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Food recycling gets underway in Italy

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(http://www.qualitalyforevents.org)

An important project for the recycle of the surplus food of conferences and events, named **FOOD FOR GOOD-From meetings to solidarity**, jointly carried out by Federcongressi&eventi as well as by the non-profit organizations Banco Alimentare and Equoevento, is underway in the whole of the Italian meetings industry.

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(http://www.qualitytravel.it/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Logo.jpg)

Premise of the project is that saving and retrieving food generates several benefits for the whole community:

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- a **social** benefit, first of all, because it gives support to those in need;
- then there is an **economic** benefit, because through the recovery of food one reuses resources, optimizes their availability and avoids the costs of waste disposal as well;
- an **environmental** benefit: less pollution is created because less food is thrown in landfills;
- and finally an **education** benefit: one gets to inculcate respect for the value of food as well as for the human effort in its preparation.

Meal times, during conferences, congresses or events, are a pleasant opportunity of conviviality and sociability, where taste, high quality and abundance are starring. If the food is not all consumed and it ends up exceeding, one can retrieve it for the purpose of social solidarity. With simple operations, the excess food may be intended to Banco Alimentare or Equoevento NPOs, which will deliver it to facilities assisting people in need – not far away but always in the outskirts.

The recovery of the surplus must take place in a safe “chain of gift”, in which the various parties involved have duties and responsibilities clearly defined by a shared operating

procedure.

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On the regulatory front:

- The individual responsibility is already regulated through the EU reg. 178/2002, then reiterated by the reg. 852 as well as by the UE reg. No. 853 and 854 of 2004, as well as – in the case of free give away – by Italian Act 147/2013 art. 1, § 236.
- For the purposes of civil liability, the Italian Act 155/2003 treats the addressed NGOs in the same way as the final consumer.

Food recycling basically requires that the chain of heat and cold doesn't get interrupted.

Who wants to donate the food must:

- contact Federcongressi&eventi indicating the place and the date of the event, the contacts of the catering service and the number of participants;
- inform both staff and caterers.

Here's how to collect the food:

- volunteers of a charity show up at the venue, on a previously agreed hour, equipped with vans suitable for food transporting;
- they collect the surplus food inserted in special containers;
- the meals so collected are immediately delivered to food services and other charities.

Three facilities associated to Federcongressi&eventi (Cotone Congressi of Genoa, Palacongressi of Rimini, and the Milan-based PCO agency MZ Congressi) undertook some tests within **15 events from February 12 to July 1**. The events were attended by a total of 17,235 participants (24,050 turn-outs).

During these tests **1,393 portions of ready-to-eat courses** have been collected, as well as 16,5 kg of bread and baking products and 2,5 kg of fruit – which means that, if the food were collected in all the Italian meetings, **as many as 8,051,708 ready-to-eat courses could be recovered**, alongside with 95,372 kg of bread and baking products and 14,450 kg of fruit.

The companies involved in these tests have particularly appreciated the proposal and were happy to contribute to an important cause as well as to support the event with their local communities.

Those already dealing with CSR issues could demonstrate consistency in their efforts, and in some cases they have had the pleasure to integrate the surplus food with other spare food and beverages in their possession (it goes without saying, always granting continuity in the chain of heat and cold).

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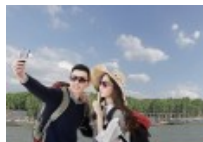
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