



**2<sup>nd</sup> NYÉLÉNI EUROPE FORUM FOR  
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY  
26-30 OCTOBER 2016, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

**It's all about building a big inspiring  
Food Sovereignty Movement in Europe**

## **The Nyéléni Europe Movement**

The Nyéléni Europe Movement brings together farmers, fishers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, NGOs, trade unions, environmental, development, research and Justice/Solidarity/Human Rights Organizations, community-based food movements and others, to enhance existing food sovereignty initiatives and strengthen our work at local, national, regional and global levels.

## **Its background**

The landmark international Nyéléni 2007 Forum for Food Sovereignty in Mali included the participation of 500 representatives from food producer, consumer and environmental movements from around the world. It was the springboard for the global Food Sovereignty movement. At this Forum six principles and the Nyéléni Declaration were adopted. This was followed by a European Nyéléni Forum in 2011 that was held in Krems, Austria, where the [Nyéléni Europe Declaration](#) and an action plan were agreed upon. In February 2015, the same movements also participated in the International Forum for Agroecology in the Nyéléni centre in Mali, and contributed to its Declaration. These documents provide the political basis of the movement and clarify what it stands for, and what it opposes.

These global and regional meetings have led to increasing numbers of people engaging in the transformation of the dominant food and agriculture system, resisting the agro-industrial model of production and consumption, and building the Food Sovereignty Movement in Europe and worldwide.

The three keywords in the plans of action are still cherished:

**Transform! Resist! Build!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Nyéléni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty will be organised around 5 thematic axes, and oriented towards 4 goals:

## The focus of our work in the Forum: 5 thematic axes

1. Changing how food is produced and consumed
2. Changing how food is distributed
3. Valuing work and improving social conditions in food & agricultural systems
4. Reclaiming the right to natural resources and the Commons
5. Changing public policies governing our food and agricultural systems.

## Key goals of the Forum

### 1. Experience sharing

- Ensure an inclusive space for the exchange of good practices, skills and experiences within our movement, from community to pan-European levels, based on the main thematic axes.
- Map existing initiatives.

### 2. Build on a common understanding of Food Sovereignty in Europe

- Ensure space for assessing, discussing, identifying differences in our movement and building consensus.
- Create a space for identifying the opportunities and challenges facing our movement.

### 3. Develop a Strategy and Action Plan to strengthen and enlarge the Food Sovereignty movement in Europe

- Increase linkages and convergences among different on-going struggles and constituencies within our movement.
- Build concrete collective alternatives to the industrial model of production and consumption.
- Create projects, campaigns, initiatives, strategies and action plans around thematic axes and across constituencies – from local to pan-European levels.
- Increase our visibility: reach out to people, the public, policy makers and to the global food sovereignty movement.
- Inspire and motivate people and organizations from all constituencies, age groups and regions to join our movement with increased focus on the mobilization of Eastern European initiatives.
- Develop a working structure to maintain and ensure the continuity of our collective work after the Forum.

### 4. Influence and advocate for policies that support Food Sovereignty in Europe

- Struggle for structural change on food and agriculture policies in the wider framework of Food Sovereignty.
- Ensure that European and national policies that influence food and agriculture contribute to the fulfilment of human rights as well as social and climate justice at global level.
- Contextualise our movement in the framework of the global social movements and the global food governance agenda.

**The Nyéléni Europe Preparatory Process and Forum are based on the key values of trust, transparency and participation, as well as equity and respect for all peoples and identities**

## Preparatory Process – Let’s get involved!

The preparatory process leading up to the Nyéléni Europe Forum and the involvement of all those who are active in the Food Sovereignty Movement in Europe are key to ensuring the success of the Forum. There are different ways for you to become part of the process/movement:

- **Get involved in a general way:** if you are interested in the preparatory process or just want to know more, you can sign up for the Newsletter and further information here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDSN82K>
- **Help build the national delegations:** some 700 - 1000 participants who work on food sovereignty, from the entire pan-European area of 42 countries, will come together in Cluj-Napoca. In order to ensure balance among delegates, representative of all those who are involved in food and agriculture across Europe, participation in the Forum will be organised on the basis of a quota system for the various constituencies. This will include gender balance. There will be a limit to the size of national delegations.
  - If you are already involved in the Food Sovereignty movement, then get engaged in the national preparatory process, or through your constituency. Focal points will be defined in each country. If you are interested in being a focal point, please contact [info@nyelenieurope.net](mailto:info@nyelenieurope.net)
  - Delegations will be composed in a balanced way:
    - ONE THIRD food producers
    - ONE THIRD “youth” (<35 years of age)
    - Equal gender balance between women and men
  - The idea is for all constituencies to be represented at the Forum and in the process:
    - Food producers: farmers/peasants, fishers, pastoralists, urban gardeners, Indigenous Peoples (where applicable)
    - Workers: agricultural and food workers, migrant workers, trade unions.
    - Environmental, Food, Health, Development and Justice/Solidarity/Human Rights NGOs
    - Youth organizations
    - Women’s organizations
    - Organised consumers (e.g. Community Supported Agriculture), urban poor
    - Others...artists, teachers, researchers etc.
  - Size of the delegations
    - The number per delegation has not yet been agreed but it will be limited and will vary between 10 – 30 people per delegation.
- **Hold preparatory meetings and discussions**
  - Organise discussions, forums, meetings, locally or nationally. These will feed into the content of the Forum itself, and also help to build stronger working links for the future.
  - Build and (re)organize the Nyéléni process in your area and contact other regional and national initiatives to (re)connect with those working on food sovereignty and agroecology in your country. **Together we can make a difference!**
  - Organise fundraising at national level, to contribute – according to capacity – to the cost of participation and if possible to the general budget of the Forum.
- **Participate in the Working Groups to help organise the Forum**
  - There is an existing coordination committee and five working groups (task team, communications, methodology, finance and logistics). The coordination committee reflects a balance between the different constituencies. All working groups are open to anyone who wants to get involved.

**For any enquiries or proposals, you are welcome to contact [info@nyelenieurope.net](mailto:info@nyelenieurope.net)**

In solidarity,

**The Nyéléni Europe Coordination Committee:**

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Ludwig Rumetshofer	<i>ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria</i>
Jyoti Fernandes,	<i>European Coordination Via Campesina</i>
Natalia Laino and Maria Pombal	<i>World Forum of Fisher People</i>
Polina Shulbaeva	<i>The Resource Center for Indigenous People</i>
Svetlana Boincean	<i>International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)</i>
Judith Hitchman and Jocelyn Parot	<i>Urgenci Community Supported Agriculture Network</i>
Mariam Jorjadze and Elene Shatberashvili	<i>The Biological Farming Association Elkana</i>
Nele Marien and Stanka Becheva	<i>Friends of the Earth Europe</i>
Brigitte Reisenberger	<i>FIAN European Sections and Coordinations</i>
Carla Weinzierl	<i>European Attac Network</i>
Sylvia Kay	<i>Transnational Institute (TNI)</i>
Fernando Garcia Dory	<i>European Shepherds' Network</i>

For additional information:

[www.nyelenieurope.net](http://www.nyelenieurope.net)

[www.nyeleni.org](http://www.nyeleni.org)

[www.foodsovereignty.org/forum-agroecology-nyeleni-2015](http://www.foodsovereignty.org/forum-agroecology-nyeleni-2015)