



The Right to Food Sovereignty

Public Peasant Consultation

24 April, starting at 11:30 am

At the Conference Center of the National Statistics Institute of Romania
(Libertății Bvd., no. 16, sector 5, Bucharest)

INVITATION:

Eco Rurális Association together with partners, have the pleasure to invite you to the **Conference for The Right to Food Sovereignty – public peasant consultation** – on 24 April, 2016, starting at 11:30 am, at the Conference Center of the National Statistics Institute of Romania (Libertății Bvd., no. 16, sector 5, Bucharest).

It will be the first time that Romania hosts a Food Sovereignty event, putting peasants in the center of decisions for the future of farming and food.

The program of the conference has the format of a public consultation, based on issues of peasants' rights to resources. The program will be structured in 4 sessions, as it follows: a) Food Sovereignty; b) The Right to Land; c) The Right to Seeds; d) The Right to Markets. Every session will be introduced by speakers – representatives of peasants & civil society from Romania and Europe – followed by open discussions with participants: peasants, gardeners, members of Romanian civil society.

The program will include also a public tasting of peasant products and a free distribution of peasant seeds.

PROGRAM:

11:30 – 12:00	Welcoming participants
12:00 – 13:00	Session 1: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and introduction by organizers.• Introduction about the European Movement for Food Sovereignty: peasant rights in Europe and their involvement in decision making for food and agriculture policies. <i>Speakers: Dan Cismaș - Eco Rurális and Genevieve Savigny – European Coordination Via Campesina.</i>• Nyeleni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty (October 2016, România): the European peasants consultation process: how to get organized for defending peasants' rights and what contribution will bring the Romanian peasants? <i>Speakers: Ramona Duminicioiu - European Coordination Via Campesina.</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Session 2: THE RIGHT TO LAND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The problem of land grabbing in Romania and the social, environmental and economical implications of this phenomenon in Europe. <i>Speakers: Szocs Boruss Miklos Attila - Eco Rurális and Sylvia Kay - Transnational Institute.</i>• Land grabbing cases investigated in Romania. <i>Speakers: Vlad Odobescu - Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism and Roxana Bucată - journalist Think Outside the Box.</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Peasant food tasting and free distribution of peasant seeds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peasant products offered by peasants from <i>Eco Rurális, the Association for Supporting Peasant Farming ASAT and the Peasant Box.</i>• Peasant vegetables seeds offered by <i>Eco Rurális.</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Session 3: THE RIGHT TO SEEDS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peasant seeds – a solution for the future of farming and the food crisis: agrobiodiversity and the richness of peasant knowledge in the vibrant peasant society of Romania. <i>Speakers:</i>

Stela Zămoiu and Petru Cucu - Eco Ruralis.

15:45 – 16:30	Session 4: THE RIGHT TO MARKETS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The problem of the lack of access to markets for peasants: public markers, public procurements for the public food system and short food chains. <i>Speakers: Ramona Duminişoiu - European Coordination Via Campesina, Mihaela Veţan - the Association for Supporting Peasant Farming ASAT.</i>• Presentation of direct marketing initiatives of the Association for Supporting Peasant Farming ASAT and the Peasant Box. <i>Speakers: Sergiu Florean - the Association for Supporting Peasant Farming ASAT and Eniko Butyka – the Peasant Box / Eco Ruralis.</i>
16:30 – 17:00	The calendar of peasant consultations in Romania: April – September 2016 & Conclusions

You are warmly welcomed to come in large numbers and please confirm your participation at the e-mail: membri@ecoruralis.ro, or at the phone numbers: 0753 353 858 or 0264 599 204 (program office Monday-Friday, between 10 am – 6 pm), until 22 April.

For any questions, please contact Eco Ruralis Association:

David Francisc st., no. 10, ap. 5, 400102 – Cluj Napoca, Cluj county, Romania.

Phone/fax: 264 599 204. E-mail: ecoruralis@gmail.com. Website: www.ecoruralis.ro

Asociația Eco Ruralis is a peasant association, gathering peasants, gardeners and supporters. Eco Ruralis was founded in 2009 and it counts 3000 members, of which 90% are peasants from all the counties in Romania. We envision a society that is environmentally sustainable, economically fair and socially just where peasants are the central part of our food system. Our mission is to support food sovereignty and agroecology and promote peasant, small-scale, family farming as the dominant, preferable method of agriculture in Romania. We will aid the capacity of peasants to collectively defend themselves against unfair and unequal actions taken by corporations and governments. We wish to actively support a movement of young farmers that will preserve traditional farming practices and assert their control over food production and land rights.

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. Food sovereignty prioritises local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal - fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.

Partners of the event:

