

Grounding in community: building solutions for a just European transition

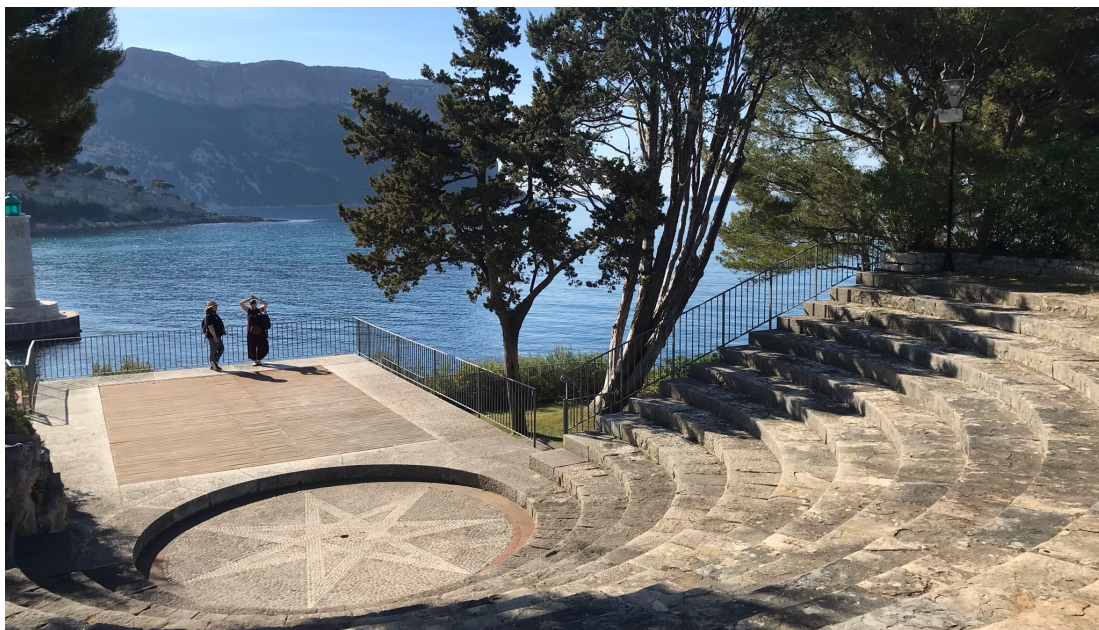


**EUROPE REGIONAL GATHERING
2022**

Thank you for being part of the 2022 EDGE regional gathering “Grounding in community: building solutions for a just European transition”

In 2022, in lieu of the continuous challenges related to the Covid - 19, the EDGE Staff decided to organize two in person regional meetings, instead of planning a virtual conference as done in 2021. This decision was due primarily to the belief that our members have a need to reconnect in person, while maintaining an understanding that there are still too many health concerns to plan international travel.

In Europe, members and allies met at the [Camargo Foundation](#) in Cassis, on May 11-13, 2022. During these three days together, the EDGE community of funders reconnected, learned from each other and from movement leaders. Details of the gathering are presented below.



Gratitude

We would like to warmly thank Julie Chenot and Claire Fabri-Cassin and everyone at [Camargo Foundation](#) for the generous donation of their space and their continued support throughout the event. Special thanks to Mark Radazzo as well who helped us center the event and its content in his hometown Marseille.

We would also like to thank the rest of the planning committee: Isis Amlak, Jessie Bluedorn, Marianne Mollman, Felix Endara, Tania Turner, Alma Magaña and Karin van Boxtel.

Thank you all for being part of the EDGE family!



The gathering in numbers

62

participants, joining us both offline and online

04

movement leaders invited to lead session

03

site visits in Marseille

01

site visits in Cassis

04

plenary session

07

open spaces and dine-arounds led by members and movement allies

Keynote movement leaders/speakers



Iryna Kolotylo
[Eidos Center for Political Studies](#)

Aggression in Ukraine



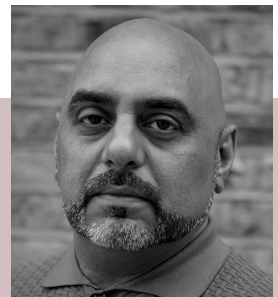
Morgan Ody
[La Via Campesina](#)

Food Sovereignty



Elisabeth Dau
[Movement Utopia](#)

Municipalism



Asad Rehman
[War on Want](#)

Climate Justice

Main Gathering Sessions



Welcome & setting up: what is happening at EDGE

This session set the tone for the gathering and introduced EDGE to non-members.

Facilitated by Martina Fin and Sofia Arroyo



EDGE members engagement and Network Governance

In this session, Board representatives and EDGE staff presented to EDGE members their thinking in moving towards a more networked governance model, they gave updates on the organizational strengthening work and asked members to reflect on the role EDGE members can play in strengthening the EDGE network and what an actively engaged membership means.

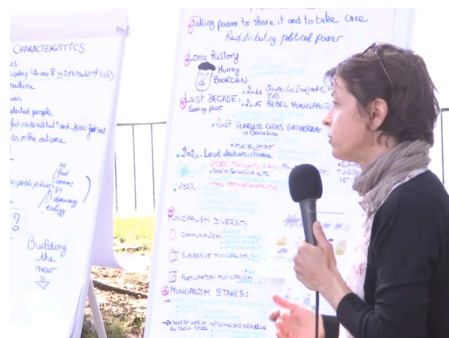
Facilitated by: Sofia Arroyo (EDGE ED), Cuong P. Hoang (Chair of the Board OS committee), Anna Turley ([Bureau Kensington](#)) and Barbara Williams ([Bureau Kensington](#))



Conversation on Ukrainian conflict and beyond

This session focused on the lived experience of Ukrainian activists in the larger context of the aggression in Ukraine. Furthermore, during the conversation, panelists together with participants joining the gathering discussed topics related to imperialism and the role that philanthropy should have in supporting civil society fighting for systemic justice all over the world.

Co-hosted by Belguun Bella Bat-Erdene ([Urgent Action Fund](#)) and Iryna Kolotylo (Eidos), facilitated by Martina Fin



Conversation on Municipalism

Democratic issues in times of recomposition of new geopolitical in Europe and anti - social, ecological and transition ways. What are the alternatives that philanthropy and civil society can contribute to create together? This closing conversation explored the need to activate a translocal, European network and ways to build strong resistance and alternative and build community.

Hosted by Elisabeth Dau (Movement Utopia and [CommonsPolis](#)) with special insights from Jean Poncet and participants.

Beyond 2%

From climate philanthropy
to climate justice philanthropy



EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE
ENGAGED DONORS FOR GLOBAL EQUITY

UNRISD
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Dynamic Plenary on Climate Justice and launch of the Climate Justice Report

EDGE Funders Alliance launched [Beyond 2%: From climate philanthropy to climate justice philanthropy](#), a report written by Dr. Edouard Morena, edited by EDGE Funders and published in collaboration with [UNRISD](#).

The session included important insights and contributions from the EDGE community who attended virtually and in-person.

The session was hosted by Asad Rehman ([War on Want](#) and Co-Chair of EDGE's [Climate Justice & Global Initiatives](#) [formerly COP26] working group) and facilitated by Sofia Arroyo (EDGE Funders Alliance.)

[Download report here](#)

We believe in the key role philanthropy can have in taking a stand for climate justice, and hope that this report can be useful for the philanthropic community at large. We invite you all to use this report as the beginning of a larger conversation, and explore how your organization can shift its practices in support of climate justice.

If you are interested in organising a launch event and report discussion in your own community and would like our support please reach out to [Sofia](#) or [Hana](#).



Food Sovereignty from the the perspectives of funders and movements

In the current context of a growing food crisis, this session addressed the need to strengthen our struggles to move from a neoliberal international order based on World Trade Organization (WTO) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to a true international solidarity based on food sovereignty. Panelists explored the issue of corporate capture of global food governance and the issues of digitalization in the food and agriculture sectors and the risks linked with it.

Co-hosted by Morgan Ody ([La Via Campesina](#)) and Karin van Boxtel ([BothEnds](#)), facilitated by Hana ElSafoury ([Daktra Farm](#))

Getting Grounded in Context: Site visits in Marseille

As always, we hoped to locate our discussions within the socio-political context of the region that welcomed us. This year, we decided to plan site visits to Marseille and invite local activists to share their work and activities.



SOS Mediterranean

Since 2014, more than 20,000 men, women and children have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in an attempt to cross it in makeshift boats. SOS MEDITERRANEE is a civilian European association of citizens engaged to help those who risk their lives at sea to escape an unbearable situation. Since the beginning of its operations in February 2016, more than 35,000 people have been rescued by the Aquarius and then by the Ocean Viking, a quarter of whom were under 18.

They are currently fundraising [for their work](#), please reach out to [Hana](#) if you are interested to learn more.



Coco Velten

Fighting against exclusion while experimenting with new ways of collective living, the Coco Velten project accommodates nearly 80 people in social residences, and provides workspaces to nearly 40 associations, artists, craftsmen, social entrepreneurs and small businesses. Coco Velten is also open to the public, connected to its neighbors, offering a Canteen and various social, economic and cultural meeting spaces.

The lease contract of the building where the project resides is about to expire and they are looking for some immediate support. To know more and support their incredible work visit [their website](#) and also contact [Nicolas Detries](#)

During this site visit we also learned about many other collective, radical and innovative projects such as [Yes we Camp](#) and [Koutrajmé](#). Check them out!



La Dar - Noailles

La Dar is a self-organised social center, a politically and financially autonomous space, open to the neighborhood, its inhabitants, as well as social movements. The collective of activists rents a place in an area in a process of gentrification (Noailles). Many activities are developed (boxing, canteen, day care for refugees, library, concerts, meeting place for social movements, etc.). It is a political and cultural place, which promotes emancipation and solidarity for all. The site visits started by a walk around the neighborhood.

La Dar relies on flexible donations and grants to stay open, if you are interested in supporting their work, contact [Bertrand Fribourg](#).

Dinner party by award-winning chef & conservationist



Christian Qui, award winning chef and founder of [Bouillabaisse Turfu](#), described efforts with Marseille's artisanal fishing communities centering "engaged cuisine" as a way of promoting the discovery, understanding and protection of the region's marine biodiversity and beauty.

Catherine Piante of the [World Wide Fund for Nature](#) also discussed the current state of health as well as threats facing the Mediterranean, and collective efforts to address local fisheries and marine ecosystems, within the context of the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity collapse.

Ways to continue your engagement

We invite you all to continue engaging in our conversations through our varying initiatives.

The Gender Justice Initiative

The Gender Justice Initiative working group (composed of funders and social movements) meets semi-monthly depending on interest from the community. All recordings and meeting blogs can be [found on our website](#). You can see the meetings scheduled and sign up for a slot in the [GJI calendar](#).

[Learn more](#)

EDGE Regional Breakfast

To complement other topic-focused sessions EDGE offers, we decided to hold informal spaces of community building. During these meetings, EDGE provides updates on events and initiatives, as well as offers a space for questions around programmatic work and strategy. In addition, it is a community building tool that allows cross-member collaboration and knowledge sharing: an asset to the EDGE membership network offerings. Breakfasts are regional and happen on the first

Climate Justice and Global Initiatives Working Group

This group is formerly known as the COP26 Working Group and is composed of funders and social movements. The working group expanded based on reflections that there needs to be a broader focus on building collective power between funders and civil society and develop a joint analysis of the intersectional crises we face through a Climate Justice lens. [Sign up to be part of that conversation](#).

[Learn more](#)

Racial Justice Dialogues

Racial Justice Dialogues is a new initiative at EDGE in collaboration with Ariande and Gender Funder Co-labs. EDGE will soon be offering this space to explore and discuss racial justice work in Europe. All EDGE Members based in Europe are invited to participate in these dialogues. [Sign up here if you are interested](#).

EDGEy Wednesday

[EDGEy Wednesday](#) continues to be part of an EDGE offerings for engaging members, strengthening community and center progressive political education in our work. Reach out to [Martina](#) if you are interested in sharing your work in an EDGEy Wednesday session.

[Learn more](#)



Special thanks to the catering and tech team for all their work!

Tech was by [Les tetes de l'art](#)
Catering was by [La Table de Cana](#)

Our work

EDGE Funders Alliance organizes within philanthropy to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the interconnected nature of the social, economic and ecological crises threatening our common future.

EDGE works to increase resources for communities and movements creating systemic change alternatives for a transition to a society

BUILDING COMMUNITY...

SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE

- EDGE Funders Annual Conference
- Annual region-based member retreats
- Working Groups

EDGE community is also very active in expanding our community by organizing panels, workshops and participating in an array of philanthropic and social movement spaces.

Become a member

Would you like to be part of this engaged group of funders?

On our website, we shared our membership criteria and the link to apply.



AND CHANGING PHILANTHROPY

We believe that one of the most important roles of our network is to question the status quo and continuously deepen our systemic change analysis and practices within the field of philanthropy. We do this through initiatives such as:

- Global Engagement Lab: a is a six-month international learning, organizing and community-building cohort for funders
- Gender Justice Initiative: a collaborative group who gets together in different spaces to discuss and strategize on ways of incorporating the gender lens into the various processes within philanthropy.
- Webinars: online conversations curated by EDGE members, funders allies and movement partners

If you are interested in learning more about the EDGE community and our work please send us an email to contactus@edgefunders.org