

## EATING CITY – FOOD WAVE SUMMER CAMPUS DECLARATION 2022

We are young people from across the world. We hold a wide range of perspectives: we are chefs, farmers, gastronomists, lawyers, nutritionists, entrepreneurs, students and researchers in environmental, food and social sciences, urban planning, economics, and communication. We share a passion and concern for our food systems, and acknowledge an urgent need for a paradigm shift – but we are full of hope.

### PART 1: THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Our current food system is deeply broken; and threatens us with tightly connected and mutually codependent challenges. There is a close link between: (a) the ecological crisis threatening food systems; (b) the rising number of people suffering from starvation and malnutrition due to unequal food distribution; (c) unethical and unsustainable food production in which millions of animals are slaughtered every day and nature is depleted of its regeneration capacity, soils are corrupted by chemicals, and water is acidified; (d) the exploitation of farmers who struggle to keep their land, their seeds, and earn a decent living; (e) the expulsion of indigenous peoples and minorities from land on the false basis that we need to increase food production, (f) the inequalities faced by women; (g) the epidemic of food-related health issues derived from a loss of food diversity in our diets, often combined with ultra-processed food; (h) and inadmissible levels of food waste. What bridges all these issues is our current anthropocentric and profit-driven economic model which, framed by biased legal institutions and geared towards unlimited growth, has led to unprecedented and detrimental concentration of power.

### PART 2: OUR VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

Acknowledging all these problems and their mutual connections, we believe the current globalized, chemical-based, and industrialized food system that keeps failing to deliver culturally appropriate and healthy food for all, while damaging our planet and foreclosing a sustainable future for the generations to come, must leave the stage in favor of the emergence of more territorial, inclusive, and democratic food systems. Despite their differences of geographies, sizes, and cultures, they all share specific common features: agroecology as a **sustainable** and **regenerative** agricultural practice; close and **trust-based relations** between **producers** and **consumers**; low levels of **food loss and waste**; ethically oriented use of science and scientific knowledge in tune with the needs of civil society as a whole; high level of **gender equality**; food sovereignty and **food democracy** as the leading principles for inclusivity and cooperation among all stakeholders of the food system. These food systems are the ongoing materialization of a

paradigmatic shift from an anthropocentric and exploitative approach to food to a more ecocentric and regenerative relation within the web of life.

### **PART 3: THE EATING CITY FOOD AMBASSADOR NETWORK PACT**

Because of all these pressing issues, our profound commitment to tackle them, and our strong belief in the need for fostering and spreading the development of alternative, localized, inclusive, and ecological food systems we, the Eating City youth, are hereby creating the *Eating City Ambassador Network*, a democratic and inclusive platform aimed at supporting each other, individually and collectively, in achieving this transformation. To this goal, the Eating City Ambassador Network will pursue four main objectives:

Research and Education: carry out collective research on specific issues related to the food system and the public food sector; share knowledge and skills between members; organize internal educational programs such as webinars and courses inviting food experts;

Information and communication: spread information about food and food systems issues, while raising awareness regarding possible solutions to tackle these multiple problems by updating our website page, developing a blog and posting regularly on social media accounts;

Individual and collective support: since the network consists of young scholars and professionals each involved in improving their community food system, the Network will serve as a platform ensuring mutual support (in form of skills, knowledges, expertise, etc.) among its members;

The Yearly Project: collectively devise one project to carry out throughout the year aiming at fostering one of the three objectives mentioned above to increase the strength and reach of the Eating City Ambassador Network.

The Eating City Ambassador Network is a network open to and welcoming all those young people around the world who would like to empower and get empowered by other young people in their attempt to transform their local food system to ensure a healthier, more sustainable and just world for themselves and the generations to come.