



# The Nordic Food Redistribution project

A project in the Green Growth program of the  
Nordic Council of Ministers

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Research

# Goal and scope for the study

The main goal of this study and the report has been to

- Give an overview and evaluation of the extent and potential effects of food redistribution in the Nordic region, both via food banks and more direct and local redistribution.
- Summarize the legal basis for regulation and control with food redistribution in the Nordic countries, and to evaluate to what extent it has been harmonized or if it is regarded as important barriers

# Project organisation

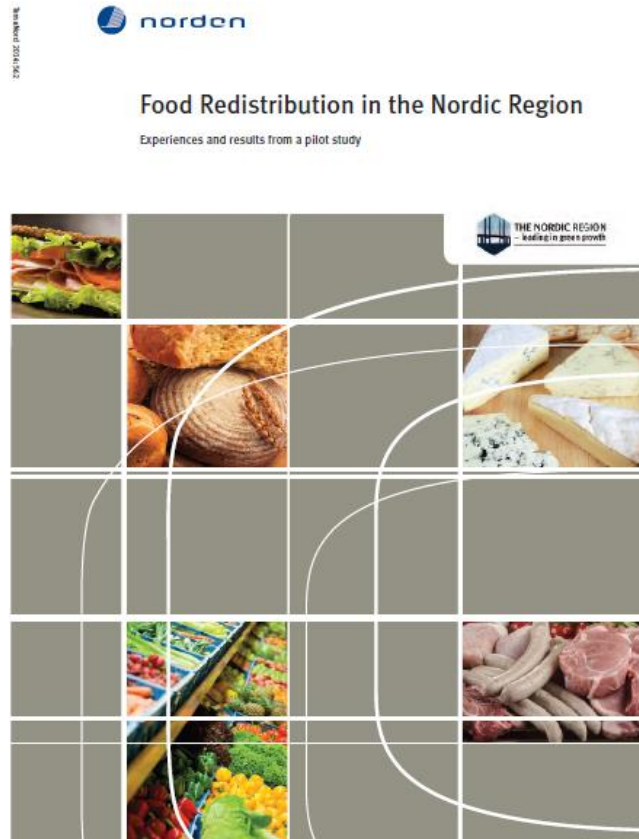
## Project group

- Legal advisor Per Ekegren, Swedish Food Safety Authorities
- Senior officer Pirjo Korpela, Finnish Food Safety Authorities Elvira, Finland
- Senior officer Kristina Skov Olsen, Danish Food Safety Authority, Denmark (to 31.5)
- (Atle Wold from Norwegian Food Safety Authority and Hallvard Klemsdal from Ministry of Health – written communication)

## Research team

- MTT (Kirsi Silvennoinen) has been responsible for the study in Finland
- Plan&Miljø (Irmelin Gram-Hanssen and Nanna Langevad Clifforth) has been responsible for Denmark
- IVL (Åsa Stenmarck and Malin Stare) has been responsible for Sweden, and
- Østfoldforskning (Ole Jørgen Hanssen and Erik Svanes) has been responsible for Norway.

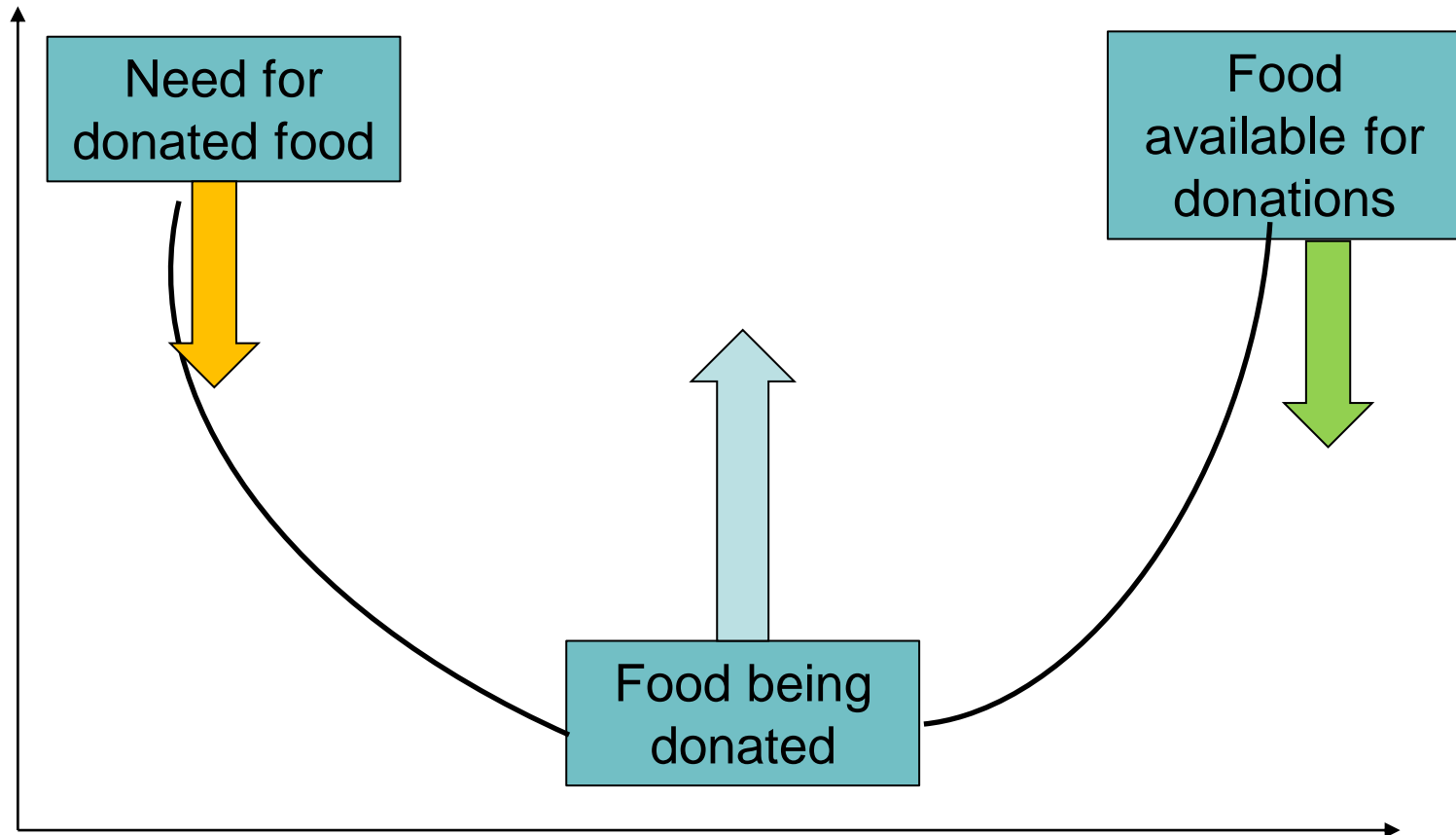
# The project report from Phase I



Can be downloaded from

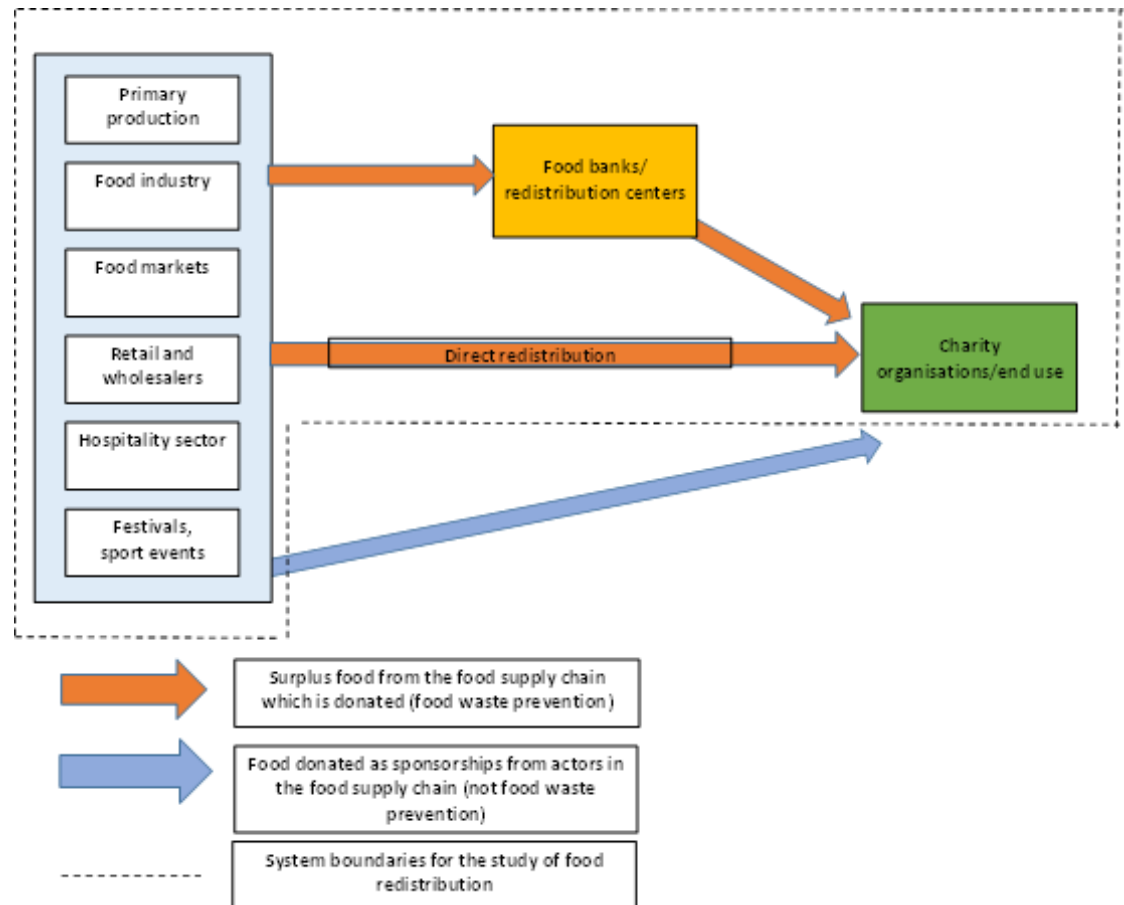
<http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A784307&dswid=6210>

# The main challenges



# Two main routes for food redistribution

- Redistribution via food banks
- Direct (and often local) redistribution
- (Sponsoring with food not included)



# What is a food bank?

- The function and role of a food bank is quite clear, functioning as a redistribution center for food, where food are donated from producers, wholesalers, retailers or other companies/organisations, to organisations that can serve meals to or give food bags to mostly needy people.
- There are both national, regional and local food banks in a country, where the main difference is the geographical scale of operation and eventually coordinating actions for national food banks.
- Relevant stakeholders (food business, charity organisations, authorities) should collaborate both in planning, establishing and operation of food banks.

# Food Banks in the Nordic region

	Fødevarebanken, Copenhagen	Matsentralen, Oslo	Allwin, Gothenburg
Number of employees and volunteers	8 employees, 5 full time and 3 part time 45 volunteers (about 2-3 man years)	2 employees and 1 engaged person (CEO) 3 volunteers working part time	4 employees (project leader, drivers, storage, economy), total 3 man years. No volunteers.
Total turnover 2012 and 2013	2012: 2.7 mill DKK 2013: 7.96 mill DKK	2013: 4.54 mill NOK *	2012: 0.86 mill SEK 2013: 1.1 mill SEK
Net margin 2012	2012: 43' 2013: 3.47 mill DKK	2013: 2.46 mill NOK *	2012: -94 000 SEK 2013: - 214 000 SEK



# Amount of food redistributed and meals served

	<b>Fødevarebanken, Copenhagen</b>	<b>Matsentralen, Oslo</b>	<b>Allwin, Gothenburg</b>
Amount of food redistributed	2012: 320 tonnes 2013: 426 tonnes	2013: 173 tonnes*	2012: 250 tonnes 2013: 300 tonnes
Number of meals served based in food from the food bank (estimates)	2012: 762 000 2013: 926 000	2013: 346 000**	2012: 400 000 2013: 500 000

# Studies of direct redistribution in the Nordic region

- Based in interviews and questionnaires – no new data collection
- Same methodology used in all four Nordic countries
- 3-5 regions studied in all countries – selected as good cases and not to be representative for upscaling

# Summary of Nordic survey

Country	Number of inhabitants in regions studied	Total number of meals served annually	Total number of food bags handed out annually	Estimated meals per 1000 inhabitants	Estimated food bags per 1000 inhabitants
Sweden	2 405 000	805 000	42 000	335	17
Finland	1400 000	>45 000	731 000	32	522
Denmark	224,000	62,350	11,000	278	49
Norway	345 000	75 000	45 000	217	130
Total	4374000	987350	829000	225	190

# Nordic food redistribution

- Figures are not representative for the situation in each country
  - Not complete data for the studied regions
  - Regions/cities not representative for the whole country
  - Need to specify share of redistributed food and sponsored food
- Direct local redistribution probably 2-3 times higher than via food banks in 2013
- Total redistribution in Nordic countries can be increased significantly based in
  - Number of needy people to feed
  - Available food from retail and food producers
  - Experiences from other European countries

# Harmonisation of food regulations with focus on redistribution of food

- Main impression – food regulations are harmonised
- Food redistribution regulations are more focused on food banks than direct redistribution
- Food banks are defined in different roles in the food chain in the Nordic countries
- This gives some differences with regard to regulations, measures and control regimes

## Some points to clear out?

- With the exception of Finland, there are no specific rules that allows food donations from all parts of the food supply chain
- There are different rules for exchange of food, especially of animal origin, in Finland and Denmark from Sweden and Norway.
- Only Finland has developed national guidelines for redistribution of food, stating clearly that the whole food supply chain is involved and that redistribution is both allowed and wanted

# Main elements in the work plan of Phase II

- Evaluate the national regulatory system for direct food redistribution combined with central redistribution and describe how the regulatory systems function in each country as well as giving input to “good practise models” (based in Finnish guidelines and experiences from other countries).
- Develop a common framework for how local and central food redistribution can be organised, where food banks can take the role as food redistribution centres.
- Develop common platforms for quality improvement and assurance systems for food redistribution in the Nordic countries.
- Develop systems for registration and tracing of food donations on national, regional and local levels.

Thank you for listening!



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