



1st Newsletter

March 2023



**SUST-AID - Environmentally Sustainable Food Aid
programs in Europe: Vocational educational training for
strengthening capacities and program delivery**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project NO: 2021-2-PL01-KA220-VET-000048821

SUST-AID - Environmentally Sustainable Food Aid programs in Europe: Vocational educational training for strengthening capacities and program delivery

About the SUST-AID project

SUST-AID is a 36-month project funded by the ERASMUS+ Program of the European Union. It aims to cover the current gaps and needs in knowledge, training and skills by developing and evaluating a Vocational Educational Training (VET) program for the delivery of sustainable food aid programs.

The importance of SUST-AID

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) about 820 million people around the world experience chronic hunger while among them 113 million people cope with acute severe food insecurity, with the estimations being more adverse due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the

COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new food emergency in Europe, increasing the demand for food up to 50% compared to the pre-coronavirus period. In addition, over 90% of European Food Banks have reported increasing emergency food assistance demands, due to the rising number of people in need. Furthermore, the food insecurity level in Europe presents substantial increases within the last decade – even more when it comes to the current economic and energy crises challenges.



SUST-AID main objectives

- Enhance capacity of food-aid programs in Europe to provide sustainable food-aid of good quality and maximise the positive impact and social inclusion of vulnerable populations.
- Promote action in line with the Sustainable Developmental Goals
- Increase knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers involved in food-aid programs towards sustainability and sustainable practices.

SUST-AID Co-creation sessions

Focus groups / Co-creation sessions per country were held in Austria, Poland, Portugal, Cyprus and Greece, with the participation of staff and volunteers working in food-aid programs. Our aim through the co-creation sessions was to:

- ✓ Gain important insight into the needs of staff and volunteers working in food aid programs and their perceptions on the delivery of sustainable food aid.
- ✓ Co-create the areas/topics on which training will focus on.
- ✓ Explore training means and educational tools to include in the VET program.

Main outcomes

- ✓ Most participants acknowledged the importance of sustainable food aid programs.
- ✓ Operational barriers were identified in relation to legal requirements, food supply chains, distribution logistics, resource availability, separation and management, unpredictability of donations and number of people who are in need of support.
- ✓ At least 8 enablers were identified towards sustainability in food aid programs with education, training and networking of teams being among them.



The Partnership

The **SUST-AID** consortium consists of 6 organizations from 5 countries.



The Polish Farm Advisory and Training Centre not-for-profit Sp. z o. o.

Miastkowo, Podlaskie, Poland

www.farmadvisory.eu



Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności

Warsaw, Mazowieckie, Poland

www.bankizywnosci.pl



ISEKI-Food Association

Vienna, Wien, Austria

<https://www.isekifood.net/>



CSI-Center for Social Innovation LT

Nicosia, Kýpros, Cyprus

www.csicy.com



PROLEPSIS-Civil Law Non Profit Organization of Preventive Environmental and Occupational Medicine

Marousi, Attica, Greece

www.prolepis.gr



CARITAS DIOCESANA DE COIMBRA

Coimbra, Centro, Portugal

www.caritascoimbra.pt

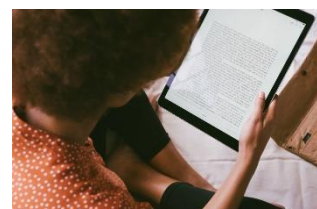
The kick-off Meeting held in Poland.

On the 9th of July 2022, in Warsaw, Poland, the kick-off meeting of the SUST-AID project took place. Representatives from all consortium members met at the Polish Farm Advisory and Training Centre headquarters and discussed about the general overview of the project, financial and organizational issues, as well as next steps.



Next Steps...

- 2nd Project Partner Meeting in meeting in Vienna, Austria (21.03.2023)
- Implementation of SUST-AID survey for the development of Methodological Guide.
- Development of SUST-AID training curriculum package.
- Development of an interactive e-learning platform.



Do you want to learn more about the SUST-AID Project?

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