

Hi Anders Utrecht, we hope you all had a great start to the new year! With this newsletter, we would like to update the network about what we have been working on during the last couple of months and inform you about upcoming events.

## The Anders Utrecht Podcast Series

We have launched a new [podcast series](#) that brings together scholars and grassroots initiatives. It celebrates the variety among existing initiatives that deal with societal challenges in creative ways, and fosters dialogue between these organizations as well as with affiliated scholars.

In this podcast series, representatives from initiatives enter into conversation with scholars to discuss how they tackle the challenges of sustainability transformation. These discussions explore the shared ideas between academics working on organizational alternatives and local initiatives experimenting with real alternatives to the default capitalist model. The podcasts illustrate the breadth and variety of grassroots organizations in and around Utrecht and show how much common ground there is for collaboration and transformation. They represent an important step in strengthening the dialogue between Utrecht University and grassroots initiatives, while drawing attention to the diversity of practices and ideas for social change that circulate amongst the members of Anders Utrecht.

Each episode focuses on urban life and informs the audience about major challenges and opportunities generated by grassroots initiatives. The episodes are released each month and follow the sequence below. Access the podcasts [here](#).

1. What is AndersUtrecht?
2. Food and sustainability
3. Art, culture and sustainability
4. Social inclusion and sustainability
5. Climate change and sustainability (released January 2022)
6. Natural environment and sustainability (release: February 2022)
7. Social change and sustainability (release: March 2022)

## What have we been up to?

### Master thesis defence of Winnie Ruizendaal

Winnie Ruizendaal is a recently graduated master's student at the Utrecht school of Governance (USBG). She wrote her master's thesis on diversity practices at Anders Utrecht network member [Dwarsverband](#). In July 2021 she was joined by several network members as she defended her thesis. Her study greatly contributed to the recent diversity and inclusion efforts at Dwarsverband and will be freely accessible in research databases soon.

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## Workshop on the future of Anders Utrecht and farewell to Belle

At the end of September 2021, the network members came together to discuss the future activities of AndersUtrecht. At the end of the workshop, we said farewell to Belle Tonk. She contributed immensely to building the network and producing podcasts as a dedicated project assistant.

### CITEUS Workshop contribution

In November 2021, Anders Utrecht co-organized a workshop together with Open City Network and Citizen Engagement and Urban Sustainability (CITEUS) from Utrecht University's [Transforming Cities Hub](#). The workshop explored how we can sustain long-term collaboration between citizens and the university for sustainable cities. The workshop was held at network member [CASCO](#) and was attended by academics and representatives from various civic initiatives. It was a great opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and ideas through presentations and group discussions. Read the full workshop report [here](#) to learn more about the main findings and discussion points.

### Collaboration with teaching activities

In December 2021, students visited [CASCO](#) as part of the course 'Organizing in a Changing World' to learn more about the practical aspects of 'commoning' and 'the commons' framework. Producer Marianna Takou shared her insights on alternative practices in the sphere of art institutes and explained how their 'assembly' functions to build ecosystems and networks. For the same course, members of '[Taste Before You Waste](#)' Jody and Berend recently joined the class as guest speakers. They shared their practical sustainability knowledge on how TBYW problematizes food waste, gets organised autonomously, maintains their tasks, and contributes to their communities' well-being.

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## Helping Hands: connect with motivated students

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Juliette and Lis, two students from the Global Sustainability Sciences program at Utrecht University, developed a website that connects green actors and change makers in the Utrecht region with students that are interested in sustainability. Their aim is to create a direct link between students and the sustainability sphere in Utrecht.

*Would you like to have a helping hand in your project or organisation?*

Or explore who is out there and might be a good fit for your organization, initiative or project? Then their [website](#) can help you with that! Scroll through the profiles of motivated students and find your perfect match. You can also introduce your organisation and directly offer positions for internships, one-time projects, volunteering work or paid jobs. For more information, you can contact Helping Hands through their website or email [helping.hands-utrecht@tutanota.com](mailto:helping.hands-utrecht@tutanota.com).

## New team member

Last month, we welcomed a new team member, Marie. She is a master's student in sustainable development at Utrecht University and will support the project as a student assistant in the coming months. She will handle communications and organizational matters and is your main contact point for information and questions about the project.

## Coming up: Spring workshop / We need your input!

This spring, Anders Utrecht is organizing an evening workshop. We would like to use this as an opportunity for Anders Utrecht members to come together and discuss a theme, question or challenge of common interest. In order to make sure that this workshop provides added value for all participants, we would like to get your input on the content of the workshop. Vote on a topic or suggest one that suits you most by filling in this [form](#). More information on the *what, when and where* of the workshop will follow soon.

## Agenda

**February 15** – Studium Generale's 'een nieuwe blik op duurzaamheid' features a lecture by prof. dr. Maarten Hajer from Utrecht University reflecting on the shortcomings of current thinking about sustainability and what is needed for a truly sustainable future. Find the livestream [here](#) (in Dutch).

**February 20 (recurring)** – Every third Sunday of the month, the Doughnut Economics Lab organizes an online co-learning group [meeting](#) to understand and explore tools for new economic and political systems for Earth.

**February 26 & 27** – The yearly '[2.Dh5 Festival for world changers](#)' is taking place in Amsterdam, bringing together groups, campaigns and individuals who are active in struggles around feminism, queer liberation, anti-racism, decolonization, solidarity, climate and more. The event will host a number of workshops, debates and discussions for participants.

**March 30** – The '[political imagination laboratory](#)', held annually at the university of Perugia, examines the shifting political imagination of contemporary social movements and experimental forms of activism. This year, the theme is "utopias of sustainability – the sustainability of utopias". Scientists, filmmakers and activists are invited to submit papers and visual projects (documentaries) related to this theme. These will be presented during the event which will take place from 30/09/2022 to 1/10/2022.