



# EWR good practices and case studies

## Banco de Alimentos

### 1. Details of Action:

Coordinators: IHOBE - Basque Country Governemt Environmental Management Public Society

Action Developers: BANCO DE ALIMENTOS DE BIZKAIA

Name of nominated action: Reducing waste from perishable food products

Town: Many

Region: Basque Country

Country: Spain

Website: <https://www.bancali-biz.org>

Nominee category: ASSOCIATION / ONG

Dates of action: 21-29 November 2015

### 2. Action's theme:

- Reduce – Strict avoidance and reduction at source
- Reuse – Preparing for reuse and reuse
- Recycle – Waste sorting and Recycling
- Let's Clean Up Europe!

### 3. Action related to the Prevention Thematic Days 2014: Stop Food Waste.

- Yes
- No

### 4. Description of the nominated action:

BANCO DE ALIMENTOS DE BIZKAIA (BAB) is a non-profit ONG, independent of any economic ideology, political or religious, based on:

- The fight against waste and the nearest hunger: food coming mainly from overproduction.
- The primacy of gratuity: food is received and distributed free.
- The security of a fair distribution: the distribution of food is developed through homologated charities, which because of their direct relationship with people in need can ensure that food reaches its final destination.
- Coordination and management thanks to the participation of volunteers. Currently we have the valuable collaboration of 100 volunteers.

The performance of BAB begins with the collection of food whose sources of supply are:



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- Donations of food industries and distribution companies.
- Surplus managed by the Departments of Agriculture and Food Central and Autonomic.
- Mercabilbao surplus wholesalers and agricultural cooperatives.
- Specific campaigns in supermarkets and schools, in which students participate actively.
- Contributions from the Spanish Agricultural Guarantee Fund, and from the European Union.
- Finally, BAB completes the offer of food products using monetary contributions from donators.

Food is treated with the utmost care, sorted and stored, controlling quality and compliance with health standards. Regularly, social institutions go and take food from the warehouses, depending on stocks in the BAB and the number of persons covered by the institution. These institutions undertake not to sell the received food.

BANCO DE ALIMENTOS DE BIZKAIA uses for its activities two warehouses located in Basauri and another one in Mercabilbao. It has vehicles, refrigerators, forklifts and other media for the warehouse management. It is a principle of the bank not to invest, where possible, in the acquisition of these material means, but request them to government institutions and enterprises.

One of these institutions, Diputación Foral de Bizkaia, donated 4 special vehicles (refrigerated) for the collection of perishable food. This allows to enlarge the reuse of this kind of products, that otherwise would end in landfills. Through 4 different routes BAB gather perishables from up to 60 supermarkets. It means a great challenge in terms of manage and coordination of different actors to ensure the best sanitary conditions of the whole chain.

During the European Week, BAB continued developing this important activity of collection of perishable food not able to be sold because of it appearance, that was distributed among the large net of charities served by BAB, helping about 6.000 people in need. With the aim of promoting this activity and the need to avoid food waste, BAB organized the "Great Collection" between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November. 4.000 volunteers were placed in 278 supermarkets asking clients to donate food products and talking about the work of BAB.

Video for additional information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsd0KLe6hv0>

### 5. Type of evaluation conducted and outcome of the evaluation:

- Number of visitors/participants
- Feedback from visitors/participants (willingness to change their behaviour)
- Quantity of waste avoided/collected
- Amount of CO2 avoided
- Other indicators

Number of supermarkets donating food



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### 6. Reasons why the action has been selected for the EWR 2014 Awards:

#### a) Visibility and communicational aspects

The “Great Collection” involved up to 4000 volunteers and 278 supermarkets. That means a great net to make known the activity of BAB. Near to Christmas days, the relationship between food, waste and poverty is especially important and the message reached thousands of clients in the supermarkets.

#### b) Quality of content and focus on waste reduction, products reuse or materials recycling

Alimentary waste is an important stream, with strict targets of reduction by 2020. The actuation of public institutions will not be enough to reach them. It is essential to wake awareness about the problem among citizens. The presence of BAB in the supermarkets contributes to that aim. More than this, BAB directly collects perishable products next to be landfilled to give them a second chance. And best of all, by this effort BAB serves food to thousands of people in need.

#### a) Originality and exemplarity

Collecting food does not suppose an innovative action. The originality consists on creating a chain to make possible to coordinate a relevant number of supermarkets and charities, overcoming the complex logistic necessary to assure the sanitary conditions of the food products.

#### b) European reproducibility

The main key-point is to have the support of donors to make possible to have a warehouse with refrigerators and adapted vehicles to keep the cold-chain. Apart from that, it is essential to create a network involving supermarkets and charities. In this sense, routes must be carefully designed to ensure that products reach the consumption place as soon as possible.

#### c) Lasting impact

**The core of the action will be permanent, so it will have a lasting impact in terms of avoiding waste and helping people. The other aspect, the communicational, is expected to have impact in people encouraging the prevention of food waste because of the relationship of waste and poverty.**

#### d) Motivation

Firstly, the activity of BAB shows that food is not waste even if products do not satisfy the esthetical conditions to be sold. This must contribute to change the vision of businesses involved in the distribution of food and promote the prevention of waste. Secondly, the visibility of BAB through the “Great Collection”, which shows the existing relations between food, waste and poverty, should motivate people to adapt consumption habits.



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