



Leonardo Da Vinci

527451-LLP-1-2012-1-IT-LEONARDO-LMP

FoRWaRD Regional Report

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Date: 2013-05-14
Doc. Ref. N°: FORWARD-WP3



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
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- CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “THE FOOD BANK”

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment

1. INTRODUCTION TO LITHUANIA

Lithuania, officially the **Republic of Lithuania** is a country in Northern Europe, the largest of the three Baltic states. It is situated along the south-eastern shore of the Baltic Sea it borders Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south, and Kaliningrad Oblast (a Russian exclave) to the southwest.



Geography:

Area: 65.300 km²;

Largest cities: *Capital city* Vilnius (pop. 548 835); Kaunas (pop. 348 624); Klaipėda (pop. 182 752); Šiauliai (pop. 125 453); Panevėžys (pop. 111 959).

Landscape: Lithuania is a flat land with plains covering approximately 75 % of the country.

Climate: Ranges between maritime and continental. The average temperatures are +23°C in July and - 4.9°C in January.

People:

Nationality: Lithuanian(s).

Population: 3 394 000

Annual population growth rate: -0.278% (2012), mostly due to emmigration

Ethnic groups: Lithuanian 84%, Polish 6.1%, Russian 4.9%, Belarusian 1.1%, other or unspecified 3.9% (2009).

Religion: Roman Catholic 79%, Russian Orthodox 4.1%, Protestant (including Lutheran and Evangelical Christian Baptist) 1.9%, other or unspecified 5.5%, none 9.5%.

Language: Lithuanian (official) 82%, Russian 8%, Polish 5.6%, other and unspecified 4.4%

Education: School life expectancy 16 years. Literacy 99.7%

Health: Infant mortality rate 6.18 deaths/1,000 live births. Life expectancy male: 66 years female: 77 years

Work force: 1.587 million (2012 est.): agriculture: 7.9% industry: 19.6% services: 72.5% (2012 est.). Unemployment rate is 13.2%.

Government:

Type: parliamentary democracy declared 11 March 1990.

Constitution: 25 October 1992.

Branches: Executive-president (chief of state), Council of Ministers appointed by the president on the nomination of the prime minister and approval of the Parliament. : President Dalia GRYBAUSKAITE (since 12 July 2009), head of government: Prime Minister Algirdas BUTKEVICIUS (since 22 November 2012).

Legislative: unicameral Parliament or Seimas (141 seats; 71 members elected in single-member districts, 70 elected by proportional representation; members to serve four-year terms).

Judicial: Constitutional Court; Supreme Court; Court of Appeal; judges for all courts appointed by the president, with Seimas approval required for judges on the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court

Subdivisions: 60 municipalities. Municipalities consist of 546 elderships.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

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

Based on “Preparatory study on food waste across EU 27” data which was conducted in 2010, 0.6% of food waste in Europe is generated in Lithuania - 581 000 kg of food is being wasted annually. About 60 percents of food waste is being generated in manufacturing, wholesale/retail and food service sectors. These figures are based on EUROSTAT (2006) data. During the desktop research no official regional/national studies were identified, so there is no chance to get more accurate data about food waste which is being generated in Lithuania.

Food bank (Lithuania) initiated a study on food waste which results were presented in conference held in Lithuanian Parliament in 2009. 19 representatives of food supply and production sector agreed to participate in the survey. Research results showed that 79% of food waste generated in their companies is edible and safe for human consumption. 25% of companies responded that that they would give that food to charities. Other responded that they would consider this option only if there are good explanation of this process and they would get some kind of benefit (lower costs, publicity). Most commonly identified causes of this food loss were: “unsold food products” or “expiration date coming to an end”.

As the exploratory group was too small, we were not able to generalise the data only draw common trends. It is clear from this research that it is essential to educate the companies about the food waste reduction possibilities and give them a simple and reliable tool for giving away edible food waste.

3. EXISTING MATERIALS IN LITHUANIA

During our web research we did not find any source of information about the food waste reduction and recovery in Lithuania, except our own webpage and blog (www.maistobankas.lt). Furthermore, there are no educational programs created for this purpose neither.

There is one program, which might be partially related with food waste reduction.

Title: Integrated Waste Management in the Institute of Environmental Engineering of Kaunas University of Technology

Web address: <http://www.apini.lt/?section=text&id=9&lang=en>

Short description: Integrated waste management approach focuses on the overall environmental burdens and economic costs. This program is not specified for the field of food waste, but there were consulting projects for food companies which were connected to the food waste reduction.

4. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF NEEDS ANALYSIS

Charitable foundation The Food bank (Lithuania), during the 2013 03 15 – 2013 05 14 period conducted a study to examine the food waste situation in food supply sector in Lithuania and attitudes/perceptions toward food waste reduction and recovery. This study is part of a FoRWaRD (Food Recovery and Waste Reduction) project which is being implemented in cooperation with international partners.

The study tools - two versions of online questionnaires, provided by project partner *Tempo Training & Consulting* in March of 2013, were translated and adapted to Lithuanian language and context. There were created two online questionnaires in Lithuanian on Google documents. The first version was distributed among food retailers and producers, the second, among charity sector representatives:

1. **For companies (in Lithuanian):**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dDdWQU1vZ0J1ZzNQZDJNbGxpbHMtdXc6MQ>
2. **For charities (in Lithuanian):**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dHpoMlpQV1lVaHo2eW80Sy1GalYyd2c6MQ>

All collected data and answers in 2013 04 15 - 2013 05 14 were translated and uploaded into common online tool, created by *Tempo Training & Consulting*:

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

For charities: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/132whnb9_bJA41RxBEax2eAGSXqF4Jv-b9s3PFDqP2Y/viewform

4.1. Answers to open questions.

Collected answers to open questions were translated and uploaded to common online tool, created by *Tempo Training & Consulting*. These answers are pasted in **Appendix No. 1**.

4.2. According to the instructions of the study, each partner had to contact at least to 5 representatives of food banks & charities. The Food bank (Lithuania) collected responses from 14 representatives of charity sector: 4 regional managers of Food banks in Lithuania; 10 different charitable organizations. The questionnaires were filled by managing directors or regional managers.

4.2.1. The non food bank organisations were selected randomly from the Food bank (Lithuania) support network. All the respondents were contacted via email with web link leading to the questionnaire. The respondents followed the link and filled the questionnaire. The collected data was translated and uploaded into common project online tool for charities.

4.2.2. Food bank (Lithuania), has a wide network of charitable organizations who get support from the Food bank. As all of the respondents are colleagues or the partners in day-to-day activities, they showed willingness to participate in the survey. If there would be such a need, Food bank (Lithuania) could easily collect more responses from charity sector. The response rate is 14 out of 15 contacted representatives.

4.3. According to the instructions of the study, each partner had to collect at least 15 responses from the food supply and food producers sector. The Food bank (Lithuania) collected responses from 15 representatives of this sector. 47 % of the respondents are representing food producers (n=7), and 27 % - food retailers (n=4); others – 27 % (n=4). The questionnaires were filled by managing director, or the persons responsible for waste management in the company.

4.3.1. For the survey respondents selected from Food bank's contacts database. Most of the companies who filled the questionnaire are already supporting Food bank's activities in the country. The others - are not working with Food bank yet, but we've already had the initial contacts in the past. There were two scenarios in collecting the data. The first one, collecting data by interview during the meeting or by telephone. In this way there were collected 4 responses from the respondents. And the second scenario, contacting the respondents by telephone and asking to participate in the survey by filling the online questionnaire. All these contacts received email with web link leading to the questionnaire. In this way there were collected 11 responses from the respondents. The collected data was translated and uploaded into common project online tool for companies.

4.3.2. It was much harder to collect the information from the food supply and producers sector because of several reasons: respondents had to reveal quiet sensitive information about the company's inner practice and the questionnaire itself is quiet complicated and long for providing the answers. As participation in the survey was anonymous, it was hard to monitor who already filled the questionnaire and who might be invited repeatedly. That could increase number of participants. The response rate is 15 out of 24 contacted representatives of the companies.

4.4. General impression of the study. Every respondent replied that they produce some amount of food loss/waste during different stages of their working process (100%; n=15). 87% of the respondents replied that they had experienced in their company that edible food was thrown away or destroyed. Every respondent of the survey showed the interest in increasing the transfer of the amount of existing food surplus towards people in need.

Reasons for producing food waste.



Respondents find different reasons in their company, why food waste is being generated. Every representative of the company was able to name at least one stage or reason where they have food loss. 40 % of participants (n=6) were able to name more than 5 reasons where food waste is being generated in their company.

Among "others" we find answers such as: "Product expires in the warehouse. Seasonal products, seasonal packaging; Wrong label on

product"; "Mistakes in planning the demand"; "Mistakes in planning the sales volume";

“During the selling process, when buyer changes his mind and leave the short term product anywhere in the shop” and so on. Our impression is that questionnaire is much friendlier to producers than suppliers in defining stages of food loss in their companies.

Obstacles for getting food waste to people in need.

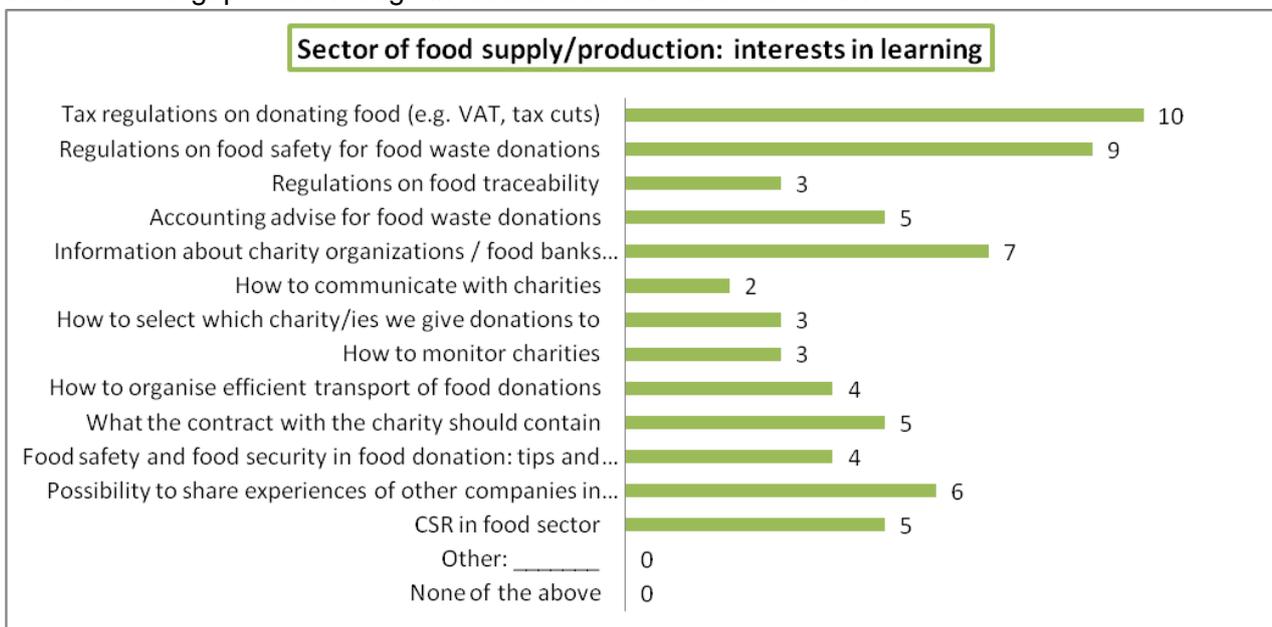


As for the obstacles for transferring edible food loss for human consumption there were no respondents who pointed that they don't trust or have had bad experience in the past in cooperation with the charities. In contrary, about 41 % (9 of 22) of named obstacles are related to “not knowing” how to cooperate (“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 organisation we could give it to“). It

shows the potential in putting effort in educating and sharing the information about possibilities to recover edible food loss in the food supply sector.

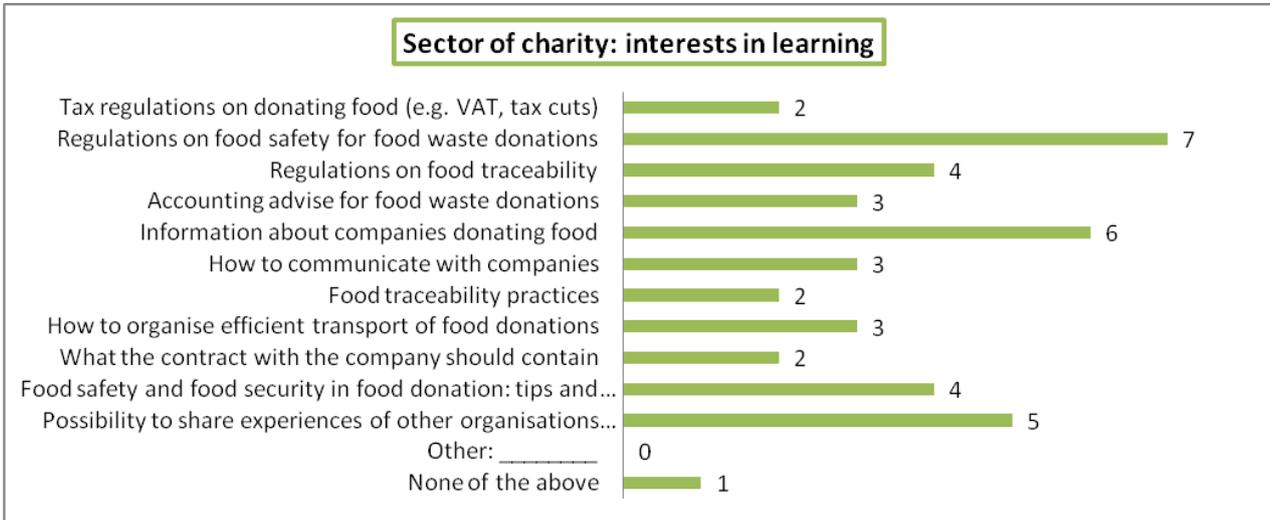
Interests in learning.

There were no participants (representatives of the companies) who pointed out that they are not interested in any of the topics defined by authors of the questionnaire. It suggests the assumption that there is a gap of knowledge in food donation in different fields.



Representatives of the companies mostly are interested in practical details of food donation such as: “Tax regulations on donating food (e.g. VAT, tax cuts)”, 67% of the respondents pointed out this aspect; “Regulations on food safety for food waste donations”, it was named by 60% of the respondents.

As for representatives of charity organizations there were only 1 organization which named that they are not interested in learning on food donation issues. Others (13 of 14 participants) named one or more fields where they would like to deepen the knowledge. The most welcome topic for participants of this survey is information about regulations on food safety for food waste donations.



As all the topics defined by authors of the questionnaire are mentioned at least twice in such a small exploratory group (only 14 participants of the survey), it suggests that there is lack of information and skills in different fields of food recovery field and arises a need for this kind of training.

List of open answers

Questionnaire for companies:

Q1:

1. Wholesale
2. Agricultural company

Q5:

1. Agricultural company
2. 1; 2 and 5 (Managing director:the personal responsible for waste management)

Q6:

1. 1; 2 and 5
2. We do not record the quantity
3. Navision
4. We do not record the quantity
5. We do not record the quantity

Q7:

1. We do not record the quantity
2. We do not record the quantity
3. We do not record the quantity

Q8.1: no open answers

Q8.2:

1. Product expires in the warehouse. Seasonal products, seasonal packaging;
2. "Marketing - Poor handling in wet market",- it is meant the mistakes in the warehousing chain (egz.Product expires in the warehouse);
3. Mistakes in planning the demand;
4. During the harvest

Q9.2: no open answers

Q9.3: no open answers

Q9.4: no open answers

Q9.5: no open answers

Q9.6:

1. Product expires in the warehouse. Seasonal products, seasonal packaging; Wrong label on product;
2. Mistakes in planning the demand;
3. Mistakes in planning the sales volum;
4. During the harvest;
5. Mistakes in planning the sales volume;
6. During the selling process, when buyer change his mind and leave the short term product anywhere in the shop, but not returning to the fridges.

Q10:

1. Biggest quantities of food loss appears because of damaged, poor quality raw materials of mistakes of planning the sales volumes.
2. Because of the employees

Q11:

1. If we could earlier receive the orders, so we could plan the production more accurately

Q13:

1. Have the agreement with the utilization company

Q15:

1. Most of the food loss is not ready made product - just the material for cooking a product, so we don't know if it is good for people consumption, or how to organise it

2. Legislative obstacles
3. We sell it for feeding animals or production is repeatedly produced

Q17: no open answers

Q22: no open answers

Q23:

1. Food bank; Caritas;
2. Food bank; Charity canteens;
3. Food bank; CARITAS; Samaritans;
4. Food bank;
5. Food bank;
6. Food bank;
7. Food bank;
8. I don't know;

Q26:

1. I don't know
2. I don't know
3. I don't know
4. I don't know

Q27:

1. Working on reducing the food waste

Q28: no open answers

Questionnaire for charities:

Q1: no open answers

Q3: no open answers

Q4:

1. With actual sponsors annually renewing contracts; Not with all

Q6:

1. We pick ourselves, but some companies delivers food to us; 1 and 3

Q9:

1. We have a refrigerator, but do not have a vehicle with refrigerator;
2. Fridge in the kitchen;
3. There is no need;
4. Not all of our cars/vans are refrigerated

Q11:

1. Non-perishable food (e.g. pasta), Fresh fruits and vegetables, Chilled products, Frozen products, everything;
2. Everything in small quantities;
3. Non-perishable food (e.g. pasta), Fresh fruits and vegetables, Chilled products, Frozen products, Fresh products: Bread

Q12:

1. Suitable options 2 and 3; Suitable options 2 and 3

Q13:

1. By email, on the phone and by schedule;
2. 3 and 4 options are suitable, part of the support recipients visit our pantries or warehouse following the schedule

Q14: no open answers

Q15:

1. All options are suitable;
2. 1, 2, 3 (partially), 4, 5 (partially)

Q16:

1. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Develop communication between us and the companies, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)

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2. Receive food donation from more companies, Increase trust between us and companies, Develop communication between us and the companies, Develop our food safety facilities, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)
 3. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Receive food donation from more companies, Develop communication between us and the companies, Develop monitoring, food traceability system for donated food, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, Develop our food safety facilities, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)
 4. Develop monitoring, food traceability system for donated food, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, Develop our food safety facilities, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)
 5. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Receive food donation from more companies, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, [23:34:27] Thiago Borysovas: Food safety is one of the most important things
 6. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Receive food donation from more companies
 7. Receive food donation from more companies, Increase trust between us and companies
 8. Receive more food donation from the same companies
 9. Receive food donation from more companies, Increase trust between us and companies, Develop communication between us and the companies, Develop monitoring, food traceability system for donated food, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)
 10. Receive food donation from more companies, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to
 11. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Receive food donation from more companies, Develop monitoring, food traceability system for donated food, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)
 12. Develop our food safety facilities
 13. Receive more food donation from the same companies, Receive food donation from more companies, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to
 14. Develop monitoring, food traceability system for donated food, Increase the number of people/families/organizations we give the food to, Develop our food safety facilities, Develop infrastructure (car/van for transportation; storage; cooking etc.)

Q17: no open answers

Q18: no open answers