

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT #11

# European Food Banks Federation's recommendations for municipalities to strengthen collaboration with food banks

Food banks and municipalities are natural partners: they operate in the same urban space and share goals related to sustainability and social support. However, cooperation is often limited due to non-communication between them, unclear division of responsibilities, or missing routines and easy-to-replicate precedents.

**Cities are not only regulators but also food system actors.** They manage schools, hospitals, public catering, markets and events, all of which can generate safe, recoverable food surplus. Municipalities also have strong links to local food businesses and social care organisations, enabling them to mobilise donors and recipients.

**Food banks act as key intermediaries between surplus food and people in need.** Their added value lies in coordinating logistics, providing storage and transport capacity, ensuring food safety, liaising with charity networks and disposing of digital tools to match surplus with demand.

**To enable effective cooperation, municipalities can support food banks by facilitating access to infrastructures, implementing shared transportation models, promoting social employment schemes, and through communication and awareness-raising activities.**

**Practical recommendation for municipalities:** when establishing new local partnerships, adopt a stepwise approach by starting with low-risk, rapidly implementable pilot actions and identifying the best connection points within municipal organisations. Such partnerships can typically deliver fast, measurable benefits, including reduced food waste, increased redistribution of food to vulnerable groups, and visible contributions to local sustainability and ESG goals.



Picture by Cottonbro Studio

Read more about European Food Banks Federation's work within the FoodCLIC project [here](#):

