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WHAT MADE US THINK

INTRODUCTION

This year concluded our second, full year of operation, set to the backdrop of ongoing political turbulence across Europe.

We kicked off the year by funding the successful campaign by the activist collective *Metromuster* (& friends) to remove the statue of slave owner Antonio Lopez in the La Ribera district of Barcelona. The *campaign* managed to collect 26,389 signatures (15,000 were needed), the statue was removed and a participative process was used to find a new, decolonialised, name for the square.

Overall, the Guerrilla Foundation made 48 grants this year - up from 32 in 2017. For even more grantees (13 in comparison to 9 in 2017) we were among the first institutional donors, which shows our commitment to place bold bets on grantees, as well as having the ability to identify and support promising emerging activists. In total, we increased the size of our Reflex Fund budget due to the high demand for fast response support in the range of €2,500-€5,000. Although our budget is fairly small compared to other foundations, we have proven that one can make a real

difference, by strategically supporting activists. Some of the success highlights that we were fortunate to have supported are showcased later on in this report.

In 2018, we continued to expand our network across Europe and create stronger ties with other progressive foundations. Our attendance at the EDGE conference in New Orleans showed us the importance of the *struggles for the right to housing*, which has been mirrored by our support of grassroots groups in Europe, from *Hungary* to the UK. In this context, the Guerrilla Foundation has increased its support of new municipalist platforms, which look to re-define municipal-level politics in the 21st century. We again provided important non-financial support to several of our partner organisations, for example by connecting two of our grantees from the UK who are working at different levels towards climate justice: now *Plan B's* strategic litigation efforts are aligned with and supported by the activist collective *Rising Up!*.

At an organisational level, we decided to create

an advisory committee and had the privilege of welcoming two exceptional individuals into the GF family. Stephanie Roth, European coordinator for the *Open Progressive Engagement Network* and a seasoned activist, and Paolo Fresia, an impact investor with a keen interest in activism, have come onboard to help us with our grantmaking and strategising. In August 2018, our Managing Director, Romy Kraemer, went on maternity leave to create a new activist, handing the baton to interim Managing Director, Julia Gajewski. Our Comms Director, Ivan March simply remains our resident, radical firecracker.

We couldn't be more proud about the work we are supporting and the brilliant people we stand beside. We will try to be bolder and braver with each coming year. We also hope that more funders will see the people power activism holds, and join us in supporting daring activists and social movements.

Toni Schwarz
Founder

89

ORGANISATIONS
SCREENED

66

ORGANISATIONS
INVITED TO APPLY
FOR A GRANT

48

GRANTS
MADE TO **44**
ORGANIZATIONS

THE YEAR IN **NUMBERS**

Amount spent in each **grant category**:



THE MOVEMENT: €202,000 EUR, 13 GRANTS



THE BACKBONE: €148,000 EUR, 9 GRANTS



THE REFLEX: €109,960 EUR, 26 GRANTS

TOTAL: €459,960

15

COUNTRIES

GREECE, GERMANY, UK,
PORTUGAL, NETHERLANDS,
BELGIUM, SERBIA, HUNGARY,
SPAIN, CZECH REPUBLIC,
AUSTRIA, ITALY, ALBANIA,
SLOVAKIA, FRANCE

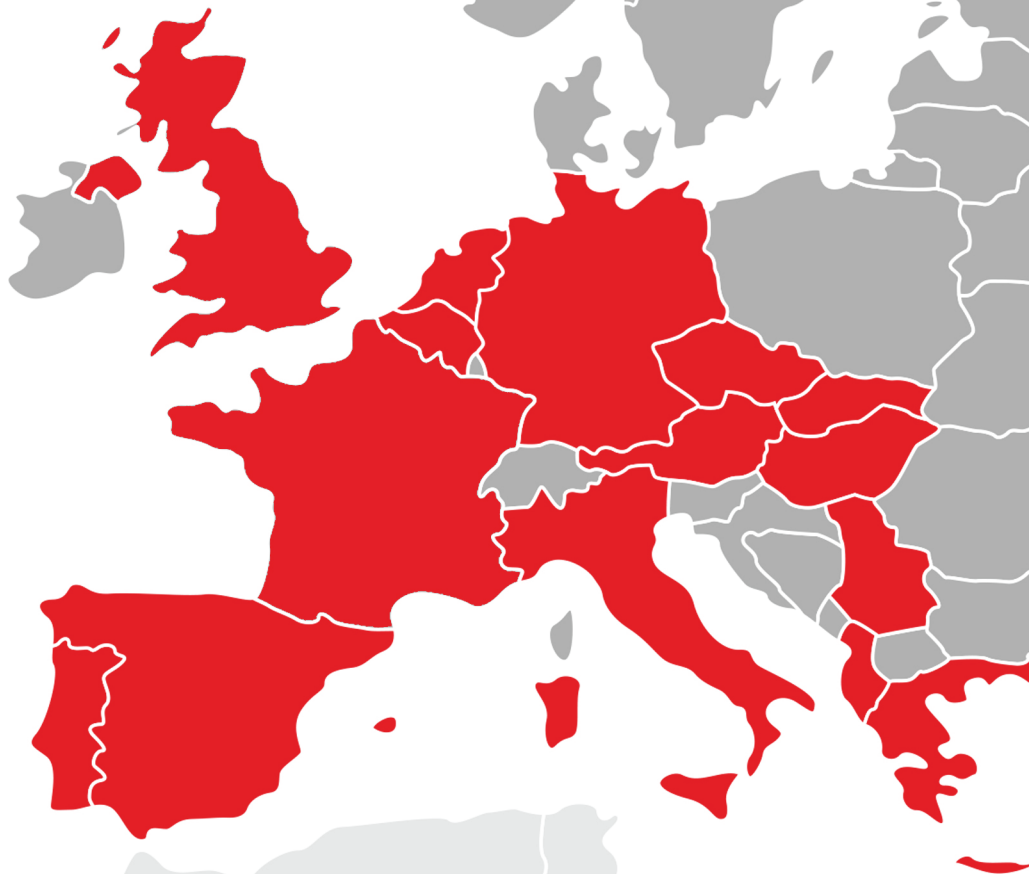
Overall number of grants
made in all 3 categories
since we started operation:

5 in 2016

32 in 2017

48 in 2018

85 grants made in **total** by the
Guerrilla Foundation until end 2018.



For **9** organisations / initiatives, we were the
first or among the first institutional supporters

(Don't let Belgrade Drown, Agroecopolis, Stay Grounded, The City
is for all, Switched on London, Act Up London, This is not a Feminist
Project, Extinction Rebellion, Alter Ego, Reclaim our Economy,
Partager C'est Sympa, Centre for Intersectional Justice & WOOP)



THE MOVEMENT

GOALS

Our movement grants allow activists to get creative and launch courageous campaigns that will mobilise diversely, unite strongly or block defiantly. We are keen to see initiatives that grasp the complexities of the world and use systems thinking as well as lived experience of those at ground zero. The most exciting movements will be strategic and take bold action around root pressure points while being open to failing, learning, failing better & learning more along the way.

CASE STUDIES

1. ACT UP London

Part of the global *ACT UP network* - ACT UP London is a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in their outsidership and committed to direct action to end the HIV pandemic, along with the broader inequalities and injustices that perpetuate it. The NHS Anti-Swindle team are creative activists and mischief makers and a special ACT UP task force on a mission to save the NHS from the ongoing destruction at the hands of corporate privatisation. The UK's National Health Service is in crisis mode. From PFI contracts, staff shortages, fragmented services, increased waiting lists, limited resources and serious issues around quality of care. On July 5th, 2018 the NHS turned 70 years old. ACT UP celebrated this anniversary, by creating a series of funny & creative 'Actions' that exposed what the Government is doing, and pushed back against privatisation. They worked with local activists and artists in leading raucous and irreverent guided tours of London highlighting the crimes of those involved in corruption scandals within pharmaceutical industry - lawyers, politicians, big pharma profiteers - and all of

those who are benefitting off the privatisation of the NHS. In addition, the ACT UP Paris film '120BPM' generated a surge of interest and they

have harnessed it to their advantage, staging discussions of these acutely political topics after film screenings that pull in big crowds.



ActUp London

2. Stay Grounded

STAY GROUNDED is an international network that aims to tackle the root causes of aviation growth and climate change. The network supports activists in resisting airport projects, and strives towards an ecologically sustainable and just form of mobility. Aviation is the mode of transport with the biggest climate impact. If it was a country, aviation would be one of the top 10 emitters. Emissions from flights are among the fastest growing sources and may reach a share of 22% of global emissions by the middle of the century. At the same time at the turn of the millennium, less than 5% of the world's population had ever set foot on a plane. This mode of transport is a privilege for the few at the expense of the many, namely those in the Global South who are already bearing the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis and future generations who will have to deal with the social and ecological consequences of worsening climate change.

In the *Stay Grounded Action weeks* in October 2018, people around the globe held exciting and colourful actions and events showing that in the face of the climate crisis, aviation growth cannot continue – as well as highlighting more en-

vironmentally sound and socially just forms of mobility. The Stay Grounded network is critical of green alternatives as an easy fix and hence spread their study *"The illusion of green flying"*. Additionally they put pressure on big civil society organisations to position themselves against aviation growth and false solutions. To achieve

this, they created a *position paper* presenting 12 steps for such a systemic change. The grant to Stay Grounded also pointed us to the contradictions we are living when it comes to air travel in the Foundation as well as our private lives. This keeps us vigilant and eager to look for alternatives instead of just compensating our emissions.



Stay Grounded

OVERVIEW OF MOVEMENT GRANTS

The City is for All (Hungary - 12,000)

The City is for All (A Város Mindenkié) is a grassroots, volunteer run organisation from Hungary, Budapest mobilising homeless people, people living in housing poverty and their allies around the right to housing. Our core grant broadly supported all activities of the organisation.

Stay Grounded (Austria - 15,000)

Our core grant to Stay Grounded supported the consolidation of this pan-European network aiming to tackle the root causes of aviation growth - one of the drivers of climate change. It unites airport resistance groups, climate justice activists, critical trade unions, scientists, NGOs, and groups that promote trains as an ecologically sustainable and just form of mobility.

Plan B (UK - 15,000)

The volunteer team behind Plan B uses strategic litigation to hold the UK government to account for reaching its climate goals as per the Paris agreement. Plan B is part of a growing movement of citizens around the world from the US to Uganda, Ireland to Colombia and India who are using litigation as a tool to demand more effective climate action.

Switched On London (UK - 15,000)

Our grant supported mobilisation for The London Leap, a participatory process and campaign about climate transition as an opportunity to transform the city of London and create ownership for its citizens. The goal is to develop and promote a London Leap Manifesto in collaboration with 50+ organisations, individuals, communities, unions and other civil society institutions.

ACT UP London (UK - 15,000)

We also supported the operations of ACT UP London, a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals who - in their words - are united in anger and committed to direct action in order to end the HIV pandemic, along with the broader inequalities and injustices of the UK health system.

Via Campesina Europe (Belgium - 15,000)

Via Campesina is the global grassroots organisation and voice of peasants and agricultural workers fighting for their rights and for food sovereignty. Our funding contributed to a campaign centred around migrant seasonal workers' rights.

Don't let Belgrade D(r)own (Serbia - 15,000)

The Initiative Don't let Belgrade D(r)own (Ne da(vi)mo Beograd) is a progressive local platform in Belgrade, Serbia, struggling for the protection and expansion of public and common goods and advocating for citizen participation in municipal decision-making. Our grant supports the planning and organisation of a Fearless Cities Summit in Summer 2019.

Vouliwatch (Greece - 32,000)

Vouliwatch is the Greek version of Parliamentwatch online platforms that also exist in Ireland, Luxembourg, Tunisia, Germany and France. It engages Greek citizens with legislative politics, providing them with the opportunity to communicate, evaluate and hold Greek elected representatives accountable. Vouliwatch is an independent, non-profit initiative aiming to promote public dialogue, citizen participation and accountability around the Greek parliament. Our grant supported the core operations of the organisation.

OVERVIEW OF MOVEMENT GRANTS

This is Not a Feminist Project (Greece - 10,000)

The online and offline engagement platform attempts to address prejudice, inequality and lack of knowledge about Feminism in Greece. They are creating a living archive and building a network, bringing women's voices and intersectionality to the forefront, especially through creative formats & media. Our core funding supports the overall operations of the initiative.

Agroecopolis (Greece - 10,000)

Agroecopolis is creating alternative food systems and builds a network of small-holder farmers in Greece and beyond. Their focal points are Food Sovereignty and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). To that end this grassroots initiative supports localised resilience, democratisation, collaboration and solidarity for active citizens. With our grant we help Agroecopolis to promote CSA and foster creation of new initiatives in and around Thessaloniki, Athens and Halkida.scientists,

Rising Up! (UK - 18,000)

Rising Up! is a decentralised network confronting toxic systems using non-violent civil disobedience and seeking to building a regenerative culture to address inner barriers, power and privilege. Our funding supported Extinction Rebellion, a radical campaign to highlight the current alarming ecological crisis and mass extinction of species.



THE BACKBONE

GOALS

Our Backbone grants support activities that educate and build capacity for mobilisation, develop skills and thus boost the effectiveness and credibility of activists, collectives or associations (e.g. online infrastructure, educational programs). We aim to support activist platforms, networks and other effective ways for activists to connect and organise.

CASE STUDIES

1. An update on FundAction

In 2018 we continued our commitment to *FundAction*, the participatory fund for European activists which we supported with woman power during its startup phase and for which Antonis had provided initial private capital. Now in its second year, we continue our financial and non-financial support for the fund that now boasts 205 activist members from all over Europe. So far, 23 groups, projects and activist initiatives were funded via FundAction ranging from an afro-feminist summer school, an empowerment network for the solidarity economy, to a campaign for the feminisation of politics. Many more projects and initiatives received attention, feedback and moral support from the community.

The initial challenge of low participation rates in the online discussion and voting space is slowly being tackled through trust- and community building efforts. The first in person assembly in April 2018 that brought together 45 FundAction members to evaluate and chart out the way ahead for the fund was a big step into that direction. The next assembly convenes in

May 2019 and for the first time opens a space for (potential) funders to participate in some of the activities. Check out the *FundAction blog* for more information and updates about what's

going on in this exciting project and get in touch with the Facilitation Group if you want to contribute to what might become the backbone of activism funding in Europe.



FundAction Planning Session

2. Foundation “Development Yes - Open Pit Mines No” (Fundacji „Rozwój TAK - Odkrywki NIE”)

DY-OPMN is an organisation that works to prevent the construction of new coal infrastructure in Poland with the goal to keep over 5.7 billion tonnes of lignite in the ground. They place special emphasis on new lignite open-pit mines in order to speed up the demise of coal as one of the major contributors to climate change, water shortage as well as air & water pollution. Their main motivation is to shut down the power plants, and create space for more just and clean growth with democratic participation of the affected communities. Additional to targeting the financial institutions (mostly banks and insurers), they are pushing for deep changes in the financial sector as credit institutions and investors are affecting climate justice. Thus, it is transforming this industry by increasing transparency, public accountability and visibility. They also helped pull off the first Climate Camp in Poland that was a success with, more than double the amount of expected participants. Much support came from the local communities of mining areas. To involve and motivate all affected citizens is one of DY-OPMN great achievements as it is not only the “usual

suspects” supporting the fight but people of all political backgrounds unite in the struggle. With our repeat Backbone grant we supported the structure of the organisation, enabled them to grow the team, and hence to make a wide range of activities possible. The vibrant and effective network that DY-OPMN established with other

actors in the field, such as Code Rood or Ende Gelände increases their impact and contributes to a strong pan-European climate movement. The Polish climate camp inspired one of our more recent grantees, Activist Love Yourself, to offer activist self-care workshops.



Development Yes - Open Pit Mines No

OVERVIEW OF **BACKBONE GRANTS**

Yes to Life No to Mining Network (UK - 15,000)

Our general support grant for Yes to Life, No to Mining supported the global solidarity network of communities and grassroots organisations that resist unwanted mining projects and pursue life-sustaining alternatives to extractivism. The network facilitates community-to-community exchanges and joint strategising among its members.

Alter Ego (UK - 15,000)

Alter Ego is a European network and online media channel for changemakers who are rethinking progressive politics. Its gatherings and online content, profiles the vital importance of spiritual, psychological and cultural transformation. Our grant supported the piloting of the Alter Ego online media channel.

Reclaim Our Economy (Germany - 13,000)

Reclaim our Economy (RoE) is a pan-European organisation working towards systemic change with a renewed understanding of- and acting in the economy. RoE fosters efforts to co-create an international movement that demands a sea change to the predominant economic system. With our support RoE planned a community-led Action Camp for 2019.

FundAction (Belgium - 40,000)

FundAction is a European participatory fund, run by and for activists that we co-founded with a handful of other progressive funders and activists from across Europe in 2016.

Partager C'est Sympa (France - 20,000)

Partager C'est Sympa is small, nimble video production team of three people who are on a mission to 'make activism cool again' and draw in new young constituents via engaging video content.

Guerrilla Translation (Spain - 15,000)

Guerrilla Translation is a communications collective building knowledge commons while also providing livelihoods for activist translators. Their work is based on open value accounting and feminist economic principles. We supported them with core funding to help develop and spread their exciting organisational model

Centre for Intersectional Justice (Germany - 10,000)

The Center for Intersectional Justice (CIJ) is an organisation that convenes social movements for equality and justice, contributing a paradigmatic shift to the way we analyse, address and combat systemic inequalities. We supported CIJ with core funding for their intersectional movement building and advocacy in Europe.

European Community Organising Network (Spain - 10,000)

Our core funding for the European Community Organising Network (ECON) helps promote and develop the craft of organising in Eastern Europe. ECON conducts trainings, provides mentorship and technical assistance and creates a space for organisers from different countries to collectively develop their strategic practice.

Working On Our Power (UK - 10,000)

Working On Our Power (WOOP) builds the leadership of womxn: cis women, non-binary and trans folks of colour in social justice movements across Europe by building the inner knowing and hard skills needed to be a transformational leader. With our funding the organisers closed a gap to finish the pilot of their 9 month online and offline educational program.

Foundation Development Yes, Open Pit Mines No (Poland - 15,000)

Foundation Development Yes, Open Pit Mines No (Fundacja Rozwój TAK, Odkrywki NIE) is a central actor in the Polish climate action and anti-coal scene, an important role model and influencer on other eastern European climate movements. Following a past project-specific grant, this time we supported the core operations of the organisation.



THE REFLEX

GOALS

Our bureaucracy-lite, year-round Reflex grants allow us to quickly respond to the needs of activists reacting to emerging and unexpected situations. This flexible fund backs three main types of activities: urgent mobilisations, meet-ups & trainings and network building. We also find that these grants are an amazing tool for us as an organisation to respond to unpredictable & diversified opportunities that arise, while we expand our network.

CASE STUDIES

1. Stop the Drilling Campaign in Portugal

A large scale *aerial art action* was carried out at Cova do Vapor beach near Lisbon on August 4th, part of an international media campaign against fossil fuel exploration and for a just transition to a regenerative society. The message: “Parar o Furo,” “Stop the Drilling” was constructed by human bodies coming together in synchrony & the demand was to definitively cancel the contracts for oil drilling and fracking in Portugal (especially the oil drilling off the coast of Aljezur by oil giants Eni & Galp, scheduled to begin on September 15). Nine days later, a court temporarily suspended the planned oil drilling off Aljezur (the pristine Algarve region) and a month after that 8 out of 10 contracts were permanently canceled. The action catalysed a lot of conversation & sparked interviews and testimonials from MPs, athletes, environmentalists and celebrities. The Tamera team that coordinated the action, closely collaborated with a coalition of national groups (such as Academia Cidadã,

Tamera, No To Drilling



Campanha Linha Vermelha (also a GF grantee), Climáximo & many other local groups) further solidifying the network of Portuguese land and

water defenders, so that the environmental activism front may be more united and well-oiled (pun intended) during future standoffs.

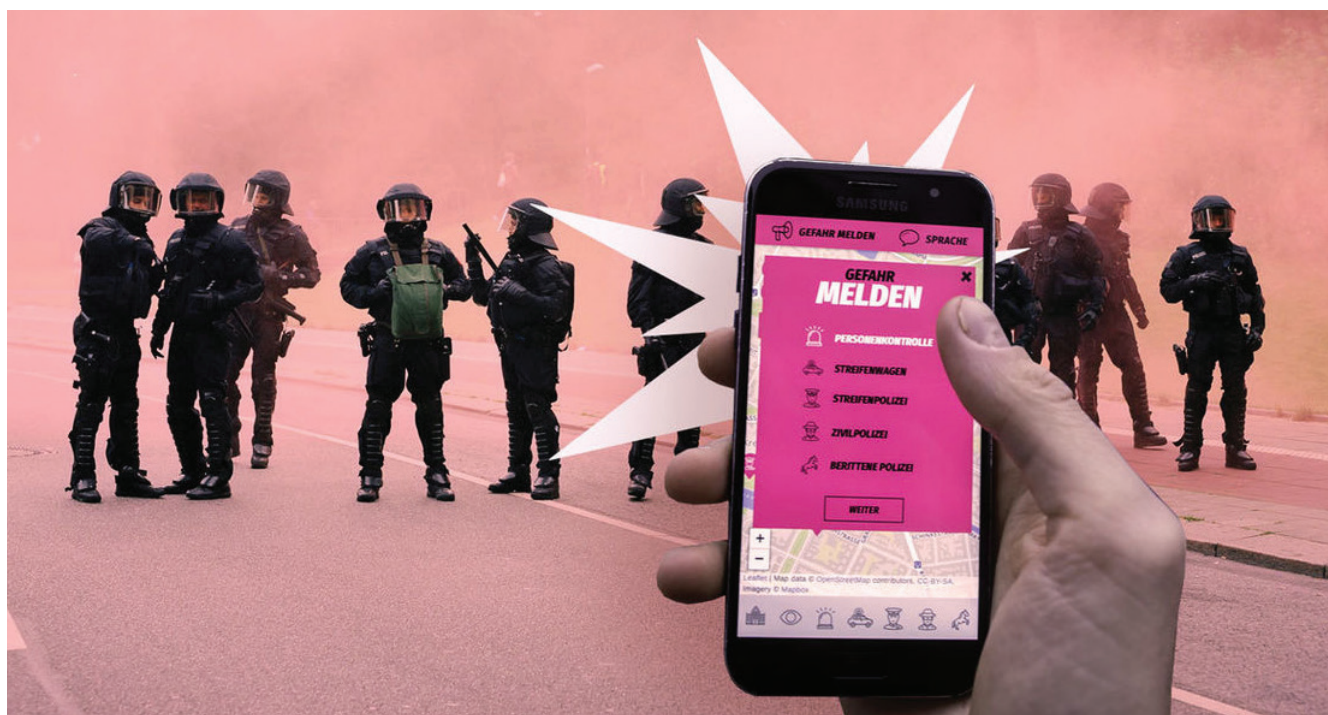
2. Peng! - Fighting a new Police Law in Germany

The region of Bavaria in Germany is usually associated with beer, cars and the infamous Oktoberfest. Many people believe that all Germans walk around in Lederhosen (short leather pants) while eating Brez'n (pretzels) all day because the image of Germany abroad is pretty much dominated by what are actually Bavarian traditions. As if this branding was not bad enough, Bavarian politics are dominated by the right leaning christian-conservative CSU. In spring 2018, the party was working on a new police law that tremendously expanded the authority of the Bavarian police. Central to the law is the idea of a pretty much undefined 'imminent threat'. Citing this concept, police are allowed to infringe upon the privacy of citizens, for example by opening letters, frisking, listening in on calls and implementing other forms of surveillance. Racial profiling and preventive detention without the right to a public defender are two other features of the law.

Because Bavaria often acts as a role model also for other more conservative states in Germany, Peng! activists decided to run a campaign

pointing out the many flaws and risks of the new law. They took the idea of 'imminent threat' and turned it around to point right back at the police as a threat to public safety. A Cop Map was developed that allows everyone to report police presence in their vicinity on a public map for at-risk populations (like activists and racial minorities) to identify and avoid 'police hot-

spots'. Nearly 400k visits and over 20k crowd-sourced entries in the *Cop Map* in the days after its launch speak to the importance of the issue. As intended, the campaign was controversially discussed in the media with massive national and some international reporting on the issue and had a big impact on the discussions around police brutality and racial profiling.



Peng! CopMap

OVERVIEW OF REFLEX GRANTS

Metromuster (Spain - 5,000)

Local campaign to remove the statue of slave trader Antonio López and rename the prominent square in Barcelona to Pl. Idrissa Diallo, in memory of a young man from Guinea who died in police custody in 2012.

Stop Killing Londoners (UK - 5,000)

Stop Killing Londoners is a creative direct action campaign to improve London's air quality by demanding strict implementation of the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Partager C'est Sympa (France - 5,000)

Production of a high-energy video about the anti-airport protests in Notre-Dame-Des-Landes to celebrate this unique victory in the history of the French movement for climate justice.

CC Sport (Croatia - 5,000)

ccSPORT is all about creative and critical work in the field of sport. Our grant supported the set up of the group as well as their first communication efforts.

The Alternative (UK - 4,000)

The Alternative is a new political platform for the 98% who are not members of political parties. The grant supported the piloting of their Alternative Laboratories.

Xarxa Economia Solidaria (Spain - 6,000)

XES is the Catalan network for the Social and Solidarity Economy that connects more than 200 grassroots projects establishing alternatives to neoliberal capitalism. The grant supported a paid position to begin planning and fundraising for a global gathering of the solidarity economy in Barcelona in 2020.

Democracy Collaborative (UK - 5,000)

Democracy Collaborative is a small "think-do tank" focused on systemic change. Our grant supported a councillor of Preston in the UK to travel across the country and within Europe to spread the idea of community wealth building.

TOKA (Albania - 5,000)

Campaign against a specific Hydroelectric Power Plant in the countryside that brought the protest to the Albanian capital with a audiovisual installation that highlighted the massive influx of such seemingly benign renewable energy projects as a major threat to the ecology and livelihood of local communities.

acTVism Munich (Germany - 2,000)

Support the organisation of an acTVism Munich event with Glenn Greenwald, Jill Stein & Abby Martin on May 6th at Muffathalle, Munich.

The Progressive Center (Germany - 5,000)

Contribution to the 2nd Innocracy Conference in Berlin 2018, for travel cost particularly for grassroots activists to participate and share their innovative ideas with conference participants from the German and European political scene.

Limity Jsme My (Czech Republic - 5,000)

Grant for the Limity jsme my ("We are the Limits"), a grassroots anti-coal mining movement to support organisation and set-up costs of the 2nd climate camp in the Czech Republic.

Columna Sans Fin (Spain - 5,000)

Production of actions and materials to counter the educational and greenwashing activities by mining companies in Galicia, Spain, that will also be shared with others anti-mining movements via the Yes to Life No to Mining Network.

P2P Foundation (Spain - 4,500)

Research, writing, design, publication and diffusion of the "Full-spectrum Accountability and Commons-based Production for Planetary Survival" report that builds on the Foundation's previous work on value in the Commons Economy and will inform their advocacy in the coming years.

OVERVIEW OF REFLEX GRANTS

EDGE Funders Alliance (Belgium - 5,000)

Supporting the core operations of the EDGE Funders Alliance Europe.

Protect Pont Valley (UK - 5,000)

Support for a protest and skill-sharing camp against an open cast coal mine in the UK.

Interventionistische Linke (Germany - 4,000)

Production of a how-to training booklet for the set-up of local climate groups in German and English.

Code Rood (The Netherlands - 5,000)

Support for Code Rood's action camp, mass civil disobedience action and campaign work in Groningen, location of the largest European natural gas field.

Peng! (Germany - 4,660)

Interactive, crowd-sourced *CopMap* indicating police presence in order to protest against a new police law in Bavaria.

Tamera (Global Ecovillage Network) (Portugal - 5,000)

Support for an Aerial Action of artist John Quigley to stop oil drilling in the Algarve. The aim is to cancel the contracts for drilling and fracking in Portugal.

Bye Bye TINA (Belgium - 3,500)

Bye Bye TINA is an adhoc network of activists that created a campaign as a call against the "There Is No Alternative" mantra and aims to reopen our horizons against the destructive power of finance & financialisation.

Slow Food e.V. (Germany - 2,000)

Costume workshop for the "Wir haben es Satt" March in Berlin /Jan. 2019. A broiler chick grows on an area of 0.045 m² in mass animal husbandry, a pig on 1 m² and a cattle on 3 m². The idea was to present this data spatially and make it tangible to passers-by.

#aufstehn (Austria - 2,000)

Support for the campaign "Save ORF!". The focus is on the one hand on the threat to democracy posed by the conversion and dismantling of the public broadcaster. On the other hand, it focuses on opportunities for citizens to participate in order to counteract this development and to actively participate in the legislative process.

Moviment per la Justicia Climatica (Spain - 2,000)

Climate march in November 2018 that brought together diverse eco-social movements to demand a stronger focus on climate from the municipal.

Save Epirus (Greece - 2,500)

Great pan-Epirus Demonstration against hydrocarbon mining in Ioannina in June 2018.

Fearless City Naples (Massa Critica) (Italy - 5,000)

Organisation of a regional Fearless Cities summit in Naples in March 2019 with conferences and debates, workshops and panels on areas like social rights, participation & public finance, democracy in relation with local governments and feminization of politics.

Activist love yourself (Poland - 2,800)

Workshops on mindfulness and self-care for activists in Poland (different cities: Warsaw, Poznan, Lublin) for wellbeing in activism and to prevent burnout.

WHAT MADE US THINK

Radical Municipalism

Can you move from extra-parliamentary opposition into institutional power without losing your street credibility? Can you build a local political practice that is based on the social movement ideals of feminism, direct democracy and sustainability in a macro-context where the politics of fear breed nationalism and xenophobia and allow for the exploitation of humans and nature? These are only some of the tough questions that municipalist activists grapple with.

With its origins in Spain where, following the 15M protests, coalitions of social movements and traditional left parties successfully ran for municipal elections, the idea of radical municipalism has now spread globally. The first international gathering of radical municipalists, the *Fearless Cities* Summit in Barcelona in 2017, not only connected and sparked the imagination of activists from around the world (see our account of it [here](#)), it was also an impulse that brought together a group of funders committed to resource the emerging radical municipalist movement. A jointly organised workshop at the 2018 EDGE Conference titled 'Fearless: From

the Streets to the City, Urban Systemic Change' highlighted the similarities of urban struggles from Capetown to New Orleans and Barcelona. It also re-emphasised the importance of translocal solidarity, connections and exchange amongst those willing to build cities that are democratic, liveable, collaborative, caring and fearless (more about this and some best practices [here](#)).

To spread the idea of radical municipalism and bring more funders into this space, we contributed to the set-up of the *Cities of Change* Initiative within the EDGE Funders Alliance. We also supported the organisation of a regional municipalist gathering in Naples and Belgrade, taking our engagement on this topic well into 2019 and beyond.



Fearless City Naples (Massa Critica)

Positioning ourselves in the Intersectionality Debate

Murri visual artist, activist and academic Lilla Watson has spoken what lies at the bedrock of intersectionality as we see it: “If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.” The fact that struggles are bound together is fundamental to the intersectional approach, as it is to systems thinking. Audre Lorde wrote, “there is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.” It means that the feminist movement should be inclusive of all women, that the movement for ethnic and racial diversity is inclusive of feminist values, that the LGBTQI+ movement includes ethnic/religious minorities and people with disabilities, that the Climate Justice movement takes gender, class, ethnicity, a critique of capitalism and other social dimensions into consideration. Which is why we see for example a feminisation of politics as espoused by New Municipalists, who integrate much feminist thinking in how they bring people together to take control of the spaces they live in, via a decentralised, autonomous fashion. One of our grantees, the

Centre for Intersectional Justice sees intersectional justice as a more transformative form of social justice, and promotes it across Europe. *Working on our Power* is another initiative we are supporting that is seeking to “reinforce the existing movement infrastructure for non-binary, trans and cis women of colour in Europe” by creating a space for womxn of colour to rec-

ognise and celebrate their differences. Intersectionality is about just this. Looking for unity in diversity and connecting all the sister struggles via the root causes behind all the symptoms, the historical oppression, the rigged economic system of plutocracy & corrupt governance, the extractivist industries, the closing space for dissent. So let’s all get intersectional.



Centre for Intersectional Justice

Supporting Informal, Very Early Stage Groups

There are two major barriers that people who are fighting for social justice face when it comes to funders. Admin-red-tape-paperwork AND lack of track record (especially their donor résumé). Two questions that are part of most funders' due diligence, are (1) Do you have a legal entity? And (2) Who else has funded you? Let's start with number one. Being a formally registered non-profit makes life a lot easier for most funders, even though they will often evoke their statutes as making it impossible to support informal groups without legal entities. Sometimes that is indeed the case. We are very lucky to have an engaged donor who can make private donations when the red-tape is indeed insurmountable. However, fiscal sponsors are also a thing, and completely legit if an informal group can find a formally registered nonprofit that can 'host' the grant for them. The nonprofit receives the grant and liaises with the informal group as and how they'll transfer/use/spend the money. We support and encourage our applicants to do this in order to solve the surmountable admin barriers and we think more funders should do the same. Number two. We see lack of prior funding as a

great thing. Everyone espouses the importance of risk-taking and the problems of repetition and replication that come with risk-aversion, yet many donors remain risk-averse. For us, it is a prerequisite to not have much funding. We are very proud to have been the first or amongst the first institutional donors to 13 grantees in 2018 and we hope to continue increasing this number. It is impera-

tive that you take chances on dreamers, on non-conformists and on those who are doing things differently, so if everyone only funds those who have already been funded, we're compromising the creative potential of philanthropy to be able to provide 'risk capital' to civil society actors. In short, we believe that progressive philanthropy must get more informal and more risky.



Activist Burnout

Burnout and severe cases of exhaustion come up often in conversations with grantees. The reason for this is quite obvious when thinking about it - being an activist is challenging on so many levels. We are facing tons of burning crises - no matter what we do, it never seems to be enough. Even if we have a clear idea of what we fight for or against as activists we usually face lots of opposition as well.

Direct action (even if non-violent) can stir up trauma. Facing police brutality in a protest or working in existential situations - like being involved in refugee sea rescue - can cause Post Traumatic Stress. Often, the work is of a pressing and urgent nature and fosters a work ethic which in itself can be highly damaging. Not to mention that usually activists do it “on the side”, often alongside a full-time occupation. These aspects are unfortunately simply taken as fact and something that just “comes along” with activism. But it is actually something that affects not only the person suffering from it, it also the group as a whole and thus is an issue that we hope to work on and improve.

If we want to become the change that we wish to see in the world, then it is time we stopped endlessly pushing ourselves and those around

us because it is neither desirable nor sustainable. And (fun fact) it doesn’t have to be that way! We can learn how to take care of ourselves. It is becoming more and more common for activists to integrate mindfulness and self-care in their circles. Some projects that we support are addressing precisely this issue: The Wellbeing Project for example “is focused on catalysing a culture of inner wellbeing for all changemakers” and creates programs and a network around that subject. Activist Love Yourself is a newly founded group from Poland, that offers workshops on self-care and wellbeing for activists in several cities in Poland. In addition, The Artivism Network integrates self-care naturally in their activism: creating art can have a calming effect in and of itself and creating something together in a safe space is soothing and helps people connect at a different level. Additionally, art makes activism more accessible and along the way reminds everyone that activism can and should be fun. Climate Camps across Europe are lived examples for activist spaces that aren’t solely centered on protest but focus on community and the creation of alternative ways of living (together). In the end “We win because we have the better parties!” as a climate camper recently proclaimed.



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