

Annual Report of the Hubs Supervisor for the BIEN General Assembly, 2023

26 August 2023

This year has been one of consolidation and expansion for the Hubs project. Alongside Mustardseed Trust core funding, we have raised extra funds from the University of Bath and from LanKelly Chase, which has now unlocked the match funding-dependent portion of the Mustardseed grant. As a consequence, we have been able to hire a new Latin America Hub Manager and begin the process of hiring in Asia.

The Hubs team have been very busy! In Africa, Chris' excellent work in building the continental network has continued. Multiple events are being hosted and attended and Chris has been building alliances with the UBI Lab Network to foster growth in the movement. Chris has also been searching for funding to continue his work and to host the regional conference.

In Latin America, I am thrilled to report that after a competitive process, José Whellison Brito dos Santos has been hired to the post of Latin America Hub Manager. José brings with him a wealth of activist, scholarly and UBI experience. He has spent his first months connecting with existing national and continental networks, establishing a regional Advisory Build, and laying the organisational and scientific foundations for next year's Regional Conference.

We have begun the process of launching a Call for Applicants for our Asia Hub and there is a strong desire to improve the gender composition of BIEN's core team by ensuring that this new team member is a woman. We have further refined our Hubs governance structures to facilitate monthly meetings and reporting and to formerly align the Hubs workplan with BIEN's wider strategic plan.

Alongside the Hubs work, the BIEN Co-ordinator and the Hubs Supervisor have been collaborating closely on a number of initiatives. First, on supporting greater co-ordination and integration amongst the UK UBI movement. Second, on building a UBI Piloters Network to be co-hosted by BIEN and sponsored by the Universities of Bath and Freiburg. And third, on developing a to-be-BIEN-hosted UBI Knowledge Repository, for which conceptual development and fundraising have taken place.