

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2018





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## Letter from the director

Dear friends,

We are pleased to send you our activity report 2018, which includes the activities of the Wassu-UAB Foundation, focused on the study and prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the care of its consequences.

In this globalized world, the arrival of families from diverse geographical, historical and cultural environments, confronts us to become aware of a new social identity, with challenges that transcend the purely welfare or legal framework. FGM is a traditional ancestral practice that can lead to health consequences and complications throughout the life cycle of women and girls. It brings together the violation of human rights, the need for a cross-cultural approach and the moral commitment to abandon it.

This is the meaning and feeling of the Wassu Foundation of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, which houses the Transnational Observatory for research applied to the transfer of knowledge.

Our goal, transversal to all the activities that we implemented this 2018, was to share knowledge and experiences, open dialogue and joint reflection to involve everyone in the care of women and girls.

We open and close this year 2018, with two events on very significant dates: on the one hand, the II International Forum on FGM in the Gambia, on February 5th and 6th, International Day of Zero Tolerance with Female Genital Mutilation. To close, the International Forum on FGM in Barcelona, from November 19th to 21st, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th).

In addition, we celebrated the 20 years from the creation of the Preventive Commitment, a document designed so that families traveling on vacation to their

countries of origin, where FGM is carried out, can use it as a support element in their decision not to submit their daughters to this practice. Also, we published the *Informe de evaluación del modelo de actuación de la Generalitat de Catalunya (2002-2018)* (*Evaluation Report on the Action Model of the Generalitat of Catalonia*), and we expanded our research field to Senegal.

At internal level, we are looking for ways to modernize and improve the way we work. That is why we created the Youth Action Group for the prevention of FGM, with girls and boys with motivation and commitment, who refresh our vision and broaden the topics we can address with young people.

Finally, we want to thank our partners, donors, collaborators and funders, since without their support, our work would not be possible



**Adriana Kaplan Marcusán**

Chair of Knowledge Transfer  
Executive Director

Wassu Foundation  
Autonomous University of Barcelona  
Adriana.kaplan@uab.cat

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# **WASSU-UAB FOUNDATION**

## Who we are

### Wassu Foundation Board:

#### President

- **Margarita Arboix Arzo**  
Rector  
Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

#### Secretary

- **Maria Rosa Català Fernández**  
Legal and HH.RR. Director  
UAB Corporation

#### Members

- **Adriana Kaplan Marcusán**  
Autonomous University of Barcelona
- **Carlos Sánchez Lancis**  
Vice-Rector for Institutional

Relations and Culture

- **Armand Sánchez Bonastre**  
Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer
- **Màrius Martínez Muñoz**  
Vice-Rector for International Relations
- **Javier Lafuente Sancho**  
Director of the UAB Research Park
- **Louis Lemkow Zetterling**  
Autonomous University of Barcelona
- **Josep Maria Trepas Dessy**  
Association Wassu Gambia Kafo
- **Montserrat Solsona Roca**  
Association Wassu Gambia Kafo



### Wassu-UAB Foundation (FW) Team:

- **Adriana Kaplan Marcusán**  
Executive Director
- **Marie-Alix Le Charles**  
Financial Coordinator
- **Neus Aliaga Figueras**  
Project Coordinator
- **Nora Salas Seoane**  
Technical Coordinadora
- **Júlia Perarnau Moles**  
Research Support
- **Carolina Álvarez Rossat**  
Communications

### Interdisciplinary Group for the Prevention and Study of Harmful Traditional Practices (IGPS/HTP):

- **Aina Mangas**
- **Anna Moyà**
- **Lourdes Franco**
- **Tamara Jiménez**
- **Anna Aguilar**
- **Isabel González**
- **M<sup>a</sup> Helena Bedoya**



## Youth Action Group for the prevention of FGM in Catalonia:

- **Mariama Jallow**
- **Kumba Jallow**
- **Hujeji Manneh**
- **Masirent Drame**

## Wassu Gambia Kafo (WGK)

- **Álvaro Muñoz Mayordomo**  
General Manager
- **Antonio Martínez Santaella**  
Finance & Administration Coordinator
- **Katia Rodríguez**  
Project Coordinator
- **Rocío Ortiz González**  
Activities Coordinator
- **Alhagie Sarr**  
Finance & Administration Coordinator
- **Ramatoulie Drammeh**  
Accounts assistant
- **Mam Menegeh**  
Trainer
- **Segga Sanyang**  
Trainer
- **Kemo Fatty**  
Trainer

- **Seedy Kongira**  
Sensitization staff
- **Borja López**  
Intern — Hegoa
- **Sara Mañero**  
Intern — U. Edimburgo
- **Fatou Nyang**  
Assistant
- **Dodou Secka**  
Logistics
- **Momodou Bojang**  
Security

## FW-WGK Collaborators

- **Jordi Tomàs Aguilera**  
Anthropologist
- **Antonio López Gay**  
Demographer
- **Bintou Kebbeh**  
Sensitization staff
- **Momodou Kongira**  
Sensitization staff
- **Laura Muñoz**  
Biostatistician



## What we do

The **Wassu-UAB Foundation** is an international scientific organization that acts for the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through anthropological and medical research, applied to the transfer of knowledge.

As a main contribution, the Wassu-UAB Foundation houses the ***Trans-national Observatory for Applied Research to new strategies for the prevention of FGM***, which has two research and transfer centers:



In Spain, the **Interdisciplinary Group for the Prevention and**

**Study of Harmful Traditional Practices (IGPS/HTP)** del of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).



In The Gambia, **Wassu Gambia Kafo (WGK)**, ON-local NGO that promotes development cooperation between the Republic of the Gambia and Spain in the areas of health, research and education.

We learn  
from **diversity**  
and  
create **synergies**.

## Vision



Improve the living conditions of women and girls, as well as maternal and child health, recognizing their right to integrity and personal freedom, in a condition of social equality.

## Mission



Implement a scientific methodology and transfer knowledge to promote social and cultural changes, focusing on the abandonment of FGM in Africa and in the diaspora.

## Valores



Respect, collaboration, commitment, excellence, dignity, equity, sustainability, justice.

## How we work

In **FW** we have been working with passion and commitment for 30 years to protect, care, accompany and empower women, girls and communities from countries where FGM is practiced.

We have developed a **pioneering methodology** based on **applied research** on the sociocultural reality of FGM and its consequences on health. With a culturally respectful approach, we **transfer this knowledge** to key social agents so that they and they can transfer it to society. Our methodology is:



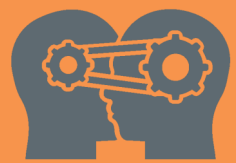
- **Scientific:** we carry out applied, qualitative and quantitative research.
- **Respectful:** we value the social and cultural elements of the practice, promoting an alternative rite of passage, "Initiation without mutilation."
- **Sustainable:** We transfer knowledge to key agents, empowering them to be the ones who sensitize and promote a positive attitude change.
- **Holistic:** we promote the abandonment of FGM by creating the conditions for women and girls suffering from its consequences to receive quality medical care.

## General Strategic

### Lines:



**Applied  
research**



**Knowledge  
transfer**



**Training and  
awareness**



**Preventive and  
care  
intervention**



# SOCIAL IMPACT



## The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as axes of our actions:



**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

### Targets to which we contribute:

- **3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- **3.2** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
- **3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.



**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

### Targets to which we contribute:

- **5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- **5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and **female genital mutilation**.
- **5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

2 European  
Projects



4 Own  
projects



728  
Direct  
beneficiaries

3 FW-WGK  
Cooperation Projects



546  
Women and  
girls attended  
by trained  
professionals



3  
Autonomous  
Communities



Research in  
Senegal



Youth Action Group

**FW**  
2018

## OUR PERFORMANCE IN FIGURES

4 Projects

**544** Evaluation  
Questionnaires



**2.615**  
Key agents  
trained

**446** KAP  
questionnaires

**WGK**  
2018



5  
Regions



6 Focus Groups



24  
Trainings and  
sensitizations



29  
Interviews

# Projects and collaborations

## SPAIN



### . MAP-FGM— Multisectoral Academic Programme to prevent and combat Female Genital Mutilation

Funder: European Commission — Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

### . CHAT – Changing Attitude. Fostering dialogue to prevent FGM

Funder: European Commission — Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

### . Empowering with knowledge for the prevention and care of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Catalonia

Funder: Fundación Bancaria “la Caixa” — Programa de Interculturalidad y Acción Social, IAS (Interculturality and Social Action Programme)

### . B-Value Programme

Funder: Fundación Ship2B y Fundación Banco Sabadell

### . Empowering with knowledge: prevention and care of female genital mutilation in Spain

Funder: Ministerio de Trabajo, Migraciones y Seguridad Social, MITRAMISS (Ministry of Labor, Migration and Social Security)

### . Youth Guarantee Programme

Funder: European Union — European social fund. Managed by the Servei Públic d'Ocupació de Catalunya, SOC (Public Occupation Service of Catalonia)





## THE GAMBIA



### **. Evidence into Action: Applied Research and Knowledge Transfer for Management and Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in The Gambia**

Funder: Delegation of the European Union in the Gambia

### **. Training of key health agents for the prevention of FGM and the care of its consequences in The Gambia**

Funder: Ayuntamiento de Sabadell – Cooperació i Relacions Internacionals, Regidoria de Drets Civils i Ciutadania (Sabadell City Council)

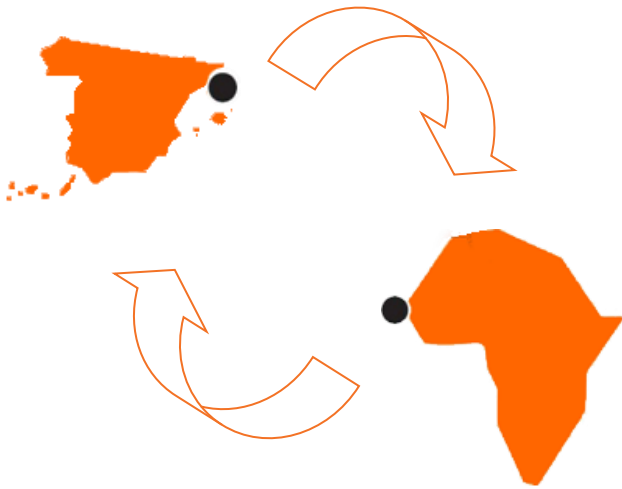
### **. Know to Act X**

Funder: Diputació Foral de Álava, DFA (Provincial Council of Alava)

### **. Improvement of the quality of FGM training at the University of Gambia and identification of new lines of research for prevention**

Funder: Fundació Autònoma Solidària, FAS (Solidarity Autonomous Foundation)

## Circularity: SPAIN—THE GAMBIA



### . Empowerment and incidence for the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation in Gambian communities

Funder: Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, ACCD (Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation)

### . Challenges and opportunities from roots: perceptions of traditional midwives and awareness of female genital mutilation in the new legal framework that prohibits practice in the Gambia

Funder: Managed by the Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, FCCD (Catalan Development Cooperation Fund)

City Councils: Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Alella, Sentmenat, Valls, l'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Castellbisbal, Celrà, Mataró.

### . Cascade empowerment for the prevention and care of Female Genital Mutilation in Gambian communities: between origin and destination

Funder: Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, ACCD (Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation)





## SENEGAL



### . Generating and disseminating knowledge about Female Genital Mutilation in the Casamance region, Senegal

Funder: Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, ACCD (Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation)

### . Female Genital Mutilation: Ritual and Identity in Casamance (Senegal)

Funder: Agencia Vasca de Cooperación, AVCD (Basque Agency of Cooperation)

Certaines disent que l'ISlama est recommande l'excision  
Je veux y comprendre? pouvez-vous relever ce debat politique nous  
puisque comprendre si moi, les commanda to de l'ISlama

**C) VOTRE OPINION PERSONNELLE SUR L'EXCISION ET L'INITIATION FEMININE**  
(ou cas ou vous avez besoin d'une autre feuille pour répondre, n'oubliez pas d'écrire le numéro de la question, svp)

1. Savez-vous quelle différence il y a entre excision et initiation? En cas affirmative, écrivez-la, svp.  
L'initiation est dans notre culture une manière d'éducation, une manière de montrer comment vivre et de savoir vivre. De respecter les âges et de comment respecter ton prochain. Alors que l'excision est de diminuer certain parties de ton sexe.  
2. Quels aspects positives a l'excision pour vous?  
Je ne sais qu'une seule aspect positif de l'excision.  
C'est ce qui me gêne dans ce environnement, lorsque les femmes en générale vient à paraitre que tu ne la par pas, elles t'insultent toute n'importe quel sorte d'insulte elle vont t'insulter. Par exemple racisme, haine ne diront que tu n'es pas une femme comme eux.  
3. Quels aspects positives a l'initiation pour vous?  
C'est bon les dit, on dit qu'il enseigne les jeunes fille ce qu'est une femme.  
Comportements qu'une femme doit avoir dans la vie ou même dans son foyer.  
4. Quels aspects négatives a l'excision pour vous?  
L'excision a beaucoup d'aspect négatives parmi les quels: l'absence de plaisir, l'absence de rapport sexuel.  
5. Quels aspects négatives a l'initiation pour vous? (L'initiation masculine)  
Dans l'initiation il y a beaucoup de gaspillage. Il y a les familles qui n'ont point de quoi manger, mais l'ord d'une initiation, ils sont obligés de faire des cotisations pour la préparation et cette initiation pendant des années a peut près des millions pour chaque famille pour y gaspiller pendant quelques jours et la fin des fois certains familles d'autres amis.  
6. Croyez-vous qu'une initiation sans excision est possible? Oui ☒ Non ☐  
Pourquoi? parce que avant d'aller à l'initiation on doit d'abord passer par l'excision.  
7. Au cas ou vous avez déjà des filles ou dans le cas que dans le futur vous auriez des filles.  
7.1. ...pensez-vous les amener faire l'excision? OUI ☒ NON ☐ Je ne sais pas encore  
Pour quelles raisons? parce que je suis contre de l'excision et que je n'ai vu aucune avantage de l'excision, mais plus tôt que des conséquences.  
Dans ce cas je ne mènerais aucune de mes fille dans les conséquences.



**INTERNATIONAL FORUM  
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**  
Exploring strategies and good practices  
From local global  
November 19th to 21st, 2018  
CaixaForum, Barcelona

**FUNDACIÓN  
WASSU UAB**

Wassukido  
**WASSU**



**UAB**  
Universitat de Barcelona



# **KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

# International Forum Organization



**II International Forum on FGM/C in the Gambia:**  
*Exploring strategies and good practices. From local to global – Evidence into action*  
 5-6th February, 2018. Brufut, Gambia

**45** speakers and chairpersons  
**305** attendants  
**7** panels  
**1** video forum




**MGF International Forum:**  
*Exploring strategies and good practices - From local to global*  
 19th-21st November, 2018. Barcelona, Spain.

**70** speakers and chairpersons  
**164** attendants  
**9** panels  
**2** conferences  
**1** discussion table and 1 video forum



## **Participation in forums, congresses, conferences and seminars:**



**5th Implementation and Monitoring Committee Meeting on FGM. *Barcelona, Spain.***

**"III International Congress on Gender, Ethics and Care: making violence against women visible during pregnancy". *Alicante, Spain.***

**Female Genital Mutilation: the phenomenon in Italy and Europe. Sharing Perspectives among political institutions, civil society and private sector. *Roma, Italy.***

**2nd International Expert Meeting on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Sharing data and experiences, improving collaboration. *Montreal, Canada.***

## Communications Media



**10**

Mentions in  
written press.



**63**

Mentions in  
online media.

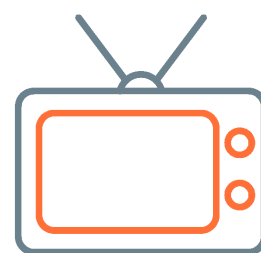
**5**

Declarations on  
radio programs.



**7**

Mentions and/or  
interviews on TV  
programs.



## Social networks

This year we open up to social networks to gradually create contacts and followers that allow us to spread our work more, collect opinions, receive suggestions and ideas to rethink and analyze the way we make ourselves known.



Fundación Wassu /  
Wassu Gambia Kafo



Fundación Wassu /  
Wassu Gambia Kafo

@FundacionWassu

**227 Fans**

**269 Likes**

@FundacionWassu

**174 Followers**

**361 Likes y 138 retweets**



YouTube: Fundación Wassu-UAB

**48 subscribers and 14.742 visualizations**

## Awards



### Global Woman Awards 2018: Advocacy

**Institution:**

Global Women P.E.A.C.E. Foundation,  
George Washington University

**Awarded to:**

Adriana Kaplan Marcusán



### Teaming Sant Cugat 2018

**Institution:**

Sant Cugat City Council

**Awarded to:**

Wassu-UAB Foundation

**Receives:**

Neus Aliaga, Project Coordinator



## Publications

TOMÀS, J.; KAPLAN, A.; LE CHARLES, M. (2018). **"Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting in Basse-Casamance (Senegal): Multiple voices from a plural south"**\*, in Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford - online, New Series, Vol. X, nº 2, 2018:157- 179. [\*Entregado 2018. Aprobado para publicación en Enero, 2019].

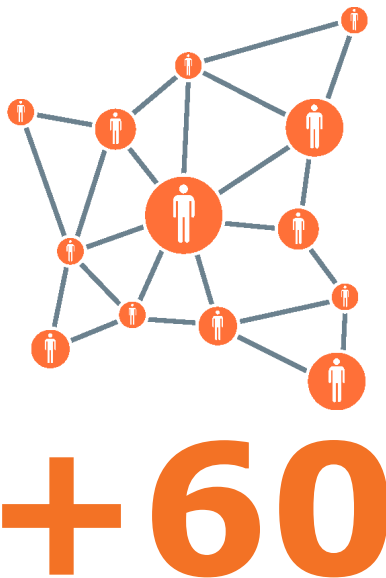
KAPLAN, Adriana (2018). Surveys on knowledge, attitudes and practices of FGM in The Gambia. In: CARVALHO, Clara; FALCÃO, Ricardo & PATRÍCIO, Marta /eds./ *Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting: Institutional Integrated Responses* (pp. 193-198). Lisbon, Portugal: ISCTE-IUL

KAPLAN, Adriana (2018). **Inquéritos sobre conhecimento, atitudes e práticas de MGF na Gâmbia**. Em: CARVALHO, Clara; FALCÃO, Ricardo & PATRÍCIO, Marta / eds./, *Corte / Mutilação Genital Feminina: Respostas institucionais integradas* (pp. 35-40). Lisbon, Portugal: ISCTE-IUL

JOHANSEN, E.; ZIYADA, M.; SHELL-DUNCAN, B.; KAPLAN, A.; LEYE, E. (2018). **"Health sector involvement in the management of female genital mutilation/cutting in 30 countries"**. En *BMC Health Services Research* 2018 18:240

Grupo Interdisciplinar para la Prevención y el Estudio de Prácticas Tradicionales Perjudiciales (GIPE/PTP)(2018). **Mutilación Genital Femenina: Informe del modelo de actuación de la Generalitat de Cataluña (2002 - 2011)**. Bellaterra, Spain: Fundación Wassu-UAB

## Networking



**INSTITUTIONAL  
MEETINGS WITH:**

EIGE members; Vice President of the Gambia; Minister of Health and Social Welfare and legislators of the National Assembly of the Government of the Gambia; EU Ambassador to the Gambia; British Commission; UNFPA; Cuban medical mission; university authorities in Gambia and Senegal; Ambassador of the Gambia in Spain; Spanish development cooperation agencies; representatives of health entities in Catalonia; president of the Institut Català de les Dones; mayors and councilors of municipalities in Spain; Government Delegations; Civil society organizations; researchers from study centers; various diplomatic delegations.

## Internships & volunteering



*"It was a transformative experience, change your priorities and the way you look at the world". Cristina Rubio, "la Caixa" international volunteer.*

Institution		Date and place
Student of the Master in Research Methods in Social Sciences	School of Social and Political Sciences, Edinburg University	November 2017 — May 2018, The Gambia
Undergraduate Student in Social and Cultural Anthropology	Dpt. of Social and Cultural Anthropology, UAB	March — June 2018, Spain
2 professionals	International Volunteer Program, Obra Social "la Caixa"	August 2018, The Gambia
Student of Official Master in Development and International Cooperation	Hegoa, University of the Basque Country	September 2018 — March 2019, The Gambia



A woman is shown in a traditional setting, using a long wooden pestle to pound contents within a mortar. She is wearing a blue tank top, a patterned skirt with green and black designs, and a light-colored headwrap. The background features a thatched roof and a stone wall. An orange rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "ECONOMIC INFORMATION" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

# **ECONOMIC INFORMATION**

## Audits

### Wassu-UAB Foundation

Montserrat Sagarra Fitó  
ROAC N° 12.236

Ministerio de Trabajo, Migraciones y  
Seguridad Social, MITRAMISS  
(Ministry of Labor, Migration and So-  
cial Security):

Audit of the project *Empowering with  
knowledge: prevention and care of Fe-  
male Genital Mutilation in Spain.*



### Wassu Gambia Kafo

AA & Company Gambia Limited

Micro Assessment: UNICEF y  
UNFPA

Evaluation: Fundación Bancaria "la  
Caixa"

## Fund accounting

GRANTS	224.915,55€
Ministry of Labor, Migration and Social Security (MITRAMISS)	59.553,59 €
Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), Gambia	99.639,51 €
Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation PR3039 (FCCD)	61.192,86 € (2017-2019)
Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation PR3160 (FCCD)	4.529,59 €

Photo by: [Julien Harneis](#) on [Visualhunt.com](#) CC-BY-SA

## **SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS:** International Forum on FGM in Barcelona

Barcelona City Council	6.784,32 €
Official College of Doctors of Girona (COMG)	1.000,00 €
Obra Social "la Caixa"	5.000,00 €
Catalan Women's Institute (ICD)	1.197,90€

## **AWARDS**

Teaming Sant Cugat	1.555,80 €
--------------------	------------

## **MINOR CONTRACTS**

Santa Coloma de Gramenet City Council — Department of Public Health and Humanitarian Action	2.480,50 €
Catalan Health Institute (ICS)	1.331,00 €

## **COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS**

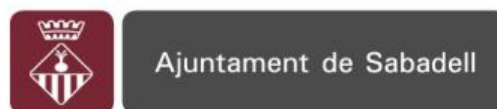
Sabadell City Council — Area of Cooperation	6.000,00 €
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## **DONATIONS**

4.792,45€

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS







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