

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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 2020 Annual Report of the Global Innovation Gathering!

2020 was an extraordinary year. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge to all of us on personal, organizational, and systemic levels, but it also brought us closer together in our communities. The positive impact created by GIG members around the world was tremendous, especially through the Careables project (page 10).

We started a second EU-Horizon2020 project in 2020: CoAct (page 13) is proposing a new understanding of Citizen Social Science as participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups. At the same time, the fight against social injustice worldwide in 2020 finally got the attention it deserves, and GIG members came together online and offline around the topics of #BlackLivesMatter and climate change.

Although we could not physically gather, re:publica as well as DOTS. The Impact Summit (page 16) and many other events took place either in virtual or in hybrid formats. A glimpse of other member and network activities of the year 2020 can be found in the Timeline on pages 17-18.

As an outlook to the future: In 2020, we secured yet another EU-Horizon2020-funded project and thus are at the time of writing already working on Critical Making - and just got the great news that we will start working on the very first project with GIG as the consortium lead in 2022: mAKE. African European Maker Innovation Ecosystem!

We are looking forward to the post-COVID “new normal” and 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, 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/>

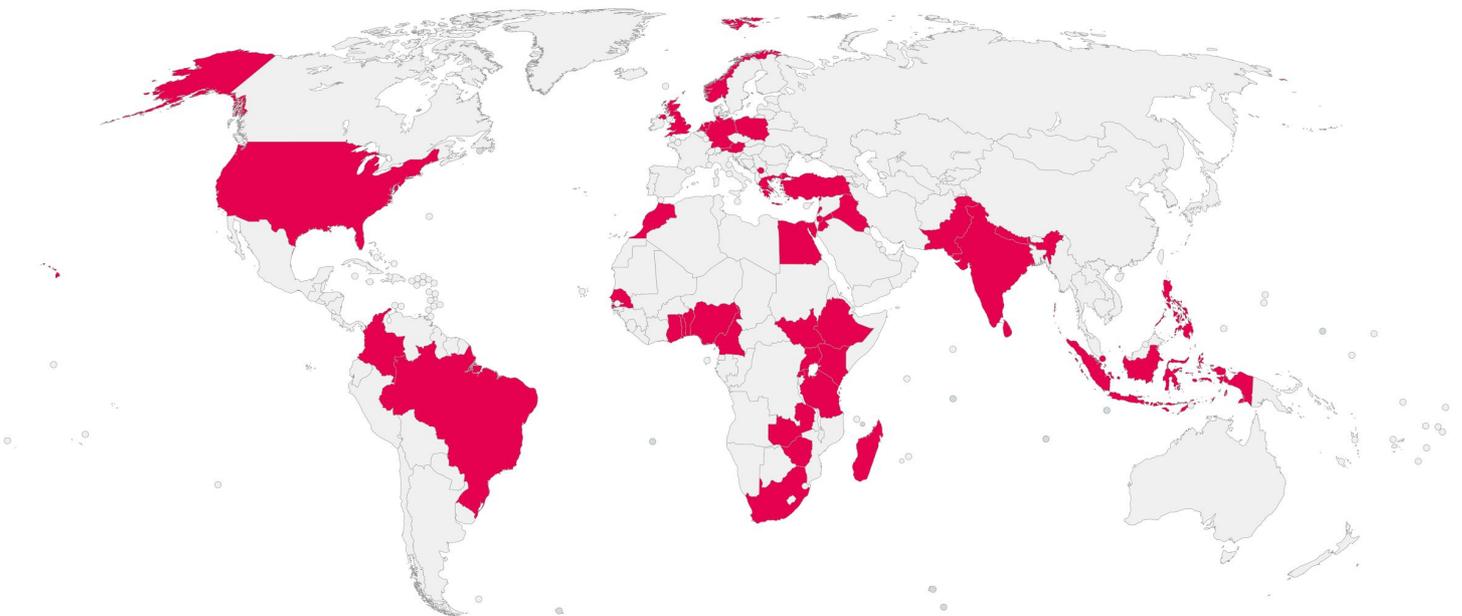
OUR MEMBERS

#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

#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 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
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.

TEAM

#WeAreGIG



SANDRA
MAMITZSCH

Careables



MUGETHI
GITAU

Careables



FADIA
ELGHARIB

Careables



RICARDO
RUIZ

Careables Latin



GEORGIA NICOLAU

Careables Latin



PALLAB SHRESTHA

Careables Nepal
Communitere



PRISCILLA
SERWAAH GYASI

Careables AT
Kumasi Hive



THERESA
FEND

Community and
Communications



ANA ROCÍO
SANDRES
MENDOZA

CoAct



KERSTI RUTH
WISSENBACH

CoAct



ELOISA MONTT
MARAY

Cairo Smart Clinic |
Fundraising

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.

COACT

[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.

SHUBRA EL KHEMA SMART CLINIC

GIG together with MBM ([Masr Bela Marad](#), which translates as "Egypt without Disease") an Egyptian NGO, and a donation of Siemens AG and Siemens Energy AG set up a [Smart clinic in Shubra El Khema / Cairo](#). This clinic aims to provide high-quality care with the target of 15,000 patients yearly in an area with limited access to healthcare. The clinic is an example of participatory and inclusive development, where all partners are working together for a common goal – to improve access to healthcare when is needed more than ever.

CAREABLES

Participatory Design For Healthcare

Careables is an innovative approach to open healthcare and wellbeing for all. 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.

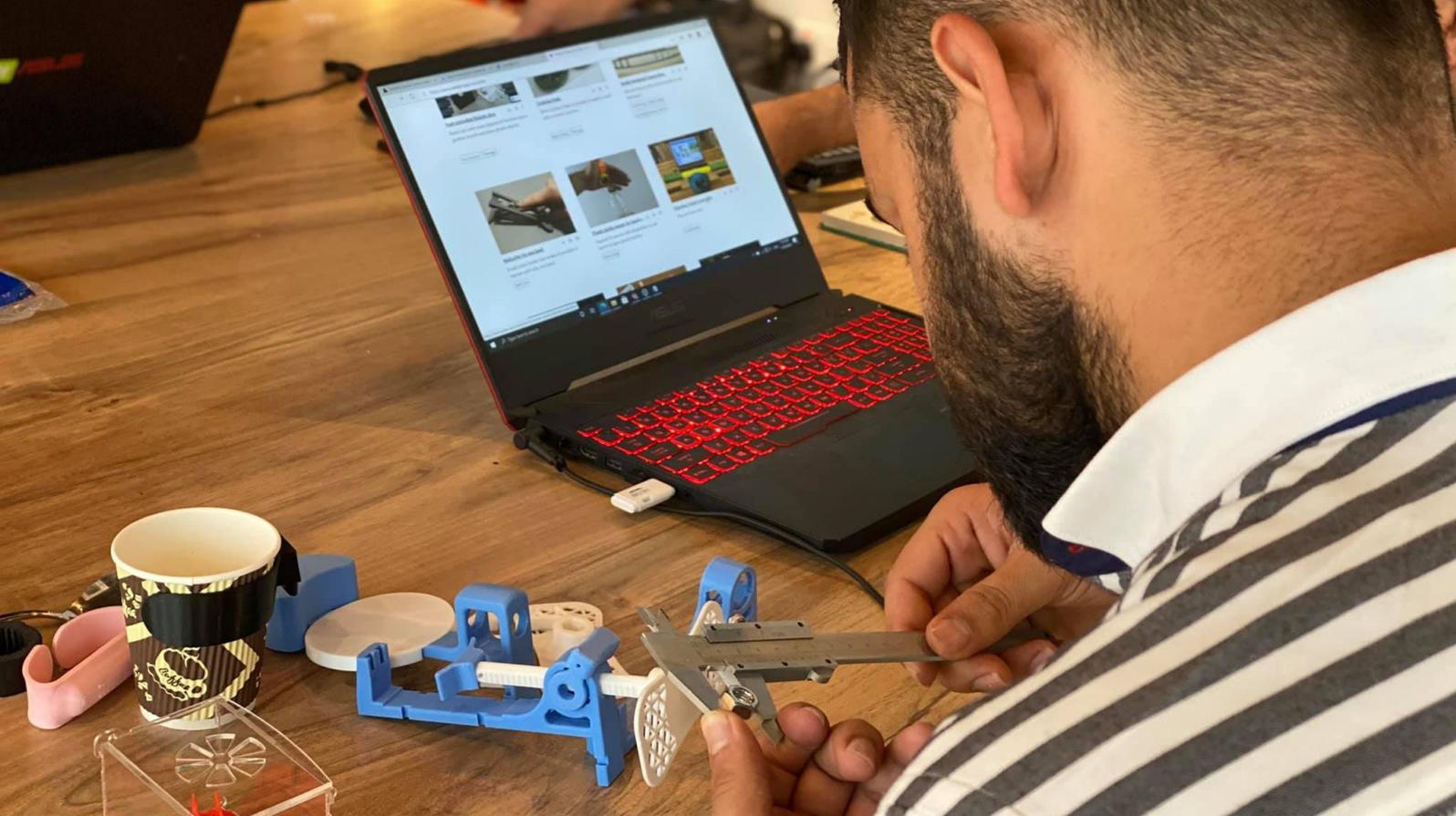
In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Careables team and partners found themselves in the middle of a virtual flood of information and actions related to overcoming this crisis. Careables being an open and inclusive approach to healthcare for citizens meant that our work and the values we stand for were never more needed or relevant to the globe. Our partners and initiatives worldwide used our platform on Welder App to document and explain how to openly develop hardware to find solutions and respond to the crisis globally as humanity creating a safer and healthier world.

It was a humbling scene to observe, from 3D printed face masks to Covid-19 decontamination toolkits to door openers to online hackathons and media awareness campaigns on fake information. There were so many actions and events, we decided to list some of them:

Africa:

- In Ghana, Kumasi Hive hosted training sessions with selected applicants from different educational backgrounds to develop their own low-cost assistive tech devices;
- MboaLab screened and evaluated simple, open-source protocols for DIY alcohol-based hand sanitiser following the FDA recommendations in Cameroon. This recipe was prepared by getting reagents from local drug stores, and the resulting product was able to effectively meet the needs of the local population of Mbankomo.





Asia:

- February was a month for 'Innovation with a cause'. [Nepal Communitere](#), in partnership with [Field Ready](#), successfully wrapped up the first-ever [Humanitarian Design Challenge \(HDC\)](#), where students from different disciplines formed multidisciplinary teams to prepare prototypes to combat real-life challenges!
- EngeneeringGood, in Singapore, proved [digital skills are not useless in a pandemic](#), quite the opposite!

'It feels like we have been training for two years for this moment.'

Sandra Mamitzsch

Europe:

- [OpenDot](#) and [TOG Foundation](#), with the support of Careables, have launched a Kickstarter campaign and got help from friends, families, companies and curious people to reach their goal: [create an online configurator so that as many kids as possible can have a Glifo](#).
- The 3rd [HACKademy](#) started as a [virtual format in June 2020](#). Nine interdisciplinary teams, combining people with disabilities, students from technical, medical or social fields, health experts, designers and makers, developed open-source hardware solutions for diverse challenges.



Latin America:

- In Olinda, Brazil, [many initiatives got together to fight Covid-19 Pandemic in Recife](#) metropolitan area, supporting many communities with EPIs and [developing new products](#) for the healthcare sector.
- [Procomum supported the development of a low-cost open-source health monitor](#) for those in need in Santos, Southeast Brazil.

Gatherings:

Careables hosted and took part in many events and gatherings during 2020. We hosted a Careables Maker Gathering and [Viral Responses Roundtables](#). We supported different virtual [Health Hackademy](#) events in [Berlin](#) and hosted two panels at [re:publica](#) events. We had a [series of meetings](#) in Latin America to discuss the concepts and practices of care and presented [Covid-19 in Brazil](#) together with [Cadus](#). We also hosted a [Careables Maker Gathering](#) in the country. Last but not least, Careables [was part of the DOTS program](#) and hosted its own [Online Maker Gathering](#).

Exhibitions:

Careables team members and partners could organise different expositions about the work developed, and we called them the Moving Exhibitions. They were held in [Nepal](#), Brazil ([Santos](#) and [Olinda](#)), India, Ghana, [Germany](#) and [Singapore](#). We also had an [exhibition during re:publica campus](#), in Berlin.

Publications:

The Careables project resulted in 6 publications - covering co-design in healthcare, maker response to the COVID-19 pandemic, open-source hardware and healthcare, patient innovation, and ethical and legal aspects - [freely available for everyone](#).

For all the reports from Careables, please check our [GIG Cloud](#)!

COACT

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

CoAct is proposing a new understanding of Citizen Social Science as participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern, in which they become co-researchers in processes commonly dominated by academic researchers. The objectives of the project are:

- To generate new ground-breaking and open scientific outcomes by means of Citizen Social Science.
- To engage vulnerable citizens and local civil society groups in R&I initiatives and to place them at the centre of the R&I cycle.
- To produce scientific evidence-informed reactions and thereby create new policies and to improve existing ones.
- To build a common and validated transdisciplinary Citizen Social Science methodological framework for a variety of end-users.
- To promote Open Science and scientific research integrity in methods and data.
- To create and validate a robust and inclusive R&I evaluation framework.

- To increase scientific literacy, skills, competences and public awareness regarding science.
- To disseminate CoAct results and build a global sustainable Citizen Social Science community of practice.

GIG is the lead of the communication, dissemination, and exploitation 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.



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 have been facilitating 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our gatherings along with so many others moved from the physical to the virtual world in 2020. We were sad that we could not hug each other at the online edition of [re:publica](#) in May, but we loved hanging out in a virtual living room together, contributing to the online program, and being part of the [#rpCampus](#) in September.

At the virtual edition of [DOTS. The Impact Summit](#) in December, we shared experiences and knowledge, especially on infrastructuring to connect communities with open technologies. Most of all we were able to feel connected as a network at the end of a challenging year for all of us.

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 2020, these events were obviously all virtual:

- 11.-13.05. Hack from Home [#retasdarirumah](#)
- 06.09. - 04.10. Careables exhibition as part of [#rpCampus](#) Netz Werke - An Exhibition of Life on the Net
- 08.09. CoAct presentation at ECSA Conference
- 14.-15.10. CoAct presentations at Citizen Science SDG Conference
- 28.10. Borders of Fear Meetup: Facing Invisible Borders | [r0g agency](#) Migrant Media Network [#MMN](#)
- 01.-04.12. Africa Legal Innovation Week | [Lawyers Hub](#)

GIG@re:publica

In digital exile

re:publica brings together the diverse global digital society annually for talks, workshops and panel discussions. Impacted immensely by Covid-19, the physical event that usually gathers 10,000 people in one campus had to be cancelled. Instead, the team organized a re:publica TV edition, a one day online only event “in digital exile”.

GIG was originally been asked to host the makerspace at re:publica 2020 again and to implement the re:publica activities within the Distributed Design Market Platform (DDMP). The makerspace as a place for hands-on workshops was of course also cancelled and more difficult to move online on a short notice.

Still, we were able to facilitate sessions within the online event on the [Global Maker Response to Covid-19](#), showcasing Careables and examples from Brazil to the re:publica audience. Additionally, GIG members from Brazil, Germany, Nepal and Singapore also gathered for a Distributed Design workshop and watched the livestream together, discussing current events and activities – a welcome act of global connectedness in challenging times.

To experiment with smaller Covid-19 compatible events, re:publica organized a month-long exhibition and streaming event, the “re:publica Campus”. Within that, GIG organized an [Exhibition on Distributed Design in Health and Care](#) from September 6th until October 4th.

In the realm of this re:publica activity, GIG also hosted a session on [Circular Makerspaces and Commons based Economy - How can grassroots initiatives and makers contribute to fighting climate change?](#)



Photo Credit: re:publica/Jan Zappner

DOTS. THE IMPACT SUMMIT

Infrastructuring Innovation in the Global South

Dots. The Impact Summit on December 10th and 11th, was our annual convention of innovators from around the world. A [blended online and offline edition](#) brought together hubs, makers, and innovators to share their experiences supporting local communities with open technologies, especially while navigating the Corona Crisis. Themed *Infrastructuring Innovation in the Global South*, unique tools and methodologies were used to make sure we stay connected.



15 sessions were held, varying from workshops, meetups, panels, music sharing, pilates classes, book launches and even ASCII-chat dancing. We hosted 75 registered participants during the online sessions, and reached 488 live-streaming views. Up to now, the youtube playlist with individual panels has had more than 140 views. The summit aimed to develop collaborations between grassroots actors, supporting platforms and holding space for South-South collaboration.

We discussed negotiations, trials and errors, privacy, comfort, lobby and their motivations. Socio-technical clashes of convenience, access and values. Technical, political, social limitations and wishes – versus what actually works on the ground.

DOTS sessions included panels ([Innovation Hubs in Crisis Response Mode](#), [Emancipatory Technology](#), [Global Open Source Health Care](#)), workshops ([Infrastructures for agile and resilient documentation](#), [Data Narratives](#), [Mindfulness and Teamwork](#)) and meetups ([Migrant Media Network](#), [Open Science](#) and [Open Education](#)), as well as break sessions and online parties in dedicated video chat rooms. The participants sought to share best practices, demonstrate open source technologies in multiple contexts, and form collaborative teams around strategic projects and ideas.

DOTS, one more time, was a new, impact and output-driven event format – more than a hackathon, a BarCamp, an accelerator sprint – a [combination of innovative forms and methodologies](#) kicking off and scaling up collaborative South-South projects.

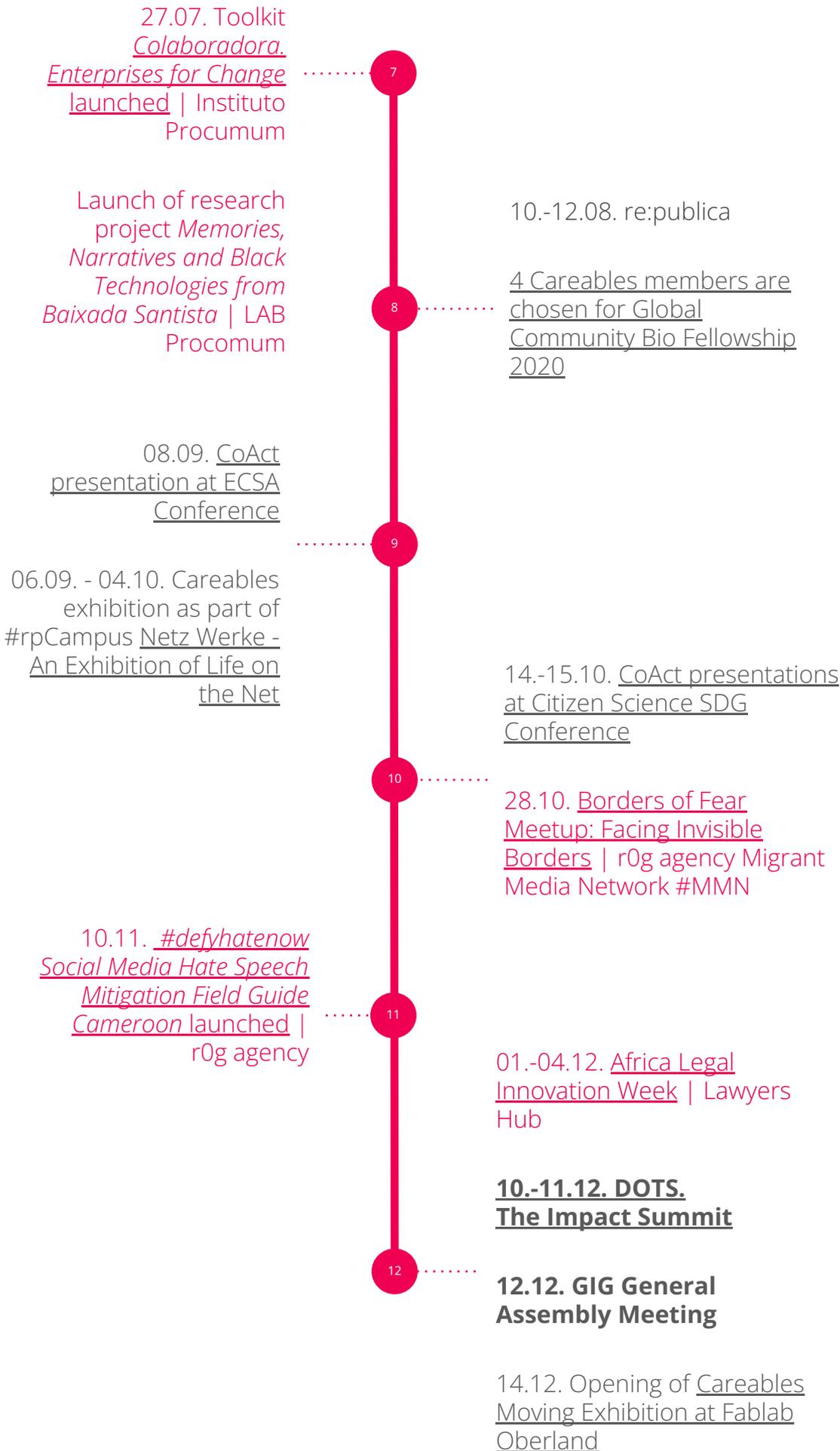
TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities



TIMELINE

Network Activities | Member Activities

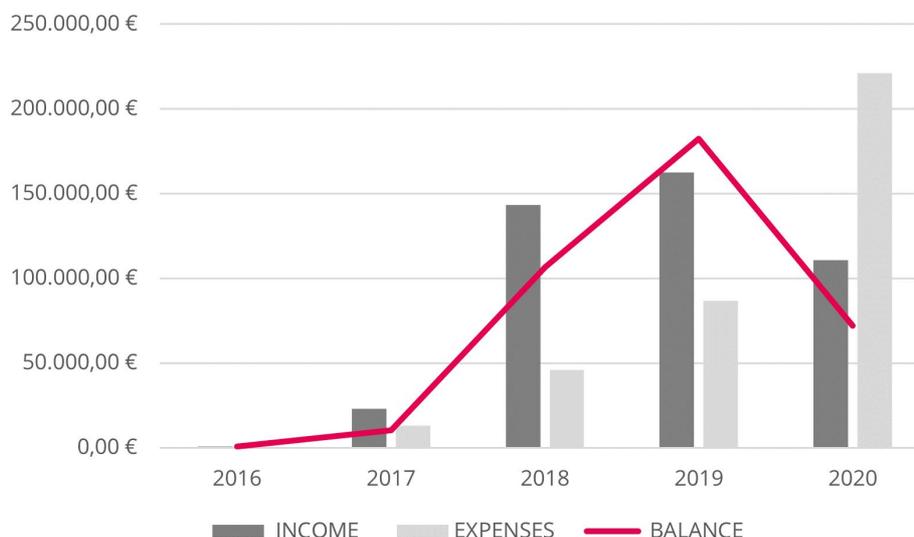


FINANCIAL REPORT

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, many networks pivot to project work, consulting, or capacity building.

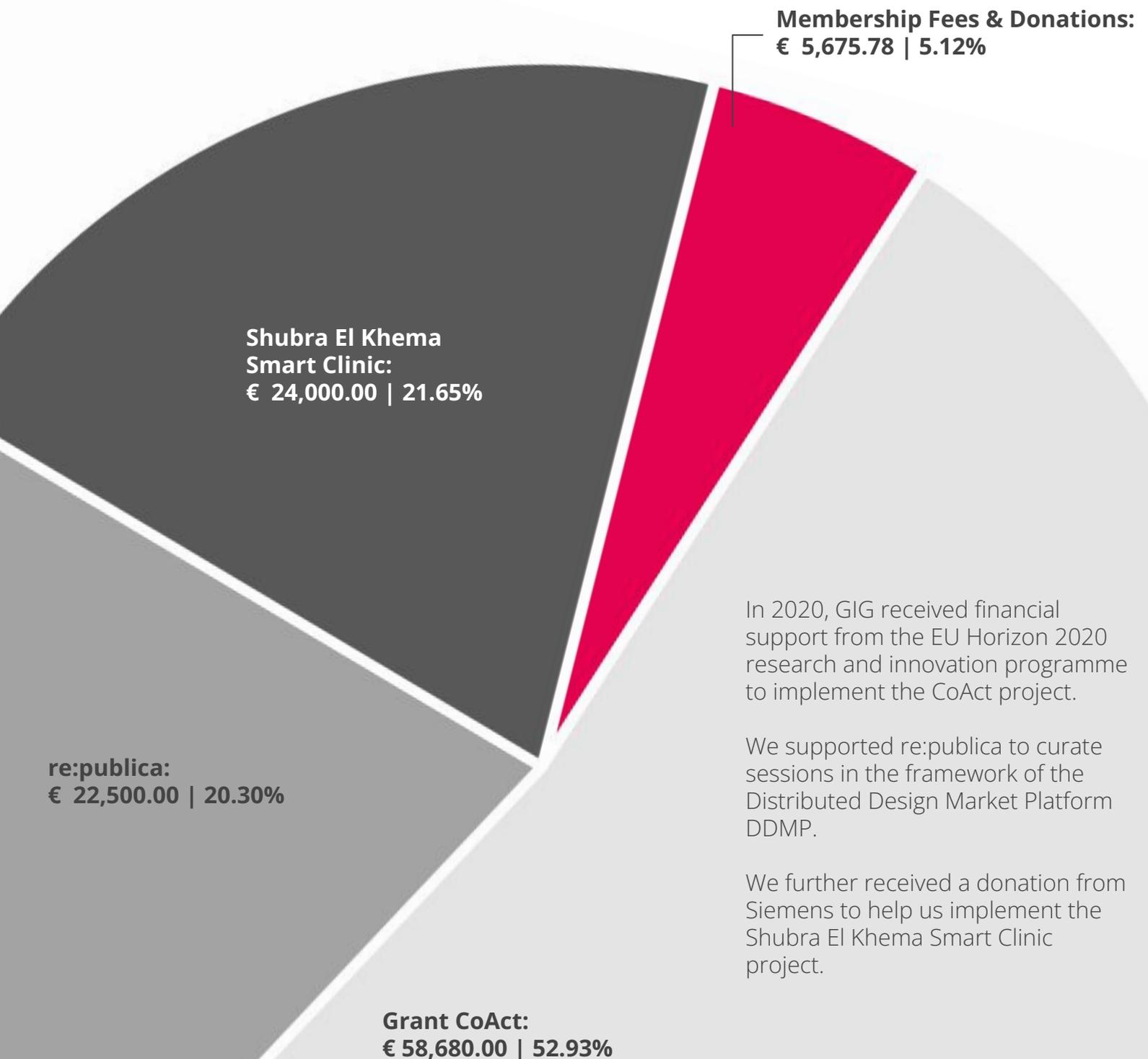
	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
2016	€590.00	€147.50	€613.23
2017	€23,076.43	€13,197.28	€10,492.38
2018	€143,276.15	€46,080.86	€106,687.02
2019	€162,541.45	€86,720.06	€182,508.41
2020	€110,855.78	€221,244.95	€72,119.24

GIG in 2020 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 project CoAct, our partnership with re:publica, and a donation by Siemens in support of the Smart Clinic in Shubra El Khema, Cairo / Egypt. The Careables activities have been prefinanced already in 2018 and 2019. 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

#WeAreGIG



EXPENSES

#WeAreGIG

