

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

GIG drives a new vision for global cooperation based on equality, openness and sharing.

We Are What We Create Together

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## IMPRINT

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10179 Berlin  
[www.globalinnovationgathering.org](http://www.globalinnovationgathering.org)

## #WeAreGIG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2021 annual report of the Global Innovation Gathering!

We are proud to present this year's achievements to you. Every year we strive to create impact through our socially and ecologically sustainable digital innovation projects and by supporting the work of our members. In 2021, the GIG network managed to not only sustain its efforts but also to grow despite the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic for our network and our members. We started working with new funders, such as the NSB Foundation and have won new EU Horizon projects that we are excited to begin next year. And we ended the year by voting for a new executive and supervisory board.

GIG has the power of emergence: We are a community, not a business network. We facilitate interaction, not transactions. As a network of networks, hubs and other innovation community leaders with solid roots in the majority world, we celebrate the powerful effects of gatherings to ignite and implement change through concrete and tangible projects. We are using our strengths by supporting new ways for our members to work together and share their knowledge, whether via online tools like our new website database or new formats like our monthly meet the members' exchange.

As the struggles caused by global inequalities and environmental destruction remain as relevant as ever, GIG and its members continue efforts to enable local and regional ecosystems around sustainable digital innovation. The following pages present a glimpse of our network activities for 2021. We look forward to many more creative, innovative, and impactful years!

*Geraldine de Bastion  
Regina Sipos  
Victoria Wenzelmann*



## Articles of Association

The association Digital Unite e.V., founded in 2012, has been named Global Innovation Gathering e.V. in 2016. It is based in Berlin and is registered in the association register of the District Court of Charlottenburg with the number VR 30791 B. Global Innovation Gathering e.V. (GIG), based in Berlin, exclusively and directly pursues non-profit activities within the meaning of the section entitled "Tax Beneficiary Purposes" of the Tax Regulations.

The fiscal year is the calendar year.

The purposes of GIG are

- the promotion of development cooperation
- the promotion of education and training

GIG pursues its purposes by means of activities which promote the use of information and communication technologies for social, cultural, economic and / or ecological development. The purpose of promoting development cooperation is in particular achieved by:

- the implementation of development cooperation projects, as well as the support and advice of other non-profit organizations and bodies governed by public law in this area

- the publication of project-related results and evaluations
- the dissemination of information through the use of digital media
- the conception, planning and implementation of information events, as well as the support of other non-profit organizations and bodies governed by public law at home and abroad in this area
- the creation of a publicly accessible national and international network and thus the regular exchange with national and international organizations active in this field.

The purpose of promoting education and training is in particular achieved through the organization of educational events

- which promote collaborative work - especially in the digital field - at public education institutions, and
- which provide information about the possibilities and dangers of the use of digital technologies - especially open source technologies.

*Our full Articles of Association can be found online at <https://www.globalinnovationgathering.org/about-us/>*

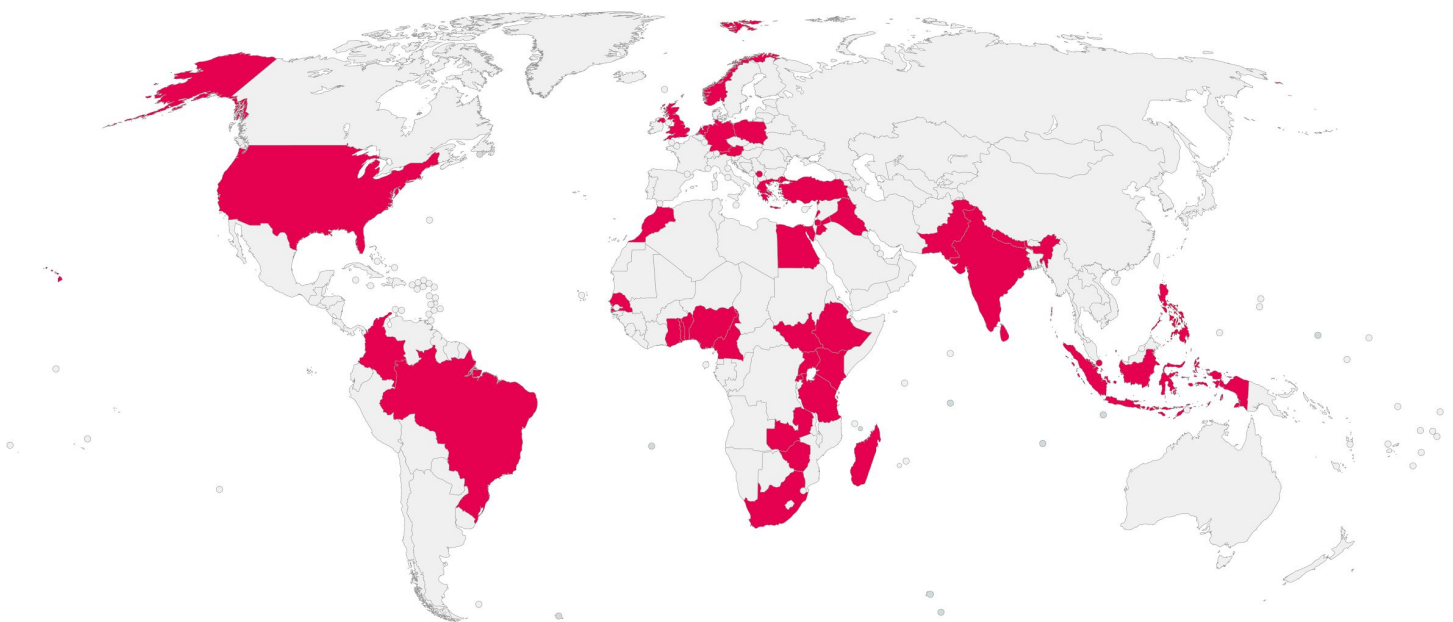
## OUR MEMBERS

# #WeAreGIG

Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) is a vibrant, diverse community of innovation hubs, makerspaces, hackerspaces and other grassroots innovation community spaces and initiatives as well as individual innovators, makers, technologists and changemakers.

GIG is pursuing a new vision for global cooperation based on equality, openness and sharing. We aim to enable more diversity in the production of technology, and global innovation processes and support open and sustainable solutions developed by grassroots innovators.

With strong roots in the global south, we share, collaborate and work together globally. GIG provides a platform for meaningful exchange by fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration between its members. Members convene at different events throughout the year to create synergies among themselves as well as with other event attendees. In addition, the network maintains continuous exchange and members work on common projects locally and decentrally.



125 MEMBERS | 46 COUNTRIES | 1 COMMUNITY

# EXECUTIVE BOARD & AUDITORS

2020-2021

The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. It decides on all matters of the association as long as they do not require a resolution of the General Assembly. It carries out the resolutions of the General Assembly and develops the GIG strategy jointly with the Supervisory Board. Our Executive Board meets on a weekly basis.



## GERALDINE DE BASTION

Geraldine is a political scientist working on digital transformation and international cooperation, innovation, and human rights. She founded GIG and also co-founded Konnektiv in 2013, and organizes and curates events in the field of politics and digitization worldwide.



## REGINA SIPOS

Regina is a social entrepreneur, researcher, educator and freelancer, focused on technology and society. She founded the Social-Digital Innovation Initiative and currently writes her PhD thesis on social innovation in critical technical practice in Germany and Indonesia.



## VICTORIA WENZELMANN

Victoria is a systemic organizational consultant. Her work focuses on communities and ecosystems of social and technological innovation, agile management, leadership and team development. In 2013 she co-organized the AfricaHackTrip, and 2019/20 took the Labmobile from South Africa to Uganda.



## THIEMO EHMKE

ICEBauhaus  
Auditor



## STEPHEN KOVATS

rOg\_agency for open  
culture  
Auditor

The auditors are elected for the duration of one year by the General Assembly. They are responsible for checking the accounts and their proper booking as well as the use of funds, in particular to ascertain that funds are being used in accordance with the Articles of Association and tax regulations. The audit does not extend to the expediency of the tasks carried out by the board. The auditors inform the General Assembly of the results of each audit.



# SUPERVISORY BOARD

2020-2021



**GEORGIA  
NICOLAU**  
Instituto  
Procomum  
BRAZIL



**KUDZAI  
MUBAIWA**  
Investor Saint &  
iZone Hub  
ZIMBABWE



**MUGETHI  
GITAU**  
Mugzie's Naturals &  
Careables  
KENYA



**NAWRES  
ARIF**  
Science Camp  
IRAQ



**PAUL  
MUCHENE**  
ICANN  
KENYA



**PAWEL  
NGEI**  
X-Team  
& Glider Ink  
POLAND



**RICARDO  
RUIZ**  
Casa Criatura  
& Careables  
BRAZIL



**SAAD  
CHINO**  
Spudnik Lab &  
Engineering Good  
SINGAPORE



**SAMER  
SHAWAR**  
University of  
Siegen  
PALESTINE



**SHEILAH  
BIRGEN**  
The Cord,  
ASSEK & i4Policy  
KENYA

The Supervisory Board – or SuperBoard in short and much more appropriately – is elected by the General Assembly for two years and works on a voluntary basis. It controls the Executive Board, and the two boards jointly develop the overall GIG strategy. Our SuperBoard meets online every month and represents all regions in which GIG members reside.

# TEAM

2021



SANDRA  
MAMITZSCH

Critical Making



MUGETHI  
GITAU

Critical Making



FADIA  
ELGHARIB

Careables,  
re:publica



RICARDO  
RUIZ

Careables, CoAct,  
DOTS



GEORGIA NICOLAU

Careables Latin



PALLAB SHRESTHA

Careables Nepal  
Communitere



PRISCILLA  
SERWAAH GYASI

Careables AT  
Kumasi Hive



ELOISA MONTT  
MARAY

Cairo Smart Clinic |  
Fundraising



ANA ROCÍO  
SANDRES

CoAct



KERSTI RUTH  
WISSENBACH

CoAct



ASMAA GUEDIRA

Critical Making



Samer Shawar

Critical Making



# PROJECTS

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## Virtual re:publica

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re:publica wouldn't be the same if we — "In The Mean Time" — couldn't rely on our creativity, optimism, and a keen eye for the essentials. In 2021, gig@re:publica returned to a digital edition titled "In The Mean Time" from 20 - 22 May 2021. The event was live-streamed, and we discussed new formats with you, many exciting speakers and our partners.

For all those who couldn't be there, missed a particular part of the programme or would like to re-watch the highlights, all gig sessions at rp21 are [available on YouTube](#).

## Toolkit Open Science for Peacebuilding

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We were able to secure support for creating a Toolkit on Open Science for Peacebuilding, as a service for the giz.

The toolkit has been created with many GIG members, and co-lead by the member Vilsquare Innovation Hub in Nigeria.

[Check it here](#)

## SHUBRA EL KHEMA SMART CLINIC

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GIG and MBM (Masr Bela Marad, which translates as "Egypt without illness"), an Egyptian NGO and a donation of Siemens AG and Siemens Energy AG set up in Shubra El Khema Smart Clinic. This clinic aims to provide high-quality care for around 15,000 patients yearly in an area lacking access to healthcare.

# CAREABLES

## *Participatory Design For Healthcare*

Careables is an open and inclusive approach to healthcare based on digital fabrication, distributed manufacturing and collaborative making. GIG has been cooperating since 2018 in the Made4You / Careables project with the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) Open Dot and Together To Go (TOG), KU Leuven, Wevolver and Waag Society, and Agile Heap.

Every person is unique, and so are their needs. However, the healthcare system does not address this uniqueness. It instead offers mass-produced and universal solutions that are standardised and often too expensive to afford. Careables adopts a broad understanding of what makes up people's needs and abilities in a global context and evolving healthcare system.

In 2021, Careables as an EU funded project was ending. GIG took over the coordination of the project. Our strategies focused on community building and an outreach voice in the field of Open Health Solutions, sharing and promoting our Global Platform to develop a network of initiatives with a similar focus.

In 2021 we received a small grant from Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken to carry out events in Germany.

### **Open Health Vision Workshops**

Careables took the lead at the beginning of 2021 to facilitate the conversation between similar-minded organizations that advocate for open systems and structures, especially in the field of Healthcare. With this, Careables facilitated two online workshops that included JOGL, HIPPO AI Foundation, FieldReady, OSHSG. The discussion went around how the different initiatives can unify their efforts, learn from each other and create a standard structure to work through.

 **careables.org**



### Careables Gathering at Re:publica 2021

Careables hosted a session with Bart de Witte from the Hippo AI Foundation and Prof. Nick Couldry from the London School of Economics. Bart and Nick had a conversation about possible future power asymmetries between digital data-driven platforms and their users. They posed an important question on how the current data economy in healthcare paves the way for a new stage of capitalism, and what can we do at this point?

### Careables Gathering at Chaos Communications Congress

Careables hosted a [presentation at CCC 2021](#) regarding [Careables Online Exhibition](#). Visitors will take a tour of our Online Careables Exhibition, where they will see first-hand the devices our partners created from around the world. This will be followed by a Talk and Q&A session on how Careables evolved during this last year in different countries from the Global South and how the opensource making experience can change the future of health and care.





## Promoting Careables in Germany

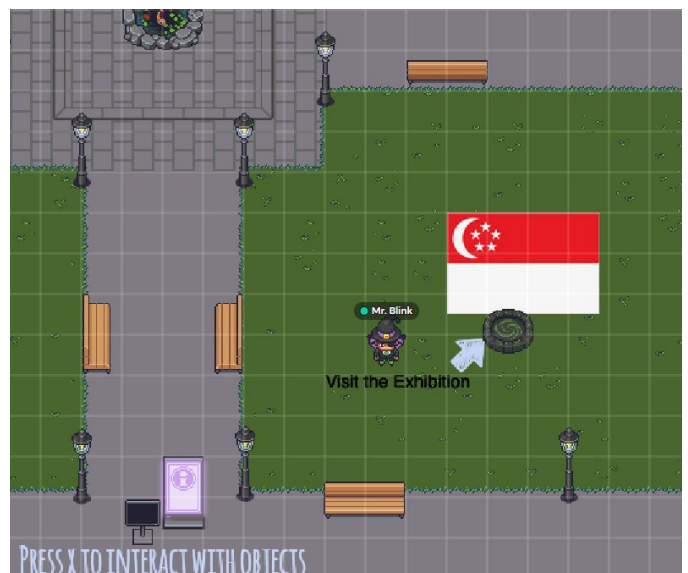
Supported by Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken, we carried out events and activities in Germany targeting German makerspaces & stakeholders that can integrate concepts and solutions of open health care in their already established projects. We shared inspiring stories and knowledge from our Global South partner to German actors. Many GIG members have presented their work online, like Pallab Sharha, Nawres Arif, Ricardo Ruiz, Priscilla Gyasi, Christiano Lopez and Saad Chinoy.

We hosted five different events with more than 171 attendees:

- Careables at Fläminger Kreativsausage Festival. Klein Glien, Bad Belzig
- Open Health HACKademy #5 Interim Presentation + Careables Global South Discussion. Berlin.
- Bridging Health Care: Berlin goes to Ceará Innovation Week (Brazil & Online)
- Careables Exhibition @ MoFab Kick Off: Repair, Preserve, Invent. Cottbus.
- xHain & Careables Make'n'Tell Night. Berlin.

## Exhibitions

Careables team members and partners could organise different expositions about the work developed, and we called them the Moving Exhibitions. In 2021 Careables Moving Exhibition occurred in Bad Belzig during the Kreativsausage Festival, Cottbus and in Berlin at xHain Makerspace. In 2021, we happily launched the online version of the Careables Moving Exhibition, Designed in Singapore by the [EngineeringGood](#) Team. You can visit the online exhibition at [gather.town](#).



# COACT

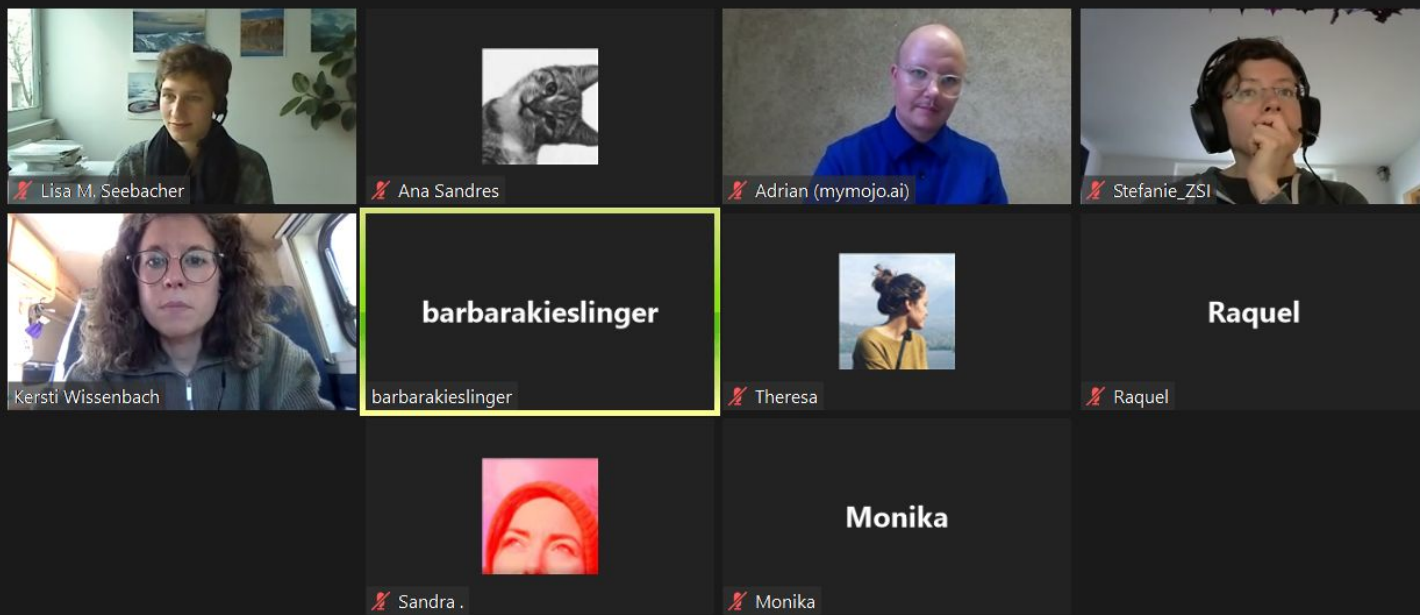
*A new understanding of the underexplored field of Citizen Social Science (CSS)*

CoAct is a 3-year social research project that proposes a new approach to face social global concerns related to mental health care, youth employment, environmental justice and gender equality by engaging citizens as co-researchers.

GIG is one of the 9 partners within a consortium of organisations from Germany, Spain, UK, and Argentina. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 873048.

GIG is the lead of the communication and dissemination strategy and supports the R&I activities with context-driven communication strategies. Furthermore, GIG also contributes to the web-based Open Citizen Social Science toolkit and the endeavouring of new Citizen Social Science spaces, with a focus on Gender Equality.





## CoAct Community

Since a fascinating conversation on [DOTS 2020 open science session](#) there is a CoAct's \*Open \*Citizen \*Social Science chat group on [Signal](#). The main activities carried out for and with our community were the hangouts.

## Hangouts

The overall objective of the hangout series is to foster discourse around topics relevant to the growing community initiated via \*Open\*Citizen\*Social\*Science Signal group. The group was set up to create an environment for a low barrier, instant exchange of thoughts, events, materials, and much more. The following hangouts have been organised:

- The first hangout offered a space to answer questions and collectively identify the topics relevant to the community to co-create the future hangout agenda. Read the full documentation of the first community hangout and its outcomes [here](#).

- On October the 21st, GIG organized its second \*Open\*Citizen\*Social Science hangout. This time, the group came together to share thoughts around the framing of gender equality in \*Open\*Citizen\*Social Science contexts. You can read more about the discussion [here](#).
- The November hangout focused on collaboration dynamics in cross-disciplinary teams and how do participants embrace and work through status and power dynamics.

## Webinars

In 2021, GIG organised 2 CoAct webinars:

- On June 22nd, we discussed the framing of science by learning how scientifically rigor research is done outside academia. We wanted to take a global perspective, learning from participatory research initiatives in different contexts. Watch the full recording [here](#).
- On Nov 23rd, we discussed the role of gender equality in shaping a Citizen Social Science approach. Watch the full recording [here](#).



# CRITICAL MAKING

*How do we build an Inclusive, Open Environment for Makers of all ages and gender?*

Critical Making adds scientific insights into the potential of the maker movement. We focus on critical and socially responsible making, and show how these communities can offer new opportunities for young makers of all genders to contribute to an open society via open source innovation.

In three case actions, the we specifically look at aspects of gender, openness and the recruitment of young talents:

The Critical Making Gender Case Action will increase gender awareness practices in the maker community. This is achieved through piloting 3-4 co-created measures to counteract the existing gender imbalance in makerspaces and in online spaces and create guidelines on gender awareness.

The Critical Making Young Talents Case Action will support the engagement of young people in maker spaces and further Research & Innovation activities via makerspace actions and educational programmes that expand the formal curriculum with skills for responsible research and innovation.

The Critical Making Openness Case Action will provide methods to strengthen the social responsibility of the open hardware movement. This is achieved by piloting a mentoring programme for RRI aware, open hardware business innovations with a special emphasis on projects that advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through open science, social innovations or environmental sustainability.

# GATHERINGS & EVENTS

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## DOTS

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As GIG, we believe in the power of gatherings to connect people. Since our founding we harness the powerful effects of bringing people together to share and exchange. Since 2013, we have been facilitating community gatherings at [re:publica](#) in Berlin and Accra. Since 2019, we took the next step and organized a GIG-only gathering called [DOTS. The Impact Summit](#) in Nakuru / Kenya. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DOTS again happened online, just like world's events agenda in 2020 and 2021.

At the virtual edition of DOTS. The Impact Summit in December, we shared experiences and knowledge, is very especial session focused on issues faced in 2021 and perspectives for the NGO in 2022.

Sessions were not recorded, but they are still fresh in the minds of the ones who took part on it!

## EVENTS

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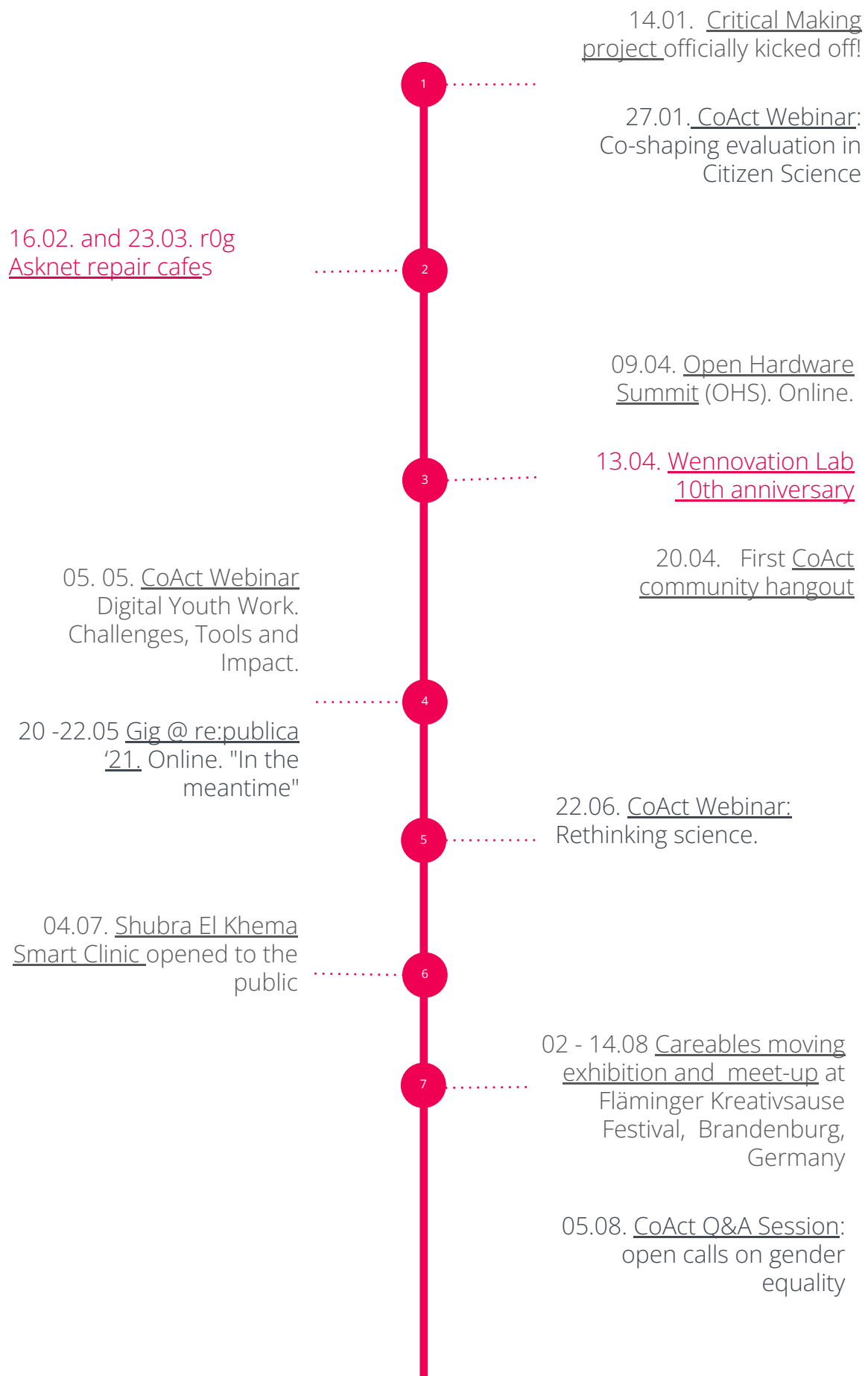
We believe that diversity is key in solving systemic global challenges. Therefore, we organize not only gatherings of our community, but also facilitate smaller events and support participation of our members in events organized by the GIG community and its wider network.

In 2021, most events were all virtual, due the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

We could not hug each other at the online edition of [re:publica 21, but we could hang out in a virtual living room](#), contributing to the online program, and being part of it.

# TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



# TIMELINE

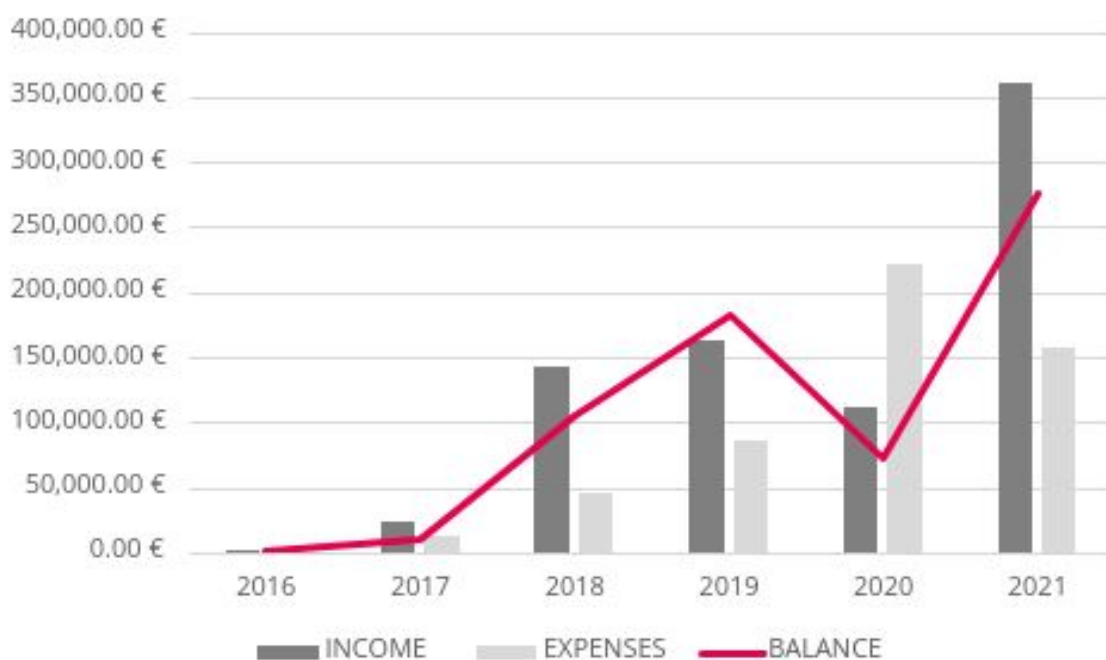
Network Activities | Member Activities



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

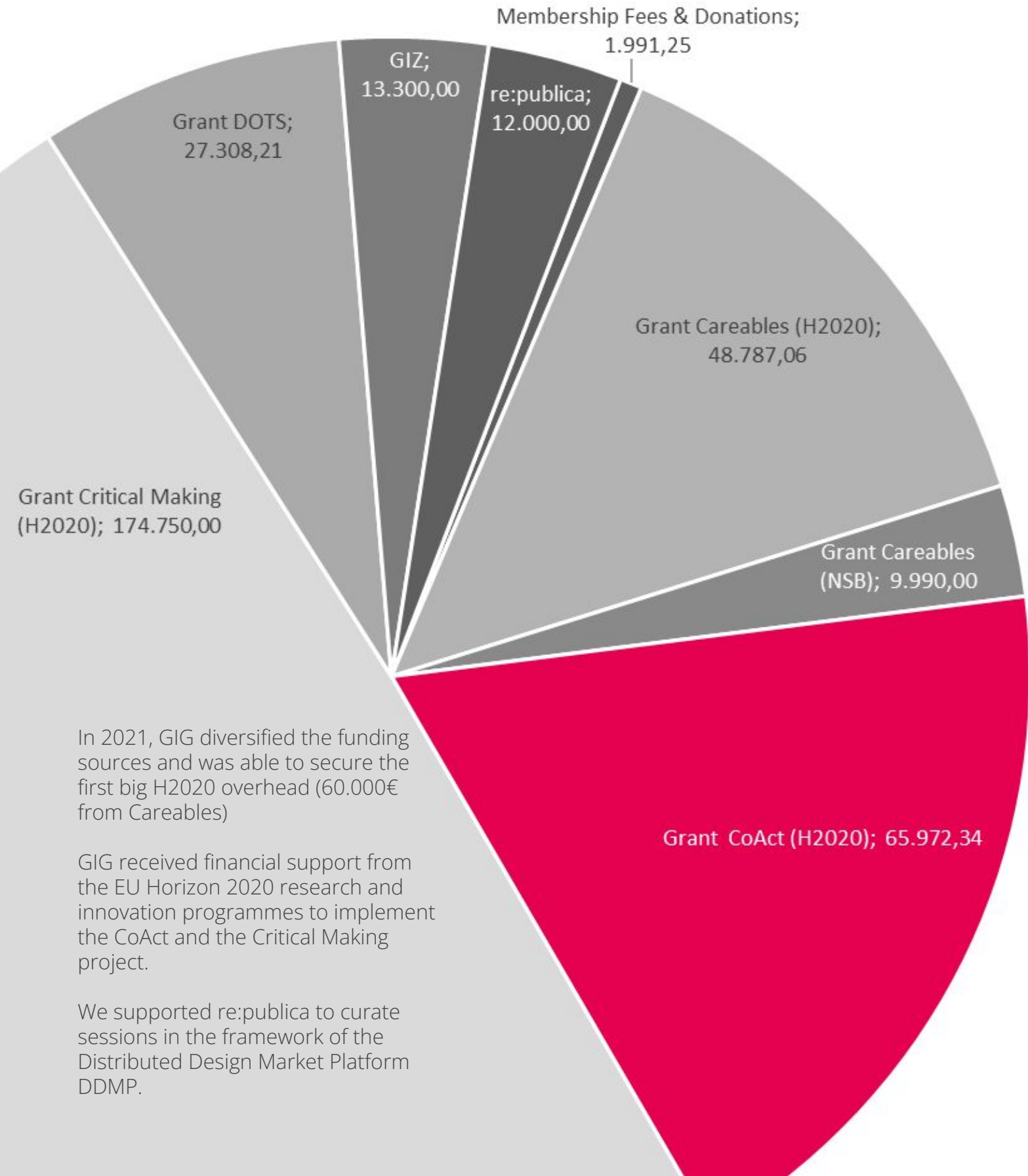
	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
2016	€590.00	€147.50	€613.23
2017	€23,076.43	€13,197.28	€10,492.38
2018	€143,276.15	€46,080.86	€106,687.02
2019	€162,541.45	€86,720.06	€182,508.41
2020	€110,855.78	€221,244.95	€72,119.24
2021	€361,598.86	€156,863.46	€269,624.73

GIG in 2021 generated most of its income through projects in order to finance a secretariat in Berlin and several international project teams. Our main sources of income were the EU-H2020 projects Careables, Critical Making, CoAct, the DOTS support from TU Berlin and our partnership with re:publica.



# INCOME 2021

#WeAreGIG



In 2021, GIG diversified the funding sources and was able to secure the first big H2020 overhead (60.000€ from Careables)

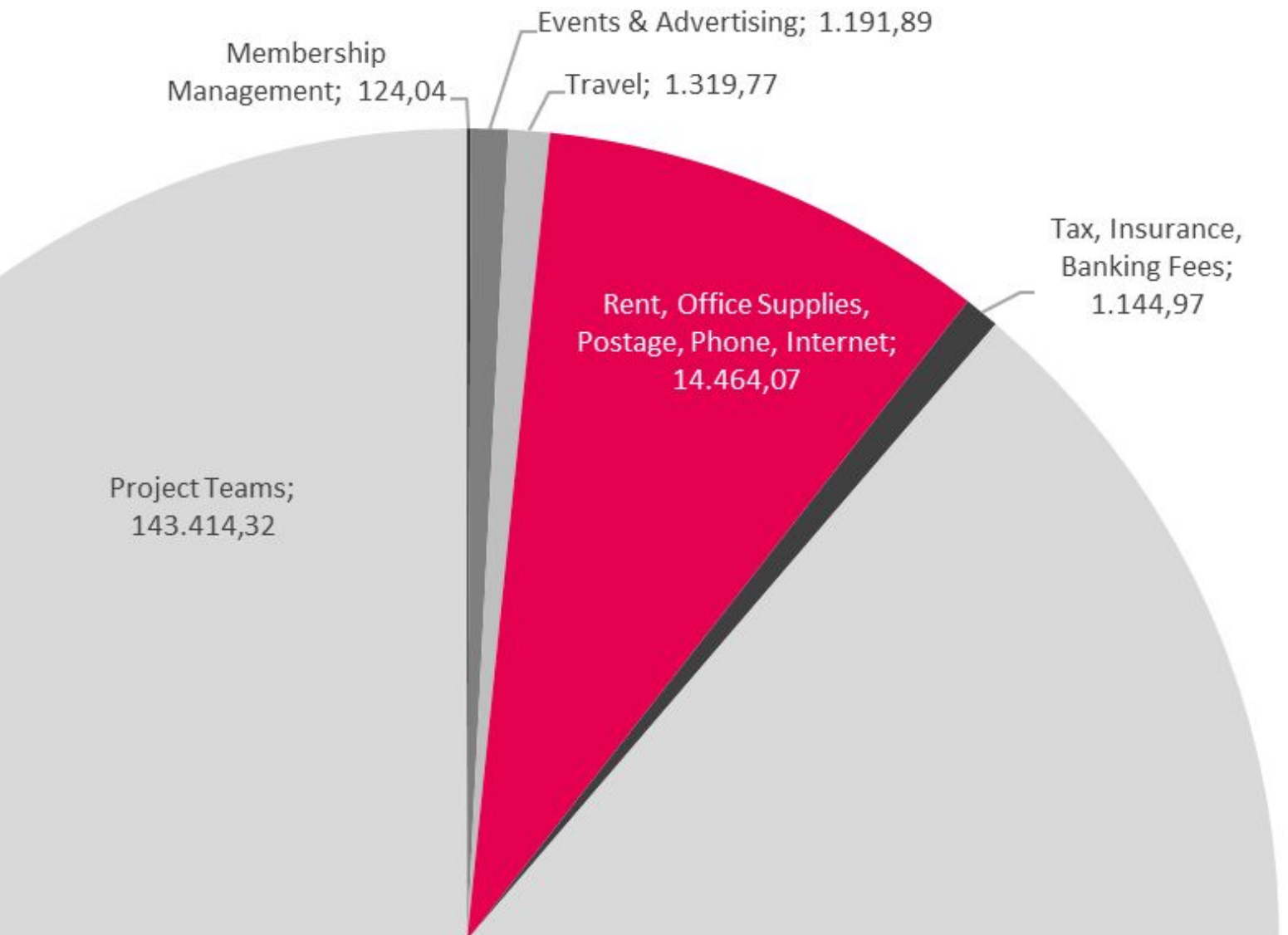
GIG received financial support from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programmes to implement the CoAct and the Critical Making project.

We supported re:publica to curate sessions in the framework of the Distributed Design Market Platform DDMP.

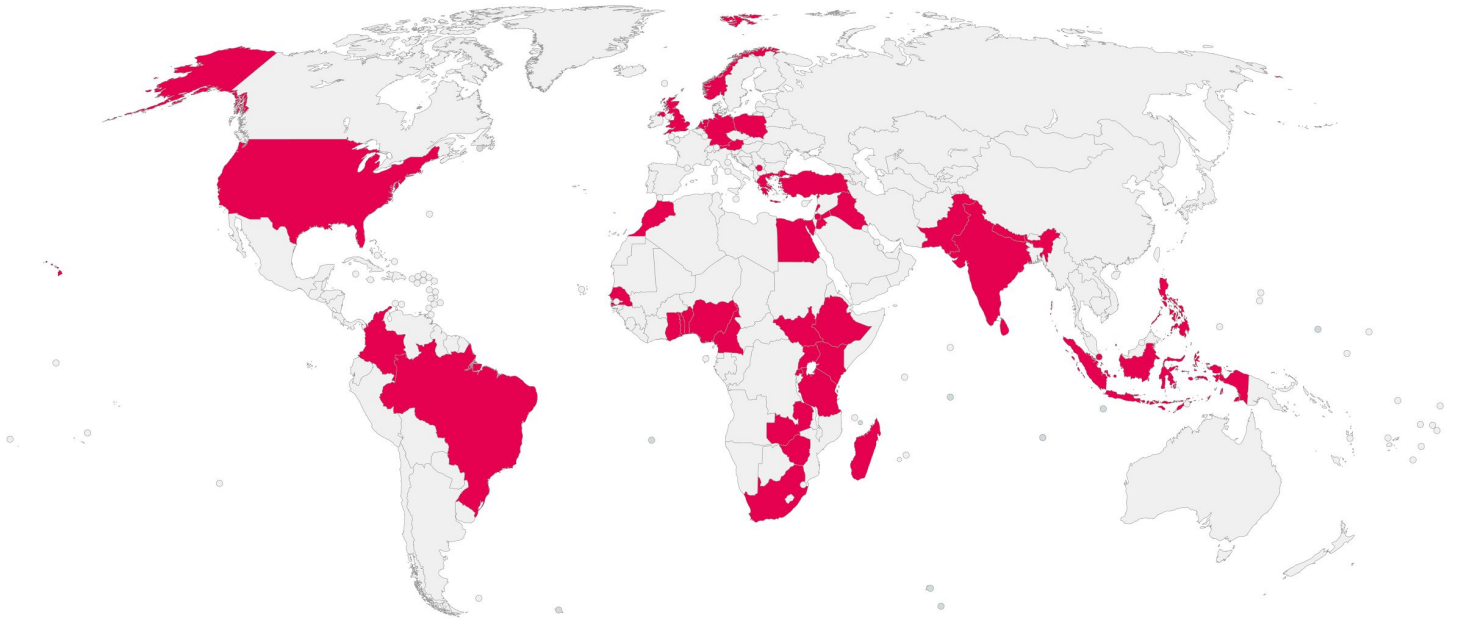


# EXPENSES 2021

#WeAreGIG



The vast majority of GIG's expenses are devoted to our projects, especially paying the people who do the actual project work, paying salaries, wages, and honoraria for members and staff



**We are what we create together**  
**#WeAreGIG**

