



## **Terra Madre Nordic 2018**

### **Slow Food in the Nordic Countries – Vision for the Future**

The Nordic countries, populations, and people responsible for this declaration include Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sápmi, and Sweden.

The Nordic countries and people share a common cultural understanding and heritage, forged over thousands of years. We share strong democratic values and traditions, strong social welfare systems, gender equality, and sustainable development. Also, because most of the Nordic countries are sparsely populated and many areas are on the fringe of the habitable world, resourcefulness and specific innovations are necessary for survival.

Our countries are fortunate and highly developed: We have a wealth of resources, a high level of education, and the number of men and women working outside the household is the highest in the world. But with this fortune comes responsibility, as these facts also affect our food culture.

We face many challenges in the context of the industrialized agro-food industry, including the general decline of artisanal food production; the exploitation of our seas through mining and sea dumping; unsustainable fishing practices; the fact that fewer people cook at home; the unfortunate reality that most children are not taught about food, where it comes from, how the food system impacts the environment, and the importance of seasonality; and the loss of pleasure, conviviality, and happiness connected to eating.

The New Nordic Food Manifesto (which shares many values with Slow Food) was formulated in 2004 by some of the greatest chefs in the Nordic region, who wanted purity, seasonality, ethics, health, sustainability, and quality back as key values in the Nordic kitchen. In 2005 the Nordic Council of Ministers adopted the manifesto as the ideology of the New Nordic Food program. This has already had a powerful impact on determining a specifically Nordic approach to food, has strengthened the image of Nordic food culture globally, and has reinforced our own understanding of our heritage and the future of our food system.

Slow Food in the Nordic Countries believes that we can and must create a more sustainable food system in the Nordic region, based on craftsmanship and quality, integrating science and traditional knowledge, and focusing on a set of shared values about consumption and food

education in order to create better-informed consumers and help all of us make good, clean and fair choices every day in regards to food. We can easily build on the success of the Ny Nordisk Mad program and go further in implementing Slow Food values that are now a visible part of many food systems being developed around the world.

These values are shared amongst a wide range of consumers, producers, restaurateurs, cooks, chefs, food professionals, institutions, and organizations, across the Nordic region, who identify with the Slow Food philosophy.

**The mission for our network is to:**

- Be a political partner in decisions concerning food policy in the Nordic countries and take part in working groups and commissions where Slow Food values are important to the consequences of decision making;
- Increase the focus on traditional knowledge, varieties, breeds, and biodiversity on land and in the waters;
- Increase the focus on innovative, sustainable solutions and foods, while staying connected to the land and our natural resources;
- Increase the focus on craftsmanship and enhance existing traditions in food production to create good, clean and fair food products;
- Increase the focus on seasonality and locality by educating consumers and retailers;
- Eliminate or reduce the consumption of unsustainably produced meat and eggs, showcasing alternatives with a focus on animal welfare, among other things;
- Eliminate or reduce the consumption of unsustainably farmed fish, highlighting fishing methods and communities that have less impact on the environment;
- Preserve and respect our oceans—by 2050 there will be, by weight, more plastic in the seas than fish. Micro- and nanoplastics are a risk to human health due to the release of chemical substances along the food web of which we are part. Without knowing it, we are eating plastic and we still don't fully know its effects on human health;
- Support initiatives and producers working with good, clean and fair food, since they are the basis of rural and local development;
- Support education, research, and innovation activities on sustainable food systems, biodiversity, and a circular economy;
- Demand a precise plan of action to activate local and rural development through the strengthening of farmers' and small-scale producers' activities, including the maintenance of social structures and local institutions (schools, health services, associations, and more);
- Engage in local networks, associations, and initiatives: By creating community and engaging in decision-making processes, we can be part of the change we want to see!

**Plan for Slow Food in the Nordic Countries:**

- Organize Terra Madre Nordic every 2 years.
- Have Nordic representation at Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2018.
- Have a common Nordic membership and support structure for recruiting, managing, and maintaining a larger group of supporters across the Nordic region.

### **Practical Goals for the Future:**

- Establish a Nordic Slow Food office in one of the Nordic countries within the next 3 years.
- Re-establish a Nordic Slow Food board and leadership.
- Develop projects and partnerships with other organizations, and fundraising activities with both public and private entities.
- Hold a meeting of the Slow Food Nordic network at least once a year, and forge smaller networks or task forces on particular issues in order to work more fluidly.

We must remember that modern scientific knowledge on its own is insufficient, and that the foods, crops, animal breeds, practices, and traditional knowledge that have developed over centuries are absolutely necessary for guaranteeing food security, safety, sovereignty, and food citizenship.

We envision a food system, from pre-production to post-consumption, that reflects our Nordic values of modernity, innovation, sustainability, and environmentalism, as well as our keenness for quality and aesthetics. We want to be proud of all Nordic food and share the stories and examples of great Nordic products and producers, as well as enlightened and conscious consumers. Slow Food can help us to achieve these goals and we can help Slow Food to achieve the goal of good, clean and fair food for everyone, everywhere.