



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



European Youth For Action
A year's view of transformation in organising



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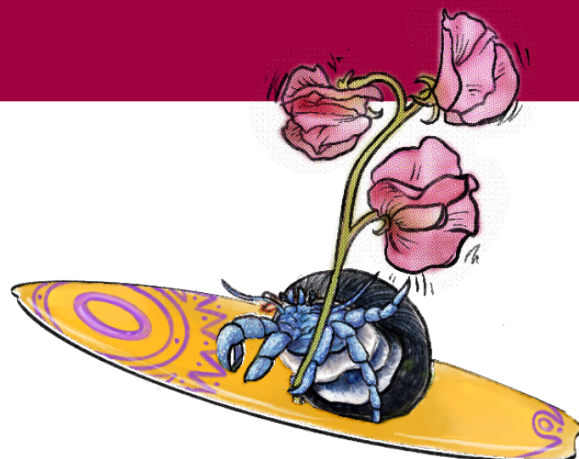
INTRODUCTION

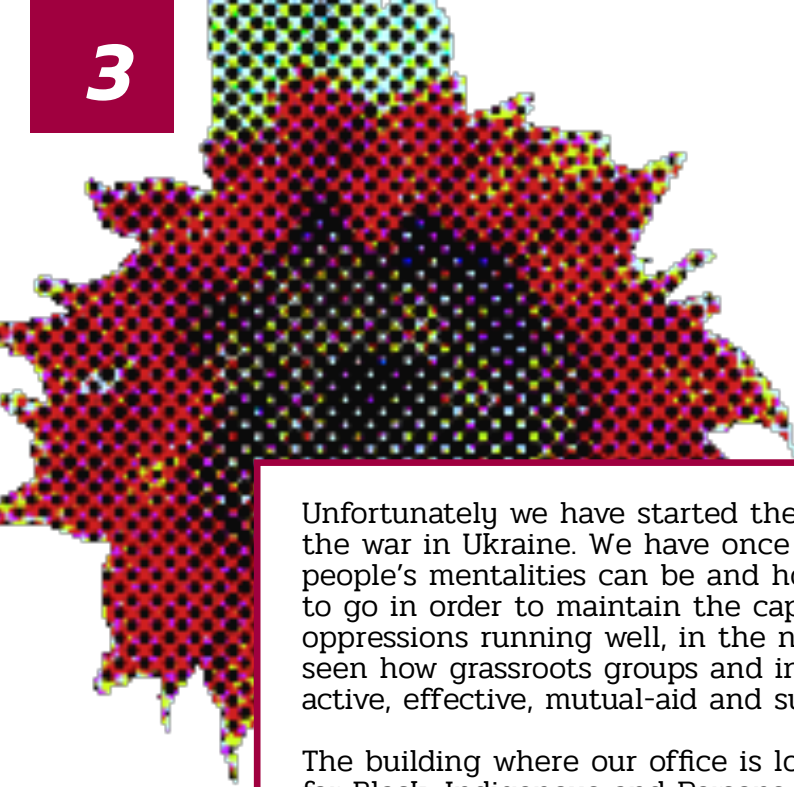
This year was definitely the most ambitious year in terms of activities since the start of the pandemic. After a long time of travel restrictions, attendance restrictions, contact restrictions, cancellations, re-schedules, adjustments, tests after tests after tests, well... after the pandemic, we are still in the pandemic! But this time with more knowledge, better support systems, online-offline-hybrid-everything and a couple of back up plans, just in case.

Last year when we started to conceptualize 2022's program, we had many many many many ideas and we were definitely super optimistic. We, indeed, overestimated our capacities as such a small team. We were craving the possibility of having even more activities- implementing all the amazing project ideas we have been collecting since the pandemic started. And we made it! Not in the most perfect way, not in the easiest way, but we made it.

We have made many mistakes, we have encountered many barriers, but we have also exceeded our expectations in so many ways. We have met wonderful people, we've implemented more than amazing projects, we've built deeper connections, we expanded as a network and we have as a result grown as activists.

Along with running our office in Berlin and conceptualizing and implementing events for youth, we also paid attention to our own needs and were in constant search for personal development and self-awareness. This year we organized several workshops for our office team. We consider these spaces extremely essential for our self-development and education as individuals and community organizers. We seek to keep improving on ourselves in order to provide the best to our participants and to our communities. This year we dug a bit deeper on unconscious bias, colorism, classism & desirability politics. We find it extremely essential that organizations carry on learning on a daily basis, improving their political education on understanding & dismantling systems of oppression.





Unfortunately we have started the year with the horrible news of the war in Ukraine. We have once again witnessed how cruel people's mentalities can be and how far people in power are willing to go in order to maintain the capitalistic system and systems of oppressions running well, in the name of profit. But we have also seen how grassroots groups and individuals are powerful in creating active, effective, mutual-aid and support.

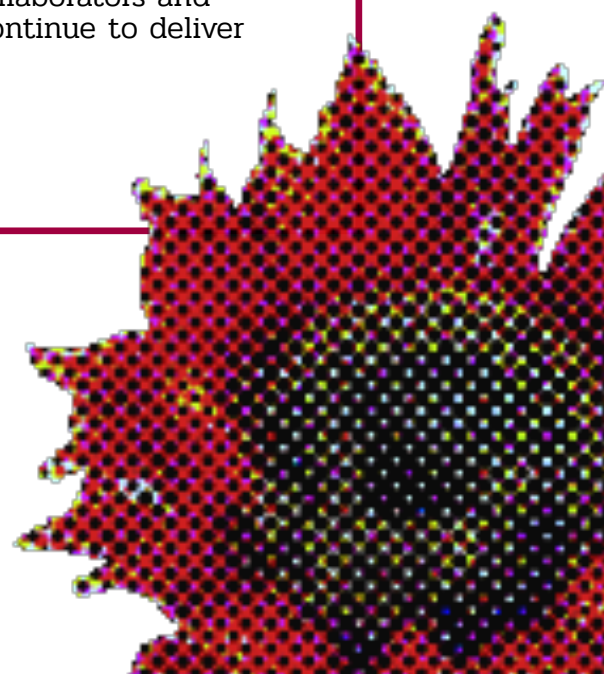
The building where our office is located turned into an arrival point for Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour who fled the war - most of them being international students, from various African countries, aged between 17 and 29 years.

These youth, who went to Ukraine to pursue their studies, encountered a lot of discrimination within the Ukrainian society and the educational system. Now having to flee war in order to survive, they have encountered another barrier: they received a differentiated treatment from the German government and its institutions, obtaining little to no support, simply for not holding an Ukrainian passport.

Thanks to organizations such as Tubman Network, Qasa X, EOTO, Bridge over Borders, among others, an alliance was created and an immediate response with services and goods such as accommodation, food, hygiene products, legal counseling, psychological assistance, language courses, transport and educational aid were provided. Through such quick and direct action, we see that it is possible to actively dismantle systems of oppression by collectively creating solutions to basic needs as a response to governmental neglect and dismissal of its (marginalized) population.

This year was definitely very intense, but also filled with revolutionary hope and radical actions. We had fruitful conversations and we hope next year to be able to have a better taste of freedom for all. And with the support of our friends, collaborators and network members, we are sure that Eyfa will continue to deliver radical content, with much love and care.

We hope to see you all soon.
Don't forget to rest.



1. About Us

1.1. The EYFA story

The EYFA story

EYFA developed from a tour that was initiated by a Swedish/German group in 1986 to save the old-growth forests in Europe: then named European Youth Forest Action. From these beginnings, EYFA has developed into a network of individuals, grassroots organisations and collectives working to transform local and international communities in their approach to environmental and social, political and economic positions.

EYFA focuses particularly on intersectional youth-initiated activities and projects. EYFA projects are mainly for young people, giving them the opportunity to act and encouraging them to participate actively on local and international levels. A special focus is put on providing access for groups to take part in international grassroots movements. EYFA always puts effort into including youth from all corners of the continent, with different social, geographical and cultural backgrounds. EYFA's organisational structure consists of a Europe-wide network of grassroots groups, an office, and an advisory board.

1.2. What does EYFA do?

EYFA provides a platform and practical support for new radical ideas to grow into their full potential.

The international office located in Berlin coordinates EYFA's activities through administrative and communication functions and being the network's contact point for sharing local information.

EYFA supports and encourages grassroots projects and initiatives in the following ways:

- Organizing exchanges, forums, trainings, network gatherings, actions and projects of different kinds.
- Promoting innovative ways of working in the field of social and environmental activism (i.e.: participatory education, consensus-based decision-making, art and activism, free and open source software, etc).
- Disseminating call outs and information on environmental and social justice issues.
- Giving advice, knowledge and support in planning and implementing projects, networking and a set of essential topics (facilitation of meetings, fundraising, strategizing, dealing with conflict, campaigning, burn out and anti-oppression among others).

1.3. Who does EYFA support?

- Grassroots groups combating xenophobia, homo-, trans- and queer-phobia, racism, fascism, sexism, ableism and all other forms of exploitation and injustice.
- Grassroots groups promoting cultural diversity and the rights of women, LGBTIQ+, indigenous, refugees, migrants, and other vulnerable minorities.
- Grassroots groups combating environmental degradation, ecosystem destruction and animal exploitation and promoting biological diversity.
- Grassroots groups promoting young people's access to social rights like health, housing and education.

1.4. EYFA's Vision

EYFA's main aim is to encourage young people's initiative and autonomy. We strive for a world where youth from all backgrounds have access to resources that allow them to gain knowledge, skills and to raise their voices to advocate for change in their communities. A just world where they are empowered to exercise their activism and rights, while developing new ways of organizing communities based on environmental and social sustainability .

We believe that only through an intersectional and anticolonial approach can we achieve social justice for all. This approach to organizing recognizes how oppressive systems of power affect different groups differently. To identify solutions, we find it important to understand the historical factors from which problems arose.

We dream of and act on changing the current society we live in into a society based on social, environmental, racial and economic justice, advocating for lasting political changes in all its shapes and levels, including disabled youth, Black youth, queer&trans* youth, Indigenous youth, neurodiverse youth & each and all groups and identities of youth European-wide.

Towards this we have four core objectives (Capacity Building; Civic Engagement and Participatory Processes; Cross-regional; Intersectional Cooperation) and two priority areas (Social and Environmental Justice; Accessibility & Inclusion) to guide us.

1.4.1. EYFA's Objectives

EYFA has four core objectives at the center of everything we do:

- **Capacity Building:** from at least 4 levels, empowering individuals to combat precarity; helping groups develop the skills and knowledge to gain access to funding, resources, training and the tools to articulate, debate and enact their ideas; and supporting movement-level solidarity (beyond the superficialities of 'networking') among like-minded youth initiatives.
- **Civic Engagement and Participatory Processes:** To support grassroots groups to critically engage with already existing decision-making processes and politics, to develop more egalitarian and participatory alternatives and to create their own legacy by creating resource materials which can be disseminated in their communities.
- **Cross-regional Cooperation:** To develop closer cooperation through joint initiatives and the sharing of ideas, histories and experiences amongst grassroots groups working in different political and social contexts.
- **Intersectionality:** An intersectional approach is fundamental for a just society. We believe that all different kinds of injustices are inter-connected and for that we need to take into account the multiple axes of power, privilege, and oppression, name and address them all, calling people in, in order to achieve transformative social justice.

1.4.2. EYFA's Priorities

Over the course of EYFA's existence, the network has focused its energy on a wide variety of projects all across Europe. Out of these projects, patterns have emerged that point to some of EYFA's priorities. Developed by the network, office and Board, and re-evaluated each year at network strategy meetings, these priorities provide focus for EYFA's work.

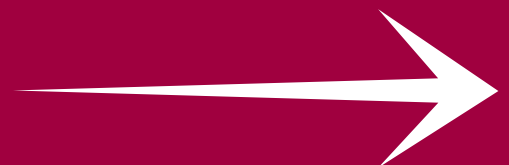
a) Non-formal Education

Non-formal education is a central component to EYFA's work. The activities co-organized by EYFA are usually created along side those who will be taking part in them, be that as trainers or trainees, encouraging open collaboration and adaptable learning practices. A guiding question for this approach is, how can knowledge be shared and passed on in a way that doesn't create a hierarchy of those who know and those who don't? Centering the learning process not only on the experience and knowledge of trainers but also on the trainees/learners promotes a holistic experience where different learning styles can be addressed and attainable goals can be set and met in a supportive environment.

EYFA also encourages horizontal dissemination of information and knowledge. For example, anyone attending one of our trainings should feel empowered to organize and facilitate their own workshops, discussions and skill shares as a result of their experience with EYFA, sharing their new acquired skills with their peers and encouraging them and supporting them in doing the same.

It is particularly important for LGBTIQ+, BIPOC, people with disabilities, migrants and other minority groups to take active roles in teaching, facilitating and mentoring, thus combating discrimination, and creating more inclusive spaces of political action and thought, empowering and inspiring others.

Consensus is quintessential to how we do everything, and this also relates to our non-formal education focus. We discuss everything along the way and things can change if it is required and necessary for the participation and well being of our volunteers, trainers and trainees. Above everything we do, there is a focus on teaching, sharing and exchanging skills on horizontal decision making processes as well as organizational tools based on consensus.



b) Social and Environmental Justice

In an era where social and environmental injustices keep advancing rapidly, we can not stress more the necessity to look closely into these two factors, studying its core and finding their intersections in order to better mitigate its impacts. For that, it's fundamentally important to understand that communities are made of diverse people, with different backgrounds, experiences and needs that are based on class, gender expression & identity, sexual orientation and race.

We would like to expand our concept of priorities by acknowledging the topic of racial justice as an essential part to social justice in our approach. Systemic racism affects people not only at institutional levels but also within our movements, as internalized attitudes, tendencies and practices. Questioning racialized practices in our movements in order to dismantle these practices are questions which must be central to every aspect of what we do.

When environmental injustice strikes, we can easily identify that its footprints is mostly harsher on less privileged people. Communities with little to no access to basic resources struggle in deeper levels, and it can vary from minor inconveniences of daily life to more severe life threatening situations. EYFA's perspective is based on the intersectional understanding that social and environmental issues are deeply interlinked and are also expressed in patterns of economic injustice.

It is notably harder for populations with limited access to resources and basic needs for survival to adjust to difficult circumstances caused by environmental and social injustices. With poor access to health care, cases of natural catastrophes or pollution, for example affect such communities disproportionately more than for privileged populations. We prioritize issues of marginalized communities to engage in the environmental justice movement in highlighting the wide gaps in social inequalities that influence the global fight against climate change.

Socially sustainable and just communities go hand in hand with environmentally conscious ways of living. EYFA's many environmental and social justice projects have aimed to draw the links between capitalism's economic growth-obsession and the ongoing exploitation and destruction of our natural & human environment that results on the exclusion of large populations, preventing them to access basic human rights resources. In order to pursue more just futures, we need to set changes into motion at both the local and global scale, starting by identifying the roots and causes of such injustices, raising awareness and promoting immediate conscious actions on a daily basis. For that, we keep empowering our youth to take the change on their own hands, acting better in the present in order to experience a future where we can all live in safety and harmonic abundance.



c) Accessibility and Inclusion

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1.5 EYFA's Structure

1.5.1. Decision-making

Decisions are made during different meetings throughout the year. During these meetings the following is discussed: old and new projects, focus of the network, strategies and future cooperation plans. Though we do often make use of on-line meetings and decision making tools, face-to-face yearly network meetings are crucial for our work, and informal network discussions take place alongside all EYFA events. EYFA board meetings are organized once a year at the EYFA office in Berlin. The board has better insight in the works of the office this way and with everything at hand it heightens practicality.

All organizational decisions are made through reaching consensus. Consensus is a decision-making process that fully utilizes the resources of a group, seeks the agreement of most participants, and resolves or mitigates the objections of the minority to achieve the most agreeable decision. Consensus is also used during all EYFA meetings, projects and events. EYFA functions on the belief that people in a group will relate to each other in a much more fair and productive way if everyone's contribution is considered and is equal to everyone else. Consensus requires use of communication hand signals during meetings and decision making processes, and, sometimes, presence of trained facilitators and mediators.

1.5.2 EYFA's Office

EYFA has one international office, located in Berlin. The office coordinates EYFA's activities, including administrative and financial tasks, as well as big part of the communication functions of the network. This includes producing the EYFA newsletter, acting as an information and support point for organisations in the network and as a communication liaison between local and international projects.

The office is organised collectively and non-hierarchically, meaning that all staff and volunteers are expected to take an equitable role in day-to-day tasks and decision-making processes. From watering the plants to writing applications, tasks are shared and rotated among all of those in the office.

The office also acts as a 'training ground' for young people to develop various skills, such as project coordination, fund-raising and bookkeeping. EYFA does not require office staff to arrive already equipped with all the necessary knowledge and experience to carry out their tasks. Rather, the goal is to be a place where young people can work to develop skills in a supportive environment, learning-by-doing. It is normal for staff and volunteers to work in the office from 2 to 5 years, before moving on to share their new skills with other groups and projects.

1.5.3. EYFA Advisory Board

The 'Advisory Board' oversees the work of the office. The Board provides support and advice to the office – particularly in terms of strategy and finances. Currently, there are three Board members, two of them used to be part of the office team. In both the office and the Board, effort is made to maintain balanced representation among the different corners of Europe.

1.5.4. EYFA Network

EYFA is a network that consists of individuals, collectives and organisations from all around Europe. There are no membership rules or fees required to join the EYFA network – EYFA is open to all current grassroots and alternative youth movements focusing on environmental, social justice and alternative economics and related issues.

The EYFA network is primarily used to share information, skills and resources. It connects groups working on similar topics around Europe, and groups wanting to share experiences or gain training from one another. The network acts as a way to connect local issues and struggles trans-nationally. In particular, the network works to connect groups in east and west Europe, building solidarity among different regions.

The EYFA Network has two permanent working groups, Network Strategy and Cross-Border Collaboration, which help the international office in Berlin identify the needs of groups in the network and decide where and on what issues upcoming gatherings should focus. This ensures that EYFA consistently works towards its aims of capacity building, participatory processes and East-West networking. For each EYFA project a temporary working group is also created to support the logistics and develop the content of the project. Sometimes these groups continue working together after the project's completion.

Typically, the network has one meeting each year where the priorities and strategy of the network are decided upon and projects and activities are developed. Between meetings, members can stay in touch via mailing lists and online calls. Like all EYFA meetings, decisions are made on a consensus basis.

1.6. Partner Organizations & Network-members

ESC partner organizations 2022 (extension of the 2020–2021 program):

- Fialta - Youth Education Centre (BELARUS)
- Alternative-V - All-Ukrainian association for youth cooperation (UKRAINE)

EYFA's work is also possible due to all kinds of support (informational, infrastructural, technical and organizational) of our allies, friendly and partner organizations and network members:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Activestills (Palestine / Israel) | Hyokyaalto (Finland) |
| Alternativna Kulturna Organizacija (Serbia) | Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (Armenia) |
| Aloti Farm (Germany) | Klimakollektivet (Denmark) |
| Arruda - Collective (Germany) | Kommunikationskollektiv (Germany) |
| Art Centre (Slovenia) | La Bassa Mar (Catalunya) |
| ASEED (Netherlands) | La Rhonce (France) |
| Atem e.V. (Germany) | Labovzw (Belgium) |
| Auto*Mat (Czech Republic) | LENKA (Republic of Macedonia) |
| Belarus Freedom of Speech (Belarus) | Loom e.V. (Germany) |
| Bla (Portugal, France, Germany) | Oya Kollektiv (Germany) |
| Black Earth Kollektiv (Germany) | Palestine Speaks (Germany) |
| Casa Kuà (Germany) | Re.Generation (Romania) |
| Campaign to Protect Pont Valley (United Kingdom) | Rhythm of Resistance Istanbul (Turkey) |
| Carbon Trade Watch (Spain) | Sickness Affinity Group (Germany) |
| Coal Action Network (United Kingdom) | Skills for Action (Germany) |
| Collectiu Eco Actiu (Spain) | SPINA (Poland) |
| EcoDharma (Spain) | Stop Xenophobia Youth Federation (Ukraine) |
| Ecologistas en Acción (Spain) | Together! (Sweden) |
| Ecotopia Bike Tour (European-wide) | Tools for Action (Germany) |
| Eroles project (Spain) | Tripod (United Kingdom) |
| Firefly (Bosnia) | UKE (Croatia) |
| Fracking Ez (Spain) | Ulex Project (Catalunya) |
| GAIA (Portugal) | Vedegylet (Hungary) |
| Globale (Colombia - Germany) | VOID Network (Greece) |
| Gluisseacht (Ireland) | Vredesactie (Belgium) |
| Havel Kranich e.V. (Germany) | Zali.LT (Lituania) |
| | Zelena akcija Zagreb (Croatia) |

2. *Projects*

In 2022 we focused on climate justice direct actions, queerness and subversive identities, migration and displacement, ancestral indigenous techniques for healing and well-being, the importance of documenting activism and much more!

Our goal with this years work-plan was to ensure that climate justice is accessible for all, taking into account diverse minds, different access and mobility needs and wishes, being thoughtful of different financial backgrounds and the abolishing white-washed structures. We keep on working to ensure the inclusion of marginalised youth, questioning why projects organised by big organisations usually fail on reaching out to those that needed them the most. And of course, we wanted to create stronger connection with our queer siblings, share skills and knowledge on self-care and develop effective strategies to empower our communities, not forgetting to bring back indigenous technologies that have been (and continues to be) erased by colonialism and capitalism.

Through our local workshops & trainings, we continued to have hard and important conversations with other grass-roots organisations, in local and European-wide levels, with the hope that slowly awareness, accountability and social justice are the norm.

Unfortunately, unlike all the previous years, we were not able to implement the ESC program (European Solidarity Corps volunteering service) in 2022. We hope to have the chance to implement it next year and continue our East-West cooperation, capacity building and intense engagement of youth of different backgrounds in our daily office participatory processes and activities.

The highlight of the year were the 1 week-long international activity 'Queer elsewhere - exploring intersecting oppressions of queer migrant youth', and the 3 days gathering Black Farming Weekend. Both events brought together youth from different corners of Europe, that were so so so different from each other but that had so much in common!

2.1. Help desk

1st January - 31st December. Berlin, Germany.

The EYFA Help Desk project has successfully been running since 2017. In this space we offer advice in and around activism, be it in fundraising, sustainable activism or inclusive organizing. This year, a part of 1 to 1 advisory sessions, we could also offer a 2 day intense workshop on grant writing and group meetings.

This year, Around 150 young people active in grassroots organizations advocating for accessibility and inclusion in activism and activists spaces, as well as social and environmental justice and anti-discrimination, took part in our weekly advisory sessions covering:



civic engagement, accessibility, inclusion, disability justice, funding opportunities, access to resources, empowerment of young people in society, active citizenship, raising awareness on the EU youth policy agenda in the field of youth, in order to support marginalized youth in exercising an active citizenship in society.

2.2. Local trainings

Local (1 day) activities: workshops, skill-share meetings and hang outs.

This year we gave special focus on our local activities, we implemented a series of workshops, skill share meetings and hangouts. We tackled topics such as racism, colonialism, sexual health, self care, conflict, awareness, empowerment and liberation. We'd like to keep stimulating the active participation of young people in democratic life by improving local youth work and non-formal education, helping them to build new competencies in the fields of self-organisation, civic engagement, campaigning and solidarity, and by facilitating youth engagement, connection, and empowerment, as well as provide information about EU programs and opportunities for youth and youth work. In average over 400 young activists benefited direct and indirectly in our local projects and we are so so pleased to have received great feedbacks from the attendees. We definitely opened the path for new collaborations and we are truly happy with the outcomes. This year's local mini events were:

* Skill-share meeting: Can we deal with conflicts?

A space to come together and share skills and reflections on conflicts, with focus on (chosen) family dynamics and collective mates.

* Let's talk about queer!

In this hangout online space led by former participants from Eyfa's 2021 events. We brainstormed on how can we embrace queerness, transness in a such cis society.

* Anti-Racism workshop

Reflections on how can we be pro-active on the fight against racism in our daily life and inside our collectives & self-organised structures.

* Pic-nic: Sun is out, we are out!

Queer, young and migrant pic nic at the park. A space to connect with each other, in person, while welcoming Spring time!

* BIPoC Climate Justice Camp

A gathering in NRW Germany specially for BIPoC activists where Eyfa took part holding space for empowerment, self-care, exchange, selforganisation and selfreflection. Decolonial perspectives on Climate Justice are the main topic in the workshops.

* Decolonizing sexual health

From the global distribution of sexual health resources to our most intimate interactions with our partners, colonization's impacts can be still felt and seen. This workshop tackled the ways in which colonization has created damage with regard to social health, impacting certain communities more than others.

2.3 Longer Activities

2.3.1 Youth Exchange: AKT - BIPOC Action Climbing

19th – 28th August. Lützerath, Germany

The AKT youth exchange was a week-long program where youth affected by discrimination focused on direct action and climbing. The exchange took place in August 2022 in a forest near Lützerath in the Rhenish lignite mining area in Germany.

Young people were able to exchange about direct action planning and doing to strengthening communities and building cross regional alliances. So that in perspective more self-organized actions and thus visibility of young Black, Indigenous, Jewish and People of Color perspectives and voices are heard. We especially invited FLINTA* (Female, Lesbian, Inter, Non-Binary, Trans, Agender,*) positioned youth and tried to make the training generally low barrier. In addition to action practice, we also talked about topics such as dealing racism, as this affects our life realities, which hardly find room in white Christian cis-hetero male dominated action contexts.

The goal was to combine empowerment, direct action and self/community care amongst young activists from different European countries. Values like global solidarity, equality and inclusion and sustainability were discussed while focussing on decolonial practices and applying an intersectional approach. As most of the participants are active in antiracism and climate movements an focus topic was the relation of climate change and migration.



What is an AKT?

AKT stands for Action Climbing Training. Climbing skills needed for tree climbing and climbing structures are shared in order to be able to implement political actions like banner drops, blockades and much more. Our 6-day intensive training includes all the important basics of technical climbing needed for actions including: Introduction to materials, knot tying, ascending trees with and without ropes, rappelling techniques, belaying techniques, moving at heights, installing and removing ropes, rescue, rope bridge construction, horizontal moving on the rope, rope assisted hanging of banners, action planning and scouting concerning climbing, 1st aid.

Who is the AKT for?

We organize an AKT that is BIPOC only. That means it will be a training for Black, Indigenous and People of Color. For us, this means all people affected by racism and/or anti-Semitism. It is aimed at anyone who wants to be active in political climbing action and/or has a desire to pass on climbing skills to political activists.

It is aimed at BIPOCs with and without previous experience. But it is important for us to emphasize: You don't need any prior experience! We start from scratch. Even specific climbing equipment is not a prerequisite. Climbing is certainly emotionally and/or physically challenging for many people. Fear of heights, physical limitations, learning difficulties or similar are not directly exclusion criteria! If you would like to participate but have concerns, please contact us. This way we can think of alternatives and you can come to the training encouraged



Why BIPOC?

People probably have different focuses on why it may be important for them to learn in a BIPOC only space. Our idea is to create a space for self-empowerment and networking between BIPOCs. Climbing is kind "cool" - so in a way it's also less accessible. We want to try to make it a little different. For some people, that's what happens when a space is created just for people affected by racism and/or anti-semitism to do that!



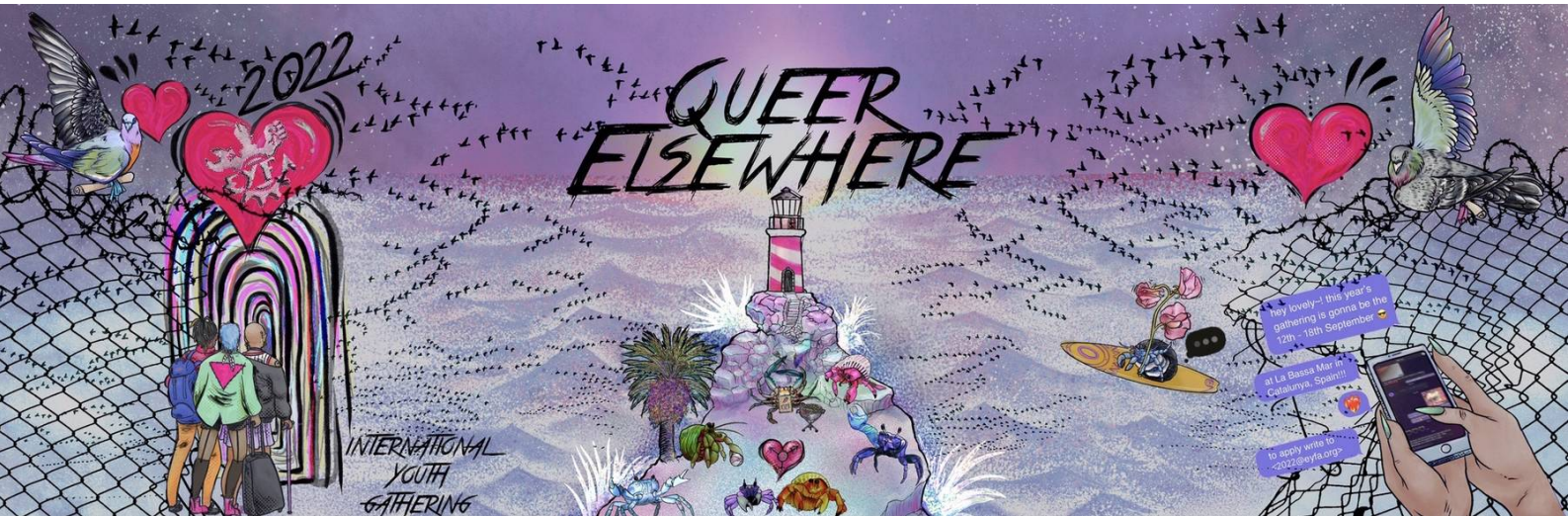
Safer space?

Just because a space is created with people affected by racism and/or anti-semitism does not automatically make it a safer space, nor does it make it a safer space for everyone! We are affected differently by racism, anti-semitism and other power structures and we all reproduce different discrimination. We are aware of this!

BIPOC spaces are also not fundamentally free of dominance and racism. Our intention or idea: To create a space for BIPOC where needs-based learning happens in order to create empowerment for action climbing - for participants as well as for trainers! We want to learn with less pressure and leave the training empowered! We are aware that this does not happen automatically because people organize BIPOC only. We want to reflect on mackery, sexism, rejectionism, racism, performance pressure and everything else that will come up and create spaces where we can talk about and reflect on feelings that arise during climbing and well-being in the group.

2.3.2 International Activity: Queer Elsewhere

Exploring intersecting oppressions of queer migrant youth.



12th- 18th September. Tarragona, Catalunya

The "Queer Elsewhere - Exploring intersecting oppressions of queer migrant youth" international gathering brought together 13 BIPOC queer youth living in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, France, England, Spain and Hungary, there were first generation as well as second generation migrants, and had heritages stemming entirely from the global south.

The gathering took place between the 12th and the 18th of September in La Bassa Mar, a gathering and retreat space for trans, inter, non-binary, and queer people in Tarragona, Catalunya. During the days full with workshops and activities, the participants were able to visibilise their experiences made as BIPOC queer youth and to develop antiracist and anticolonial tools to identify and spread awareness on the interconnected nature of identities and systems of oppression, in an effort to strengthen the struggle against discrimination and systemic oppression. They were also put in contact with migrant solidarity networks in order to fortify cross-border queer activism and enhance transnational youth solidarity.

The workshops were designed by skilled trainers from our network who also belong to the queer BIPOC community. They combined participatory, non-formal learning methods. Some of the topics covered in the workshops included intersectionality, healing & ancestral sexualities, alternative activism, queer & trans of color history in Berlin, homonationalism and pink washing , etc.

2.3.3. Turnt Up!

24th to the 29th of October. Berlin, Germany.

From the 24th to the 29th of October, the music and anti-discrimination camp Turnt Up took place in Berlin. - The six day music camp specially for girls and queer, trans*, intersex and non binary youth between 16 and 27 years old, counted with many coaches, experienced musicians, awareness team and counseling, in order to created a safer space where everywhere could have the time and professional guidance to develop their musical skills, learning how to play drums, electric guitar, bass, keyboards and/or do vocals in a band. Youth with and without any music experience spent the whole week together in immersive instrument workshops, band rehearsals and craft and chill workshops.

A part of learning about music and instruments, Turnt up! also opened room for vulnerability, making it possible to talk about many kinds of discrimination youth face not only within the music industry but in society in general. They could be open regarding their identities and experiences, exchanging kindness, supporting and empowering each other. The camp was also a space where people where encouraged to listen to their body, allowing themselves to be tired, to rest and to relax.

After a full week of learning and brainstorming, at the last day of the event, the participants organized and performed a full concert!



...ist ein kostenloser Musikcamp
für Mädchen, Frauen, queere,
trans*, intersexuelle und
nicht-binäre Jugendliche
zwischen 16 und 27 Jahren alt.



2.3.4. Black farming weekend



30th September – 02nd October. Brandenburg, Germany.

A full weekend organized in collaboration with the Black Earth collective, and on aloti-farm grounds. The event was organised by 3 Black persons, 1 from Eyfa office / Black Earth Collective / Black Wendland and 2 members and co-funders of aloti-farm. As skill-share format, every participant could share their perspectives, experiences, questions, knowledge about farming, and specially African indigenous farming techniques. There were both discussions groups and practical sessions to work the land of aloti-farm.

The event brought a deep reflection on farming in practical as well as in political and spiritual terms, with the goal to reclaim and heal our connection to the land.

Difficult topics such as mental health, colorism, food sovereignty, access to land for Black people, the loss of our ancestral knowledge and the challenges of collectivity, among other things were discussed and we are very thankful for having the chance to make it happen. As aloti-farm very well said 'our ambition is to center marginalized people and have a decolonial approach to farming, we want to continue reflecting on these topics and building a farm that reflects that journey.'

The Black farming weekend took place at Arruda, a self organised queer-feminist living project in Brandenburg with an intersectional approach and anti-discriminatory Seminar House. Arruda also hosts the newly founded aloti-farm, a farm run by a small collective initiated by racialized, queer, migrant persons.

2.3.5. Agri/Cultural Practices

16th - 19th June & 7th -9th October. Brandenburg, Germany.

Agri/cultural practices was a practical experimental workshop that provided an introduction to Permaculture (permanent agriculture) sustainable design ethics and principles through games and exercises from Theatre of the Oppressed, aimed at rehearsing solutions for change.

Both Permaculture and Theatre of the Oppressed are informed by Indigenous, Black and working-class knowledge and experience. This way of combining Permaculture and Theatre of the Oppressed was developed through the Neighbourhood Academy at Prinzessinnen Garden, Berlin in 2019. However, this workshop goes further by not only providing an introduction but focussing on anti-racism, climate justice, decolonizing, addressing power structures, understanding the link between colonialism and environmental chaos, challenging environmental racism and exploring the potential of art.

Agri/Cultural Practices', happened in 2 parts, in both Summer and Autumn! It counted with the envision, expertise and guidance of Mojisola Adebayo, Asmelash Dagnein, Nicole Wolf and Mama D. Ujuaje, in partnership with Counterpoints Arts, Eyfa & Havel Kranich and our network members.



2.3.6. The Learning Documentation project

Throughout July, August, September and November.
Various locations in Berlin, Germany.

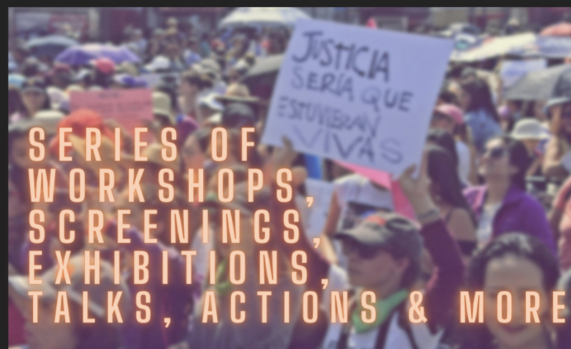
The “Learning documentation project” was designed to be a 1 week youth exchange that focuses on the documentation of resistance movements that vision towards social & political change and justice. This project had to be adjusted into a series of events, divided in 4 parts. We focused on the documentation of resistance movements that vision towards social & political change and justice.

We counted with info-evenings with activists documenting uprisings in their local communities, bring awareness to the protests and revolutionary actions from different corners of the world including Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Palestine and Sudan that symbolize the power of community organizing and collective action against systemic oppression and injustices. The struggle for liberation in our times has been accelerated by the internet and the ability of the people to control and shape narratives of their realities. The impact of documentation has been realized in international mass mobilizations and solidarity while opening up dialogue of important issues that affect our right to live freely.

With the photo exhibition we wished to highlight the important work of photographers who are connected to the struggles they document, as a critical part of movements and not as passive observers. As witnesses of history, we honour this form of storytelling that brings not only visibility but humanity to our struggles. Movie screenings, exhibitions, info talks, demonstrations and self organised skill shares were some of the events that composed the projects.

Participants engaged in learning how to safely and ethically document demonstrations and actions that amplify voices of marginalized groups as well as emphasizing the importance of visibilizing global issues from perspectives of those affected by these struggles.

LEARNING DOCUMENTATION



2.3.7 European Year of Youth

The European Year of Youth Event was an online event that was previously envisioned to be about mental health and well-being, in a very basic and mainstream understanding of 'well-being' means in such a normative society. We see this topic as an urgent and essential issue among youth, specially those that are marginalized. There is a massive lack of understanding of the depth of the negative psychological impact youth everywhere is going through - often times alone. Youth, specially those that are negatively racialised, have been suffering enormously everyday - on personal and structural levels. One of the main reasons of such disconnect is how the sense of 'being' and 'belonging' is being strip away from them by the systemic and institutional everyday racism and on-going colonialism.

Throughout the year we have learned and unlearned so much about systems of oppression, anti-racist actions, understanding unconscious biases, reconnecting with the self and the ancestral role models.

We have realized that in order to heal we must connect with ourselves. We must reclaim what was stolen from us. We must take back the power and keep going with kindness. Knowing our own history is the starting point for self discovery. Connecting with ancestors and ancestral techniques is one of the many ways Black and Indigenous Peoples communities have encountered to keep traditions alive, fighting the erasure of their cultures and finding ways to survive the many genocides and ethical cleanse that have been happening since centuries and that have such a hard impact in every day life. It's a journey of self-discovery, self-love, radical kindness, collective transformative care and pure joy.

The participatory global online event regarding the European year of the youth counted with young people from different countries. We the discussed connections between climate justice, indigenous farming techniques and well-being, analyzing how deeply connected all these topics are. They feed and impact each other directly, what can result on transformation and empowerment or on exploitation and disasters, depending on how we treat them.

One of the main outcomes of our meeting were the common understanding that the engagement with indigenous farming techniques not only benefits climate change mitigation, but also fosters positive mental health and well-being. This digital space was used for empowerment and exchange and it became clear that a balance between hands in the earth and online is crucial to balance mental health. At the same time simple tools were shared regarding farming and climate justice practices.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE YOUTH AFRICAN INDIGENOUS FARMING TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE & WELLBEING

ONLINE SUNDAY 18.12.2022
12 TO 1.30PM (CET)

THOKOZO KHONDOWE (BASED IN THE NETHERLANDS & ZAMBIA) AND SONITA MBAH (BASED IN GERMANY & CAMEROON) ARE GIVING INSIGHTS ABOUT THEIR FARMING WORK & PROJECTS. IT SHOWS THE CONNECTION TO CLIMATE JUSTICE AND WELLBEING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.



3. Statutory Meetings

3.1. Board of Directors Meeting

25th and 26th of April. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
30th and 31st of October. Berlin, Germany.

Every year, our office team & Board of Directors members get together for two Board of Directors. This year is the first year we could meet in person since the pandemic! The Eyfa office and the Board Members met twice: one time in Amsterdam in April, and in Berlin in October.

In these meetings we came together to evaluate the last years achievements, learning more about our organisation, developing a more strategical plan for this years activities, reflecting on our internal relationship as an office but also giving deep attention to our relationship with our network members and funders.



3.2. Network Meeting

04 – 08 November. Berlin, Germany
After a 2 year hiatus, this year we had the chance to meet in person with some of our Network! We gathered for 4 days, to welcome new members and to get to know each other better.

In our last network meeting, back in 2019, we have chosen a new format: having our meeting withing a camp. In 2019 we have met at the Klimacamp im Rheinland. This year we thought that, instead of having a closed “private” meeting, it would be also nice to adopt the same format and take part in a bigger event where there could be the possibility to meet other people/groups who are working on campaigns and initiatives that might be new, exciting and/or inspirational to us! For that we chose the International Conference Women Weaving the Future – a space to exchange ideas in the spirit of women's liberation in the fight against fascism, capitalism, fundamentalism and patriarchy. We had the chance to attend the workshops, discuss in our internal groups and connect with other participants.

4. Groups you should know!

Collectives that partnered with us this year.

4.1. Aloti Farm

Aloti farm is queer, migrant BIPOC initiative led and run by Black FLINTA (Female, Lesbian, Inter, Non-binary, Trans* and Agender) persons. Aloti farm is born out of the wishes of Black and Brown people to re-connect with their ancestors and re-connect with the land and ancestral indigenous techniques that were stolen and erased by colonisation processes / genocides. Aloti Farm aims to bring activism to the table, promoting awareness on food sovereignty, permaculture, climate justice, anti-discrimination, anti-racism and empowerment for marginalised communities. As a community organised project, they aim to be self-sustainable, ensuring that Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asylum Seekers and Refugees can have access to good quality veggies, herbs and fruits.

4.2. Arruda Collective

A self-organised Seminar House and co-living project for anti-discrimination, empowerment and reflection. Arruda runs various projects, initiatives and hosts inter-generational living space and a permaculture project on its backyard. The project is run by a collective and is located in the countryside in Brandenburg with a distance of 2 hours from Berlin.

Arruda's main focus is on anti-discrimination, anti-racism, empowerment and queerfeminism. The central political focus is the anti-discrimination Seminar House, where space is provided for groups that fight against discrimination and / or are affected by it.

Besides running the Seminar House, Arruda collective also promotes events and discussions to bring together anti-racism fights and queer feminist struggles. Arruda is committed to create a community space that is sensible towards different forms of discriminations

4.3. Atem e.V.

AEM e.V. was founded in Berlin in 2018 with the goal of making music more accessible, and supporting empowerment through creativity. AEM is a member of the Girls Rock Camp Alliance and participated in the Music Empowerment Mobility Exchange project in 2019 in Iceland and Norway. The TURNT UP! Music Camp is a free music making camp for young people up to 27 and its most recent edition took place in Kreuzberg in Autumn 2022.

4.4. Black Earth Collective

Black Earth is an environmental and climate justice collective founded in 2019 in Berlin, Germany. We are a mix of students, activists, academics, professionals and advocates for a more equitable future. The majority of our members identify as Black and/or FLINT*.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- *We spread awareness of the interconnections between racism, colonialism, capitalism, and the climate crisis.
- *We promote a climate narrative that is intersectional and climate policies that are anti-racist and socially just.
- *We support climate adaptation measures which are BIPoC-led and decolonial.
- *We are part of a network of BIPoC Climate Activists throughout Germany and continue to build solidarity with those in the Global South.
- *We speak on panels and at demos and give workshops on a regular basis.
- *We host soli-events with and in support of like-minded groups both in Germany and abroad

WHAT DO WE CALL FOR?

- *The end of this exploitative production and economic system & way of life at the expense of ecosystems and people in the Global South
- *Accountability and compensation for historical greenhouse gas emissions and their disproportionate impacts
- *The recognition of climate change as a cause of migration
- *Equal participation of people and countries of the Global South in all climate policy bodies and processes
- *A policy-process that involves and thinks along with all marginalized people, especially those who are affected by multiple forms of oppression
- *Implementation of an ecosystem perspective in regard to climate policies and adaptation

4.5. Casa Kuà

Casa Kuà is organized by trans* and non binary BIPOCs to make health more accessible to other trans, inter, non binary and queer people, and especially for those affected by racism. The aim of the community center is to bring alternative, traditional, and conventional medical treatments together. We also want to bring communities together, centering the needs and wishes of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Colour) trans* people, because for us, communities and health are inseparable.

The health care system in Germany is designed according to white and cis-male norms, and this goes hand in hand with sexist, racist, classist, ableist and body- negative discrimination. For this reason, many inter*- , a-binary, trans* people, women, disabled and fat people fall out of the regular health system and suffer from health-impairing conditions, or have to resign themselves to poor quality health care.

We see health as holistic and not only as the treatment of symptoms, because ill health can be caused by societal conditions, intersectional discrimination, and also loneliness and isolation. For this reason we want to build a space that is both an alternative health structure and a community center.

Casa Kuà is especially meant for the marginalized in the health system and in society, and who are disadvantaged due to discrimination, sexism, homo, trans* or inter* hostility. As we work from our own social positioning, the groups most important for us to work with are women, lesbians, queers, a-binary, inter and trans* people who are also affected by racism and illegalization.

<https://casa-kua.com/>



46. La Bassa Mar

A gathering and retreat space for trans, inter, non-binary, and queer people in Tarragona, Catalunya. They are one of our newest network members & the new venue sibling of Casa Kuà, with whom we have been collaborating frequently on a local level.

We see that these two spaces are very aligned with our visions and approach and La Bassa Mar is simply the perfect place where we can our gatherings, specially because they are focused on queer people that are directly affected by racism.

La Bassa Mar is a gathering and retreat space in L'Ampolla (Tarragona), two hours south of Barcelona, in Catalunya, Spain, connected with Berlin-based Health and Community Centre, Casa Kuà. La Bassa Mar offers a gathering and retreat space where trans*, inter, and queer groups and individuals can rest, recharge, and empower ourselves and one another. It offers opportunities to strategise, and to connect with the sea, land and surrounding environment, as well as with one another. This project centers (but is not exclusive to) trans*, inter and non-binary people, particularly those impacted by racism. La Bassa Mar hosts groups and events working on a range of different topics, including (but not limited to): anti-racism and decolonisation, abolition, trans-feminisms, health and wellness, sex work, sex and sexuality, sustainable gardening and permaculture, youth programs, art and education. This is a self-organized grassroots project, by and for us, because we believe that access to nourishment, replenishment and slowing down are important in order to rethink, reprioritize, and envision new ways of moving forward— both individually and collectively.

<https://bassa-mar.org/>

47 Loom

Loom seeks the collaboration with educational institutions to put issues of racism, islamophobia, LGBT*I*Q and / or prejudice in general on center stage. In so doing, discrimination based on forms of racism is exposed and reduced. Loom aims to work in a highly intersectional way in every sense.

Loom everyday work entails the development of diverse projects and the organization of public seminars, events, panel discussions, and workshops, providing workshops on anti-bias, anti-discrimination, anti-racism and critical whiteness.

We view ourselves as a counseling and contact point for people who had experiences of racism, discrimination based on their gender and sexual identity. In order to create spaces that enable new narratives, we provide workshops for youths and adults in our community. We want to raise awareness for these topics, to connect ourselves and thus, enable self-empowerment.

<https://www.loomverein.org/>

5. EYFA Media & Publications



5.1. EYFA Newsletter

The EYFA newsletter is published once or twice a year and is targeted at young people interested in issues of inclusion and environmental sustainability.

During the pandemic we have published. The newsletter of 2021 was the second one since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to these global circumstances, we deemed it of importance to start this year's newsletter with a call to our readers to stay connected during these uncertain times.

In it 14 grassroots collectives across Europe with various approaches and foci came together to share their work by learning about other initiatives, sharing information, exchanging the resources they have made available online and encouraging our readers to participate in the gatherings, camps, skill-shares and workshops, protests and actions across Europe and beyond once the restrictions to contain the pandemic would allow it.

5.2. Website

This year we have continued to develop our website a bit further by making more adjustments considering accessibility. This is a process we started in 2021 and we are committed to improving accessibility everywhere we are present at.

We have added image descriptions and we keep doing small changes in order to make it accessible for persons using screen readers. Under the tab called more resources we have compiled a list of links to learning materials, tools and websites of collectives and people that teach about accessibility and solidarity, two subjects that play an important role in the process of learning and unlearning towards the creation of a more accessible society.

On the tab sharing is caring you will find all of the resources and materials that we have created or collaborated with throughout the years. There are various publications, articles, podcasts, resource guides, etc.

On media you will have the chance to access the material used and developed during our 'Learning documentation' project.

We hope to keep updating our website and we are very happy about tips and contributions. Please write us on our contact form if you would like to help us grow!



5.3. Further publications

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are not super present on social media but since this year we have an IG account and we are trying our very best to keep you updated the easiest way possible! Follow us and share our accounts with friends :)

Instagram (we are more present here):

- www.instagram.com/eyfa_berlin

Twitter account:

- https://twitter.com/_eyfa_

Vimeo:

- <https://vimeo.com/user90137588>

Let's keep in touch. We'd love to hear from you!



EYFA Publications

- Anti racism training handbook;
- Report "How accessible is climate justice";
- Youth generated toolkits "Decolonize your movement" and "Start a movement";
- Climate Justice and Accessibility handout and guide;
- Cycling Tour Report "Ecotopia biketour";
- Report: needs and attitudes of Queer Youth with a Migration Background;
- Youth Generated Queer Elsewhere Zine Brochure;
- Learning Documentation Online Folder
- Guide to using documentation and expression as tool for youth empowerment;

6. Financial Overview

*** SEE ANNEXED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DETAILS ***

7. Thanks

We are enormously thankful to all our friends, colleagues, network members, board members, donors, collaborators and really every single person who crossed our paths this year. It has been a very intense and special one. And it's all thanks to you! We are committed to keep on learning, unlearning, sharing, caring, resting, fighting, loving and multiplying all the kindness (and rage!) that were so present throughout this magical process – thanks for being part of this never – ending journey.

Sincerely,
your Eyfa team.



Dr.
Pogo



Movement
Hub



Funded by
the European Union

