

# WSS EFFECT BULLETIN

March 2019 – July 2019



So  
you  
want  
less

4s  
too

food  
on  
landfills?

In the past few months we made efforts to prove that food waste should be tackled through legal measures. We thought that more surplus food donations will follow after certain benefits for the donors are offered including, higher food waste disposal taxes for the 'polluters'. We now lobby for the draft surplus food donation law and our recommendations, introduced in the draft law to be passed by the legislature. Please join us.



The project is funded by  
the European Union



“Less food waste – less food poverty” is WSS Effect major priority. The project which was initiated in January 2018 is an EU-funded action focused on promotion of the European values of food banking and the “zero food waste” culture. In that context, WSS Effect is, in general, designed to create better conditions for improved food banking in the country including, improved access to safe food for everyone.

*Join us,*

**WSS Team**

## News & updates:

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### CAPACITY BUILDING

In July 2019 we approved funding of 10 food banking micro actions. All ten aim to promote food waste prevention in at least 10 municipalities in the country. Further, they aim to help us improve our informal network for surplus food redistribution.

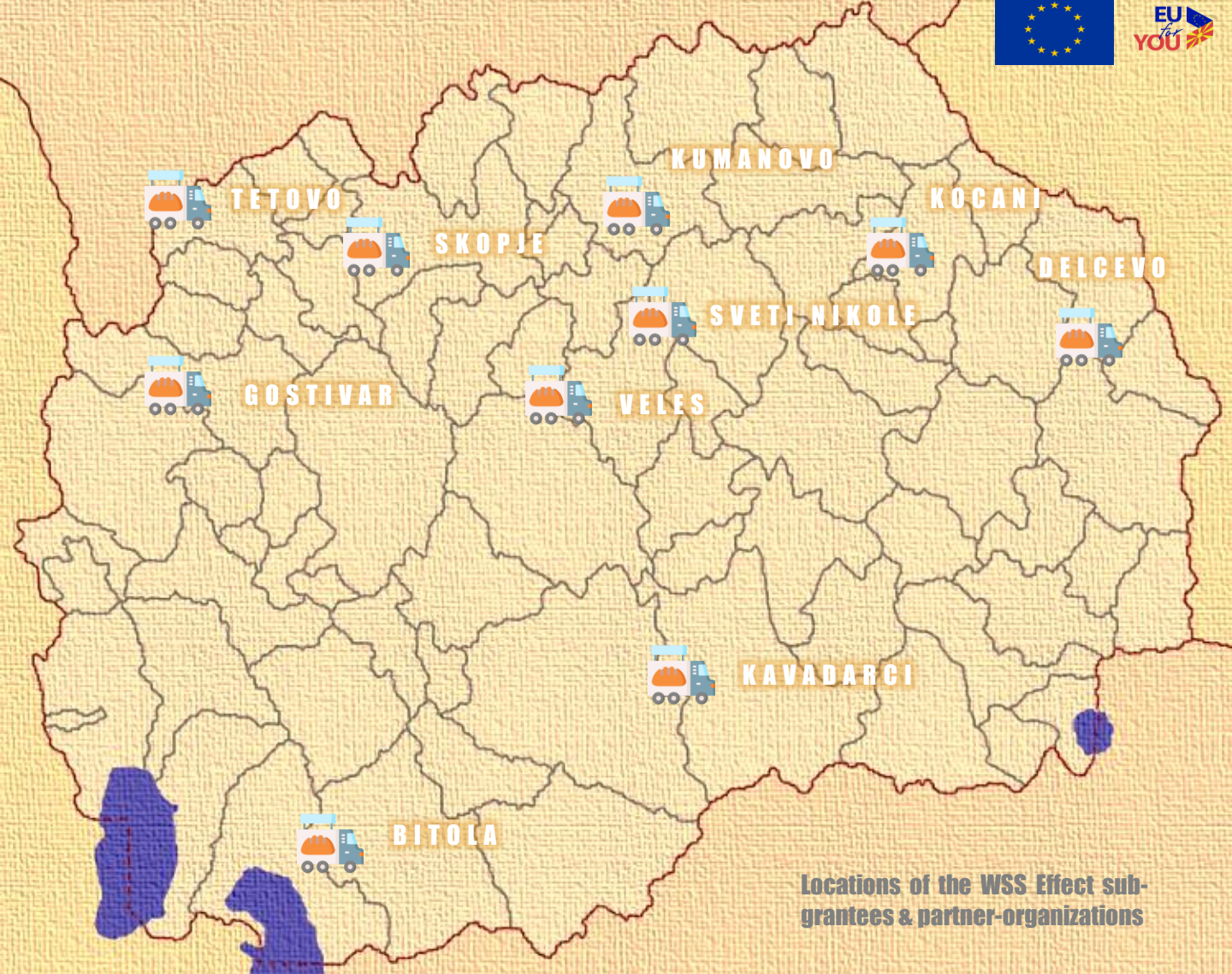
### AWARENESS RISING

During March - June 2019 we visited 1 high school, 1 elementary school and a faculty. As a result, around 100 children and youth in Skopje and Struga were informed and engaged in a debate about how to decrease food waste and rescue edible surplus food.

### POLICY ADVOCACY

After 10 intense meetings between us, institutions and other CSOs, in July 2019 we finalized the text of the draft surplus food donations law. We also talked food banking in the Parliament; with the 2019 presidential candidates and later with the elected President.





**Locations of the WSS Effect sub-grantees & partner-organizations**

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



### THE PROJECT

WSS Effect is designed to make an impact on the lives of others. By scaling up our Coalition, buzzing about food waste, we envisioned a legal framework that enables us to redistribute more safe surplus food to those in need.

### PARTNERS

WSS unites 4 partners dedicated to alleviate the food poverty locally and in EU - Food Bank MK, Organization of women from Strumica, SIBAHE-Slovenian Food Bank and the European Food Banks Federation - FEBA.

### COALITION

WSS is chiefly a capacity building project which aims to enhance the capacities of the informal Coalition against hunger and food waste. The Coalition was established in 2013 with 6 CSOs and now it gathers more than 20 local CSOs.





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## CAPACITY BUILDING

In March 2019 we started our search for the three brave colleagues that will read and evaluate the 10 applications received within the call for project proposals. Eventually, after we found the two brave men and a woman we made a decision: the best way to enhance the capacities of the entire group of 18 CSOs from our informal Coalition against hunger is to award each of the 10 applicants with finances for their proposed actions. Hence, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 we signed ten contracts for 10 actions implemented by 18 organizations in more than 10 municipalities. Will this improve our food banking? It must. Stay tuned. All actions start this summer.







## AWARNNESS RISING

In the previous months we've learnt that talking food waste with 5-year olds requires short "super hero" stories about everything from clean plates to feeding animals or sharing food with a friend. On the other hand, the IV and V graders just like the high-school aged youth are a tough audience. They do like to debate about what surplus food is and what kind of food is being offered to the people in need. So when we scheduled our next round of food banking presentations we decided to go a bit further: we invited a guest speaker from FAO (Myriam Annetee) and representatives of a zero food waste agro business (Vasil and Milica Petrusevski). Hence, in this round of presentations we covered more than 30 students including professors from the Faculty of agricultural science and food in Skopje (April 2019); more than 20 students from "Yahya Kemal" college in Struga (May 2019) and a lot more when we gave a speech as eco motivators at the "Days of Ecology" (March 2019) event organized by municipality of Butel and elementary school "Petar Zdravkovski - Penko – Skopje. So a lot more than 200 young people covered up until now and still plenty to go. So please do follow us.





## POLICY ADVOCACY

**Parliamentary Institute**

Last year we held a round table at which we presented the results of our legal analysis. We then discuss whether our country needs a food waste law.

In March 2019 we and few exceptional people from the Parliamentary Institute, again held a debate. This time in the Parliament and with 7 MPs from the two biggest political blocks. They too feel that the country needs new law.

In March 2019, we joined the Working Group established for drafting of the new surplus food donation law. The group gathered representatives of 9 plus institutions such as Ministry of labor and social policy, Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy, Ministry of finance &c., including relevant CSOs working in the field of surplus food redistribution, the Red Cross, the National Democratic Institute and the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government (ZELS).



**FVA's Working group**

In April 2019 we attended the first of the 10 meetings which were organized under the coordination of the Food and Veterinary agency (FVA). The debate among institutions and CSOs regarding the draft law was chiefly focused on few key areas: What is surplus food? Who can redistribute surplus food? Who controls the redistribution? Who are the users and donors? How to stimulate surplus food donations? How to organize the system. In July 2019 at one of the last meetings of the Working Group held in Popova Shapka the draft law was finalized.



# Zero Hunger

## Coalition in action

### MAYOR OF SHUTO ORIZARI

Within our WSS Effect campaign we worked to promote the food banking on local level. Our idea was to offer the redistribution system in support to the local food aid programs. After the success in Centar and Kavadarci in April 2019 our partners Romanistan and Eurohuman International have initiated the Zero Hunger in Shuto Orizari.

### MAYOR OF BRVENICA

Brvenica was with us the entire time yet not that long time ago we formalized our collaboration and in June we organized our first joint redistribution of surplus food. The entire action was planned and executed with the help of the same team which supported us through the action.

### MAYOR OF OHRID

Following the lead of our Coalition member, Citizens initiative of women Sveti Nikole (GIZ) since of July 2019 we are marking the territory of Ohrid also. So what this means for us? We are spreading the network. Is that all? No, cause we are now in search for local CSO partner too. Call us.



*Coffee with the  
President,  
Mr Stevo Pendarovski*





## *Panel discussion with the presidential candidates*



## THE PRESIDENT

In July 2019 we went for a coffee with the President at his residency "Vila Vodno". This was our first coffee with Mr Pendarovski after he was elected. Since the president kept his promise for a coffee and talk about the food banking, we are hoping to have many more joint coffees so to formalize our collaboration. We do need all the support we can get so buzz for us!

## THE CANDIDATES

Since building partnerships with different institutions and bodies is of extreme importance for our policy advocacy on local and national level, in April 2019 we decided to invited all 3 presidential candidates for a panel discussion. So apart from the fact that we informed them about our food banking action, we made them vow that as future President, they will advocate for alleviation of the food poverty in the country.





## VISION

March – July 2019 was an intense period for us. We invested most of our efforts to offer a valuable input so that a good law is created and later established. Whenever we could we promoted the food banking, the Coalition and the EU-funded WSS Effect action. In all this we had an immense support from all our Coalition members including the many friends we met during this project and before. Still we feel like there is a lot more to be done. Many more ordinary people, businesses, organizations and authorities need to be reached, informed and motivated to join our WSS and Zero Hunger. Much more surplus food needs to be saved and redistributed. Many more people in need should be offered the help and an entire system of organizations, businesses, institutions and people that will work jointly for less food waste – less food poverty needs to be built.

*Join the Buzz*



## THE NOW



During the time period, we reached out to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a number of Members of the Parliament from all political parties, ministries and other representatives of Government; the presidential candidates and the President itself; the Parliamentary Institute; the business community, local authorities, schools, youth, media and many more.

## THE “TO DO”

In the following period we should focus on the Coalition and the micro actions which are being implemented as we speak. We should continue raising awareness among the young population; facilitate debates among relevant actors as well as finalize and print some of our very important publications.





**The Coalition:** (1) Youth Alliance Tetovo, (2) DRITA AGV Gostivar, (3) Youth Alliance for dialogue and cooperation Bitola, (4) GLOBAL Bitola, (5) Ljubeznost Skopje, (6) Journalists for human rights Skopje, (7) Coalition for sustainable development Skopje, (8) Roma Centrum Romanistan Skopje, (9) House of Hope Veles, (10) FOKUS Foundation Veles, (11) GIZ Sveti Nikole, (12) National Roma Centrum Kumanovo, (13) Symbiosis 12 Kumanovo, (14) Eurohuman Skopje, (15) Eko zivot Kavadarci, (16) Equal to All Kocani, (17) KHAM Delcevo, (18) Birlik Jekipe Veles, (19) Zlatno pero Bitola.

**СЛЕДИ НЕ НА:**



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**#EveryBiteMatters**

# Food produced for humans Should be eaten by humans

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