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## REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS

## INTRODUCTION

It seems that the last year flew by in a whirlwind of activities and the beginning of 2020 was not much different, hardly leaving any time for the dust to settle, until things grinded to a halt with the COVID-19 pandemic. While the judgement is still out as to what this will mean for our social, economic and political systems, I'm more convinced than ever of the value of our work (read more about funding social movements in times of pandemic [here](#)). We already witness an impressive response and resourcefulness by collectives and frontline communities, like the ones we talk about in this report, to deal with the immediate effects of the crisis but also to continue to address the deeper systemic challenges it is connected to.

For our grantees from across Europe, 2019 was the year of full-swing climate mobilisation with Extinction Rebellion putting the climate emergency on the global agenda and hectic COP25 mobilisations after the short-notice move to Madrid due to the Chilean people's protests. It was also a year of hope and big organising efforts - some followed by disappointment, like in the UK elections, and others still building power like [By2020WeRiseUp](#). The municipalist movement

kept organising across Europe and globally. If you still don't know why we're so excited about the promises of radical municipalism for uniting people on the left, we encourage you to browse a couple of the resources on [Minim](#). Speaking of platforms, in 2019 we launched [The Radicals](#) to create a space for the human stories behind all the amazing activist work we are seeing every day and to honor some of the people powering it.

Our third full year of operation, 2019 was the year when I realised that we succeeded in building a mature organisation. The Guerrilla Foundation's operations kept running smoothly even though I was on maternity leave for most of the year. Thanks to Julia's ability to 'jump on a running horse', Ivan's team spirit, and Toni's ongoing commitment, our progressive funding machine just kept going while I figured out the intricacies of diapers, digestion and dialogue with our little one. In May, the two worlds came together for a short while, at our team and board meeting in Barcelona.

Acknowledging that our resources are limited and that there is a need for more radical foundations and philanthropists to address the ecological, so-

cial and spiritual crises from the bottom up, we stepped up our commitment to donor organising. Wherever possible, we share our philosophy and lessons learned, for example in a well-visited session on funding social movements at the [2019 ACF Conference](#) together with our friends from [NEON](#) and a keynote on democracy and foundations at the [annual conference of the German Association of Foundations](#), and also at the annual meeting of the Swiss Foundations. We are also contributing to the EDGE Funders Alliance [Cities of Change](#) funders collective and an [Expert Circle on Transformative Philanthropy](#) and spoke to impact investors, for example on The Magic of Resourcing Activists at the Toniic AGM and the [Katapult Future Fest](#). While we do see these engagement efforts paying off very concretely in terms of funding going to grassroots activism in Europe, and more generally in terms of a slow mindset change, we also realise that institutional philanthropy is changing at a rate too slow for the urgency of our time and that these events are time-consuming and draining for a small team. That's why we started our Radical Philanthropy series of online conversations for High-Net-Worth-Individuals (HNWI) who want to try alternative types of engagement with social justice.

In 2019 we made 47 grants, bringing us to an overall number of 132 grants since Guerrilla was founded in September 2016. A slight increase from last year, for 15 grantees, our support was either the first or one of the first, from an institutional donor, confirming our commitment to place bold bets on grantees, as well as having the ability to identify and support promising, emerging activists. We also made a number of repeat grants to trusted partners like the *London Renters Union* and the *Ministry of Space* (check out this *interview* with Iva who's also joined our board) and kept supporting *FundAction*, the pan-European participatory grantmaking community for grassroots activists. Check out *this report* for more juicy details about our grants as well as what else kept us busy last year.

If you are an activist collective with a strong commitment to grassroots mobilisation and bold, effective action - we'd love to hear from you! If you are another funder or person of wealth and interested in an exchange or learning from us, let's talk. You can email us anytime on [hello@guerrillafoundation.org](mailto:hello@guerrillafoundation.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!  
**Romy & The Guerrilla Team**





# THE YEAR IN **NUMBERS**

**107**  
ORGANISATIONS  
SCREENED

**47**  
ORGANISATIONS  
SUPPORTED

Amount spent in each **grant category**:



**THE MOVEMENT:** €129,200 EUR // **10 GRANTS**  
**22** Reviewed // **13** Invited to Apply



**THE BACKBONE:** €125,000 EUR // **7 GRANTS**  
**18** Reviewed // **9** Invited to Apply



**THE REFLEX:** €136,454 EUR // **30 GRANTS**  
**67** Reviewed // **42** Invited to Apply

**TOTAL: €390,654**

# 15

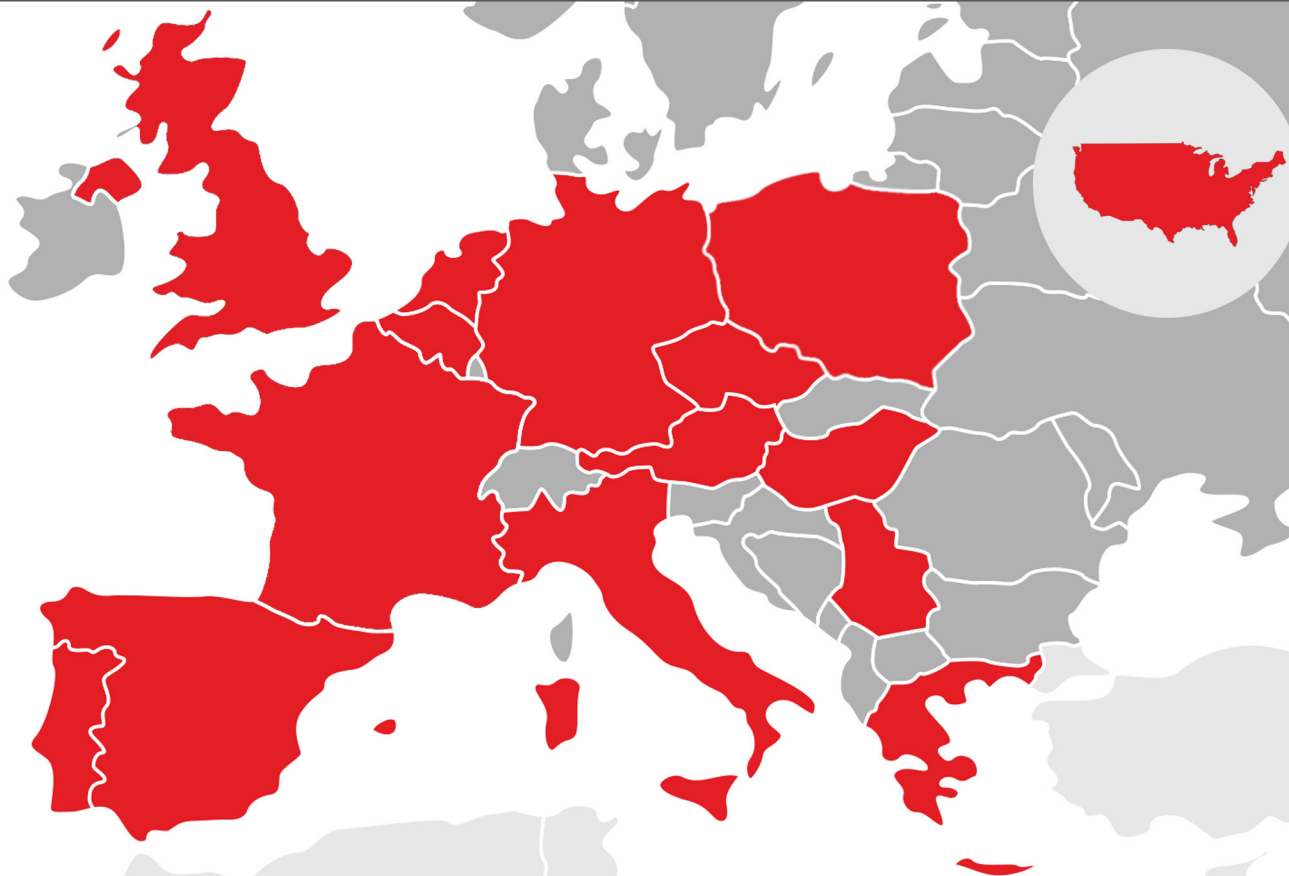
**COUNTRIES** (+number of grants per country)

AUSTRIA (1), BELGIUM (1),  
CZECH REPUBLIC (2), FRANCE (1),  
GERMANY (14), GREECE (4), HUNGARY (2),  
ITALY (1), THE NETHERLANDS (2),  
POLAND (2), PORTUGAL (3),  
SERBIA (1), SPAIN (5), UK (7), USA (1)

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

**5** in 2016  
**32** in 2017  
**48** in 2018  
**47** in 2019

**132** grants made in **total** by the  
Guerrilla Foundation until end 2019.



**For 15 organisations / initiatives, we were the first or among the first institutional supporters**

(Minim - Municipalist Think Tank, 2020: Rebelión por el Clima, Artists Network, The World Transformed, Labournet TV, Fridays For Future Athens, Sdilené domy, Kassel Kohlefrei, Fridays for Future Naples, Gerechte 1 Komma5, All Hands On, Anti Lithium Mining Action, Peace Power, Werkstatt für Bewegungsbildung, Climate Camp Poland).





## 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 the frontlines. 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. Armed Against Artwashing in Amsterdam

*Fossil Free Culture NL (FFCNL)* is a collective of artists and activists creating disobedient art to end oil and gas sponsorship of cultural institutions in the Netherlands with the end goal of terminally eroding the fossil fuel industry's legitimacy. With our grant the team is implementing their #FossilFreeMuseumplein art campaign. The Het Koninklijk Concertgebouw (Royal Concert Hall) is widely considered to be one of the most important concert halls in the world. It is also the last public cultural institution on Amsterdam's Museum Square still accepting money from the fossil fuel industry. Fossil Free Culture are determined to bring an end to Shell sponsorship by the end of 2020 and publicly declare a Fossil Free Museumplein.

They are doing this through a relentless series of beautiful, disobedient art performances that escalate in duration, attendance and boldness. This goal, that they consider imperative, will represent a concrete and emblematic victory packed with powerful symbolism that will

bring them closer to achieving a fossil free cultural sector in the Netherlands and terminally eroding Shell's public image and license to operate. They plan to create and execute nine disobedient performances and interventions

inside the Concertgebouw and in public spaces over the working period June 2019 - December 2020. Each of these works will challenge the acceptance of Shell sponsorship and expose Shell's disastrous impact on the planet.



Fossil Free Culture , Netherlands



## 2. Czeching Out Climate Camp Impact

*Limity jsme my* is a Czech climate justice movement working to address the root causes of the climate crisis by striving to keep fossil fuels in the ground. The Czech landscape is being ravaged by a prolonged drought leading to disappearing forests, water shortages, and spiking food prices. As the damaging results of the climate crisis are becoming more visibly felt, we are witnessing a growing momentum of opposition to official energy policies. *Limity jsme my* are channeling this newly found awareness into positive and sustained activities to change the course of energy policy in the direction of sustainable energy production.

They want to contribute to a strategic escalation of the climate justice movement in the country and help it to take its roots in the Czech society. Following two smaller reflex grants that we've already given to this terrific team, we now offered larger structural funding. In both 2019 and 2020, they aim to intervene in locally embedded struggles against the coal industry, centered around opposition to a concrete project which demonstrates the failure of political institutions to address both the climate crisis and the local

impacts of coal. In 2019, they used the proven format of the Klimakemp (Climate Camp) and "Action Days", connecting a "movement event" and highlighting the climate crisis with support for local initiatives struggling against a specific manifestation of its root causes with

nonviolent protests. In 2020, these protests will be connected to the international "*By 2020 We Rise Up*" campaign while in the meantime, the team will maintain the pressure with small "keep showing up" actions in major cities.



Limity Jsme My

## OVERVIEW OF MOVEMENT GRANTS

### **2020: Rebelión por el Clima (Spain - 15,000)**

Core funding to support capacity building for a powerful climate justice movement and to prepare the Iberian peninsula for a series of mass climate-focused non-violent direct actions in 2020.

### **Fossil Free Culture NL (The Netherlands - 10,000)**

Fossil Free Culture is a collective of artists and activists creating disobedient art to end oil and gas sponsorship of cultural institutions in the Netherlands with the end goal of terminally eroding the fossil fuel industry's legitimacy.

### **Generation 2.0 (Greece - 15,000)**

A collaborative video campaign with the independent media collective *Solomon*, centred around countering micro-racism, systemic racial prejudice and toxic by-stander practices.

### **Limity Jsme My (Czech Republic - 10,000)**

Repeat-grant for "We are the Limits", a grassroots anti-coal mining movement and for the Czech "Klimakemp" and action days.

### **Plan B - All Rise for the Planet (UK - 12,700)**

Part-theatre, part-people's court, this immersive event at the Tate Modern, about climate justice and accountability presented testimonies, along with visuals and video installations to simulate a trial in the year 2030.

### **Linha Vermelha (Portugal - 15,000)**

Repeat grant for Linha Vermelha, a national awareness campaign to stop oil drilling and fracking in Portugal. They creatively mobilise mainly youth and elderly people to knit the longest red line in the world to say NO! to fossil fuels.

### **Stay Grounded (Austria - 10,000)**

Repeat grant to support the pan-European network against the root causes of aviation growth. Stay Grounded 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.

### **Vouliwatch (Greece - 12,000)**

Emergency support to bridge a funding gap. Vouliwatch is a non-partisan parliamentary monitoring organisation. The organisation's main goal is to bridge the gap between citizens and their political representatives whilst promoting a culture of transparency, accountability and active citizenship.

### **London Renters Union (UK - 20,000)**

Follow-up to our 2017 grant to the renters union that organises and represents tenants and takes action for tenant rights. The grant supported training for members of new union branches to assure continuity, lived values and quality of organising.

### **Labournet TV (Germany - 15,000)**

Core grant to support the all-female collective that produces their own videos about workers strikes and makes accessible and available films about workers struggles worldwide. They also organise events where they create connections between different movement groups.





## 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, gatherings, training). We aim to support activist platforms, networks and other effective ways for activists to connect and organise.

## CASE STUDIES

### 1. Minim Maximises Municipalism

*Minim* is a collective that amplifies the voice of radical municipalism by sharing practical and theoretical knowledge, via a community of activists, scholars, journalists, and public officials. In the current political context, the municipalist movement stands out as an inspiration and a sign of hope. It serves as an example of possible political alternatives that democratize institutions putting people and the commons at the center of the political agenda, changing the current political culture and thereby fostering real systemic change in politics.

This is a crowd-sourced project that comes as a response to the need to connect and disseminate the work of people, governments and political platforms working on municipalism. *Minim* has no intention of overlapping the activities already being carried out by the municipalist movement. Instead, they want to support it by opening new debates, promoting new forms of collaboration between platforms, and amplifying the voice of municipalists, especially those with

scarce resources. The seed funding from us has resulted in the curation of a database of different kinds of content, from press articles to reports and academic papers. The collective will

continue developing content in order to publish an online magazine with articles that they assign or receive through a permanent open call (click if you want to “*collaborate*” with them).



Minim Collective, Spain



## 2. Struggling for Space in Serbia

The *Ministry of Space* is an activist collective that envisions a city in which everyone participates in the decision-making processes, where satisfaction of needs is carried out through an open dialogue, and priority is given to basic and common needs regarding the equal access to spatial resources, as well as equal involvement in decision-making, which uphold basic democratic principles. In this respect, their key values are solidarity, the involvement of the local community in urban development processes and the priority of the public interest over individual interests.

For the past two and half decades, urban development in Serbia has been continuously hindered by political instability, turbulent socio-economic forces and inconsistent planning systems. Urban planning strategies were rendered inefficient in meeting citizens' needs, across the board. However, urban and spatial development of Serbia have not been a topic of public discussions on EU accession talks or other related processes. Even when huge construction projects are being discussed (such as the notorious Belgrade Wa-

terfront) it is solely with regards to investments and expected monetary returns and never on the subject of societal & environmental impacts. Unfortunately, broader civil society actors and academia at large, do not devote significant attention to these processes either.

The team runs direct actions that address three main issue areas: 1) activating (squatting) underused public property, 2) creating more transparent and inclusive urban development procedures and 3) reforming public resources management to better reflect the public interest.



Ministry of Space collective, Serbia

## OVERVIEW OF **BACKBONE GRANTS**

### **Minim - Municipalist Think Tank** (Spain - 15,000)

Early-stage support for a municipalist observatory that generates and disseminates knowledge about municipalism and functions as a resource repository that can be used by journalists, activists, and the interested public.

### **Ministry of Space (Serbia - 25,000)**

Repeat core funding to the organisation that works with various grassroots groups from Belgrade towards creating a city of justice, solidarity and open dialogue. They offer expertise as well as physical and technical infrastructure and are an important resource for local right-to-the-city groups.

### **Artist Network** (Spain, Hungary/Europe Wide - 20,000)

The Artist Network works with, and inside, the climate movement to integrate creativity into its strategy. The grant specifically supported an Artist Gathering: part skill-share, part "Training for Trainers" and part strategy retreat that brought together arts-activists from all over Europe.

### **Disruption Network Lab** (Germany - 10,000)

The Disruption Network Lab examines the intersection of politics, technology, and society and exposes the misconduct and wrongdoing of the powerful. We funded the "Activation" community program that gathers the DNL-community on a regular basis to share collective approaches and tools for social, political and cultural change.

### **The World Transformed (UK - 15,000)**

The World Transformed is moving from an annual four-day festival of politics, art and culture to continuously engaging political educators across the UK via their Resource Hub which as kick-started with our grant.

### **School of Public Life (Hungary - 15,000)**

The School of Public Life is a grassroots training and research center in Budapest that promotes active citizenship and social movement organizing. We supported the setup of a new chapter in Miskolc.

### **FundAction (Belgium - 20,000)**

Repeat-grant for FundAction, the European participatory fund, run by and for activists and hosted by the EDGE Funders Alliance.



## 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. What are these Indigenous Women Doing at the COP25?

For the **COP25** in Madrid we decided to focus on a slightly different pressure point, the message of the European (but not only) indigenous communities that highlighted a simple message we have been living in harmony with the natural habitat for millennia, it took industrialised society a blink of an eye to throw things abysmally out of balance”. We supported a strong Arctic solidarity network highlighting connections between predatory extraction and Indigenous rights violations across Sápmi and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland). The hashtags #stoppnussir and #RejectTECK (Nussir and TECK = two super unpleasant extractivist companies) were very visible during the direct actions our Scandi indigenous activists organised in Madrid, primarily to demand from the Canadian government to shut the largest tar sands mine project in the world. Finally, some dazzling news broke in February 2020, that the overall campaign was a success and that the TECK Frontier Mine was withdrawn! The Indigenous Climate Action group spearhead-



COP25, Spain

ed the movement, which our little **COP25** faction is a part of. The group announced that this is “a win for indigenous rights, sovereignty and the

climate. The withdrawal is a signal that the antiquated fossil fuel economy is no longer viable even despite the political backing and support”.

## 2. Promoting Activism in Portugal

When speaking to activist collectives in Portugal one of the first things we are told is that the Portuguese are not very committed activists, that citizen engagement in politics is not high and the even global movements such as the environmental one is still quite small and underdeveloped. That is why we are keen to back various, small and promising initiatives that are slowly building the new wave activist communities of the country.

In the summer, we collaborated with *a group of active citizens and environmental associations* working towards ecosystem restoration and the regeneration of nature in Portugal, who got pretty alarmed at the recent developments in Portugal to start & expand explorations for open cast mining for lithium and other metals. The exploitation of lithium — considered a fundamental step for an “energy transition” by the Portuguese government — has been systematically contested by the National Association for Nature Conservation, called Quercus. The organization publicly requested an “immediate suspension of the government’s strategy for lithium,” after conducting a study that concluded the process of mining for lithium, a non-renewable resource,

will result in “high levels of CO2 emissions.” They estimated that each lithium mine will emit an additional 1.79 million tons of greenhouse gases per year, which means it’s an energy development plan that’s still environmentally unsustainable. Therefore hundreds of people, including speakers, ecologists & campaigners, gathered on the highest point in Portugal to make a beautiful art piece together which was filmed and photographed and disseminated throughout Portugal and the world through mainstream, alternative and social media. The organisation/production costs of the event/art action were covered by our grant while the whole operation, including media liaising/promotion/dissemination were done on a voluntary basis.

The following month, we supported *Habita65’s* Right to the City Festival, in different places in and around Lisbon, both indoors and outdoors, that finished with a big assembly and action. The festival was an action in itself, but also the start of a process of collective construction of articulation of urban movements. Creating visibility for the urban movements which are reclaiming the city and right to housing and putting these issues on the public agenda was the top priority. The lack of right to housing and the neoliberal

development of the city, which excludes the majority of people and promotes inequality is simply snowballing. September was also the month of political campaigning because the legislative elections took place on the 6th of October, so it was particularly important to reinforce the presence of social movements in the streets and in the media. Finally the plucky *Habita* activists worked to promote different possibilities of/in the city against the TINA (There Is No Alternative) and they focused on participatory processes to create an urban movement with diversity, clear articulation and sustained communication and action.



## OVERVIEW OF REFLEX GRANTS

### **Shareable Podcast** (World Wide, US Based - 5,000)

Podcast series "The Response": a documentary series about the remarkable communities arising in the aftermath of disasters in different locations.

### **Emerge Gathering** (UK activist to go to Kiev - 754)

Travel cost for an activist to attend the Emerge Gathering. The themes of the gathering are ecology and collapse, technology and nature, spirit and body, meditation and action, psychedelia and health and look at "what is emerging" in times of a global crisis.

### **Stroomversnellers** (The Netherlands - 4,000)

The Train Action Trainers programme is part of a bigger trajectory of a 3 day training, coaching, guidance and skill share throughout the year specifically targeted at people from marginalised communities.

### **Fridays For Future Athens** (Greece - 1,200)

Zero Waste Concert, organized by the local Fridays for Future group, collaborating with other groups working on climate justice in Greece.

### **Sdílené domy** (Czech Republic - 5,000)

Czech Activist cooperative that wants to provide grassroots groups in Prague with a stable, safe and inclusive space that is cooperatively owned and cannot be evicted.

### **Kassel Kohlefrei** (Germany - 4,500)

The alliance of grassroots actors and NGOs demands to shut down a coal power plant in 2023 and to change the communal heat supply to renewable energies.

### **Habita!** (Portugal - 5,000)

Habita! is a portuguese Right to the City Movement, we supported an educational Festival in September 2019 right before the national elections.

### **Fridays for Future Naples** (Italy - 3,000)

Grant to organise a climate justice meeting and scientific convention for activists and scientists in order to share good practices and inform the public in Naples about the climate crisis.

### **Gerechte1Komma5** (Germany - 4,500)

Working on a citizen based climate justice plan in three phases with different stakeholders, as a tool to convince the government to take on suggestions of grassroots movements.

### **Development Yes - Open Pit Mines No** (Poland - 5,000)

Celebrations around the 10th anniversary of the largest valid local referendum in Poland against the Legnica open-pit lignite mine.

### **Queer Tours of London** (UK - 5,000)

Series of tours, artistic interventions and protests to platform how people in the UK can stand and act in solidarity with LGBTQI+ communities.



## OVERVIEW OF REFLEX GRANTS

### **Disruption Network Lab (Germany - 5,000)**

Organising regular meet-ups within the 'Activation' community program, which links-up activists connected to the "The Art of Exposing Injustice" series, that examines the intersections between art, digital rights, social justice & social accountability.

### **Learning From the Bees (Germany - 5,000)**

The documentation of the 'Learning from the Bees' conference in Berlin, that aims to engage bee experts, scientists, enthusiasts, farmers & foresters in action-oriented dialogue that pushes the industry towards bee-friendly practices & radically re-envisioned environmental stewardship.

### **Polish Diaspora Votes (Polonia Glosuje) (UK - 5,000)**

A coalition effort of Polish feminist, pro-democracy, LGBTQ+ activist groups organising for dignity and justice in the Polish UK diaspora, specifically around the "Get Out The Vote" campaign, which will try to reach an unprecedented number of voters ahead of Poland's October 13 parliamentary elections.

### **Climate Camp Poland (Poland - 5,000)**

Running the second edition of summer climate camp in Poland – the once-a-year place and time for skill-sharing, training and networking for all young, grassroots activists and climate movement builders.

### **School of Public Life (Hungary - 5,000)**

Organisation of the international conference on new wave, communitarian politics, titled: "Our common city – how will the municipality be everybody's and for everyone?"

### **Artist Network (Spain, Hungary, Europe Wide - 5,000)**

Support the early set-up of this collective that works across borders, to amplify the message of grassroots movements, mainly focused on climate justice, via subverting, graffiti, inflatables, giant puppets, street theatre, chants/songs and various artistic actions.

### **We Are Still Here (Spain - 5,000)**

Running direct actions and peaceful interventions by indigenous activists from Greenland and Sápmi at the COP25 in Madrid as a stand against Western extractivism.

### **COP25 Madrid Urgent Mobilisation (Spain - 5,000)**

Organise a powerful civil society response to the COP25 (including a People's Summit, Mass Mobilisation & direct actions) in 4 weeks. The goal is maintaining the focus on Chile & Latin American social movements while grounding these struggles in the global climate movement.

### **Red Pepper Magazine (UK - 5,000)**

For the UK General Election, Red Pepper will give a voice and platform to grassroots organisers and activists across the UK.

### **By 2020 We Rise Up (Slovakia - 5,000)**

The execution of the November conference in Bratislava, where the members of all supporting groups can meet in person and strategise on the coming waves of intersectional, climate justice actions.

## OVERVIEW OF REFLEX GRANTS

### **Documentary: All Hands On (Scotland/UK - 7,500)**

Support for a film project on radical alternatives to electoral democracy: A high-quality documentary series on randomly selected citizen juries deliberating on public decisions, filmed in Athens, Greece.

### **acTVism Munich (Germany - 3,000)**

We again supported the independent media platform promoting grassroots activism, social change, democracy, climate justice and the commons.

### **Anti Lithium Aerial Action (Portugal - 5,000)**

Aerial action against Lithium mining to create awareness of the degradation of fertile land and to support movement building of grassroots actors countering mining in the region..

### **We'll come united (Germany - 5,000)**

Anti-racist community organizing for empowerment of migrants and progressive anti-fascist groups in smaller cities in Saxony.

### **Peace Power (Greece - 3,000)**

Early stage support for a non-violence and peace building workshop in Thessaloniki.

### **#WannWennNichtJetzt (Germany - 5,000)**

Market place tour in eastern Germany (Saxony, Brandenburg and Thuringia), to support initiatives & individuals that mobilize against racism and for a society based on solidarity and openness.

### **rOg agency (Germany - 5,000)**

We supported open:fora, an alternative, independent event promoting open culture and post-conflict open tech experience with neighbours and the broader Berlin based activist community, engaging these in a dialogue on the need to uphold and strengthen our common 'res publica'.

### **Partager c'est sympa (France - 5,000)**

Urgent support for video production in the pre-run of the French mass action targeting the "big polluters"

### **Werkstatt für Bewegungsbildung (Germany - 4,700)**

A project of Solidarity City Berlin to develop a 'living curriculum' for movements and activists around topics like organising and care.



## WHAT MADE US THINK

### Our first foray into fundraising for the Guerrilla Foundation

Fundraising is hard. Really hard. In 2019 we decided to see what demand there was from other folks with financial resources to support bold social movements via the Guerrilla Foundation. Although we are not dependent on donations (since our entire annual budget is covered by our funder Antonis Schwarz) we thought it would be truly wonderful to have more resources at our disposal to amplify the work that we do. In particular due to the high demand for Reflex grants by social movements, the Guerrilla team decided to start a fundraising campaign, which included a *video* and outreach to over 50 so-called High-Net-Worth-Individuals (HNWIs are holding financial assets above US\$1million, excluding their primary residence). Our fundraising target was € 50,000 but we only raised €6,000 up until now.

What did we learn? Respect for our grantees for their fundraising efforts and an acknowledgement of the massive amount of work that goes into it! If you want to get funded, you need a lot of time for relationship-building and other for-

malities. Time is something that activists, many of whom work day-jobs to maintain themselves alongside their activism, just don't have. Even though we always knew this, our own attempt at fundraising made us more humble and aware of the bureaucratic demands we put on applicants and grantees and the response times we can realistically expect.

We also learned that you need a good understanding and longer term engagement of your target audience before you fundraise. Our video was a one-shot activity out of context and without much follow-up. The next paragraph goes more into detail about how our thinking about and engagement with HNWIs has evolved since then.



Minim Collective, Spain

## Engaging People with Wealth

As mentioned in the introduction, one of our core activities, next to making grants, is influencing philanthropy and people with wealth - often referred to as High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs). We share our approach and lessons learned via keynotes and workshops at the big philanthropy conferences, and attend other gatherings where (future) philanthropists are present. Deploying all the resources available to us is a responsibility that we do take seriously.

Especially Toni, our funder, can open doors and influence other people of wealth, engage them in discussions about privilege, power and the imperative to act now. Just asking people for money for grassroots activism, even if they already do impact investing, is out of context and asking too much, too early. We have a lot of appreciation for the *Resource Generation* program that targets people of wealth and class privilege to go through a process of personal reflection and educate themselves about social justice. Many of the participants later become movement allies and financial supporters.

We realised that the impact investing space is slowly changing and there is talk of 'philanthropic investments' now to address social

problems without an expectation of financial returns. A change that we might have contributed to just a tiny bit. However, far too many people of wealth still believe that impact investing will save the world (for the record: It won't!) and are blind to social justice concerns and the political dimension of their wealth. Accumulating more money in the same hands and only supporting market-based solutions to the world's problems is not enough if we truly seek social & environmental justice.

Against this backdrop, our job is far from over. We reach out to HNWIs to spread the word about more radical approaches to philanthropy and increase their understanding of, and support for, the work of social movements (in the short run) and help them question the systemic injustices that allowed them to be wealthy in the first place (and in the long run). We do this not only at events but also via our own bi-monthly series of Radical Philanthropy Calling online conversations that we started in December 2019. We hope that our activities will help unlock more resources for movements and activists - not necessarily via our own foundation but also in the form of direct donations and the creation of more radical funding bodies.

Finally, our advisory board serves as an immersive experience for a small number of selected HNWI who join an equal number of activist advisors to engage deeply in our work. Unlike other advisory boards, we really mean advice when we say it, and include our board members in our grant decisions above 10k EUR as well as once a year our strategic and organisational reflections. By being directly involved in grant-making, HNWI advisors engage closely with the issues and approaches of grassroots activists and the work of the foundation. They also hear first hand about the experiences of activists and witness the outstanding impact of their work. With a rotation of 1-2 years and a maximum of 3 HNWI advisors, this is a slow and work intensive process but one that has proven rewarding for all sides until now. Are you a person of wealth and privilege and intrigued by what you read? Do get in touch!



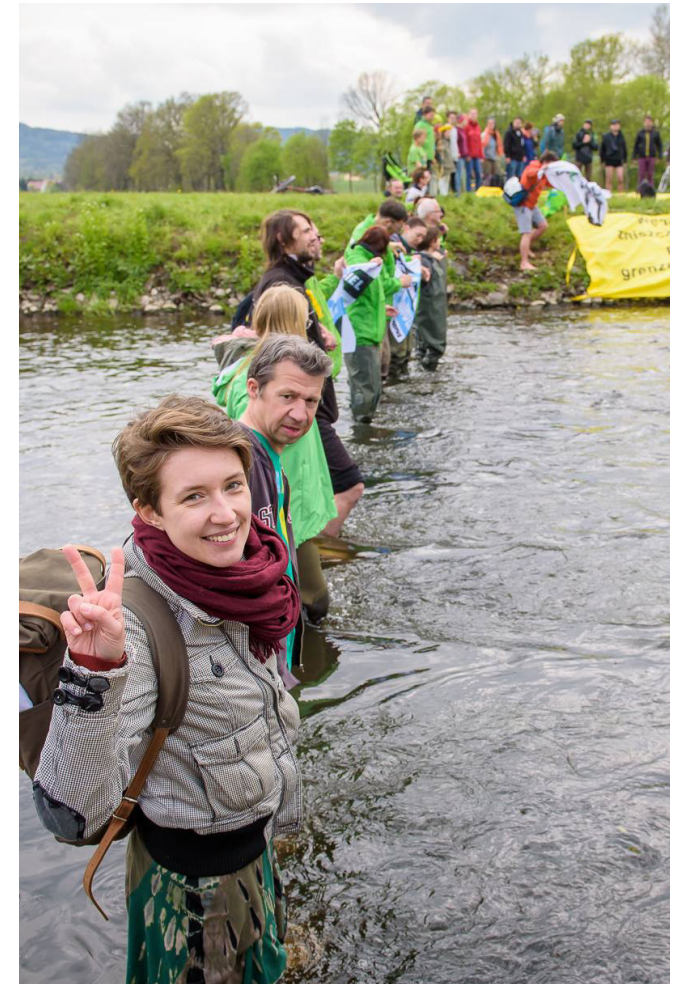
## **Tweaking our strategy & processes: moving to full rolling grants**

One of the main benefits of running a small organisation is flexibility and directness. The intensity of our communication with funding partners depends on their needs for support as much as our need for updates and feedback. We aim for a relationship where every email exchange or conversation is an opportunity for joint sensemaking about what we see happening in the field and how we work as interdependent parts of the wider movement ecology. Updates and information always flow both ways.

We realised that application candidates got frustrated when they contacted us right after we had selected our batch of invitees for our Closed Calls because that meant they needed to wait a couple of months before they would be able to apply. We also learned that many of the groups and collectives we usually work with are not in a position that allows them to plan their budgets a year or more in advance. We concluded that if we really wanted to contribute to that segment of the movement ecology, we would need to make our large grants as flexible as our Reflex grants for which we accept applications all year round.

Said, done. We discussed this need with our board in May and thought about what this change would mean for our overall processes. We implemented full rolling grants over the summer where activity is usually a bit lower and any hiccups in the process wouldn't do big damage. So far, and with a couple of tweaks along the way, this is working well for us. We are happy that we put some thinking and effort into this project because now we have a process that's first of all rare in the funding world and overall makes us more approachable and able to react to whatever is happening in the field.

One interesting side-effect of this change: it's harder now to evaluate organisations in comparison with each other when deciding about funding (which was always like comparing apples with lychees anyways). Now more than ever we need to sharpen up when discussing applications and ask ourselves whether we're fully excited about a grant even if next week we're being approached by an incredibly radical and creative new candidate. We feel that this has strengthened our selection process.



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## Launching The Radicals Platform

‘Rearticulating Distorted Narratives’ is one of the Guerrilla Foundation’s key strategic tenets in addition to our grantmaking and mobilisation of wealth owners. Even though we do influence social narratives via the work of our grantees, by endorsing practices such as new municipalism, anti-extractivism or workers cooperatives, actively moulding societal narratives is a crucial component of our mission. *The Radicals* is one such endeavour. It is a storytelling initiative that is reclaiming what it means to be radical, exploring contemporary radical activism, and showcasing the new faces of root-cause activists worldwide.

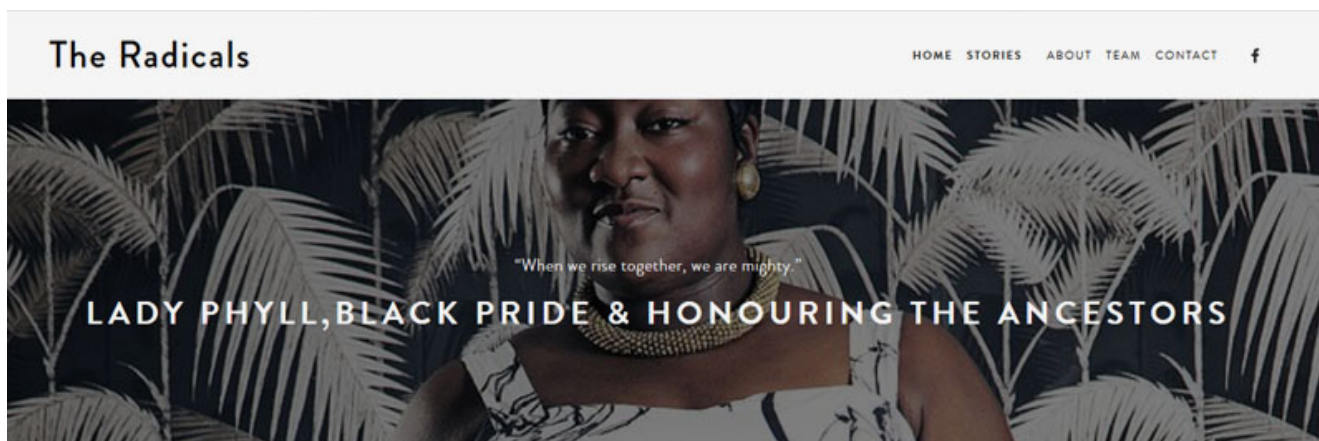
As a storytelling project, we also want to lionize radical doers and those on the forefront of current social movements, the more obscure the better, because we want to shine a light on those working in the shadows (as long as it’s consensual). We do not want to further back ‘hero culture’ that builds up individuals to celebrity status until they either burn or sell out.

Therefore you can now sample cool stories about *Lady Phyll* pushing for Black Pride and honoring of ancestors, or *Lila Tsatsi*, a homemaker, small business owner and die-hard environmental activist protecting the natural wilderness of North-

western Greece, or *Dan Glass* who can be found launching powerful & imaginative critiques against the privatisation of the NHS in conjunction with ACTUP London.

However that is not to say, that this venture was without glitches and setbacks. We wildly underestimated the amount of work that goes into producing good quality, written content especially when being dependent on many, very busy people’s conflicting schedules. We put together a team of activist writers, all working in different countries, all working remotely and all involved in various campaigns, movements, and local struggles. Therefore burnout and overwhelm were never far. Moreover, working with media outlets in order to amplify our content and boost

exposure of our Radicals, was also more time consuming than projected. It involves countless follow-ups, unanswered emails, meetings and/or pitches, all things that a very small, busy, decentralised, remote-working team cannot tackle with extreme efficiency. However, we prioritised the quality of the content over expedience for now and we’re slowly building up this rad story repository and we still hope to push for the same objective we had when we toasted the launch of The Radicals: “may we move away from apathy or work in short-sighted silos and instead shift the narrative to systems thinking, tackling root causes behind global shitstorms and shaking established antiquated foundations with a bold, badass attitude. Onward. Rad.”





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