

# *EUROPEAN FOOD FORUM 2023*

## LES RESTOS DU CŒUR



# ABOUT LES RESTOS DU COEUR



# HOW IT STARTED



Coluche, French  
humorist

**Coluche founded in 1985 Les Restos du Cœur, with one purpose**  
: « *to help and provide assistance to those in need, particularly regarding food insecurity through access to free meals, thereby encouraging social inclusion as well as any action against poverty in all its forms* »

# 2021 – 2022 INSIGHTS

## Les Restos on french territory

More than  
**2200**  
centers

**70 000**  
volunteers

**112**  
associations at  
the local level



## Les Restos' testimony

**142**  
**million**  
of meals served to

**1,1**  
**million**  
people

### Winter 2022

+22% of people  
welcomed on the whole  
french territory

+16% increase of babies  
(between 0-3 yo)  
welcomed in our centers



# SOME OF THE RESTOS' MISSIONS

Food aid is considered as **the first step the people we welcome make** in order to ask for help and get out of precarity

That's why Les Restos offer a number of different **social missions** to help people get out of precarious situation durably



Access to justice



Job seeking



Budget guidance and microcredit



Food aid



Access to health



French classes



Access to leisure and recreational activities



Access to clothing

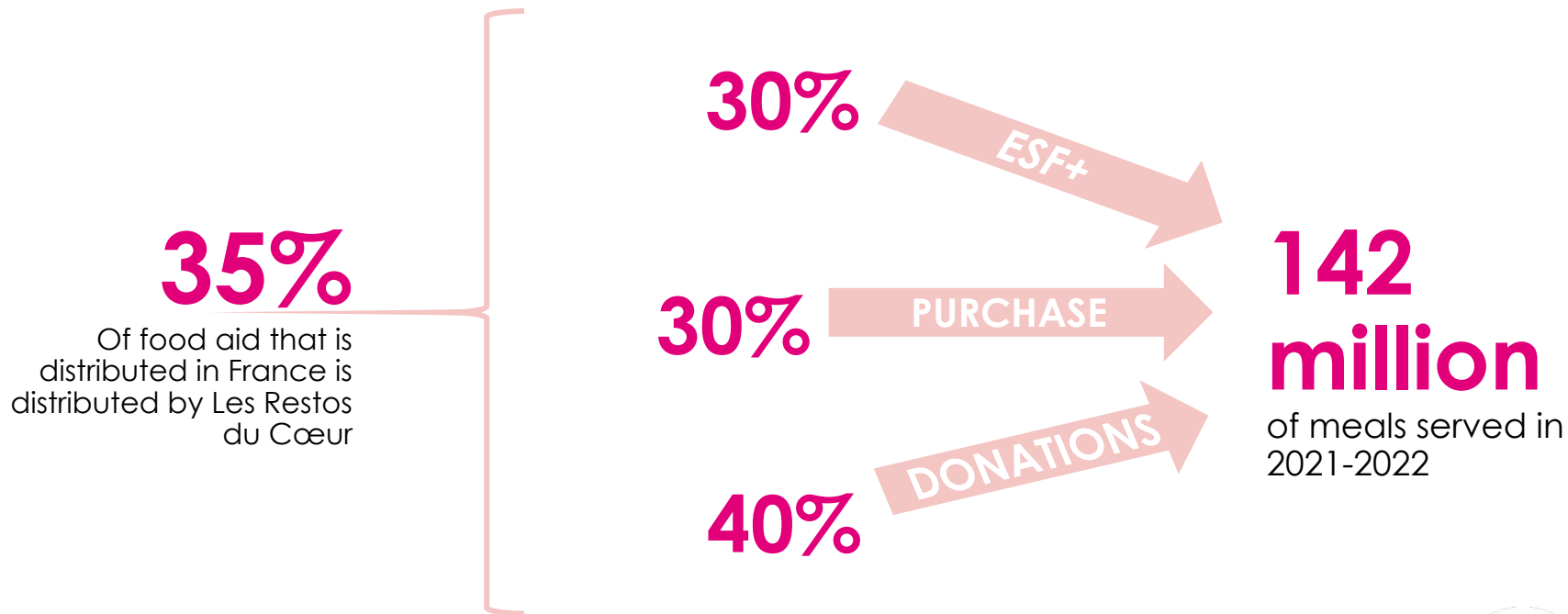


Working inclusion sites



Access to housing

# THE RESTOS DU CŒUR & FOOD AID



# ESF+ : WHAT IS AT STAKE NOW IN THE EU



The **number of people** coming to our associations for help is **increasing very rapidly and massively**, and for a long lasting period



The **alimentary crisis** is strong and will last because of inflation. It is causing **more people to come** for help, and **less volume of foods** to buy out from the ESF+



The **volunteers** that come to help those in need are themselves limited in their activities because of inflation and living costs (e.g. gas and transportation)



The **operational costs supported by associations** are now at a peak, making our role hard to play

The EU and the member states need to take action in order to address the devastating effects inflation is causing on people in need, and on associations

# EU AND FOOD AID





# EU AND FOOD AID : A STORY DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE RESTOS' HISTORY

1987

The **PEAD** was created in 1987, and was defended by Coluche before the European Parliament



2023

Since 2022, the fund is integrated in ESF+

Now, the **economic and social situation** **compels us to call for action from the EU and from the member states**

# WHY ESF+ IS THE ANSWER

**ESF+ provides with foods and first necessity products** (hygiene products, care products, clothing...) and covers delivery costs in order to help fight against exclusion



**European Union**

European  
Social Fund

Funds part of food aid and is implemented by hundreds of thousands of **volunteers that enliven thousands of European**

Distributing food and material aid **to the 4 million of people requiring food aid per year solely in France, 16 million in Europe**



1

Food aid is an **appropriate entrance path to identify and remove obstacles** encountered by people, and to assist them according to their needs

2

Its aim is their **lasting reintegration into society with recognition of their dignity**, it is an essential prerequisite for their social inclusion. It is the **unique tool the EU has to fight against poverty**

Member states can use it to **efficiently and rapidly distribute food aid** on national and local level, in the most vulnerable and marginalised areas

3



# WHY ESF+ IS THE ANSWER

In 2020

Associations were helped by the EU to face the pandemic with the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU)

ESF+

**Strength** (financial allocation)

**Speed** (by using the existing programs until 2023)

In 2023

Associations ask the EU to continue helping by paying new contributions

ESF+

To support food aid associations cope with inflation impacting :

The people we welcome (as the numbers are skyrocketing)

Foods and first necessity products supplies

Our centers, facing a tremendous rise of bills and expenses