


Good Practice in Waste Minimization in Heritage city centres

N°	Section	Description
0.	Title of the practice	<i>Estonian Food Bank (Eesti Toidupank) for reducing food wastes</i>
1.	Photograph	 <p data-bbox="290 1406 705 1438"><i>Photo 1 Estonian foodbank warehouse</i></p>



Joonis 2 Estonian Foodbank warehouse



Photo 3 An example of food what is not suitable for selling and will be donated to Food Bank

2. Proposers	Estonian-Netherlands Charity Foundation and Swedbank
3. Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estonian Food Bank info@toidupank.ee
4. Useful	www.toidupank.ee

	links	http://www.eurofoodbank.eu/
5.	Start date	11.03.2010
6.	Activities' state of the art	<u>Ongoing</u>
7.	Location	Republic of Estonia
8.	Inhabitants in the area	1 318 700
9.	Description of the practice	
	<p><u>Origin:</u></p> <p>In Estonia, about 24% of food waste is produced in commercial and catering companies and in the food industry. Estonian Food Bank collects food that soon exceed the "Best before" date from food trading and -manufacturing companies, divides it with the help of volunteers to food parcels and distributes it to the most deprived people and families on the basis of lists received from local social departments. Also they distribute collected food to soup kitchens, social houses, shelters and social projects (in total more than 30 NGOs and charitable organisations). Estonian Foodbank is collective name for the network of food banks operating in Estonia, which includes 14 food banks. Each of them is established in a different charitable organization.</p> <p>The Estonian Foodbank is a full member of the European Food Bank Federation.</p> <p><u>Development and Timescale:</u></p> <p>The Food Bank in Tallinn, is the first one in Estonia and it follows examples in other European countries. It is established on 11 March 2010 by the Estonian-Netherlands Charity Foundation and Swedbank. They provide financial support for initial expenses and investments to establish the Food Bank organisation in Estonia.</p> <p><u>Actors involved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food stores, food manufacturers and farmers • Local City districts, City or country social departments • Volunteers <p><u>Legal framework:</u></p> <p>There are no legal framework for Food Bank activity. In its activities Food Bank follows the ethical principles of the activities of non-governmental organizations. All food trading companies, including food retailers, must comply with the Waste Act, Food Act and their sub-acts. In Tallinn according to Tallinn Municipal Waste Act it is mandatory to collect food waste separately from other wastes. Food Donation is primarily affected by tax laws (Income Tax Act, Value added Tax Act).</p> <p><u>Financial framework:</u> (activities' cost, activities' revenues (if any), model/s of financing used)</p> <p>The Food Bank does not receive any subsidies. It receives financial donations from foundations, companies and private people. These form the income from which the running costs of the warehouse and office are paid.</p> <p>City of Tallinn and the Food Bank has signed Good Attention Agreement, according to which the city supports the Food Bank by giving them in use a warehouse in Lasnamäe District to hold the gathered food and if possible Tallinn also supports the activity with money.</p>	
10	Results	.

		<p><u>Proven results (through indicators):</u> During it's seven years of existence the Food Bank has saved approximately 1,1 million kilos of food .</p> <p><u>Possible success factors:</u> Food Bank has more than 80 co-partners and supporters. Beside environmental aspect there is social aspect. Food Bank organizes food collecting campaigns.</p> <p><u>Main difficulties encountered:</u> When many trading companies today co-operate with Food Bank, the food industry is donating very little. Food donation from commercial and manufacturing companies is mostly hampered by the lack of suitable transportation, supply of labor and storage facilities. In addition, one of the reasons for abandoning food donations is the unclear legal requirements. Moreover, there are no tax benefits to companies who donate food, which to some extent reduces companies motivation to donate.</p>
11	Main lessons learnt from the practice	Companies need more information about the opportunities and legal framework of donating food which is not suitable for selling.
12	Additional information	Estonian Food Bank www.toidpank.ee Ministry of Environment research about food waste in Estonian trade and food industry enterprises https://www.envir.ee/sites/default/files/toidujatmed_ii.pdf (only in Estonian)