1. Title: Our relationship with food during the covid-19 pandemic

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3. Abstract:
   It has been clear for many years that policies and strategies are needed to transform towards more sustainable food systems. Now during the Covid-19 pandemic, food production, processing and distribution systems have been put under severe pressure. As consumers, most people are also being required to change both their behaviour and attitudes to food: how they plan, obtain and purchase food as well as how they prepare and eat food. Many are also reconsidering their diets and the ingredients they use. There seems currently to be much turmoil as well as both complementary and contradictory trends. These are perhaps related to differences in local and national conditions but possibly just as much if not more to existing household, community and social cultures as well as to economic systems and cultures.

   The objectives of this project are thus fourfold, to:
   1. Map and analyse how individuals, households, communities, localities and countries, primarily across Europe but also globally, are changing their behaviour and attitudes to food during the spread of Covid-19 and beyond, and how this might be associated with their perceptions of the risks the pandemic brings.
   2. Show how this is currently impacting, as well as being influenced by, the rest of the food value chain (specifically food production, processing and distribution) and how it is responding to local and national regulations and market dynamics, as well as influencing these.
   3. Investigate the extent to which we can expect these changes to continue, adapt and/or disappear over the medium- to longer-term and what are the consequential impacts on society, the economy and the environment.
   4. Establish a strong scientific evidence base that provides lessons and advice to public authorities, market players, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, as well as to the research community.

4. Data description:
   At the end of April 2020, a standardised 10-15 minute online multilingual questionnaire is being deployed using both representative quota sampling and convenience sampling. It is launched in Denmark, Germany, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia and Israel, whilst a global English version is also available for anyone with good English language skills. Further language versions are being prepared, notably French and Spanish, drawing on the project’s large number of partners and affiliates in Europe and worldwide. The questionnaire collects information on the ways ordinary people at household level have changed how they obtain, prepare and eat their food. It will also map a range of other changes in food behaviour and attitudes, respondents’ situation and concerns regarding Covid-19, food poverty, and the status of local and national regulations and other constraints where they live.

   Limited demographic and location information is collected from respondents that is fully compliant with the EU’s GDPR and ethical frameworks, and also enables ongoing further research that can draw directly on Eurostat’s NUT 3 socio-economic and environmental data. This ensures that scientifically sound comparisons and recommendations can be made, not just between participant countries and regions using the full range of Eurostat and other data, but that also guarantees overall representativeness and relevance of the data collected and subsequent findings. In order to fully address the above objectives, the questionnaire itself therefore provides the basis for further ongoing research beyond the immediate crisis that will focus on collaboration with stakeholders along the whole food value chain, including local and national policy makers, and will involve interviews, focus groups, desk research and further targeted surveys.

5. JEL codes for the project:
   L66, L81, Q18, D10, H12, I30, G18.

6. Key words:
Purchasing food; preparing food; consuming food; food value chain; economic systems; social conditions; food poverty; culture; risk perception; regulation; policy; Eurostat data.