“Slice of Bread from Heart” Conference

On 16-17 October 2017, during the World Food Day and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, “Slice of Bread” Conference took place in Lublin. In this important time, polish an foreign representatives of local government, institutions and NGOs could debate about the effectiveness of the aid that is delivered in the framework of Found for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and discuss the possibility of its continuation and development after 2020.

Conference and the study visits enabled an exchange of good practice and made possible a description of the activities of FEAD (polish subprogram PO PŻ) from different perspectives important for the social aid system. Participants of the Conference presented a point of view that FEAD is a process which FEAD is a process which has a goal of effective aid to the person in need. During the Conference, on 16 October fallowing aspects of FEAD influence were pointed out:

* FEAD is a first contact program that builds a relation with the beneficiary
* Effectiveness of FEAD should be strengthen by achieving a synergy with other programs and founds. Thanks to FEAD recipients are starting a path to social mobilization. Continuation of this path and further progress of the participants is largely dependent on strength of the Program influence.

Representatives of Czech Republic pointed out that FEAD plays and important role in social system of their country. Czech Operational Program consists of two kinds of support – food parcels distributed to people who meet the criterion that enables the participation in the program, similar to polish practice and giving food aid to children in pre-schools and elementary schools. Resources for this action are given directly to the educational establishments. This action makes the prevention of the stigmatization possible.

The presentation of representatives of the organization Secours populaire from France was very inspiring. They recommended a model of Social Solidarity Centers. The mission of the centers is ensuring aid for the poorest people on the level of wide specter of social services – beginning with support of food aid, fallowed by help with formal affairs, affairs linked with health care, consulting and finally organization of free time activities for children and whole families. Financial support for this activities can be found in government and local institutions with public and EU founds. Important aspect of the French Social Solidarity Centers is inclusion of the people in need in process of helping others (voluntary service). FEAD implemented in this way is a very effective tool of support for people who found themselves, because of variant reasons in a situation of material depravity.

Representatives of polish organization and institution involved in FEAD (PO PŻ) addressed the fundamental features of Program realization on national level. They pointed out the value of good cooperation between social assistance centers and NGOs which by collecting their resources achieve a potential which is necessary to effective activities that help people who face the danger of social depravation.

The favor of the local governments creates good terms for realization of the program. Cooperation between Sectors empowers NGOs and thanks to mobilization and work for local community the civil society. It’s a great added value of FEAD (PO PŻ) in Poland.

**The community that participated in the Conference recommends testing of the model of Social Solidarity Centers on polish field of social aid in order to adopt it to polish conditions and future implementation for example – in framework of FEAD after 2020. Participants expressed an opinion that a continuation is necessary because of the unique worth of the program which is an effective tool of first contact with deprived people in local societies.**

**Considering the holistic approach to poorest people, we appeal for increase of founds dedicated to this goal in the new financial perspective, at the same time increasing the support to health care, prevention, above all for elderly people, psychological – therapy concentrated on solutions (TSR), consulting – coaching, free time activities for children, youth and whole families.**

**Survey carried out during the Conference showed that 80% of the respondents evaluated the Program as an important aspect of social aid system. 46% said that FEAD should be more mobilizing for participants.**

**FEAD (PO PŻ) supports the basic needs – food aid and start of the path of mobilization because of the Accompanying Measures, increasing their skills in area of modern home economics. As a result of this actions, the mobilization of the participants is growing and makes them able to further activities in order to increase their life standard.**

We encourage you to further discussion on the subjects linked to the program on the platform yammer.com in FEAD Network group. Each activity linked to the Conference is a possibility for continuation of the discussion that started in Lublin. It will surly lead to improvement of methods. Support in promotion of the conclusions from the Conference “Slice of Bread from Heart” and sending this message can expand the output of this enterprise.

In the name of organizes Podkarpacki Food Bank and Food Bank in Lublin, best regards and thank you again

Marzena Pieńkosz Sapiecha, President of Food Bank in Lublin.