment of their own material conditions - they are better, the more frequent such declarations.

Key challenges for FPFb are:

- lack of internet platform for on-line contact between NGO and food producers, distributors, restaurants and food farms to provide efficient system of collecting short-date food;
- activities popularizing cooperation with Food Banks especially among medium

and large food producers to reduce the scale of food utilization;
- harmonization of VAT tax low in terms of food donation.

Key challenges for Poland in terms of food waste:

- lack of knowledge about food waste data;
- need of educational campaign dedicated to different stages of food chains;
- create an effective on-line system for cooperation between NGO and food producers helped to reduce food waste and use food for a people in need.

3. EXISTING MATERIALS IN YOUR COUNTRY

3.1. Is there any kind (online, personal, school etc.) of education and information available for charities or companies about food waste in your country?

Please look around for websites, educational materials on food waste reduction, food donation, that are publicly available. We are looking for materials both for companies and for charities, materials (with similar objectives to our online training) from which we might learn.

For the websites/educational materials your find, provide:

- **“Don’t waste food” – internet platform** www.niemarnuje.pl
- **Partners:** Federation of Polish Food Banks.
<http://www.niemarnuje.pl/partnerzy.html>
- **Description:** Practical internet guide for consumers, how to reduce households food waste.
- **The council for the rational use of food**
- **Partners:** eg. Warsaw Agricultural University, Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences, Warsaw University, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics , National Food and Nutrition Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federation of Polish Food Banks.
- **Description:** The purpose of the Council for the Rational Use of Food, set up in 2011, by Federation of Polish Food Banks is to create conditions, that will help in the rational use through the food chain at the level of production, distribution and consumption. The Council work into two main working groups such as research group and education. Soon it will be set up a special group to law and regulation.

4. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF NEEDS ANALYSIS

Please, translate all answers received and add all of your result from online questionnaires into common online tool online.

companies: docs.google.com/forms/d/1RMr2p0oGSi9qnUmBQhNiFn46jllHBlu7-A_Ok8MmhGY/viewform

charities: docs.google.com/forms/d/132whnb9_bJA41RxBEax2eAGSXqF4Jv_-b9s3PFDqP2Y/viewform

Additionally, please provide information on the following:

Charities

4.1. Methodology

4.1.1. What was your research methodology in getting data from charities? Please describe in detail (eg. where you got the list of charities from, how did you contact them, how did they provide data etc.)

We received 20 questionnaires from food banks. Each questionnaire represent single food bank and it is unique and anonymous. Federation prepare on-line questionnaire. With that tool we received only 6 replays. 13 questionnaires we collect during workshop by giving to fill in printing questionnaires

4.1.2. How easy was it to get information?

On-line tool was not efficient. It was easier to encourage people to fill in questionnaires after face to face request. Also we find effective to prepare printing questionarie and give to fill in during workshop.

4.2. What is your general impression: what are the major fields where they need development, learning?

4.2.1. What are those they are really interested in, keen on learning about?

- **Tax regulations on donating food (e.g. VAT, tax cuts).**
- **Regulations on food traceability.**
- **Accounting advise for food waste donations.**
- **What the contract with the company should contain.**

4.2.2. What are those that they already know very well and do not need to learn about?

Companies

4.3. Methodology

4.3.1. What was your research methodology in getting data from companies? Please describe in detail (eg. where you got the list of companies from, how did you contact them, how did they provide data etc.)

We had prepared polish version of questionnaire and created link to the survey. Link was present on our website www.bankizywnosci.pl.

We sent that link to different food association with request to encourage their members (SMEs) to fill in. It wasn't really efficient. That is why, we decided to join the regional, food fair trade and ask there exhibitors (SMEs).

4.3.2. How easy was it to get information?
We had some difficulties with collecting date.

4.4. What is your general impression:

4.4.1. What are the major reasons for producing food waste?

Primary processing and secondary processing

- **Process losses**

Product evaluation (e.g. quality control, standard recipes):

- **Product discarded/out-grades in supply chain**

Marketing (e.g. publicity, selling, distribution):

- **Damage during transport: spoilage**
- **Poor handling in wet market**

4.4.2. What are the major obstacles for getting food waste to people in need?

- **We do not know if we are allowed to donate it for human consumption.**
- **We do not know how to start donating for human consumption.**
- **We do not know any organization we could give it to.**

4.4.3. What are those they are really interested in, keen on learning about?

- **Tax regulations on donating food (e.g. VAT, tax cuts)**
- **Accounting advise for food waste donations.**
- **Information about charity organizations / food banks and their activities.**
- **How to monitor charities.**

4.4.4. What are those that they already know very well and do not need to learn about?