

report 2023

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Irídia_





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IRÍDIA IN 2023

1.1. The Entity

Irídia - Center for the Defense of Human Rights is a non-profit association whose main objective is to raise the standards of human rights protection concerning institutional violence, migration policies and borders, historical memory, deprivation of liberty, and the civil society space. Its mission is to **promote and defend human rights, especially civil and political rights.**

To do this, it employs a methodology based on the combination of strategic litigation, the psychosocial perspective, transformative communication, culture, and political advocacy. From a feminist, intersectional approach, it seeks to promote changes in public policies.

Irídia's [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#) sets the entity's key objectives in the short and medium term and provides a technical structure organized into six thematic action lines and four cross-cutting work axes:

Action themes

- Service of Attention and Complaint in situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI)
- Transparency and accountability of security forces
- Migration and border policies
- Defense of the civil society space
- Rights of people in deprivation of liberty
- Right to memory

Axes of work

- Strategic litigation
- Psychosocial perspective
- Communication, Advocacy, and Culture
- Sustainability

1.2 Challenges and Advances of 2023 —

The social and political context of 2023 has been marked by events that have posed significant challenges for human rights, especially civil and political rights.

Despite the progress made in recent years in the prevention and investigation of torture and ill-treatment in Catalonia, police and judicial practices that hinder their eradication have continued. In response to the **persistence of institutional violence**, in 2023, SAIDAVI provided free, **comprehensive psychosocial and legal support** to 57 affected individuals, accompanying them in a process of justice and reparation.

In light of the still insufficient mechanisms to eradicate racism within the framework of police actions, Irídia worked with SOS Racisme **in order to advance on the implementation of stop forms to prevent racial profiling by Spanish police.**

Years of work on Transparency and Accountability of Security Forces have culminated, at the request of Irídia and Amnesty International Catalonia, in the **official commitment** of the Directorate General of Police (DGP) to withdraw the most harmful **SIR-X foam projectiles documented throughout 2024.**

In 2023, Irídia expressed concern over the news of a second undercover police officer infiltrated into social and union movements in Barcelona, highlighting a rising repressive trend and the application of new forms of limitation on civil society space. Throughout 2023, Irídia, together with the CGT, filed **a lawsuit against the police officer who used intimate relationships to infiltrate social movements in Barcelona** and against his superior. In response to multiple violations of the right to protest and the right to information, **the entity filed lawsuits against two Mossos d'Esquadra officers for false accusation and perjury against two journalists.**

Despite the significant work of memorialist entities and legislative advances, tortures committed by police forces during Francoism remain unpunished. In 2023, **Irídia filed a second lawsuit for torture and crimes against humanity during the dictatorship** and celebrated the entry into force of the new national democratic memory law and the admission for the first time of a lawsuit for Franco-era crimes.

Amidst opacity and impunity in border contexts and the lack of investigation of **rights violations against migrants**, Irídia played a key role in the pioneering investigation of the events of June 24 in Melilla, one of the most serious rights violations in the history of EU borders. In 2023, it filed a lawsuit against the Civil Guard on behalf of **a young man who lost vision in one eye** due to a baton blow to the head after crossing the Melilla fence.

In its cross-cutting work of political advocacy, in 2023, Irídia focused on **reforming the citizen security law**, especially repealing articles that most negatively affect the exercise of the rights to freedom of assembly and ex-

pression, particularly for human rights defenders and journalists. Regarding the potential approval of the Amnesty Law, **Irídia expressed its strong opposition to the possibility of leaving state security forces' agents responsible for serious human rights violations** on October 1, 2017, uninvestigated and unprosecuted, potentially leaving affected individuals without effective recourse.

With a more **sustainable structure** and a broader social base, Irídia applies **strategic litigation** methodology across all areas of the entity, leading 56 cases during 2023 which involved the prosecution of 156 agents and officials. Similarly, it reaffirms its commitment to the **psychosocial perspective** and the enjoyment of culture as a tool for human rights defense, celebrating the first edition of Irídiifest, a culture and human rights festival attended by more than 2,000 people.

The following pages detail Irídia's efforts to ensure public authorities protect and respect human rights and establish mechanisms for justice, truth, reparation, and non-repetition in case of violations.



02

DEFENSE OF RIGHTS DURING 2023

2.1. Service for Attention and Denunciation in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI)

Irídia's **Service for Attention and Denunciation in Situations of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI)** is a free service offering legal and psychosocial assistance to people who have suffered institutional violence in Catalonia. This includes situations where public institutions violate individuals' rights through physical or psychological force, affecting their physical, psychological, and/or moral integrity. SAIDAVI addresses rights violations committed or permitted by security forces agents, prison officers, or private security agents acting on behalf of public security functions.

SAIDAVI employs a **comprehensive care methodology: providing psychosocial and legal support to affected individuals and pursuing a process of justice and reparation.** Depending on the case characteristics and with the affected person's consent, cases are addressed from a strategic litigation perspective, aiming to influence and achieve changes in legislation or protocols to advance the recognition, protection, and guarantee of human rights.

In 2023:

146 people contacted SAIDAVI for alleged human rights violations. Of these, 55 individuals and 2 collectives experienced institutional violence and were within the service's scope; the rest were referred to other entities or services as appropriate. Cases within the Service's scope that required it received an initial psycho-legal interview and involved legal advice, psychosocial support, and communication and advocacy actions when necessary. In cases of individuals deprived of liberty, visits were made to penitentiary centers and the Barcelona Immigration Detention Center (CIE), where the team visited affected individuals, filed complaints, and held meetings with CIE officials to ensure effective judicial protection for detainees.

In **40.81% of open cases, a racism component was identified, either through explicit verbalization**, the nature of the police action, or the context of institutional racism. This percentage represents an increase from the previous year, where racism was identified in 33.33% of cases. In 2023, a total of 621 legal actions and 249 psychosocial actions were carried out, along with corresponding communication and political advocacy actions such as press releases and conferences or meetings with political representatives.

Highlights of 2023:

On April 13, the 2022 Annual Report on Institutional Violence was presented at the Association of Catalan Journalists, focusing on institutional racism in certain police actions addressed by the service.

Coordination meetings were held with La Capçalera to introduce the Istanbul Protocol to primary care health professionals.

A total of 31 meetings and communications were held with institutional agents and political representatives, including 9 at the municipal level, 15 at the Catalan level, 6 at the national level, and 1 at the international level. Additionally, 6 meetings were held with the Federació Veus, addressing mental health issues; the association El Safareig, specialising in gender-based violence; the XESAJE (Social Entities Network for Legal Advice on Immigration); the Espai Jove la Fontana and Veus Gitanes and the Gitano Cultural Center of La Mina.

Reports and Materials 2023:

- [The 2023 Annual Report on Institutional Violence](#), focusing on the deficiencies of oversight mechanisms for police and security forces in Catalonia. It also includes judicial cases from other Irídia thematic lines, particularly centered on the right to protest, freedom of information, and the fight against impunity for Franco-era tortures and crimes.
- A detailed information dossier on [what to do if you have suffered violence by a police or private security officer](#)

Xifres SAIDAVI 2023:

146 inquiries

621 legal actions

57 cases handled

249 psychosocial interventions

56 strategic litigations

79 media appearances



2.2. Transparency and accountability of security forces

Within the framework of defining the 2023 Strategic Plan, Irídia approves the creation of a thematic line that works for the transparency and accountability of security forces, in compliance with international human rights standards.

Among its main objectives, the following stand out: **i)** promoting access to regulations and protocols on the use of force and police tools and weapons; **ii)** working for the creation of an external and independent mechanism for monitoring police actions, both in Catalonia and in the State; **iii)** deepening the denunciation of existing racism within the security forces and making proposals for its eradication; **iv)** ensuring that the regulation and application of the use of force and police tools and weapons comply with international standards and promoting the necessary changes to guarantee their traceability, as well as the accountability of the agents. Additionally, **v)** the participation in existing international networks working on the matter is also highlighted.

Highlights of 2023:

The basis of this line of work is derived from the systematization of the cases handled by SAIDAVI, as well as the diagnosis carried out in 2022, with the report [“Transparency and Accountability of Police Forces in Spain”](#), and the follow-up to the conclusions of the Study Commission on the Police Model, of the Parliament of Catalonia. In this regard, and as a result of this prior work, **in 2023, at the request of Irdia and Amnesty International Catalonia, the General Directorate of Police (DGP) formalized the commitment to withdraw - during 2024 - the SIR-X foam projectiles**, the most harmful documented. Additionally, the collaboration **with SOS Racisme was strengthened to develop a proposal for the implementation of stop forms, which prevent and combat stops and searches for ethnic-racial reasons**. This proposal was submitted to institutions such as the DGP and the General Directorate of Migration, Refuge, and Antiracism, as well as to various parliamentary groups.

At the international level, Irdia has been part of the 30 organizations that initially signed a declaration calling on the governments of various states for greater international controls to combat the trade in tools of torture. As a result of this first coordinated action, **a working group was created with civil society organizations worldwide to promote advocacy within the United Nations system**, mainly coordinated by Amnesty International and Omega Research Foundation, **to promote an International Treaty on the Prohibition of the Trade in Torture Weapons**.

Also on the international level, **the submission of a shadow report to the United Nations Committee Against Torture stands out, within the framework of the seventh periodic review report of Spain**. Although the document includes multiple human rights violations, Irdia’s work, within a broader platform of entities, has focused on analyzing the transparency and accountability mechanisms of the police forces.

Reports and Materials 2023:

- [The Shoreditch declaration for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty](#): Declaration signed by 30 civil society organizations calling for an International Treaty on the Prohibition of the Trade in Torture Weapons.
- [Shadow Report for the United Nations Committee Against Torture](#): Report submitted to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, within the framework of the Seventh Periodic Review Report of Spain. Its preparation has resulted from the collaboration between various national organizations in a pioneering effort to promote a collective civil society voice before the United Nations system.

2.3. Defense of Civil Society Space

Within the framework of defining the 2023 Strategic Plan, the line - formerly known as the Right to Protest Defense Line - identified the need to expand its scope to incorporate new repressive methodologies identified in recent years. The line, now called **the Defense of Civil Society Space Line**, has broadened its scope to also denounce actions that threaten or endanger the civil society space in exercising civil rights and freedoms (expression, information, association, assembly, demonstration, or thought). Civic space is understood as the environment that allows various civil society actors to participate meaningfully – both individually and collectively - in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the societies in which they live.

The main objective of the line is to contribute to **the defense of civil society space to express, organize, inform, and protest**. With the intention of adapting to the current context in Spain, the line has sought to approach and train in new themes and practices that coexist within the repressive framework and were not previously addressed, thanks to networking. In this way, Irídia deepens the study of new repressive practices - such as police infiltration or the use of spyware - in a complementary manner to the work carried out through the [Defender a Quien Defiende](#) platform.

Highlights of 2023:

2023 has been a year full of setbacks that have added to the continuity of the tasks and activities planned for this line. **January 2023 began with the news of a [second National Police Corps agent infiltrated into the social and union movements of Barcelona](#)**. In less than a year - from January 31 to September 6, 2023 - a total of six police officers infiltrated in social movements throughout Spain were exposed, evidencing that these cases are not isolated but rather an increasing repressive trend.



Throughout 2023, two litigations were initiated that exemplify the work of the line this year, maintaining a firm line of denunciation regarding the multiple and usual obstacles in the context of protest, as well as the incorporation of new repressive methodologies. On one hand, **a lawsuit was filed against two Mossos d'Esquadra officers for the crime of false accusation and perjury against two journalists**. The filing of the lawsuit was accompanied by the campaign [#ProuMentidesPolicials \(Enough Police Lies\)](#), still ongoing today. The campaign aspires to become a [channel for public denunciation](#) and to highlight that these two cases are not unique, but exemplify some of the obstacles and challenges faced by information professionals in their work. The lawsuit [has been admitted for processing](#) and is in the criminal investigation period, in which the statements of both plaintiffs, as injured parties, and the two police officers as investigated parties have been requested.

On the other hand, together with CGT, **a lawsuit was filed against the police officer who used intimate relationships to infiltrate social movements in Barcelona and against the hierarchical superior of the agent** (the previously mentioned case). Currently, the lawsuit includes eight plaintiffs (affected activist women) who denounce the agent for crimes of torture or against moral integrity, discovery and disclosure of secrets, continuous sexual abuse, and hindrance of the exercise of civil rights. The lawsuit, [dismissed by the investigating court 21 of Barcelona almost 9 months after its filing](#), is now awaiting the decision of the Barcelona Court.

Both lawsuits have allowed for the creation of new alliances, both at the Catalan, national, and international levels. With the lawsuit and consequent campaign [#ProuMentidesPolicials](#), work was carried out [with the Ramon Barnils Journalists Group](#), [the Critical Media Observatory - Mèdia.cat](#), and the international organization [Free Press Unlimited](#). Regarding the lawsuit related to police infiltration, a constant communication and bidirectional exchange channel has been generated with the international movement [Police Spies Out of Lives](#). Within the framework of this relationship, materials have been shared and participation in advocacy [actions has taken](#) place to extend the knowledge of both the case in Spain and the [United Kingdom](#).

Additionally, work has continued **to strengthen and grow the national platform *Defender a quien Defiende***. In particular, the platform has focused on promoting the replication and establishment of different observation networks in Spain through training across the territory to publicize the work carried out by the platform and promote its establishment. As a result of this work, a new observation network was established in Granada, joining the two active observer networks in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, known as [SomDefensores](#) (2 activations and 1 training), and in [Madrid](#) (2 activations and training). The Granada observation network was established thanks to a training process carried out in September 2023 and **the activation of two observation devices** during the [Granada Social Summit](#). All reports extracted from the observations have been sent to the competent

authorities, reiterating (in Madrid and Granada) the non-compliance with the CNP regulation to be properly identified.

The platform continues to document rights violations in the context of protest and **react to the repressive escalation** against some expressions and [social movements](#). This is the case with Tsunami Democràtic as well as **the environmental collective Futuro Vegetal, where, in April 2023, the platform documented an average of one arrest per day**, deciding to [systematize all identified violations to denounce](#) the specific and increasing repression of their exact case.

Finally, in coalition with Suds, Novact, and the Business and Human Rights Observatory (ODHE), throughout the year a program of investigation, denunciation, but above all **defense and protection for human rights defenders in the Euro-Mediterranean area is carried out.**

Reports and Materials 2023:

- **Irídia and OMCT**, [Statement on the continued police infiltration in social movements in Spain](#). Denounces that the Spanish state uses the instrumentalization of intimate relationships to monitor political dissent.
- Platform **Defender a Quien Defiende**: [Collection of documented cases to denounce that the intensification of repression against the environmental movement severely affects the right to protest. Position paper expressing concern regarding the latest annual report of the Attorney General of the State \(2022\)](#), which classifies the actions of the antifascist, environmental, and independence movements in the “national terrorism” section.
- **Irídia, Mèdia.cat, and Ramon Barnils Journalists Group**, [Campaign #ProuMentidesPolicials](#): linked to the lawsuit of two journalists against two Mossos d’Esquadra officers for the crime of accusation, false report, and perjury.
- Platform **Defender a Quien Defiende**, Diagnostic [Report on the Right to Protest: Human Rights Violations in Spain 2022-2023](#), which documents more than a thousand human rights violations in the context of protest over the past two years.

2023 Figures on the Defense of Civil Society Space at Irídia:

6 observation devices in protest contexts | 2 Barcelona + 2 Madrid + Granada

80 human rights defenders participate in [The NonViolence Factory](#).

2.4. Deprivation of liberty

Irídia's Deprivation of Liberty line has the main objective of promoting structural changes in the penal system and in contexts of deprivation of liberty, as well as defending the rights of people deprived of liberty.

Through work in this line, the aim is to highlight and denounce rights violations in prison from an intersectional perspective and achieve the eradication of practices that violate the fundamental rights of people deprived of liberty, such as the practice of isolation and mechanical restraints in prison and in the Immigration Detention Center (CIE).

Highlights of 2023:

Throughout the year, the Deprivation of Liberty line has worked on monitoring public policies in the penitentiary field and has been an active part of human rights defense networks in the penitentiary field and support for prisoners in Catalonia.

We particularly highlight the completion of an investigation at the Wad-Ras penitentiary center between February and June 2023, to collect and give voice to the demands of women deprived of liberty, from an analysis perspective through international human rights law.

Reports and Materials 2023:

- Report "[Women in Wad-Ras Prison: An Analysis of Human Rights Violations](#)". An analysis of the structural and continuous violations of the rights of women in deprivation of liberty at the oldest penitentiary center in Catalonia. Includes eight recommendations for the Catalan and Spanish Governments and Parliaments.
- [We reject the action plan to increase security in prisons agreed upon by Justice and the Prison Officers' Unions](#). Statement rejecting the incorporation of means of force in the penitentiary field, due to their serious impact on the fundamental rights of people deprived of liberty.

2023 Figures on the Defense of Rights in the Context of Deprivation of Liberty at Irídia:

20 women deprived of liberty at Wad-Ras participate in Irídia's research.

4 workers from Wad-Ras participate in the analysis of semi-structured interviews.

2.5. Migration Control and Border Policies

One of Irídia's objectives is **to promote and ensure respect for human rights in the implementation of migration control policies, regulations, and practices, as well as at the borders of the Spanish state.** The work of this line focuses mainly on monitoring and denouncing human rights violations in the border context through research, political and legal advocacy.

Irídia understands that racism is a fundamental element of migration policies and works to identify, denounce, and eradicate situations of institutional violence experienced by migrants in the various spaces and devices that serve the logic of migration control. This work is articulated through networked collaboration with antiracist organizations and migrant groups worldwide and is expanded through a European and international networking and advocacy strategy.

Highlights of 2023:

Throughout the year, the team traveled to the Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla, and Morocco in response to emergency situations with the aim of gathering evidence on the human rights situation, identifying potential cases for strategic litigation, supporting mobilizations, and consolidating relationships with frontline organizations in joint communication and advocacy strategies for migration and border policies.



As a result of this work, a **lawsuit was filed against the Civil Guard on behalf of a young man who lost vision in one eye due to a baton blow to the head after jumping the Melilla fence in March 2022**. Another significant aspect has been Irídia's participation in the defense of the [Popular Legislative Initiative RegularizaciónYa before Congress](#).

Irídia's work around the events of June 24, 2022, has been crucial for investigating one of the most serious incidents in the history of EU borders. Together with [Border Forensic](#), more than 30 survivors were interviewed for the preparation of an unprecedented report that will be published in the coming year.

[The Human Rights Defense Days at the Southern Border](#) have brought together more than a hundred key agents from Catalonia, Spain, and internationally in defending the rights of migrants, featuring participants such as Sudanese human rights activist Hussein Mohammed; [Amnesty International](#); [the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights \(ECCHR\)](#); and the [Moroccan Association for Human Rights \(AMDH\)](#), among others.

Reports and Materials 2023:

- [Human Rights Violations at the Southern Border of Spain 2021-2022 – Institutional Racism, Borders, and Migration Policy](#). This report documents the human rights situation at the Southern Border of Spain during the years 2021 and 2022, including an analysis of the events of June 24, 2022. This report was created in collaboration with Novact, Community Action Group (GAC), and the Business and Human Rights Observatory (ODHE).
- [Maritime Arrivals in the Canary Islands: Exceptionality and Racism. An updated report on the situation during arrivals to the Canary Islands in 2023](#).
- [Who Watches the Watchmen?](#) Report on Rights Violations and Impunity at Frontex, conducted jointly with the Delàs Center.

2023 Figures on the Defense of Rights in the Migration and Border Area:

183 attendees at the Human Rights Defense Days at the Southern Border.

3.800 visits to the website for downloading the report on the Southern Border 2021-202

2.6. Right to memory

At Irídia, **achieving the full right to memory is considered key, ensuring the principles of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition, and ending the impunity** of crimes against humanity systematically committed during the Civil War, the Franco regime, and the years of the Transition to Democracy.

To make this possible, the line has carried out strategic actions in various areas that essentially aim to ensure that **victims and repressed individuals can access justice and secure guarantees of reparation and non-repetition. Filing lawsuits for crimes against humanity and torture during the Franco regime** remains central to the line, as well as actively advocating for the **conversion of the current Via Laietana 43 Police Headquarters into a center for memory** and interpretation of torture. Actions are carried out in **collaboration with memorialist entities and civil society organizations, and members of the academy**, at both the state and international levels.

Highlights of 2023:

The filing of the second lawsuit for torture and crimes against humanity during the Franco regime, specifically related to the detention of the **Ferrándiz brothers** in 1971. The lawsuit was filed jointly with the entities of the [“Via Laietana 43: fem justícia, fem memòria”](#) campaign, in an event that also organized a **round table discussion on the neighborhood struggle of Nou Barris** where people were able to speak freely. In the field of criminal justice, the presentation of an **appeal against the inadmissibility of the lawsuit for the detention and torture of Carles Vallejo stands out.**

As part of the “Via Laietana 43: fem justícia, fem memòria” campaign, Irídia participates in its **central event, a festive and vindicative event** to demand the conversion of the police station into a center for memory and interpretation of torture. The event features **musical performances and speeches by people who were repressed** at the police station and representatives of the organizations promoting the campaign.

2023 has been a year marked by small advances in memory issues. Although most of the lawsuits (including that of Carles Vallejo) presented in the framework of the entry into force of the new state democratic memory law have been dismissed, **for the first time, a lawsuit for Franco-era crimes has been admitted for processing.** The investigation period following the admission of Julio Pacheco’s lawsuit allowed, [for the first time, a Spanish court to take a statement from a victim of torture during the Franco regime.](#) This significant and exceptional event concluded **with the #LaPrimera-De100 campaign to denounce the hundreds of lawsuits dismissed by the Spanish justice system and the general and prevailing impunity framework in Spain that continues to prevent the judicial investigation of Franco-era crimes.** This has allowed a growth in the building and strengthening of the state advocacy network with organizations such as CEAQUA,

La Comuna, Amnesty International, and GAC, working collectively and in a coordinated manner.

Another important and relevant milestone **is the creation of a [new prosecutor for memory and human rights](#)** - promoted by Law 20/2022, of October 19, on Democratic Memory - which has proven capable of intervening, as it did when it supported Carles Vallejo's lawsuit and, for the first time, urged the investigation of torture during the Franco regime.

Also noteworthy within the framework of the Line is **the implementation of the “Via Laietana 43: veus de memòria”** project, in collaboration with [Domestic Data Streamers](#) and the newspaper [Ara](#). During this project, **the stories of six witnesses from various groups who were detained at the Via Laietana Superior Headquarters between 1960 and 1980 are collected.** The participating witnesses recount their detention experiences and participate in an exercise of space recreation, both individually and later collectively.



Reports and Materials 2023:

- Statement by CEAQUA, La Comuna, Amnesty International, GAC, and Irídia: [The Spanish State continues to refuse to judicially investigate Franco-era crimes.](#)
- Via Laietana 43, [The position of the Prosecutor's Office in the case of Carles Vallejo must open the door to ending the impunity of Franco-era crimes.](#)
- Press release by CEAQUA, La Comuna, Amnesty International, GAC, and Irídia: [Julio and Rosa's statements suspended. Franco-era impunity continues.](#)
- Press release by CEAQUA, La Comuna, Amnesty International, GAC, and Irídia: [Following the first statement in Spanish courts of a victim of torture during the Franco regime.](#)
- Article from La Directa: [The Ferrándiz brothers, activists and survivors of the terror of Via Laietana, file a lawsuit against their torturers.](#)

2.7. Strategic litigation

Strategic litigation involves **identifying and judicializing cases of rights violations as a mechanism for defending human rights**. Starting from an individual case, the aim is to provoke broader social change, using strategic litigation as a tool to prevent and avoid repetition, establish control and accountability mechanisms, ensure mechanisms for effective reparation, and fulfill the State's duty to take responsibility.

From a psychosocial perspective, it is important that the affected person feels accompanied throughout the judicial process to avoid re-victimization and reduce the anxiety that these actions generate. **Irídia's litigations place the affected person at the center, working with them and their network to achieve a positive and lasting impact on society**, with the central goal of ensuring their right to truth, justice, and reparation.

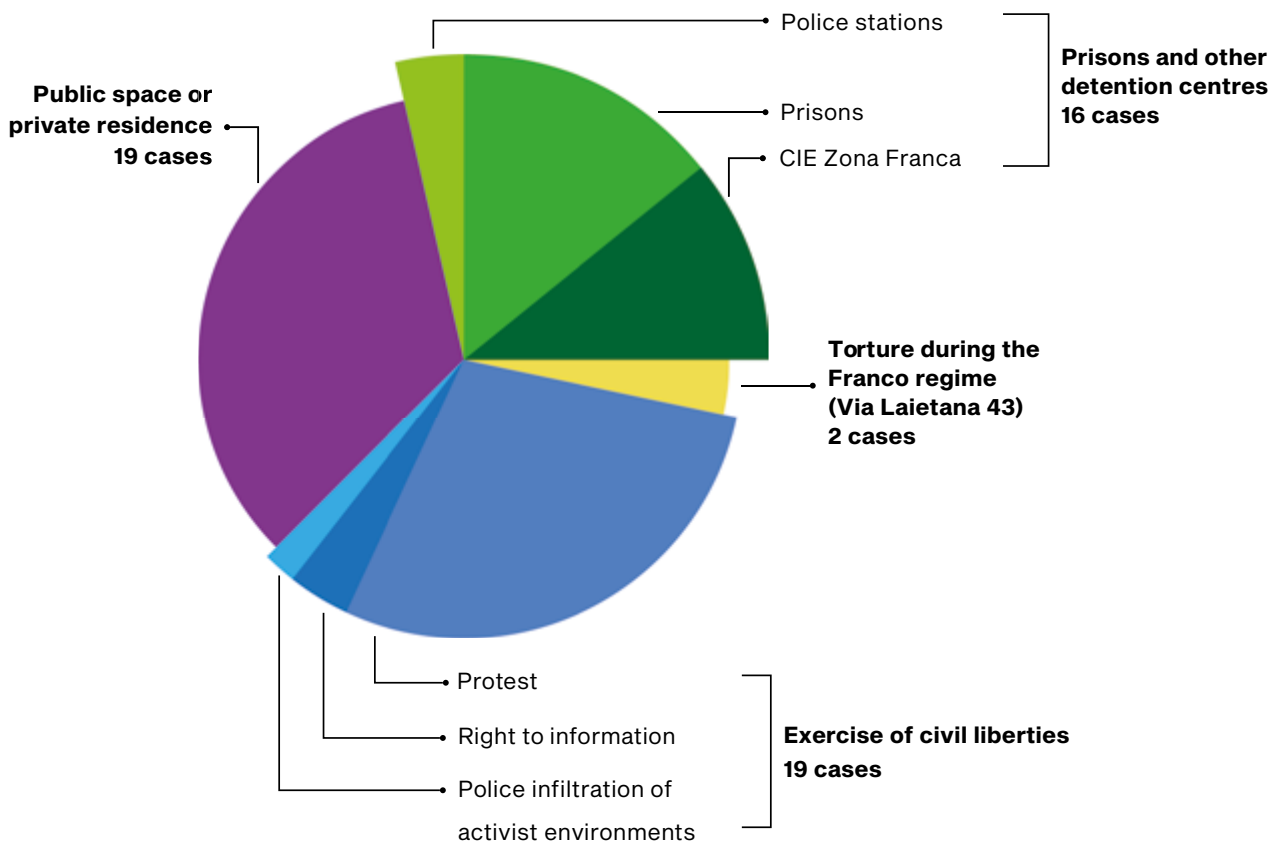
In 2023:

Until 2022, Irídia focused strategic litigation on one of the main lines of action of the entity: the Service for Attention and Denunciation in Cases of Institutional Violence (SAIDAVI). In this way, cases are represented in court where agents of security forces, prison officials, or private security agents – when they act on behalf of public security functions – violate individuals' rights through the use of physical or psychological force, affecting their physical, mental, and/or moral integrity. These are situations of torture and/or ill-treatment that occur within the penal system.

Despite the progress made in recent decades in preventing and investigating torture and ill-treatment, these violations continue to exist in Catalonia, along with a series of practices and procedures, both police and judicial, that hinder their eradication. Therefore, with the approval of the new Strategic Plan 2023-2025, Irídia decides to also begin introducing strategic litigation as a transformation tool to be applied to all lines. Thus, in 2023,

strategic litigation expands to cases of rights violations in the following areas: the limitation of the civil society space for action and organization – through police infiltrations or repression against journalists; racism within the framework of police actions; and impunity for crimes against humanity through torture during the Franco regime.

In total, during 2023, Irídia litigated a **total of 56 cases**, which are detailed below according to the contexts in which they occurred:



Highlights of 2023:

Throughout the year, 9 new litigations were undertaken. These include 3 litigations for rights violations in public spaces, 3 litigations for the defense of civil society space, 2 for deprivation of liberty, and 1 for historical memory.

During 2023, 7 of these 56 litigations were closed, and therefore by the end of 2023, **49 strategic litigations remained open.**

In 20 of the 49 cases, **a component of racism is identified**, either through explicit verbalization, the racist nature of the police action, or because the events occur in a context of institutional racism. **This represents 40.81% of the cases, indicating an increase compared to 2022, where the racism component was identified in 33.33% of the cases.**

During 2023, many actions related to strategic litigation were carried out. However, the procedures are slow and require a lot of work to advance investigations and break impunity. Some of the progress made this year includes:

Reopening of investigations: in 2 litigations, the Provincial Court upheld the appeal filed by Irídia and ordered the reopening of the investigation that had been closed without proper inquiry.

Completion of the investigation with an agreement to continue the procedure: in 2023, in 6 litigations, the investigating court, after completing the investigation, considered that there were enough indications to continue the procedure against the alleged perpetrators.

Trials: in 3 litigations, the accusation has already been formulated and trial dates have been set.

Judgment: during 2023, 1 trial was held which, although it did not end in a conviction due to the shortcomings of the control mechanisms, confirmed the victim's version, which was denied by both the accused Mossos d'Esquadra officer, his superior, and the Generalitat itself.

Identification: for the first time, the perpetrator of a foam shot has been identified.

2023 Figures on Strategic Litigation at Irídia:

9 new cases

56 strategic litigations, 49 remained open at the end of the year

42 were pursued through criminal proceedings

7 through claims for patrimonial liability

156 agents or officials prosecuted in criminal proceedings

82 agents under investigation

└ 34 Mossos d'Esquadra, 12 National Police, 19 Local Police, 10 are prison officials, and 7 private security guards

74 agents accused or awaiting trial

└ 14 Mossos d'Esquadra, 51 National Police, 4 Local Police, and 5 private security agents

2.8. Political Advocacy

The objective of political advocacy is to **promote legislative and public policy changes**, as well as to encourage actions aimed at ensuring that administrative, judicial, and legislative authorities adopt decisions that guarantee the effective respect of human rights. From Irídia, through a psychosocial, feminist, and intersectional perspective, work is done to: influence social discourses and practices in favor of promoting human rights and denouncing impunity and institutional violence, as well as to promote networking and articulation with social movements and civil society organizations to position the human rights agenda in the public debate.

Among the strategic objectives of the advocacy axis are: i) working with social movements to convey the entity's work, strengthening alliances and generating networks; ii) establishing state-level advocacy work, consolidating the Madrid delegation and working with entities from other regions; iii) integrating international advocacy into the team's and entity's agenda, increasing our impact at the European Union level, as well as before international organizations.

Highlights of 2023:

- **Advocacy for SAIDAVI cases:** meetings held with the Department of Health to promote greater awareness of the Istanbul Protocol among health personnel. Also those held with different municipalities in which police officers in their charge are being investigated in cases represented by Irídia, with the aim of promoting accountability and guarantees of non-repetition. Likewise, the sessions held with the Office for Non-Discrimination of the Barcelona City Council stand out.
- **Incidence on Control of Security Forces:** the main point of incidence is the demand to create an external and independent mechanism of control of police actions, as an effective guarantee of the fight against impunity and the obligation of the States to carry out diligent and effective investigations in the face of serious allegations of torture and ill-treatment. In this sense, after the Study Commission on the Police Model of the Parliament of Catalonia rejected this possibility, together with Amnesty International Catalonia has continued working with the parliamentary groups in order to educate about the need for such a body and to promote its creation.
- **Advocacy in defense of civil society space:** In accordance with the strategic line of recent years, a strategic priority of the line has focused on **influencing a reform of the law on citizen security (Organic Law 4/2015 of March 30, 2015, on the protection of citizen security)** with guarantees. Despite the failure of the previous legislature to move forward with the project to reform the Law, **the team - [in coalition with other organizations from around the State](#) - has worked to achieve a repeal and reform of the most harmful articles that have a negative impact on the exercise of the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, especially on human rights defenders and journalists.** The incidence on this issue has also focused on the incidence of [international organizations](#) that join this petition in a forceful way. Likewise, in

view of the escalation of cases of criminalization of social and political movements under the accusation of terrorism or criminal organization, **a channel of communication has been opened with [the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the fight against terrorism and human rights](#) to address this issue.**

- **Incidence on the Right to Memory: process of pressure for the application of the new state democratic memory law.** In coalition with other organizations, a communication channel has been generated with the new prosecutor of democratic memory and human rights in order to present the work done by memorialist organizations and human rights organizations, as well as to understand their mandate and competences

2023 Figures on Political Advocacy at Irídia:

89 advocacy actions

38 institutional actions

67 meetings

19 actions with political actors

22 internal communications

4 actions with police forces

Regarding Catalan, state, and international networking, Irídia is an active member of, among others:

- the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)
- the State Coordinator for the Prevention of Torture
- Defender a Quién Defiende and No Somos Delito
- the Global Network against Police Violence
- the Ateneu de Memòria Popular de BCN
- the State Meeting for Memory

2.9. Communication and culture

Irídia engages in transformative communication with the aim not only of making the entity's activities visible but also of driving political change. Transversally, it strives to integrate culture into human rights defense actions and promotes initiatives such as **IrídiaFest**, which arises from the idea that it is essential to build empowering collective alternatives to counter the radicalization of hate, through the creation of spaces for connection, community, and celebration. Irídia understands the development and promotion of culture as an essential part of defending human rights historically and advocates for the role of art as a backbone of socially transformative ideas.

Highlights of 2023:

We highly value [the first edition](#) of the **IrídiaFest** culture and human rights festival in terms of artistic quality, media impact, and attendance. The collaboration with cultural agents of the city such as the Quesoni cooperative and the Paral·lel62 venue has been strategic in providing the best technical conditions for this event.

2,000 people attended the various artistic performances, spread over two days with affordable ticket prices. Noteworthy are the presence of unique and international proposals in this edition, such as the proposal from Freedom First and the artist Pongo.

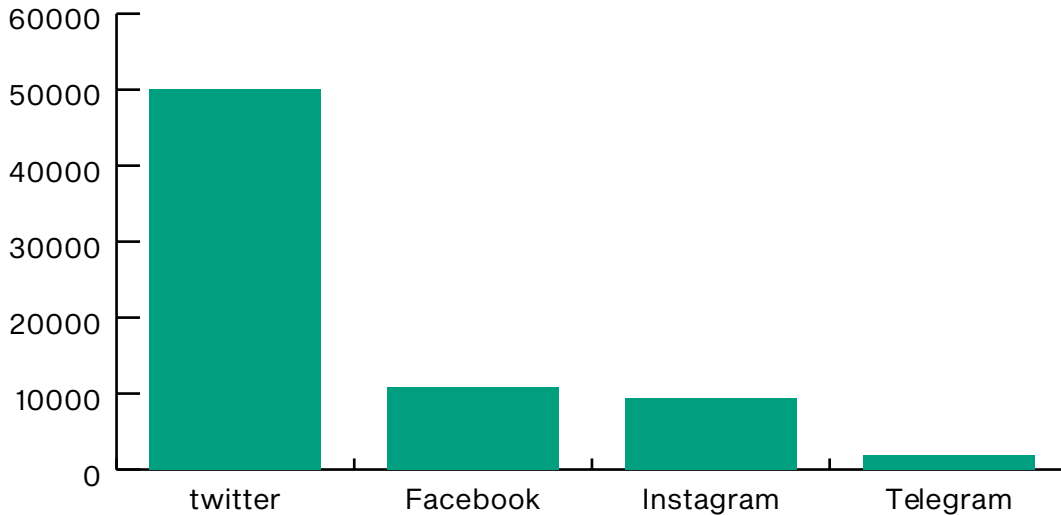
In 2023, the Communication and Culture Axis **launched several signature collection campaigns** with the dual objective of adding elements for political advocacy and expanding Irídia's associative base. The first campaigns focused on the prohibition of synthetic traction projectiles (foam and rubber bullets) on one hand; and the demand for the fulfillment of human rights at the border on the other.

Communicative materials 2023:

- [Collection of all publications by the entity during 2023](#)
- [Video of IrídiaFest 2023](#), the first edition of the culture and human rights festival

Communicative Impact of Irídia:

- During 2023, Irídia continued to have a significant presence in the media, already consolidated by the entity's trajectory as a reference in human rights and institutional violence. It appeared in various programs, debates, and interviews on television, radio, and the written press, in different regional and national media.
- In 2023, Irídia had an impact on: Ara, La Directa, El Punt Avui, TV3, La Vanguardia, Públic, Catalunya Ràdio, VilaWeb, El Temps, Betevé, RAC 1, El Nacional.cat, Xarxa.net, and ACN, among others. Additionally, 2023 was a year with a strong presence in national media such as El Salto, El País, eldiario.es, 20 Minutos, Cadena SER, El Mundo, ABC, EFE, Europa Press, Público, Eitb, RTVE, La Sexta, Telecinco, and Antena 3, among others.
- Once again, **the number of followers on various social networks continued to grow**, especially on Twitter and Instagram. On Twitter, the number of followers increased by more than 1,300 people, and on Instagram, by more than 1,600. By December 2023, **Irídia had reached 50,035 people on Twitter, 10,818 on Facebook, 9,377 on Instagram, and 1,891 on Telegram.**



Some of the most important moments of the year in terms of communication have been:

- 1 [Press conference #LalmpunitatAJudici](#). The first time an agent is identified as responsible for firing a foam bullet. June 8, 2023.

Social Media: Twitter: 22,887 impressions, 1,932 interactions, and 7,738 video views.

Media: Articles in major outlets such as [elDiario.es](#) and [El Periódico](#).

- 2 [Press conference #ProuMentidesPolicials](#). Lawsuit against two Mossos d'Esquadra officers for the crimes of accusation and false reporting and perjury in the cases of journalist Jesús Rodríguez and photojournalist Isidre García. September 28, 2023.

Social Media: Instagram: 26,480 video views, 17,308 accounts reached, and 518 likes.

Media: Major outlets such as [La Vanguardia](#), [Ara](#), and [El Mundo](#). Also, on radio stations like [Catalunya Ràdio](#) and [TV3's Te-lenotícies](#).

- 3 [Press conference](#). Report on institutional violence 2022. April 13, 2023, at the Association of Catalan Journalists

Social Media: Twitter: 19,082 views, 573 interactions, and 4,760 video views.

Media: Articles in outlets like [El Nacional](#), and a piece on [TV3's TN](#).

2.10. Psychosocial perspective

Irídia is firmly committed to **integrating the psychosocial perspective across the entire entity**, both in accompanying individuals attended by the Service for Attention and Denunciation of Institutional Violence and in the projects and political advocacy of all the entity's lines. This perspective allows for understanding how violence affects the different dimensions of individuals and communities, framing them in a historical and sociopolitical context, and recognizing that their impact depends not only on the characteristics of the person and their environment but also on the response of the State, institutions, and the degree of social or community support.

From this perspective, Irídia's team of psychologists works **to ensure the participation of affected individuals** and their close environment in various spaces and actions of the entity, as well as to **raise awareness and sensitize the population** about the impacts of human rights violations and coping strategies.

Highlights of 2023:

Starting in 2023, the work of Irídia's psychosocial team is no longer solely focused on accompanying individuals attended by SAIDAVI and is now integrated into all lines of the entity. This expansion of the psychosocial perspective is materialized with the **expansion of the psychosocial reference** position to a full-time role. Throughout the year, the psychosocial perspective has been applied with particular intensity to the Right to Memory and Defense of Civil Society Space lines.

During 2023, the strengthening of **the mutual support group among individuals affected by institutional violence continued**, providing a meeting space to share experiences and generate collective coping strategies. The group is facilitated by Irídia's psychosocial reference, with the goal of gradually becoming more self-managed by its members.

2023 Figures on the Prevention and Denunciation of Institutional Violence at Irídia:

50 individuals supported

5 attendees at the mutual support group meeting

259 psychosocial actions

2 group sessions

2.11. Sustainability and internal organization of the entity

The sustainability team ensures that the conditions within the entity allow for the optimal development of its work, from securing and managing funding, guaranteeing a stable structure, to taking care of the entire technical team.

The team specializes in the economic, financial, technical, and administrative management of the entity and is responsible for ensuring a balance between funding sources, gaining new members and donations, and maintaining the social base. Additionally, it understands the entity's productive systems and maximizes their capacity, ensuring the coordination and consolidation of teams, as well as managing human resources, ethical functioning, and psychosocial care.

Highlights of 2023:

The main internal improvements of the entity during the year have been in the digitization and automation of processes, such as the implementation and continuous improvement of the entity's internal management databases, which allow for greater operability; or the application of data visualization and task automation tools, such as automatic deadline reminders and email sending.

This process has been accompanied by strengthening cybersecurity and implementing new data entry forms on the website, allowing for secure information collection, such as member data, SAIDAVI users, event registration, and other contact forms.

Another important improvement has been the increased capacity for project management and general coordination, thanks to the incorporation of new professionals and the consolidation of a structure organized by lines and axes.

Reports and Materials 2023:

- [Iridia's transparency webpage](#), which includes detailed information about the projects, team, and funding of the entity.

2023 Figures on Sustainability and Internal Organization of the Entity:

325 new memberships

1258 members as of December 2023

25 workers in the team

18 public grants + **8** private grants

03

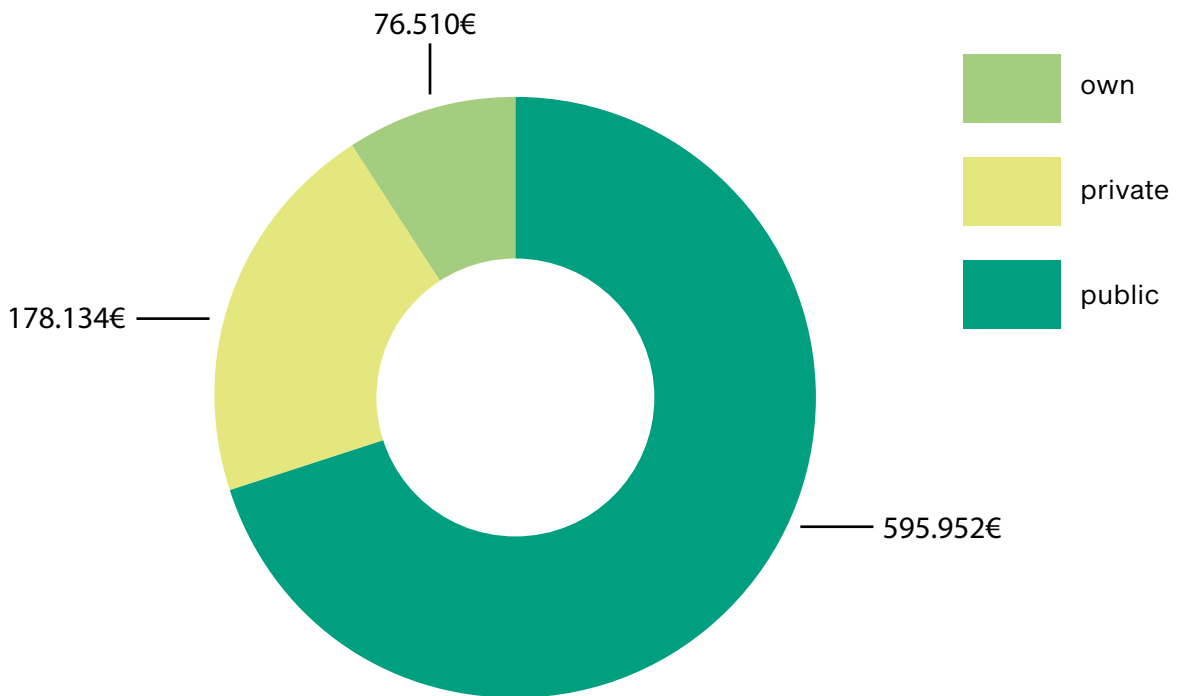
ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF 2023

Irídia is a non-profit association funded by donations, membership fees, grants, and contracts from public institutions and contributions and contracts from non-profit entities. The entity aims to ensure a balance between the various sources of funding, with the goal of strengthening the acquisition of funding through membership fees and individual donations, in order to build a collective human rights defense project that does not economically depend on any single funding body. Detailed information on funding sources and annual accounts can be found in the [transparency sections of the website](#).

3.1. Incomes

Irídia's total income in 2023 amounts to €850,596.68, with 68% coming from public institution grants, 17% from private entity contributions, and other income from membership fees, donations, and service provision for some talks, training, campaigns, and research carried out.

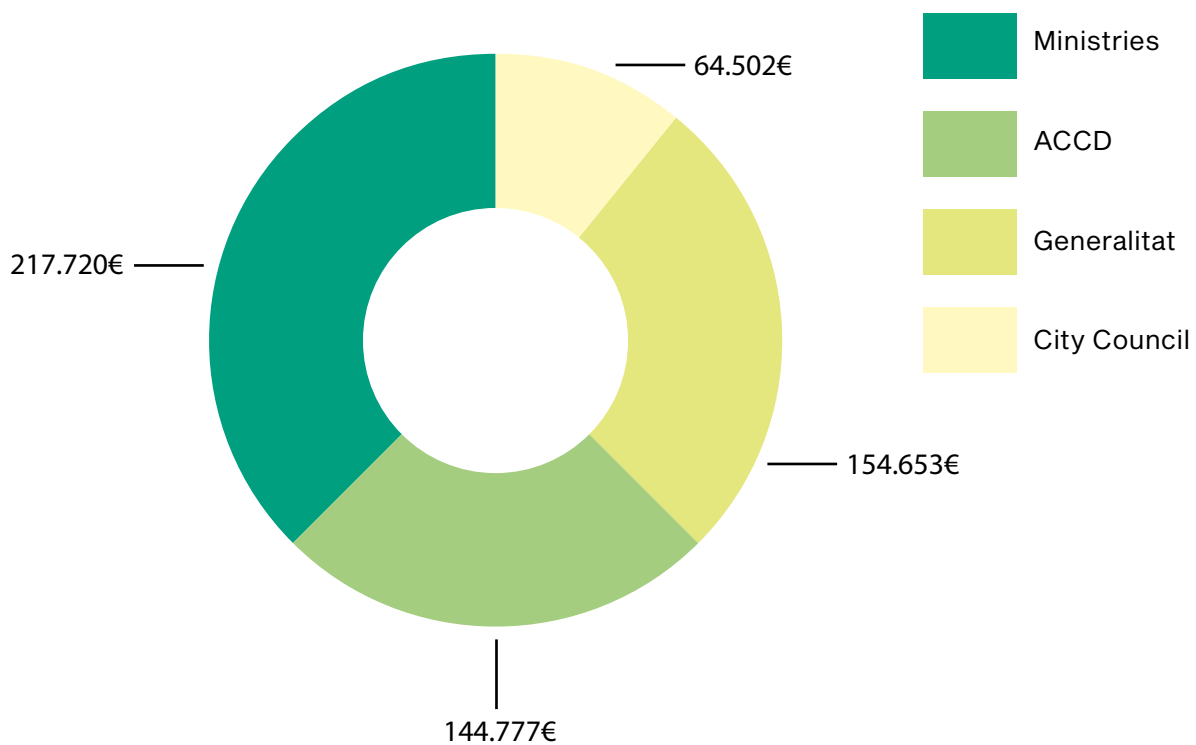
Incomes:



In its commitment to serving citizens, Irdia does not charge for case handling or litigation managed by SAIDAVI, which is a completely free service.

The grants from public institutions executed during 2023 come from state ministries, the Government of Catalonia, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), and the Barcelona City Council

Incomes by territory:

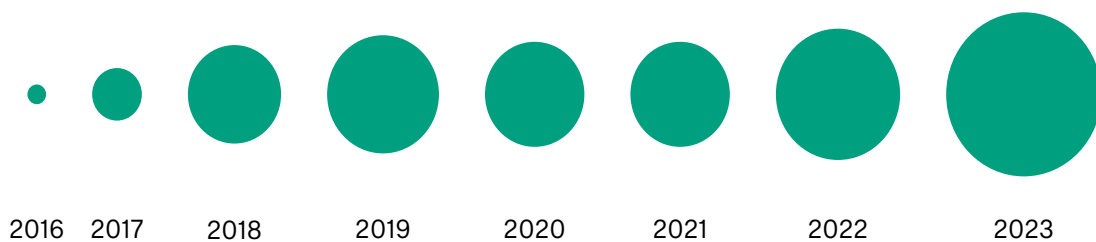


3.2. Expenses

The total expenses for 2023 amount to €847,197.46, of which 72% is spent on the entity's own personnel. As of December 2023, the entity has 25 employees, having completed a total of 17,870 work hours during the year.

New staff have been hired throughout the year to expand and consolidate the team. Since its inception, Irídia has been growing in human and economic resources, as shown in the following graph, which illustrates the total number of employees at the end of each year.

People employed per year



3.3. Economic results

The annual result is €3,399.2, a figure pending approval at the members' assembly and tax filing. The overall assessment of the year is very positive, as there has been an increase in membership, new sources of public and private funding, a consolidated team and organizational structure, and secured funding for the coming years.

04

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend a special thanks to the individuals affected by institutional violence who have trusted and continue to trust in Irídia. It is thanks to their courage that change is possible.

We also thank all the organizations we work with daily, who collaborate and contribute to the entity's work.

We express our gratitude to all the members who support the organization. Without your support, Irídia would not be possible.

Irīdia_