



abc

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 25 • 2023

ACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PEOPLE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

ABC - AKTIVA INSATSER
FÖR MÄNNISKA OCH MILJÖ
ORG. NR - 845003-2175



Aktiva Insatser för Människa och Miljö

ORG. NR 845003-2175

Annual Report Fiscal Year 24 (2022)

ABC - Active Contributions for People and the Environment (Aktiva Insatser för Människa och Miljö) is a volunteer based organisation established in Lund, Sweden in 1998. Our non profit organisation aims at making a difference for individuals and local communities by focusing on small scale, long-sighted, grassroots projects in Sweden and abroad. We believe in equal opportunities for all and that the road towards a more sustainable and equitable future is paved with citizen participation, education and commitment.

In Lund, together we learn and work on projects of urban gardening (Vi Odla!), beekeeping (Bee the Change), combating food waste (Food Saving Lund) and Humanitarian Mapping. We are also consistently engaging with the City of Lund for events such as Sustainability Week, the Harvest Festival and Culture Night (Kulturnatten).

Through our local projects and by working with other like-minded organisations, we aim at speaking to local and international students, and with members of the community of all ages. We also work on projects with partners internationally.

This Annual Report reviews our organisation's activity on its 25th fiscal year - 2023. The ABC Board for year 25 is responsible for the content of the report.

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ABC Board, Fiscal Year 25 (2023):

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Nicola Winterson, Secretary
Julian Esposito, Treasurer
Olga Martin Gonzalez, International Coordinator
Elisa Castrolugo, Partnerships Coordinator
Francesca Fitzgerald, Activity Coordinator



Message from the Chairperson

PALLAVI AIYAR PANCHMATIA



2023 was a challenging year for ABC; although we have started to rebound from the loss of membership as a result of the pandemic, there is still a lot of rebuilding to do. We hope that our work this year has taken good steps towards that rebuilding. We have started to lay good foundations for the future, both in terms of fostering new partnerships and in laying groundwork for better governance structures.

Over the course of this year, we have continued to focus our efforts on maintaining our partnerships in Sweden, strengthening our local projects through our location at Stenkrossen, and also beginning to build relationships towards the start of new international partnerships. Towards end of year, we also recruited new volunteers to help with ABC events. Another highlight was our international partnerships, for which we expect funding decisions by end March 2024. We also strengthened some internal governance processes for the handover to new board. We hope to have contributed a more robust and structured way of working for new board with this handover.

Our projects in Lund have continued to bring people together this year to build a better, more sustainable future. The work they, we, do moves towards achieving UN SDG 11 in particular – “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. They promote sustainability action and education in Lund on the local level. Our tradition of participating in recruitment during student events, and other local events such as Kulturnatten continued this year to deliver good representation for ABC.

On behalf of ABC’s Year 25 board, thank you to all our project coordinators, members, volunteers, our partners and donors. Your support, your time, and energy is hugely appreciated; we couldn’t do it without you. We look forward to the next year working with you to build on everything we’ve created.

On behalf of the ABC Board Year 24

PALLAVI AIYAR PANCHMATIA

Chairperson



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Partnerships & International Collaborations

YEAR 24 • 2022

Partnerships

In 2023, ABC and its projects continued its strong tradition of partnering with local organisations in Lund and Malmö to enact its work in a collaborative manner. This year we collaborated with SwIdeas, Circle Centre, and Hållbart Universitet. These collaborations were a mixture of one off events and continuations of collaborations that were started in previous years. We have also begun new relationships with international partners, and have now been granted funding for a new project this coming year.

Fair Trade Steering Committee

ABC is one of the members of the Fair Trade Steering Committee in the City of Lund and continues working with fair trade and promoting fair trade through its work and eco pop up cafes.



Annual & Recurring Events

YEAR 24 • 2022

In 2023, the local activities continued the process of returning to normal after the impact of the pandemic between. Volunteer numbers are still lower than before restrictions, so work still needs to be done to rejuvenate interest and awareness of ABC in the local community. This has somewhat restricted activities in Lund this year, but good steps have been taken to that. We have continued to foster collaborations between different stakeholders in Lund, and have started to build new relationships too.

In the sections below, we describe the activities that we, as ABC - Active Contributions for People and the Environment, ran during our 25th year of operation. By taking part in city-wide events such as Sustainability Week and the City of Lund's Culture Night (Kulturnatten), we have aimed to reach out to a more diverse audience that represents the community in Lund. Our presence at the International Student Fair at AF-Borgen meant we could meet students from across the university departments, bringing in new people, with new ideas for each of the projects. Together with open houses and multiple collaborations, the local projects have set out to spread their knowledge and share new ways to further our social and environmental goals.



Open House at Stenkrossen



As usual, we attended the Stenkrossen Open House in the autumn. This helped us to raise awareness, and generate interest for our projects. To draw people into our stall, we ran an activity making insect hotels, and a small exhibition on pollination and pollinators in Sweden.

We had a great level of interest, whether those originally interested in ABC, or those who had attended the event to talk to one of the other projects at Stenkrossen. Ayeisha, the Humanitarian Mapping coordinator, was also able to attend and therefore had the opportunity to talk to attendees directly about that project. This was especially important to us, as Humanitarian Mapping was just getting started up again this year.

We also attended other open houses for the projects at Stenkrossen,

which allowed us to talk to members of the other projects, and participate in the community in the culture house. This means we can maintain relationships, and open up future collaborations.

Kulturnatten



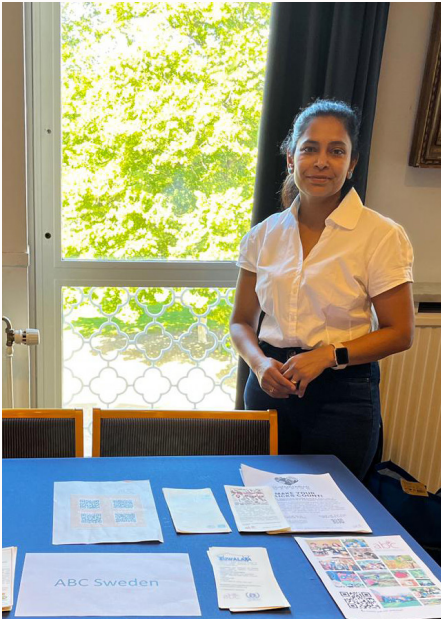
**STEN
KRO
SSEN**

Kulturnatten (Culture Night) in Lund once again saw us holding an eco pop-up café at Stenkrossen. As usual, the eco café was run on our principles of The café was run on our sustainability and inclusion, and as such was operated with the

help of our wonderful volunteers and using bread donations from Food Saving Lund. We made fika and sandwiches, with the recipes used aiming to be inclusive of those with allergies or dietary requirements. This was then sold to visitors to Stenkrossen during Kulturnatten, which was very popular. The café is a great fundraising opportunity for us,

and brings together volunteers from across our projects - this year especially from Humanitarian Mapping and Food Saving Lund. Special thanks must go to Ayeisha, who ran the baking session almost single-handedly with her partner! Many Kulturnatten visitors also stopped by to talk about ABC's activities.





Student Fair

This year, we attended the Student Association Fair in the autumn semester. We did not host a stall at the Hållsningsgillet, as the price was not judged to be worth it, but this is something to be considered for future years. The International Student Fair helped us to raise awareness, generate interest, and gain members for our projects. There was particular interest in the international projects, which should be borne in mind going forward.

We capitalised on this interest by then running an ABC Open House, which introduced potential new volunteers directly to project leaders. Each project leader, including ABC, had the opportunity to present their activities, followed by a Q&A session.

Film Screening

For Sustainability Week, we ran a variety of fantastic events across both our projects. ABC hosted a Fairtrade film screening of the docuseries "Farmers". This was well attended, including by people who had come down from Gothenburg! It helped to raise awareness both for Fairtrade as a concept and as a consumer choice, as well as for the Fairtrade coalition in Lund. The film screening was then followed by a facilitated discussion session, which was very productive and allowed the attendees to share insights from their perspectives across various different industries and academic starting points.



Circular Economy

We have continued our collaboration with the Circle Centre and with Hållbart Universitet this year. As with last year, this has mainly been in the form of clothes swaps and events surrounding the circular economy. In partnership with the Circle Centre, we ran a citizen assembly on the circular economy during Sustainability Week. This included facilitating a discussion on what participants would like the circular economy to look like in Lund, drawing in attendees from across different sectors in Lund and Malmö. On my table, for example, were participants from marketing, academia, and students in medicine and sustainability. There were also workers from the UN, from infrastructure, and from agriculture. The results were fed back to the municipality.



Local Projects

LUND, SWEDEN • YEAR 24 • 2022



An ongoing challenge this year has been volunteer numbers and engagement, but it has started to pick up as the year has gone on. With our participation in student and city-wide events, more interest has started to be generated, and we have had more Swedish and International students in particular engaging with the projects.

Our projects continued to educate and empower the local community through events, workshops and activities focused on urban gardening, combating food waste, beekeeping in an urban environment and humanitarian mapping. Together, they contributed to ABC's vision to bring people together and to support the transition towards empowered, equitable and sustainable communities.

In 2023, our local projects held events in Stenkrossen and were attending the open houses, held by Stenkrossen throughout the year, as well as collaborating with other partners in Lund, strengthening the connection with like-minded organisations and with the local community.

Francesca Fitzgerald, Activity Coordinator



Bee the Change

Bee the Change is a project which aims to spread awareness about the importance of pollinators and biodiversity through beekeeping. We have two beehives in Lund which we maintain with the guidance of a local experienced beekeeper. We welcome people of all ages and backgrounds to join our beekeeping activities throughout the year. We also organise different events to teach people about the importance of pollinators and how they can adopt more pollinator-friendly behaviour in their gardens and through their consumer choices.

On an organisational level, 2023 was a year when a lot changed. 2022 was the first full year for us coordinators, Hanna and Henriette, as we took over in September 2021. Having been through all beekeeping seasons gave a feeling of control which is vital for being comfortable as a beekeeper. Thus,

in 2023 we could focus more on teaching and inviting people to get an insight into the exciting life of the bees. The months of the year (October to December) when both of us

main coordinators were away from Lund, having education elsewhere, the members

Hanna and Herman played a major part in getting work done. Christer, the beekeeper

who has supported Bee the Change for many years, has taught us a lot and for 2024, the plan is to hand over his mentor role to a friend of his, Magnus. This is something we will plan further in the upcoming spring.

Beekeeping wise, it has been a busy year. A new beehive was donated to us, very generously, from Christer. As can be seen in the photos, the move attracted a lot of attention among the members, helping us out. The new hive is big and will fit

both the colonies.

So, a main thing on the to do list for the upcoming season is to paint and renovate the new hive. We will also sell the old hives, in order to maintain our finances. Our main income currently is through Lunds Matvarukooperativ, selling our honey. We have also been part of Skördefestivalen, but could preferably put some more effort into selling the honey, to make sure that we always have enough money on our account so that if anything would come up, we could for example buy a new queen bee. However, the bees have stayed with us this year and seem to be thriving, even after this long winter.

Apart from the hands-on beekeeping that is done, a lot of effort is put into organising events and meetings that aim to take care of the products which the bees produce, including honey and wax, and maintaining our equipment.



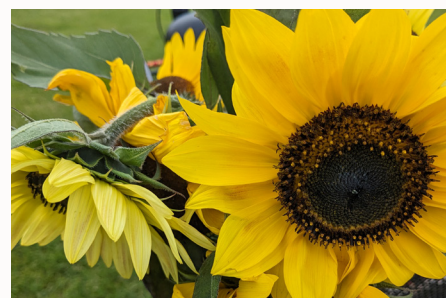
In 2022, we focused on collaborations with other local organisations, such as Vi Odla!, when the public was welcomed to make salves, from beeswax and essential oils. Also, we collaborated with Lunds Öppna Verkstad, LÖV, arranging a beeswax candle making workshop during the Open House at Stenkrossen.

Apart from these Stenkrossen-based organisations, we worked with SweIdeas, having a beeswax wraps workshop. This year, we tried

to maintain these connections, but found the fact that many projects are moving from Stenkrossen due to construction work is a bit worrying. In that sense, we hope 2024 will be more stable.

For 2024 a main goal is to structure the organisation. Having different roles for the members would make more people feel part of the organisation. The plan is to have weekly meetings, in order to have continuity, this would be great for us as well as the bees. As has been said in previous years, we want to

improve the educational part of the organisation in order to contribute more to the development of a more sustainable Lund. This could be done for example by collaborations with the university's Hållbarhetseckan, SweIdeas and Hållbart Universitet.



Humanitarian Mapping

The first half of 2023 was getting the Humanitarian Mapping programme active again, as it wasn't very active in late 2022/early 2023. This involved the creation of a new logo, design and promotional material, as well as campaigning for the programme at several ABC events, as well as at Lund University.

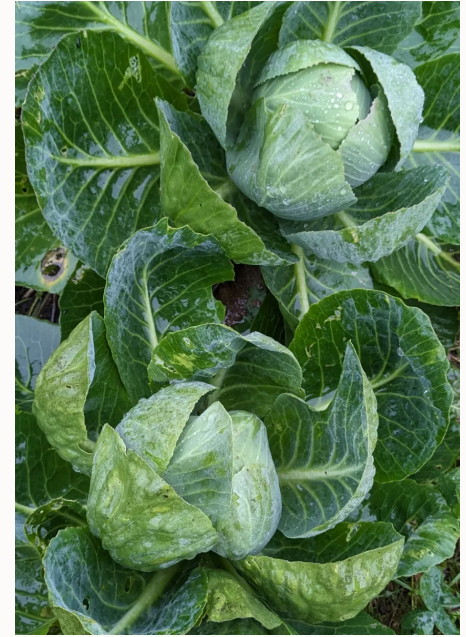
The first humanitarian mapping

event was held in September 2023, with a good turnout of people. More events are planned for 2024.

Operating as part of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT), Humanitarian Mapping engaged with global issues and contributed to the Humanitarian Mapping mapping of areas of the world in need, to aid in disaster relief, sustainable

city development, and climate resilience among other topic areas. Humanitarian Mapping also offered training to those who hadn't used OpenStreetMap or GIS before.





Vi Odlar!

As previously Vi Odlar! continued the year 2023 with urban gardening and cultivation of the gardening community. Despite the big changes as our founder has left the group, loss in number of active volunteers during summer and autumn, and big challenges with moving the office and gardens to new places we stayed strong and kept up hopes for a better future.

During 2023, we still had no access to the garden at Stenkrossen due to ongoing construction. The leftover bathtubs were rearranged and placed in the shaded place for storage. Our office at Stenkrossen with all seeds, tools, pots, shelves, tables, chairs and growing lights had to be moved to a much smaller place due to renovations.

We had a steady decline in the number of volunteers helping at the garden. In the spring open day was organised with many people showing up, beds were prepared, the garden was cleared, some seeds and potatoes were planted. However, only half of the beds were planted. Later, many seedlings died due to an extended drought in June, as water was scarce. We used straw coverage for remaining plants to prevent fast evaporation of the water, but despite the attempts the harvest was small and therefore open harvesting day was not organised.

At one of the meetings, it was decided to keep the collaboration with the City of Lund and

to move our gardens from Brunnhög, where land is getting reassigned for construction of housings, to Kunskapsparken. In Kunskapsparken the City of Lund provided us with plots, tools, water sources, leaves for bed coverage as well as compost and manure, well-designed meeting places, and a long-established community of gardeners. By the end of November, it was decided which plots were assigned to our group and a few plants were moved to the new place such as strawberries, raspberries, perennial herbs and flowers. Seeds from annual flowers were collected to be planted at the new place.





Bigger plants such as the apple tree or bigger bushes were unfortunately found impossible to move and were left at the previous place.

As a part of the gardening community at Brunnhög we participated in two common gardening days, where common areas were cleaned and new connections with the area gardeners were made.

The overall plans for 2023 of getting new volunteers, hosting workshops, participation in the harvest festival and having regular meetups were not fulfilled due to lack of active members.

The new plans for 2024 would be an attempt of revival of the group, starting new plantations with new gardens and adapting to the lack of volunteers with more self-sustainable gardening approaches, such as planting more drought tolerant plants, and plants that do not require weekly maintenance.





Food Saving Lund

Food Saving Lund had an exciting year in 2023! This year, we're still going strong in our partnership and pursuing our passion for reducing food waste!

Every month, we organise online introductory meetings where we welcome new members so that they can participate in pick-ups around town. In these, we provide information about what FSL does and the rules for using the Karrot app. We had four primary pick-up places in Lund where members can sign up to preserve food. They can choose to take it home or share it with friends, neighbours, or other FSL members.

We have been actively disseminating our message online and through events, motivated by our goals of gathering and distributing bread, fruit, and vegetables that are going to be thrown away, as well as teaching Lund's residents and students about the problems with food waste that affect social and environmental sustainability. Throughout the year, we have maintained a strong

online presence by disseminating information on food-saving activities, documentaries, seasonal meals, and food-scrap recipes.

We've had a significant spike in new members this year, so our message of food conservation is getting out there in Lund!

Activities organised

This year, there have been a lot of activities, such as a post-Halloween cook-along, a documentary screening about plastic trash, a fermentation workshop, a tempeh workshop, and a cook-with-scraps workshop. We continue to regularly provide bread and veggies to the Ecosocialist Collective Lund's humanitarian project "Folkets Kök", so they can continue to provide weekly free dinners on Thursday nights. Additionally, we backed Friday of Future, an organisation that raises awareness of climate change and presses policymakers to take action.

During the Sustainability Week of 2023 we organised four events.

The first event was a fermentation workshop by making a Ukrainian dish, Kvashena Kapusta, pickled cabbage that is freshly made with natural ingredients - pickling is one of the food-saving and preserving methods. This was a collaboration event of Food Saving Lund and Lund Matvarukooperativ, held in Stenkrossen.

The second was a tempeh workshop and tempeh tasting, as part of experiencing the indigenous food revolution through Tempe (Tempeh), a fermented bean dish from Indonesia. The workshop consisted of presentations about the history of tempeh and facts about it, and also tasting of homemade tempeh dishes in different types of cooking. The event was held in the EOS Cares building and attended by many participants.

We also organised an online zero waste cooking workshop using ingredients that are considered as scraps or waste in the kitchen. In this workshop we used banana peels and turned them into vegan



pulled pork. One of our board members led this online workshop to show people how to cook with scraps via zoom online meeting.

The last event was a documentary screening with Break free from plastic. We watched a documentary about the plastic waste problem all over the world. After the film we had a podium discussion (led by a student who is engaged in waste-management-related projects) and mingled to discuss and exchange ideas and opinions about the plastic waste problem. It took place in Smållands Nation, with a dinner

provided by Folkets Köt, and a small fika (beverages, popcorn, cookies, rescued bread from FSL) provided during the screening,

In order to cheer people up and rescue the pumpkin, FSL also planned a Pumpkin Cook-along at EOS Cares in the fall, shortly after Halloween. Our members cooked excellent soup and garlic bread together using salvaged bread, pumpkins, and spices. Naturally, we also took advantage of the occasion to demonstrate to everyone how to roast pumpkin seeds and cook pumpkin rind!

We would like to thank EOS, Stenkrossen, and Smållands Nationen for providing us with their premises, which is very important for us to be able to conduct our events, and for partnering with us in other ways.

We're excited to keep reducing food waste and spreading awareness in 2024 after a great 2023!



List of acknowledgements

A WARM THANKS TO...

- Christer Nilsson
- EOS Cares Lund
- Folkets Kök of the Ecosocialist Collective Lund
- Fair Trade Steering Committee
- Hållbart Universitet
- Harvest Festival (Lunds Skördefest)
- Kulturnatten
- Lund University
- Lunds Kommun
- Lund Matvarukooperativ
- Stenkrossen
- Lund Sustainability Week



Would you like to learn more about our projects, ways in which you can engage and support our organisation? Reach out to us at info@abcsweden.org, check our website: abcsweden.org or follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn!

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