THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY IS AN OBJECTIVE SHARED BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Social policy in the municipal region is implemented in particular through the Direction Générale Adjointe des Solidarités (“Deputy General Directorate for Solidarity”), which brings together the Nice Centre Communal d’Action Sociale (Municipal Social Action Centre) and other missions that provide services for the most vulnerable, and also mobilises other departments through transversal actions. The Municipal Social Action Centre (CCAS), the spearhead for this policy, has close links with the field and is in constant contact with community associations in order to undertake appropriate concrete responses to the needs of the fight against various forms of exclusion.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE TERRITORY

- The Nice Côte d’Azur (NCA) metropolis consists of 49 municipalities and nearly 540,000 inhabitants (2011), 347,059 of which are in Nice.
- 30% of the population in the city centre is more than 60 years-old (2018)
- Population living below the poverty threshold: 21% (INSEE 2016)
- More than 180,000 meals distributed per year for street distribution, with meals provided in emergency structures and mutual assistance restaurants
- 154 public schools attended by 29,940 children

Better knowledge and an improvement in food distribution conditions since January 2019

In Nice, the distribution of meals to vulnerable persons is carried out by 14 aid and relief associations, organized in a network (Inter Secours Nice Alimentation) and in association with the Alpes-Maritimes Food Bank. At the beginning of 2019, actions were revised with improvements and better support. Moreover, a food distribution charter including the City of Nice, the Municipal Social Action Centre and the associations involved in the Inter Secours Nice network was signed.

The number of fixed and mobile distribution points has been increased and made available at 3 sites in the city. These mobile distribution units are called to intervene at the request of 115 calls to deliver meals to people reported to be without stable accommodation or to the homes of elderly people.
Collective determination to fight against food waste made a prerequisite for the modernization of practices

The application of the French law of 3 February 2016 which aims to combat food waste, has in particular enabled the widespread introduction of agreements between supermarkets and associations to give unsold food to approved associations, for which the use-by date has not expired. In the Nice region, a coordination of this partnership between supermarkets and associations, through a charter of reciprocal commitments and good practices is in the process of being formalized.

The City of Nice and the CCAS will organize this mutually supportive relationship through a web page to match supply and demand with a designated advisor for this action. Special care will be taken in school canteens and the MIN (wholesale market of national interest) to collect products that have a very short use-by date. Furthermore, the MIN will provide an area for sorting and will create a social “cannery” in order to make better use of unsold food that is edible but not saleable.

Medium-sized and large supermarkets in the region who undertake to work with the associations, with the objective of approaching 100% recycling of their unsold food will also take various measures: the appointment of a designated advisor, precise management of sell-by and storage dates appropriately coordinated with collection and distribution to charitable associations.

The associations will take similar measures to centralize operations and comply with schedules and constraints relating to the collection and then to the distribution of foodstuffs.

To complement this range of possible responses to the fight against the problem of food waste, the dematerialization of procedures will be studied.

It is also appropriate to cite the brand-new central kitchen which enables the secure production of meals served. In this way, Nice continues its efforts to improve the quality of the school meals service and enable as many children as possible to benefit from the canteen service (appropriate prices, availability of free meals). Awareness-raising actions are implemented through posters and place mats distributed in school canteens, in particular to reduce waste of bread and fruit. A “waste meter” is placed in canteens equipped with self-service facilities to visually raise children’s awareness of waste.

Furthermore, a partnership has been established with the MIR association which organizes food aid for the most vulnerable in close collaboration with the Secours Populaire charity. The association comes to collect food that has not been distributed every Friday, and is contacted in the event of exceptional surplus.

In the long term, the creation of an online platform is planned, accessible to associations and institutional bodies, with the possibility of extending its use to citizens (in the form of an app).