

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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

We Are What We Create Together

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## #WeAreGIG

Hello World,

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2022 annual report of the Global Innovation Gathering! The year 2022 brought many foreseen and unforeseen challenges. The world is dealing with Russia's attack on Ukraine, the increasingly consequential effects of climate change in different regions of the world and the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 epidemic and will be for the years to come. In these times, creating meaningful exchange between communities and around the innovative ways there are tackling these challenges are ever more important. In the past year, GIG has embarked on new projects addressing these global challenges in an attempt to support the development and scaling of open source solutions that will support local communities dealing with their effects. One project we started in 2022 is the EU Horizon 2020 funded mAKE project. mAKE connects digital innovation hubs in Europe and Africa to explore distributed manufacturing potentials. The project is connecting makerspaces and introducing new data standards, business opportunities for hardware startups and a common learning and capacity development infrastructure that will enable makerspaces to develop their production capacities. Further, GIG has joined the GIZ funded Tolocar project. Tolocar will connect GIG with makers from the Ukraine and enable sharing of open medical and other relevant resources. Through our projects, we continue to build relationships with our members and partners, such as the African Makerspace Network and the Internet of Production Alliance. We are also continuing our support to our members in accessing funding from the Nord Süd Brücken Foundation, including a project on climate action with our member Instituto Procomum (Brazil).

We are proud to have on boarded the largest number of new network members in one year since the pandemic outbreak and are glad to see our global network grow. New amazing individuals and organisations joined GIG in 2022. We have introduced new membership formats in order to represent the global network of innovation hubs that GIG represents and to allow supporting members to join the network. We have also introduced new formats including our monthly meet the members meetup and our online peer to peer knowledge sharing sessions. Furthermore, GIG now has a map and an open library. We were also excited to host physical gatherings again and meet our members in person at the 2022 re:publica, the African Makerspace Gathering, as well as the Fab City Festival in Bali.

In 2022, a newly elected executive board took over, with Sandra Mamitzsch and Ricardo Ruiz replacing Victory Wenzelmann and Regina Sipos. We restructured internally and found a new mode to operate with our supervisory board as well as restructuring the team. We are excited to welcome new team members on board including Kirstin Wiedow who joined the GIG team in 2022 from Namibia/South Africa. The executive board that was elected into office at the end of 2021 would like to thank the members and the staff members and the supervisory board members of the organisation for their continued trust, support and their hard work for sustainable and open global innovation.

*Geraldine de Bastion  
Ricardo Ruiz Freire  
Sandra Mamitzsch*



## 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/>*

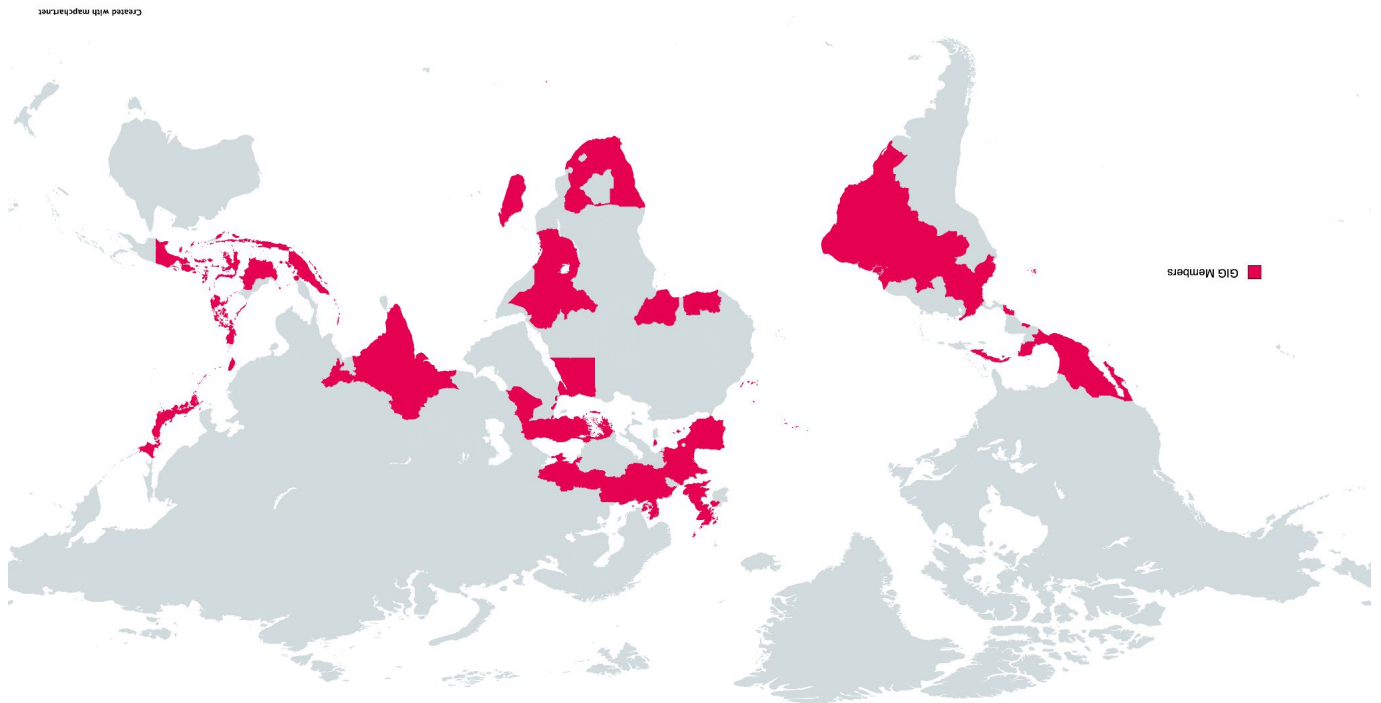
# OUR MEMBERS

#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.



155 MEMBERS | 47 COUNTRIES | 1 COMMUNITY

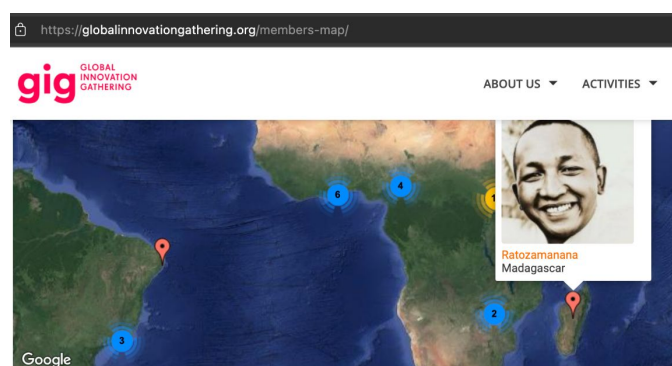
# SHOWCASING MEMBERS

*Sharing GIG magic with the world*

We are excited to announce that our website has undergone a significant update, with improved design and features, including a comprehensive geotagged member database. This upgrade reflects our commitment to providing members with a valuable platform to showcase their work and connect with like-minded individuals.

Throughout the year, we have published a series of blog posts on the Global Innovation Gathering website, highlighting the unique activities of our members. From groundbreaking research to innovative projects, we are proud to share our community's impact in various fields. Moreover, we are thrilled that our Supervisory Board members have launched an initiative to record a series of podcasts. The podcasts will focus on the stories and insights of our members, providing a unique opportunity for listeners to hear firsthand about their work and the challenges they face.

As we look forward to the future, we are committed to fostering a collaborative environment that empowers our members to drive meaningful change. We thank our members, partners, and supporters for their continued dedication and contribution to our community's growth.



Georgia Nicolau



Eric Nitschke



Kersti Ruth Wissenbach

# EXECUTIVE BOARD & AUDITORS

2022

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.



## SANDRA MAMITZSCH

Sandra is a Berlin based political consultant and activist. She is curating re:publica since 2011 and since 2018 works with GIG.

Her topics include administration, project development, digital media and communication strategies as well as media and internet policy.



## RICARDO RUIZ

Ricardo is a researcher, lecturer and consultant on the intersection of innovation and sustainable development. He has 20 years of experience around digital tools and human rights in the governmental sector, development cooperation, the private sector and academia.



## ALEX

FabLab Oberland e.V.  
Auditor

The auditors are elected for the duration of two years 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

2022



**GEORGIA  
NICOLAU**  
Instituto  
Procomum  
BRAZIL



**PRISCILLA**  
Kumasi Hive,  
GHANA



**DANI**  
Change Darer  
PORTUGAL



**STAR**  
POLAND



**AUDREY DSOUZA**  
India Foundation  
for Humanistic  
Development  
INDIA



**PAWEL  
NGEI**  
Glider Ink  
POLAND



**HARINJAKA  
RATOZAMANANA**  
Orinasa  
Kaoperativa  
MADAGASCAR



**SAAD  
CHINOY**  
Spudnik Lab &  
SalvageGarden  
Assistive Makerspace  
SINGAPORE



**PAUL MUCHENE**  
ICANN,  
KENYA  
(in memoriam)



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

The Supervisory Board 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.





# PAUL MUCHENE

1980 - 2022

In 2022, we received the news that our beloved fellow GIGer and supervisory board member Paul Muchene passed away.

Paul was an incredible human. He was dedicated to make this world a better functioning, fairer and equitable place. He was passionate about the digital infrastructures needed to create a better future for all. Paul was driven by wanting to understand the past, the present and the future and the interest to share this knowledge and make it accessible. He always asked questions, clarifying questions, thought provoking questions, questions that would advance the conversation.

Paul was an invaluable member of our global community, a community we often think of as an extended family. We feel like we have lost a dear family member. We cannot imagine what meetings and gatherings will look like without Paul's curiosity, caring and dedication. We are all big fans of Paul's and Paul was a fan of GIGs, he help make and shape this global community of ours to what it is today. As a founding member of our NGO, he helped design and implement our governance structures, he made sure the organisation was running well and was always available to give advice where needed. He was also always around for a joke, a reflection, an exchange of warmth and kindness.

Paul was present. We cannot believe he no longer will be. He will be forever missed and the Internet and real world a bleaker place without him.



# PROJECTS

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## LabStorm

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In late 2022, the Nord-Süd-Brücken Foundation approved support to LabStorm. In partnership with GIG, hub members Instituto Procomum and Casa Criatura, will reproduce this concept first created in Instituto Procomum.

LabStorm invites 30 citizens of different ages, classes, genders and ethnicities from the Recife Metropolitan area in Brazil to participate in a citizen laboratory focused on generating five citizen innovation prototypes to combat the climate emergency in the region. The project timeline goes from March to May 2023.

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## GIG supports Project Tolocar

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The Tolocar project uses mobile makerspaces equipped with tools, consumables, and makers to support humanitarian activities in Ukraine. In this new partnership funded by GIZ, members from the GIG network become involved in various roles supporting the Tolocar project: mentors for makers and makerspace managers and partners in realizing specific projects. The project timeline is December 2022 to November 2023. You can follow updates at <https://tolocar.org>



# COACT

## *Understanding the underexplored field of Citizen Social Science (CSS)*

During the last 36 months, the Global Innovation Gathering helped CoAct project deliver Citizen Social Science concepts and practices to more than 1,6 million people, using a wide range of communication strategies and tools, combined with intense resilience and creativity during the COVID-19 pandemic. CoAct (Co-designing Citizen Social Science for Collective Action) proposes a radically new approach to facing global social issues by engaging vulnerable citizens as co-researchers. The strategy represents a new account of Citizen Social Science, understood here as participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern. CoAct's research approach, where citizen groups and their problems are at the core of the research questions, requires translating those attributes for its communicative and dissemination activities. Furthermore, CoAct's shared values – Inclusiveness, Horizontality, Equity, Trust and Respect, Open Science, Co-ownership, Empowerment, and Reflexivity – underlined the direction and structure of CoAct's communication, dissemination and exploitation Work Package, led by the Global Innovation Gathering inside a consortium partnership.

The third year continued to communicate and discuss CoAct activities and learnings via media and events. Exposure was through publicity via the website and interior and institutional social media channels, whilst blog posts summarised and disseminated internally hosted webinars, hangouts and other activities. Findings from the R&I Actions and the co-evaluation processes are in policy briefs, whitepapers, academic articles, and reports. Experienced methods are available in a toolkit accessible on the project website, including additional data and details. A final event week brought together community members, partners, co-researchers, and the general public to reflect upon the outcomes in two dedicated panel discussions. An online video premiere showcasing CoAct's work of the last three years celebrated results furthermore.





## Shaping Global Perspectives on Citizen Social Science

One of the most outstanding outcomes from the research was the Global Perspectives Publication is the critical reflection of a group of global makers and innovators on the Citizen Social Science concept. These actors, who are all deeply rooted in projects fostering local engagement in change processes, raised some critical concerns, ranging from western framings of science to the often limited enactment of actual participation, as in local ownership. [The publication is online on CoAct website.](#)

The five topics of the publication are:

- Locally driven protocols and local traditions
- The Ownership of Science
- Decolonising our educational/institutional influences
- Overcoming false representation in participatory processes
- Ethical standard setting

With every topic, a driving question showcased how those issues are addressed in people's local community work or through think pieces that provide a more overarching reflection.

The contributions received from numerous actors, mainly from Latin American, African and South East Asian contexts, guide rethinking institutional silos and provide concrete examples and lessons learned from how to address those issues in practice. In this way, Global Perspectives offers various contributions to sustainability:

1. It broadens the concept of Citizen Social Science by demonstrating how local engagement in scientific processes happens around the world
2. It demonstrates how CSS is narrowing itself in an academic conceptualisation of science.
3. It provides examples from different socio-political contexts, thus diversifying and helping non-western actors to identify with the concept.

Shaping the CSS approach in a participatory manner requires engaging a broad and diverse community in the entire debate. In this way, CoAct community gradually strengthened itself through the tools used for community building, and community participation embraced CSS to flourish inside and outside academia. Furthermore, it provided an inclusive approach to the concept, openly and equally acknowledging different communities of experts and their crucial roles.

Together with events participation and the already active academic community around its scientific papers, CoAct believes Citizen Social Science studies can grow from and take root from this Horizon 2020 project on the grounds of Science and Open Science. Congratulations to all the CoAct team at GIG!

# 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 summer 2022 GIG also took over the role of communications lead for the project.

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

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## Critical Making

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 provides 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.

# mAkE

*An innovative maker ecosystem across Africa, Europe and the world*

mAkE is a collaborative innovation action promoting cooperation and strategic partnerships between digital innovation hubs (DIHs) in Africa and Europe. It aims to strengthen an EU-Africa innovation and start-up ecosystem by creating the necessary infrastructure for decentral production and collaboration as well as shared policy frameworks and educational opportunities. mAkE focus on connecting makerspaces in Europe and Africa. Furthermore, mAkE organise capacity-building activities to equip African makerspaces and digital start-ups with the necessary skills to engage in hardware manufacturing, offering incubation, mentoring and matching activities in Africa and Europe.

The project kicked-off in February 2022 and during the first year, brand elements and website have been developed and implemented alongside social media platforms, together with two consortium meetings, one in Berlin and the other in Cape Town. It was presented at global events as Africa Startups Frankfurt, AfricaOSH Cameroon, Maker Faire Rome, re:publica Berlin, Maker Faire Barcelona, and FabFest Bali.

mAkE aims to achieve the following objectives, which are aligned with the tasks in specific:

- 1:** Create innovative ventures, sustainable open source business and funding models for joint digital hardware ventures.
- 2:** Improve links between public sector, policy makers and digital innovation actors to enable an environment for makerspaces.
- 3:** Equip makerspaces with the capacities to sustainably foster digital innovation and maintain an EU-Africa start-up ecosystem
- 4:** Enable decentralised manufacturing creating local value chains and business models and strengthening the innovation ecosystem for start-ups and SMEs
- 5:** Ensure the sustainability of the digital innovation eco-systems, creating mutual relationships from the project's onset

**MAKE** African European Maker  
Innovation Ecosystem



# Labmobile

## *Mobile media and maker lab in northern Uganda*

The #Labmobile is a mobile space for learning, hacking, making, and most of all, for knowledge exchange and community building. The main goal is to have a vehicle to bring people together who would otherwise never have met.

In 2022, with support from Nord-Süd-Brücken, GIG Hub Member Platform Africa ran (literally!) the mobile space to deliver their popular and practical training in remote areas of Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and neighbouring communities, in northern Uganda. Five workshops on (critical) media skills, podcast production and trauma recovery were conducted in different locations using the Big Blue vehicle converted into a mobile training room.

The main objective was to contribute to peacebuilding and civil society empowerment in remote parts of Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and surrounding communities in remote areas of northern Uganda.





# Innovation Global

*This is Global Innovation!*

The Global Innovation is a Nord-Süd Brücken (NSB) funded project that aims to bring awareness to the German and European public on innovation happening in countries of the Global South. As opposed to the stereotypical images of poor and suffering developing countries prevalent in European countries, Global innovation aims to portray the more complex reality of our world. Through the production of eight different posters telling the stories of our members, the project sheds light on some of the innovations happening in countries where members are based. It also invites viewers to know more about our members and their spaces; by scanning a QR code that leads to the member's GIG database profile.

Additionally, we have produced seven videos that tell the story of the members and their spaces. Finally, we have obtained a small amount of funding to partially support the production of the podcasts recorded during our 2022 GIG gathering.

The project was exhibited in different hubs and spaces around Berlin.

**gig** GLOBAL INNOVATION GATHERING

**Vuga William**

Kampala (Adjumani Pagriniya refugee settlement)  
Uganda  
Pagriniya Satellite

*"GIG is a network that shares ideas and connects people with different skills, and they always share online materials, which aligns with my dream."*

GIG has experts within their network .  
I find it trustworthy for sharing knowledge and providing a platform for everyone to share their ideas.

# My love for Technology

Find out more about me here

The Pagriniya Satellite house prototype is a sustainable ICT-enhanced social network workspace aligned with The Youth Empowerment Foundation. It brings all youths from different ethnic affiliations in Pagriniya, Uganda and neighbouring South Sudanese refugee settlements together. The space aims to engage its community in tech innovation, media and information literacy, career inspiration and life skills through online collaboration. The overall aim is to strengthen the activities of The Youth Empowerment Foundation in the region for collective social mobilization to empower the youth to embrace active participation in peace-building, non-violence and reconciliation dialogues through social media. The space has hosted a Digital Tech Boot Camp, a training opportunity for young people with basic computer knowledge to learn programming languages and build products to solve local challenges. Young people also delve into the functionalities of knowledge sharing, e-applications like Github and building websites for information sharing.

BMZ  
German Federal Government  
Youth Empowerment Foundation

# GATHERINGS & EVENTS

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*2022 was full of events again after the long Covid-break*



## Hacking in Parallel

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Presented GIG, GIG members and the mAKE project at the end of the year congress of the Berlin Chaos Computer Club. The 37th Chaos Communication Congress took place at the Hamburg Congress Center (CCH), from the 27th-30th, December.

## FABCITY@BALI

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The Fab Fest team has unanimously chosen the Critical Making contribution as the best paper presented at the conference and hosted an extended conversation of about half an hour on the FabTV prime show.

# re:publica

## *Tagline for the gathering*

2022 was the first year re:publica took place as a live event since Covid, and we were happy to resume the tradition of hosting the makerspace during the three days of re:publica. This year the makerspace included an Open Hardware Exhibition, a workshop on building paper circuits, and nineteen workshops that facilitated different hands-on skills, with many members sharing their latest innovations and creative ways to use technology to help their communities. Whether on gamification of automation, robotics, or the right to repair, the makerspace witnessed a remarkable visiting rate, with most workshops being visited fully.

The makerspace was a meeting point for our more than forty GIG members and mAKE members who travelled from different parts of the world to participate in re:publica as speakers, workshop holders, exhibitors and attendees.

Our members from Brazil, Singapore, Iraq, and India, to name a few, held workshops on repairing devices, producing less digital waste, making biodegradable plastic in our home kitchens. In addition, Nawres Arif from Iraq showed us how to connect IO in an easy-to-use, node-based PLC programming, where logic, math expressions and operations are represented in the form of blocks, connected logically to produce a visual algorithm of automation.

GIG also organized eleven meetups at the Home Base and the banks of the Spree. Whether it was discussing Law Tech, the future of Decentralized Production or Civic Tech, it was precisely at the Meetups that the GIG and re:publica networking spirit manifested.





# GIG weekend

## *The first on-site meeting after the Covid-19 Pandemic*

The GIG weekend took place on June 11th and 12th, 2022, and brought together 43 participants to a lovely picnic environment, providing an ideal space for participants to engage with each other. Furthermore, it included sessions with partners:

- **Connection Workshop with Brot für die Welt** - Brot für die Welt is an organization supporting sustainable development, human rights, and justice worldwide. The workshop aimed allowed participants to connect to discuss the relevance of social innovation, technology, sustainable development and human rights.
- **Colmena Workshop with Deutsche Welle Akademie** - Deutsche Welle Academy is the educational institution of Deutsche Welle international broadcaster. The Colmena Workshop focused on using Colmena digital tool to promote social change and connect individuals and communities.
- **Mobile Making in Crisis Situation** with GIZ and Tolocar Project - GIZ promotes sustainable economic growth, reduces poverty, and supports peace and democracy in various countries. The Tolocar Project provides a mobile makerspace and workshops for people in Ukraine.

In addition to these, the event hosted podcast recording sessions, allowing GIG members to share their insights and ideas with a broader audience.

Overall, the GIG weekend was a successful event where worldwide innovators and partners could share ideas and collaborate on future initiatives, providing a valuable opportunity for GIG members to connect, learn from one another, and work towards creating innovative solutions to global challenges.



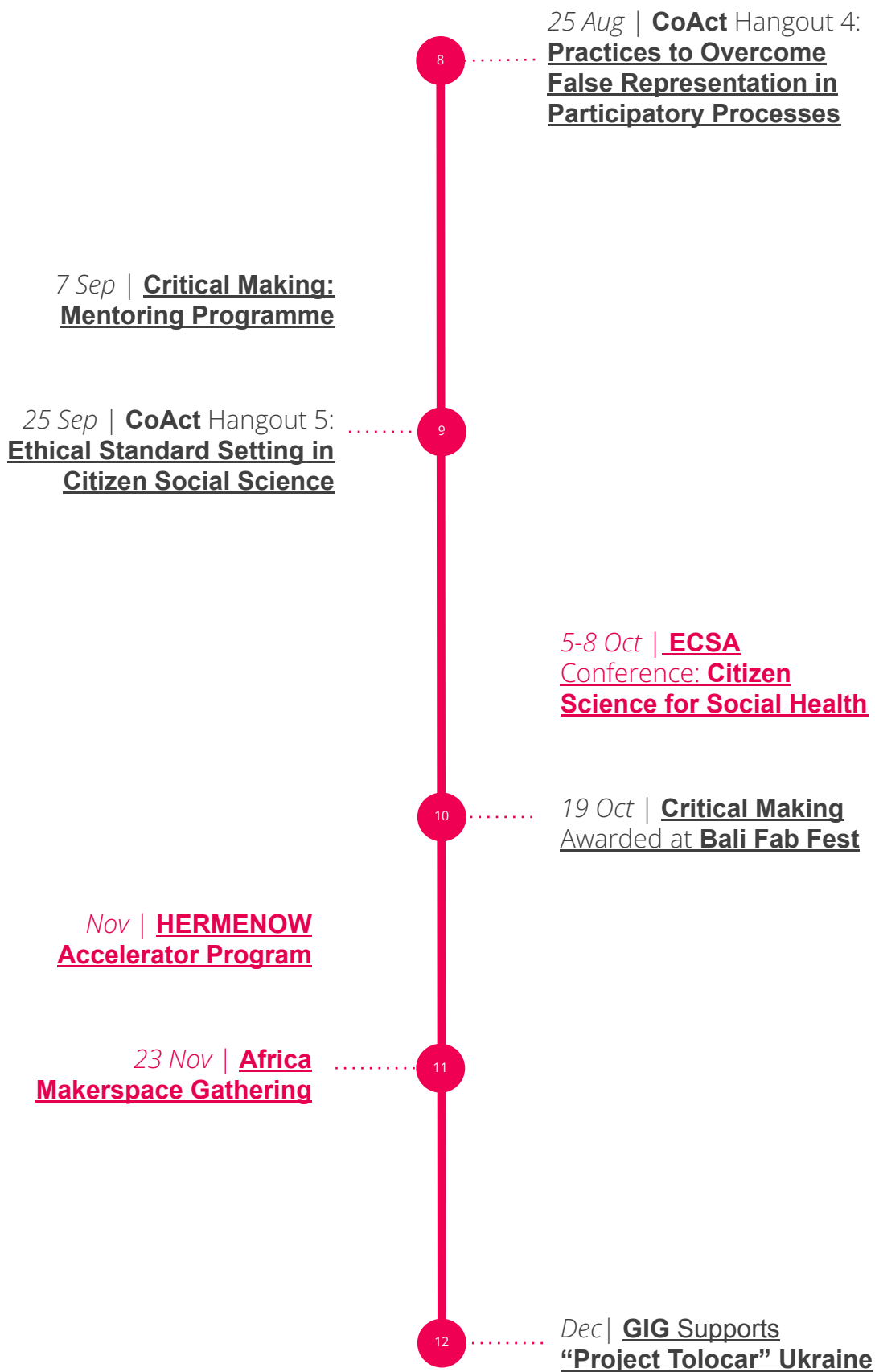
# 2022 TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



# 2022 TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 Draft

GIG was able to increase its income and expenses again in comparison to 2021. GIG also received a big amount of pre-financing for 2023, hence the surplus.

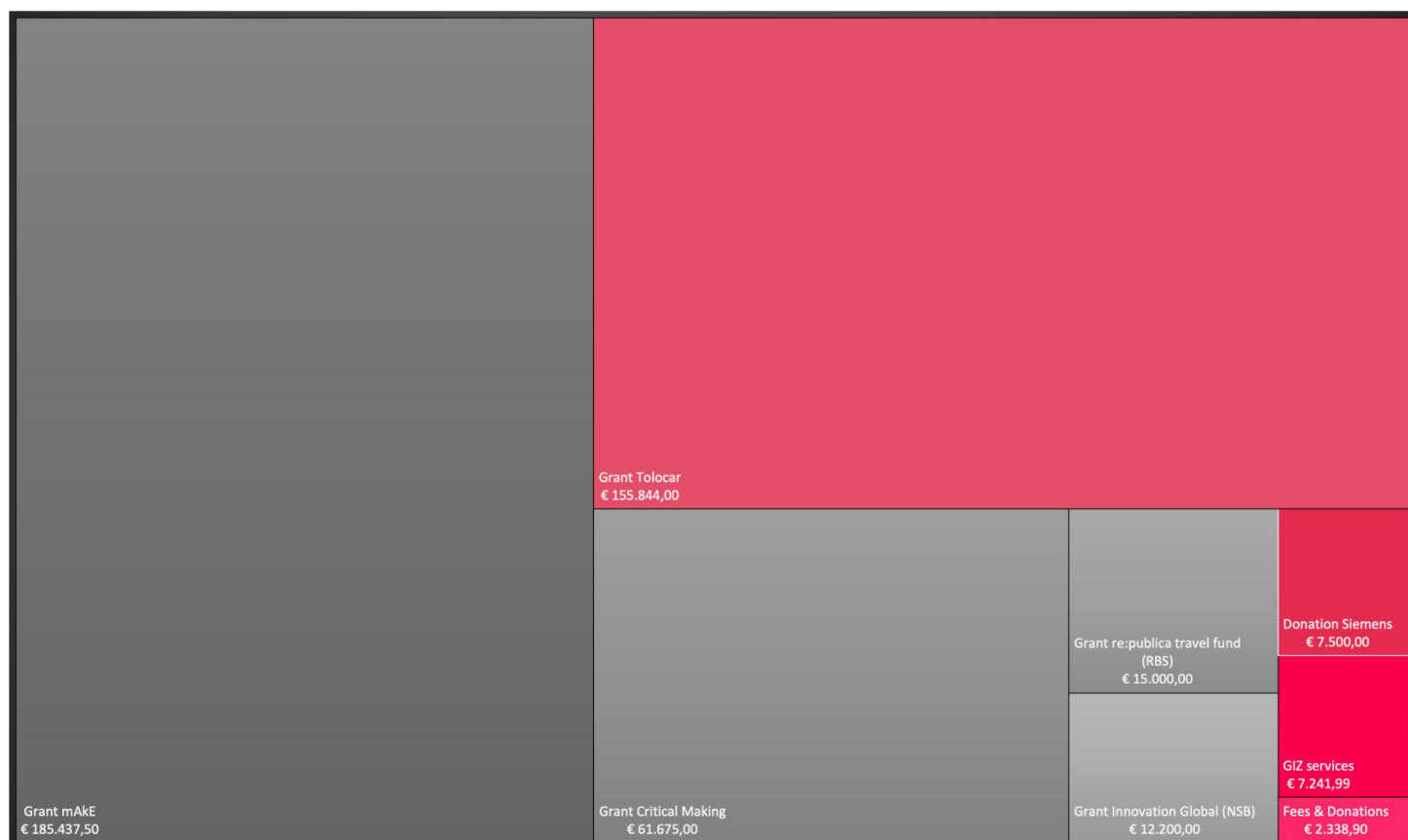
	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
2016	€590.00	€147.50	€613.23
2017	€23,076.43	€13,197.28	€10,492.38
2018	€143,276.15	€46,080.86	€106,687.02
2019	€162,541.45	€86,720.06	€182,508.41
2020	€110,855.78	€221,244.95	€72,119.24
2021	€361,598.86	€156,863.46	€269,624.73
2022	€447,237.39	€282,649.341	€441,442.69





# INCOME 2022, Draft 1.3.23

#WeAreGIG



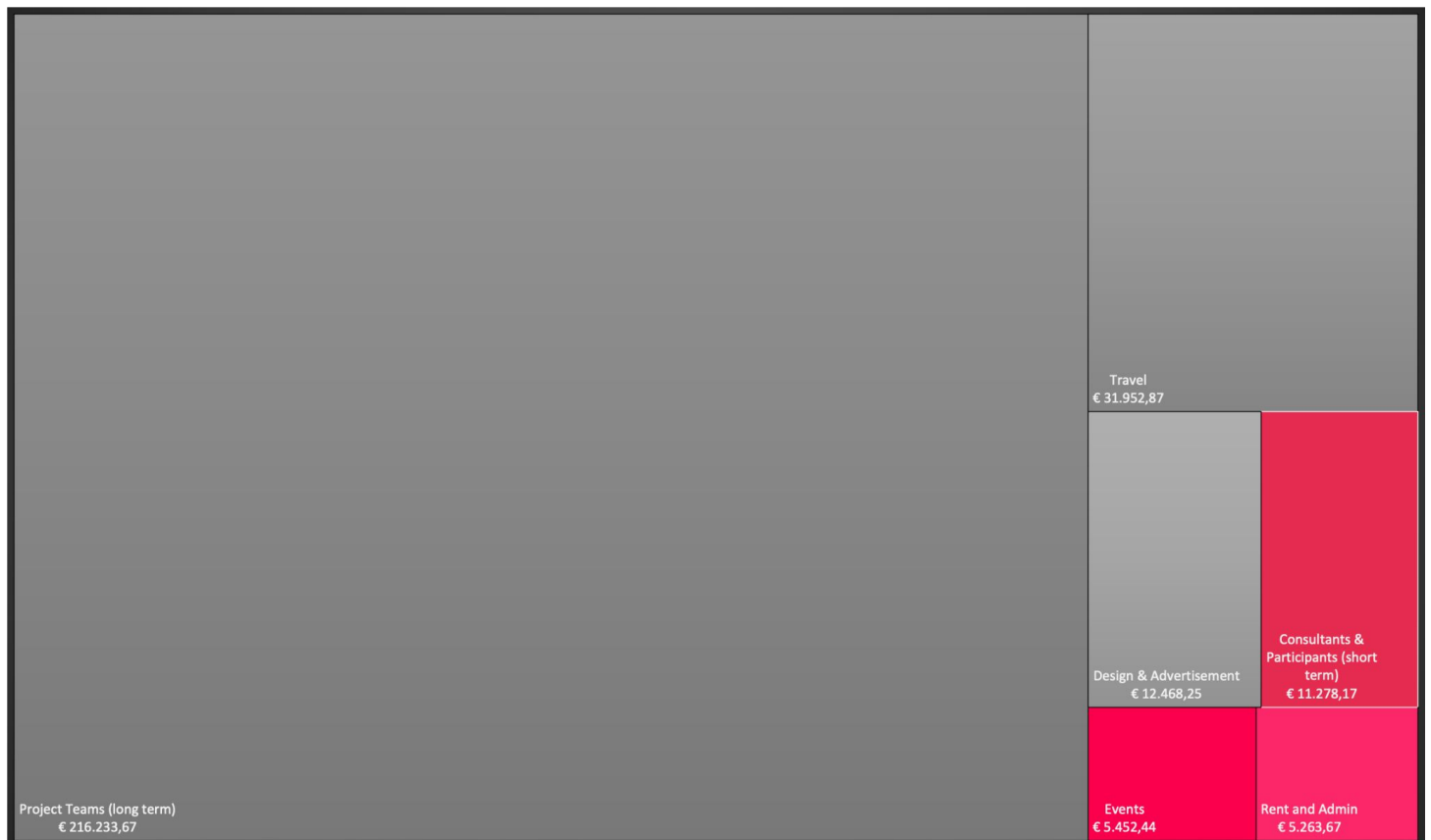
In 2022, GIG was able to keep a diversified income structure. GIG received pre-financing from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programmes to implement the mAkE and the Critical Making project and from GIZ to support project Tolocar. Most cost from the CoAct project had been pre-financed in 2021. The last payment from the CoAct project will be received after the Review meeting in March 2023.

GIG was able to secure another SDG fund from Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken and received a donation for our work in Iraq.

GIG supported re:publica to curate sessions in the framework of the Distributed Design Market Platform DDMP as a service, payment for that was made in January 2023 so it is not visible in the graph. GIG also supported GIZ with smaller service contracts.

# EXPENSES 2022, Draft 1.03.23

#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

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