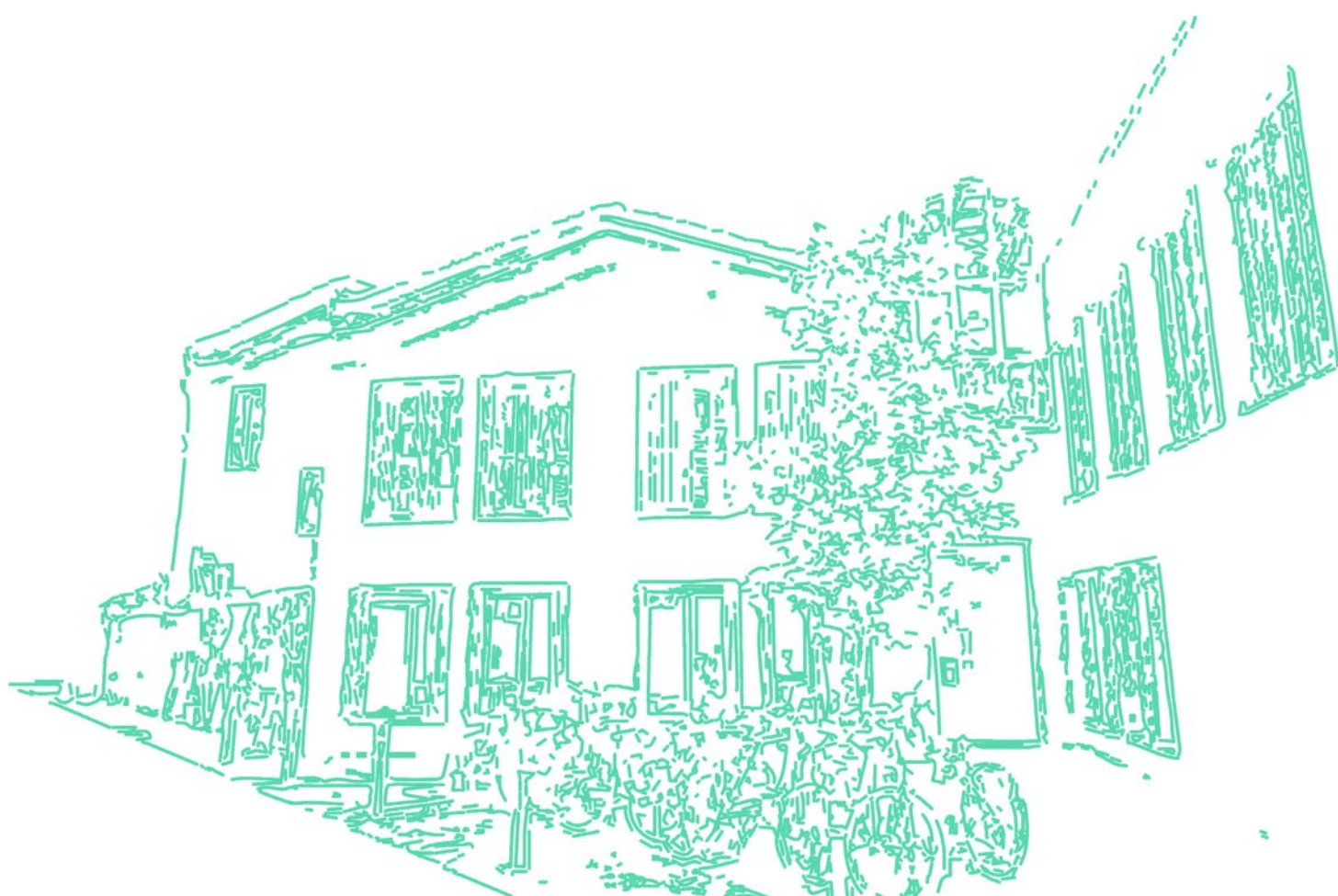


ACTIVITIES REPORT 2021



Irīdia_

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1. Presentation of the organization

Irídia, Center of Defense of Human Rights is a non-profit association that works to promote and defend human rights and, in particular, civil and political rights.

Its main objective is to raise the standards of protection of human rights in relation to institutional violence, racism and migration, historical memory, deprivation of liberty and the right to protest. The Service for Attention and Reporting in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI) is one of the organization's transversal resources geared towards the achievement of this objective, offering free legal and psychosocial support to people who have suffered instances of institutional violence in the course of enforcement of the law. This covers **situations in which public bodies breach human rights through the use of any physical or psychological force which constitutes degrading treatment, or which leads to physical and psychological harm**. The Service is focused particularly on **infringements of rights committed or permitted by law enforcement officials, prison officials and private security agents**, insofar as they carry out their duties in fulfilment of the responsibilities of the State to provide security.

SAIDAVI employs a comprehensive care methodology: it offers psychosocial and legal care to affected individuals, as well as seeking justice and reparation. Depending on the nature of the case and if the person so wishes, cases may be taken on as part of wider strategic litigation, with the aim of influencing and achieving changes in legislation on issues of particular social importance, specifically in the recognition, protection and guaranteeing of human rights.

The association is based in Barcelona, at La Comunal, C/ Riera de Escuder 38 Nave 1 bajos, 08028 Barcelona. It's Tax Identification Number (NIF) is G66610882, and it is included in Government of Catalonia's register of associations (number 57634). Irídia carries out its work principally in Catalonia, but also has an office in Madrid which focuses on national political advocacy and international outreach.

Mission, vision and values

Irídia's mission is to stand up for and defend human rights, especially civil and political rights. It does so through a combination of strategic litigation, psychosocial support provision, a transformative communication strategy and political advocacy from an intersectional feminist perspective, **geared to encouraging changes in public policy**.

Irídia seeks to play its part in a meaningful, rigorous and independent way in the Catalan, Spanish and international networks of human rights organizations and social movements. Irídia's values are consistency, social change, independence

from the influence of governmental and other powers, global justice and transparency.

Who we are

Írídia is an association that is built collectively by the members, workers and volunteers who actively participate in the organization. Through membership fees and donations, the people who support the project make it viable as a **free-to-access** service for the general public. Currently, the organization has **1,470 members** (data to the end of the year 2021), 18 volunteers and trainees, and 22 workers who make up the support team.

Contributions in the form of one-off donations and fees are the most valuable source of funding for Írídia, insofar as they symbolize the social support for the work we carry out. This income has risen exponentially since the organization began, with membership growing from 319 to 1,470 members in two years, and an income of more than €75,000 from our last crowdfunding campaign, representing 29% of our annual funding.

The organization is made up of a members' assembly, a board of directors, a management team, a coordination team, and a plenary body. The functions, tasks and relationships between these parties is structurally defined in order to ensure an organizational sustainability adapted to the needs of the association and to promote its growth.

Írídia's technical team is made up of workers from diverse professional backgrounds – lawyers, psychologists, communications officers, political scientists and sociologists – all of whom bring their experience to the field of human rights defence..

This team is sub-divided into interrelated working areas which are linked by a focus on challenging the **institutional violence** suffered by members of the public in a variety of different contexts. These working areas cover: prisons, the right to protest, historical memory, and migration and racism. They are coordinated around the Service for Attention and Reporting in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI), and work in constant tandem with the communication and outreach team, the psychosocial support team, and the technical team itself.

2. Projects and activities

2.1. Human rights defence in the areas of institutional violence, racism and migration, democratic memory, deprivation of liberty and the right to protest.

2.1.1. Prevention and reporting of institutional violence via SAIDAVI

Throughout 2021, SAIDAVI received a total of 161 requests for assistance in dealing with alleged human rights infringements. Of these, 62 cases concerned persons who had suffered instances of institutional violence that fell within the scope of the Service. These requests were attended to through the provision of legal support and advice, legal defence, psychosocial care and support, outreach and advocacy work, visits to prisons and CIEs (Immigrant Detention Centres), and referrals to other organizations with expertise in these areas.

The number of requests made to the Service decreased in comparison to the figures recorded in previous years. We believe this is attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions placed on freedom of movement. In other periods, the bulk of complaints received by the Service concerned situations of institutional violence experienced during protests. It is also necessary to take into account the restrictions on visits to CIEs, first applied at the beginning of the pandemic, and which have made it difficult for human rights organizations to monitor what is going on inside these centres.

Of the 62 requests received, **the Service took on the legal representation of 8 cases of particular importance** which fell within its scope. Of these eight cases, one concerns torture suffered during the Francoist dictatorship; two concern events that occurred in the exercising of the right to assembly and demonstration; four concern events which occurred in public space, and one in the context of detention or deprivation of liberty (imprisonment). These 8 cases we must add the 60 that the Service had already taken on between 2016 and 2020. Thus, throughout 2021, **the Service was responsible for providing representation in a total of 68 cases**, encompassing **558 legal interventions** and **175 psychosocial support interventions**, in addition to outreach and advocacy work.

In terms of the remaining 56 requests for which the Service did not provide legal representation, legal advice and case monitoring were offered, in addition to periodic psychosocial support. This consisted largely of legal guidance; advice in filing legal complaints, appeals and other criminal proceedings; intervention aimed at securing evidence, such as requesting and gathering images, witness statements, and other evidence; monitoring the status of the complaint filed, and advising on obtaining legal aid or providing referral to other organizations

specializing in victim care services. Two cases concerning individuals who had contacted SAIDAVI in previous years were also reopened. In total, **264 legal counselling and follow-up interventions** were carried out, in addition to **64 psychosocial interventions**, which in the main consisted of the provision of counselling and psychosocial guidance sessions, telephone follow-ups, and report writing.

SAIDAVI took on a total of 68 cases as part of its **litigation strategy** in 2021. Of these, 56 remain ongoing, while 12 were closed over the course of the year. The cases which remain active can be classified as follows: 28 concern the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, information and/or assembly and demonstration; 8 concern individuals in situations of imprisonment; 6 concern events which occurred at the CIE in Barcelona; 2 concern detentions carried out at police stations; 9 concern events which occurred in public spaces; 1 concerns events which occurred during an eviction; 1 in the home, and finally 1 last case linked to legislation on historical memory.

In addition to the provision of legal representation and psychosocial support, the appropriate communication and advocacy work was also undertaken in all of the aforementioned cases, with the goal of bringing about **changes in public policy-making**, aimed at the effective implementation of human rights. To this end, the



organization presented its [2020 Report on Institutional Violence](#) at a press conference at the headquarters of the Association of Catalan Journalists on March 23rd, 2021. The report focused on the cases of institutional violence identified at the Barcelona Immigration Detention Centre (CIE) towards the end of 2020, arising mainly from the measures taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the publication strategy, and as an act of political advocacy, the report was sent to the various Catalan and Spanish governmental bodies who the organization called upon to act in the recommendations section of the report. Of particular note are the meetings held with the Minister for Equality and Feminism of the Government of Catalonia, the Barcelona City Councillor for Citizens' Rights and Participation, the Esquerra Republicana and Junts per Catalunya municipal council groups, the city ombudsman (Sindicatura de Greuges de Barcelona), and the Ethics and Internal Affairs Unit (UDAI) of the Guardia Urbana, among others. The presentation of this report also received wide media coverage, including on social media.

Indeed, the communication and awareness-raising work carried out as part of SAIDAVI's activities had a great impact in the media throughout the year. This was especially true in February, which saw both demonstrations for freedom of expression following the imprisonment of rapper Pablo Hasél, as well as key moments in the strategic litigation cases handled by the service.

The Service was restructured in 2021 in order to offer better support and follow-up of cases not taken on as litigation. To this end, during the spring of last year, a lawyer was hired to be part of the SAIDAVI team to cater for this need, and to handle the management of these types of case. In addition, to strengthen the capacity of the SAIDAVI team in its handling of strategic litigation, a series of training initiatives were undertaken in 2021, covering different areas relevant to the Service's work.

2.1.2. Defence of the right to protest

Prohibition of the use of rubber bullets in Spain – the #StopBalasGoma Campaign

The prohibition of the use of rubber bullets by the National Police and Civil Guard police forces, insofar as this relates to the use of force and the defence of the right to protest, stands as one of the organization's major lines of work last year. The [Stop Bales de Goma](#) (Stop Rubber Bullets) report was prepared as part of a joint undertaking with the association Novact and the Stop Balas de Goma and Ojo con tu Ojo campaign groups, and includes an investigation and analysis of international regulations on the use of kinetic energy projectiles, their use within Spain, and their physical and psychosocial impacts.

[The report was officially presented in Madrid](#) in June, at an event attended by members of the Congress of Deputies for EH-Bildu, Esquerra Republicana and the CUP, as well as parliamentary advisers from the PSOE and Unidas Podemos, and representatives from campaign groups and activist organizations from the city. In addition, it was also presented in Seville in September and, in October, in Pamplona, at an event held in the Parliament of Navarre.

Simultaneously, a [video-summary](#) of the report and short audiovisual interviews were shared via Irídia's digital platforms and social networks, as well as those of other partner organizations. Regular meetings were also held in parallel with the Stop Balas de Goma and Ojo con tu Ojo campaign groups, working together under the umbrella of Asociación Estatal Stop Balas de Goma, with the aim of building a joint communication and advocacy campaign called **#StopBalasGoma**. As part of this campaign, organizations and campaign groups from all over Spain

were encouraged to sign an open letter in favour of prohibition.

Before concluding, it is also worth highlighting Irídia's participation in the international webinar series for analysis of the use of kinetic energy projectiles, in which social activists and those affected by the use of these projectiles in Chile, Colombia, Catalonia, Palestine, France and the United Kingdom, among other countries, participated.



The Defender a quien Defiende platform (DqD)

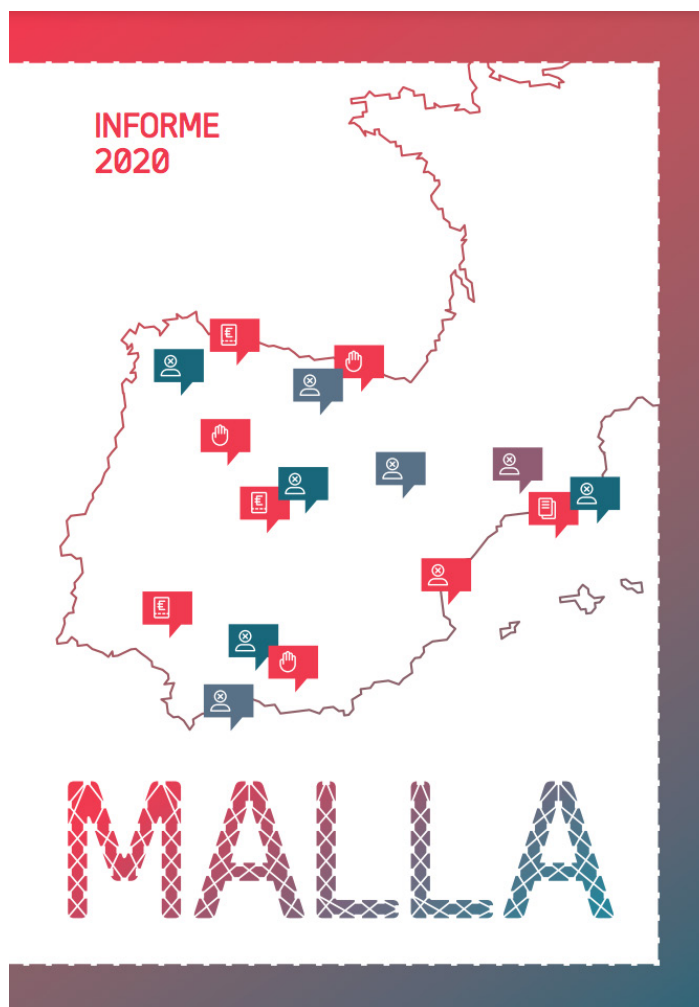
In 2021 Irídia continued to carry out its work in the defence of the right to protest as part of the Defender a quien Defiende platform (DqD). Founded in Barcelona in October 2014, DqD is made up of human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, social groups and other organizations such as the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia (IDHC), Novact, and Irídia. Its objective is to create a coordinated network to respond to cases of human rights infringements in the context of protests in Spain.

In turn, the platform has also given birth to the [Red Malla](#), a support and campaign network for a collective response to the repression faced by those exercising their civil and political liberties. Created in 2016, the Red Malla is a tool for raising awareness of and analyzing human rights infringements committed by Spanish police forces and private security agents, especially those which infringe the rights of assembly and demonstration and freedom of expression and information of protesters.

In September 2021, a [report by the Red Malla](#) was published concerning the 107 cases it handled that year, covering penalties handed down by the authorities, the pressing of charges, arbitrary stop-and-search, excessive use of force, and other police practices that infringe upon people's right to protest in Spain.

The Som Defensores network

Over a series of days in February 2021, the Som Defensores Network – a group of observers covering rights infringements in the context of protests – sent a team to cover the demonstrations that arose in the city of Barcelona following the imprisonment of rapper Pablo Hasél. This was combined with a telephone support service managed by Irídia, and aimed at addressing reports of institutional violence. Later, in April, a webinar was held with organizations from Latin America to exchange experiences in the observation and monitoring of the right to protest.



2.1.3. Defence of the rights of prisoners

We continued to carry out our advocacy and awareness-raising work for the defence of the rights of prisoners, particularly focusing on the impacts and consequences of solitary confinement. In this regard, over the past year regular meetings were held with the solitary confinement working group, made up of citizens' organizations from all over Spain that work to defend the rights of those deprived of their liberty.

Likewise, an advocacy campaign was launched **against the modification of the memorandum on physical contention measures in prisons**. Newly-proposed practices represent a step backwards in terms of the rights of those deprived of their liberty, insofar as they permit the use of mechanical restraints which can seriously harm the physical and mental health of those subject to them.

In addition, in the last quarter of the year, relations began with the new Minister of Justice, Lourdes Ciuró, who took over the role in May 2021. In this regard, meetings have been held with the Secretariat for Penal Measures, Reintegration and Victim Support, and with Minister Ciuró.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that the organization's prisons team opened a new line of work in 2021 to appropriately handle, from an intersectional perspective, the **particular infringements and discrimination suffered by women deprived of liberty**. This work began on November 16th, with a talk held in conjunction with other organizations working to defend the rights of women deprived of liberty, with the aim of initiating debate and raising awareness of some of the human rights infringements suffered by women in prison.



2.1.4. The right to justice, truth, reparation and the guarantee of non-repetition of the victims and those who suffered reprisals during the Civil War, the Franco dictatorship, and the transition to democracy

Írdia's Historical Memory team continued its work during 2021, in collaboration with a network of organizations dedicated to the subject, to promote the right to justice, truth, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition of the victims and those who suffered reprisals during the Civil War, the Franco dictatorship, and the transition to democracy.

Torture during the Francoist dictatorship as a crime against humanity

As part of our work to ensure that the victims and those who suffered reprisals during the Civil War, the Franco dictatorship, and the transition to democracy, as well as their families, can access justice, in 2021 SAIDAVI took on the case of Carles Vallejo, president of the Catalan association for ex-political prisoners jailed during the dictatorship, who was detained and tortured in the police headquarters located on Barcelona's Vía Laietana. Legal representation in this case was taken in tandem with the development of a legal strategy for the filing of further criminal complaints concerning crimes against humanity. This strategy includes raising awareness internationally about Spain's culture of impunity, which has hitherto led to the dismissal of criminal complaints filed throughout the country on the basis of the historical Amnesty Law and a restrictive interpretation of the principle of legality and prescription. A search for any and all documentation relating to the case was also carried out. Over the course of 2022, a criminal complaint will be filed, and an advocacy campaign will be carried out to support this strategic litigation.

The redesignation of the Vía Laietana police station as a space for historical memory

One of the main tasks of the team throughout 2021 was to push for the Superior Police Headquarters based on Vía Laietana to be shut down as a police station, and reopened as a space for historical memory and reparation for the repression and torture suffered during the Franco dictatorship.

To this end, different activities were carried out, including meetings with social organizations, Barcelona City Council and Catalan parliamentary groups. A report was also prepared on the circumstances of the Vía Laietana police station, the history of the political decisions and resolutions taken to date in the different parliamentary institutions, and the calls from civil society for the handover of the space. An opinion piece was published [jointly with the Ateneu de Memòria Popular](#) in response to the Ministry of the Interior's position and its refusal to move the headquarters of the National Police to another space.

In December 2021, the team helped set up the event "Vía Laietana, Impunitat o Memòria?", as part of a cycle on impunity in conjunction with the Ateneu de

Memòria Popular. This event was divided into three main blocks: a focus on Franco-era impunity, with testimonies of torture which took place within the police headquarters; a round table discussion on good practices and experiences of redesignation, and lastly a debate on the future of the Vía Laietana police station and the right to truth, justice, reparation and guarantee of non-repetition.

Advocacy for effective historical memory legislation

In 2021, the team also continued with its advocacy work to encourage both the Spanish and the Catalan governments to engage in effective memory policymaking.

**JORNADA DE REFLEXIÓ I DEBAT
ENTORN L'EDIFICI DE LA PREFECTURA**

VIA LAIETANA: IMPUNITAT O MEMÒRIA?



10.00 h
Presentació i benvinguda.
• **SONIA OLIVELLA**, coordinadora assembla al Centre Iridia.

10.15 h
Ponència sobre la impunitat del franquisme i testimonis de les tortures a la prefectura.
• **MARIBEL FERRÁNDIZ BLAS** i **JOSEP FERRÁNDIZ BLAS**, víctimes de tortures a la Prefectura de Via Laietana.
• Presenta i modera: **CÉSAR LORENZO**, historiador i secretari de l'AMP.

11.15 h
Taula rodona: bones pràctiques i experiències de resignificació. (Virtual)
• **MARIA CHIARA BIANCHINI**, experiències del Con Sud.
• **LUIS FARINHA**, la Presó-Museu d'Aljube de Lisboa.
• **RAINER STACH**, EL-DE Haus de Colònia, NS-Dokumentationszentrum.
• Presenta i modera: **RICARD CONESA**, historiador de l'EUROM i membre de l'Ateneu Memòria Popular.

12.30 h
Debat: Futur de Via Laietana i Dret a la Veritat, Justícia, Reparació i Garanties de no repetició.
• Representant de l'Estat pendent de confirmar.
• Sr. **QUIM CLAVAQUERA**, secretari general del Departament de Justícia de la Generalitat de Catalunya.
• Sr. **JORDI BARASSA**, Regidor de Memòria Democràtica de l'Ajuntament de Barcelona.
• Presenta i modera: **MONTSE SANTOLINO**, periodista.

14.00 h ****CLOENDA****
• **ANGELINA PUIG I VALLS**, presidenta Ateneu Memòria Popular.

**DISSABTE 11 DESEMBRE 2021
10h a 14.00 h.**
ESPAI ASSEMBLEA
Via Laietana, 18. Barcelona

CANAL YOUTUBE DE L'ATENEU MEMÒRIA POPULAR
La Jornada serà retransmesa on-line des del
<https://youtu.be/Ee9bmlCw3o>

ATENEU MEMÒRIA POPULAR
ateneumemoriapopular.cat
contacte@ateneumemoriapopular.cat
• memoriapopular
• ateneu_memoria
• ateneumemoria

Ajuntament de Barcelona

We coordinated and worked together with the Ateneu de Memòria Popular as part of a working group to study and draft amendments to proposed Catalan legislation concerning democratic memory. These amendments included proposals for the creation of a Victim Support Office; ex officio judicial investigation as part of the process of exhumation of mass graves; the development of a psychosocial accompaniment protocol in cases relating to access to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition, and finally, the application of international standards on impunity in public legislation pertaining to historical memory.

In October, the PSC parliamentary group presented a **proposal for a comprehensive historical memory bill** to the plenary session of the Catalan Parliament, which passed its first reading. The Government is due to submit its own proposal for a comprehensive historical memory bill and to initiate formal proceedings for the submission of amendments by members of the public.

In 2021, the team also participated in the Encuentro Estatal por la Memoria, a state network of historical memory campaigners that have come together to debate and contribute to the proposed Democratic Memory Bill put forward in the Congress of Deputies, in order to exert influence and thus remedy years of a **lack of genuine public policies that protect and ensure rights to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition**. Together with the Ateneu de Memòria Popular and alongside other organizations, the team participated in discussions centred on the right to justice, as well as in the various advocacy campaigns carried out by the network. The bill presented before Congress is currently locked in an impasse between the various parliamentary groups at the amendment stage.

Contribution to proposals for social reparation and the guarantee of non-repetition brought forward by activists

Irídia collaborates with a number of human rights and historical memory organizations, working across the board to ensure the right to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition. Over the past year, our team attended monthly joint meetings with the Ateneu de Memòria Popular – on whose steering board Irídia sits – as well as follow-up and coordination meetings representatives of the Encuentro Estatal por la Memoria. Joint work was also carried out with the Coordinator of the Argentine lawsuit platform (CEAQUA), the body responsible for coordinating the filing of suits for crimes committed in Spain during the dictatorship and the transition to democracy. Finally, Irídia lent its support to the calls to protest outside the Vía Laietana police station organized by the Comisión por la Dignidad.

2.1.5. Speaking out against structural and institutional racism

As part of Irídia's work in **speaking out about the consequences of the deportation system**, and its joint working to tackle the social damage caused by deportations, in 2021 the organization participated in the presentation of a webinar in collaboration with EuroMedRights, addressing the infringement of human rights linked to the deportation regimes of France and Spain in Morocco. Specifically, Irídia participated both in the writing of a research chapter concerning deportations, and in the organization, promotion and communication of the event. This research looked into the situation of human rights infringements during the so-called "re-turns" and, more specifically, the reactivation of raids, detention within the CIEs, and deportations against a backdrop of increased arrivals via the Canary Islands migration route. Irídia developed a communication and advocacy plan for Spain, while EuroMedRights handled advocacy work at the European level.

Furthermore, and with the aim of ensuring consistent monitoring of human rights infringements on Spain's southern border and as part of a wider project begun in 2020 to document human rights abuses, the report "Vulneraciones de derechos humanos en la Frontera Sur: Canarias y Melilla" was published on January 27th. This report was prepared from the observations made by the team during a trip to the Canary Islands as part of the project, and in collaboration with the organizations, individuals and groups that are working on the border, both on the Canary Islands route and in Melilla. The report was published with the support of more than 50 human rights organizations throughout Spain, and served as a tool for pushing for change at various different levels. At international level, the report was presented to the GUE/NGL parliamentary group of the European Parliament, at a webinar in Italian organized in collaboration with citizen activists, and also online in French, at a presentation organized by the Arab League for Human Rights, in which various NGOs and human rights associations from both sides of the Mediterranean participated.

At national level, **an appearance was made before the Interior Committee of the Congress of Deputies** on May 6th, 2021, and the report was also presented to the team of the Secretariat of State for the 2030 Agenda. Finally, in Catalonia, the results of this report were presented via an online press conference.

Another of Irídia's lines of work is the monitoring of human rights infringements that occur at the CIE in Barcelona and, ultimately, calling for its closure. To this end, and based on the experiences and stories of those whose cases of institutional violence in the CIE were taken on by SAIDAVI, [a series of recommendations was published in the December report](#) and were addressed to the competent authorities with the aim of turning the situation around.

2.1.6. Highlighting the psychosocial impacts of human rights breaches and the development of coping strategies

2021 saw the publication of the report “**Making the invisible visible: psychosocial impacts of institutional violence**”, with the aim of shedding light on the psychosocial impacts of institutional violence. This report details these impacts, gathered through interviews with those affected to whom SAIDAVI provided assistance, as well as through the psychosocial follow-up of the cases handled over the years by the Service. On December 2nd, the report was presented at the MUHBA Oliva Artés museum, in an event at which both the psychosocial team of Irídia and people to whom SAIDAVI had provided support appeared – the latter of whom presented their cases – and at which a [short documentary](#) featuring the testimonies of those affected was shown.

Throughout 2021, meetings were also held with key stakeholders in the mental health field, such as Barcelona City Council’s Mental Health Board and the Barcelona Health Consortium, with the aim of highlighting the psychosocial impacts of institutional violence.

Finally, in order to provide further support to those assisted by the service in coping with their experiences, meetings were held with the support group of those affected by institutional violence on October 1st, as well as with the Stop Balas de Goma platform. Along the same lines, the psychosocial support service focused on **empowering those affected and helping them build their own coping strategies**, encouraging participation in collective spaces that deal with matters of institutional violence.



2.2 Irídia's sustainability and capacity for communication and intervention in policy-making

2.2.1. The sustainability and internal structure of the organization

From its beginnings, Irídia has been able to grow thanks to its increasing ability to obtain resources, its communicative reach, and its desire to ensure sustainability in all areas of its work.

The number of public institutions backing the organization through grants, such as the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation and the Spanish government's Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, increased over the course of 2021. This, together with the expansion of private financing thanks to the contributions of a new non-profit entity, has made it possible to take steps forward in the consolidation of our financial structure.

However, the main player in the sustainability of the organization are our members, the ranks of which increased significantly over the past year thanks to the crowdfunding campaign #AraDretsHumans.

#AraDretsHumans Campaign

On October 20th, 2021, Irídia launched a crowdfunding campaign through the Goteo platform, with the aim of expanding its membership base and partially financing SAIDAVI.

We returned to the essence of #FemIrídiaJuntes (Together We Make Irídia) **with a positive campaign which put human rights at the centre**, and a positive message: the idea that justice can be done if we work collectively for it. The outlook behind this was that, in the face of rising intolerance, discrimination and institutional violence, the answer is a commitment to human rights: #AraDretsHumans.

The message sought to strike a balance between the forcefulness with which Irídia works for its objectives and, at the same time, the bonds that arise from acting collectively, with our members as part of the solution. This campaign was intended to be part of a movement for change, arguing that "now is the time", and that we can achieve it "if we do it together".

On October 20th, a [short fictional advert](#) co-produced with the audiovisual cooperative Bruna was launched via social media, where it made a big impact. Weeks later, a [video bulletin](#) was also published, featuring a conversation between two Irídia workers (Sònia Olivella and Laura Medina). This video was produced by the Communication team, and spoke about why Irídia needs collective support.

On October 21st, and as part of the #AraDretsHumans campaign, Irídia celebra-



ANYS D'IRÍDIA

#AraDretsHumans

DIJOURS, 21 D'OCTUBRE | 18.30 PM
ESPAI CALÀBRIA66 (C/ CALÀBRIA 66, BARCELONA)

JOYCE JANDETTE I MAGY CASTILLO (POESIA)
OYE SHERMAN (MONÒLEG) | LAURA MEDINA
JORDI CUIXART | CARLES VALLEJO
EDITH ESPÍNOLA | MARTÍN MOZÉ
+ ANA TIJOUX (BREU INTERVENCIÓ MUSICAL)

ted its 6th anniversary with an event at the Calàbria 66 space. This event featured poetry from Joyce Jandette and Magy Castillo, a monologue by Oye Sherman, a conversation on human rights with Jordi Cuixart, Carles Vallejo, Edith Espínola, Martín Mozé and Laura Medina, and a short closing musical performance from Ana Tijoux.

Ultimately, thanks to the 1,398 people who contributed to the campaign, we were able to raise €75,865, breaking our optimal target of €75,000.

Within the organization itself, we were able to improve working conditions for our team, open an office with two members of staff in Madrid, improve transparency and digital protection, consolidate our care plan and expand our technical team, affording it a greater degree of specialization and professional expertise.

2.2.2. The impact of our advocacy work

Our political advocacy is geared towards encouraging legislative and public policy changes, as well as promoting activities aimed at getting the appropriate administrative, judicial and legislative authorities to adopt decisions that guarantee effective respect for human rights. Specifically, from a psychosocial, feminist and intersectional perspective, we aim to:

- have an impact on public policy decisions
- influence human rights policy proposals during electoral campaigns
- influence political party discourse, with the aim that they include human rights as a fundamental pillar of their manifesto
- encourage a shift in public debate and praxis towards the defence of human rights
- promote engagement and joint working with activist and citizens' organizations to place the human rights agenda at the heart of public debate
- bring about improvements in the protocols governing the use of force and in the oversight of the police

Throughout 2021, **67 advocacy meetings** were held with a variety of local, Catalan, Spanish and international stakeholders. In total, 31 of these meetings were held with activists, 17 with politicians, 16 with civil servants and 3 with representatives of the police. On an international scale, it is worth highlighting that Irídia is a member of the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) and that, throughout the previous year, our staff appeared at a series of international events, including the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in June, and the Human Rights Commission of the Chilean Congress in December.

It is also important to highlight the **opening of our new office in Madrid**, part of our commitment to engaging in advocacy that covers decisions reached at a national level in Spain. Furthermore, we must highlight that our advocacy work is transversal and that, by dint of this fact, each of the working areas of our organization have contributed in their own way to the activities included in this part of the report. These are as follows:

Advocacy for the establishment of a Parliamentary Examining Commission for oversight of the police #MésControl Campaign

A central focus of our advocacy work last year, and which began the previous year, was advocating for improvements in the oversight and transparency of the police forces of Catalonia. In this sense, the establishment of the [Examining Committee on Policing \(CEMP\) in the Parliament of Catalonia on November 3rd, 2021](#), marks a major milestone.

Its aim and scope is, in the first place, to analyze and research oversight and evaluation of – and investigation into – police actions, with the possible introduction of independent monitoring and auditing. It also provides for reconsideration of how policing is carried out in Catalonia, and possible changes to this model. Thirdly, it provides for oversight on the freedom of information and data held by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Lastly, it includes provisions for the analysis of the activities of the police intelligence service of the Mossos d'Esquadra, and the force's monitoring of political activists.

Its creation was preceded by meetings with several parliamentary groups as part of a joint campaign with Amnesty International Catalonia, called **#MésControl**. Public outcry following the protests for freedom of expression and the imprisonment of the singer Pablo Hasél, in which a 19-year-old girl lost an eye as a result of the impact of a foam bullet, was key to setting the agenda, to the point where the matter became one of the major factors in the negotiations which took place between the months of February and May to form the new Catalan government

Shortly after the events, and in cooperation with the newspaper La Directa, a supplement dedicated to the subject was published, titled "Iridium". This supplement included the report "Watching those who watch us", which concerned police surveillance resources and the demands of human rights organizations. It also included a graphic summary of the most relevant data from the 2020 Institutional Violence Report, an opinion article from the Psychosocial area on revictimization, and an interview with the co-directors of Irídia, entitled "[How do we control the police?](#)", and was accompanied by a video feature.

Remaining on this topic, it is also important to highlight the appearance of Irídia before the Committee responsible for oversight of democratic quality, the fight against corruption, and institutional and legal reforms of the Congress of Deputies which were brought forward in May.

Iridium

SUPLEMENT INFORMATIU DEL CENTRE IRÍDIA PER LA DEFENSA DELS DRETS HUMANS

Núm. 1
Primavera 2021
8.000 exemplars

Com controlem la policia?



/ Maria Farré
@_mariafarre

Establishment of a Committee on Institutional and Structural Racism in the Parliament of Catalonia

On November 2nd of last year, the Parliament set up its [Examining Committee on Institutional and Structural Racism \(CERIE\)](#). Its objective is to establish shared standards on actions to be taken to deal with any form of racial discrimination, on the basis of a study of institutional and structural racism in Catalonia in all areas, from security to equal opportunities, through to social, political and economic representation. The creation of this committee had been one of the principal demands of our organization over recent years, as was reflected in the recommendations of our last annual report on institutional violence.

Adoption in the Congress of Deputies of a Non-Binding Proposal for the Regulation of the Use of Tasers

On May 11th 2021, the Interior Committee of the Congress of Deputies approved a non-binding proposal that urged the Spanish government to adopt “strict protocols for the use and supervision” of electric guns known as Tasers. The positioning of our organization has always been to that this type of weapon is not necessary, and that it can produce very harmful effects, including death. However, after the Spanish Government’s decision to purchase new models for the National Police and Civil Guard came to light at the end of 2019, our advocacy work – together with Amnesty International Spain – honed in on regulation of their use and the guarantee of effective oversight. At the end of the year, it became known that the Ministry of the Interior had drawn up a protocol guaranteeing that the use of electric weaponry would be contingent on the use of cameras to record such actions by police. However, the protocol itself is has yet to be made public, and its precise content is unknown.

2.2.3. The impact of Irídia's communication strategy

Irídia's communication strategy helps us to shine a light on the impact of institutional violence, and to encourage public debate with the aim of promoting the implementation of policies consistent with human rights. Ours is a transformative communication strategy, and the main objective of our Communication team is for Irídia to act as a platform and a tool through which the general public can speak out against and highlight infringements of human rights.

This team is responsible for raising awareness about Irídia's everyday work, both among members of the public and governmental bodies and political parties, and through our **social networks**, the media and the projects we jointly carry out with other organizations.

To this end, strategic litigation and campaigning represents one of our organization's primary resources for political advocacy. In addition, we promote the projects carried out by our various teams, as well our own campaigns and those jointly carried out with other organizations, through social media and the organization of events. We work creatively and experiment with various audiovisual and graphic formats and resources, aiming to combine human rights work with art and culture as transformative tools.

In 2021, Irídia continued to enjoy **significant media presence** as a benchmark organization in the field of human rights and institutional violence, appearing on various TV programmes, talk shows, radio shows and in written press interviews across different regional and national media outlets.

In 2021, Irídia appeared in Catalan media such as ARA, La Directa, Punt Avui, TV3, La Vanguardia, Público, Catalunya Radio, VilaWeb, El Temps, betevé, 20 minutos, RAC 1, Nacional.cat, Xarxa.net, ACN and Mediacat, among others. In addition, we also enjoyed a strong presence in Spanish media, appearing in El Salto, El País, eldiario.es, 20 Minutos, Cadena SER, El Mundo, ABC, EFE, Europa Press, Público, Etb, RTVE, La Sexta, Tele 5 and Antena 3, among others.

47,071 followers on Twitter
(1,271 more than the last year).



6,610 followers on Instagram
(1,058 more than the last year).



10,845 followers on Facebook
(229 more than the last year).



2.2.4. Strengthening internal psychosocial care

Irídia has a Strategic Care Plan that was approved in 2020 and implemented and consolidated throughout 2021. To consolidate the plan, in 2021, a member of staff from the psychosocial team was designated as a wellbeing officer for the wider team's care. This person is responsible for supervising cases handled by SAIDAVI, provides coordinating support to the psychosocial team, and oversees the implementation of our Strategic Care Plan. As such, they are in charge of bringing forward the activities and action points gathered in this plan, together with the psychosocial team coordinator. Over the course of 2022, the activities that make up our Strategic Care Plan will be consolidated.

Moreover, our Protocol for the Prevention of Burn Out and Conflict Prevention and Management was developed in 2021. The Protocol for the Prevention of Burn Out was elaborated and approved in 2021. The Conflict Prevention and Management protocol was drawn up in 2021, and is expected to be approved at some point in 2022.

Finally, in order to strengthen a psychosocial outlook within the projects in which we are engaged, in 2021 the psychosocial team coordinator began to participate in project management meetings with this aim in mind. At the end of 2021, a working group was created, formed of a member of the management team, the psychosocial team coordinator, the organization's wellbeing officer, and the representative of the psychosocial on our board of directors. This group aims to address strategic psychosocial issues, as well as continue working to further embed consideration of psychosocial factors throughout the organization as a whole.

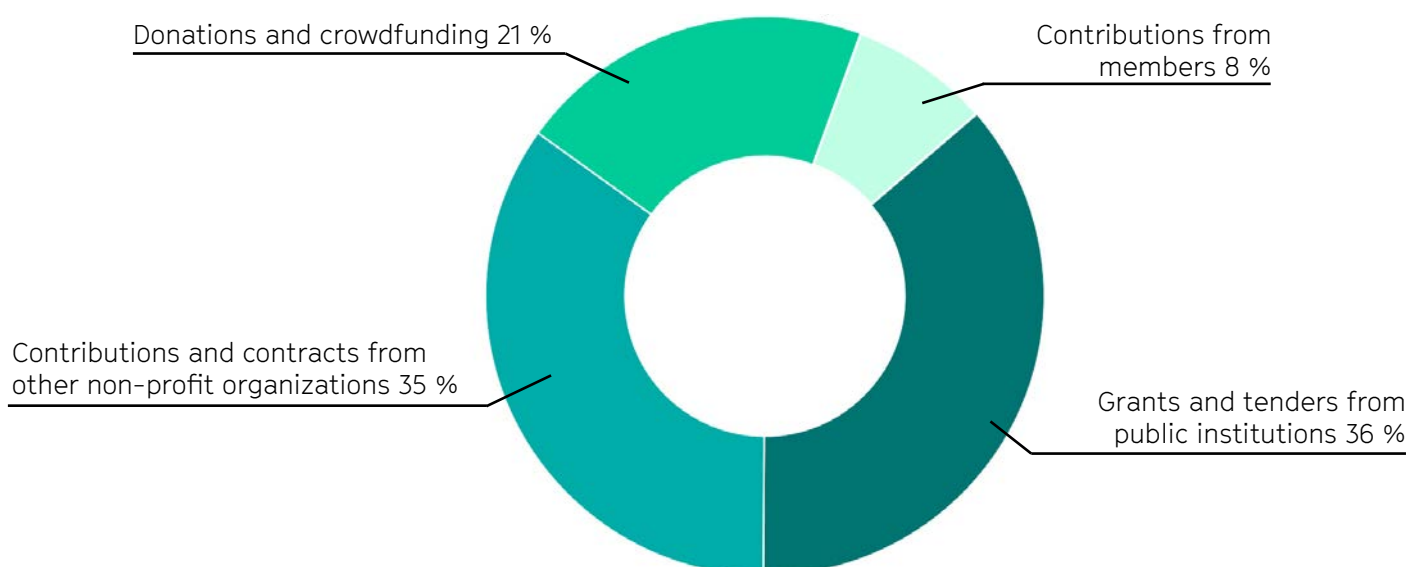
3. Economic and infrastructural management

Írídia is a non-profit association funded by donations from individuals, membership fees, grants and tenders from public institutions, and contributions and contracts from other non-profit organizations. Írídia is committed to ensuring a balance between these various sources of financing, with the aim of strengthening its fundraising through membership fees and private donations, in order to build a collective project for the defence of human rights that does not depend economically on any one backer alone. Details of our funding and annual accounts can be found within the transparency section of our [website](#).

Income

In 2021, Írídia obtained a total of € **447,913.38** in income (provisional accounts), of which 36% came from grants and tenders granted by public institutions, 35% from contributions and contracts by other non-profit organizations, 21% from donations by private individuals and groups – including crowdfunding campaigns – and 8% from the fees paid by our members. The legal assistance and support offered by Írídia through SAIDAVI is provided free-of-charge, and in no case do we ask for payment.

Írídia's income in 2021		
Contributions from members	€ 36,490.30	8%
Grants and tenders from public institutions	€ 162,986.67	36%
Contributions and contracts from other non-profit organizations	€ 156,003.76	35%
<i>Donations and crowdfunding</i>	€ 92,432.62	21%
Total income in 2021	€ 447,913.38 €	



The money in **grants** that we received in 2021 from **public institutions** – whether initially granted in 2021 or in previous years – came from Barcelona City Council, Barcelona Provincial Council, the Government of Catalonia, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, the Employment Service of Catalonia and the European Commission. These grants were, in most cases, awarded to Irídia, except in the case of a series of joint projects, particularly those with the Novact association. One example from the end of 2021 is the grant for € 301,530.00 provided to Irídia and Novact by the Spanish government Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, pending delivery in 2022.

Grants from public institutions	Total grants awarded to Irídia	Total for 2021
Barcelona City Council		€ 43,324.51
Citizens Rights	€ 20,000.00	€ 20,000.00
Health	€ 4,000.00	€ 4,000.00
Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy and Consumption 2020	€ 9,500.00	€ 4,804,68
Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy and Consumption 2021	€ 6,000.00	€ 6,000,00
Community Action	€ 6,000.00	€ 6,000.00
Global Justice and International Cooperation 2019	€ 37,800.00	€ 1,519.83
COVID economic support	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
Barcelona Provincial Council		€ 7,856.08
Equality and Citizenship	€ 3,671.18	€ 3,671.18
Development Cooperation of the Directorate of International Relations 2018	€ 37,838.55	€ 4,184.90
Government of Catalonia		€ 84,199.74
Equality and Feminism	€ 17,582.40	€ 17,582.40
Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	€ 100,000.00	€ 61,962.35
Catalan Employment Service	€ 4,987.49	€ 4,654.99
European Commission		€ 11,555.04
Justice and Consumers	€ 38,372.32	€ 11,555.04
Total grants from public institutions for 2021		€ 146,935.35

The **tenders** received from **public institutions** come to a total of **€ 16,051.32**. These cover the preparation of two reports, one for the Government of Catalonia and another for the Barcelona City Council Ombudsman, in addition to two training

sessions, one in Navarre and the other in Palma.

Contributions from non-profit organizations in the form of grants or funding agreements for Irídia's activities accounted for 23% of our total funding this past year. These organizations are the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), via the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the foundation for the promotion of the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE), Intermon Oxfam and, this past year, a new organization, Front Line Defenders, which has made contributions in the form of financial resources and support services. The contributions from non-profit organizations are intended to support the activities we carry out and, as such, are spent annually depending on overall expenditure. This is to say that, last year, we made use of contributions both received in 2021 and pending from 2020.

Contributions from non-profit organizations	Total awarded	Total for 2021
OSIFE	€ 132,552.90	€ 55,852.14
The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	€ 28,840.00	€ 28,840.00
Intermón Oxfam 2020	€ 10,000.00	€ 2,511.91
Intermón Oxfam 2021	€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00
Intermon Oxfam Southern Border Report 2020-2021	€ 7,000.00	€ 3,755.60
Front Line Defenders	€ 2,420.00	€ 2,420.00
Total contributions from private organizations 2021		€ 103,329.11

These **payments from non-profit organizations** – Novact, Òmnium Cultural, and others – were for the undertaking of campaign work, collaborations in projects, talks and training, all of which came to a total of €52,674.65

21% of our income in 2021 came from **donations made by individuals and groups to Irídia**, reaching a total of €93,432.62. Donations can be made to specific projects or activities, or to the organization as a whole, making it possible to offer a solid structure that guarantees the sustainability of the organization and our projects. This year, the #AraDretsHumans crowdfunding campaign managed to raise more than ever before, and saw an increase in our membership base: €75,865 from 1,398 contributors, of which 774 went on to become members of the organization.

At present, Irídia has **1,470 members**, each of whom contributes a monthly, semi-annual or annual fee of between €50 and €160 per year. This year, the total collected in membership fees, not counting those raised through our crowdfun-

ding campaign, reached €36,490.33, or 8% of the total funding obtained throughout the year. These membership fees are allocated both to the general running of the organization, and to make it possible to offer our Service for Attention and Reporting in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI).

Expenses

Technical team (18 people)	€ 334,292.71
External hiring	€ 35,886.54
Property, accounting and energy supplies	€ 22,816.03
Travel expenses	€ 3,993.03
Communication	€ 17,315.07
Accommodation and per diems	€ 4,160.52
Commissions (Goteo and banks)	€ 5,630.25
Judicial costs of cases	€ 5,125.20
Internal audits and project audits	€ 3,254.77
Insurance	€ 1,498.55
Office equipment	€ 3,556.55
Contributions, subscriptions and fees	€ 2,690.40
Official procedures, taxes and fees	€ 4,977.18
Total expenditure	€ 445,196.80

Irídia's total expenditure in 2021 was **€445,196.80** (figures from provisional accounts). Within Irídia, most of these expenses were taken up by our **technical team**: over the past year, 75% of total expenses were allocated to the remuneration of staff, at a total cost of €334,292.71, with an average of 18 people in employment (7 people in legal support, 2 in psychosocial care, 2 in co-directional positions, 4 in technical management, and 3 in the communication and advocacy team), equivalent to 12 full-time positions.

However, some of our work requires the payment of **external professionals**, such as collaborators in report writing, artists and speakers, psychosocial support professionals, trainers, translators and graphic designers. External payments reached €35,886.54, 8% of the overall total.

With regard to external service providers, it is necessary to differentiate between the costs of the aforementioned professionals and the **costs related to legal proceedings** that are taken on by the organization. Irídia covers the costs of the

public prosecutor's office, notaries, experts and others involved in the cases that we take on. In total, this amounted to €5,125.20 in 2021.

Communication is an essential pillar of our organization and, therefore, apart from the work carried out by the technical team, we contract external service providers to handle design, printing, advertising, rentals of rooms for events and press conferences, photography and videos. The total cost of these activities last year was €17,315.07.

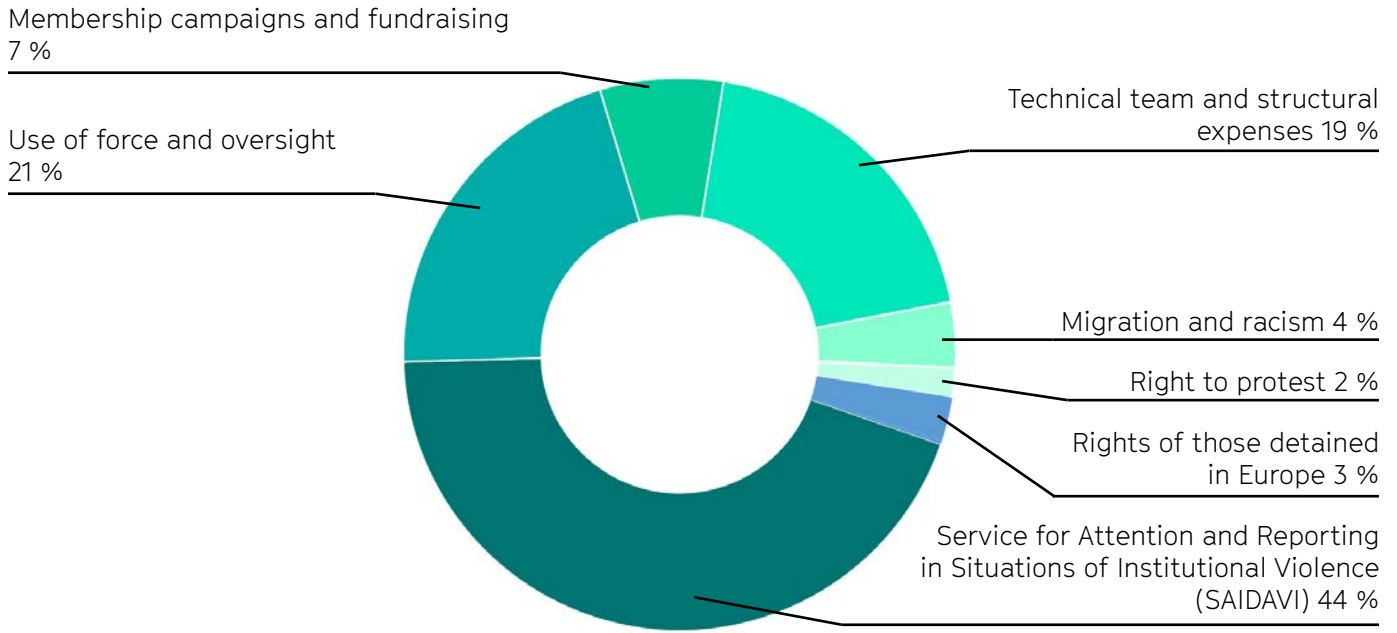
Indirect expenses such as rent, tax and accountancy, energy supplies, cleaning, printing, software and computer services amounted to a total of €22,816.03.

Travel, accommodation and per diems relate to our various projects, such as trips to Madrid and the Canary Islands, travel for court cases, per diems for volunteers and other travel related to advocacy work. In total, this amounted to €3,993.03 in travel expenses, and €4,160.52 in accommodation and per diems.

Írídia's economy structure is also divided along thematic lines, which are explained in detail in the activity report:

Lines of work	Expenditure in 2021	
Service for Attention and Reporting in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI)	€ 197,209.11	44%
Use of force and oversight	€ 92,456.77	21%
Membership campaigns and fundraising	€ 32,075.96	7%
Technical team and structural expenses	€ 86,364.17	19%
Migration and racism	€ 17,087.52	4%
Right to protest	€ 7,579.12	2%
Rights of those detained in Europe	€ 11,555.01	3%
Management of the International Trial Watch 2019 platform	€ 869.13	0,2%
Total expenditure	€ 445,196.80	

Finally, it must be emphasized that the work we carry out would not be possible without the contribution of our volunteers, and the hours they put in. During 2021, volunteers dedicated a total of **1,210 hours to the project in the form of internships, and 500 hours of direct voluntary work.**



Economic result

Our financial performance in 2021 was positive, with a balance of **€2,716.58** (provisional figures, pending approval by assembly, and before taxes). These financial assets are invested in the organization’s activities via our reserve fund.

Irídia continues to strengthen our team, economic resources, quality, consistency, social outreach and areas of operation, evolving towards a solid and stable structure. Our economic growth over recent years can be seen in the chart below, which shows the balance of annual income and expenditure since the foundation of the association.



4. Acknowledgements

In looking back on 2021, we would like to dedicate a special thanks to all of those who have made our project possible, especially our members, partners and donors, and the entire technical and volunteer team that makes up Irídia and ensures the fulfillment of our organization's objectives.

We also wish to thank also those who have donated or made other contributions. Thanks to you, Irídia is able to continue to actively protect and promote the defence of human rights. You can become a member, and part of this community of people committed to human rights, through [our website](#). In addition to our collaborative partners, Front Line Defenders, Ahotsa.info, the StopBalesGoma association, APDHA, Lleialtat Santsenca and Calàbria 66 have made contributions to Irídia in the form of services and resources.

Finally, we would also like to thank all those working in the cultural, media, judicial and psychosocial sectors who have contributed to our awareness-raising, outreach, research and advocacy work.

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