FOOD AID & SOCIAL POLICY IN EUROPE – THE TENSION BETWEEN « COLD » AND « WARM » SOLIDARITY

Antwerp – 12/09/2019
“Charitable food aid is a sticking plaster on a gaping wound of systemic inequality in our societies.”

Olivier De Schutter - former UN special rapporteur on the right to food
FPS Social Integration

“We want to contribute to the achievement of fundamental social rights”

- Right to social integration
- Poverty reduction plan

=> Improve access to rights
=> Foster equal treatment
=> Support the European Minimum Income Network
What is the origin of the FEAD?

- 1987: creation of the PEAD
- 2013: PEAD replaced by the FEAD
- Agricultural policy $\geq$ social affairs
- A new actor: FPS Social Integration
How does it work?

• Annual calls to market

• Foodstuffs provided to the Public Centres for Social Welfare (PCSW) - 358 and approved Partner Organisations (PO) - 419

• Social component is developed => integrated social policy
Food deprivation:

5.2% cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish at least every second day
What is the profile of the FEAD beneficiaries?

- Single parents 44%
- Without means 13%
- Homeless 4%
- Precarious workers 12%

Anyone living below the poverty line can benefit from food aid.
What are the FEAD's figures in Belgium?

- 13 million euros/year
- Over 8,000 tonnes of products per year
- Over 300,000 beneficiaries
- 50% of what the foodbanks receive
- PO == relays for working harder towards inclusion.

- Support measures
What is the FEAD's impact on health and food quality?

- Objective: offer a balanced and diverse food parcel but also attractive packaging
- Sustainable Development policy
- Avoid food waste
- Avoid stigmatisation
- Respect for cultural diversity
- Sustainable aspects taken into account
What is the social dimension of our action?

• FEAD and warm solidarity
• Agreement with the Public Centres for Social Welfare: cornerstone
• Volunteers: without them, all of this would not be possible!
Some Examples

- SOREAL

- ALIMEN’T and ODC Antwerp

- Fresh soup made with unsold products
Food waste?

88 million tonnes thrown away every year!

1 euro invested = 14 euros of products

National lottery: 1,600,000 euros => 88 projects assisted
• ESF+
• Important budgetary challenges
• Minimum: 2% = 48 million euros
• Only decent proposal: 4%
• OP Budget 2014-2020 = 88 million euros
• Assessment of the current programming
• Federal management has several benefits
Charitable food aid is a sticking plaster on a gaping wound of systemic inequality in our societies?