



## NGO AND PARTNERSHIP FUND IN LITHUANIA LITHUANIAN “TAFEL” WORKS TOGETHER WITH SWISS COUNTERPART



**Learning by doing – The Lithuanian regional manager, Raimondas Danupas, pitches in during a visit to “Schweizer Tafel” in Bern.**

The Lithuanian NGO, Maistobankas, distributes around eight tonnes of food every day to people in need and to social institutions. It runs campaigns to raise public awareness in Lithuanian society about the issue of food waste. Since 2011, the NGO has maintained a close relationship with the “Schweizer Tafel” (Swiss Table), a project of the “*Hoffnung für Menschen in Not*” (Hope for People in Need) foundation, which also distributes food and has similar goals.

The Lithuanian NGO, Maistobankas (meaning “table”), delivers food to people in need and to social institutions. It seeks to draw public attention to the issue of food waste through its campaigns. Since 2011, the Lithuanian organisation has been working together with its counterpart “Schweizer Tafel”, a project of the “*Hope for People in Need*” foundation. “Schweizer Tafel” also distributes food to social institutions such as centres for homeless people and emergency shelters. The project extends across

the whole of Switzerland. “Schweizer Tafel” collects up to 16 tonnes of goods from retailers every day which it then distributes. Like Maistobankas, “Schweizer Tafel” seeks to explain the issue of food waste to the general public through informational activities.

Maistobankas receives CHF 75,000 in Swiss funding for the following activities:

- Awareness campaign  
Together with a newsletter, the campaign raises public awareness on the issue of food waste in Lithuanian society.
- Purchase of equipment  
Funds are also used to purchase equipment, such as 78 coolers to transport food and a cleaning machine.
- Better fundraising  
Together with “Schweizer Tafel”, a fundraising plan has been drawn up and 12 fundraising events have been planned.
- Exchange of experiences with “Schweizer Tafel”

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## A MORE INTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

In their efforts to combat food waste, both organisations can learn from each other's experiences. In the last two years, staff at the Lithuanian NGO have visited regional branches of "Schweizer Tafel" and accompanied their Swiss counterparts (staff and volunteers) on food collections and deliveries. Some of them attended a "Schweizer Tafel" fundraising event in Zurich and learned how to organise and carry out such an event.

During their stay in Switzerland, staff from Maistobankas were also able to gather experiences in areas such as security, transport, food storage, fundraising, communication and working with volunteers. The organisation also developed a fundraising plan and a concept for a newsletter, which is now being sent out once a month.

The exchange goes in both directions: in March 2013, staff at "Schweizer Tafel" travelled to Lithuania where they met with Maistobankas' project partners, representatives of the Lithuanian media and potential donors. The Lithuanian NGO is optimistic that its cooperation with "Schweizer Tafel" will continue after the project is completed.

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## USE FOOD SURPLUS FROM LARGE RETAILERS

In Lithuania, more than 580,000 tonnes of food are thrown away every year. This was concluded by a study titled "Preparatory Study on Food Waste across the EU-27" which was published by the European Commission in 2010. At the same time, a fifth of the Lithuanian population is at risk of poverty according to a study published in 2010 by the statistical office of the European Commission (Eurostat).

The non-profit organisation, Maistobankas, which was founded in 1996, distributes around 8 tonnes of food every day to people in need – unemployed people, single mothers, large families, elderly people and people with disabilities. It also delivers food to around 500 social institutions, which is then distributed to people in need. The food is either surplus from food manufacturers and wholesalers, or donations from private individuals. Maistobankas has four regional branches and works in 45 cities and municipalities in Lithuania.

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## SUPPORT FUND FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The project is one of 97 NGO projects in Lithuania supported by Switzerland with a total contribution of CHF 5.5 million. A support fund for non-governmental organisations (NGO fund) is being financed in all partner countries except Malta via Switzerland's enlargement contribution. The total fund amounts to CHF 61 million and is expected to contribute to the economic and social development of the countries concerned.

**Working together pays off: four regional managers of the NGO "Maistobankas" at a project visit to the Bern branch of "Schweizer Tafel".**



Kristina Tylaite (centre), a “Maistobankas” employee, took part in the Magic Pot fundraiser organised by “Schweizer Tafel” in Zurich and learned how to successfully plan and run a major fundraising event.



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Maistobankas website:  
[www.maistobankas.lt](http://www.maistobankas.lt)

Maistobankas facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/maistobankas](http://www.facebook.com/maistobankas)

“Schweizer Tafel” website:  
[www.schweizertafel.ch](http://www.schweizertafel.ch)  
 (German or French only)

#### THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

##### TOPIC

NGO fund in Lithuania

##### COUNTRY

Lithuania

##### PARTNERS

“Schweizer Tafel”

##### CURRENT SITUATION / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to a European Commission study, over 580,000 tonnes of food are thrown away every year in Lithuania. At the same time, a fifth of the Lithuanian population is at risk of poverty.

##### PURPOSE

- Reduce poverty and food waste.
- Activities
  - Awareness campaign
  - Material procurement
  - Improved fundraising
  - Exchange of experiences with “Schweizer Tafel”

##### TARGET GROUPS

The Lithuanian public

##### COSTS

Total project costs: CHF 103,779

Swiss contribution: CHF 74,980

##### RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Maistobankas

##### DURATION

12 January 2013–10 July 2014

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION  
 May 2014

[www.contribution-enlargement.admin.ch](http://www.contribution-enlargement.admin.ch)