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FoRWaRD Regional Report

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

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3	15/05/2013	Final version sent to partners
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5	17/05/2013	Final version - updated

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTRY

The Czech Republic is situated in the centre of Europe and sometimes it is called a heart of the Europe. It borders with Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Germany. It is divided into 3 parts: Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia. The Czech Republic covers an area of 78,866 km².

The biggest city is the capital, Prague and it has more than one million inhabitants. The other big cities are Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové.

Population

Czech population: approx. 10,5 mil. Inhabitants

Almost 64% of inhabitants claim to be of Czech nationality, 4,9% Moravian, 31,1% by others nationalities such as Slovak, Bulgarian, Croatian, Polish, Romani, Russian, Greek, Serbian, Ukrainian and other¹.

Government

Type: republic, parliamentary democracy

The executive is headed by the president (Milos Zeman) and the government, the Legislature by a two-chamber Parliament of the Czech Republic (consisting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate).

Economy

The Czech Republic is a stable and prosperous market economy closely integrated with the EU, especially since the country's EU accession in 2004. While the conservative, inward-looking Czech financial system has remained relatively healthy, the small, open, export-driven Czech economy remains sensitive to changes in the economic performance of its main export markets, especially Germany. When Western Europe and Germany fell into recession in late 2008, demand for Czech goods plunged, leading to double digit drops in industrial production and exports. As a result, real GDP fell 4,7% in 2009, with most of the decline occurring during the first quarter. Real GDP, however, slowly recovered with positive quarter-on-quarter growth starting in the second half of 2009 and continuing throughout 2011. In 2012, however, the economy fell into a recession due to a slump in external demand. The auto industry remains the largest single industry, and, together with its upstream suppliers, accounts for nearly 24% of Czech manufacturing. The Czech Republic produced more than a million cars for

¹ CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE. *The Czech Republic in Numbers*. 2013. Available from: [http://www.czso.cz/csu/2012edicniplan.nsf/t/C90039DABB/\\$File/140912.pdf](http://www.czso.cz/csu/2012edicniplan.nsf/t/C90039DABB/$File/140912.pdf)

the first time in 2010, over 80% of which were exported. Foreign and domestic businesses like voice concerns about corruption especially in public procurement. Other long term challenges include dealing with a rapidly aging population, funding an unsustainable pension and health care system, and diversifying away from manufacturing and toward a more high-tech, services-based, knowledge economy.

Basic economic data:

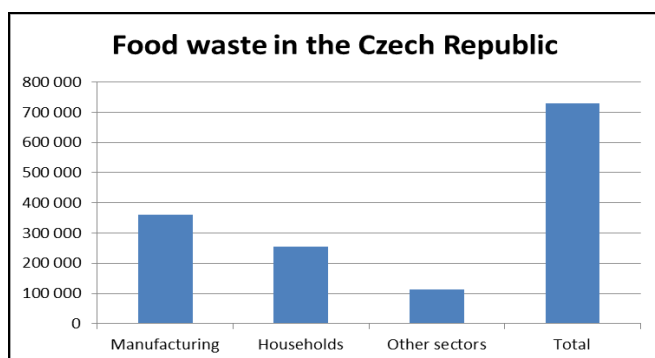
GDP real growth rate: -1,9%²

Unemployment rate: 7,4%³

Inflation: 2,7%

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

The waste of food is a very hot world topic, however in the Czech Republic the resources necessary to combat this phenomenon are quite limited and not easily achievable. There are no precise data, statistics or researches about food waste available and therefore the figures mentioned below should be considered very guardedly. Nevertheless, they give at least a rough estimate of the current saturation in the Czech Republic. In particular, employees of chain stores selling food and catering workers are confronting with plenty of wholesome food that is thrown away. It is estimated that the Czechs throws out 729 000 tons⁴ of food per year. Often it is edible food with ending of consumption period. Nowadays shops called “cheap food” with expired minimal consumption period of food became very popular. These shops are specialized for food with very long consumption period.



* Final Report – Preparatory Study on Food Waste. 2010⁵

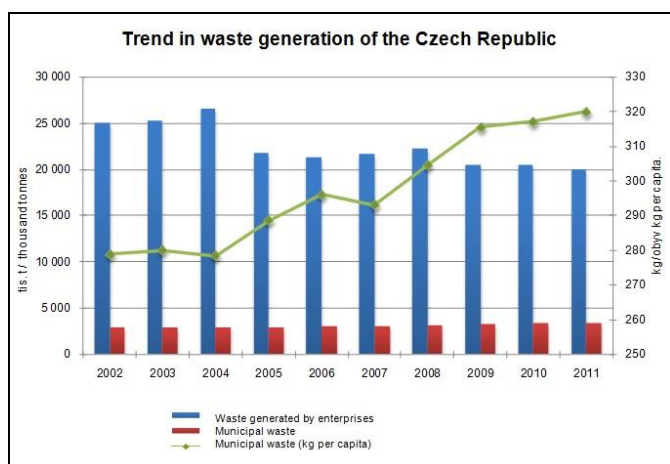
² CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE. *Economic Data* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2013-05-16]. Available from: <http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/home>

³ CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE. *Employment, unemployment* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2013-05-16]. Available from: http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/zamestnanost_nezamestnanost_prace

⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION [DG ENV - DIRECTORATE C]. *Final Report – Preparatory Study on Food Waste*. 2010. Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/pdf/bio_foodwaste_report.pdf

⁵ EUROPEAN COMMISSION [DG ENV - DIRECTORATE C]. *Final Report – Preparatory Study on Food Waste*. 2010. Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/pdf/bio_foodwaste_report.pdf

Moreover the Czechs just recently went through a revolution in waste separation. While in 2009 only 2% of municipal waste was recycled, in 2012 this number increased to 14% (according to the last statistic data⁶, in 2012 31% of municipal waste was recycled). In the waste management still dominates landfills and incineration plants. Minimum of biological waste (2%) is composed or transported to one of 57 biogas station in Czech Republic.



* Czech Statistical Office⁷

3 EXISTING MATERIALS IN YOUR COUNTRY

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

Despite the above mentioned there are several organisations and campaigns that effort to prevent waste of food.

Czech federation of food banks

There is a federation of food banks in the Czech Republic called “ČESKÁ FEDERACE POTRAVINOVÝCH BANK” which connects all food banks in the Czech Republic. This organisation is also a part of European federation of food

⁶ CENIA, Czech Information agency for environment. *Zpráva o životním prostředí České republiky 2011*. Praha, 2012, 188 s. Available from http://www1.cenia.cz/www/sites/default/files/Zprava_2011.pdf

⁷ CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE. *Environment* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2013-05-17]. Available from: http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/zivotni_prostredi_zem

banks. At the website <http://www.potravinovabanka.cz/> there is a list of food banks existing in the Czech Republic and information how companies or individual person could provide food donation and how to apply for tax deduction after food donation, too. In section “*Jak pomáhat*” potential donors could find examples of donation contract. Food bank does not purchase goods which they are going to distribute to charities. Policy of Food Bank supports active-selfless solidarity and refuse dictate of money. Donated products are transported to warehouses where they are sorted and stored according to the strictest hygiene rules and food safety. Food banks distribute these products only to local non-profit organizations and social institutions whose task is to accompany people in difficult situations so that they can find their place in society again. The operation of Food Bank is ensured by material donations, participation of non-governmental organizations, involvement of volunteers and participation of third parties in salaries and operating costs.

Campaign Think.Eat.Save

In the Czech Republic the big campaign for food safety called „Mysli. Jez. Šetři. Snižuj svou potravinovou stopu“ starts . This international campaign is organized by UN and continually will engage families, supermarkets, hotel chains, schools, sports clubs, mayors of cities and towns and ultimately the highest state representatives. This campaign will seek to reduce waste on the part of consumers, entrepreneurs in the food industry and the governments of countries with low-cost steps. Main website of this campaign <http://www.thinkeatsave.org/> works also as a manual for companies and individual persons. They can find information about food donation and all effects which are connected to this issue.

One World

The One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, organised by the People in Need foundation, is currently the world’s biggest documentary festival with a human rights theme. The festival does not only take place in the capital; after screenings in Prague, it moves on to 40 other Bohemian and Moravian cities and towns. One World provides a platform for the exchange of views and experiences; viewers have the opportunity to discuss the subjects of films with their producers, as well as with experts on the issue in question. One of those subjects is also food wasting because, as currently it is one of the biggest world problems. Visitors of this festival always receive new ideas and impulses how to be better human and how to create world better place for everybody. Moreover, there is a new activity – interested people can borrow for free a movie focused e.g. on the problem with food waste and organise projection in any Café, culture centre, school, home etc. in the Czech Republic and ensure the dissemination and spreading of the given topic among wider public. The webpage of the festival is <http://www.oneworld.cz/2013/>.

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.

All answers have been uploaded to the online questionnaire and translated to English. Please see below:

companies: docs.google.com/forms/d/1RMr2p0oGSi9qnUmBQhNiFn46jIHBlu7-A_Ok8MmhGY/viewform

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

Charities

2. Methodology

2.1. Collecting of data took form of online questionnaire. Representatives of TEMPO created list of charities and food banks in the Czech Republic. This list with contact information (email, phone and address) was made by searching on the internet. After collection of contact information, the phase of contacting each charity and food bank from contact list by email with the link of online questionnaire started. As these organizations were very interested in the project and willing to cooperate, they answered in few days.

2.2. Generally, the collection of responses from charities was very quick and smooth as they replied on email or uploaded their response on questionnaire more and less in five days after first contact. It also reflects the fact, that this is their field of interest and they really want to reach progress in food waste reduction and are very open to new ideas and projects connected to their activities. Most of charities and food banks are interested in the products of the FORWARD project and signed their responses with the hope for further possible cooperation.

3. What is your general impression:

- After the evaluation of responses we discovered that charities and food banks need to learn and develop closer cooperation between organizations and administrative issues of food donations. But very interesting fact is that only two charities from five signed their questionnaire and also denied to provide their contacts in companies to Czech project partner.

Representatives of TEMPO assume that this fact reflects some kind of fear about their job, if they are doing their job well and distrust in Czech society.

3.1. What are those they are really interested in, keen on learning about? Most interesting areas of knowledge for charities and food banks:

- Possibility to share experiences of other organisations receiving food donations (2x)
- Tax regulations on donating food (e.g. VAT, tax cuts) (2x)
- Information about companies donating food (2x)
- Accounting advice for food waste donations (2x)
- Food safety and food security in food donation: tips and best practices (1x)
- Food traceability practices (1x)

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

- Accounting Consultancy
- How to organise efficient transport of food donations
- What the contract with the company should contain

Companies

4. Methodology

4.1. 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.)

Collecting data took from the online questionnaire and personal visits in markets and bakeries. Representatives of TEMPO created list of food producers and retailers in the Czech Republic. This list with contact information (email, phone and address) was made by searching on internet. After collection of contact information representatives of TEMPO started with contacting of food producers and retailers from contact list by email with the link of online questionnaire. After first unsuccessful attempt with email, the phone calls, personal visits and interviews in markets were initiated.

4.2. How easy was it to get information?

Collecting of responses from food producers and retailers was very difficult because the food waste is very sensitive topic (very strict hygienic rules, public relations etc.) and the Czech companies are not so open for donation. In many cases all unsold products in their shop goes back to producer. Then price of next delivery is reduced by the price of returned goods. Because of this long way of transport, food is not edible. On the other hand some shops donate their food with upcoming expiration to customers as their promo. This is very good example of ecological and economical behaviour of companies and represents positive change of new thinking across the Czech society.

5. What is your general impression:

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

Surplus food in the Czech Republic is created mainly because of overvalued demand. Up to 10 kg of food per a week goes back to producer from retailer.

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

Main obstacle for donation of food is bad economic situation of companies and lack of time for carrying about transporting and administrative issues of their unsold food. Unfortunately there is still not enough good will. Companies which we contacted never considered opportunity of donation food to people in need. Only few bakeries donate their unsold not edible food to farms as a food for livestock.

5.3. What are those they are really interested in, keen on learning about? Most interesting areas of knowledge for food producers and retailers:

- Food safety and food security in food donation: tips and best practices
- Information about charity organizations / food banks and their activities
- Tax regulations on donating food (e.g. VAT, tax cuts)

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

- Accounting advise for food waste donations
- How to communicate with charities
- How to monitor charities
- How to organise efficient transport of food donations