



FOODNECTED

What should the food systems of the future look like?

In addition to shaping our culture, food is a fundamental aspect of nutritional security and represents an important source of income and employment, supporting livelihoods in many regions. However, factors such as the intensification of production, the concentration of the food sector in fewer hands, or the marketing and distribution of a reduced number of varieties, have led to poor resource management and environmentally damaging production methods. All these aspects affect our health and the health of ecosystems and, at the same time, lead to the loss of traditional knowledge and community resilience.

Future food systems must incorporate social relations of production, trade and consumption patterns that provide healthy diets and ultimately determine fair and sustainable practices around these pillars:



Food sovereignty

Fair and sustainable food systems must ensure access to sufficient food of high nutritional quality, while meeting dietary needs and food preferences.

Fair price

Access to food should generate fair economic returns along the supply chain and should foster the resilience of small-scale producer communities. The supply chain should be short, traceable and transparent.

Fair and inclusive access to resources

Fair and sustainable food systems depend on mechanisms that guarantee small-scale producers access to land, freshwater and marine resources, regardless of gender, race or age.

Promote social cohesion

In addition to being inclusive, fair and sustainable food systems must foster new governance that involves and holds all local stakeholders accountable, so that communities can exercise greater control over the resources on which they depend, especially for their food production, and that makes the role of women visible and attracts the younger generations.

Low environmental impact

Fair and sustainable food systems must be based on small scale, low input production systems, that follow seasonality; they must do no harm to and preserve and restore land, freshwater and marine resources; they must respect animal health and welfare; they must help mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts; they must avoid biodiversity loss and food waste; they must take into account the interconnectivity of ecosystems.

Culturally acceptable

Fair and sustainable food systems must preserve local and traditional knowledge that respects the balances of nature, while promoting innovation, creativity and social entrepreneurship.



“ ***What we have to learn, we have to learn by doing.*** ”

-Aristotle

In this context, Foodnected emerges as a space where different small-scale producers in the Mediterranean region can come together and design the food systems of the future. This space is to be defined through an overarching community of practice (CoP).

By definition, a CoP is an organised group of people who share the same interests in resolving a complex issue, coordinating and sharing approaches, improving skills and learning from each other's experiences. It is an approach to learning that focuses on people and the social relationships and structures that allow them to learn together.

The Foodnected CoP encompasses a diverse and complementary set of stakeholders from short value chains: networks of small-scale producers, fishers and farmers, Community Supported Fisheries (CSF) and Agriculture (CSA) schemes, seafood and farmers markets, chefs alliances, consumers, multidisciplinary scientists, NGOs, and other initiatives such as networks of rural women and women in fisheries.

The diversity of actors involved in Foodnected will allow the CoP to:

Set the stage

Define and agree a set of shared core values that will represent the approach to local, sustainable, and fair food systems; validate a set of tools and guidelines to monitor the implementation of these core values and act as an endorsement or peer-to-peer guarantee body.

Communicate and showcase

Through a specific website and an evolving communication strategy, Foodnected will provide greater visibility to the initiatives of its members, informing the local population and eventually allowing them to buy local, healthy and sustainable food at a fair price.

Share knowledge among professionals

Scale-up experiences, best practices and technologies among short supply chain actors to make them available to a wider audience and to ease transfer of knowledge among professionals.

Co-develop solutions to common challenges

Support and enhance collaboration and synergies among professionals to address common challenges collectively, through replicable solutions that can influence policy areas.




Empower

ultimately the Foodnected CoP will be a network of like minded producers, consumers, and initiatives that place people rather than organizations and corporations in the driving seat of food systems transformations.

Governance structure

Three main groups of actors will be responsible for the governance of Foodnected CoP: members of the CoP; the secretariat/coordination team; the review board.

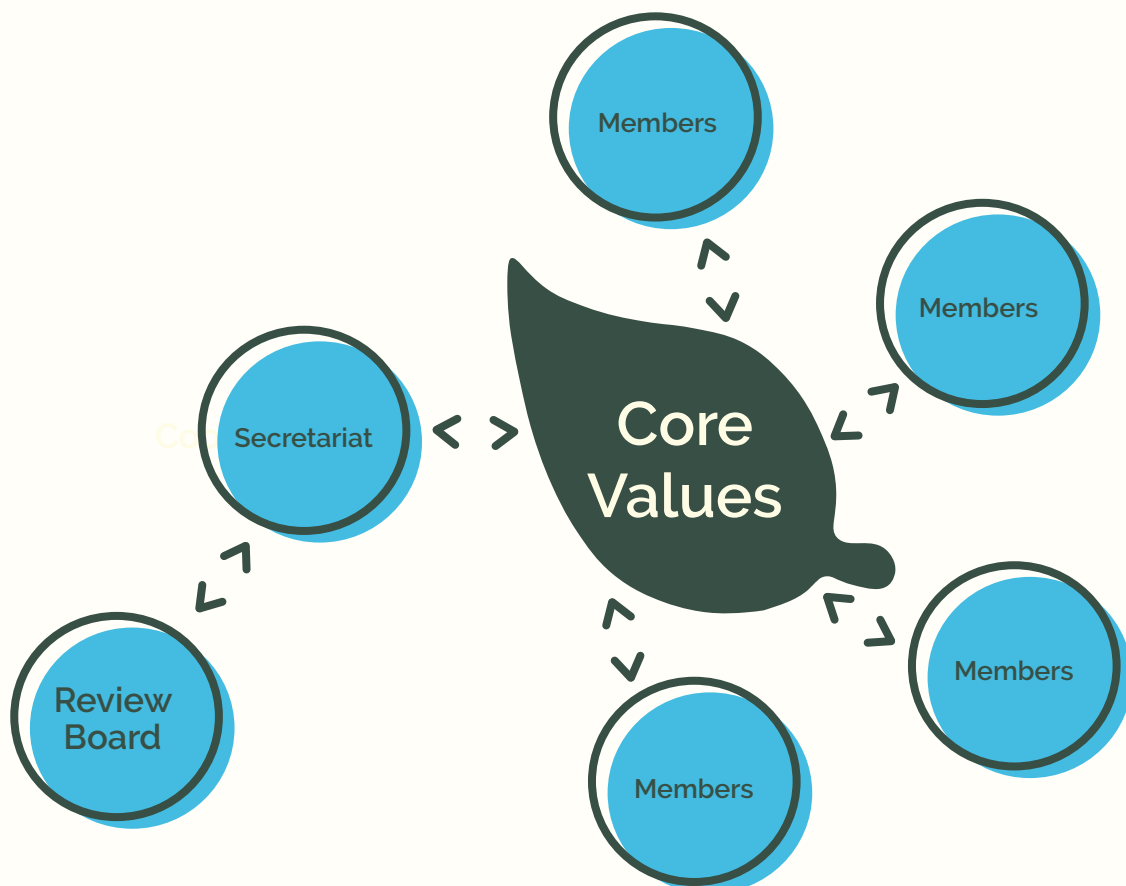
Members of CoP, stakeholders from short value chains (small-scale producers, CSA and CSF schemes, chefs, etc) and other relevant actors such as networks, multidisciplinary scientists, NGOs, and the alike will:

-  adopt the core values identified by Foodnected and adapt them to their priorities and context for actual implementation, by using the COP developed tools
-  co-develop short-chain solutions
-  favor collaboration among professionals and exchange of info (best practices, new ideas)

■ **The Review Board (RB)** will be composed by representatives from the associated partners, partner networks, and other identified food sustainability experts. The RB will provide feedback and guidance to the secretariat to ensure that approaches and strategies proposed by Foodnected are scientifically sound, and will provide technical expertise when needed.

■ **The secretariat** will be composed by Slow Food, LIFE, Global Footprint Network, and GOB Menorca and will act as a bridge between the overall CoP and the review board. The main duties will be:

- dynamise the CoP, connect diverse members (i.e., favor exchange of info among CoPs), and increase the community
- promote connection of stakeholders in the value chain for the creation of CoP at local level, favouring the replication of the local model elsewhere
- simplify the scientific language
- seek board feedback on community-raised issues
- help gather scientific evidences in support of the best practices
- communicate and promote CoP work outside Foodnected
- infuse external knowledge in the CoP
- make practices and technologies available to a wider audience (via website)



What you can do

Foodnected aims to promote the connection of people and nature around local, fair and sustainable food systems; for that, we seek to facilitate interaction among its members and to complement knowledge management through the exchange of information in a simple, open and moderately coordinated environment. If that resonates with you, join the Foodnected community!

Visit our website and follow the indications to register.

www.foodnected.org

Project Partners:



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