



Annual report 2022

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1 General Information

1.1 Legal information and contact details

Registered name:

A SEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity Europe).

Often, the organisation is simply called ASEED.

Inschrijvingsnummer Kamer van Koophandel / Registration number Chamber of commerce: 41212969

RSIN (Legal Entities & Partnerships Identification Number) / Tax number: 803284342

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Social media and Flickr:

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- Twitter @AseedEurope – <https://twitter.com/aseedeurope>
- Instagram – @aseed.europe – <https://www.instagram.com/aseed.europe/>
- Flickr – <https://www.flickr.com/photos/161799872@N05/albums>

1.2 Vision and Mission Statement

Our vision is the following:

ASEED strives for a world where people feel empowered to take action to achieve social justice and environmental integrity on both the local and global levels.

Our Mission Statement is the following:

ASEED aims to support and empower groups and individuals (especially youth) who are striving for fair and sustainable food systems. We do so by promoting grassroots organisation, mobilising people to take action, and supporting the non-formal exchange of skills and knowledge around social issues, climate change, farming, food, resilience and resistance. Thanks to a strong and diverse network of collectives from the local to the European level, our activities include: the organisation and participation in discussions, festivals, trainings, activist gatherings and much more. Overall, we support (young) people to grow capacities in order to take action to change their lives and communities for the better.

1.3 History and background

From 1991...

Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity (ASEED Europe) was established by

young engaged people in 1991 in response to the UNCED Earth Summit proceedings in Rio de Janeiro and aimed to forge alliances among young people committed to social and environmental justice. Since 1992, the ASEED decentralised network grew and regional hubs were created in Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Latin America and Japan. Each hub had its own level of activity, linking youth groups and individuals in their region. By now some hubs developed in their own way, working independently from each other, while others have ceased to exist.

... to 2022

Presently, ASEED Europe is a small non-profit organisation (ANBI) based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Our core team comprises between 7 and 10 people, and works together with many volunteers and contacts at the local, regional, and European levels. ASEED's team usually counts two part-time coordinators, one financial administrator, four European volunteers (Erasmus + European Solidarity Corps programme) as well as interns. In addition, many volunteers support us with specific projects and events. We strive to challenge power structures at ASEED. To do so, we use nonhierarchical working practices, follow team trainings and we continuously work on our [Safer Space Policy](#) and [Intersectionality Statement](#).

1.4 Objectives, Tools and Values

ASEED supports the rights of individuals and communities to determine their own lives. Our campaigns focus on exploring alternatives to the industrial food system, and networking with groups that promote viable alternatives and sustainable development.

Our objectives are the following:

- Initiating and coordinating actions and campaigns on environmental, food and social justice issues;
- Promoting discussions and disseminating information about the topics we work with;
- Empowering local youth groups and grassroots organisations via trainings, joint projects, and knowledge sharing;
- Establishing partnerships between various organisations and groups worldwide and facilitating international cooperation and networking.

To realise our aims, we use the following tools: the promotion of grassroots organisation, education, mobilisation and non-violent direct action so that people can act to achieve social justice and environmental integrity on both the local and global levels. Examples of activities we are involved in are the annual [Food Autonomy Festival](#), [reading groups](#), [debates](#) and [awareness-raising events](#), [trainings](#), [action camps](#), [alternative climate summits](#), [non-violent direct actions](#), urban farming sessions and more.

What are our values?

One of ASEED's most fundamental standpoints is that humans are a part of nature, not apart from it. Modern economic systems, regardless of their political hue, continue to regard nature as a resource to be exploited. Recent treaties that are aimed at slowing down ongoing environmental degradation, climate change and the loss of biodiversity are doomed to fail. Indeed, because short term economic growth is always given precedence over the long-term future of the planet.

ASEED Europe strives for the preservation of bio-cultural diversity. Doing this, we reject and work towards ending discrimination based on age, class, disability, gender, race, religious beliefs and sexual preference/identity. We support the rights of individuals and communities to determine their own lives. Therefore, we work with groups which promote local democracy and social justice as

well as taking these principles as a starting point in our own campaigns.

Within these campaigns, we fight against the industrial agricultural model and for agricultural justice, climate justice, food autonomy and overall systemic justice. In doing so, we strive both in our perspectives and practices to challenge racism, sexism, coloniality, and oppression in all its forms. We believe that a just food system can only be created if different levels of oppression and inequalities are fought simultaneously.

1.5 Financial Information

As a non-profit organisation, ASEED relies on income from various sources such as project grants (Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Patagonia, Lush Netherlands, Het X-Y Actiefonds, Alert Funds, Frederik Hendrikschool Actiepot, Fonds voor Zuid...), contributions from participants at events, including benefit dinners, and donations from small private donors. We do not receive any funds from the Dutch government.

ASEED's financial overview for 2022 can be found [here](#) and [here](#) on our website.

1.6 Team composition

In 2022, the international office team consisted in: a core group of 'permanent' staff members; volunteers who joined ASEED for a one-year period through the [European Solidarity Corps](#), as part of the Erasmus+ programme; and interns who joined for a period of six months each. European volunteers benefited from the support of a dedicated mentor, not involved in ASEED's daily office work.

In addition, other volunteers regularly or punctually contribute to ASEED's activities in the fields of research, event organisation, fundraising and actions. Many of them are students, farmers, former ASEED staff members and experienced activists.

In 2022, the 'Permanent' staff changed as our two co-coordinators stepped out in two phases.

- Elizabeth Knight, coordinator, fundraiser (until October 2022)
- Eduard Hernández Nualart, coordinator, campaigner (until XXX, replaced by Rosa de Nooijer until October)
- From October 2022, the coordination was ensured by Paulina Solis and Augi Schulte-Frohlinde, former European volunteers
- Nikolay Nikolov, financial administrator

Volunteers list – European Solidarity Corps	
September 2021 – September 2022	September 2022 – September 2023
Augi (Germany)	Teresa (Denmark)
Paulina (Belgium)	Antonia (Germany)
Gea (Italy)	Val (France)
Justine (France)	Anna (Greece)



Interns who joined the team in 2022: Anna contributed greatly to the Food Autonomy Festival (FAF#6) before enrolling as an ECS volunteer. Rina mostly worked on social media and communication. Sabina and Lea also contributed to the organisation of the FAF#6.

Permanent staff members design and coordinate the campaign, ensure continuity in ASEED's work and take care of all financial and administrative matters. ESC volunteers and interns all bring ideas, perspectives and working methods influenced by their diverse background. Their contribution to ASEED is invaluable, both on professional and personal levels.

ASEED's employees get a minimum hourly wage according to the 'CAO Welzijn en Maatschappelijke Dienstverlening'. European volunteers are compensated for their contribution following the rules of the European Solidarity Corps programme. While we would love to be able to offer compensation to the interns for their work, we are financially not able to do so.

1.7 Board composition

Our board consists of the following people:

- Anne Jessica Assehn – Chairperson – in the board since 04/07/2007;
- Philip Schols – Treasurer – in the board since 25/11/2019;
- Tjerk Dalhuisen – Secretary – in the board since 27/10/2014.

The board members do not get paid for their activities, although their travels expenses to join our office-council meetings (twice a year) are reimbursed.

2 ASEED's Campaign: Fossil Free Agriculture (FFA)

2.1 Background: why this campaign?

The FFA campaign was started in 2018, on the basis of the following considerations.

The industrial food system heavily relies on fossil fuels: from chemical fertilisers for large-scale monocultures to farm machinery, food processing and long-distance transport. All of this contributes to a speculative global commodity market dominated by a small group of very powerful corporations.

The devastating consequences cannot be ignored any longer: runaway climate change, ecological collapse, impoverishment of farmers and the destruction of rural communities. While it claims the opposite, it is clear that fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture cannot feed the world, because it relies on a variety of finite resources and is destroying the very foundations of life itself: healthy soils, biodiversity, agricultural diversity, and a stable climate.

The fossil fuel industry and corporate agribusiness are not there to provide people with healthy and sustainable food or to protect our climate, but to make profit and to increase their domination over the food chain. We need to unite and organise against these structures that lie at the root of our problems! Our actions should educate the public and trigger more and more people to confront those organisations that promote and profit from a food system that serves neither the people nor the planet. We are targeting big business and the politicians that support them, not the farmers that are victims of a corrupted system. Our goal is to help build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system.

2.2 Why the focus on Fossil Fuel Free Agriculture?

By focusing on the use of fossil fuels in the corporate controlled industrial food system, we aim to expand the concept of climate justice to include agricultural justice. We do this by connecting the fossil fuel focused climate movement and the food sovereignty movements, while opening a conversation about the structural links between the agro-industry and the fossil fuel industry, and the major role it plays in the escalating climate, ecological and social crises.

What role does the Netherlands play in this? The Netherlands functions as Europe's most important distribution centre for both fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. The largest factory of the biggest nitrogen fertiliser company in the world (Yara) is located in Sluiskil, Zeeland. To make things worse, this country is hosting a huge and ruthless industrial livestock industry and performs as a European hub for the distribution of genetically modified soy imports. On the political level, the Dutch government is enthusiastically promoting the intensification of industrial food production, harmful and undemocratic trade agreements and risky new GMO techniques. Taking action here, in our own back yards, is clearly both urgently necessary and of strategic importance.

Fortunately, the real solutions are already all around us: food sovereignty, agroecology and peasant agriculture, which feed the planet and cool the earth. Agro-ecological farms that produce local and seasonal food can promote biodiversity and soil health, use less water resources, are resilient for the shocks of a changing climate, offer the possibility to capture carbon in the living soil and can provide dignified compensation to farmers. We urgently need to dismantle the fossil fuel powered industrial food system.

We should also nurture people's connection with the food they consume, for example through food cooperatives and community-supported-agriculture projects. People that want to stay on the land or go back to the countryside should be encouraged and supported. Working alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real-needs-oriented and small-scale production initiatives already exist and have to be expanded further. Industrial scale meat and dairy production have to be eliminated.

2.3 Mission of the Campaign

Our goal is to help build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system. By focusing on the use of fossil fuels in the corporate controlled industrial food system, we aim to expand the concept of climate justice to include agricultural justice, connecting the fossil fuel focused climate movement and the food sovereignty movements, while opening a conversation about the structural links between the agro-industry and the fossil fuel industry, and the major role it plays in the escalating climate, ecological and social crises.

The industrial food system heavily relies on fossil fuels: from chemical fertilisers for large-scale monocultures to farm machinery, food processing and long-distance transport for a speculative global commodity market dominated by a small group of very powerful corporations. The devastating consequences cannot be ignored any longer: runaway climate change, ecological collapse, impoverishment of farmers and the destruction of rural communities. While it claims the opposite, it is clear that fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture cannot feed the world, because it relies on a variety of finite resources and is destroying the very foundations of life itself: healthy soils, biodiversity, agricultural diversity, and a stable climate.

The impact of what we do here can be felt in many places, since the Netherlands functions as Europe's most important distribution centre for both fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. The largest factory of the biggest nitrogen fertiliser company in the world (Yara) is located in Sluiskil, Zeeland. It is one of the largest users of gas in the country, consuming about 2 billion cubic metres of gas annually, of which a quarter is coming from the Groningen gas field. On top of Yara more

synthetic fertiliser companies are active in the Netherlands. The greenhouse horticulture sector is also a major user of Groningen gas, consuming approximately 3 billion m³ per year to grow and export tropical flowers and tasteless tomatoes in winter. To make things worse, this country is hosting a huge and ruthless industrial livestock industry and performs as a European hub for the distribution of genetically modified soy imports. On the political level, the Dutch government is enthusiastically promoting the intensification of industrial food production, harmful and undemocratic trade agreements and risky new GMO techniques. Taking action here, in our own back yards, is clearly both urgently necessary and of strategic importance.

Fortunately, the real solutions are already all around us: food sovereignty, agroecology and peasant agriculture, which feed the planet and cool the earth. While large-scale agricultural production uses 70 percent of the global agricultural resources to produce only 30 percent of the total food supply, peasant-based food systems provide 70 percent of our food while using only 30 percent of agricultural resources. Agro-ecological farms that produce local and seasonal food can promote biodiversity and soil health, use less water resources, are resilient for the shocks of a changing climate, offer the possibility to capture carbon in the living soil and can provide dignified compensation to farmers.

We urgently need to dismantle the fossil fuel powered industrial food system. Instead, we should nurture people's connection with the food they consume, such as through food cooperatives and community-supported-agriculture projects. People that want to stay on the land or go back to the countryside should be encouraged and supported. Working alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real-needs-oriented and small-scale production initiatives already exist and have to be expanded further. Industrial scale meat and dairy production have to be eliminated.

While individual consumer choices and reducing food waste are important, alone they will not be capable to address the problems of industrial agriculture because the causes are systemic. The fossil fuel industry and corporate agribusiness are not there to provide people with healthy and sustainable food or to protect our climate, but to make profit and to increase their domination over the food chain. As in other areas, agriculture is clearly showing a recurring pattern: people and nature are exploited for profit and power is concentrated in the hands of a few. We need to unite and organise against these structures that lie at the root of our problems!

The FFA campaign was launched in 2018. We then decided to organise all or most of the ASEED projects under the FFA campaign umbrella, creating or underlying direct links between the topic of fossil fuels (and synthetic fertilisers) and our ongoing activities. This means that FFA became the main ASEED campaign, and recurring events such as Reclaim the Seeds and the Food Autonomy Festival fell under the campaign umbrella.

3 In 2022, ASEED Has Organised...

Besides ongoing content and material production – such as articles on our website, social media posts, stickers on the theme of our campaign, ASEED organises every year regular and one-time events for everyone interested to join. Most of them are free or on donation.

3.1 Info Nights

Vokus, or community/benefit dinners in autonomous, volunteer-run spaces, have always been part of ASEED's activities. Also called 'info nights', they are a fantastic way to gather people for an evening around a delicious meal, a discussion, a movie, a presentation of an action or of a topic from our campaign. Vokus also bring ASEED team members together with regular or occasional volunteers and always succeed in attracting new people.

When the Covid pandemic hit, we kept on organising events but we did so online. In 2022, we could start again to screen movies and meet up in social centres.

Documentary Films Screenings

Among other documentaries, we screened 'Burkinabé Bounty: Agroecology in Burkina Faso' by Culture of Resistance Films. The event took place in December at the [Dokhuis](#), in collaboration with the Taste Before You Waste collective. We also organised a screening of the documentary '9.70' with director Victoria Solano at [Filmhuis Cavia](#). Law 9.70 prohibits Colombian farmers from saving part of their harvest for use as seeds.

Yara Quiz

In order to raise awareness around the company Yara, we contributed to the regular Nieuwe Anita's Comedy night in late August with a playful quiz. This new format required a great amount of preparation and was quite different from a classic presentation. The audience loved it and ASEED members had lots of fun – both good incentives to renew the experience.



Performance Around Amsterdam Light Festival

ASEED decided to spread information about industrial agriculture and Yara where people did not expect it: we set up a 'pop-up' performance at the Amsterdam Light Festival, right on the visitor's route. With eerie lights, costumes, props and informative flyers, we reached an audience we rarely speak to and some people even thought we were part of the festival.

Benefit Dinners

We organised four successful benefit dinners for our annual Food Autonomy Festival. Besides being part of our fundraising strategy for the event, these dinners served as a way to promote the upcoming festival.

3.2 Reading Groups

ASEED holds regular reading groups on topics related to our campaign. Participants sign up by email and receive texts to read one week before the event. Attendance is hybrid, people may join both on location (Dokhuis) and online. Our first theme of the year was 'Relating to Food, Soil and the Commons – Lutkemeer Polder/Voedselpark Amsterdam'.



3.3 Food Autonomy Festival #6

Every year since 2017, ASEED has been organising the Food Autonomy Festival (FAF). Over the years, this event has grown from a one-day festival to a full weekend, with decentralised events outside of Amsterdam. The goal is always to bring together people from different backgrounds and struggles, in order to foster and grow alternatives and resistance to industrial agriculture. In 2022, FAF#6 took place on May 27, 28 and 29 in Amsterdam and in Utrecht.



The theme was ‘Sowing solidarity, Nurturing resistance, Harvesting autonomy’. We built upon previous topics and further explored ways in which solidarity, resistance and autonomy can be achieved. Last year’s theme of ‘Roots and Fruits of Resistance’ started a conversation in which people talked about different forms of resistance that are crucial in the fight for a more just and sustainable future. This year we took the conversation to the next level by not only focusing on the potential of resistance, but also by seeing how we can build a future in which solidarity and autonomy are at

the heart of society. Overall, FAF#6 was a space for people to come together and learn about (food) autonomy in all its shapes and sizes.

In Amsterdam, the programme consisted in a farming day at [CSA Pluk!](#) On May 27, followed by two days of workshops, discussions, panel discussions and entertainment at [NoordOogst](#). Participating organisations also had the opportunity to present their work at info stalls.



Here is a sample of sessions visitors could join:

- Solidarity With Migrant Landworkers in Europe – by Catherine McAndrew (Landworkers’ Alliance + ECVC Migrant & Rural Workers’ Working Group)
- Queering Ecology Reading – by Andi & Bee (Anarcha Feminist Group Amsterdam)
- Panel discussion on Resistances to extractivism and dispossession, with Danilo (Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca), Malin (Semillas de Vida) and Omar (STOPEACOP)
- Befriend your local Ecology – by Stadstuinderij NoordOogst

Besides sessions, FAF#6 also had art installations, a seeds and seedlings exchange, and hosted a climbing training by Climbers4Climate.

In this 2022 Amsterdam edition, a stronger focus was set on accessibility than the previous years. Before, during and after FAF#6, some reflection and creation times on the topic of ableism were created to discuss how we may perpetuate oppressions within our festival and what we can apply to avoid it.

Detailed information on physical accessibility was communicated in advance for each venue and activity, a dedicated wheelchair accessible toilet was set in NoordOogst, and for the first time we made a low-sensory area available to anyone who may need some quiet time away from stimulations. We also made sure there was an appropriate children-designated area, we provided information on language and translation, we clearly marked allergens in food. Finally, an awareness team was available to ensure a good atmosphere and manage any possible conflict.



In Utrecht, a dinner and storytelling evening was organised at [De Voorkamer](#) on May 27, followed the next day by a cycling tour to vegetable gardens and farms in and around the city: [Boerderij Eyckenstein](#), [Kwekerij Stekkers](#) and [Tuin Kansrijk](#). On Sunday 28, the festival took place at the [Grounded](#) location, with workshops, stalls and an evening programme.

set up in order to foster grassroots participation.

FAF was not only organised by the ASEED team, but also by many volunteers who joined one or more of the seven open meetings we

4 In 2022, ASEED Has Contributed To...

ASEED is regularly solicited to speak at conferences and festivals, to welcome students groups, to hold an info table at festivals and to generally participate in a vast array of events. We present our work to various audiences, discuss campaign-related topics and strategies with other organisations and join other groups in demonstrations. Here are the events we contributed to.

4.1 A Local Struggle for Agricultural Land: The Lutkemeerpolder

The Lutkemeerpolder is located in Amsterdam West, close to Schiphol airport. It hosts the last certified organic ground within Amsterdam city limits. After many years of campaigns, legal procedures, protests and actions backed by thousands of citizens, the threat of destruction became very concrete. Heavy machinery was brought onto this farmland to dump tons of sand and bury forever this fertile clay ground – all of this to make way for a giant distribution centre.



ASEED has contributed to the [Behoud Lutkemeer](#) platform for years, through participation in coalition work, strategy meetings, actions and communication. Its aim is to preserve this precious land by preventing its destruction and advocating alternative plans to the construction of a mega distribution centre. In 2022, we continued to support this local struggle and Behoud Lutkemeer's new campaign: [VoedselPark Amsterdam](#),

an ambitious plan for an 'agro-ecological landscape park, a buzzing centre of life, a pillar in urban food policy and an exemplary international project for the food transition'. In the beginning of the year, several actions were organised both at the City Hall (Stopera) and on location. The goal was to directly block works on the polder and to demand that all activities stop until at least after the municipal elections.

Unfortunately, despite the involvement of many concerned citizens and scientists, the destruction of the Lutkemeerpolder went on throughout the year.

4.2 Yearly Events Around Food, Farming, Autonomy...

2.Dh5

[2.Dh5](#) is a yearly 'festival where various groups, campaigns and individuals come together to discuss grass-roots campaigns, tactics and methods that move us closer towards our ideal of a society based on freedom and solidarity'. It is an ideal event to learn from each other, to meet other groups and to present the FFA campaign.

ASEED held an info stall all weekend and gave a workshop titled 'Food autonomy as backbone of anarchist and autonomous societies'.

Reclaim the Seeds

The Reclaim the Seeds weekend was created by ASEED in 2012, in order to gather seed enthusiasts, farmers, students, gardeners, and anyone interested in growing food. RtS usually comprises a seed fair where professionals and amateurs can find and offer seeds and seedlings, hands-on workshops, lectures and panel discussions from a political perspective, as well as excursions to local farms/community projects. Participating organisations also have the opportunity to hold an info stall. ASEED team members are no longer taking central organising roles since 2019, and the RtS events are now coordinated by motivated groups of volunteers in a decentralised way. After an online event in 2021, it was a relief to be able to join an offline event in 2022. ASEED contributed to RtS by giving a workshop, ...

VoedselAnders

Voedsel Anders is a network of farmers, fisherfolk, scientists, beekeepers, students, artists, academics, policy makers, journalists and other active citizens in the Netherlands and Belgium engaged in building healthy food systems. ASEED has been joining all three VoedselAnders conferences since their launch in 2014. The 2022 edition took place on June 10-11 in Wageningen University. Together with the Transnational Institute (TNI), we held a workshop titled 'Reflecting on the connections between capitalism, agrochemicals and (bio) diversity'.

Amsterdam Anarchist Book Fair

Just like every year, ASEED was one of the 60 different collectives present at the [Anarchist Book Fair](#), and co-hosted the event at the Dokhuis. The fair is a fantastic opportunity to spread information and materials about our FFA campaign, to get in touch with potential new volunteers, to learn from other movements and collectives and to collect donations.

4.3 Demonstrations

ASEED usually joins a number of demonstrations every year around the topics of climate justice, human rights, antiracism, feminism and so on. In June, we joined the Climate March as part of the decolonial and antiracist bloc with a number of other organisations and collectives such as [Aralez](#), the Sudanese Democratic Forum, [Queer Rotterdam](#), [Stop the War on Migrants](#), [Erasmus School of Color](#)...



In addition, we participated in the Antiracism demonstration on March 19, and the Indigenous Liberation Day on 12 October which consisted of a solidarity march, a Mapuche ceremony and a performance. In the evening, we learned more about Indigenous cultures and struggles and how

to support them at the Pakhuis de Zwijger, where panel discussions and interactive workshops were organised by various organisations.

4.4 Other actions, Events and Publications

Against the Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit

On the 6th and 7th of September 2022, together with other organisations in the Agroecology Network, we promoted an action against the Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit, denouncing the summit's attempt to greenwash participating corporations' devastating ecocidal and colonial practices. ASEED's flyers about the harms of industrial agriculture were handed out to the participants of the summit and to the public to discuss the arguments in our common [statement](#).



We also hosted a counter-summit which was a space for community building and learning about grassroots, bottom-up regeneration in resistance to corporate greenwashing at the Regenerative Agriculture and Food Systems Summit. As part of the programme, we coordinated different contributions: a researcher talked about the role of companies in the transition and greenwashing of regenerative agriculture; XR landbouw introduced the role of Rabobank in the Dutch agriculture landscape; ASEED developed more about the greenwashing and neocolonial practices of Yara; a member of Boerengroep explained how agro-businesses such as Unilever are present and influence the WUR; farmers from Pluk! talked about the food sovereignty movement and agroecological alternatives in and around Amsterdam. Dinner was provided by Taste Before You Waste.

Finally, we staged a theatre play denouncing corporate greed and presenting the true meaning of regenerative agriculture.

Techno Festival in Amsterdam

ASEED is often solicited to join events. Sometimes, though, we are invited to give a presentation

or hold an information stall at unexpected places, where the theme of the events or the interests of the organisers are necessarily in line with ours. Most of the time, we have to refuse in order to best use our capacities. There are some exceptions, when we feel that we could reach a new type of audience. For instance, in June 2022, we were present at the activist corner of the music festival *Komm Schon Alter*, in Amsterdam West. There, we raised awareness about industrial agriculture and local food systems among house and techno lovers. ASEED members gave a speech on the theme 'Why do we need food autonomy and how we can implement it?' Visitors were pleasantly surprised to have conversations about politics and food where they expected it the least.

Publication on Peasant Agroecology

Some current and former ASEED team members have contributed to a [booklet](#) on Peasant Agroecology published by the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC).

5 In 2022, ASEED Has Learned and Grown Together With Other Organisations

Although it is not always visible to the public, networking and learning with and from other organisations is a big part of our work. ASEED members regularly travel (abroad) to join youth workers' trainings and to participate in the development of local, national and international networks. Year after year, we keep on strengthening and developing fruitful connections.

5.1 Solidarity Project in the Amsterdam Area



Save our Seeds, Save our Soils Solidarity Project (Erasmus+)

For the third consecutive year, a group of young people belonging to ASEED's network set up a Solidarity Project with the framework of Erasmus+. These people regularly contribute to organic food gardens and community-supported farms, and they participated in the annual Reclaim the Seeds festival and Food Autonomy Festival.

The Save our Seeds, Save our Soils Solidarity project responded to an urgent need to regenerate the health of local soils and horticultural (food and medicine plants) seeds in the midst of a climate crisis. It aimed at achieving new solidarities between Amsterdam's community food gardens, and ecological farms that surround the city who are dedicated to seed and soil care. Save our Seeds, Save our Soils focused on living local knowledge and expertise, and co-created an annual programme with workshops, skill shares and creative actions in various locations in and around Amsterdam.

5.2 Training courses

Erasmus + Training Courses for Youth Workers

As an organisation working with European youth, ASEED regularly organises or join Erasmus+ youth workers training courses. We like to reflect together, learn and share skills, network with

other organisations across Europe. This allows us to widen our perspectives, and therefore to improve our daily work.

NEWral – European Youth Generating New Rural Narratives

Between 9 and 17 May 2022, two members of ASEED participated in a youth workers' training titled: NEWral, European Youth Generating New Rural Narratives. It was coordinated by the Spanish organisation [Revista Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas](#) and supported by many other collectives. ASEED has been collaborating with the Revista Soberanía Alimentaria since 2018.

The main goal of the project was to reflect on the imaginary of rurality and primary sector by training a group of youth workers. The training was carried out in Mura, at the cooperative 'Els Caus de Mura', where the participants (from Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Estonia, Portugal and Denmark) experienced the community and rural life, experimenting new tools for working and communicating with youth. The programme consisted in several meetings with experts and artists, a 2-day workshop on podcast making, meetings with the community and internal open sessions to discuss deeper about topics related to rurality. As a result of these fruitful exchanges, a [toolkit](#) and a [podcast](#) were created and shared among the participants' networks – including in ASEED's newsletter.

ULEX Training Courses

In the last couple of years, a number of ASEED members have been joining training courses offered by [ULEX](#), an organisation that provides trainings for social movements all over the Europe. They do so from a holistic perspective to activists, change makers and organisations. In the autumn 2022, various members of ASEED joined four training courses.

[Active Solidarity & Empowerment](#) (24 Sept – 1 Oct)

[Transformative collaboration](#) (8 – 16 Oct)

[Strengthening the Ecology of Social Movements](#) (22 – 30 Oct)

[Regenerative Activism: Sustainable Organizing](#) (19-28 Nov)

At the trainings, our members could meet people active in different fields of education such as Disability Justice, Psychology, Art, Climate Justice, Migrant Justice... They could exchange experiences, strategies and knowledge that we capitalise on and mobilise for all our future work.

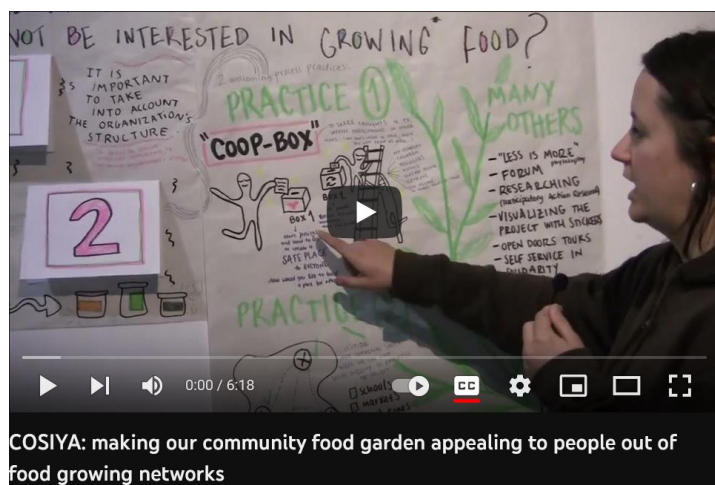
All these inspiring training courses took place in Catalonia, and included workshops, discussions and games to approach the topics from different angles. It was a very intense and emotional experience, as well as decisive steps in our organisation's journey.

Following these training courses, we organised skill-sharing sessions within ASEED before setting up semi-public events to spread the lessons learned and our new perspectives within our networks.

CoSIYA – fostering intersectionality in food initiatives across Europe

From November 7 to 14, the Erasmus+ project 'Co-creating Socially Inclusive Youthwork with Agroecology' (CoSIYA) brought together 28 youth workers from nine agroecology, food and ecosocial justice initiatives across Europe. During a one-week training coordinated by ASEED, the youth workers visited and learned from like-minded people and projects in and around Amsterdam.

The participating organisations were [Toekomstboeren](#) (NL), Diaconie van de Protestantse Gemeente/[Wereldhuis](#) (NL), [Revista Soberania Alimentaria](#) (Spain), [GAIA](#) – Grupo de Acção e Intervenção Ambiental (Portugal), [GAIA](#) (Kosovo), [ARTIFACTORY](#) (Greece), [NOAH](#) (Denmark), and [CISV](#) – Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato (Italy).



We set the focus on non-formal learning and organising, and peer-to-peer learning. CoSIYA responded to the need of the participating organisations to better include youths in all their diversity – especially those systematically marginalised (because of their gender, their race, their migration status, their cultural or socio-economic background, etc.) – within their initiatives. The purpose of the week was to co-create a series of social justice practices that can be helpful, not only for those initiatives but for agroecology projects and communities in general.

Local organisations visited by the group of youth workers included CSA [Pluk!](#), [Cascoland](#) and [Wereldhuis](#) (cooking teams), and initiatives that they had the opportunity to learn from included [Taste Before You Waste!](#), [Vokomokum](#), [SoneBuTu](#), [Boerderij De Meent](#), and [Gira Holanda](#).

Despite the logistical challenges – group accommodation is scarce and expensive in Amsterdam! – CoSIYA was a very positive experience. Together with ASEED, CISV, Revista Soberania Alimentaria, GAIA and ARTIFACTORY had already taken part in a similar EU-supported youth workers training, [GENERA](#) (Youth Empowerment in Rural Areas) in December 2019, in Catalonia. The goal was then to co-produce knowledge and tools with and for youth workers dedicated to gender empowerment in rural areas with a primary focus on women.

CoSIYA was therefore a way to build on existing connections and knowledge and to shift our focus to urban and peri-urban areas, as well as on diverse agroecology initiatives (led by and/or empowering youth with fewer opportunities) that work at the intersections of gender, migration status, race and socio-economic background. As a result of CoSIYA, five youth work practices were co-created and captured in [video](#) during the training. In addition, the relationships between all participating organisations have been considerably strengthened.

5.3 Ongoing Networking and Coalition work

In 2022, a large part of our efforts went into strengthening our coalitions with groups fighting for food and agricultural justice in the Netherlands and across Europe.

In the Netherlands: Dutch Agroecological Network

Within the Netherlands, ASEED participated in the formation of the [Agroecology Network](#), a network that aims to build connections between small-scale farmers and activists. Small-scale farmers form the heart of this network and decide the direction, while other groups, such as ASEED, take a more supportive role. Other groups involved in the network are [Transnational Institute \(TNI\)](#), [Toekomstboeren](#), [Boerengroep](#), and [Extinction Rebellion Landbouw \(XR Landbouw\)](#). This process was fundamental to aligning our campaigns and sharing and exchanging knowledge and resources, while finding our roles within the agroecology movement. The exchange resulted in a stronger narrative for our campaign, benefiting our mobilisation strategy and supporting the creation of workshops.

The Agroecology Network now meets four times per year to discuss topics such as land access or colonial practices in agriculture. Each of these meetings takes place on a different farm in another part of the Netherlands to get to know the various farms and farmers in the network. The most recent meetings took place on [December 10th](#) at [the Tuinen Van De Egel](#) and on February 13 at ['t Leeuweriksveld](#), a biodynamic farm in the east of the Netherlands. At ['t Leeuweriksveld](#), we planted a row of bio-diverse trees and bushes. It provided a break from the brain-intensive meetings and enabled us to support Wouter, who was kind enough to host us, as well as give activists who are mostly from the city hands-on farming experience.

Out of the Agroecology Network emerged different working groups, consisting of representatives from various organisations that are part of the Agroecology Network. ASEED has been most active in the working group 'Mycelia of Hope', which works with themes of regeneration and mutual aid. It aims to link rural and urban realities by organising working days at different farms during which farmers, activists and individuals can meet each other. The activities are defined depending on the farmers' needs, allowing for an exchange of knowledge and skills.

International Connections

As the issue of fossil fuels in agriculture transcends national borders, we recognise the importance of connecting with international movements to share insights and collaborate. Although we initially planned to attend COP27 in November, we ultimately chose to prioritise other international events better aligned with our objectives. However, we published an opinion [piece](#) and attended many other events where we had the opportunity to meet, work and strategise with other organisations.

Ecosocialist Encounters Lisbon, Portugal

In January 2022 we attended the yearly [Ecosocialist Encounters](#) in Lisbon, Portugal. We discussed [how we can create alternative structures to capitalism by discussing strategies](#) for dismantling capitalism and what the values of the new system should be. By joining workshops, panel and plenary discussions, we took part in deep conversations with activists from the indigenous people and from different ecosocial movements; activists and coordinators from grassroots groups and assemblies; trade unionists; militants of political organisations; and intellectuals from all over the world committed with climate and social justice.

European Meeting for Climate and Social Justice, Venice, Italy

In March 2022, we participated in the European meeting for climate and social justice, held by the [Global Project](#) in Venice. The gathering was organised by a network that convenes annually to unite individuals engaged in various initiatives focused on climate justice, antiracism, and decolonisation. It provided a valuable opportunity for strategising collectively and considering the direction that the climate justice movement should pursue. We conducted a workshop, engaged in other organisations' workshops and attended several assembly meetings.

Ende Gelände Action Camp, Germany

Once again in 2022, ASEED attended Ende Gelände, an action camp that focuses on mass actions surrounding Gas in the North of Germany. It is a great place to meet and connect with other groups fighting for climate justice, since collectives from all over Germany and Europe come together to present their work and struggles. As the target of Ende Gelände has shifted from coal to gas in the past years, it has become even more interesting for ASEED to be present and to discuss with other movements fighting gas.

We gave a presentation on fossil fertilisers and their connection to the gas industry. It was great to bring in the topic of fertilisers more into the conversation as it was not very present in the camp. During these few days, we connected to groups such as ABL Youth and Debt For Climate and we joined an action against Yara. It is truly promising to see that more organisations focus on Yara as a target for actions and campaigns.

Community Struggles in Lützerath, Germany

In November 2022, we travelled to Lützerath to gain insight into the community's struggle against the coal mine expansion and to introduce our campaign. We conducted interviews with [Eckardt Heukamp](#), a farmer who was forced to relocate due to the mine expansion, as well as with farmers and activists who cultivate crops in the area of the mine. We subsequently published these [interviews](#).

Free the Soil, Copenhagen, Denmark

In November 2022 we travelled to Denmark and took part in a meeting with activists of the '[Free the Soil](#)' campaign, exchanging experiences, knowledge and campaign strategies.

6 Looking back, looking forward

We would like to thank all the people, organisations and groups who have contributed to ASEED's activities in 2022: volunteers, participants, donors, funders and enthusiastic partners!

Towards 2023

In order to celebrate the successes of 2022 and to start 2023 on the right foot, we organised a fundraising party in December. Our pockets are filled with motivation (and some money as well, yet we still need our funders support!), and we are looking towards 2023 with love and rage.

We are decided to work hard to make the connection between the fossil fuel industry (especially gas) and the industrial food system more and more visible, within and outside the activist world. In the NGO world, we have noticed an increasing interest around the intersection between agrochemicals and fossil fuels. This is very encouraging for our FFA campaign, and it validates the intuition we had when we started to focus on nitrogen fertilisers and Yara's influence.

Of course, our awareness-raising activities, actions and social gatherings (such as movie-screening nights and farming sessions) will remain at the core of our grassroots work.

ASEED will also continue to welcome European volunteers in its team. For almost two decades now, people from all over Europe have joined ASEED for an official period of one year. Many of them have decided to stay connected to ASEED in one way or another. Some of them have become part of the staff, others still organise projects with us on a regular basis from the NGOs or the collectives they belong to. We have learned a lot from our volunteers, and we are proud of having introduced many people to (food) activism through volunteering at ASEED.

See you in 2023!