

# YOUTH STATEMENT

**On behalf of conference participants from:  
Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Estonia**

We, the youth of the Nordic-Baltic region, are dedicated to nurturing a sustainable food culture that celebrates our rich heritage and paves the way for a healthier future for all. We would like to suggest that our collaboration focus on the following key areas:

With regard to education, we would like to suggest the following: We would like to propose the implementation of educational programmes in schools, with the aim of teaching students about sustainable food practices, the history of Nordic food culture and the importance of reducing food waste. We hope that by integrating these topics into our curriculum, we can help cultivate a generation that values sustainability and understands the impact of their food choices.

We, the youth of the Nordic-Baltic region, ( call for immediate action.) are not just passive recipients of policies, but active advocates for change. We are committed to promoting sustainable food policies and practices at the local and regional levels. By raising our voices and working with policymakers, we hope (look forward) to contribute significantly to the creation of a supportive environment for sustainable food systems. (We suggest that governmental bodies begin implementing incentive structures in agriculture to promote sustainable food production and consumption and to disincentivize ecologically harmful food production and consumption)

We would like to suggest that local food and marketplaces could be beneficial. We would like to encourage the use of local food and support local marketplaces with the aim of reducing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation. We believe that by giving priority to locally sourced products, we can play a part in strengthening our communities and promoting environmental sustainability.

It would be remiss of us not to consider the historical perspective. We will endeavour to gain insight into the historical aspects of Nordic-Baltic Food Culture, with a view to understanding its evolution and how traditional practices might inform modern sustainable habits. By learning from the past, we can develop innovative solutions that respect our cultural heritage.

We believe that fostering critical thinking among young people about their food choices (consumption habits) and the broader impact of these choices on the environment is an important step towards becoming more responsible (and informed) consumers (citizens).

We want to suggest that we look into ways of reducing waste and composting/recycling it. We would like to suggest that we promote practices such as composting, with a view to reducing food waste and enhancing soil health (fertility). We believe that by adopting these practices, we can contribute to the development of a more sustainable and circular food system.

We would be grateful for the involvement of experts from the school community, who could provide valuable insights and practical knowledge on sustainable food practices. By leveraging their expertise, we can ensure that our initiatives are based on the best available practices and scientific knowledge. (A comprehensive understanding of ecology is crucial to drive behaviour change and adaptation.)

By focusing on these areas, we hope to empower (empower) people to become advocates for a sustainable food culture and responsible consumption and to contribute (to participate in the creation of a) to a healthier and more sustainable future for all. Together, we can make a difference and play a role in leading the way towards a more sustainable world.

Done in Ribe on September 24rd 2024

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