



MINISTÈRE DES SOLIDARITÉS ET DE LA SANTÉ

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FEAD Community

Thematic Seminar on “New beneficiaries of FEAD-funded measures and new practices implemented during the Covid-19 crisis”

2 and 3 February 2021 – Online

Directorate-General
of Social Cohesion

Introduction

The FEAD Community brings together the Managing Authorities of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and the programme's partner organisations **two to three times a year** in the occasion of thematic seminars.

The European Commission has selected the French Managing Authority of FEAD to **host the next Thematic Seminar**, organised online on 2nd and 3rd February 2021, on **'New beneficiaries of FEAD-funded measures and new practices implemented during the Covid-19 crisis'**. The four French partner organisations of FEAD will be present at this meeting.

For this occasion, the Directorate-General for Social Cohesion will record a 20-minute **video presentation** that can be watched by the participants before the Thematic Seminar.

Overview of the key figures of FEAD in France – 1/2

⇒ 12% of the policy to tackle food insecurity is based on FEAD funding.

- 1) In France FEAD finances a **centralised food supply market** for approximately **EUR 90 millions/year** to the benefit of 4 organisations :
 - The French Federation of Food Banks (*Fédération française des banques alimentaires -FFBA*),
 - Restos du cœur
 - Secours populaire français,
 - The French Red Cross (*Croix-Rouge française*).

- Around thirty basic products are delivered to **350 delivery points** and ultimately distributed to nearly **9,000 distribution points**, thanks to the essential support of nearly **200,000 volunteers** working with the end beneficiaries.

Overview of the key figures of FEAD in France – 2/2

- FEAD is an **important supply source** for the organisations: the 80,000 tons of FEAD commodities represent on average 30% of the total quantity distributed to the most deprived. Around 4.8 million people are beneficiaries of food aid in France, of which **4.3 million receive aid from FEAD**.
 - There are **13 million** FEAD end beneficiaries in Europe - Spain and Italy are the two countries with a FEAD programme comparable to France (in terms of scale and management system) and have respectively about 1.5 million and 2.8 million FEAD end beneficiaries.
- 2) Alongside FEAD, the policy to tackle food deprivation in France is based on the provision of diversified responses, with the development of mechanisms that do not rely on the distribution of food aid and aim to direct the system towards greater autonomy and prevention, such as, for example:
 - Support of territorial food projects;
 - Launch of a call for innovative projects focused on the target groups;
 - Support of the development of ‘food third-places’.

Need to respond to the sharp increase in the number of FEAD beneficiaries from spring 2020 - 1/2

- The active circulation of the virus in France led to the introduction of an initial confinement from 17 March to 11 May 2020, which had a **threefold effect** on vulnerable groups:
 - A reduction, at the beginning of the confinement, **in the food aid provided by organisations**: nearly 60% of volunteers are senior citizens, and therefore more vulnerable to the virus.
 - A **slowdown** and, in some sectors, a standstill of economic activities, leading to a **loss of income** for already vulnerable groups.
 - An **increase in financial burdens** for some groups, especially single mothers, due to the closure of schools and therefore school canteens.
- FEAD's partner organisations have thus noted an **increase of almost 40%** in the number of food aid beneficiaries. The health crisis has thus led to “new clients” for the organisations, in particular students, independent entrepreneurs, restaurant owners and craftsmen: it is estimated that there were around **7 million** people in a situation of food deprivation in France by the end of 2020.

Need to respond to the sharp increase in the number of FEAD beneficiaries from spring 2020 - 2/2

- At the European level, the situation of almost **110 million people**, already affected or at risk of poverty, has worsened as a result of the health crisis (*source: European Parliament, amendment proposed when the FEAD Regulation was modified*);
- The emergence of these ‘new groups’ has prompted organisations to adapt their activities:
 - For instance: The French Federation of Food Banks (FFBA) will present during this FEAD Community Thematic Seminar its partnership with the Regional Centre for University and School Work (CROUS) in the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region to distribute food parcels to the most disadvantaged students.

Complementary purchases of FEAD products with a simplified logistical process, in response to the crisis

In response to the organisations' warning about supply difficulties regarding some ways of obtaining food products, in particular through collection, and in order to avoid a disruption of supply in the organisations' networks, the Directorate-General for Social Cohesion was able to conclude a series of public contracting amendments for the FEAD 2019 campaign in the spring of 2020.

- These food purchases, although financed by national credits, were supported by the market and the organisations of FEAD with almost **EUR 3 million of purchases for 6 basic food items** delivered as of Summer 2020.
- In order to speed up the delivery of the products, the usual FEAD logistics process was **simplified** and the UGAP, the public institution specialised in purchasing, was called upon to **centralise the initial deliveries** of food products and ensure their distribution to the organisations throughout France.

In complement to FEAD, during the crisis some organisations developed local food distribution channels. This is the case, for example, of the Secours Populaire Français (SPF), which will present during this FEAD Community its “Solidarity Popular Markets” initiative, which aims to enable farmers to offer quality products at local level to vulnerable groups.

Distribution of food vouchers financed by FEAD in Mayotte

- The European Parliament and the Council adopted a **new Regulation** on 23 April 2020 amending the Regulation n° 223/2014 on FEAD and introducing the possibility to implement food vouchers financed by the FEAD.
- This new food vouchers scheme has been developed by France **only on the island of Mayotte** for a total amount of EUR 2.6 millions. The operation began in April 2020 and is led by the territorial delegation of the French Red Cross (CRF), a major player in the territory of Mayotte.
- **7 areas** of intervention have been identified in Mayotte and the local French Red Cross is acting as a focal point for associations and social actors in the region.
- Food vouchers are made **available free of charge** and are **distributed** to almost 8,000 families in Mayotte.
 - On a practical level, these food vouchers are issued by three distribution groups in Mayotte and can be used by end beneficiaries in partner stores.

Adaptation of the management rules applicable to FEAD partner organisations

The health crisis has led to a **relaxation of the management rules** that usually structure the management of FEAD by the 4 partner organisations of the programme in France:

- **Fungibility of FEAD food products** - it was decided that FEAD food products can be distributed to organisations that do not usually receive them, in particular to social grocery shops and organisations working with students in difficulty;
- **Flexibility for delivery arrangements** - a form was sent to the organisations to change the dates and places of delivery for FEAD 2019, whose distribution was under way at the time of the first confinement in Spring 2020;
- **Postponement of the sampling** carried out by the intermediary organisation FranceAgrimer in the organisations' warehouses – the organisations kept a sample of the batches subject to controls so that they could be carried out at the end of the crisis;
- **Postponement of the deadline** for organisations to carry out the mandatory taste testing of FEAD food products.

Mobilisation of new REACT-EU funding on FEAD

The REACT-EU initiative, launched in spring 2020 by the European Commission, has enabled the French FEAD to receive **EUR 132 million in additional funding**, 100% financed by the EU.

These fundings are used to make **additional purchases of food products** that will be delivered to the **four** partner organisations of FEAD in France:

- **EUR 60 millions** under a "REACT 2020" contract launched in November 2020 for 10 food items to be delivered to the FEAD organisations from the beginning of April 2021;
- **EUR 72 millions** that will complete a final FEAD campaign organised for 2021, whose food items will be delivered from next Summer.

In concrete terms, these REACT-EU food items will be delivered by the suppliers directly to the 350 delivery points of the organisations, which will then transport them to their 9,000 distribution points to make them available to the end beneficiaries.