

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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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#WeAreGIG

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report of the Global Innovation Gathering!

Every year we ask ourselves: how can we best (re)present the projects, activities, events, and most importantly, the global community that GIG has become? After 7 years, this task is getting increasingly complex, and yet, it is our happiest moment that allows us to look back and celebrate what we have achieved together.

From the start, GIG has been driven by the power of emergence: We are a community and not a business network. We facilitate interaction, not transactions. As a network of networks, hubs and other innovation community leaders with strong roots in the majority world, we harness the powerful effects of gatherings to ignite and implement change through concrete and tangible projects.

At the time of writing, the world is already in the grip of COVID-19, and we can see the immense positive impact that our members are having, including the Careables project (page 9). At the same time, the struggles caused by global inequalities remain as relevant as ever, but GIG members have acted as enablers for the mobility of Young Innovators (page 10). In 2019, we succeeded in gathering outside of Europe, something we had been working towards for years: DOTS, The Impact Summit (pp 14-17) in Kenya focused on collaborative processes to design societally relevant technology-based projects around the world.

A glimpse of other member- and network activities of the year 2019 can be found in the Timeline on pages 18-19. We are looking forward to many more creative, innovative and impactful years with our Members!

*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 as well as
- which provide information about the possibilities and dangers of the use of digital technologies - especially open source technologies.

Our full Articles of Association are online at <https://www.globalinnovationgathering.org/about-us/>

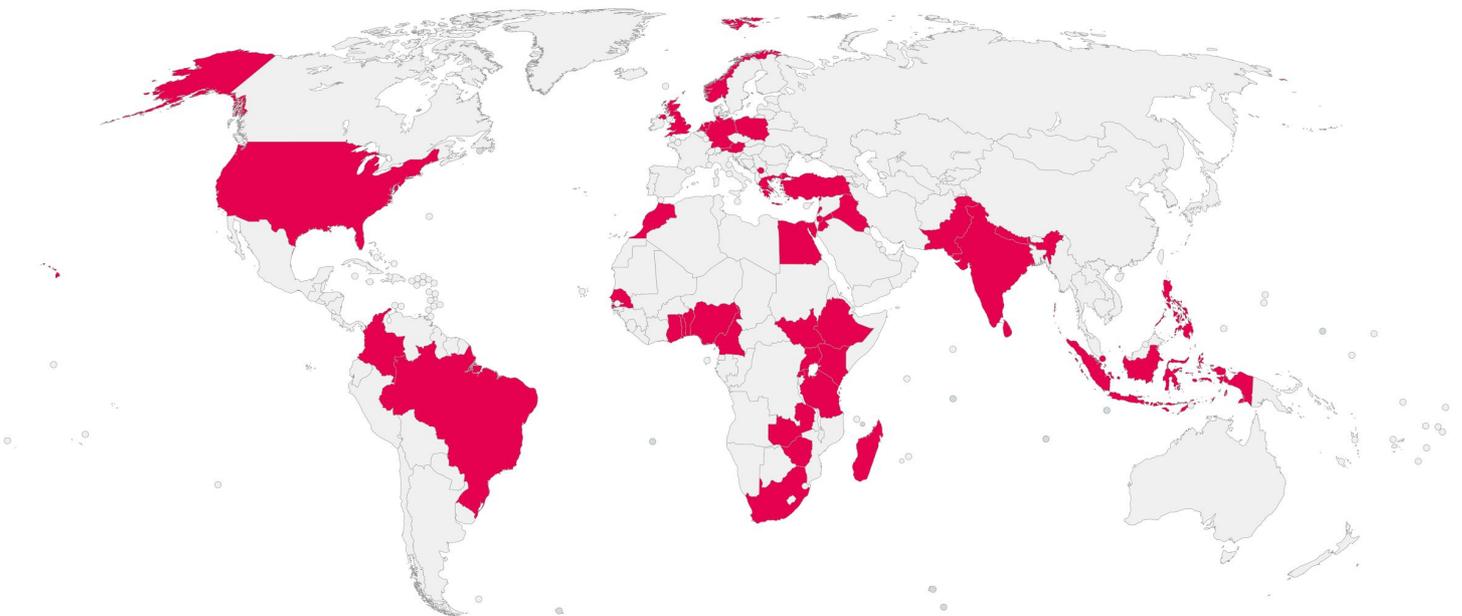
OUR MEMBERS

#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

#WeAreGIG

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 bi-weekly.



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, in late 2019 she started the Labmobile journey.



THIEMO EHMKE

ICEBauhaus
Auditor



STEPHEN KOVATS

r0g_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

#WeAreGIG



**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
CHINOY**
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.

PROJECTS

CAREABLES

[Careables](#) is an open and inclusive approach to healthcare for citizens 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 \(ZSI\)](#) in Austria, [Open Dot](#) and [Together To Go \(TOG\)](#) in Italy, [KU Leuven](#) in Belgium, [Wevolver](#) and [Waag Society](#) in the Netherlands, and [Agile Heap](#) in Germany. The project has received funding from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme](#) under grant agreement No. 780298.

YOUNG INNOVATORS

From July to December 2019, GIG implemented the project [Young Innovators: Using Digital Media to inform about Regular and Irregular Migration Issues](#) together with its partner organisations [Kumasi Hive](#), [Impact Hub Accra](#) and [Wikimedia Ghana User Group](#). The project's aim was to improve the information base on business and knowledge exchange related travel for young Innovators. This project was conducted with the support of the [Federal Foreign Office of Germany](#).

REIMAGINE OPEN

In March 2019, [Mozilla](#) started its project [Reimagine Open](#) to revisit the ways Mozilla practices open to imagine better futures for our digital lives. GIG supported Mozilla's Reimagine Open project by hosting Focus Groups all around the globe. What we learned was important and galvanizing. The groups suggested we focus on five core issues: governance, infrastructure and access, representation and digital literacy, economy, and human connection.

CAREABLES

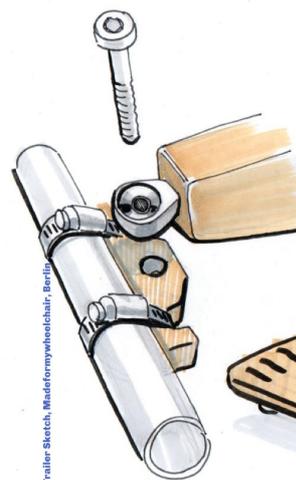
Participatory Design For Healthcare

Care-receivers, healthcare professionals and designers join forces to co-create careables: tailor-made open solutions that tackle permanent or temporary disability.

The project set out to enable citizens to co-design and deliver people-centered and open healthcare solutions through digital fabrication. The specific objectives are to:

- *Connect existing communities of makers, engineers and fabricators with communities of citizens (including patients) and healthcare professionals;*
- *Co-design open healthcare solution for citizens facing physical disablements, and for healthcare professionals to improve the healthcare services they provide;*
- *Improve access for citizens to grassroots healthcare solutions via co-design methods and open standard documentation, and provide them the tools to become active innovators;*
- *Establish a wide user-base open and dedicated platform to share and exchange open healthcare solutions as well as co-design experiences;*
- *Collect available existing solutions and make them more accessible via open standard documentation on the platform.*

Within the project, GIG is in the lead for Dissemination and Outreach. In 2019, the second year of Careables, the project moved from a local focus to a more global perspective. Careables therefore had a strong presence in many dissemination events, such as conferences and workshops, smaller presentations in front of specific target audiences, as well as online. Alliances with partners such as MatchMyMaker, e-NABLE, DDMP (Distributed Design Market Platform), as well as GIG members FieldReady, Communitere Nepal, Cadus e.V., Kumasi Hive were formed.



Improve
your life in a
makerspace

Design, make and share
open tools and DIY solutions
for healthcare and well-being
at

careables.org

YOUNG INNOVATORS

The #BorgaLife of Young Innovators

Globally about 28.2 million international migrants aged 15 to 24 live outside their country of birth for various reasons (United Nations, 2017). The issues of innovation, technology and migration are mentioned in 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting their significance in economic development and advancing people's lives (IOM, 2018). Young people's migration also plays a crucial role in fostering innovation. Their movements do not only improve their personal skills and capabilities, but contribute to creating opportunities for those around them (UN Development Program, 2009), bringing knowledge and new perspectives into the host and origin countries, as well as strengthening international cooperation and solidarity.

In this context, the project *Young Innovators: Using Digital Media to inform about Regular and Irregular Migration Issues* kicked off with a research phase that included interviews with the target audience to identify common information needs regarding business and knowledge exchange related travel as well as the challenges encountered during visa processes.

Following the research phase, two Editathon events at Kumasi Hive and Impact Hub Accra brought together new and experienced editors to create, update and translate Wikipedia articles on migration into local languages Twi, Hausa and Ewe. The open encyclopedia Wikipedia aligns with GIG's values of openness, collaboration, diversity and democracy and allows for sustainable impact through continued updating and open access for everyone. Under the hashtag #BorgaLife the outcomes of these events were shared on social media. "Borga" is a colloquial Ghanaian expression for the word Hamburger – someone who lives in the city of Hamburg. Today it is used broadly for anyone who travels or lives outside of Ghana.

Innovators & Migration





In a roundtable event at Impact Hub Accra on November 25th 2019, stakeholders from the migration ecosystem and young innovators came together to discuss current challenges that young people interested in business and education related travel to Germany face, identify opportunities and formulate recommendations that served as inputs for a white paper that has been disseminated as part of the project's final phase.

Our work acknowledges the role of young people's migration in fostering innovation and therefore also discusses the interaction between migration and innovation and how policies and innovative technologies can be used to address migration challenges.

*If a bird stays on
one tree for too
long,
it can expect a
stone to be thrown
at it.*

Proverb from Ghana

GATHERINGS & EVENTS

GATHERINGS

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 facilitate community gatherings at [re:publica](#) in Berlin and Accra.

In 2019, we took the next step and organized [DOTS – The Impact Summit](#) in Nakuru / Kenya together with r0g agency's #ASKnet project. DOTS is a new, impact and output driven event format – more than a hackathon, a barcamp, or an accelerator sprint, but a combination of innovative formats and methodologies kicking off and scaling up collaborative (South-to-South) projects. DOTS received travel funding from [Heinrich Boell Foundation in Kenya](#).

EVENTS

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 2019, these events were:

- *SYSW Fighting Misinformation* panel hosted by Geraldine de Bastion
- Africa Open Science and Hardware (AOSH) Summit
- *Open:fora* organized by r0g agency for open culture and critical transformation
- *Communities & Technologies* Conference
- Roundtable events for Mozilla's *Reimagine Open* project
- Roundtable #Road2IGF: Data, Sovereignty, Democracy – A Global South Perspective
- *Chaos Communication Conference*

GIG@re:publica

tl;dr

re:publica brings together the diverse global digital society annually for talks, workshops and panel discussions. The motto in 2019 was *tl;dr* which stands for *too long; didn't read* - a powerful reminder that things are complicated and complex, and therefore need to be thought through, discussed and looked at from different angles.

Nanjira Sambuli gave the Opening Keynote: The poli-tricks of tl;dr: the technical is political. Since 2014, GIG has been hosting the makerspace at re:publica, this year with workshops on DIY Augmented Reality, Natural Colors and Pigments, The Internet of Plants, DEXT Kits for Open Science Education and the #ASKotec, Musical Pencils, Open Source Personal Robots, and collaborative electrical mural painting of #Mosul2030. GIG members gave talks and were part of panel discussions on topics ranging from Vernicular Architectures, exclusion of South Africa's poor from the internet and how tech savvy Africans are transforming the informal sector to exploring data as a common good and open hardware in health and care.



We must not settle for the tl;dr culture [...] because that keeps us in survival mode when indeed we were meant to thrive.

Nanjira Sambuli

DOTS. THE IMPACT SUMMIT

Collaborative solutions for systemic problems

DOTS. The Impact Summit took place in Nakuru / Kenya in December. GIG hosted this 3-day gathering which brought together over 60 people from all across the world together with the #ASKnet project by [r0g agency for open culture and critical transformation.](#)

The objective of the summit was to link various hubs, activists, entrepreneurs and innovators across the Global North and South that use technology to address such systemic challenges as Conflict and Migration, Civic Engagement, Healthcare, Data Protection & Digital Privacy, and the Sustainability of Makerspaces.

The solutions developed and showcased during DOTS ranged anywhere from ideas and prototypes, to working interventions that had incredible stories of impact behind them. The spirit of openness and inclusivity was core to this convening, and the various working groups sought to share best management practices, demonstrate the application of open source technologies in various contexts, and form collaborative teams around strategic project ideas.

DOTS. The Impact Summit was a new, impact and output driven event format – more than a hackathon, a barcamp, an accelerator sprint – a combination of innovative formats and methodologies kicking off and scaling up collaborative (South-to-South) projects.



Innovators and Ecosystem Shapers from the whole world came together to work on four co-curated tracks revolving around social-digital innovation:

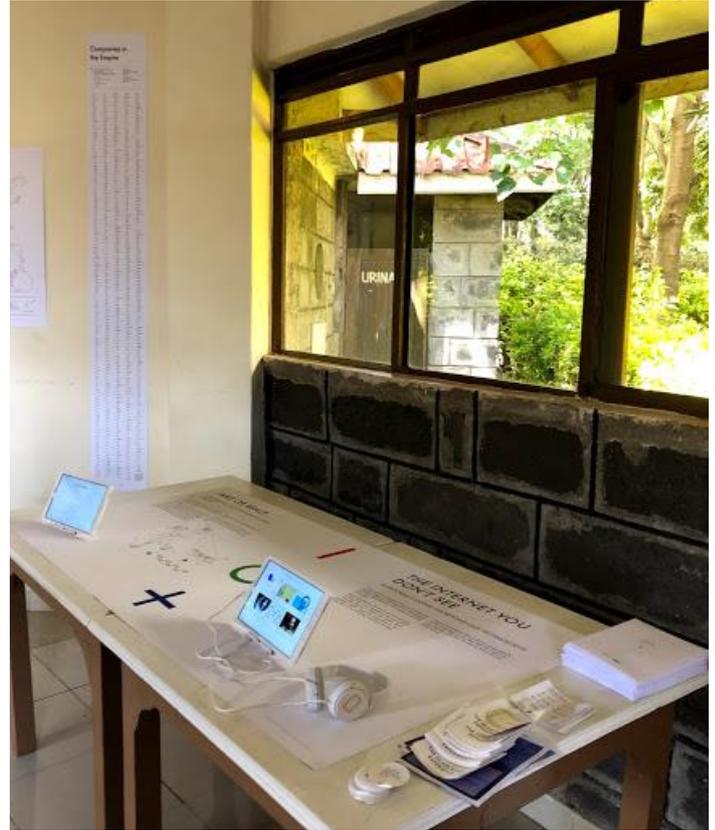
- Data Sensitivity (with Tactical Tech)
- Open Science for Peacebuilding
- Lifesensor Makeathon (with Cadus)
- Sustainable Making

The next edition of DOTS. The Impact Summit is being planned to take place online in late 2020.

DATA SENSITIVITY

Tactical Tech is an international NGO that engages with citizens and civil society organisations to explore and mitigate the impacts of technology on society. One of their current flagship projects is The Glass Room: a multi-format interactive exhibition in several versions, including the Community Edition. It has travelled the world to expose the data trails we leave and to increase public awareness and contribute to the dynamic education on this topic. In the Glass Room Community Edition, a pop-up exhibition explores how society is dealing with the growing dependency on data and technology.

Tactical Tech, GIG and several organizations created a joint strategy to develop a **Glass Room Global Hub Edition** based on localized content related to the startup community in innovation hubs.



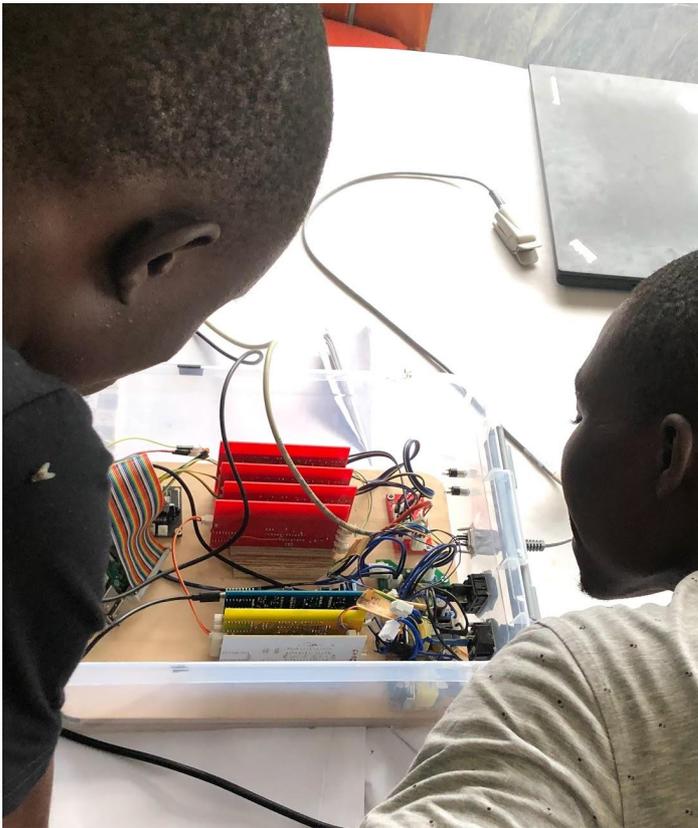
OPEN SCIENCE FOR PEACEBUILDING

Open science offers the means to develop and build tools to help us overcome conflicts (e.g. water sensors in dry regions and seasons). Open science and data literacy equip us to critically think about the root causes of and potential solutions for conflicts. And finally, open science can serve as a vehicle of peacebuilding in communities through collaborative events such as hackathons or makeathons.

This DOTS track created a collection of **case studies** of successful hackathons for peacebuilding which had been conducted in Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda, South Sudan, and Singapore.

In collaboration with the GIG network, the AfricaOSH network, and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the participants of this track started working on a **draft framework for the design and implementation of collaborative open science hackathons** that contribute to peacebuilding and solve local problems.

LIFE SENSOR MAKATHON



Careables supports global knowledge exchange on assistive tech and health tech. Cadus initiates innovative and sustainable projects focussing on need-based capacity building to help people help themselves in the context of humanitarian crises. One of the latest inventions is the Life Sensor, a repairable patient monitoring device.

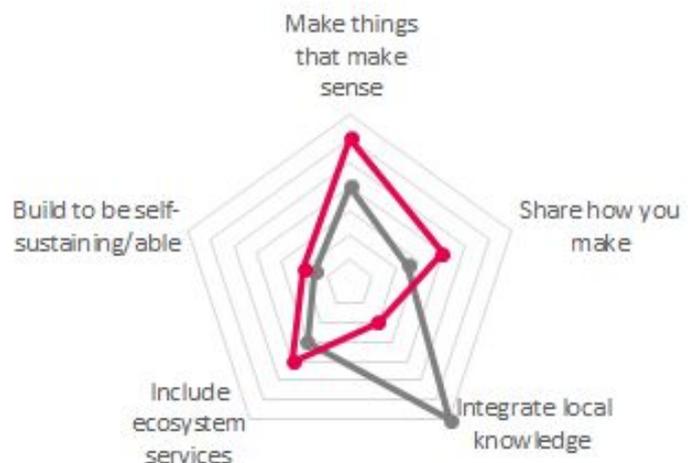
At DOTS, GIG members who encountered the Life Sensor for the first time tested its documentation, shared local needs which the device might help solve, and checked its readiness for such local use cases. There are gaps in the medical infrastructure in some places where DOTS participants operate, particularly refugee camps in Uganda and peri-urban and rural areas of South Sudan. For these areas, **business models** for using the Life Sensor were developed, which the respective organizations will use to develop pilot projects in 2020.

SUSTAINABLE MAKING

Globally, we and future generations face two major challenges: Climate change driven by unsustainable consumption, and large-scale under-employment particularly of urban youth. Making promotes reusing, upcycling and recycling through hacking and building with available local resources. Not only reducing unsustainable resource use, but also empowering local innovators and marginalised groups, growing local economies and supporting climate change mitigation.

The participants formulated five **Sustainable Making Principles**, as well as a tool with which makers and makerspaces can self-assess how sustainable their makes are.

1. Make things that make sense
2. Share how you make
3. Integrate local knowledge
4. Include ecosystem services
5. Build to be self-sustaining/able



DOTS allowed us to create impact together - globally connected, but physically meeting not in Europe or North America, but in Africa!

Ricardo Ruiz Freire / Casa Criatura, Olinda, Brazil



“Open Science innovations are very useful in a conflict context like South Sudan, and I am excited to be participating in this track of DOTS.”

Eva Yayi / GoGirlsICT, Juba, South Sudan

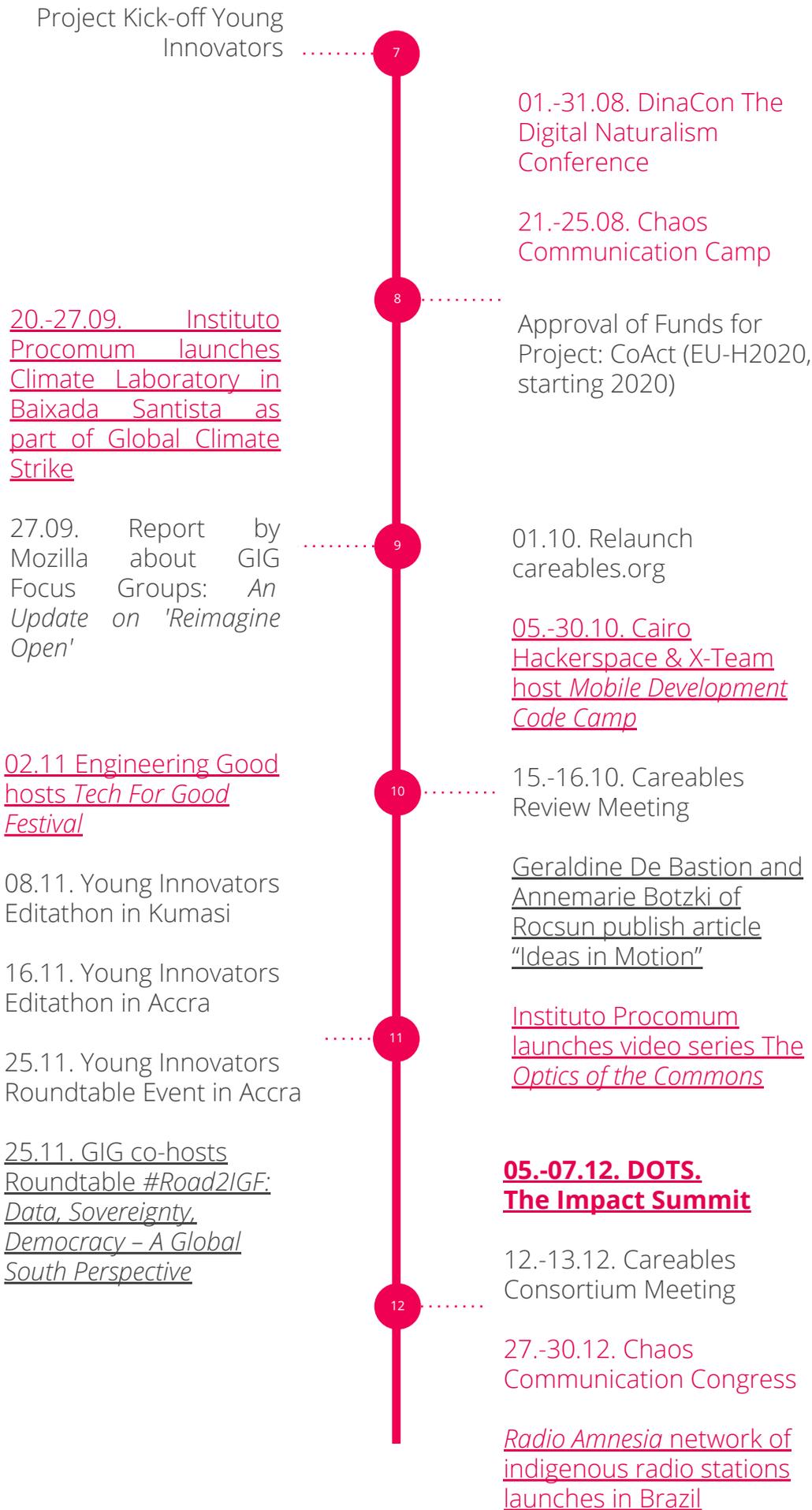
TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



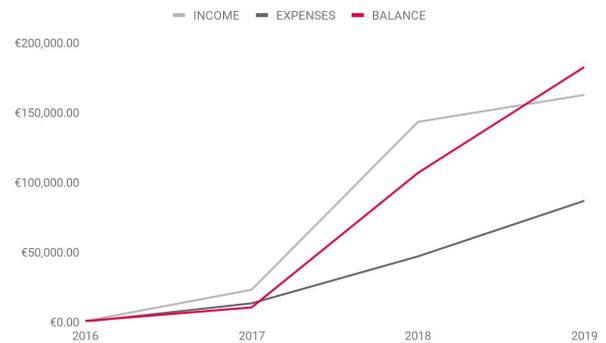
TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



FINANCIAL REPORT

Despite the general lack of funding for the facilitation of global networks, GIG was able to stabilize its income in 2019 due to the financial support for our two major projects Careables and Young Innovators. We are proud of the financial development of our organisation since 2017, which has allowed us to establish a secretariat in Berlin, as well as several international project teams.



At the same time, we are concerned about the sustainability of this development. The success of an international network requires dedicated time for its facilitation, but with few opportunities for independent funding being available, and substantial membership fees not being a viable option, networks pivot to project work, consulting, or capacity building. Each of these endeavors targets some members instead of the whole network. The diversification and stabilization of our funding therefore remains an important task for both the executive and the supervisory board.

	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
2016	€590.00	€147.50	€613.23
2017	€23,059.91	€13,307.43	€10,365.71
2018	€143,276.15	€46,921.90	€106,720.02
2019	€162,541.45	€86,720.06	€182,541.41

INCOME

#WeAreGIG

Mozilla Reimagine Open: € 2,500.00 | 1.54%

Membership Fees & Donations:
€ 3,158.00 | 1.94%

Grant Young Innovators:
€ 58,118.00 | 35.76%

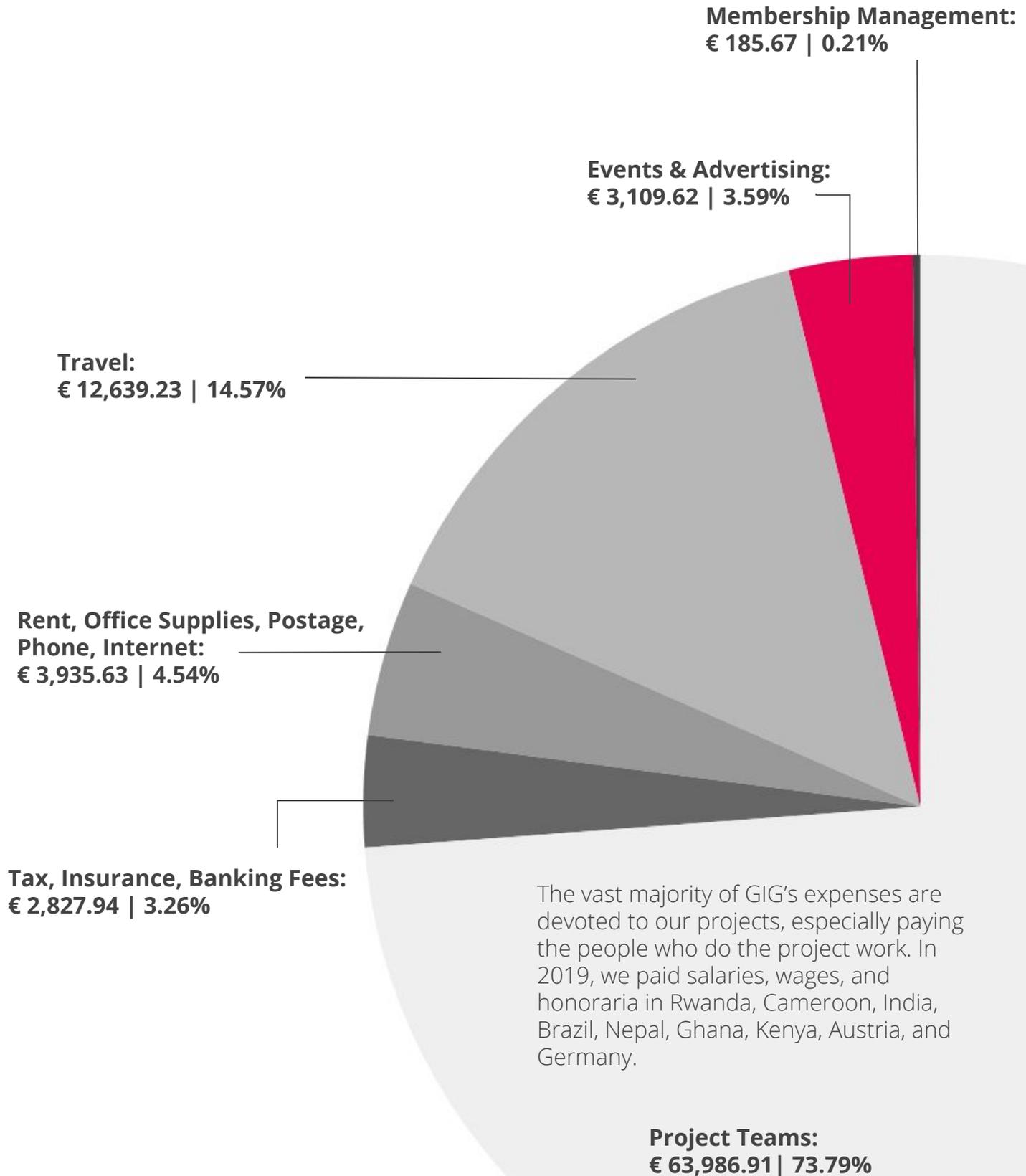
In 2019, GIG implemented two major projects, for which it received financial support from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany respectively.

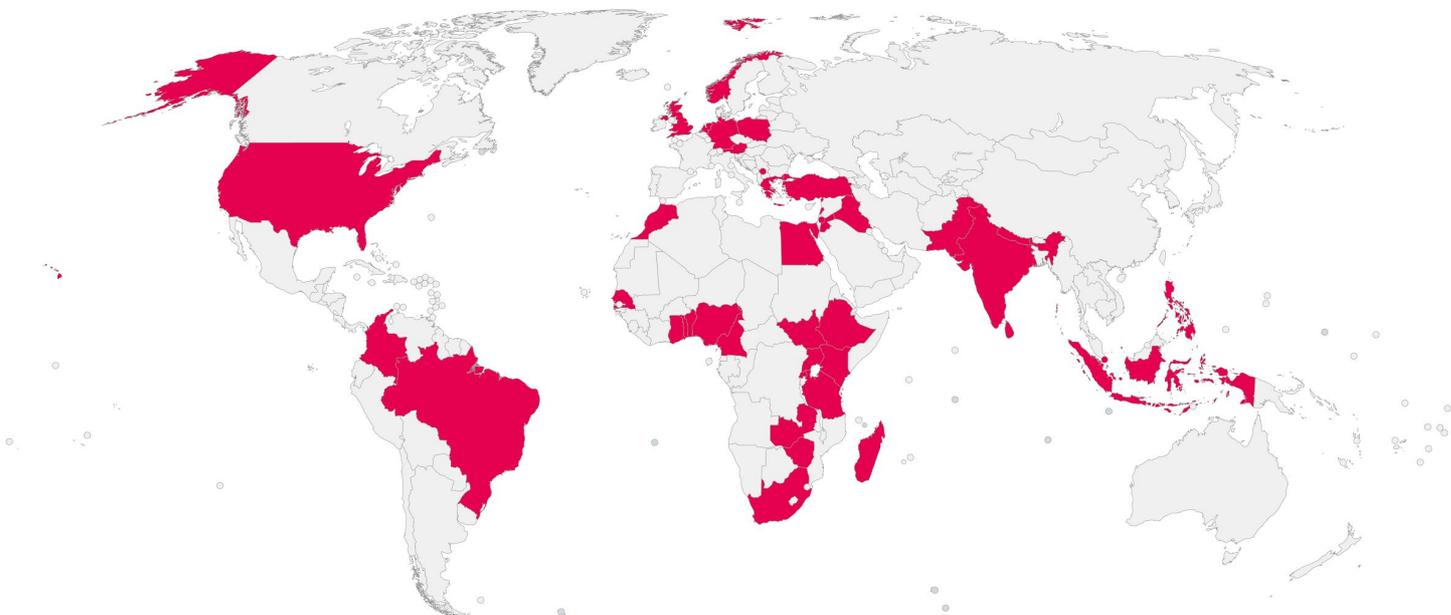
Several members as well as the association further received support from Mozilla for organizing Focus Groups as part of the Reimagine Open project. Project grants remained the dominant source of funding for GIG in 2019, but we are continuing our efforts towards diversifying our funding sources in the future.

Grant Made4You / Careables:
€ 98,765.45 | 60.76%

EXPENSES

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