

Annual Report

2022

Observatori del Deute
en la Globalització



ODG



Table of contents

Who are we?	1
Our theory for change	2
Reflections on ODG and the year 2022	3
What did we do in 2022?	4
Financial justice	7
Climate justice	8
Common goods	10
Publications	11
Communication	12
Economic report	13
Carbon footprint	16

Who are we?

We are a research observatory that develops critical analyses of complex and/or structural processes to showcase the visible (and invisible) impacts and risks of the political and economic system, producing tools that facilitate the interpretation of the current context.

We produce critical analyses and campaigns for mobilization and social transformation in the face of social, economic, environmental, and gender inequalities, with the aim of having a political impact and denouncing the political and economic actors we identify as responsible.

ODG is also an open platform for participation, debate, and action, promoting the creation of networks and spaces for the construction of alternatives.



OUR TEAM



Blanca Bayas Fernández

Researcher and common goods and ecofeminism projects



Bruna Cañada Roca

Researcher and financial justice projects.



Josep Nualart Corpas

Care coordinator. Researcher and energy transition projects.



Marta Pérez Fargas

Communication and systems manager



Alfons Pérez López

Researcher and climate justice projects.



Nicola Scherer

Political coordinator and fundraising. Financial justice researcher



Edu Vázquez Olivares

Administration, finance, and accounting manager.



Emma Avilés Thurlow

Political and fundraising coordinator (on leave).

Our theory for change

Our desired change is to transition towards more just, mobilized, critical, and diverse societies that defend collective rights through the sovereignty of the people and respect for the biophysical limits of the planet.

At ODG, we understand that to achieve significant progress in the changes we want, certain conditions need to be in place. In general terms, we have identified four conditions for the desired change:

- We need a conscientious civil society.
- Driven by mobilized and empowered social movements. This can ensure that the legal framework emphasizes and reinforces ecosocial and ecofeminist.
- More public policies and community proposals that respect the limits of the planet.
- And promote an equitable redistribution of wealth to guarantee basic needs. That way, people living in precarious and vulnerable situations can take part in building a more socially, financially, and climatically just society.

HOW WE WORK

We are organized into three working areas:

- Financial justice,
- Climate justice
- Common goods

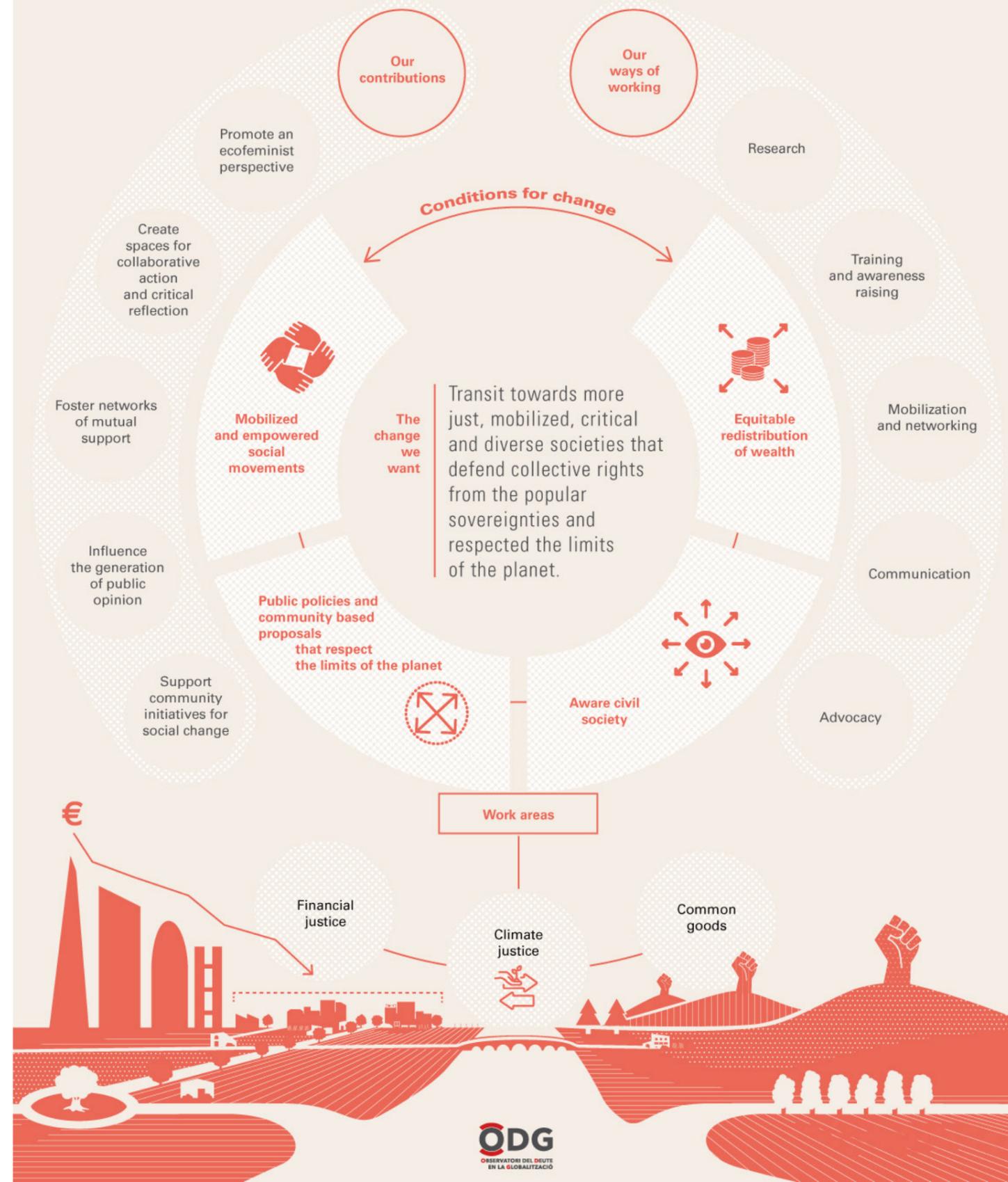
In each, we carry out research, training, awareness-raising, mobilization, networking, communication, and political advocacy. Our communication area enhances the impact of actions, and the administration and finance area ensures our organization functions properly. We work to make decision-making horizontal. We have two coordination roles –care and political coordination– that rotate every 2 years among staff members.

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

This way of working allows us to carry out actions and activities that we identify as key contributions to the change we want:

- Promoting an ecofeminist approach
- Creating spaces for collaborative action and critical reflection.
- Fostering mutual support networks
- Influencing public opinion
- Supporting community initiatives for social change.

ODG's Theory of Change



Reflections on ODG and the year 2022

The year 2022 was a challenge for ODG. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, in February 2022 we found ourselves in a difficult and startling geopolitical context. Russia's invasion of Ukraine strained international relations, pitting the USA-Europe bloc against Russia, with China in between. This led to a series of security policies (sanctions, increased public spending on weapons, the creation of new alliances), policies to mitigate the impacts of the energy crisis in Europe, and containment policies against the rising prices of basic goods such as food, gasoline or transportation. At ODG, we prepared ourselves to decipher and explain this challenging context, creating a working group to address the energy crisis.

Additionally, the year 2022 was crucial for reconnecting with Catalan movements, the climate movement, the feminist movement and our social base. We were finally able to return to in-person activities. At our events, we noticed the impact of the pandemic on our lives and how it had affected our collective capacity for mobilization. Reconnecting with colleagues and territories in the Global South has been particularly impactful and enriching. In December 2022, five members of ODG's technical team travelled to Chile and Argentina to document the impact of Europe's "green" transition on the territories and communities affected by resource extraction and hydrogen production. They also worked to get coordinated with the international network in Santiago de Chile in defence of public services and goods.

We have also made progress with our project to transition towards an ecofeminist entity. The two main processes we focused on in 2022 were the development of a prevention and response protocol for violence from an intersectional perspective, and the development of our theory of change. The structure of our technical team also underwent changes in 2022: we modified the role of political coordination and fundraising. Furthermore, thanks to our research efforts, we ended the year 2022 with an agreement to support our 8-person technical team with two more people in 2023.



“WINTER IS COMING”

Campaign and advocacy on the energy crisis and the impact of the war in Ukraine. The outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022 acted as a catalyst for underlying dynamics that were already visible in early winter 2021 in Europe. The lack of fossil gas reserves led to a surge in its price in Europe, which in turn affected electricity prices. There were discussions about the fragility of electrical systems and the possibility of major power outages, something uncommon by European standards of comfort. At ODG, we analysed how dependence on and the peak extraction of fossil fuels, the effects of climate change, geopolitical interests, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have shaped the energy crisis scenario in Europe during 2022. Therefore, we conducted a critical analysis of Europe’s new strategy, **REPowerEU**, and its financing through the **European NextGenerationEU funds**.

We focused on three key topics: 1) explaining the increase in energy prices, 2) decrypting dependence on Russia and shedding light on new alliances, and 3) influencing public opinion regarding concerns about the inability to guarantee energy supplies for the winter of 2022-2023 (“Winter is coming”). The content was developed through various communication materials: 2 reports, 3 podcasts, 2 radio interviews, and graphic materials and press releases in collaboration with organizations and networks at the state and European level.

What did we do in 2022?

5 objectives

1

RECLAIMING PUBLIC SERVICES. DEFENDING LIFE

In 2022 we were able to organize a large in-person event in Barcelona where over 90 individuals from diverse collectives working for the defence of public services, common goods, and an eco-social and feminist transition participated. Together with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), the Federated Associations of Students’ Families of Catalonia (aFFaC), and Salut, Drets i Acció, we organized the conference “Recuperem els Serveis Públics. Defensem la Vida!” (Reclaiming Public Services. Defending Life!). There, we were able to build and strengthen alliances and relationships among different actors and movements. The conference provided a space for political work and dialogue where we shared and connected our strategies, as well as the responses we are providing to give substance to the proposals of community-based public services we envision through different collectives, movements, platforms and organizations.

2



FIELDWORK IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA

In December 2019, the European Green Deal was presented with the goal of making Europe “the first climate-neutral continent by 2050”. In 2020, the plans funded by NextGenerationEU were put into motion to “mitigate the economic and social impact of the pandemic” and advance towards “a green and digital transition”. In the context of the war, the development of plans related to energy transition intensified, as did security strategies justified by countries’ “need” to guarantee their energy supply, supply chains and access to critical raw materials—key elements in the transition envisioned by European institutions.

The race to implement renewables, the production of electric vehicles, the digitalization of processes, and the promotion of energy transitions that continue to favour growth and capital in Europe (as well as in the USA and China) continue to fuel extractivism –now with a new neocolonial character– and the plundering of impoverished countries or sacrifice zones.



What did we do in 2022?

3

Faced with this context, five members of the ODG team travelled to Chile and Argentina in late 2022 to learn about impacts, dynamics, and resistance in territories undergoing energy transitions orchestrated from the Global North. Specifically, they visited areas where lithium and copper are extracted, as well as projects promoting green hydrogen. This fieldwork helped us understand global dynamics and raise awareness about them in the Global North. To this end, we explored new dissemination formats like Instagram Reels. Our team’s work also expanded ODG’s networks and connections with Southern territories; it helped to continue work towards broadening perspectives and worldviews and adopting a decolonial perspective.



What did we do in 2022?

VOLT 5

Territories defending life: climate justice and just transitions

In June 2022, in collaboration with Xarxa per la Sobirania Energètica (Network for Energy Sovereignty, or XSE), ODG organized the fifth edition of VOLT 5 under the theme “Territories defending life: climate justice and just transitions.” It was both an experience and a tool inspired by the Toxic Tours in Latin America, where caravans of activists travel across the region. We were able to witness the solidarity and mutual support provided by different movements defending territories against the impacts of the energy model. We travelled by bus to different locations to see local resistance movements and possible alternatives, as well as to amplify and connect voices and struggles that come together to defend life and climate justice in solidarity with other territories in the Global South. In this edition of VOLT, we visited La Fatarella (Terra Alta), Alcorisa (Bajo Aragón), Fórnoles/Valjunqueras/Valdetormo (Matarranya), Miralcamp (Alt Camp), and Manresa (Bages).



4

ACTIONS FROM OUR ECOFEMINIST TRANSITION PLAN

At ODG, we want to work towards becoming a more ecofeminist organization in various areas. In 2021 we developed the Ecofeminist Transition Plan. In 2022 we carried out two key processes outlined in our ecofeminist action plan, developed by the technical team and the ODG assembly.

The creation of a protocol for preventing and addressing violence from an intersectional perspective deals not only with gender-based violence, but also violence based on LGBTI-phobia and racism. To this end, we received support and guidance from colleagues at Esberla and the T.i.c.t.a.c. Cooperative. We also prepared a Theory of Change for ODG with the support of consultant Iñigo Retolaza Eguren.

5



What did we do in 2022?

Financial justice

During 2022 we continued our work on the European NextGenerationEU funds (NGEU). First, using political advocacy we filed a complaint with the Ombudsman of Catalonia denouncing that the Council of Ministers had approved strategic projects for economic recovery and transformation (PERTE) without first creating the required company registry as mandated by the pertinent Royal Decree-Law. Next, we analysed the relationship between the financing of NGEU funds –specifically the case of the PERTE for electric vehicles– concerning critical materials and the planet’s biophysical limits. Finally, we analysed five PERTE projects from an ecofeminist perspective. We strengthened the connections and interrelation between economic justice and feminism through our webinar “Fons europeus feministes o rentat verd i lila?” (Feminist European funds or green- and purple-washing? Which we organized together with Calala Fondo de Mujeres and Colectiva Xxk. Additionally, in September we began working on two new European projects on transition financing and NGEU funds with colleagues from the CEE Bankwatch Network, Counter Balance and FairFin.

We further strengthened our collaboration with the international European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)—among other things, through participation in the June 2022 Policy Forum focusing on global debt, austerity and climate financing. Moreover, together with Ecologists in Action, Intermón Oxfam and Greenpeace, in November 2022 we began a critical analysis of the European Commission’s proposal for reforming the economic governance framework to decipher and mobilize in the following year in response to a new wave of austerity policies.



What did we do in 2022?

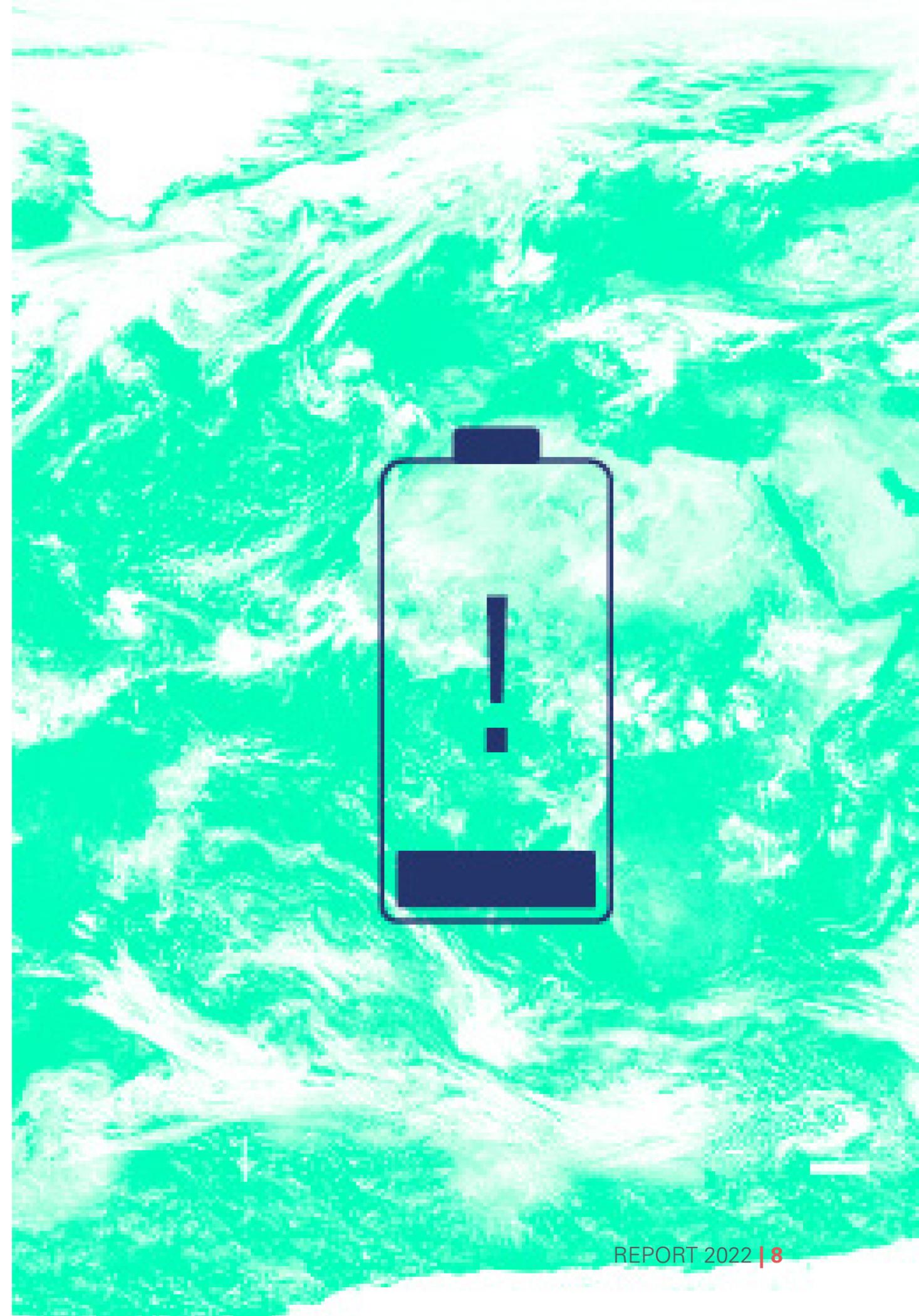
Climate justice

ENERGY

Regarding energy, in 2022 our focus was placed on generating a counter-narrative to the promotion of hydrogen as a false solution for energy transition and its financing through Next Generation EU. Although work has been done, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the need to ensure energy supplies to Europe led ODG to react and position itself as a point of reference on the issue, leveraging the knowledge and expertise accumulated over the past ten years on geopolitics, infrastructure financing, and the operation of fossil gas markets.

This context has seen the resurrection of gas infrastructure projects such as the MidCat; as a result, the fight against this pipeline was reignited. ODG has given support to the Resposta al MidCat platform, which has managed to stop the pipeline. Nevertheless, the proposal has now transformed into BarMar, a pipeline intended to transport hydrogen from Barcelona to Marseille.

In 2022 we also worked towards a just energy transition from a local perspective in collaboration with the XSE. Our main activity was the fifth edition of VOLT, which visited the provinces of Teruel, Tarragona and Lleida—areas impacted by the promotion of large renewable projects and extra-high-voltage lines. The closing event took place in Manresa and discussed local and grassroots energy communities.



What did we do in 2022?

Climate justice

CLIMATE AND CRITICAL MATERIALS

In 2022 we initiated a series of training sessions and workshops entitled “Collapse is not Apocalypse” to address the dimensions of the collapse and develop response strategies through mutual support. The program featured sessions with various experts, including Pablo Font, Luis González Reyes, Olga Margalef, Marta Rivera and Jofre Carnicer. It also included a reading group discussing the book *Collapse: Terminal Capitalism, Ecosocial Transition, Ecofascism* by Carlos Taibo. The series concluded with the presentation “Degrowth and Collapse” by Carlos Taibo at Can Batlló, which drew an audience of 200 people. Additionally, we actively participated in the Xarxa per la Justícia Climàtica (Climate Justice Network, or XJC) co-organizing the 2nd “Recuperem el Futur” (Recuperating the future) meeting in Girona.

As for specifically climate-related matters, ODG reacted to the developments arising from the United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP27 took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, a tourist resort that was fortified for the occasion. Our team made statements on TV3’s television news program to denounce the choice of this location for a COP and the Egyptian government’s attempt to whitewash its image despite a long list of human rights violations and political prisoners. Regarding negotiations, the focal point continued to be the transfer of resources from the Global North to the Global South, generally tied to loans and debt.

Regarding work on critical materials, in addition to the fieldwork already mentioned, ODG co-founded the Rare Earth Elements Group (REEG), a global network advocating against the negative impacts of the massive demand for rare earth elements, particularly for so-called “clean technologies”. In collaboration with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC and CRAAD-OI, an NGO from Madagascar, we organize training sessions, meetings, and activities for policy advocacy and to raise awareness on the topic.



What did we do in 2022?

Common goods

Our work in 2022 was focused on continuing to denounce the diversion of public funds towards private “green- and purple-washed” options for recovery plans, while also supporting public and community alternatives with an ecofeminist perspective.

Throughout the year, emphasis was placed on the defence, relevance, and democratization of public services, including things like energy, water, food, housing, or care, as well as health and education. On October 8th we organized the “Recuperem els Serveis Públics. Reclaiming Public Services. Defending Life” conference in Barcelona. From November 29th to December 2nd we participated in the international conference “Our Future is Public,” held in Santiago, Chile and co-organized with a whole range of collectives and organizations.

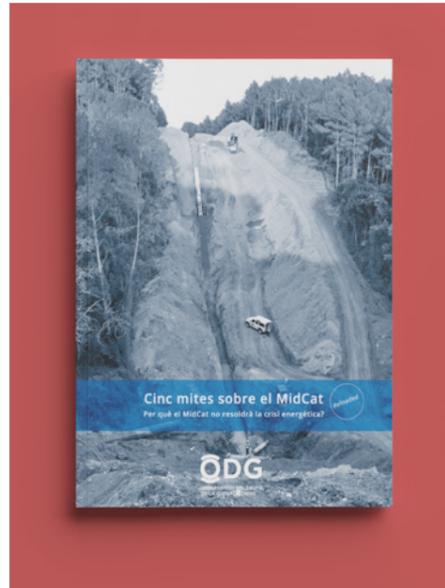
In November, we published “PERTE: How Public Investment Undermines Ecofeminist Transition. This research focused on five out of the eleven Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) funded by the Next Generation EU funds: those related to health, energy, agri-food, water, and care. Our goal was to contribute to the debate on current economic policies and the destination of large amounts of public funding from an ecofeminist perspective. The analysis also reflects on the proposals for social and political organization that we consider necessary for an ecofeminist transition, and we explain how the five analysed PERTE projects, linked to the needs that sustain daily life, are nothing more than an escalation of the “green” and digital capitalist agenda.

Furthermore, we have continued to promote ecofeminist proposals on the necessary transitions in various social and political spaces, from local, urban, and rural levels to the international arena. We have also participated in campaigns defending public health and the construction of public-community care systems.



Publications

→ Five Myths About the Midcat-Reloaded



→ An energy crisis in Europe. What can we expect?



→ PERTE: How Public Investment Undermines Ecofeminist Transition



→ Map | Southern Europe, the Gateway for Gas



→ Do ECO guide: connecting gender and the environment at school and in the world



→ NextGenerationEU Funds and Biophysical Limits



Communication

In 2022 we were featured in **63 pieces across various media outlets**

Including opinion articles, interviews, reports, and appearances on television, radio, podcasts and Twitch..

As for the impact of our campaigns, with the analysis of the energy crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine, we have managed to generate plenty of interest through our content, podcast, and analyses in some media outlets. In terms of website visits, the “Collapse is not apocalypse” series stands out, with the talk by Carlos Taibo receiving the most visits. In terms of downloads, the publication with the highest impact has been “Crisi energètica a Europa, què podem esperar?” (An energy crisis in Europe. What can we expect?).

NOTABLE AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTS

“Choose your ecosocial transition”
5 videos. 1,793 views on YouTube.



Collaboration with influencer and science communicator EcoDiuku
3 video-reels. 17,422 views on Instagram



“Lithium and green hydrogen in Chile and Argentina: a message for Europe”
1,794 views



General statistics on ODG’s communication channels

New!

INSTAGRAM
833 Followers
Reach 14.710



Twitter
Views: 543,500
Followers: 8,541



Website
Visits: 39,034
Publication downloads:
3,502



Facebook
Reach: 47,251



Youtube
Views: 10,600



Desenredades podcast
8 episodes
3,037 listens



NewsLeter
Subscriptions: 4.069



Our computer systems and tools work with non-corporate providers and with free and open source software, guaranteeing the security and privacy of our team and the people we work with. We use our servers and equipment with an awareness of their climate impact and CO2 footprint, trying to keep our cloud space small and consistent and thinking about the technology we decide to buy.



We publish the work of the ODG under a Creative Commons license.

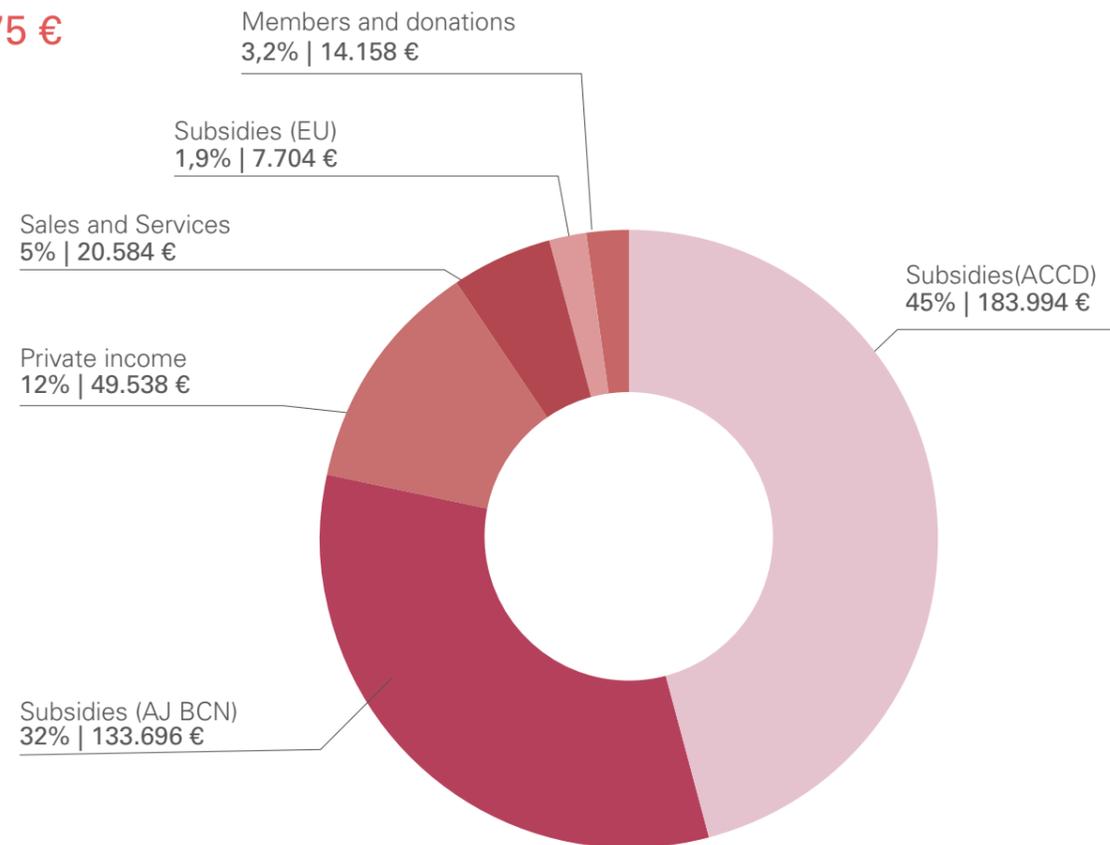
Economic report

The post-pandemic recovery and the start of the war in Ukraine generated an economic context of inflation that affected costs and led to uncertainty regarding the economic stability of our organization. Nevertheless, despite this setback, the economic solidity of ODG has not been affected and we have been able to withstand cost increases during 2022.

In comparison with the past 5 years where we experienced positive growth in overall revenue and expenses, we have seen a slight setback in this trend. However, it is worth noting that 2021 was a year with record-breaking revenue.

The profit for 2022 was 20.572,12 € and will be held aside entirely to reserves.

Sources of income: 409.675 €



Odg Balance Sheet

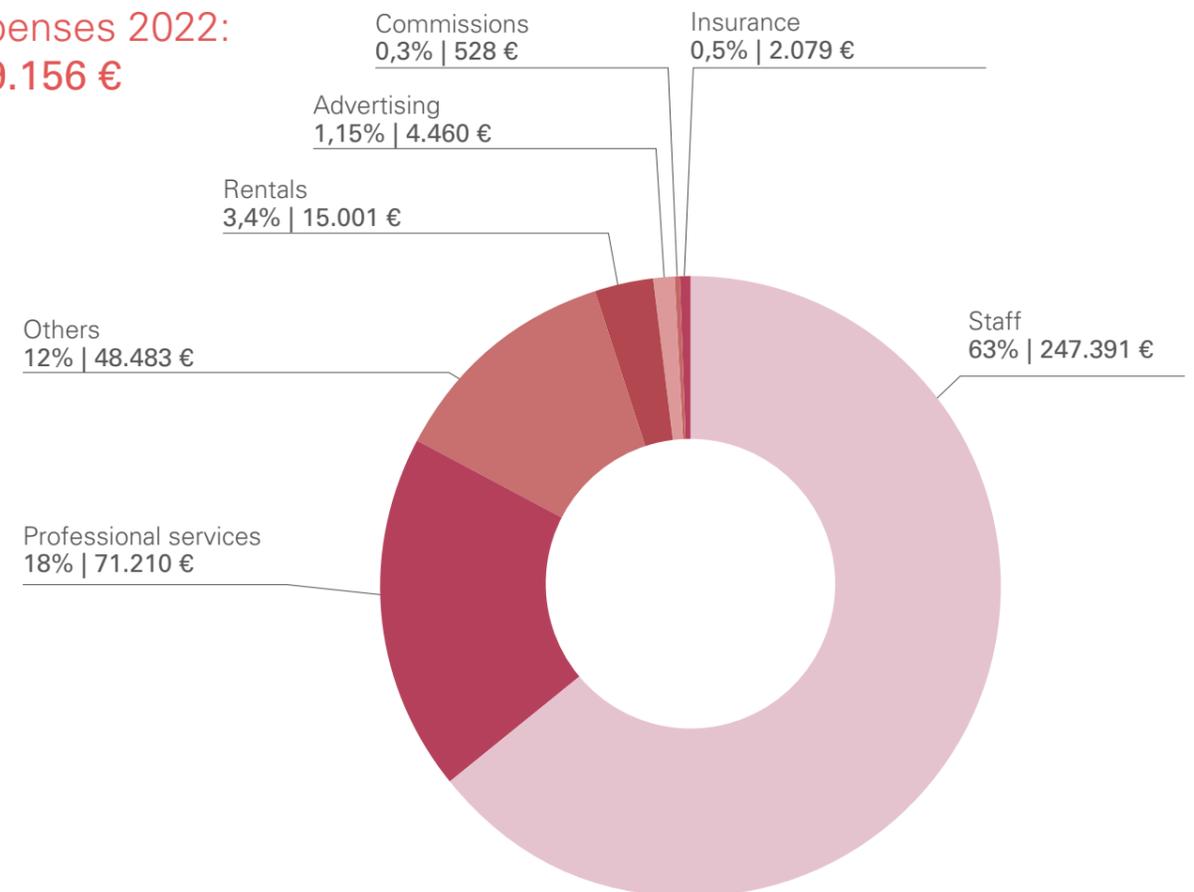
ODG's total assets (current and non-current) as of December 31, 2022, amounted to €1,031,029.31, representing a 31.16% increase as compared to 2021. These upward fluctuations are due to the increase in the volume of pending subsidies at the closing date.

Regarding non-current assets, a refurbished laptop and an extra battery for a video camera have been added.

The liquidity ratio (current assets/current liabilities) is 26.5, indicating that we have sufficient liquidity to pay our organization's current debts 26.5 times over.

Regarding liabilities, it is worth noting that reserves have increased to €145,117.23 after applying the 2022 surplus, representing a 16.52% increase in reserves as compared to 2021.

Expenses 2022: 389.156 €



ODG's Membership

In 2022, 9 new members joined and 5 members left. The total amount of revenue from membership fees is 7.446 euros, an increase of 10,74% compared to 2021 revenue for the same concept.

The total number of members socialised as non-binary people is 2, as women 38 and as men 45. In addition, there are 2 members which are legal entities. Therefore, the total number of members, as of December 31, 2022, rises to 87. That is, 7,4% more than in 2021.

ODG'S Social Balance Sheet

In 2022, ODG approved a protocol for preventing and addressing gender-based, LGBTI-phobic and racist violence. In 2022 we formed ComiCol to design, implement and evaluate the application of this protocol at our organization and in our public activities.

Furthermore, ODG has continued to invest in cooperation with a network of suppliers from the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Third Sector. Although the volume of goods and services exchanged has decreased, we have expanded the number of organizations we cooperate with, particularly entities from the XES and LaFede.cat. We also continue to be mindful of the origin of our external service providers (procurement of goods and services), which is tied to our commitment to local consumption and its impact on our ecological footprint. Almost 52% of our external consumption is carried out within the city of Barcelona, while more than 62% is carried out within the province of Barcelona.

Cooperation

In 2022, the total value of goods and services contracted with entities from the XES Social Market was reduced to 19.17% of total purchases.

The total value of goods and services contracted with other entities from the voluntary sector was €17,371.09, 36.81% of all purchases made in 2022.

As for our clients, the amount billed to entities from the voluntary sector for training and consulting services was €15,804.15.

Complete information

You can find all of ODG's information on transparency in 2021 in the following documents:

- [Audit of Annual Accounts for 2022](#)
- [Complete Financial Report 2023](#)
- [2022 Social Balance Sheet](#)
- [2022-2024 Ecofeminist Transition Plan](#)
- [Protocol for the prevention and handling of gender violence from an intersectoral perspective](#)
- [2019-2021 Internal Labour Agreement](#)

Carbon footprint

Our carbon footprint: how our organization has contributed to climate change

As an organization, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and mitigating the impact of climate change. To achieve this goal, understanding where our emissions come from and how we can reduce them is essential.

According to our latest data, our CO2 emissions in 2022 were primarily generated by transportation, which accounted for 54% of our total emissions. Other significant sources include travel expenses (with accommodation and food at 17% and 9%, respectively), the consumption of utilities, and waste management. By identifying these sources, we can develop specific strategies to reduce our emissions and promote sustainability.

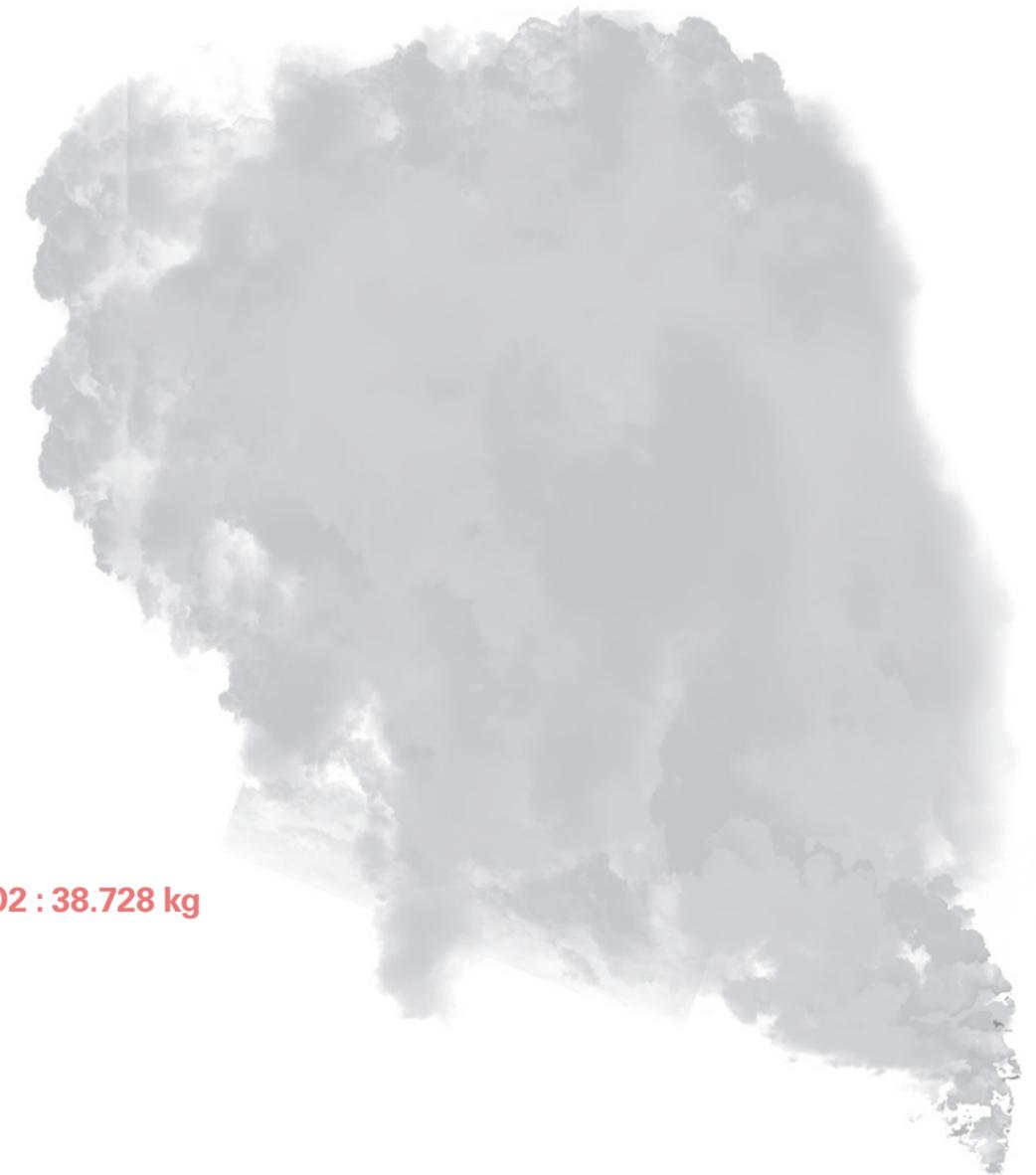
Transportation: the primary contributor to our carbon footprint

Transportation is the biggest contributor to our organization's carbon footprint, accounting for 54% of our total CO2 emissions. This includes emissions from various modes of transportation used for work-related travel.

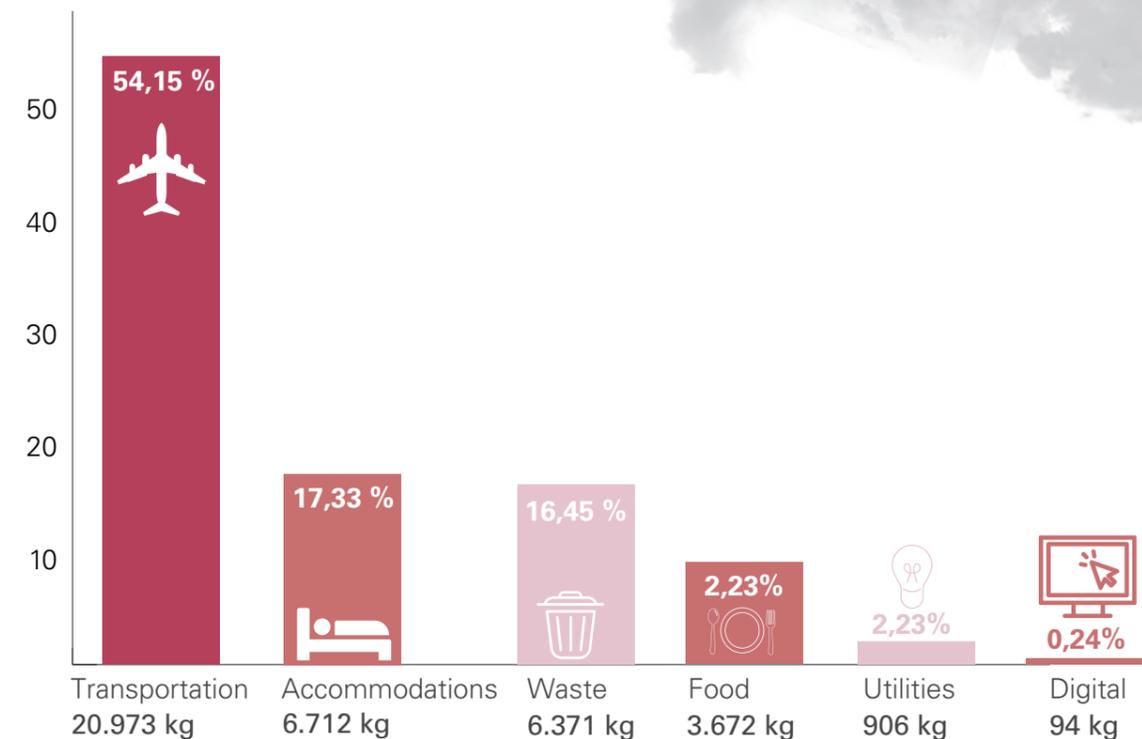
In 2022 we have calculated almost 60.000km in travel by our team and collaborators. 50.000km of which are related to the trip to Chile and Argentina in November 2022 and they account for 65% of the CO2 emissions for transport during 2022.

Digital technology: a surprisingly small contribution

Although it may be surprising, our digital practices have a minimal impact on our carbon footprint. In fact, the digital category represents only 0.24% of our total CO2 emissions. This is mainly due to our investments in energy efficient technologies and renewable energy sources (our provider is hosted by a server using 100% renewable energy). In addition, by having virtual meetings and locating services in the cloud, we can reduce the need for physical travel and use of data centers that consume large amounts of energy.



Total kg emissions CO2 : 38.728 kg





ODG

observatori@odg.cat

www.odg.cat