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SPAR 

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"SPAR is a global family serving local communities through committed people who differentiate us from the competition. SPAR people bring the brand to a growing number of customers worldwide."

Tobias Wasmuht, Managing Director,
SPAR International

The new year began with a backdrop of unprecedented challenges, including war, food inflation and an ongoing energy crisis. More clearly than ever, these mounting pressures highlight the need for collaboration, which is a founding principle of the SPAR network.

In this issue of Contact International, we look at how digital solutions continue to transform SPAR retail and wholesale organisations and enhance their customer-centric processes. SPAR stores' involvement in their local communities is reflected in the awards granted to two outstanding independent retailers in the United Kingdom, Peter McBride and Leslie Francis. In SPAR, the word community not only refers to our customers, SPAR Netherlands has formed a talent community to share experiences and build skills amongst upcoming independent retailers or their teams.

With people at the core of our business, we recognise the importance of training for the next generation to ensure the continued growth of our brand. SPAR Austria's training academy is making a difference in the lives of thousands of trainees across the business.

Building retail skills in the markets in which SPAR operates is also evident through the introduction to the Kazakhstan market, where a world-class EUROSPAR Supermarket has been opened, taking the international best practice and adapting concepts and solutions to meet the local market's needs.

A founding principle of the SPAR brand is the concept of collaboration. The sponsorship of European Athletics which has been in place since 1996 is a great example of brand-building combined with promoting healthy lifestyles, highlighted in another article within this issue.

While health is one pillar of SPAR's responsible retailing strategy, climate is another. In this edition, we look at CO2 reduction strategies successfully implemented by SPAR Norway and Austria, as well as energy reduction solutions generating positive results in Slovenia and Zimbabwe.

Through remaining resilient in a time of ongoing flux, SPAR independent retailers and wholesalers operating in 48 markets around the world meet the needs of consumers and their local communities daily.

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SPAR 
**better
together**

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SPAR CONNECTED RETAIL CONFERENCE 2022

Held from 8 to 10 November 2022 at the World Trade Centre in Rotterdam, the 2022 Connected Retail Conference focused on the SPAR Brand in a digitally connected world. During the three days, the 134 delegates in attendance could choose from different content streams comprising 47 presentations and business sessions covering the areas of Supply Chain, Retail IT, Retail Design, Marketing, and Digital Commerce. As an in-person event, the 2022 conference's dinners and site visits allowed the attendees to (re)connect and network with colleagues and suppliers from the global SPAR network.

With a busy programme and multiple SPAR business units and suppliers in attendance, there were many opportunities for key knowledge exchange. Three key themes emerged from the three-day event: Value, Community, and Digitalisation.

Events such as the Connected Retail Conference form a pivotal platform for the global SPAR network to come together and learn how to engage our shoppers effectively, adding value to our communities and building lasting connections with shoppers and suppliers.

Our thanks go to SPAR Netherlands for their support and for facilitating visits to SPAR stores during the week. The semi-automated warehouse seen by supply chain delegates was included in the programme.

On 8 and 9 November, the Responsible Retailing Forum was held in the same venue. The event saw participants share best practices on urgent topics, such as energy, food waste, carbon emissions, and plastics, while also discussing ongoing changes in legislation to have an impact internationally as well as nationally. A common thread throughout this event was the importance

of collaboration between wholesalers, retailers, and suppliers to deliver on SPAR's Responsible Retailing Strategy.

All delegates participating in the varied meetings had the opportunity to join the SPAR Business Briefing when preferred suppliers joined SPAR delegates. In that session, the strategic direction of the worldwide organisation and the opportunities for greater collaboration were highlighted.



SPAR is a global family serving local communities through committed people who differentiate us from the competition. Two of these retailers have received recognition on the United Kingdom's New Year's Honours list.

SPAR UK RETAILERS AWARDED

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Peter McBride, an independent SPAR retailer, has been recognised for services to the economy and the community in County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. He has been made an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the New Year Honours List 2023. The New Year Honours List, published by order of King Charles III, marks the incredible public service of individuals from across the United Kingdom.

Commenting on this recognition, Tobias Wasmuht, Managing Director of SPAR International, said: "Peter is a true SPAR ambassador internationally, a great retailer, a leader for the independent retail sector, and a local champion for the communities he supports. On behalf of the fellow board members of the International SPAR Guild of retailers, on which Peter has served since 2019, I extend our appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Peter and his family."

Recipients in the New Year Honours List 2023 have been awarded for their outstanding contributions across all parts of the UK for their work in areas including sustained public service, youth engagement, and community work.

Speaking about his MBE, Peter McBride commented:

"I am incredibly proud and humbled to receive this award, which I share with every member of my team and those in the communities in which we serve. Being a local retailer is a privilege for which I am immensely grateful; I have been able to engage with local groups and organisations, and together, we can ensure our neighbours are cared for, and local charities are supported."



Peter McBride, independent SPAR retailer based in Northern Ireland, UK

"Working locally, nationally and internationally with SPAR and the Henderson Group has also brought my business significant benefits over the years while also enabling me to learn from, inspire and be inspired by innovations and leadership. I would also wish to extend thanks to my family, who has supported me both in public and in private throughout my career," he added.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

SPAR UK retailer Leslie Francis, previously called out as an unsung hero in the Enham Alamein community, has been recognised in the New Year Honours list with a British Empire Medal. The New Year Honours List, published by order of King Charles III, marks the incredible public service of individuals from across the United Kingdom.

With her husband, Tim, Leslie runs a SPAR store that meets customers' needs in Enham Alamein, Hampshire. Speaking about this recognition, Leslie said:

"I was so surprised and honoured to receive this medal. I got a phone call advising me of the listing and had tears of joy running down my face, but I could not tell anyone about it."

Leslie was recognised in the New Year Honours List for the range of services she provides to her local community. The SPAR store is a hub in Enham Alamein, serving the community, neighbouring villages, and passers-by. One change was to widen the aisles to make it easier for customers in wheelchairs or using walking sticks and frames to shop.

"We have always set high standards here and believe in moving with the times, so we moved the business under the SPAR fascia to give the store a real uplift for the future, and we haven't looked back," said Leslie.



Leslie and Tim joined SPAR four years ago, having run the 100-year-old village store since 2004.

Rod Tucker, Group Sales Director for the regional distribution company for SPAR stores in the southwest of the United Kingdom, Appleby Westward, said:

"We are delighted for Leslie. She and Tim are model SPAR retailers who never hesitate to go that extra mile for everyone in their community."

Located in Silk Way City Mall, one of Almaty city's most famous and most visited shopping malls, SPAR Kazakhstan's first EUROSPAR Supermarket offers a high-quality assortment tailored to suit customers' needs.

BEST IN CLASS: EUROSPAR ALMATY, SPAR KAZAKHSTAN

The opening of the first EUROSPAR Supermarket in Almaty on 30 September marked SPAR's entry into the Kazakhstan retail market after the licence to operate the SPAR Brand was granted to Skif Trade LLP, a well-established local retail and distribution company.

Within the EUROSPAR Supermarket, customers can find an extensive selection of 15,000 SKUs, including a great range of fresh and food-to-go items.

Customers can benefit from a wide selection of fresh local and imported products, balanced pricing, and an excellent promotional policy. The store has a full bakery – everything that customers can see in the bakery is made in-store, including the patisserie – a complete in-house butchery, and fishmongers.

In the central kitchen area, chefs prepare fresh dishes daily, including pizzas, pancakes, sushi, national delicacies, and pastries, in full view of customers.

EUROSPAR Almaty, Kazakhstan

Number of products: 15,000 SKUs

Number of team members: 140

Size of sales area: 2,400m²

Weekly, daily or top-up shopping is also possible with the wide range of grocery products instore. SPAR Kazakhstan offers local consumers a variety of SPAR Own Brand products sourced from the international brand's network.



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Located in the eastern part of the centre of Almaty, the old capital of Kazakhstan, the store attracts a broad customer base, including families, students, professionals working in nearby businesses, and passers-by. This location is particularly suitable for a large store inside the 'golden square' (city centre), based on the availability of parking, proximity to a university, schools, business centres, and a residential area.

This first EUROSPAR Supermarket was a refit of a company-owned store previously operating on the same site. The impact of the conversion was immediately evident, with turnover exceeding pre-launch by 250%.

Thanks to its location inside the mall, the store's grocery range is complemented by the offer of various boutiques, pharmacies, and other additional services. Inside the store, there are self-service checkouts, a café zone, an online order pick-up point, a bread-slicing machine, cutting and slicing meat, custom cakes orders, and handy price-checkers.

The 2,400m² EUROSPAR Supermarket employs approximately 140 team members. All team members have received training about the principles of SPAR with the support of an online training academy. In the lead-up to the launch, SPAR International supported the local development team with retail store design, marketing and communication campaigns, and access to international retail best practices.

CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

A close-knit local team of professionals have implemented the SPAR core values into the first SPAR store in Kazakhstan, with which the residents of the country's largest city have immediately fallen in love.

SPAR International was involved in all stages of implementation of this project, from defining the format concept through site selection, supporting the design and layout of the store, lighting plan, and merchandise plan to the assortment strategy, communication plan, and launch campaign.

Modelled on international best practices seen within the SPAR network, the store has a battery recycling container and sells craft paper bags, eco-friendly (biodegradable) bags, and packaging for instore-produced food made from the most environmentally friendly materials. Moreover, the store uses an energy-saving lighting system and digital signage.

Key to the city supermarket's success are its pleasant atmosphere, well-thought-out layout and design, and comfortable café zone. Assistants at the various fresh food counters and a sommelier service in the wine department contribute to convenient and friendly customer service.

SPAR Kazakhstan has identified opportunities to roll out the brand to several other cities, including Astana and Pavlodar. The SPAR multi-format retailing strategy, which has supported the brand's expansion around the world, will be integral to SPAR Kazakhstan's market penetration plan.



Featuring classes on all aspects of retail and a focus on sustainability, the SPAR Academy in Vienna is a world-class learning and competence centre for training the next SPAR generation.

SPAR ACADEMY IN VIENNA

With 2,700 trainees for 24 professions, SPAR is the largest private training organisation in Austria. Among its network of training institutions is also the SPAR Academy in Vienna, a recognised private upper secondary level vocational school with public rights.

First founded as a private school in 1906, the facilities in Vienna became the SPAR Academy in 2000. As the largest private Austrian apprentice training institution, the SPAR Academy in Vienna is one of Europe's most innovative development centres, offering training to around 380 apprentices across three cohorts in a modern and high-tech teaching environment. About 14 teachers have been employed to impart knowledge to the trainees, laying the foundation for future careers within retail. Retail industry experts regularly visit the Academy as guest speakers, ensuring that the trainees have access to the latest retail insights in the market.

MODERN TEACHING ENVIRONMENT

Last renovated in 2017, the Academy features modern meeting and conference rooms equipped with state-of-the-art media technology and video conference systems. The SPAR Academy is not only a training facility but also offers space for various uses as a learning and competence centre. The large auditorium is the centrepiece of the Academy. It is used as a popular meeting place and break room during school hours, but it also serves as a venue for festive events, lectures or panel discussions.

The Academy's conference rooms, with media technology and video conferencing systems, fulfil not only the school's training purposes but are also used by employees of SPAR Austria. Another highlight is the space allocated to practical work – rooms where students can complete video training and taste and prepare food.

The Academy is run by Director Robert Renz, who began his career at SPAR 28 years ago. He started in 1995 as a sales and operations consultant in retail sales at the SPAR Austria headquarters in Graz and has since held various PR, operations, and sales positions with SPAR Austria. At the beginning of 2016, he took over the management of the SPAR Academy in Vienna.

“With smart boards in all six educational rooms, a digital education concept and e-mail accounts for all trainees to give them access to all learning platforms at any time, the SPAR Academy is the vocational school of the future,” notes Robert Renz.

VARIED CURRICULUM

The apprenticeship training at the SPAR Academy in Vienna goes far beyond the usual vocational school curriculum, with the Academy offering an extraordinary combination of specialist training and numerous exciting additional training courses.



Sustainability is a top priority at the SPAR Academy in Vienna. In cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Ministry of Environment, the Academy offers additional training in the third year, during which the apprentices are trained to become Green Champions. And sustainability is not just anchored in the syllabus. It is also physically seen, for example, on the school's roof, where solar panels have been installed.

With the training of Fairtrade Ambassadors and Green Champions, apprentices are provided with everything they need to know about environmentally friendly and sustainable retailing practices.

The SPAR Academy in Vienna has been cooperating with Fairtrade Austria for 15 years and, in 2016, had set itself the goal of becoming the first commercial vocational school in Austria with a Fairtrade award. Part of this award is the project 'Fairtrade-Ambassador' – additional training series for SPAR apprentices in the first year of their apprenticeship.

The SPAR Academy offers extra training options, including music workshops with members of the Philharmonic Orchestra, styling workshops, and training on meat and cheese products, to mention just a few.



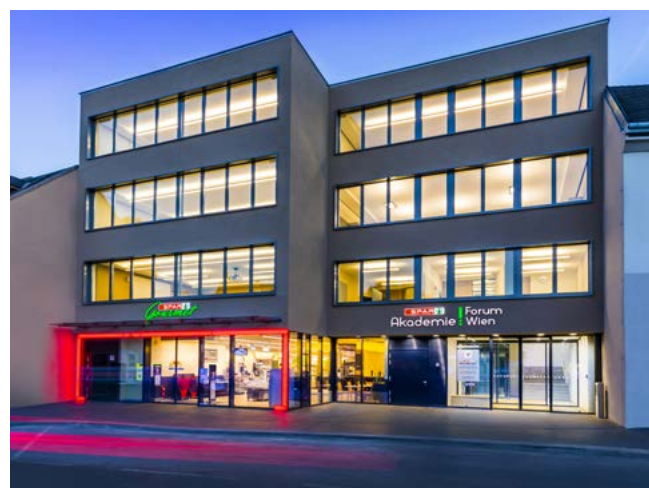
DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE

The SPAR Academy in Vienna recruits apprentices focusing on delicatessen and food in the retail trade from the federal province of Vienna for other regions operated by SPAR Austria.

Annually, around 1,000 young people apply to join the Academy, of which 400 are invited to personal interviews to gauge their suitability for the programme. In 2022, around 170 started their training in Vienna.

Another unique feature of the Academy is its approach to diversity and inclusivity. As of September 2022, approximately 380 trainees from 34 nations and ethnic groups, speaking 29 different languages and belonging to 13 religious communities, are following training at the SPAR Academy in Vienna. The curriculum includes a focus on cultural integration, with a strong emphasis on cross-cultural education. The goal is to provide students with a well-rounded, in-depth knowledge of SPAR Austria's role in its communities.

In this way, the SPAR Academy is preparing its trainees with the right knowledge, skills and competencies to thrive in Austria's food trade environment.



At SPAR, we strive to reduce our environmental footprint by reducing CO2 emissions and energy consumption whilst providing our customers with the excellent service and quality they expect.

SPAR RESPONSIBLE RETAILING: CLIMATE STRATEGIES

RESPONSIBLE RETAILING STRATEGY

The SPAR Responsible Retailing Strategy comprises six pillars encompassing global strategies on health, sourcing, community, climate, environment, and people. These pillars have been designed to align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a commitment to tackling the key social and environmental challenges our communities face today. The climate pillar of this overarching strategy covers technological innovations in logistical operations and at the store and Distribution Centre (DC) levels to reduce CO2 emissions and energy consumption.

CO2 EMISSION REDUCTION

With SPAR operating stores and DCs, we recognise that we have a responsibility to reduce our CO2 emissions across the full supply chain. New developments are closely monitored, and important changes are being driven across our logistical operations and at DC and store sites.

Regarding logistics, continuous adaptation and implementation of innovations help SPAR to optimise the efficiency of our transport and resource collection processes. Similarly, renewable sources have allowed for more sustainable transport solutions to be adopted within our transport fleets. Through this combination,

SPAR can reduce time on the road and work towards greener deliveries.

Reducing CO2 emissions has become important to sustainable building designs and processes. Across SPAR markets, SPAR Partners are looking to integrate sustainable materials and technologies that improve efficiency and reduce emissions.

SPAR NORWAY

ASKO, SPAR Norway operator NorgesGruppen's wholesale division, has launched two maritime drones to support emission-free goods transport across the Oslofjord. The company supplies a vast network of stores in the Greater Oslo Region, including over 80 SPAR stores. Running across the fjord between the ports in Moss and Horten, ASKO's new battery-electric maritime drones are a world first and can sail completely unmanned. In cooperation with ASKO's main warehouses in Sande and Vestby, electric lorries will transport goods to the ports, where autonomous terminal tractors pull the trailers on board.



SPAR AUSTRIA

SPAR Austria and nine leading domestic electricity suppliers are joining forces to expand the e-charging network for electric cars in Austria.

By 2025, over 200 e-charging locations will be added to the existing 120 locations at SPAR, EUROSPAR, and INTERSPAR stores, extending the e-charging network to 335 charging stations by 2025 and 535 by the end of 2028. This will create the largest charging network at retail outlets in Austria. Each location will have up to six charging points with 11 to 150 kW power.

ENERGY REDUCTION

At SPAR, we continuously seek to integrate sustainable solutions into our operations. Our commitment extends beyond reducing CO2 emissions, with SPAR Partners looking at minimising energy consumption and reducing energy waste.

Across the globe, SPAR Partners adopt energy-saving equipment in their stores and warehouses, ranging from innovative refrigeration and lighting solutions to solar panel installations. SPAR preferred suppliers play a pivotal role in the development of these technologies and the implementation of these solutions.

To read more about Responsible Retailing at SPAR, please read our [dedicated web page](#).



SPAR SLOVENIA

SPAR Slovenia has installed solar power on the roof of the Distribution Centre (DC) in Ljubljana. The plant will produce enough green energy to meet about 16% of SPAR Slovenia's needs at the DC, thus reducing the company's carbon footprint.

The solar power plant of up to 1 megawatt comprising 2,073 solar modules will cover the existing roof areas of storage. With this plant, SPAR Slovenia will self-supply one-gigawatt hour of electricity per year, which is comparable to the annual supply of 350 households. Less power consumption from the distribution network will consequently help to reduce SPAR Slovenia's carbon footprint by 484 tonnes/year.

SPAR ZIMBABWE

SPAR Athienitis, situated in the Fife Avenue shopping centre in Harare, Zimbabwe, has reopened its doors after extensive renovations. This is the first SPAR supermarket in Zimbabwe to use CO2 as a refrigerant at the time of opening. The CO2 refrigeration system has zero Ozone-Depleting Potential and a Global Warming Potential of 1, which is very low. The system is also highly energy efficient.

SPAR Athienitis' state-of-the-art fixtures and fittings reflect retail supermarket trends of the future. SPAR Supermarkets across Zimbabwe are also well-known for leading the way in monthly Presidential Clean-Ups and for their ongoing community efforts in recycling and reducing waste.

The SPAR Talent Community is an initiative of SPAR Netherlands and independent retailers to support fresh talent within the SPAR organisation.

SPAR NETHERLANDS TALENT COMMUNITY

SPAR Partners worldwide are placing people at the centre of the business and facilitating innovative training for both retail and wholesale employees. The SPAR Talent Community is a joint initiative by the SPAR Netherlands academy, HR department, and a SPAR retailers cooperative board. As part of the initiative, the community annually engages in multiple in-person meetings, including one multi-day trip abroad. In addition to these physical meetings, various online Masterclasses are held featuring specialists from different areas of the organisation.

Initially launched in 2019 to foster entrepreneurship, the initiative has grown into a real community in recent years. Whether members want to build their skills as an independent retailer or aspire to work at the SPAR Netherlands Head Office, the community offers an ideal platform to create a solid professional network, supporting personal development and knowledge sharing.

The SPAR Talent Community is accessible to everyone who works for a SPAR Netherlands retailer or has just become an independent retailer. Those seeking to join the initiative must be enrolled in or have completed at least secondary vocational education (MBO 4) and be nominated by an independent retailer, regional retail manager, or SPAR HR recruiter.



Two words that capture the benefit of the SPAR Talent Community are networking and inspiration. Networking because you make a lot of contacts with entrepreneurs and employees of other stores, allowing you to learn from each other.

You will be inspired by the topics that are discussed during the events and online masterclasses. From here you also make choices for your own development, career, and SPAR store.

– Myrthe van den Kieboom, independent retailer at SPAR Nieuwpoort, SPAR Talent Community member



The initiative currently has 25 members, of which 10 are self-employed entrepreneurs. The other 15 members are retail managers at various SPAR Netherlands stores. Members pay a yearly contribution of €300, while the SPAR academy and the SPAR retailers cooperative support the SPAR Talent Community through an annual financial contribution.

Meetings held in 2022 included:

- A Masterclass on Store Design: A masterclass focused on what goes into establishing a SPAR store, supported by SPAR's retail development department.
- A two-day trip to Copenhagen, Denmark: During this trip, the participants joined SPAR Denmark colleagues in various store visits to SPAR Denmark stores as well as other food retailers, such as 7-Eleven.

- Meeting SPAR International and Tony Choclonely: SPAR International Managing Director Tobias Wasmuht presented the story of SPAR International and how the global SPAR network works together as a worldwide organisation with independent entrepreneurs. The participants also visited a Tony Choclonely store in Amsterdam, learning about this innovative Dutch confectionery company's mission to make 100% slave-free chocolate.

The ambition is to further expand the SPAR Talent Community. SPAR Netherlands is looking to connect with SPAR organisations worldwide to network internationally and learn from each other. For more information about the SPAR Netherlands Talent Community, please reach out to stc@despar.nl.



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SPAR & EUROPEAN ATHLETICS

Sports sponsorship is an integral part of SPAR's commitment to help encourage an active, healthy lifestyle. SPAR has been the principal sponsor of European Athletics since 1996 and since this partnership began SPAR has continued to achieve global awareness through digital and print coverage of [sport sponsorship](#).

The end of the sporting calendar in 2022 came to a perfect end with the [SPAR European Cross Country Championships](#) in Torino Piemonte in December.

The successful event saw Team GB & NI topping the medal table ranking with ten medals overall. This was the most important cross-country competition in the world in 2022 with 555 competitors comprising 40 teams for the seven races.

Dedicated television coverage of the event was collected for domestic broadcasters in 14 territories with a total of 56.3 hours of coverage airing across 34 broadcasts. The event generated 2.65 million hours of viewing, up by 46% on total consumption of the previous edition.



hours of viewing 2.65 MILLION	
total brand exposure 39 HOURS	
555 athletes	
40 participating countries	
21 medal events	



For more information about these and other stories, visit the SPAR International website: www.spar-international.com/pressroom.

SPAR WORLDWIDE NEWS

1 Greenpeace has recognised INTERSPAR **Austria** as 'Supermarket of the Year' based on the company's extensive sustainable product ranges and services. Greenpeace based its ranking on instore assessments and consumer feedback on which domestic supermarket offers the most eco-friendly shopping experience.

INTERSPAR Austria was the annual winner for the third consecutive year. The company was named overall winner in five of the eight categories assessed by Greenpeace, based on its sustainable range of apple juices and Easter products, organic ice creams, and eco-friendly detergents. The company's extensive range of peat-free potting soil also received a top rating.

2 SPAR **Austria** has partnered with Heike and Gernot Heinrich's Winery to donate €80,000 in support of the Integrationshaus in Vienna and the Tralalobe Association. These two charitable organisations help people fleeing their home country, providing legal or psychosocial counselling, educational opportunities, or accommodation.

The 'Good Wines' of the Heinrich winery are exclusively available at INTERSPAR Hypermarkets. Part of the proceeds from each bottle sold is donated to the Integrationshaus in Vienna and the Tralalobe Association. Through the sale of these wines, a total of €40,000 was collected in 2022. SPAR Austria doubled the donated amount to make a total of €80,000.

3 SPAR **China** partner Jiajiayue, headquartered in Shandong, has debuted a new flagship store during the grand opening of Wuyue Plaza in Bincheng, Binzhou city. The SPAR regional operator is a strategic alliance brand partner of Wuyue Plaza.

Binzhou's Wuyue Plaza, located at the intersection of Bohai 18th Road and Changjiang 3rd Road, is a brand-new bustling business district with seven main business types. These include catering, entertainment experience, boutique retail, and supermarkets.

Ahead of the opening, 500 illuminated drones successfully attracted the curiosity of urban consumers by creating a dazzling sky show. After several months of careful preparation and construction, the SPAR Jiajiayue Binzhou Wuyue Plaza store features a sales space of more than 3,000m². The store offers a full assortment, including fresh vegetables and fruits, live fish and seafood, cold fresh meat, and freshly cooked

food-to-go. Also available are non-food products such as household cleaning, personal skincare, and daily necessities.

4 SPAR **Croatia** and the Croatian Ski Association have signed a three-year sponsorship agreement. The exciting new sponsorship applies to all Croatian alpine skiing teams, from the youngest age athletes to senior alpine ski team players, and also involves leading slalom skier Leona Popović.

SPAR Croatia has long supported Croatian sports, which will continue through the new sponsorship agreement.

World-class Croatian slalom skier, Leona Popović, will wear the SPAR logo on her ski equipment, helmet, and caps during all her performances.

The most recent event was held on 4 January, where the world's best female slalom skiers competed at the Audi FIS Ski World Cup races Snow Queen Trophy' 2023 in Zagreb.

5 Between March and December 2022, SPAR customers in **Hungary** donated the cash refund from 200,000 aluminium cans to support holiday camps for socially disadvantaged children.

The initiative to donate the refund to a charity was launched in March by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, SPAR Hungary's longstanding charity partner. The initiative raised HUF 1 million (over €2,500) in funds, and over three tonnes of recyclable aluminium was collected.

Customers were asked to return empty aluminium cans to one of the dedicated recycling machines located at selected SPAR and INTERSPAR stores across the country.

"The returned cans have two uses through the 'Minden Doboz Visszajár' (Each can is refunded) initiative. The aluminium can be recycled, and the donations help hundreds of disadvantaged children to have a summer holiday," said Márk Maczelka, Head of Communications at SPAR Hungary.



A TE DOBOZOD, A TE ADOMÁNYOD.

A Minden Doboz Visszajár automataiban visszaváltott aludobozaid értékét most felajánlhatod a Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat fogyatékos és rászoruló gyermekeket segítő nyári táboroztatási programjainak támogatására.

Gyűjtsd a dobozokat és váltsd őket reményre!

Köszönjük!

A résztvevő helyszíneket és a részleteket itt találod: mindendoboz.hu/adomany





⁶ During October 2022, all SPAR, EUROSPAR and INTERSPAR stores in **Italy** promoted Italian heritage as part of a partnership with FAI – Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano and its campaign 'Remember to save Italy'. The non-profit foundation was founded in 1975 and aims to protect and highlight Italian historical, artistic and landscape heritage. This partnership is a new addition to DESPAR Italia's corporate social responsibility programme.

Through supporting this campaign, awareness of the three heritage aspects was under the spotlight. Operating on a similar basis to the British National Trust, the FAI promotes education, passion, knowledge-sharing and enjoyment of the environment, the landscape, and the historical and artistic heritage of the country. As part of the 'Remember to save Italy' campaign, FAI Autumn Days were held on 15 and 16 October. Italians were encouraged to discover 700 wonders which are part of the country's heritage, located in over 350 cities.

⁷ SPAR **Malta** has invested in developing a EUROSPAR Supermarket in the busy tourist town of Sliema, on the island's northeast coast. Located at The Point Shopping Mall, the new EUROSPAR Supermarket is becoming a destination location for shoppers in the town. The store offers an elevated grocery shopping experience, changing their view of food shopping.

The EUROSPAR Supermarket provides shoppers with a great selection of fresh food to complement everyday living essentials. The ready-to-eat and ready-to-heat meal choices are based on authentic recipes. The fresh counters inspire shoppers looking for the freshest produce and products. There is also a wide choice of SPAR Own Brand products sourced locally and across Europe available instore.

⁸ As of the beginning of December 2022, SPAR **Norway** customers have during the year contributed seven million Norwegian kroner (€670,000) to the Recycling Lottery (Pantelotteriet) – a lottery where empty bottles and cans are recycled through a Reverse Vending Machine and converted into a stake in a national lottery. Half of this money goes to local Red Cross teams around the country.

A ticket in the Recycling Lottery costs NOK 0,50, and participants may win anything from 50 kroner to 1 million kroner. The draw result is communicated directly on the lottery ticket printout, which all participants receive from the Reverse Vending Machine.

The funds from the Pantelotteriet help, among other things, to strengthen preparedness, counteract loneliness and social exclusion, and create safe areas for children and young people in your immediate environment.

⁹ With inflation affecting the purchasing power of many households, SPAR **Spain**'s partner in Gran Canaria marked its 36th anniversary in 2022 through a series of cost-saving and community initiatives. In October, SPAR Gran Canaria gave away over €70,000 in food prizes and raffles to winning customers, boosting consumers' shopping baskets across the island. This support will help customers maintain a balanced diet, consuming fresh and local products.

Firmly aligned with its corporate social responsibility policy, SPAR Gran Canaria continues to collaborate with initiatives and projects that benefit the well-being of the local communities it serves.

During its biannual Congress in Gran Canaria early in October, SPAR UK donated €32,142 to Cáritas Diocesana de Canarias, a charity proposed by SPAR Gran Canaria. SPAR Gran Canaria offers Cáritas Diocesana ongoing support in its fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Canary Islands. This collaboration between SPAR UK and SPAR Gran Canaria demonstrates that the organisation's commitment to solidarity goes beyond borders.

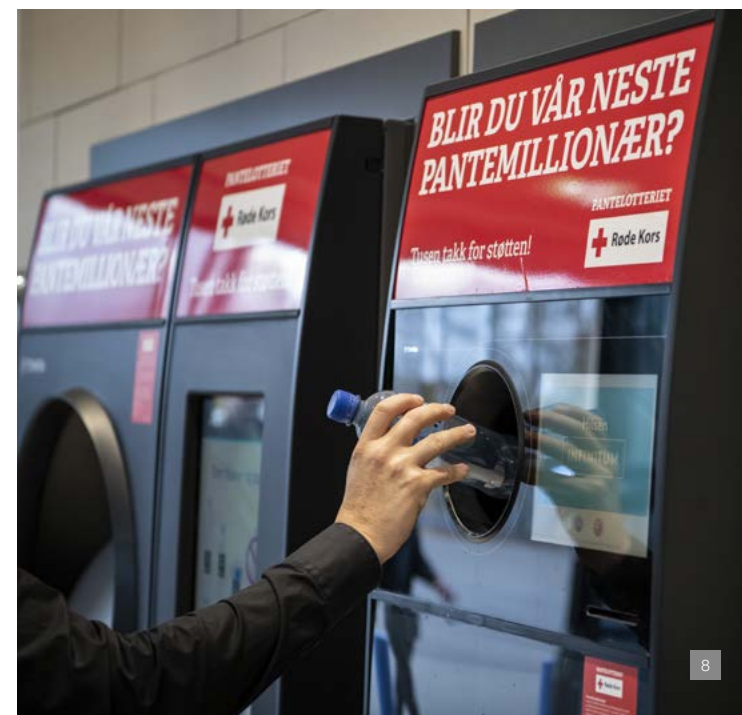
¹⁰ Over 2,000 cancer patients and their families across the island will benefit from SPAR **Sri Lanka**'s online initiative whereby consumers can donate food hampers. Consumers can support the patients and their families by donating dry grocery hampers which feed a family of four. The first donation to 30 cancer patients was made at the Indira Cancer Trust, with whom SPAR Sri Lanka collaborates on this initiative.

Customers can choose from two hampers – one option will meet a family of four's needs for two weeks, while a larger pack provides dry groceries to feed a family of four for one month. When patients travel to the Apeksha Cancer Hospital in Maharagama for treatment, they will receive the food hampers which have been generously donated.

¹¹ SPAR **UK** regional partner James Hall's Transport and Logistics department has taken delivery of its first fully electric refrigerated trailer. It is the first in the company's fleet to have a refrigerated electric motor rather than a diesel one. It eliminates diesel costs and Co2 emissions from the trailer refrigeration unit. The new trailer, which will transport products to SPAR stores across the North of England, has had a special green livery put on to it to mark it out from others in the fleet.

While on-site at the company's SPAR Distribution Centre in Preston, there is a facility to charge the battery and pre-chill the load space.

When off-site, the battery pack provides a five-hour reserve run time to support the trailer's fridge when it is not moving and when it is without the mains supply.





Every coffee deserves a biscuit

Inspired by the classic Speculaas from Belgium, SPAR International is proud to introduce SPAR Caramelised Biscuits. Their unique caramelised flavour is achieved with natural ingredients only.



The biscuits do not contain palm oil, food colourings or artificial flavours. This versatile biscuit is suitable for vegan diets and pairs perfectly with a hot beverage. It is also an excellent ingredient for different desserts.



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