

Annual Report

2023

Observatori del Deute
en la Globalització



ODG



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Who are we?

The Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG) is a research observatory that publishes critical analysis of complex and structural processes in order to show the visible (and non-visible) impacts and risks of the political and economic system, offering tools which aid understanding of current affairs.

We produce critical analyses and campaigns to raise awareness and involvement in challenging social, economic, environmental and gender inequalities, with the aim of shining a spotlight on the political and economic actors that we identify as responsible, and influencing policymakers.

The ODG is also an open platform for participation, debate and action, which encourages the creation of networks and spaces for building alternatives.



TEAM



Alfons Pérez López
Climate justice researcher



Bruna Cañada Roca
Financial justice researcher



Eduard Vázquez
Head of administration, finance and accounting



Júlia Martí Comas
Ecofeminism and commons researcher



Nicola Scherer
Policy and fundraising coordinator and financial justice researcher



Blanca Bayas Fernández:
Internal/care coordinator and ecofeminism and commons researcher



Clàudia Custodio Martínez
Climate justice researcher and communication support



Josep Nualart Corpas
Climate justice and energy researcher



Marta Pérez Fargas
Head of communication and systems



Viviana Guerrero
Administrative assistant and economic project manager



Emma Avilés Thurlow
Political and fundraising coordinator (on leave)

Our theory of change

The change we seek is a transition towards more just, engaged, critical and diverse societies that stand up for collective rights as a matter of popular sovereignty, respecting the biophysical limits of the planet.

At the ODG, we understand that to make meaningful progress towards this change, a series of conditions must be met which underpin it. Broadly speaking, we believe there are four conditions needed for the change we want to see: **1. a conscious civil society**, spurred on by **2. mobilised and empowered grassroots movements**, capable of securing explicit statutory endorsement of ecological and ecofeminist change through **3. more public policies and community initiatives that take the limits of the planet seriously** and encourage **4. the equitable redistribution of wealth** as a means of ensuring basic needs are met, so that those living in precarious and vulnerable circumstances are able to participate in the construction of a more just society in social, financial and climate terms.

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

Our work is carried out in three thematic areas:

- Financial justice
- Climate justice
- The commons

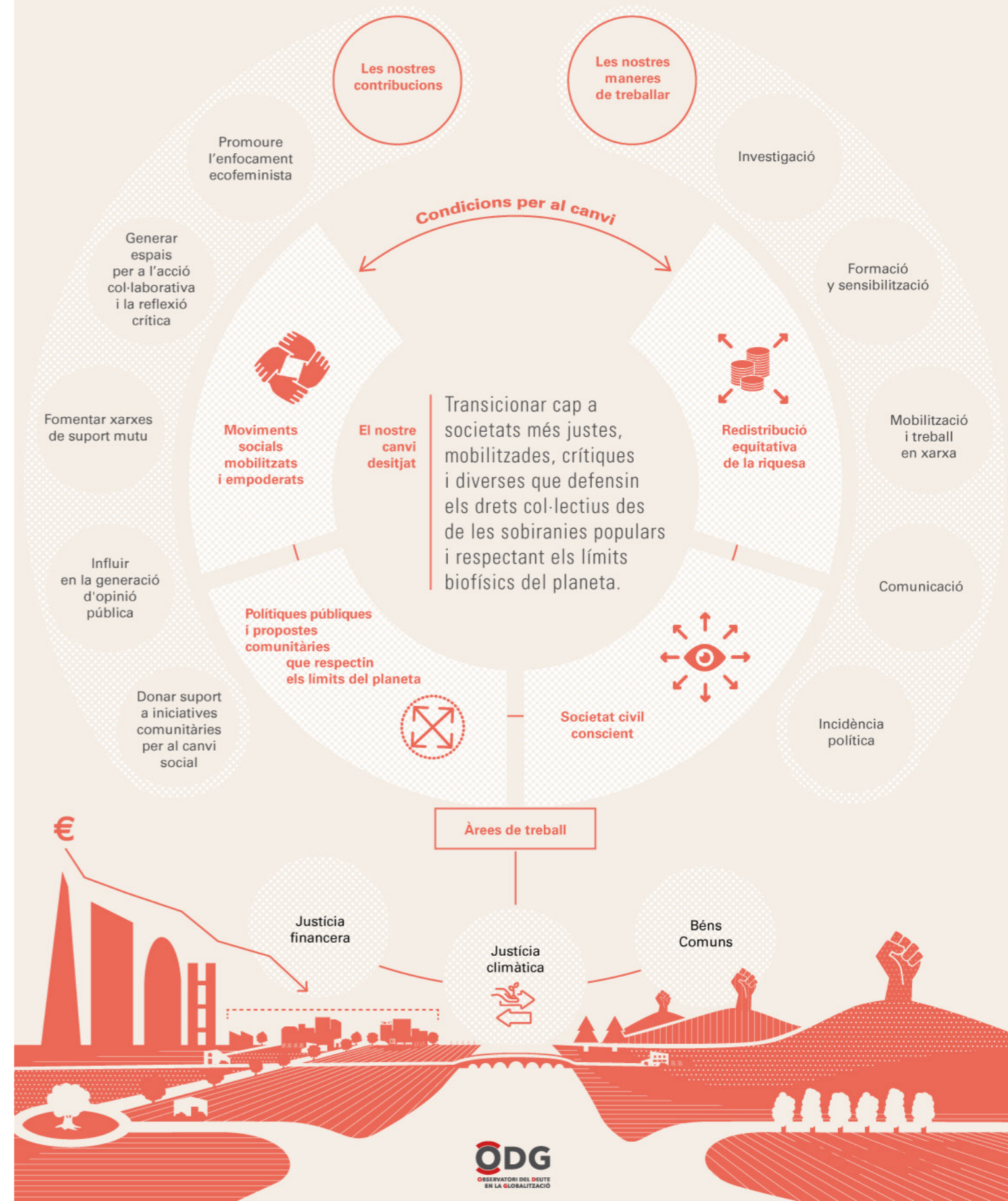
We engage in research, training and awareness-raising activities, mobilisation and networking, communication and advocacy. Our communication area boosts the impact of our activities, and the administration and finance area guarantees the proper functioning of our organisation. We strive to ensure that decision-making is horizontal. We have two coordinator roles – care and policy – that are rotated every two years among our staff.

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Our way of working allows us to carry out the activities we believe are key contributors to the change we want to see:

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

La teoria del canvi de l'ODG



Reflections on ODG in 2023

In May 2023, the World Health Organization declared an end to the COVID-19 health crisis. We would have liked to breathe a sigh of relief after such a prolonged sense of emergency; however, in 2023 it would appear that many points of conflict have unfortunately intensified. The climate emergency has hit home in the form of a devastating drought, and we have seen an alarming rise in the prices of basic foods, energy and housing. As if this were not enough, we have been faced with a geopolitical context in which there has been a worrying increase in armed conflicts – and the consequent arms race – which reached its bloodiest height in October 2023, when the State of Israel, supported by the USA and the majority of European countries, began a genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. As a consequence, securitist discourse has infiltrated various areas of European policy, such as in the scramble to guarantee access to critical raw materials for the green transition – now also critical for the arms industry – or the introduction of military spending as a European priority in reformed European fiscal rules.

In spite of this, we have managed to roll out a whole series of critical analysis activities, creating spaces for reflection and mobilisation, as well carrying out a number of mutual support actions. After two years of impasse, we have reactivated important activities such as the ODG Seminar and the **#DebatsODG**. We have stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people and spoken out against the massacre they are suffering at the hands of the State of Israel.

We have worked together and in solidarity with the

Chango, Likan Antai and Colla peoples of Chile, with the population of the province of Catamarca in Argentina fighting against “green” extractivism, with our comrades in Camp de Tarragona, Aragon, the Basque Country and Cantabria who are fighting for a fairer energy transition, and with the Colletivo di Fabbrica GKN in Florence who are pressing for socially and environmentally fair reindustrialisation.

We have put our heart and soul into spearheading transformative initiatives that aim for an ecofeminist transformation while taking collective rights and the well-being of the planet into account, including, among others, the **Fòrum per la Transició Ecosocial: Futurs (Im)possibles**.

Looking inward towards our organisation, we have continued to apply our own ecofeminist transition, focusing on power relations, valuing care, and working to avoid work overburden.

In addition, in 2023, we have completed a process designed to improve the governance of the ODG with our partners at HOBEST. The aim was to adapt our organisation’s decision-making processes to a structure which includes a growing specialist team. The main challenge has been in improving operations without losing the essence of the ODG with respect to our horizontality, democracy, transparency and ecofeminist values



What have we done in 2023?

5 hits

THE ODG STANDS WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

At the ODG, we have done what we can to support the struggle for the rights of the Palestinian people, contributing to public debate through critical analysis of the links between geopolitical interests and the occupation of Palestinian territories, pointing to gas and debt as tools of war, in addition to [the consequences of military operations in the Red Sea](#). We have created spaces for training and debate such as the [#DebatsODG: Wars and Geopolitics](#).

We have also supported solidarity actions such as [the general strike, demonstrations](#) and [Catalan and international](#) campaigns to demand the State of Israel declare a ceasefire, and in defence of peace and the rights of the Palestinian people internationally. defensa de la pau i els drets del poble palestí a la comunitat internacional.



[→ Learn more here ←](#)

1

2

SEMINAR | “DEBT: OLD WINE IN A NEW BOTTLE”

With the aim of getting organised in the face of a new wave of green-tinted debt, we held the [ODG Seminar](#) event at Nau Bostik (Barcelona). The seminar featured participation from comrades from around the world, including Shereen Talaat ([Arab Watch Coalition](#)), who talked to us about the new global debt crisis, and Diego Marin ([European Environmental Bureau](#)), who drew links between emerging extractivism and the green transition. With guest speakers such as Iolanda Fresnillo ([Eurodad](#)), Pastora Filigrana (lawyer and human rights defender) and Irene Sabaté (a researcher specialising in debt and housing), we highlighted the links between the debt crisis and the climate emergency, and shed light on micro and macro debts, concluding with solid proposals for developing alliances from a feminist, anti-racist and climate justice perspective.



[→ Learn more here ←](#)

DOCUMENTARY | THE HIDDEN COST: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREEN TRANSITION

3

Together with the cooperative [Quepo](#), we have produced [the documentary The Hidden Cost: The other side of the green transition](#), which looks into the impacts that the European transition is having in countries such as Chile and Argentina, which export the lithium, copper and green hydrogen required for both decarbonisation and, moreover, for one of the central elements of said transition:→

electromobility. The film includes contributions from comrades, activists, community leaders and experts, who explain how green extractivism is destroying ecosystems and communities and is deepening inequalities through a new form of colonialism. With this documentary, we aim to amplify the voice of those in the Global South who have been affected, and show the stories of resistances and struggles that we got to know about during our fieldwork in December 2022 in Chile and Argentina.

[→ Learn more here ←](#)

COP28 CAMPAIGN AND ACTIONS.

Despite the controversies brought up by the trip, two members of the team travelled to Dubai at the end of 2023 to carry out monitoring and advocacy work at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change (COP28), with the aim of moving climate and financial justice up the public debate agenda. As part of these, training was provided for journalists, with the provision of spaces for dialogue such as a [#DebatsODG](#) and [episode 20](#) of the *Desenredades* podcast – which addressed the darker side of COP28 – in addition to [social media activity](#) and press engagement in outlets such as [TV3](#), [Ràdio 4](#) and [Nació Digital](#). In general, the trip was an excellent opportunity to provide a critical perspective with significant media reach.



[→ Learn more here ←](#)

4

FIELDWORK ON HYDROGEN IN SPAIN

In order to discover the stories of people living in the sacrifice zones of the current energy transition in the Global North, we carried out fieldwork in collaboration with Ecologists in Action in different parts of Catalonia and Spain. We visited the communities affected by the construction of hydrogen production projects in the Camp de Tarragona, Andorra and Monzón (Aragon), Muskiz (Basque Country) and Torrelavega (Cantabria) as a way of learning about the climatic, social, territorial and gender impacts from local organisations. We shared our experiences of these visits on [social media](#).



[→ Learn more here ←](#)

5

What have we done in 2023?

Commons Area

Our Commons and Public Services Area team has pursued several lines of work. Firstly, we have continued to highlight the privatisation of public services, a process framed as part of the recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as proposals for a green and digital transition. As part of this, we participated in the [8th Congress of Feminist Economics](#), which took place in Barcelona, and was attended by more than 400 people. Together with Amaia Pérez Orozco (Colectiva XXK), we set up a workshop offering a critical look at European funds and alternatives for the ecofeminist transition.

Over the course of 2023, we have spearheaded several spaces for critical analysis, such as the webinar [“Is there room for care and feminisms in this transition?”](#), in which we spoke with Tuscany Bell (EPSU) and Flora Partenio (DAWN) about the importance of including care in transition proposals. We also chaired the round table discussion [“Feminist struggles and the social reproduction crisis”](#), with a debate regarding consequences of the current neoliberal model such as cuts to public services, privatisation and the infringement of the rights of society at large.

In addition, with the aim of continuing to nourish and broaden our outlook, we co-organised a talk with the Mexican philosopher Sayak Valencia, entitled [“Postmortem Policies: Collectivisation of grief”](#), which provided us with new perspectives on the construction of resistance and strategies for resilience in the face of rising violence and militarisation.

We have contributed to shaping public opinion, collaborating with the business and human rights team at Lafede.cat on a campaign for the creation of a Catalan Business and Human Rights Centre, designed to challenge human

rights infringements committed by large transnational corporations.

We have continued to draw attention to the consequences of public debt in terms of increasing privatisation, and also of debt at a more micro and everyday level. We have written about this in the article [“La nova austeritat \(verd\) que vindrà”](#), published in Crític.

Moreover, through the Desenredades podcast, we have provided an ecofeminist overview [of everyday, gender and colonial debt with Pastora Filigrana](#), as well as [a look at alternative feminist economics with Flora Partenio](#).

We have also continued our work championing proposals for an ecofeminist transition, in defence of the commons, local communities and life itself, and against macroprojects and corporate power. Together with SUDS, we have published the booklet [Lluites feministes en defensa de la vida i el territori](#), which features a dialogue between four community advocates in Central America and Catalonia. Without detracting from the enormous territorial differences, we sought to trace the trends which unite these struggles, reflecting on them, and creating bonds of solidarity. The area's ecofeminist work has also led us to advise Greenpeace on the development of an internal ecofeminist public policies initiative, as well as to train the ODG team on how to incorporate an ecofeminist perspective into the research we carry out



What have we done in 2023?

Climate Justice Area

The Climate Justice Area has continued its analysis of the green transition being spearheaded by the businesses and governments of the Global North. On the one hand, we have analysed the geopolitical circumstances surrounding the minerals required for this “green” and digital transition and the global scramble to obtain them.

We have published the book [The Mine, the Factory and the Store: Global Dynamics in the “Green Transition” and their Consequences in the Lithium Triangle](#), in which we analyse the global supply and value chains of “clean technologies”. This publication brings together many first-hand accounts collected during the fieldwork carried out in Chile and Argentina in December 2022, and [has been presented to the European Parliament in order to shed light on our findings.](#)

In addition, the ODG has taken a leading role in the Global Rare-Earths Element Network, with participation from organisations around the world, including the United States and Madagascar. We have collaborated in the publication of an interactive map of socio-environmental conflicts related to the rare earth supply chain, part of the [Environmental Justice Atlas \(EJ Atlas\)](#), that highlights the global connections and consequences of the transition.

We also participated in the creation of the map [“Barcelona’s Green and Digital Transition and its Impacts on the Global South”](#), together with more than twenty organisations and researchers, in order to draw attention to the global consequences of the policies implemented by city authorities.

On the other hand, with regard to energy, the central theme of 2023 has been building a counter-narrative to the promotion of hydrogen, highlighting that it is a false solution for the energy transition. The efforts of the [Gas no es Solución](#) network, together with other organisations around Spain, have enabled the creation of a common front in opposition to the H2Med mega-infrastructure project, a hydro pipeline connecting Portugal with Germany, crossing the Iberian Peninsula and France.

A [communication and advocacy campaign](#) has been carried out with the aim of ensuring H2Med is not included in the sixth list of Projects of Common Interest.



What have we done in 2023?

Climate Justice Area

We organised a [specialist conference](#) in Barcelona on the occasion of the meeting of European energy ministers, part of the European Presidency agenda of the Spanish Government. We were also invited to appear before the [Parliament of Catalonia's Territory Committee](#), highlighting the negative impacts of hydrogen mega-infrastructures.

In terms of our work championing alternatives, the Climate Justice Area has begun to work on urban mining, to explore the extent to which it can contribute to the reduction of mineral demand, as part of a drive for decreasing energy and material consumption in the richest countries. One early milestone has been the [international conference organised in conjunction with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia](#) and [the joint publication, with the Fundació ENT, of a study focusing on urban mining opportunities in the city of Barcelona](#).

In addition, we have carried out work towards a fairer energy transition in the form of [the municipal action programme designed by the Xarxa per la Sobèrnia Energètica \(Xse\)](#) – of which the ODG is a part – ahead of the local elections held in May 2023, via which we called for concrete steps to be taken in the fight against energy poverty and for citizen participation and decentralisation.



What have we done in 2023?

Financial Justice Area

Together with other European organisations, we have continued to monitor the use of NextGeneration EU funds through the [Citizens' Observatory for Green Deal Financing](#). Through this network, we have held meetings and participated in the collaborative report [No recovery without citizens](#), which sets out why citizen participation is key to ecosocial transformation in Europe, casting a glance over the application of recovery plans in different European countries including Spain.

As part of the fight against austerity and for fair financing, we have worked jointly with environmental and social organisations in Spain to influence European tax regulation reform. We have [launched awareness campaigns on social networks, sent letters to the Spanish Government, published responses and articles in a number of media outlets](#), and [provided press dossiers](#) as part of a drive for fairer and more environmentally friendly public finance.

In addition, on the occasion of Spain's presidency of the Council of the European Union and in response to the EU Summit held in Granada, we participated in the [Granada Social Summit](#) together with various social, environmental and trade union organisations, as part of efforts to highlight that another Europe – feminist, anti-racist, environmentalist and anti-capitalist – is possible.

We have also coordinated the four-webinar cycle [It's raining green Hallelujah?](#) in order to provide a critical overview of the European green and digital transition. In addition, we have created the training module "Uncovering the green and just transition," together with FairFin (Belgium), which offers training for students, organisations and activists to help them understand the European Green Deal, its financing mechanisms, and to promote [alternatives for financing a truly just green transition](#)



Publications

→ Uncovering hydrogen projects financed by the Next Generation EU



→ Minería urbana i el rol en l'emergència climàtica a Barcelona (available in Catalan)



→ Lluites feministes en defensa de la vida i el territori (available in Catalan)



→ The Mine, the Factory and the Store



→ No recovery without citizens



→ L'hidrogen verd, un risc per a la sobirania alimentària a Catalunya (available in Catalan)



→ Critical Minerals in Conflict and Alternatives for Global Justice in Public Procurement: the case of electric vehicles



Communication

Over the course of 2023, we have participated in 83 media engagements, in the form of opinion pieces, interviews, reports and appearances on television, radio and podcasts.

In terms of our impact, we have generated significant media interest thanks to our work monitoring COP28 in Dubai, as well as our activities on social media. In terms of our website, our preview of the documentary *The Hidden Cost* attracted the most visits, and our most-downloaded publication has been *The Mine, the Factory and the Store*.

FEATURED AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTS

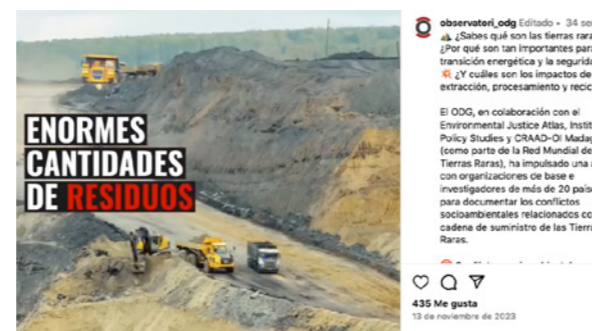
Documentary *The Hidden Cost: The other side of the green transition.*



Uncovering the green transition: an ODG video series about the green transition.



Rare Earths video reel with Spanish Revolution



DATA ON THE REACH OF ODG'S COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Instagram
1.574 followers
Reach: 123.566

Twitter
8.975 followers
Impression: 519.265

Website
38.587 visits
Document downloads: 3.198

Facebook
Reach: 2.307

Youtube
Views: 8.928

Desenredades Podcast
7 episodes
1.450 listeners

Newsletter
Subscriptions: 4.025

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.

Financial report

Having overcome the difficulties brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a period of inflation, the invasion of Ukraine and the Palestinian genocide, and political uncertainty and social disengagement, 2023 has been the ODG's most socially and economically successful year in our nearly 25-year history. We have comfortably outperformed all economic indicators to date.

Revenue and expenses

For the first time, we have exceeded the barrier of half a million euros in revenue (€588,000), executing 102.27% of our expenditure budget (a historic high point). We have also grown in terms of the number and volume of projects implemented (14) and in staff (with the equivalent of 9.51 full-time posts), all against the backdrop of rising inflation.

The surplus for the year 2023 stands at €29,640.11 of which €23,025.64 will be allocated to the training, health and solidarity funds that will be made available in 2024 (see point 6: Solidarity Fund). The remaining amount – €6,614.47 – will be incorporated into the organisation's social fund.

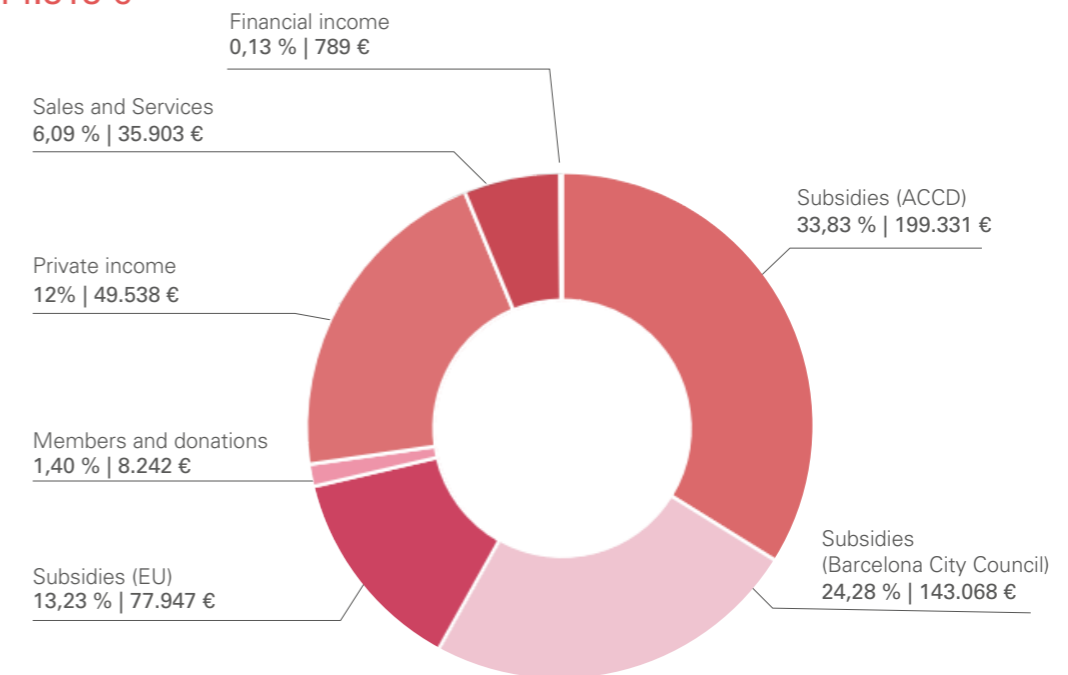
Assets and liabilities

The total assets (current and noncurrent) of the ODG as of 31 December 2023 are valued at €889,828.59, a decrease of 13.70% compared to 2022. These fluctuations are due to changes in grant funding pending implementation at the time of writing.

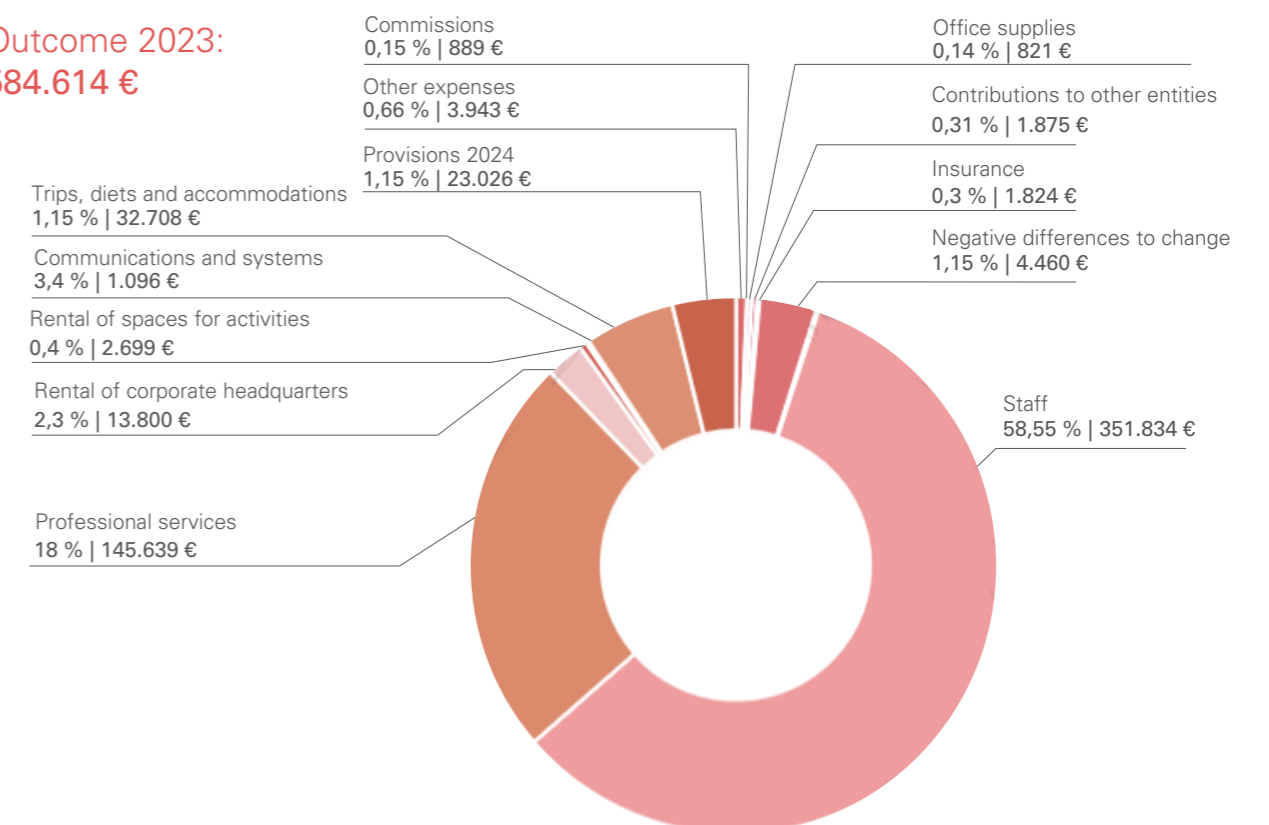
Regarding noncurrent assets, two laptops and a high-capacity external hard drive have been purchased. Our liquidity ratio (current assets/current liabilities) stands at 12.99, meaning that we have enough liquidity to pay 12.99 times the organisation's current debt.

Regarding liabilities, reserves are forecast to reach €151,149.95 once the surplus of 2023 is introduced, representing an increase in reserves of 4.15% compared to 2022.

Sources of income 2023:
514.818 €



Outcome 2023:
584.614 €



Organisational membership

Four members have left the organisation in 2023, with two new members joining. Technical problems with the website have made it difficult for new members to sign up, something we hope to change during 2024. The total amount of revenues from membership fees stands at €7,386, a reduction of 0.81% compared to 2022. The overall figure of associate members can be broken down as follows: three non-binary persons; 36 women, and 46 men. In addition, two of our members are organisations. The total number of members as of 31 December 2023 amounts to 85, 2.29% less than 31 December 2022.

CATEGORY	MEN		WOMEN		NON-BINARY		TOTAL	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Research and projects	2,00	1,50	2,23	1,85	0,50	1,00	4,73	4,35
Coordination of productive activity	0,00	0,00	0,50	0,50	0,00	0,00	0,50	0,50
Coordination of reproductive activity	0,00	0,50	0,00	0,00	0,50	0,00	0,50	0,50
Communication	0,00	0,00	1,95	1,00	0,00	0,00	1,95	1,00
Administration	0,00	1,00	0,33	0,00	1,00	0,00	1,33	1,00
Fundraising	0,00	0,00	0,50	0,50	0,00	0,00	0,50	0,50
TOTAL	2,00	3,00	5,51	3,85	2,00	1,00	9,51	7,85

Our workforce has grown by 21.14% in 2023, reaching the cumulative equivalent of 9.51 full-time posts. Of the total of twelve people who have worked at the ODG during 2023, two are men, eight are women, and two are non-binary

CATEGORY	EQUIVALENT FULL-TIME POSTS					
	ANNUITIES					
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Research and projects	4,73	4,35	5,34	4,63	4,42	3,11
Coordination of productive activity	0,50	0,50	0,50	0,50	0,00	0,00
Reproductive sphere coordination	0,50	0,50	0,50	0,28	0,00	0,00
Communication	1,95	1,00	1,24	1,00	1,00	0,67
Administration	1,33	1,00	1,00	0,72	1,00	0,50
Fundraising	0,50	0,50	0,50	0,14	0,00	0,00
TOTAL	9,51	7,85	9,07	7,27	6,42	4,28

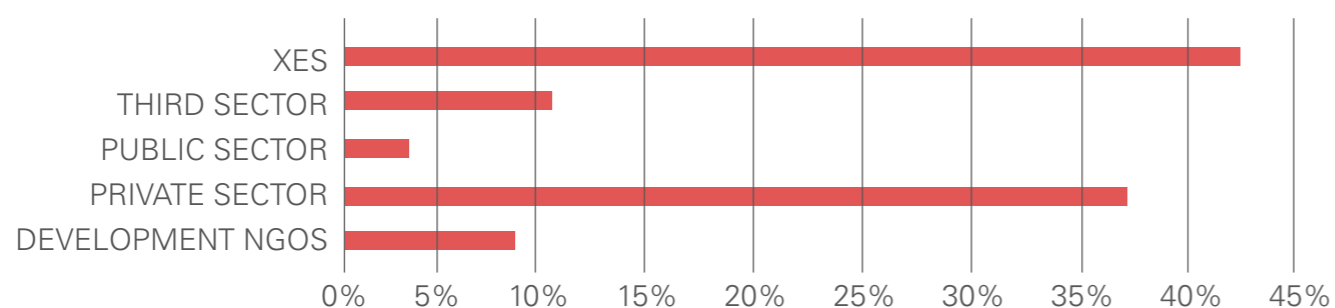
Social balance sheet and intercooperation

During 2023, the ODG has reinforced its commitment to intercooperation through the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Social Third Sector providers' networks.

Against a backdrop of rising costs, we have increased both in relative and absolute terms our volume of expenditure and investment carried out with organisations from the XES (42.19%), Lafede.cat (7.88%) and the Tercer Sector Social (10.10%).

PROVIDERS BY TYPE:

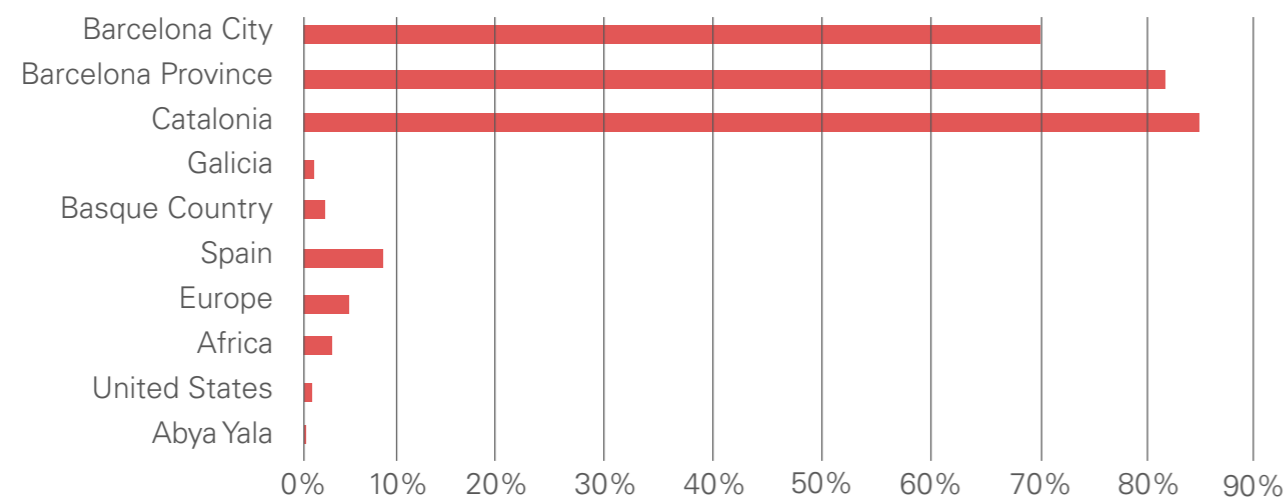
% of total expenditure on external services



In terms of proximity, 70% of our suppliers have registered offices in Barcelona city and 84.72% in Catalonia.

SUPPLIERS BY ORIGIN

% on the total expenditure on external services



The ODG Solidarity Fund

The ODG dedicates 1% of its annual income to donations made to groups, projects and organisations with whom we share values and political strategy. Below are the contributions made during 2023

COLLECTIVE	PROJECTS	IMPORT (€)
SAD trade union	Legal action taken to tackle unpaid working hours	60,00 €
Andrea	High Court of Andalusia's ruling affecting non-binary persons	115,00 €
Italian climate movement	World Congress for Climate Justice	100,00 €
Gofundme	Victims of institutional gender violence campaign	100,00 €
Stay Grounded - Periskop Kollektiv	CO2 Emissions Offset – Dubai	100,00 €
Can Masdeu	La Terra per qui la Regenera	400,00 €
Total contributions		875,00 €
Total available		*5.424,00 €

*Remaining funds will be rolled over to the 2024 Solidarity Fund

Carbon footprint

Our carbon footprint: breakdown of emissions by category

In 2023, we reduced our carbon footprint by 29.39% compared to 2022. This reduction has chiefly been made in food, accommodation and waste management, the environmental footprint of which has been significantly lowered.

Transport: the biggest contributor to our carbon footprint.

The breakdown of the consumption of the 27,344 kg of CO₂ emitted in 2023 through transport is as follows:

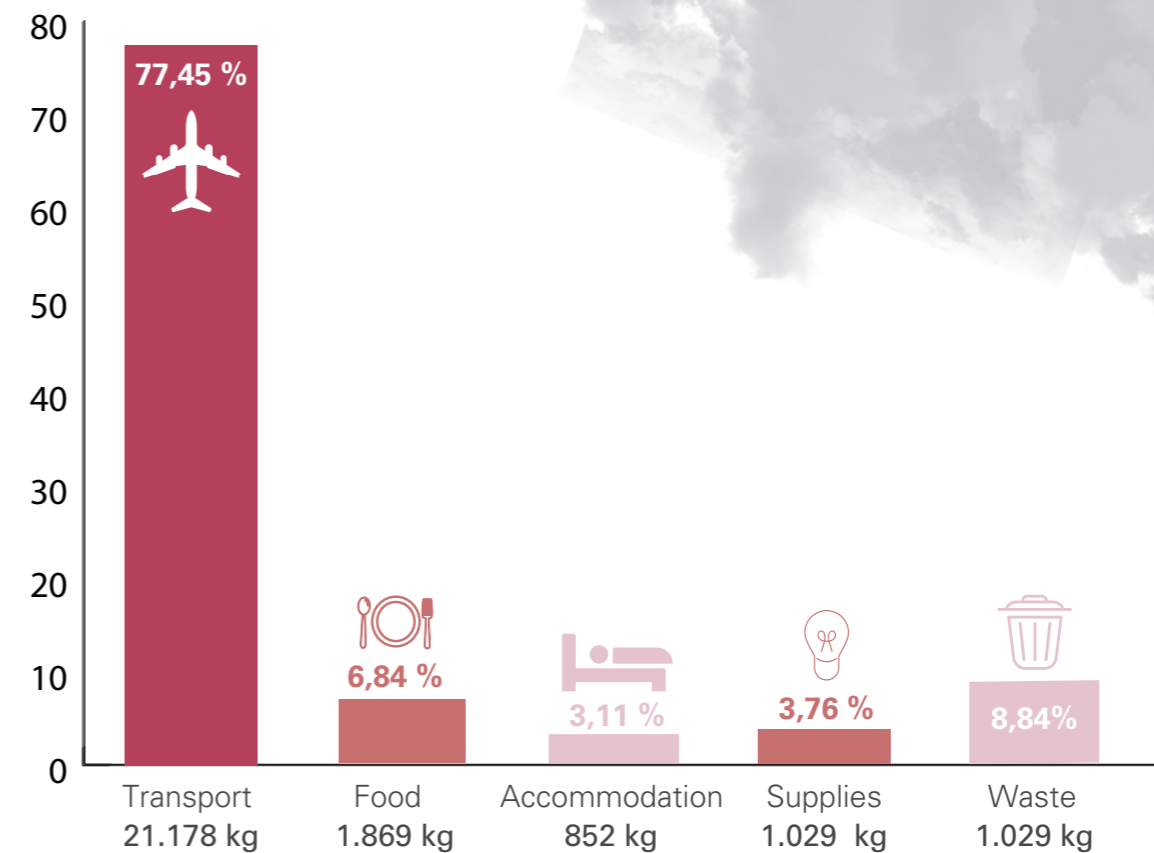
KM by type of transport	
Local buses	9 Km
Interurban buses	8.488 Km
Air travel	75.276 Km
Car	2.374 Km
Electric car	478 Km
High speed train	32.478 Km
Regional rail services	3.717 Km
Total	122.820 KM



OUR TOTAL KILOMETRES TRAVELLED ARE EQUIVALENT TO **9.63 FULL TRIPS AROUND PLANET EARTH**

Summary 2023 (kg de CO ₂)	2023	%	2022	%
Transport	21.178 Kg	77,45 %	20.973 Kg	54 %
Food	1.869 Kg	6,84 %	3.672 Kg	9 %
Accommodation	852 Kg	3,11 %	6.712 Kg	17 %
Utilities	1.029 Kg	3,76 %	906 Kg	2 %
Waste	2.417 Kg	8,84 %	6.371 Kg	16 %
Digital	0 Kg	0,00 %	0 Kg	0 %
Total CO2 emissions (kg)₂	27.344	100 %	38.728	100 %

Total CO₂ emissions of CO₂ : 27.344 kg





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