



NYELENI 2011
EUROPEAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FORUM

**Realising
Food Sovereignty
in Europe
Now!**

SYNTHESIS REPORT & ACTION PLAN

Nyeléni Europe 2011: forum for food sovereignty
16th to 21st of August, 2011 in Krems / Austria



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Preface

All over the world, groups, organizations and collectives are fighting to take back control of their lives. As financial, environmental and democratic crises become more and more severe, our food and agricultural systems are increasingly becoming a battleground for these struggles.

Food Sovereignty was first proposed by the International Peasant movement La Via Campesina in 1996. It has grown to encompass a critique of neoliberal politics which provides an entirely different framework for organizing food and agricultural policies internationally, regionally and locally. The framework was further reinforced by the Nyéléni 2007: Forum for Food Sovereignty, in Mali, which provided the political basis for Nyéléni Europe 2011: forum for food sovereignty, in Austria.

DEFINITION OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

FROM THE DECLARATION OF NYÉLÉNI 2007

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies... It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers and users. Food sovereignty prioritizes local and national economies and markets ... Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just incomes to all peoples as well as the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social and economic classes and generations.

In Europe, several civil society and peasant farmers' organizations and movements call for Food Sovereignty and for Europe's Common Agricultural Policy to be changed to adopt the Food Sovereignty framework. Environmental, social justice, trade unions and development organizations also joined the call for Food Sovereignty in Europe and worldwide. In recent years, collective land struggles, consumer-producer networks, community supported agriculture and other initiatives have emerged, which are putting Food Sovereignty into practice at a local level.



The Nyéléni Europe Forum was an attempt to strengthen these movements, and strengthen the work we do locally, regionally or nationally through supporting and complementing the work of others. The process for this Forum was initiated by the European Coordination Via Campesina, Friends of the Earth Europe, ATTAC Europe, Vredeseilanden, the IPC for Food Sovereignty, and the International March of Women.

The Forum was a first step – a catalyst for reinforcing our collective objectives, and for helping us to move forward. Still overwhelmed from the richness of testimonies and experiences, we are convinced that it was the most dynamic space yet constructed for changing the way our society organizes around food and agriculture. The Forum allowed not only for European perspectives on Food Sovereignty to be shared and strengthened, but also provided tools for all participants to build and strengthen Food Sovereignty movements in their countries or regions.

Nevertheless, from the beginning of the preparatory process it was clear to us that in order to give an impulse to a strong local, regional and European movement, there had to be a process before and after the Forum itself. Therefore the initiators of the Forum encouraged groups and initiatives in all European countries up to and including the Caucasus to engage in building a Nyéléni Europe food sovereignty process in their regions. The idea was to build a shared dynamic and understanding of the issues related to Food Sovereignty for the different actors involved.

In order to ensure a balanced participation from all people active in promoting Food Sovereignty, the Forum was organized with a system of quotas and constituencies. So as to gather a complete picture of the food sovereignty movement in Europe during the Forum, each country delegation was encouraged to take into account the following constituencies: Food producers (farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, urban gardeners, community supported agriculture), Workers (agricultural workers, migrants, trade unions); Environmental, Health and Development NGOs; Youth organizations; Women's organizations; Consumers (food co-ops, urban poor) and others (artists, teachers, researchers,...). One third of the delegates from a country had to be food producers, half of the delegates had to be women and one third of the delegates had to be youth. In the end, more than 400 women and men from 34 European countries from the Atlantic to the Urals and Caucasus, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, as well as international representatives from diverse social movements and civil society organizations from across the world, met from the 16th to the 21st of August 2011 in Krems, Austria to take a step forward in the development of a European movement for Food Sovereignty.

The methodology of the Forum was an ambitious attempt to ensure that fruitful discussions in relatively small working groups could take place; and at the same time guarantee that common perspectives could be shared in plenary sessions. Common activities such as the "Místicas", the cultural evenings and the Opening and Closing ceremonies were designed to contribute to building the European movement for Food Sovereignty.

The Forum was constructed around five thematic axes (Models of production; Markets and food chains; Working conditions and social aspects; Access to land and other resources; Public policies) and three key questions (What do we want? What is against us? What will we do?). The thematic axes were organised in small working groups and thematic plenaries. For each thematic axis a background paper was prepared which served to share the relevant knowledge already existing in Europe. The background papers were acknowledged as a common base by the participants of the Forum.

Women and Youth meetings as well as Constituency meetings offered a space to prepare for the discussions and to provide inputs to the Declaration and the Action Plan. The meetings of participants from sub-regions of Europe had as a main objective movement building as well as the strengthening of common work and actions in sub-regions with common challenges.

One result of the Nyéléni Europe Forum was the Nyéléni Europe Declaration for Food Sovereignty, outlining our common vision and our common commitments which are the first steps towards realising Food Sovereignty in Europe. The first section of this Synthesis Report elaborates and amplifies this vision and our ove-

rall commitments with respect to each thematic axis. These pages are based on the thematic discussions and the background papers which were all accepted by the Forum.

In order to put our vision and commitments into practice, we need to engage in local and regional but also in collective actions throughout Europe. We agreed in Krems, that our actions will be inspired by our Nyéléni Europe Declaration for Food Sovereignty and the 2007 Declaration of Nyéléni as well as the 6 pillars of Food Sovereignty. The drafting team of this Synthesis Report worked hard to compile and consolidate a common Action Plan from the numerous documents which were the results of all the meetings at the Forum.

This Action Plan will be our guideline for strengthening the European movement for Food Sovereignty and help us to take important steps towards realising Food Sovereignty in Europe.

We will **transform** our food systems in Europe and reclaim community control!

We will **resist** the expansion of agro-industrial food systems
in Europe and other regions!

We will **build** our movement for Food Sovereignty across Europe!

***We will take action
to realise Food Sovereignty
in Europe Now!***

The members of the Steering Committee

Alexandra Strickner, Attac Austria

Anna Korzenszky, Hungarian Food Sovereignty Platform

Anne Gueye, Uniterre Switzerland

David Sánchez, Amigos de la Tierra, Spain

Geneviève Savigny, European Coordination Via Campesina

Gert Engelen, Vredeseilanden

Javier Sanchez, European Coordination Via Campesina

Jocelyn Parot, Urgenci

Irmi Salzer, Via Campesina Austria

Luca Colombo, Italian Food Sovereignty Platform

Ludwig Rumetshofer, Via Campesina Austria

Mira Palmisano, Via Campesina Austria

Stanka Becheva, Friends of the Earth Europe

Thierry Kesteloot, Oxfam-Solidariteit

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Thanks for helping to provide the space for the construction of a strong European movement for Food Sovereignty.

Acronyms

CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
CFS	Committee on World Food Security at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Association
CSA	Community supported agriculture
CSM	Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GMO	Genetically modified organism
ICARRD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
IGT	Indicazione Geografica Tipica, Typical Geographical Indication
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LEISA	Low external input sustainable agriculture
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PGS	Participatory guarantee system
TNC	Transnational Corporation
WTO	World Trade Organization

THEMES

1. Changing how food is produced and consumed

"We are working towards resilient food production systems, which provide healthy and safe food for all people in Europe, while also preserving biodiversity and natural resources and ensuring animal welfare. This requires ecological models of production and fishing as well as a multitude of smallholder farmers, gardeners and small-scale fishers who produce local food as the backbone of the food system. We struggle against the use of GMOs and grow and recuperate a wide diversity of non-GM varieties of seeds and livestock breeds in these systems. We promote sustainable and diverse forms of food culture, in particular the consumption of high quality local and seasonal foods and no highly processed food. This includes a lower consumption of meat and animal products, which should only be locally produced using local non-GM feed. We engage in re-embracing and promoting knowledge of cooking and food processing through education and sharing of skills." (Nyéléni Europe Declaration, August 2011)

The model of production dominating European food systems is controlled by corporate interests and is based on concentrated power, monocultures, patenting seeds and livestock breeds, imposing pesticides and fertilisers. It is dysfunctional and has resulted in increasing obesity in Europe and hunger in other regions. It drives local farmers off the land, removes small-scale fishers from the seas and confines livestock to factory farms, at home and abroad. It is a system perpetuated by ineffective regulation and unjust laws. We demand the prioritization of productive resources for use in growing food, not industrial commodities nor agrofuels.

We promote an ecological model of food provision¹ in the framework of Food Sovereignty. Across Europe we are developing and supporting local food systems, swapping local seeds, realising Farmers' Rights, building the fertility of our soils and strengthening and increasing the resilience of local production and food webs. Ecological food provision systems are resilient and can adapt to and mitigate climate change, but we insist that food and agriculture be kept out of the carbon, ecosystem services and biodiversity offset markets and we reject European Biofuels targets. We should encourage participatory certification systems of our ecological model of food provision.

¹ Ecological food provision can include peasant-based sustainable agriculture, agroecology, organic farming, natural farming, low external input sustainable agriculture (LEISA), permaculture, as well as sustainable and ecological livestock raising, aquaculture and artisanal capture fisheries, etc.

We need to strengthen local food cultures and public policies that support links between producers and consumers and we must fight against the loss of skills in producing, preparing and cooking food and against food waste. Access to healthy food for vulnerable consumers everywhere in the world must be ensured and all consumers should be able to purchase products which are produced ecologically by small-scale producers, with full externalities of production included in the cost of industrially produced foods. These externalities have to include social conditions. The links between the social and the ecological crisis have to be taken into full consideration.

We will defend and develop our agricultural biodiversity (of all species including crops, livestock, fish and other aquatic organisms, pollinators, predators, soil micro-organisms, etc.), and respect collective rights to land, water, seeds and so on. Our ecological systems need seeds and animals that are locally adapted, locally selected and multiplied. We should reinforce the exchange of peasants' knowledge, the local organization of farmers, gardeners and livestock breeders who select their plants and animals in their fields and farms, and also reinforce community-based participatory research for developing reproducible, diversified seeds and ecological production systems. These goals should be the priority for research funding. Based on our accumulated knowledge and skills, we have been the innovators in food provision. We should be included in defining research priorities and programmes nationally, in the EU and internationally in the CFS, which will focus specifically on technologies and methods that we want to use. The results of this research and our experience should be communicated and made available for all communities directly and through schools, colleges and universities.

In the face of the aggressive commodification of nature, food and knowledge by corporations, we promote traditional seeds and reject patents, the genetic identification of plants and animals and other controls on any life form. We must fight against industry's promotion of non-reproducible seeds in the market, and their market domination, and prevent European seed laws restricting further our rights to save, sow, exchange and sell our seeds. We must fight for the implementation of a true moratorium on all GMOs because the coexistence with GMOs is impossible. We should call to extend the moratorium progressively to the other non-natural genetic modifications of plant and animals. If governments and the EU will not ban GMOs and will not recognize the inalienable rights of farmers and gardeners, we must take direct non-violent action.

To achieve this, we need to reinforce alliances between East and West Europe, bringing together small-scale food providers, processors, scientists, institutions, schools, consumers and urban movements in interconnecting local rural-urban food webs and local food networks.

2. Changing how food is distributed

“We work towards the decentralization of food chains, promoting diversified markets based on solidarity and fair prices, and short supply chains and intensified relations between producers and consumers in local food webs to counter the expansion and power of supermarkets. We want to provide the building blocks for people to develop their own food distribution systems and allow farmers to produce and process food for their communities. This requires supportive food safety rules and local food infrastructure for smallholder farmers. We also work to ensure that the food we produce reaches all people in society, including people with little or no income.” (Nyéléni Europe Declaration, August 2011)

Across Europe, profound changes are occurring in the way society manages the production, processing and distribution of food. Different informal and formal social structures based upon the initiatives of collectives, associations and organizations are looking at ways to reorganize the current food chain, now solely dominated by a few big firms, into flexible food webs based on human interaction.

For the last twenty years, agricultural markets have been organized within an increasingly deregulated market system, allowing all the links in the chain - from food production to processing and distribution - to be dominated by the biggest players who have been able to outcompete the rest. This is reflected in the fact that only 10 retailers control 40% of the European food supply². This process has led to an unprecedented level of control over the entire chain. Indeed, the food chain now rests in the hands of just a few suppliers and distributors, supermarkets and wholesalers that define the prices both at the farm gate and on supermarket shelves. They have achieved this, in part, through sanitary norms and regulations that favour large industry over small-scale producers. These regulations are the fruit of agribusiness, which often prevents involvement of civil society in the development of these rules.

Within this system, farmers and food producers have been trapped with a sole outlet for their production, forcing them to accept an unacceptable marginal reward for their product. The existing system reduces the input of farmers and workers to labour, pushes consistently for reductions in costs, increases in production, and results in a race to the bottom between providers in order to ensure market share. The increased power of supermarkets and distributors has led to the almost complete vertical integration of the food chain, with unprecedented levels of corporate domination in almost every sector, from seed sales to supermarkets, wholesalers and distribution. Moreover, this system is organized to produce profit for industrial agriculture at the expense of the environment and public health, hiding

² Boussard Jean-Marc & Trouvé Aurélie (ed.), *Proposal for a New European Agriculture and Food Policy that meets the challenges of this Century*, 12 July 2010, p. 10.

the human relationships of production behind anonymous food products.

We need a new food culture that encourages critical thinking about the practices of production, marketing, labour conditions, health risks and taste in industrial food production. In order to build this culture, we will continue to help educate the public by providing information about the social, environmental, and health costs of the current system. We will advocate for and build more diversified local markets, short supply chains and intensified relations between producers and consumers. Citizens across Europe are already busy putting the principles of Food Sovereignty into practice—the Cooperation of Regional Fresh Food Chains, Associations pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne, Community -Supported Agriculture and other initiatives are recreating their local food systems—these initiatives provide a blueprint for how to radically change food markets in Europe. Importantly, these markets will emphasise social integration by being open and affordable for socially disadvantaged groups.

Yet to create new markets, we need to educate both farmers and those buying their products. Farmers require training on alternative distribution systems and processing at farm level, by others already following these practices. Moreover, in extending these training opportunities, we need to create solidarity among farmers to empower them to resist the domination of the market by corporations and vertical integration. In turn, we also need to educate the general public about the importance of local food systems. We will accomplish this transformation of culture, not only through outreach campaigns, but also by focusing especially on educating children within schools from an early age about the food systems.

To achieve these changes we need policies that will support local, alternative markets. Therefore, an integral aspect of achieving Food Sovereignty is creating an open, democratic debate on how decisions about food chains and production should operate. In order to participate in this debate we need a permanent working space on alternative food markets in which we can share experiences from throughout Europe and develop concrete local food strategies. The importance of local strategies is paramount; however we will also elaborate, in a participatory way, a comprehensive proposal on sanitary norms for small producers and actors in the rural areas, for a “Codex Alimentarius Campesinos” through participatory research. Such policies may complement strategies that governments are already undertaking in combating environmental degradation and climate change. We will also advocate for new sanitary, fiscal and access to market regulations for small producers and actors in rural areas. We believe that public policies supporting Food Sovereignty, at local, national and European levels should promote these alternative markets and should have a community-based guarantee system (PGS). We will continue to form alliances with a wide variety of constituencies of the food system to achieve these changes.

3. Valuing and improving work and social conditions in food and agriculture systems

"We struggle against the exploitation and the degradation of working and social conditions and for the rights of all women and men who provide food as well as those of seasonal and migrant workers, workers in the processing, distribution and retail sector and others. We work towards public policies that respect social rights, set high standards and make public funding conditional upon their implementation. Society must give greater value to the role of food producers and workers in our society. For us, this includes decent living wages. We aim to build broad alliances among all people who work in the food system." (Nyéléni Europe Declaration, August 2011)

The intensification and industrialization of agriculture in the global food system has come at an enormous social cost and has a negative impact on working conditions in agriculture and the food system. The ultimate goal of "cheap food" and production for profit directly translates into the exploitation of workers, particularly migrant workers, and the destruction of peasants and other food producers. This desire for low prices has therefore led to underpaid workers and the deterioration of producers' livelihoods. Moreover, insufficient and weak labour regulation further deepens the exploitation of workers and the flexibilisation of working conditions. This has led to dramatic decline in living and working conditions for peasants, farm workers, agri-food-workers and has contributed to the production of unhealthy, anonymous and poor quality food.

Migrant workers have been especially targeted in this system. Many migrant workers working in the European food system are peasants that have been expelled from their livelihoods by European policies, as well as the global food and trade system, affecting their countries of origin. As they seek the means to support themselves and their families, they are most often subcontracted by corporations and have few rights and even less awareness of those rights they do possess. The rise of immigration because of these global policies, in spite of the poor working conditions they must endure in host European countries, has contributed to and reinforced social discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Nevertheless, European migration policy has become increasingly restrictive and utilitarian.

The economic and food price crises caused by unregulated speculators, increases in oil prices, and growing production of agrofuels for energy rather than food has not only hit people in the Global South, but also those in European countries. Cuts to social programmes are further affecting more and more people. In addition, the vulnerability of peasants is increasing due to worsening conditions of labour, low incomes, and eroding social security nets for small-scale farmers. Their incre-

asing lack of influence on the food chain leads to fluctuating and insecure farm incomes. Many are in debt and are constantly struggling for decent living conditions. As a result, many children of farmers refuse to take over the farms of their parents and choose a model of living that is less insecure, has higher social status and requires less heavy work. The lack of farm successors from within or outside of peasant families has become not only a serious problem for the farmers concerned (since very often the heritage and work of generations will be abandoned) but also for society. The age structure of European farmers is alarmingly increasing. This demonstrates that farming under current conditions is not appealing to the next generation. Ultimately, these impacts often have a greater affect on women, because of gender inequality and a lack of respect for women's rights. Yet as we assess a solution to this problem, we must also consider the links between the social and the ecological crisis. A "solution" of one at the cost of the other is not possible.

We demand the free movement of people, regularisation of all undocumented workers, better working conditions and social security for all, as well as access to sufficient, healthy and culturally acceptable food. This requires labour and migration policies in line with Food Sovereignty that produce social security and a decent income for peasants to strengthen peasant agriculture. Special attention has to be paid to the rights of women, youth and workers. This could be achieved by implementation of a Europe-wide minimum wage and legal protections and regulations in order to enable alternative (non-traditional, collective) forms of agriculture. It can also be achieved through on-going alliances and relations of solidarity between peasants, workers, migrants and consumers.

In order to improve the conditions of workers we also have to overcome the democratic deficit of peasants, other small-scale food producers, workers and poor consumers. One of the key solutions is to change current policies, such as the Common Agriculture Policy, taking into consideration the impact of these policies, both in Europe and in other regions. For example there is a close connection between migrant workers and their home conditions. However, within Europe there is also a growing inequality and increasing poverty that has to be remedied. Policies must address the disproportionate effect of these working conditions on women; the absence of social rights and protection schemes including shared income, pensions, maternity leave, inclusion in consultation processes, and access to subsidies puts women farmers in extremely vulnerable and dependent positions. Therefore we have to challenge corporate and large farmers' influence and domination of food and agriculture. To create a socially fair CAP, social conditions must be considered before providing subsidies.

As we continue to work to achieve Food Sovereignty, we will work to educate the public, specifically focusing on consumers and children about the working

conditions and the social axis of production. Education—such as, agricultural and university programmes—needs to include specific measures to provide equal access to knowledge and skills especially for women and to include training for all on gender and social equality We will also encourage people to remain in rural areas and support them in the struggle to improve their livelihoods. We will work to implement policies to improve working conditions for all, including migrants and small-scale farmers, and halt the tide of rural exodus.



4. Reclaiming the right to our Commons

“We oppose and struggle against the commodification, financialisation and patenting of our commons, such as: land; farmers’; traditional and reproducible seeds; livestock breeds and fish stocks; trees and forests; water; the atmosphere; and knowledge. Access to these should not be determined by markets and money. In using common resources, we must ensure the realisation of human rights and gender equality, and that society as a whole benefits. We also acknowledge our responsibility to use our Commons sustainably, while respecting the rights of mother earth. Our Commons should be managed through collective, democratic and community control.” (Nyéléni Europe Declaration, August 2011)

Food Sovereignty in Europe is directly related to the ability of its people to decide how and by whom agricultural resources – including, land, water, seeds and livestock – are cared for. In Europe, the commodification and privatisation of natural resources as well as increasing financial speculation has expanded to extreme levels, impeding the possibility of redistributing common goods through democratic processes. As a result of the lack of regulation of these markets, we have witnessed a continually shrinking number of players in the food system as transnational corporations grow. Moreover, the low wages of agricultural activities do not, in most cases, allow access to these resources, especially land. The disappearance of thousands of European farms every week, the concentration of resources in large farms and the rural exodus show that a change is urgently needed.

Access to land is a primary obstacle to achieving Food Sovereignty, which will require a great increase in the farming population. However, for those who do not come from farming families, finding land to farm can be extremely difficult. The increased industrialisation of European farming has made many farms untransferable to future generations because of their size, the price of the land and the obligation to contract high debts.

At the international level, land grabbing has also become a major problem. Land grabbing is a new profit strategy, which is promoted by, among others, EU trade, energy and climate policies. In Eastern and Central Europe, where land prices are lower and the land market was opened, Western European agribusinesses are increasingly buying large amounts of land for industrial agricultural projects.

In the effort to achieve Food Sovereignty, we need to reclaim our Commons – land, seeds, livestock, water, knowledge, atmosphere and food – which are the building blocks for models of production and consumption. We need to regain control and secure non-discriminatory access, control, and preservation of the Commons. Ultimately, we believe that the Commons should be appraised based on their value in promoting human rights, gender equity and sustainable small-

holder agriculture. The Commons should therefore be managed through collective and democratic control and framed into public policies.

While the threats to the food system are global, Europe's vested corporate and financial interests play a vital role in this system that is increasingly facing crises. These crises – like that currently challenging world food stocks and prices, financial systems and the climate – lead to increasing exclusion of commons. Therefore, we oppose and denounce the current system of commodification of commons whose access is now determined by markets and money. Rather, land, water, and agricultural biodiversity, should regain importance as public goods and human rights.

We denounce those practices that are currently responsible for the continuing privatisation, speculation, and expropriation of land and resources, particularly land grabbing. These practices are promoted by international organizations and institutions, such as the G8, WTO, World Bank and IMF. We oppose these institutions and EU policies and practices that contribute to the commodification of commons and will work to resist them by exposing land grabbing deals, through careful research to identify these deals, which are often purposely hidden from public view. In contrast, we affirm inclusive, public political processes, such as those in the United Nations Human Rights Council, UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and local administrations and the importance of a human rights paradigm in access to resources and food.

Collectively, we will reclaim the political space for the recognition and defence of commons for land, seeds, and water. Foundational to this process is a new discussion of agrarian reform in Europe and reinforcing institutional mechanisms of management of public land to secure access to land for those who don't have it. Overall, we prioritize use of land for agriculture and preservation of biodiversity over that of simple property, particularly attuned to the access to these resources by women.

As we build the movement, we will continue to work together to raise awareness, resist unfavourable policies and campaign for new policies. As we seek to change these policies, we will deepen our understanding of the process of expropriation, through research of current practices, as well as new models of ownership. We will continue to create alliances across the north, south, east and west and will work with transition towns and lands already in collective use to offer alternatives and best practices for the future.

5. Changing public policies governing our food and agricultural systems

“Our struggle includes changing public policies and governance structures that rule our food systems – from the local to the national, European and global levels – and to delegitimise corporate power. Public policies must be coherent, complementary and promote and protect food systems and food cultures. They must: be based on the right to food; eradicate hunger and poverty; ensure the fulfilment of basic human needs; and contribute to Climate Justice – in Europe and globally. We need legal frameworks that: guarantee stable and fair prices for food producers; promote environmentally-friendly agriculture; internalise external costs into food prices; and implement land reform. These policies would result in more farmers in Europe. Public policies must be designed with the help of publicly accountable research to achieve the objectives outlined above. They must ensure that speculation on food is banned and no harm is done to existing local or regional food systems and food cultures – either by dumping or by landgrabbing in Europe, particularly Eastern Europe, or in the Global South. We work towards new agriculture, food, seed, energy and trade policies for Food Sovereignty in Europe which are internationally sound. In particular these must include: a different Common Agriculture and Food Policy; the removal of the EU Biofuels Directive; and global governance of international agricultural trade located in the FAO and not the WTO.” (Nyéléni Europe Declaration, August 2011)

Current European and global public policies have a profound effect on food systems, reducing local and national control of food systems. In Europe, food and agriculture are affected by a complicated maze of public policies at global, regional, national and local levels. Reorienting European and global public policies towards the principles of Food Sovereignty requires reform of both the processes that are used to develop public policies and the content of the policies, which promote corporate interests over that of communities and small-scale producers. These policies, which are heavily influenced by the demands of transnational corporations, have wrought significant damage to the resilient agricultural and food systems that are best suited to meeting the challenges posed by the systemic crises in neoliberal globalization.

In our struggle to develop policies that return dignity to all those involved in consumption and production of food, democratizing the structures of public policy is paramount; we seek to curb the influence of corporations at all levels – from local to national, European and global levels – and call for greater participation in public policy development and implementation. Redefining how public policies are formulated, such that the broadest possible citizen participation is the prime objective, should be the first step in entering the debate on policy formulation.

In addition to reforming the processes and structures used to develop policy, the principles and values that guide policy must be changed to give priority to local, national and regional food supplies and food stocks. Currently, international trade policy, the European Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and financial regulatory frameworks represent the deepest threat to farmers and our food systems.

We want to change the CAP into a policy that promotes healthy and safe food, both through agro-ecological production, processing and distribution. At its core, these policies should secure stable and fair prices for farmers and consumers, protect local markets, and promote local circuits of the food chain. We demand that public funds be used for public goods – to support small-scale, sustainable farming – in policies that are coherent, transparent and understandable for the wider public. Moreover, these policies should not discriminate between Eastern and Western Europe or the Global North and South and should be evaluated on their social impacts.

Trade policies, such as those of the World Trade Organization and bilateral free-trade agreements, provide an economic model that favours large industrial farming over smallholder farmers in Europe, implicitly supporting transnational corporations (TNCs) over farmers and communities. These agreements also have disastrous effects for the Global South, where subsidized foodstuffs are dumped into foreign markets and destroy local economies.

We recognize the key role that speculation plays in destabilizing food prices and creating the conditions for global hunger. We are concerned by the increasing forms of speculation, not only on agricultural commodities, but also on land. Our alternative economic vision is people-centred and supports local economies. As such, we seek government regulation of financial markets to both end speculation on food and also to stop and end industry self-regulation.

As we continue to work at all policy levels, we affirm the need to build links between the Food Sovereignty movement in Europe and the European sub-region of the autonomous Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) based in FAO, which offers a positive example of how social movements and civil society can play a meaningful role in policy decision-making, particularly at the international level.

In working towards changing public policies, we will also continue to use innovative communication tools to educate the public and create awareness of the failure of current policies through campaigns, direct actions, and research to communicate political alternatives to the current food regime. Additionally, we will continue to lobby to persuade decision makers to include Food Sovereignty in the Global Strategic Framework being developed by the CFS.

REPORTS

Regional Meeting Report

Regional Meetings playing an important role at the Forum aimed to create cooperation between participants on the regional level. Regional Meetings were convened on the 5th day of the Forum with the endeavour to strengthen common work and actions by defining main challenges in the different regions of Europe. The more than 400 delegates divided into five regional subgroups, (1) Mediterranean/Southern Europe, (2) Western Europe, (3) Scandinavia/Northern Europe, (4) Eastern Europe/Southern East Europe/The Caucasus and (5) Central Europe. The discussions focused on evaluating and providing input to the Action Plan drafted previously. Beyond evaluation, regional subgroups were asked to define concrete actions and the steps necessary after the Forum.

National delegations could delegate participants in more than one regional subgroup, while participants could freely decide to which region to belong to. The methodology was more or less similar in each regional group: after a round to list the most relevant problems from each country, the most important and most urgent tasks were enumerated. If translation could not be provided, groups were split up according to languages. The outcome of each regional meeting was presented at the last Nyéléni Plenary Session, thus each delegate could recognize main regional problems and future goals.

OUTCOME OF REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS

1. Mediterranean/Southern Europe

As the Mediterranean/Southern European Regional Meeting concluded, it seems necessary to build a common front to tackle financial crisis and social cuts in the most affected countries of the area (Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal...). A discussion on the agricultural structure and on the model of food production in these countries is required. A position paper, based on the Nyéléni Declaration should be published. As a concrete action, an international forum on water as a common resource should be organised in Marseille, 2012. The water forum could be a meeting point for social movements to raise awareness and to reclaim the access to water and other resources in the Mediterranean countries.

2. Western Europe

The major task in Western Europe – being the region, where the issue of Food

Sovereignty is the most widely known - is to share knowledge and experiences including documentaries and educational tools concerning Food Sovereignty. The FoodSovCap Movement should continue developing future amendments of Common Agricultural Policy.

3. Scandinavia/Northern Europe

At the regional meeting of the delegates from Scandinavia/Northern Europe attention was centred around possibilities of encouraging local actors, fisherfolk and other food producers operating on Food Sovereignty.

4. Eastern Europe/Southern East Europe/The Caucasus

For several participants from this European region Food Sovereignty is a novel concept. In order to propagate the issue of Food Sovereignty in these countries, more work should be launched on awareness raising and educational programmes on conscious consumption. To be able to solve their most serious problems (food processing sector dominated by multinationals, privatisation of land, land grabbing, lack of protection of national products, small farms cannot adsorb EU funding, etc.) new members should be involved in the movement. Strong connections should be created between organizations, which are already working on the issues of Food Sovereignty without using this term. To build up and to strengthen the Eastern- and Southern European movement, even more farmer organizations should be established and people should be inspired and motivated to cooperate.

5. Central Europe

The delegations from Central Europe focused on the cooperation within and between the different countries exploiting already existing networks. It is important to pay more attention on lobbying on the regional and local levels, and to spread the concept of Food Sovereignty in the media. Beyond the issue of Food Sovereignty, the terms Food Security, Food Autonomy, Independence of Production, Conscious Consuming and Responsibility in Production were also discussed.

Concrete Actions mentioned by each Region:

21-30 September 2011 – Reclaim the Fields Camp in Romania
October 2011 – Week of Action regarding World Food Day (16th Oct)
November 2011 – Meeting and Political training for Youth Group of Via Campesina
March 2012 – European Water Forum
March 2012 – European Action Week on CAP
Actions against GMO

Report from the Women's Meeting

Nyélení August 16th 2011 in Krems



The atmosphere amongst women at the Nyélení Forum 2011 in Krems was multifaceted – curious, expectant, open. Through two line-ups in the room, women got to know each other a little bit: From where are you coming? How are you feeding yourself – own land/garden, markets, supermarkets? Then there was a brief introduction of some of the organizations that were present and working on the thematic “Violence against Women”. These organizations presented their working methods and activities: Via Campesina Europe, WIDE and World March of Women.

In the linguistically divided sub-groups women exchanged their views on two questions: How does a world look like in that women are not disadvantaged and where no violence against women exists? What do we want to do as women in our organizations in order to achieve this world? We talked about next steps, campaigns, alliances, strategies. The visions of women are based on a horizontal structuring of society in which the biodiversity of gender detaches old constraints, role models and behaviour patterns. Less struggles for equal rights and status contribute to a more relaxed atmosphere, more leisure and opportunities for involvement. Equitably shared common work between the sexes opens up a variety of ideas, thoughts and solidarity among women. The absence of the many forms of violence against women and a fulfilling sex life for women opens up new perspectives for women and men. To discover ‘male and female’ characteristics for oneself as a person, to recognize these characteristics and to become free of adjustments and free for new tasks and responsibilities in society. More focus on the production of food and groceries, a more ‘maternal’ relationship with the earth and ourselves – less of the paradigm “always bigger, faster, more”.

There were a lot of ideas for change and possible next steps:

Identification of discrimination and violence against women, migrants, ethnic groups, regions

Creating awareness about discrimination and violence against producers, consumers, in the own organizations

Making visible unpaid (women's) work

Push education in order to overcome role thinking. Integrate children, adolescents, women and men in educational processes and processes of change. Exchange between generations and regions, North-South.

Strengthen women's self-confidence – Women are actors, not only victims. Show solidarity with women and positive feedback as well as appreciation.

Question policies in order to change power relations and create new opportunities: participation (it needs more than a "token" woman), alternative agriculture, finance and models of transport. Feminization of the economy.

Create a public via publications on violence and discrimination

Create women's groups within the organization, network, provide a basis for common actions (Internet), regionally and internationally

Personal change towards sovereignty - food, time, ...

The demands of the women's movement for equal rights and self-determined women's lives are still valid for us women. And the work on our rights begins here and now - in this forum!

Youth Constituency Report

I. Aims and goals of the youth sessions and constituency

The youth constituency convened in order to ensure full participation of youth in Nyéléni Europe. In addition, the youth constituency had the following objectives:

- To get to know one another
- Exchange and create synergies among the youth
- Empower youth participants to take part fully in the discussions of and energise the main forum
- Provide a youth perspective to Nyéléni Europe and talk about youth issues
- Think about common actions and strategies

After taking time to get to know each other, the youth analysed each thematic axis and determined the needs of the youth. Throughout Nyéléni Europe, the youth reconvened to discuss the key issues of each axis, and focused on those aspects that were missing and especially those that could be developed by the youth movement. The youth constituency sought to create a space to encourage youth participants to action, knowing that their work would inspire other young people. It was also felt important to bring some energy and enthusiasm into the main forum, using slogans and games.

The daily youth sessions and methodology

The youth coordinated themselves in order to be active participants in Nyéléni Europe and to be a representative delegation. Even though the agenda was very full, every day a space for youth meetings of about 1 hour was provided; depending on the day, 20 - 100 people participated. The methodology was similar to the one in the main forum: the youth split up into sub-groups along each thematic axis and then reported back to the general group at the end of the meeting. The groups were also split up according to language, when translation could not be provided.

II. Outcomes

Energize the forum

As the youth group, we found that one of the important things to do was to give our contribution in terms of energy, smiles and visual impact, more than just discussions. This is because the topics we discussed were not different from the ones of the forum. The main difference that we saw from the rest of the forum was not in terms of content, as the forum already included the main youth problems, but rather in terms of vision, spirit and methods. We made use of spaces in plenaries, surprising participants, to push these ideas. We showed big flip charts with some keywords that we think are the way to reach food sovereignty (Non-violently? Lovingly? Direct action? Lobby? etc.). Our way of communication really worked because after that and during the entire forum people on the stage recalled our actions and words. We also had a chance on the last day to give a “youth” message that now, to make food sovereignty a reality, young people’s energy and striking appearance will help win over opinion.

Underline youth specific issues

After the main forum sessions, and before the reading of the Declaration, we had a meeting regarding an evaluation from a youth perspective. The methodology to focus on the youth vision was to divide the group following the axis system and then to ask two main questions:

- What impressed/shocked you during the forum?
- What was missing during the forum?

Afterwards, we met to discuss the Declaration and to check if the important concepts for youth were all included into it. We found that in the first draft, the word “education” was not explicitly mentioned as a key for transformation, so we asked during the review of the draft to mention it.

Get into action

We had two brainstorming sessions in which to collect all the ideas that could be set into action after the Forum. During the first brainstorming session, we freely interpreted the issues and it led us to understand the three main topics of interest as a base. The second brainstorming session was used to create a proposal of practical actions.

The main areas of action identified were:

- Communication and networking
- Direct actions
- Political advocacy

For every sector we brainstormed and created a feedback evaluation to determine the most interesting actions.

The third phase of the action plan process has been to identify the people committed to start the actions and share the tasks between them.

III. Action plan

- Communication and networking
 - o Set up a Facebook page
 - o Set up a mailing list/ crabgrass group
 - o Ask the Nyéléni Europe webmaster for a prominently placed youth page
- Direct actions
 - o Some common actions for 16th October are foreseen
 - o Actions in the framework of the Reclaim the Fields network
- Political advocacy
 - o The Common Agricultural Policy
 - o The youth process of the civil society participation in the Committee on World Food Security of the United Nations (CFS)



INTERVIEWS & DECLARATION

Interviews with participants of the Forum



Interview with Giovanni Di Genua

a farmer in the municipality of Montella, Avellino province,
high Irpinia district in the Campania region, Italy

Type of Farm

In the Montella area the most typical produce is the chestnut, to such an extent that it can be certified IGT to denote the region it comes from (as is done with wines such as champagne or certain cheeses). The people of Irpinia and Montella have been caring for and maintaining their chestnut woods for almost 400 years now. These trees, when they are young, are grafted, pruned, and groomed for producing chestnut fruits. This chestnut is suitable for processing, and drying.

The most typical processed product from this area is the “castagna del prete”, which is a cooked chestnut soaked in wine. This product is very famous and requested all around the world, when the fruit is fresh or dry, along with semi-processed fruit for industry, to produce “marron glacé”. A big part of the marron glacé production in the town of Cuneo (in the Piemonte region close to Turin in Northern Italy), destined for the French market, comes from the Irpinia area. The area where Giovanni is located covers 5% of the global chestnut market.

Besides growing chestnuts, 10 years ago Giovanni became interested in sustainable development. He started a sort of social farming with young people “experiencing difficult times”, to give them a chance to express themselves in their own cultural context and land. The farm activities include growing chestnuts, growing truffles, growing fruit of many varieties (such as apple, pear and plum) and growing other plants (including old varieties of cereals that are grown following

organic and biodynamic principles). A small electric stone mill was bought to start milling these cereals so they can be used to prepare bread, pizza and pastas.

As chestnut production covers the period from August till December, another source of revenue is processing produce.

Marketing and direct sale

Together with around 40 other organizations from the same region, a consortium called "Ragantela" has been created. The aim is to exchange experiences of growing, processing and direct selling. The consortium members meet once a month to discuss needs and priorities, and how to increase awareness amongst the general population and consumers regarding the needs of both farmers and the land. These meetings are also an occasion to present the products, along with books and CDs, and to make this kind of agricultural event more centred on culture. These events are held in Naples, which is a huge city and has a big catchment area making it suitable for cultural events and art exhibitions, and to explain new things about organic farming to the public. On the local markets, Giovanni sells his farm's products: chestnuts, flour, salad and vegetables, but also bread and soup made with the cereals from his farms, like rye and a specific type of cereal called germanella in Italian.

Main problems in farming

The main problem is the processing of products and some restrictive health and hygiene regulations. Giovanni has spent about 60,000 euro to equip a laboratory so he can be granted permission to bring his products to the table. However, he has not yet been granted permission to sell his processed products on the local markets because of the overly restrictive health and hygiene regulations imposed on small farms. Small farmers are treated like they were an agro-industry. According to the current legislation, a small farm should be equipped with multiple testing laboratories, one for each processed product. Giovanni, on the contrary, thinks that following the natural crop rotation, it should be possible to rotate the processing of different products, whilst still avoiding the risk of contamination. People do not understand these issues. The consumer does not know when the farm yields its produce, and the legislator does not understand how the farm yields its produce. Small farmers need legislative measures to remain small, and not to expand in scope. They require measures that allow their territories and their cultural traditions to be protected.

Alternative solutions

The legislation regarding health and hygiene regulations for processing produce on small farms must be changed to allow the existence of multifunctional laboratories to process local produce. It is also important to address the Common Agricultural Policy subsidies for sustainable farming and link the subsidies with employment.

Expectations from the Nyéléni Europe Forum

This forum is a wonderful thing because it brings together needs and experiences from across Europe, and can propose common guidelines for European and national legislators. The solution to the problems relating to processing products speaks every European language, and the importance of bringing local produce to the table is international.

The person that eats a local product directly discovers the work used to cultivate it. The men and women farmers bring their product to the table, and, at that moment, they are expressing joy with the possibility of feeding you. However, nowadays Europe is based on corporate systems and big industries, and the chances for small farming are few and far between. Maybe in the past farmers didn't want to stand up for their rights, because in the past industrialisation was seen as a desired goal. Now, there is a return to the land. People want to learn how to become involved in this old profession, how to be a farmer.

Interview with Heike Schiebeck

a woman farmer in a mountainous region in the municipality of Eisenkappel-Vellach, state of Carinthia, in Southeast Austria (on the border to Slovenia)

Type of farm

It is a collective mountain farm, located at an altitude of around 1,000 meters, and surrounded by forests. It has 7 hectares of grassland and 10 hectares of forest on a very steep incline. It is an animal farm, with chicken, sheep, pigs, rabbits and 35 bee hives, primarily for self-consumption but also for local direct selling. Sheep can graze on other farms where there are no longer other animals because the original farmers have abandoned their agricultural work. The meat is processed into sausages for direct sale.

Marketing and direct sale

This farm mainly sells locally and the main products it sells are lamb meat, salami, sausages and honey. Together with around 50 other farms they have created a direct sale association to practice direct selling. Those local customers who are interested in the produce have formed a network. The produce is also sold in the surrounding area.

Main problems

Recently, it has been observed that young people (25-30 years old) want to become farmers. Agriculture and food are becoming political issues.

In Austria, the main problem for young people who want to start this work is the lack of land at an affordable price. The old farmers neither want to sell nor rent their land. When land is for sale or for rent it is too expensive for these young would-be farmers.

Alternative solutions

Regional and national governments should respond to this growing demand for farming land amongst young people by purchasing areas of land that are not being used but are too expensive for these young people to buy, and then renting it to them on a long-term lease. This measure would stop land speculation. Land must once more be used for its primary purpose: to feed the population. Land should not be given over for constructing supermarkets and motorways. The growth paradigm has no future.

Expectations from the Nyéléni Europe Forum

- Expanding the Movement for Food Sovereignty to other civil society sectors, not only farmers;
- Include Eastern Europeans in the Food Sovereignty Movement so future developments in their region can be based upon these principles;
- Exchange experiences to provide new impetus and encouragement.

Interview with Zoltan Kovacs

a young Hungarian farmer

Type of farm

Zoltan Kovacs is a young farmer (28 years) from Hungary who runs a farm together with his family. The farm is located in the north-east of Hungary, and has 140 hectares. Most of the land is used as pasture for animals to graze, and most of the farm's livestock are sheep. The rest of the land is arable, predominantly used for growing cereals, most of which is used to produce animal fodder for winter, although the left over stock is sold.

Three people work on Zoltan Kovacs's farm. One is an employee and the other two are from the family: Zoltan himself and his father. His mother works in the house, and takes care of the garden. In the area where Zoltan's family lives, having 140 hectares of land is nothing special compared to other properties. Soil conditions are very bad, and most of this land is not fit for planting, which is why it is used for livestock. The number of sheep farmed in the surrounding area is continually increasing.

Marketing and direct sale

The main activity is local sales, although this is mostly for the vegetable crops and fodder. In the area surrounding Zoltan's farm there are no specific systems for processing his farm's produce. Setting-up a structure to process agricultural products would be very expensive, and Zoltan's family is not able to do this. Another problem is that in Hungary people do not eat much lamb because it is not part of their culture in the same way as it is around the Mediterranean. As a result, the meat is mainly sold to people who then sell it on in southern European countries. This is why establishing direct sales is so complicated.

Some farmers in the region rear cattle, their situation is somewhat better from certain points of view.

Main problems in farming

The main problem is foreign capital, which is a sort of competition for local farmers; but competition between small farmers and big family farmers is also a problem. Large scale farmers are getting larger and larger; they have more capital and receive more help from the European Union than the smaller scale farmers. This leaves very little room for smaller farms to develop or grow.

Young people are concerned about this. To become a farmer nowadays you should already have family working in the field, and if you don't it's getting harder and harder to begin working in farming.

Of course in areas where the soil is in a better condition, it is easier to start a farm, even on a small scale, like a family farm. Through doing this it can be possible for people to make a living from their work.

Zoltan's farm is part of an agro-ecological association. They also follow an ecological programme, and they take particular care to protect the soil and local habitats and to use environmentally friendly practices. For example, they do not use chemical pesticides whilst growing cereals, and they time their harvests based on the movement of birds. Thanks to this, Zoltan's farm receives subsidies.

Alternative solutions

Family farms should be given priority. It's good to help family farms to develop and grow. Processing food is very important; it should take place on a local level, not only food for human consumption but also fodder for livestock. It's important to stop importing fodder from South America.

Another big problem is that a lot of animal food production contains GM soy.

Expectations from the Nyéléni Europe Forum

This forum should have an outcome that really reflects the position of farmers in Europe, with special attention on family farmers, small scale farms and small scale food production.

In family farming, people make their own living from agriculture, and what is produced is also eaten and consumed.

Promoting food sovereignty means being independent from multinationals and corporations.

Interview with Lidia Senra

a woman farmer in Concello de Vedra, Galicia, Spain

Type of farm

Lidia Senra runs a family farm. The farm produces organic crops, but also keeps animals such as chicken (reared for meat and eggs) and sheep, and also produces honey.

Marketing and direct sale

Direct sales are organized in three different ways:

1. some families buy directly from Lidia's farm, each week,
2. some products are sold locally at Saturday markets,
3. a specific type of pepper is sold to a local restaurant - this restaurant has a specific desire to use local produce.

Main problems in farming

The main problem in Europe is the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), along with some other public policies that are becoming more liberalised.

The sad thing is that today it is impossible to gain a decent wage from working on a family farm because the proceeds from the farm produce are desperately low and don't even cover production costs. The farmers work hard and don't receive a proper income in return. This is clearly demonstrated by the rapid decline in the number of farmers. It is continually becoming harder for young farmers to start out in this profession as salaries are not fair and it is very difficult to live on the income provided by agricultural work.

Aside from that, production costs are continually increasing, and this, together with other problems, is not helping farmers and young farmers.

Alternative solutions

A new CAP for the period of 2014-2020 is currently under discussion, and farmers

from all around Europe are making their voice heard on this policy.

Lidia Senra is a member of European Coordination Via Campesina, an organization that has many suggestions on how the new CAP could be changed to improve farmers' lives. Generally, European Coordination Via Campesina is fighting for Food Sovereignty. Lidia Senra thinks that it is fundamental to change the CAP, which must follow the principles of food sovereignty.

People have to look for a policy that will cover the production price of food, one that can preserve the viability of small farmers' markets. Local markets need to be helped.

Expectations from the Nyéléni Europe Forum

This forum is very important, for two reasons. First, farmers from all around Europe can meet here and can talk to each other about different problems and needs. Lidia Senra thinks that in the future she would like to work more in conjunction with other farmer organizations. Farmers from Eastern Europe should join European Coordination Via Campesina on their own mission. Everybody should share the idea of Food Sovereignty. It is very important that the European farmers' movement becomes stronger and stronger.

Secondly, it is also very important that this forum should help to maintain links with society, consumer groups and buyers. This forum is an opportunity to gain new ideas on our production methods and to see where we could change. People have to become stronger to be able to fight against capitalism within the food system. The political structure and some political ideas are imposing how food is produced and that the food industry should be imposing its methods upon everybody else. This is totally crazy.

People must resist big distribution and the big market. Permission for the installation of more supermarkets should not be provided. Supermarkets are just imposing a system upon farmers and consumers that is wrong and poisoned, and food that is based on agro-chemistry and toxic chemicals, which allows a small number of people to increase their profits.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN EUROPE NOW!

Nyeléni Europe 2011: Declaration from the European Forum for Food Sovereignty Krems / Austria, August 21st

Europe's people are now experiencing the first structural adjustment policies which governments are imposing on their populations that until now have been imposed on peoples in other regions in particular the Global South; this with the sole interest of saving capitalism and those who benefit from it (private banks, investment groups and transnational corporations). All signs are that in the near future these antisocial policies will become more severe and extensive. The first general mobilizations to denounce the economic and governance systems which have brought us to this point have begun and we offer - creatively and energetically - the response of European social movements to confront the model of global agriculture which is the exact reflection of the capitalist system that created it.

Food systems have been reduced to a model of industrialized agriculture controlled by a few transnational food corporations together with a small group of huge retailers. It is a model designed to generate profits, and therefore completely fails to meet its obligations. Instead of being dedicated to the production of food which is healthy, affordable and benefits people, it focuses increasingly on the production of raw materials such as agrofuels, animal feeds or commodity plantations. On the one hand, it has caused the enormous loss of agricultural holdings and the people who make their living from those holdings, while on the other hand it promotes a diet which is harmful to health and which contains insufficient fruit, vegetables and cereals.

This industrial model of production is dependent on finite fossil fuels and chemical inputs; does not recognize the limitations of resources such as land or water; is responsible for drastic losses of biodiversity and soil fertility; contributes to climate change; forces thousands of people into jobs without recognition of their most fundamental rights; and leads to the worsening of working conditions for farmers and workers, in particular migrants. It moves us further away from a respectful and sustainable relationship with nature.

Exploiting and treating the earth in this way is the fundamental cause of rural poverty and hunger for more than a billion people in the world (such as now in the Horn of Africa). In addition, it causes forced migration, while creating a surplus of industrial foods, which end up being wasted or dumped in markets both within and outside Europe, destroying local production.

This situation is the result of food, financial, trade and energy policies, which our governments, the EU (especially through its Common Agricultural Policy), multi-lateral and financial institutions as well as transnational corporations have been imposing. Examples include the policies of deregulation and liberalization of agricultural markets and speculation on food.

Changing the direction of this dysfunctional food system will only be possible through a complete reorientation of food and agricultural policies and practices. It is vital to redesign the food system based on the principles of Food Sovereignty, particularly in Europe, and to do it now.

As a consequence more than 400 people from 34 European countries from the Atlantic to the Urals and Caucasus, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, as well as international representatives from diverse social movements and civil society organisations, met from the 16th to 21st of August in Krems, Austria to take a step forward in the development of a European movement for Food Sovereignty. We are building on the foundations of the Declaration of the Nyéléni 2007: Forum for Food Sovereignty, which reaffirmed the international framework for Food Sovereignty - the right of peoples to democratically define their own food and agricultural systems without harming other people or the environment.

Numerous experiences and practices already exist here and now, at local, regional and European levels, which are based on Food Sovereignty and which demonstrate how it can be applied.

We are people who share values based on human rights. We want free movement of people, and not free circulation of capital and merchandise which contributes to the destruction of livelihoods and therefore forces many to migrate. Our aim is cooperation and solidarity as opposed to competition. We commit to reclaiming our democracy: all people should be involved in all issues of public interest and public policy making, deciding collectively how we organize our food systems. This requires the construction of democratic systems and processes, free of violence, corporate influence, and based on equal rights and gender equality, which will also lead to the abolition of patriarchy.

Many of us are young people who represent the future of our society and of our struggles. We will ensure that our energy and creativity make our movement stronger. In order to do so we must be able to participate in providing food and to be integrated in all structures and decisions.

We are convinced that Food Sovereignty is not only a step forward towards a change in our food and agricultural systems, but it is also a first step towards a broader change in our societies.

For this we commit to struggle for:

Changing how food is produced and consumed

We are working towards resilient food production systems, which provide healthy and safe food for all people in Europe, while also preserving biodiversity and natural resources and ensuring animal welfare. This requires ecological models of production and fishing as well as a multitude of smallholder farmers, gardeners and small-scale fishers who produce local food as the backbone of the food system. We struggle against the use of GMOs and grow and recuperate a wide diversity of non-GM varieties of seeds and livestock breeds in these systems. We promote sustainable and diverse forms of food culture, in particular the consumption of high quality local and seasonal foods and no highly processed food. This includes a lower consumption of meat and animal products, which should only be locally produced using local non-GM feed. We engage in re-embracing and promoting knowledge of cooking and food processing through education and sharing of skills.

Changing how food is distributed

We work towards the decentralization of food chains, promoting diversified markets based on solidarity and fair prices, and short supply chains and intensified relations between producers and consumers in local food webs to counter the expansion and power of supermarkets. We want to provide the building blocks for people to develop their own food distribution systems and allow farmers to produce and process food for their communities. This requires supportive food safety rules and local food infrastructure for smallholder farmers. We also work to ensure that the food we produce reaches all people in society, including people with little or no income.

Valuing and improving work and social conditions in food and agriculture systems

We struggle against the exploitation and the degradation of working and social conditions and for the rights of all women and men who provide food as well as those of seasonal and migrant workers, workers in the processing, distribution and retail sector and others. We work towards public policies that respect social rights, set high standards and make public funding conditional upon their implementation. Society must give greater value to the role of food producers and workers in our society. For us, this includes decent living wages. We aim to build broad alliances among all people who work in the food system.

Reclaiming the right to our Commons


We oppose and struggle against the commodification, financialisation and patenting of our commons, such as: land; farmers', traditional and reproducible seeds; livestock breeds and fish stocks; trees and forests; water; the atmosphere; and knowledge. Access to these should not be determined by markets and money. In using common resources, we must ensure the realisation of human rights

and gender equality, and that society as a whole benefits. We also acknowledge our responsibility to use our Commons sustainably, while respecting the rights of mother earth. Our Commons should be managed through collective, democratic and community control.


Changing public policies governing our food and agricultural systems

Our struggle includes changing public policies and governance structures that rule our food systems – from the local to the national, European and global levels – and to delegitimise corporate power. Public policies must be coherent, complementary and promote and protect food systems and food cultures. They must: be based on the right to food; eradicate hunger and poverty; ensure the fulfilment of basic human needs; and contribute to Climate Justice – in Europe and globally. We need legal frameworks that: guarantee stable and fair prices for food producers; promote environmentally-friendly agriculture; internalise external costs into food prices; and implement land reform.

These policies would result in more farmers in Europe. Public policies must be designed with the help of publicly accountable research to achieve the objectives outlined above. They must ensure that speculation on food is banned and no harm is done to existing local or regional food systems and food cultures – either by dumping or by landgrabbing in Europe, particularly Eastern Europe, or the Global South. We work towards new agriculture, food, seed, energy and trade policies for Food Sovereignty in Europe which are internationally sound. In particular these must include: a different Common Agriculture and Food Policy; the removal of the EU Biofuels Directive; and global governance of international agricultural trade located in the FAO and not the WTO.



We call upon the people and social movements in Europe to engage, together with us, in all our struggles to take control of our food systems and build the Movement for Food Sovereignty in Europe NOW!



ACTION PLAN

Our collective actions in Europe will be inspired by our Nyéléni Europe Declaration for Food Sovereignty, the 2007 Declaration of Nyéléni and the 6 pillars of Food Sovereignty.

We will **transform** our food systems in Europe and reclaim community control.

We will **resist** the expansion of agro-industrial food systems in Europe and other regions.

We will **build** our movement for Food Sovereignty across Europe.

*We will take action
to realise Food Sovereignty
in Europe Now!*

> TRANSFORM

We will transform how we organise our food systems by promoting actions, strategies, policies, working conditions and lifestyles that reinstate community control.

We will **TRANSFORM**:

1. The dominant model of agro-industrial production

- Build on our ecological and social practices, of women, men and young people, in our farms, gardens, pastures and fisheries, to provide food for the majority of people in Europe
- Localise our biodiverse, resilient food systems and strengthen our local food webs
- Develop policy proposals that remove corporate control of our food and defend and promote Food Sovereignty, improve diets and reduce waste in Europe and other regions
- Create/enhance transition towns and community supported agriculture schemes

- Elaborate a “Codex Alimentarius Campesinos” in a participatory way, linking producers, consumers, academics, municipalities etc.

2. The food chain into interconnected food webs, through radical change in the social system and values

- Develop innovative systems to bring producers and consumers closer together, through:
 - Encouraging and implementing community supported agriculture (CSA) and similar programmes
 - Building communication channels using already existing platforms
 - Supporting and creating more local markets and strengthening local food webs
 - Developing participatory guarantee systems based on trust and mutual knowledge
 - Supporting systems whereby low-income or vulnerable communities have access to local, organic food through systems such as “time-bank” where people with limited finances could pay not just with money but also with their work, in working hours, to pay for organic local food
- Create mechanisms that facilitate access to (alternative) resources like credit for alternative distribution systems or for farmers

3. Current systems of land use

- Reclaim industrial lands and urban spaces for food production such as community gardens
- Lobby local authorities for access to land
- Return “free” land in public hands and, make it accessible to small-scale farmers and gardeners
- Where it exists, oppose the patriarchal privilege of owning and inheriting land and strengthen women’s access to land
- Create a supportive legal framework for access to land for alternative farming systems

4. Relationships with universities and researchers by

- Linking research and education to Food Sovereignty, encouraging interdisciplinary research that studies the agrarian system as a whole and in the long term
- Promoting participatory research that includes communities of peasants, fishers, and farmers. Methodologies should involve consultations with all people in the food system and include the purpose of research, design, evaluation and dissemination of research. We also recommend creating a community council on research that includes farmers, workers and civil society.
- Developing relationships between schools, researchers, and food producers through activities such as study tours, network learning, online social networking,

publishing our own research priorities and engaging in collaborative research

- Promoting knowledge about research that demonstrates that small-scale ecological agriculture can feed the world (example: use IAASTD report)
- Promoting the implementation of the agreements of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)
- Advocating to expand funding and grants for research (particularly, participatory research) through:
 - Using taxes on fossil fuels / finance transactions for public research
 - Developing an ethical code to limit corporate research funding and/or creating an independent control council
 - Developing a new European fund for research and a pool of funds from NGOs and charities
 - Encouraging European exchange programmes such as Grundtvig and Leonardo
 - Fundraising through media and public events

5. Public policy to support the principles of Food Sovereignty

- Change the European Common Agriculture Policy by bringing Food Sovereignty principles into its implementation in terms of trade, right to food, seeds, model of production etc. and fair incomes including the creation of social conditionality for subsidies, protecting those for small-scale farmers
- Develop guidelines to protect farmers' markets
- Participate in the European sub-region of the autonomous Civil Society Mechanism of the UN Committee on World Food Security hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and lobby to include Food Sovereignty principles in the Global Strategic Framework
- Support the campaign for an International Tribunal on Land Grabbing
- Include agrarian reform policies and lobby in available spaces within FAO/EU
- Advocate for public policy to halt the tide of rural exodus, such as:
 - Improve working conditions for all, including migrants and small-scale farmers
 - Social standing – reclaiming farming as a respected profession
 - Rights of workers – including women, migrants – equality; rights to social security when needed
- Work on multiple policy levels to improve coherence of advocacy of, and linkages between, Food Sovereignty platforms at local, national, regional, European and global levels
- Join campaigns to reduce the power of WTO/IMF and oppose free trade agreements
- Document good practices in legislation that helps producers realise Food Sovereignty
- Encourage more participation of women and youth in development of policies

> RESIST

We will resist agro-industrial food systems being pushed by European and international institutions, policies and agribusiness corporations in Europe and other regions:

We will **RESIST**:

1. The industrial food system that destroys ecosystems, livelihoods and the environment

- Build information networks fighting aggressive advertisement invasion

2. National, European and global public policies that undermine Food Sovereignty

- Resist a reform of the Common Agriculture Policy that continues current power imbalances and an unsustainable food system
- Campaign to take agriculture out of the World Trade Organization

3. Expropriation of our Commons

- Reclaim land, territory, seeds and livestock breeds that provide our food
- Publicise transactions between corporations and governments and expose land-grabbing deals
- Support land occupations
- Join with others to keep food and agriculture out of the carbon, ecosystem services and biodiversity offset markets.

4. Proliferation of genetically modified seeds and foods and the spread of non-reproducible seeds

- Campaign against genetic and chemical contamination of our farms, gardens, fisheries and foods
- Join campaigns against biopiracy and laws, patents, contracts and use-restriction technologies that limit rights to save, use, exchange and sale of seeds by small-scale farmers and gardeners
- Unite with existing campaigns against the legalisation, development and use of genetically modified crops and livestock across Europe

5. Conversion of agricultural lands to grow crops for agrofuel production

- We will join campaigns against European Biofuels targets

6. Vertical integration of food supplies by agribusiness corporations, retailers and processors

- Challenge supermarket domination of our food supply and agribusiness domination of our production systems
- Oppose the creation of new supermarkets

7. Promotion of a food culture that promotes “cheap food” over sustainable, healthy and fair food through

- Educating children, youth and consumers about the damage caused by industrial foods
- Encouraging farmers to leave big farmers unions that support the industrialised agricultural model and break the dependency

8. The patriarchal structure and the exploitative nature of the dominant model of commodity production in Europe

9. The inhumanity of productivism

- We will fight against the social cutbacks happening throughout Europe
- We will actively oppose forced exodus and displacements of communities
- Oppose unfair labour practices that discriminate farmers, women, migrant workers and depress farmer livelihoods and contribute to rural exodus
- Support the struggle of migrant workers to realise their rights, and resist unfair treatment of migrants by national governments and legislatures as well as the European Commission

> BUILD

We will **BUILD** the European movement for Food Sovereignty through:

1. Taking actions to reinforce the global and European Food Sovereignty movement

Conference Follow-up

- Follow up Nyéléni Europe – Report booklet on Kreams forum
- Create Food Sovereignty follow-up meetings at national levels
- Organize European follow-up meeting – March 2012

Communication and Knowledge Sharing

- We will maintain and further develop the Nyéléni Europe website to increase exchange of information about our activities, events and actions

- We will develop information systems and tools across Europe to make our experiences more visible, inspire more people to join us and make our organizations stronger
- We will develop our education and learning systems and share knowledge and skills between ourselves and from generation to generation
- Create and share models of good practice
- Create a European database of Food Sovereignty projects, including alternative markets, networks, and local organizations
- Reinforce the existing European platforms of Community Supported Agriculture
- Organize thematic/interest group forums at European level, including defence of our Commons
- Continue to work together after the forum and share information and create opportunities to see each other again to ACT!

Alliances and networks

- We will create broad alliances across all sectors and levels of society
- Create Food Sovereignty platforms reinforcing alliances and networks by taking advantages of all opportunities (e.g. International Forums...)
- We will reinforce or create farmers organizations, especially in Eastern Europe
- Reinforce networks to support peasant/farmer seeds systems and to denounce GM contamination through actions, publicity, agribusiness protests
- Enhance the social movement for Food Sovereignty by creating alliances:
 - Between peasants/small-scale producers and young landless
 - Between migrants, unions and local communities to fight racism and to build trust
 - Between trade unions in different countries (both those representing food producers and migrant workers)
 - Between food producers and critical researchers
 - Between consumers and food producers/workers, especially workers, poor consumers and peasants/ small-scale producers
 - Between the Nyéléni Europe process and the European sub-regional Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
 - Between agrarian trade unions and citizens/community groups
 - Between local food cooperatives and labour
- Create communication channels within our movement and with other social movements (European and national levels) through face-to-face meetings between producers, consumers
- Create centralised information tools to find common solutions (through European networks or creating new software to facilitate this)
- Find natural alliances with supportive organizations in South / North / East / West: link with local food networks, Slow Food, Transition Towns and other initiatives

2. Building awareness about Food Sovereignty

Create opportunities for producers to learn about Food Sovereignty

- Offer intensive “camps” to teach about the principles of Food Sovereignty, agro-ecological production, and alternative models of production
- Invest in young farmers in the long-term; should be given priority by farmers networks and their unions

Develop programmes to teach youth about Food Sovereignty

- Farmer seminars to teach others about ecological production
- Create access to small farms for children and youth
- Create curricula and programmes for use in schools

Ensure gender and social equality in agricultural education

Increase public awareness of Food Sovereignty through media and events

- Create public awareness of economic, ecological, social and health impacts of current food systems through information campaigns and direct action
- Use innovative communication and social mobilisation tools to create education and awareness around regaining knowledge about food production, processing and cooking
- Expand media and presswork to enhance awareness about CAP reform and Food Sovereignty and initiate campaigns explaining how public policies affect individuals, such as, “What does the Common Agricultural Policy mean to me?”
- Raise awareness in Western Europe about the situation in Eastern Europe
- Centralize information, translate into language of migrant workers

3. Plan and implement events around Food Sovereignty

- Organize a Nyéléni Europe festival, with producers, food, farming and cultural programs
- Provide constant support on direct action e.g. land occupation, workers strikes, ...support European Seeds Campaigns, participate in regional events such as day of action against supermarkets
- Support the Water Forum FAME in March 2012 in Marseille
- Organise a week of action across Europe to celebrate World Food Sovereignty Day (16 October) and Day of the Peasant Struggle (17 April). Organise local festivals in all of our local communities that are connected through Nyéléni Europe

FINAL WORD

Nyeléni Europe 2011 forum for food sovereignty was a landmark event in our collective purpose to realise food sovereignty in Europe.

We deepened our understanding about the food system in Europe and reflected on the changes we want to see and the barriers to achieving these changes.

We exchanged many experiences in the participatory and interactive workshops, side events and informal meetings at the Forum.

We formed strong links and resilient alliances between organizations across the whole of Europe from the Urals to the Atlantic, from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean.

We shared actions that we are taking in our own communities and countries.

We committed to actions across Europe:

- We will **transform** our food systems in Europe and reclaim community control.
- We will **resist** the expansion of agro-industrial food systems in Europe and other regions.
- We will **build** our movement for Food Sovereignty across Europe.

*We call for
Food Sovereignty
in Europe Now!*

ANNEXES



1. Field Day Report

On Friday, 19th of August, the participants in the Nyéléni Europe Forum 2011 had the possibility to join one of 14 offered excursions. As not all destinations received enough registrations, ten excursions finally took place. For the Field Day, the organization team chose institutions, farms and companies dealing with the topic of food sovereignty or supporting it through their work. For the participants it was a chance to get to know local initiatives and the surroundings of Krems.

Five excursion destinations were located directly in the city of Krems or a bit outside, but within walking distance:

- Evi-Naturkost is an organic food store with a huge supply of regional organic food: 50 different sorts of bread and bakery, cheese, meat, fish, marmalade, tea, herbs, etc.
- Nikolaihof: The Saahs family is running a bio-dynamic farm with vineyards, without the use of any pesticides, herbicides or artificial fertilizers. They are using herbal medicine for the farm. They gave an insight in their way of agriculture and provided a selection of their wines for tasting.
- Ecological and botanical hiking tour around Krems: Easy walk to a hillside near Krems with explanations of the geology, botany and climate of the region. Wonderful view over the Danube and the area surrounding Krems.
- Guided City Tour through Krems: Walk through the city of Krems.
- Resch Bauernladen: This farmers' shop offers a huge variety of products: fresh and processed meats, smoked meat, milk products, vegetables, fruit, bread, pastries, cider, honey, tea, herbs, and other items. 90 % of the products are produced in the region. There was a tour through the store, a presentation of the farm of the shop's owner Hermann Resch and a tasting of the products.

The other destinations were outside of Krems in the neighbouring villages and cities and thus buses were organized to get there:

- Organic Farmers' Cooperative BerSta has evolved from interaction between urban consumers and innovative farmers. The goal was to create a stable market for organic products from the remote region of Waldviertel and to create access to these products for conscious urban consumers. To ensure good relationships between producers and consumers and fair prices for all, BerSta was founded in 1980 as the first organic farmers' cooperative in Austria. The participants got to know the farm of Franz Dietl, member of BerSta, and heard an introduction to the concept by Anton Rohrmoser, member of BerSta board. Furthermore, a snack was provided.
- Lechner – Waldviertel Carpentry in Gföhl: The Lechner family is using the golden ratio in all the planning in their carpentry. All materials are natural, no synthetic paint or chipboard is used. Only wood that is treated with wax or oil is processed. There was a presentation of the carpentry and its way of work.
- Waldlandhof in the region Waldviertel is the centre of the Waldland-organization, which is a production and processing cooperative and a network that brings consumers and producers together. Right now 750 farmers are part of this organization. Every year new crops are planted and tested by the members of the organization. There was a tour through the processing sites with insights into different branches of the cooperative with explanations of Waldland's history and development.
- Zwettler Brewery: The philosophy of the private brewery has three main principles: conservation of autonomy in all areas that concern the taste of the beer, strong commitment to the region and its people and striving for sustainability. There was a tour through the brewery and a presentation of each procedure – from the first step to the finished beer which has also been tasted.
- Arche Noah in Schiltern was established in 1990 on the initiative of heirloom - gardeners, farmers and journalists, concerned with the future of seeds and heirloom varieties. Arche Noah responds to the loss of agro-biodiversity with a positive vision and numerous activities. The garden is located in the famous valley of the River Kamp not far from the City of Krems/Donau, in a small town called Schiltern. Through the beautiful wrought-iron gate the participants entered a formal baroque garden - today home to hundreds of rare cultural plants grown organically. There was a tour through the garden and the archive of varieties and a discussion in the end.
- Göttweig Monastery of the Benedictines is situated at 449 m above sea level at the edge of the Danube valley called Wachau. The Wachau is part of the world cultural heritage and is being visited by many guests every year for its natural beauty. The monastery is also a spiritual centre with a community of 45 Benedictine monks. The first buildings were erected in 1083, the baroque splendour was developed around 1720 following the plans of the emperor's architect Johann

Lucas von Hildebrand. The monastery offers a wonderful view over the Danube valley, an exhibition about the Wachau, about monastery life and a monumental staircase with impressive frescos.

2. Fair of Ideas

In order to present the Forum's objectives and initiatives to a wider public, the Austrian organizers prepared a so-called "Fair of Ideas". It took place on Friday, the 19th on the Market place in Krems. Visitors from the Krems region could inform themselves about a wide variety of ideas and practical applications of food sovereignty. The forum participants enjoyed the extra opportunity to exchange experiences and to network.

The Fair started with a manifestation which was accompanied by samba drums and halted in front of several supermarkets to protest against the power of supermarkets in our food system. The Fair of Ideas itself offered a colourful programme of interactive stalls, street entertainment, exhibitions, films, live music and regional specialties; including exchange of seeds, food tastings and the traditional method of buttering in a wooden barrel. Collective farm projects, CSA projects (Community Supported Agriculture) and food co-ops introduced themselves. On the eve a group of „Dumpsters“ had collected discarded food from containers from the supermarkets. This food had been heaped on the market place in a large pile. The same afternoon, a group started a community garden in Krems - a living relic of the Nyéléni Forum.

3. Místicas

Each morning, all participants gathered to see a 'mística' presented by one of the constituencies at the forum. These short plays performed outside or in the plenary hall lasted a few minutes. They conveyed messages of significance to the group.

Wednesday, 17th

Four people from a young people's farming collective, Mai Mun, located in the south of Austria told the story of how peasants' seeds are stolen by corporations and how peasants could recover their heritage and rights to their seeds, defeating the corporate menace. They used juggling with corn cobs, stilts, a huge puppet and clowns.

Thursday, 18th

The youth showed a practice that has recently been used by young, often landless European farmers – the Kata de la Hou. Kata is a martial technique that comes from the Culture of Shaolin – and is being practiced with different tools. The Kata de la Hou originated in Geneva where it was used during the occupation of 3 ha of land on the International Day of Peasant Struggle on the 17th of April 2011. It is now used as a symbol for the fight for farmers' rights.

Saturday, 20th

Women at the Forum showed the international sun-moon or moon-sun opera. The play put the audience into an active role. Together, the actors and participants, showed the rise and fall of patriarchy. Mythical symbols such as sun and moon were used. Ancient songs were chanted together to show the potential of female resistance and unity.

Sunday, 21st

The final day began with the farmers' *mística*. Seeds were spread all over the hall. During the *mística*, the delegations of every country presented songs from their country. It was a great moment of sharing before all the people left Krems to bring all the experiences from the Forum back home to their movements.

4. 'People's Kitchen' Report

Thinking back on our food action in Krems I still get a pretty good feeling, not only because of the fact that everybody seemed to like our food, but also because of other points, which maybe weren't so obvious to people on the outside. This here is a small glimpse behind those pots and pans filled with red beet root risotto and fried polenta.

First of all, we didn't have any or very little experience cooking together, especially in such big quantities. Some of us had been cooking for 50 or 1000 people, during the anti-Nazi blockades in Dresden or at the climate camp in Copenhagen with tear gas and riot cops spicing up the meals. But we weren't a group of experienced cooks that had been doing actions like these together. Thus there was some anxiety whether the three of us who organized a lot in the beginning would automatically find themselves in a chief position. Every "normal" big kitchen is organized in a very hierarchical way but our goal was to try it the other way but our goal was to try it the other way around. No chief, self-organization and lots of communication would be the main ingredients for our kitchen set-up. Of course we had no idea whether it would work out but we had to give it a try since we didn't want to be one of those males standing there in the middle of the kitchen

yelling and shouting at everybody. And it did work out. Everybody took responsibility for some meals, for the cleaning up, for the organizing and so on. It was really nice to see how a group of inexperienced idealists grew into a pretty professional people's kitchen making more than 1500 portions a day without anybody calling him- or herself the brain behind all this. On the other side every single one of us very much appreciated and also needed all those applauses, thank yous and standing ovations for the food we made.

Another important thing that maybe wasn't so obvious was the fact that we didn't see ourselves as a service station but as part of this movement towards food sovereignty and autonomous food production. Most of us cooks are in some way or the other linked to the active scene of agrarian activists here in Austria and also for us the Nyéléni Europe Forum was a possibility to network, to refresh contacts and to see what is going on in other countries. The kitchen was our way of supporting a political concept in our own very practical and radical way. No Food – No Fight!

And even more it was great to get almost all of our food supplies from regional, small-scale farms. This was food sovereignty in action. Or can you imagine a better way of practicing all those theories in the course of one week?



Six Pillars of Food Sovereignty



1. Focuses on Food for People

Food sovereignty puts people, including those who are hungry, under occupation, in conflict zones and marginalized, at the centre of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries policies, ensuring sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples and communities; and rejects the proposition that food is just another commodity or component for international agri-business.

2. Values Food Providers

Food sovereignty values and supports the contributions, and respects the rights, of women and men, peasants and small scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food; and rejects those policies, actions and programmes that undervalue them, threaten their livelihoods and eliminate them.

3. Localises Food Systems

Food sovereignty brings food providers and consumers closer together; puts providers and consumers at the centre of decision-making on food issues; protects food providers from the dumping of food and food aid in local markets; protects consumers from poor quality and unhealthy food, inappropriate food aid and food tainted with genetically modified organisms; and resists governance structures, agreements and practices that depend on and promote unsustainable and inequitable international trade and give power to remote and unaccountable corporations.

4. Puts Control Locally

Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations on local food providers and respects their rights. They can use and share them in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity; it recognizes that local territories often cross geopolitical borders and ensures the right of local communities to inhabit and use their territories; it promotes positive interaction between food providers in different regions and territories and from different sectors that helps resolve internal conflicts or conflicts with local and national authorities; and rejects the privatisation of natural resources through laws, commercial contracts and intellectual property rights regimes.

5. Builds Knowledge and Skills

Food sovereignty builds on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their local organisations that conserve, develop and manage localised food production and harvesting systems, developing appropriate research systems to support this and passing on this wisdom to future generations; and rejects technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, e.g. genetic engineering.

6. Works with Nature

Food sovereignty uses the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agroecological production and harvesting methods that maximise the contribution of ecosystems and improve resilience and adaptation, especially in the face of climate change; it seeks to heal the planet so that the planet may heal us; and, rejects methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures and livestock factories, destructive fishing practices and other industrialised production methods, which damage the environment and contribute to global warming.