



# We are here Venice Report 2015-2020



## **We are here Venice**

We are here Venice was established in 2015 to address Venice's challenges as a living city and advocate for evidence-based approaches to policy making. The core group of trans-disciplinary researchers and activists is connected with a large network of local and international universities, businesses, cultural institutions, associations, community groups and public authorities.

Our characteristically practical approach is based on rigorous research to bring about real changes according to social, economic, physical and ecological indicators that also align with the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Initiatives range from self-contained projects to awareness campaigns and scientific analysis.



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Venezia  
è  
una *vera*  
città

# Statement from our co-founders

We are so glad to be able to release this report on five years of We are here Venice's varied activities. When we set up the organisation in 2015 we were motivated by an urgent feeling that something must be done, and if not by us, then who? This sense of urgency continues to drive us.

As demonstrated by the work laid out in this report, WahV's approach has always been rigorous, collaborative and practical. Across the past half decade we have forged many valuable relationships, created real change on the ground, and acted as an international voice for the city and its people.

As we write this, issues surrounding giant cruise ships in the lagoon remain largely unresolved despite government promises to the contrary, depopulation continues to threaten the city's future, and UNESCO has proposed adding "Venice and the Lagoon" to the list of endangered heritage sites. There is still so much to do.

Venice stands on a precipice. For all of the suffering and loss that Covid-19 has brought to the city, and to the world, it has also shown us that momentous change is possible. By acting together, we can change the system and make space for new values. We must seize this moment.

We couldn't have done any of this without the support and generosity of our core team, Eleonora Sovrani and So Young Han, and our funders, advisors, networks and members - thank you to you all.

Co-founder and Executive Director Jane Da Mosto  
Co-founder and Non-executive Director Liza Fior







Venice lagoon  
Image, M. Justin Wilkinson,  
Jacobs at NASA-JSC

# Mission

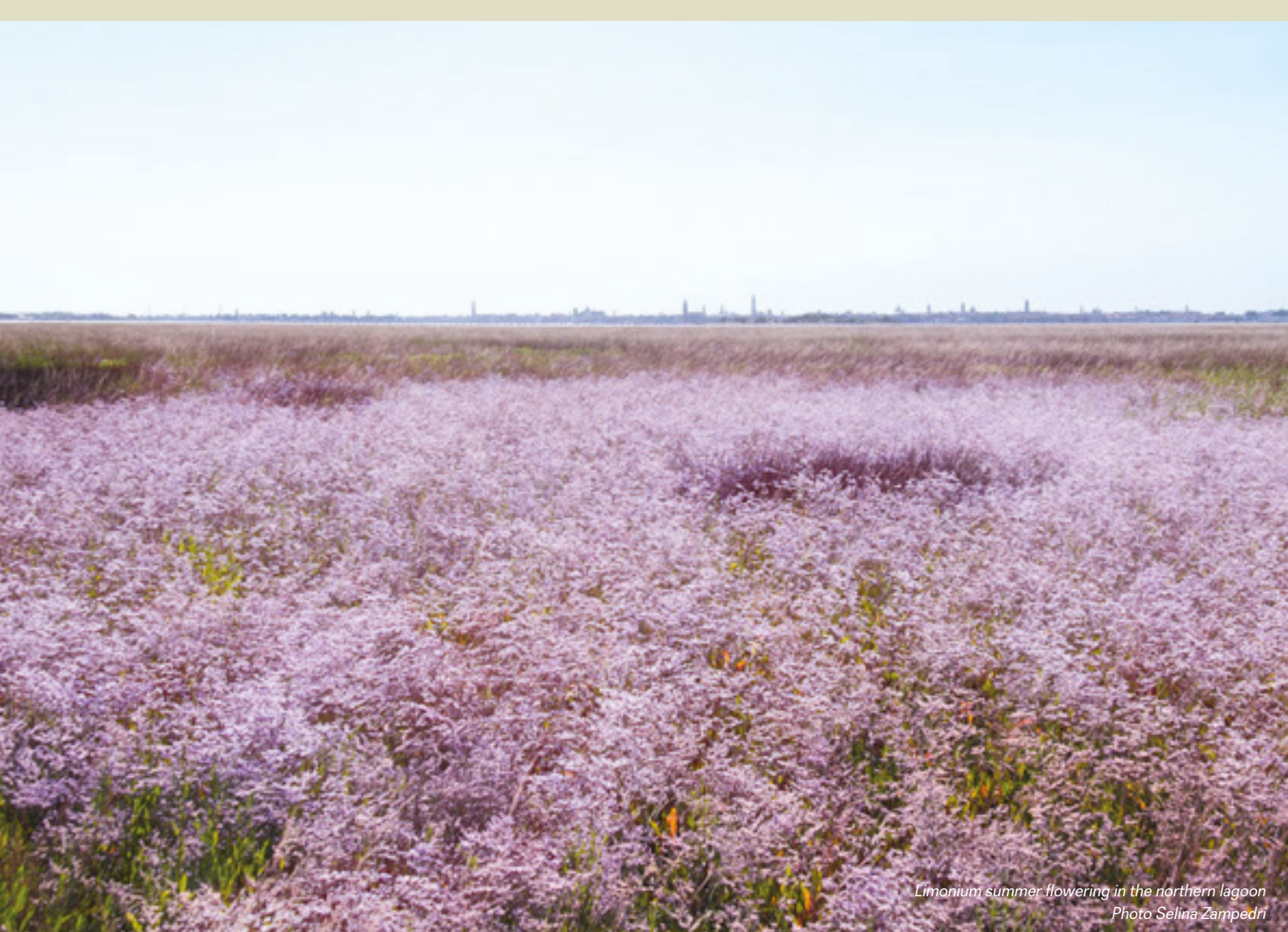
WahV addresses the fundamental challenge facing Venice: to remain a living city. Our mission is based on seeing the city and the lagoon as inseparable elements of a single system; our work highlights the importance of the interplay between the natural environment and human actions.

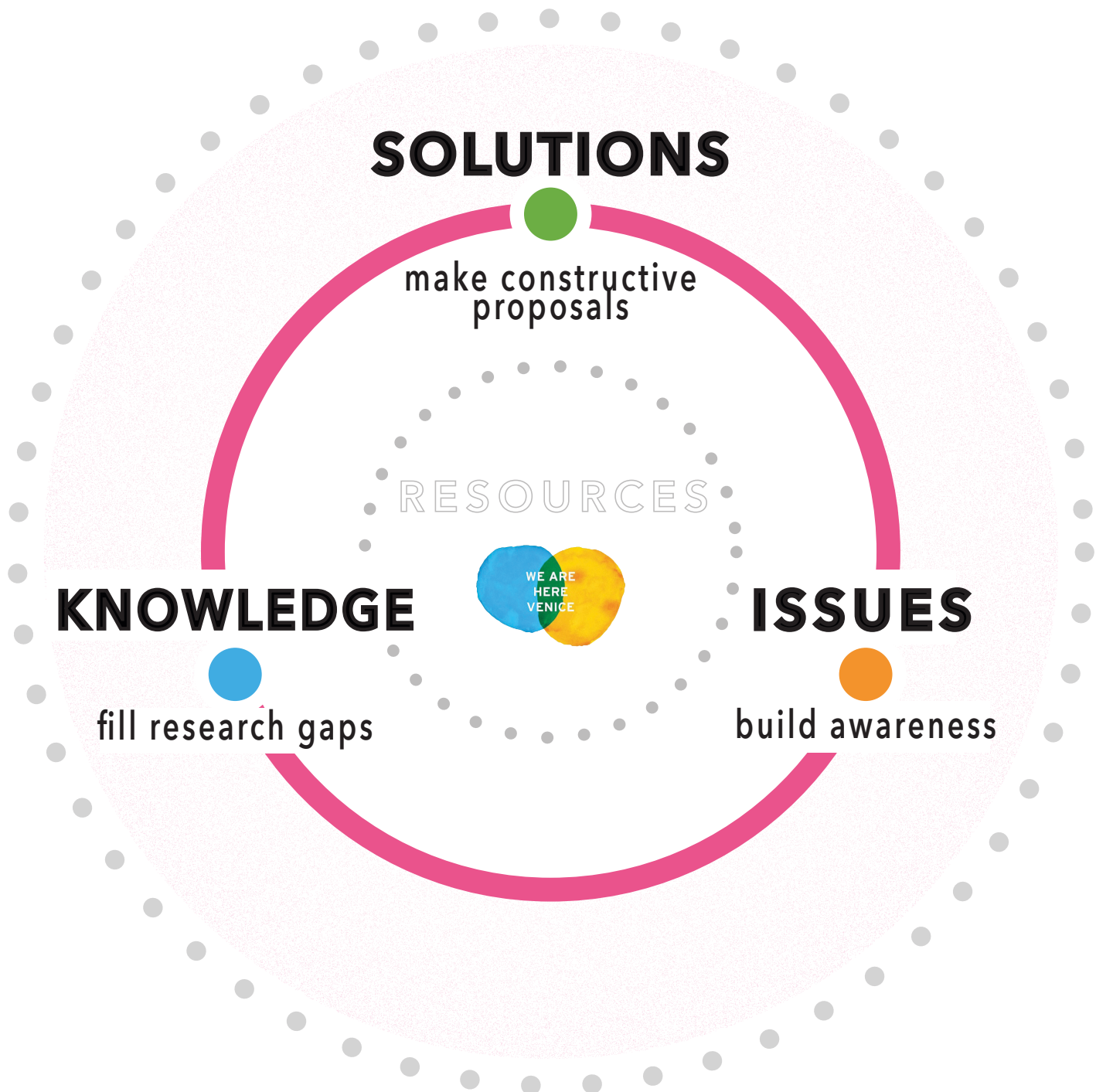
“Venice for the Venetians, Venice for the world” is our mantra: as a living city, with a robust and resilient resident population and respect for local knowledge, Venice can save itself and be a demonstration site for innovative approaches to community resilience and sustainable development - a microcosm in which to develop and showcase global solutions.



# Objectives

- promote and protect the idea of Venice as a living and resilient city
- stimulate productive and cultural activities with positive impacts on the city fabric and its lagoon
- provide objective, independent data and information on critical factors relating to the state of Venice
- facilitate local and international exchanges of knowledge and expertise to promote social innovation and solidarity
- raise awareness among citizens on issues such as protection of cultural and artistic heritage, the environment and health in its widest sense
- involve more people – especially younger generations – in social, cultural and environmental activities as well as decision making
- be a reference point for the promotion of active citizenship and the exchange of knowledge, enhancing voluntary work at a professional level
- contribute to building a stronger local community





*WahV actions combine identifying issues, gathering knowledge and producing solutions in an iterative process on a circular pathway that spins either in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction.*



# ACTION AREAS

**VENICE IS THE LAGOON** activities concern the physical and ecological dimension of the lagoon system and its relation to Venice. Projects have included support for a study by the University of Padua to fill gaps in understanding changes in lagoon circulation associated with the new inlet architecture of the flood defense system and support for water level forecasting software development, in collaboration with the municipality.

Research into the economics and ecology of the salt marsh and associated habitats, particularly carbon sequestration, involving public institutions and private partners began in 2020 and is continuing.

We are actively engaged with other environmental organisations, community groups, industry representatives, experts and researchers as well as the public administration in a variety of different contexts to advocate for a clearer articulation of the importance of the health of the lagoon for the future of Venice and have acquired a reputation for our professional, independent and objective approach.

Our long-running poster campaign, using the city's billposting service, has received a lot of attention and is now spreading to other port cities in the form of a handbook on how to raise awareness about the impacts of the cruise sector.

Based on statements extracted from peer reviewed scientific publications and official reports, we have fixed key points in the debate about the sustainability of the cruise industry and highlighted the importance of the integrity of the lagoon. The poster campaign featuring images from herbariums of salt marsh flora to stimulate interest in the lagoon and signal the importance of defending the lagoon began in late 2020.

**LANGUAGE OF VALUE** is a broad area of work to open up issues, develop new parameters, and improve collective capability to critically assess changes and trends relating to everyday life in Venice, including non-human life. Work in this area is mostly focused on the urban fabric, albeit Venice is unique in the tight interplay between its natural and built environments.

Two reports have been produced on interrelationships between the city and the Biennale (How Was it for You?, 2019) and the human fabric of Venice (Who's City is it Anyway?, 2020). Both contain a set of unsolicited propositions. This approach originated with WahV's 2015 workshop for the Theatrum Mundi network on "Culture Beyond Tourism".

**EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE** is achieved through seminars, lectures, field work and orientation activities for institutions such as the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, British Council, local schools, as well as groups from foreign universities etc. Our intention extends beyond explaining WahV and our work to gathering new information, reactions, and insights relevant to the various issues we engage with. This philosophy also applies to media relations. Our conscientious handling of enquiries has established WahV as a reference point for TV & radio, documentary, and news reporting.

## Sustainable Development Goals and the Italian network for sustainable development

We are here Venice belongs to the Italian network for sustainable development (ASviS), which is dedicated to communicating and promoting implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 SDGs.

We are continuously exploring opportunities to minimise the ecological footprint of our outreach materials (stickers, posters and brochures). We also have a strict policy of using local businesses and service providers whenever possible. In terms of available human resources, we are reversing the gender imbalance, have a fair wage policy, and try to be Friday-free, to maximise quality of life.



# WahV's SDG Impact Assessment Chart

WahV's action areas and their constituent projects have been examined in relation to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The three SDGs to which our work does not contribute are SDG1 No Poverty, SDG2 Zero Hunger and SDG5 Gender Equality.

Each SDG is composed of specific targets. The Impact Assessment Chart shows which targets relate to our projects. SDG targets are defined clearly in terms of indicators for action with guidelines to align our mission with the global mission. Project outcomes are distinguished in terms of direct and indirect impact. Direct impacts are associated with specific, concrete parameters; indirect impact targets potentially have synergy with other targets to achieve a direct impact. Impacts could expand or shrink during the evaluation process.

## The SDG Impact Assessment Tool

*The SDG Impact Assessment Tool* is an on-line system to visualize results via a self-assessment process to examine how an activity, organisation or innovation affects the SDGs. It aims to stimulate people to get a better understanding of the complexity of sustainable development and the different aspects of the SDGs.<sup>1</sup>

In this report, we used the Tool to analyse and define our activities in two Action Areas: **'Venice is the Lagoon'** and **'Languages of Value'**. These each break down into four specific project categories. Each set of projects include activities to achieve their mission. All projects were evaluated by WahV's core team in early 2020 to define outcomes in relation to all the relevant SDG targets.

In future, WahV will implement a continuous or regular, periodic monitoring and measuring plan in relation to project SDGs and other impacts.

SDG	DEFINITION	DIRECT IMPACT				INDIRECT IMPACT				Total
		Against Large Cruise Ships	Ecosystem Restoration	Water Levels	Energy Footprint	Against Large Cruise Ships	Ecosystem Restoration	Water Levels	Energy Footprint	
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
SDG6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	0	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	0
SDG8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	0	2	0	5	7	0	1	0	3
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	1	2	2	2	7	0	0	0	3
SDG11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	0	3	2	2	7	1	2	1	3
SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	0	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	1	3	0	3	7	0	2	2	1
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	1	5	1	2	9	1	0	0	3
SDG15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
SDG16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
SDG17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	4	2	3	5	14	0	0	0	1
		7	20	9	30	68	4	7	6	24

SDG	DEFINITION	DIRECT IMPACT				INDIRECT IMPACT				Total
		Possible Future	Resilience + Adaptation	La Biennale	Exploration	Possible Future	Resilience + Adaptation	La Biennale	Exploration	
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
SDG6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDG8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
SDG11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	3	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0
SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	1	1	1	0	3	3	0	1	0
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDG15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
SDG16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
SDG17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	2	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	0
		11	2	2	2	16	4	0	1	1

<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgimpactassessmenttool.org/>

The SDG Impact Assessment Tool was developed by Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development, at Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg, in collaboration with SDSN Northern Europe and Mistra Carbon Exit, and with financial support from Region Västra Götaland through the Maritime Cluster of West Sweden.



## SDG ANALYSIS STRUCTURE

This section includes :

Project title

Project description

Project period

Total Income

Expenditure

Funding sources

SDGs evaluation

Numbers & details of people involved

1. WahV :

2. Institutions/associations :

3. Individual participants :

WahV's task description

N.B. To begin with, we worked mostly in an unplanned way, using a combination of endogenous resources and whatever external funding support was readily available. It is therefore hard to report precisely on specific project budgets and sources of support. Going forwards, we have learnt a lot about the importance of strategic planning, and being disciplined about resource allocation in order to maximise effectiveness. We will always remain responsive to unexpected changes and "emergency" issues, nonetheless.

# Activities 2015-2020

## **VL          Venice is the Lagoon**

VL 1          Against Large Cruise Ships

VL 2          Ecosystem Restoration

VL 3          Water Levels

VL 4          Energy Futures

## **LV          Languages of Value**

LV 1          Possible Futures

LV 2          Residencies/Internships

LV 3          La Biennale di Venezia

## **EK          Exchange of Knowledge**

EK 1          Field Trips and Orientations

EK 2          Lectures & Talks







# Venice is the Lagoon

The city and the lagoon are inseparable elements of a single system.

For almost two millennia, there have been various kinds of coexistence, and constant tension, between human interventions and natural dynamics within this unique context.

From the 1960s a different scale of human impacts and consequent problems has afflicted the city, and the lagoon which surrounds it, on a social, economic, administrative, fiscal and environmental level.

Our mission is to return the lagoon and the natural capital it accommodates to the centre of considerations affecting the future of Venice as a living city.

## Project Categories

- VL 1      Against Giant Cruise Ships
- VL 2      Ecosystem Restoration
- VL 3      Water Levels
- VL 4      Energy Futures

# Venice is the Lagoon

## WahV's SDGs Impact Assessment Chart

VENICE IS THE LAGOON's main SDG target description :

*Selection parameter -*

*at least 3 projects work for the target :*

- 11.6. Reduce the environmental impact of cities
- 13.3. Build knowledge and capacity to address climate change
- 14.A Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health
- 17.6. Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation
- 17.17. Encourage effective partnerships
- 17.18. Enhance availability of reliable data

SDG#	DEFINITION		DIRECT IMPACT				
			PROJECT CATEGORY				
			Against Large Cruise Ship	Ecosystem Restoration	Water Levels	Energy Futures	Total
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	0	0	0	1	1
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	0	1	1	0	2
SDG6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	0	0	0	2	2
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	0	1	0	4	5
SDG8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	0	2	0	5	7
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	1	2	2	2	7
SDG11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	0	3	2	2	7
SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	0	1	0	3	4
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	13 CLIMATE ACTION	1	3	0	3	7
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	1	5	1	2	9
SDG15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15 LIFE ON LAND	0	0	0	0	0
SDG16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	0	0	0	4	4
SDG17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	4	2	3	5	14
			7	20	9	33	69

INDIRECT IMPACT				
PROJECT CATEGORY				
Against Large Cruise Ship	Ecosystem Restoration	Water Levels	Energy Futures	Total
1	0	1	0	2
1	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	3	4
0	0	0	3	3
1	2	1	3	7
0	0	0	0	0
0	2	2	1	5
1	0	0	3	4
0	2	0	0	2
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1
4	7	4	14	29

*N.B. The numbers of the chart are number of targets related to the linked goal.  
For example, Project 'Ecosystem Restoration' impacts directly on 5 targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 14, specifically, target 2,5,7, A,B (SDG14 is composed of 10 targets<sup>1</sup>)*

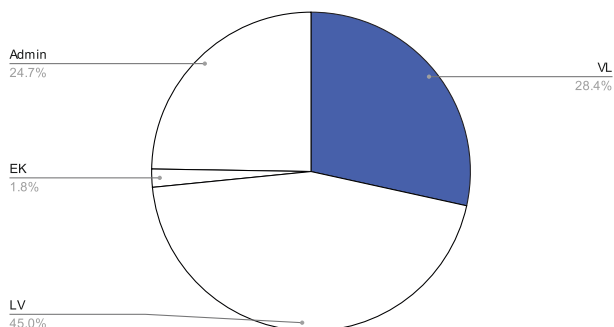


<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainable-developmentgoals>

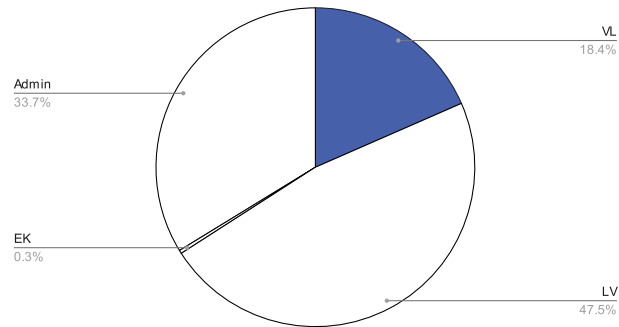
# Venice is the Lagoon

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS 2015 - 2020

Total income

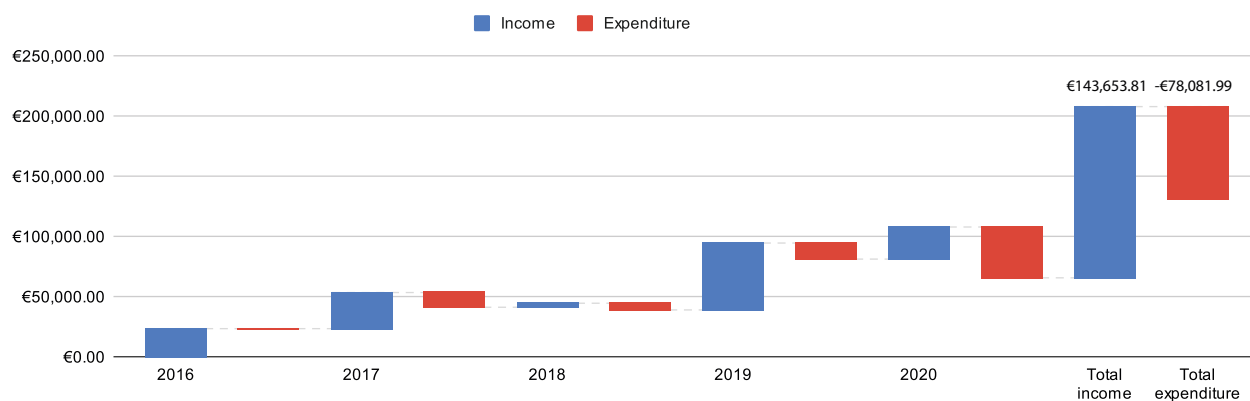


Total expenditure

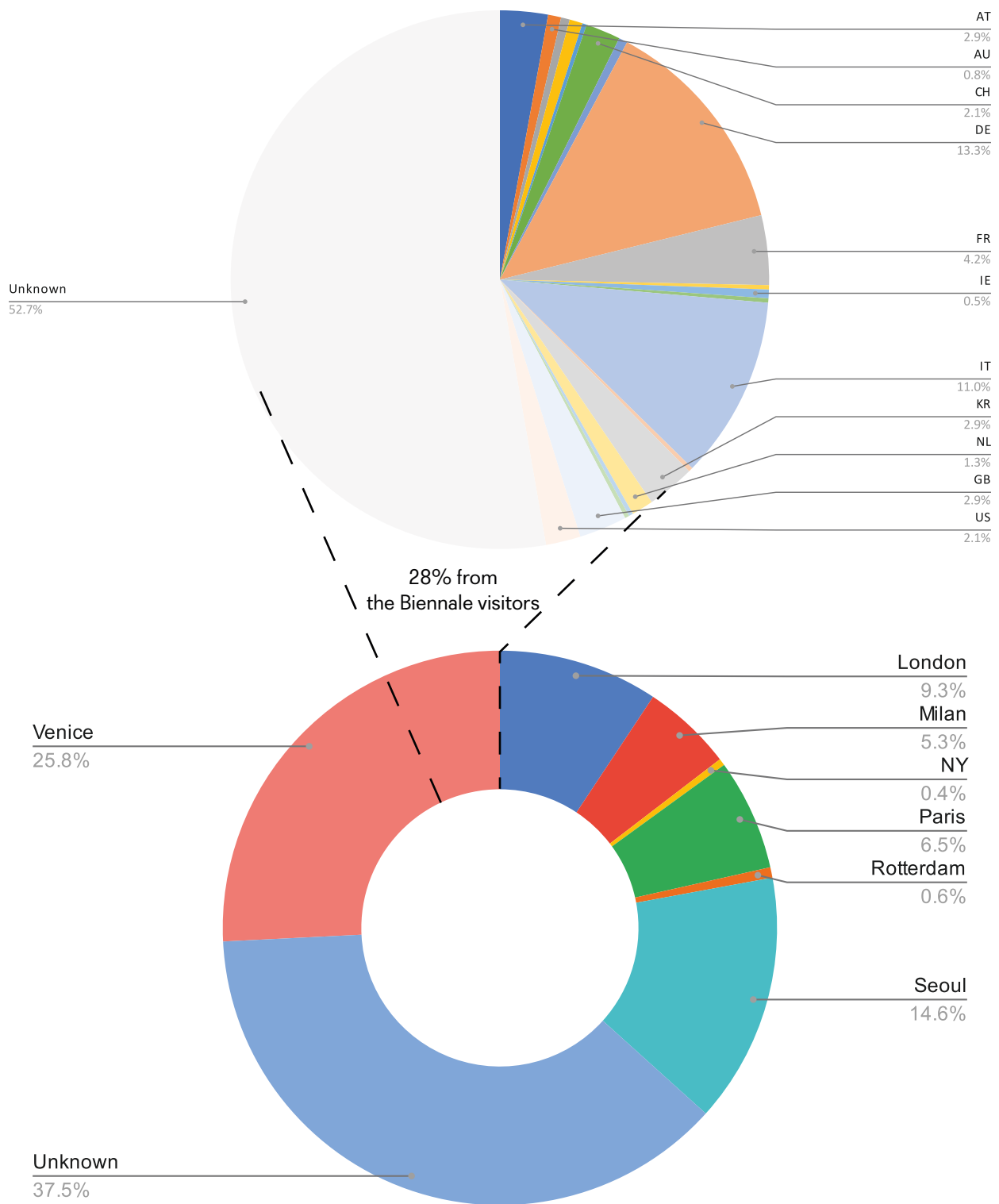


*This area has been supported by commercial companies, institutions, and associations who have collaborated with WahV for the specific target project since 2016. After the floods on 12th November 2019, WahV benefitted from a spike in spontaneous donations.*

*WahV's expenditures are for research, data collection and analysis, fieldwork, organisation and participation in conferences and workshops, network activities, reports, publications and awareness campaigns.*



# Geographical distribution of donors



# Venice is the Lagoon

## PROJECTS

### I Against Giant Cruise Ships

#### I.1 Research and Dissemination

- Venezia è Laguna flags 2014
- Gruppo Spontaneo Ca'Tron 2014

#### I.2 Collaboration with other groups

- Venice's Visual database 2017 - 2018
- Let the Mediterranean Breathe - national ports network 2017 - *ongoing*

#### I.3 Messaging channels

- Posters 2017 - *ongoing*
- Air Quality, the Biennale and Environmental Justice 2018
- Leafleting 2019 - *ongoing*
- Anti-cruise ship awareness campaign manual 2019 - *ongoing*

#### I.4 Global Cruise Activist Network

2020 - *ongoing*

### II Ecosystem Restoration

#### II.1 LagunaViva

- Installation 2017 - 2018
- Maintenance and renovation of the restaurant 2018 - 2020

#### II.2 VITAL

2019 - *ongoing*

#### II.3 Research and dissemination

- Lagoon flora 2020 - *ongoing*



## III Water Levels

### III.1 Lagoon Circulation

- Analysis of the effects on lagoon circulation of modification of inlet architecture by the MOSE system *2016 - 2020*

### III.2 Commemoration of 1966 “Acqua Granda”

- L’Acqua e la Piazza (Water and St. Mark’s Square) *2016 - 2017*

### III.3 Collaboration with CPSM

- Tide and Wave monitoring station *2017 - ongoing*
- Open-access astronomical tide forecasting software *2018 - ongoing*

## IV Energy Futures

### IV.1 Emissions Reduction

- Navigation Standards for Inland Waterways *2017 - ongoing*
- Feasibility of sustainable public transport (hydrogen-powered vessels) *2019-2020*

### IV.2 Air Quality & Citizen Science Venetian Lockdown

*2018 - 2020*

# I Against Giant Cruise Ships





Project period :  
01.01.2016 - 31.12.2020  
Total income : €26,046.16  
Expenditure : €26,731.03

Funding information :

- Commercial company
  - Cittadini per l'aria
  - Private donations

Main partners :

» Cittadini per l'aria  
<https://www.cittadiniperlaria.org>

» Comitato No Grandi Navi  
<http://www.nograndinavi.it/>

» FAI Delegazione Venezia  
<https://fondoambiente.it/>

» Global Cruise Activist Network  
<https://globalcruiseactivistnetwork.com/>

» NABU  
<https://www.nabu.de/>



# I Against Giant Cruise Ships

*The cruise ship question is emblematic of Venice's nature as a paradigm, which holds a mirror to situations in other places.*

*Up until the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, the cruise sector was growing steeply, playing an increasingly important role in the travel sector and consequently in the global economy. The boom has been felt in Venice since the late 1990s, following the 1994 law reforming Italian ports and the consequent liberalisation of the use of existing port infrastructure paralleled by the industry trend towards "gigantism". The economic returns associated with the cruise industry have benefitted tour operators, government representatives, politicians and travel agencies, without paying sufficient attention to environmental impacts on human and non-human communities as well as the social and economic distortions created. Objective scientific evidence reporting damage to the lagoon system has been systematically overlooked. All these factors combined have sparked a large and growing protest movement that has been paralled by resistance to engage with community representatives and experts from those associated with the cruise sector.*

*Considering the situation up to the end of 2019, even though the cruise sector constituted less than 10 percent of Venice's total tourism (in visitor numbers), it brings high impacts locally and has become the focus of international media. The negative impacts of cruise ships in Venice stretch across a range of physical, environmental, socio-economic and cultural dimensions and are disproportionate to the sector's share of the local economy.*

*Following the Costa Concordia accident in 2012, a law was passed by the Italian government to stop the transit of ships above 40k tonnes through Venice to the passenger docks, but this decision was blocked by legal action on behalf of the cruise lines in 2015. The government has given itself the obligation to provide an alternative route for cruise ships to service the city.*

*We are here Venice has always been committed to raising awareness about the impacts of large cruise ships in Venice and in the whole world, through research, billposting campaigns, speeches, interviews and, more recently, as part of the Global Cruise Activist Network.*



## 1.1 Research and dissemination

WahV provides clear and objective information on critical issues in order to anchor the debate about cruise ships, disseminates key facts about the threats to the city and lagoon system while highlighting the opportunities to address them, and encourages broader participation in decision-making.

To disseminate its findings WahV uses a variety of channels, from the most formal ones, such as conferences, presentations, lectures, to the most direct and tangible ones, like billposting campaigns and flyer distribution.

Moreover, WahV constantly collaborates with local and international activist groups, which share similar aims, including the Clean Cruise Group, Let the Mediterranean Breathe, and provides support to scientists in order to fill knowledge gaps.

### 1.1.01 Venezia è Laguna flags 2014

In concert with various other local groups fighting the plan to dredge an additional channel in the Lagoon for cruise ships, WahV chose to reaffirm a crucial dimension of Venetian governance: to save the city, the Lagoon needs to be protected as they are inseparable elements of a single system.

The existence and essence of Venice depends on this.

A flag with the message “Venezia è Laguna”, designed to reinforce this approach to thinking about Venice, appeared from the balconies of many offices and homes along the Grand Canal on the morning of the Regata Storica on 7 September 2014. Thereafter hundreds more flags were distributed to Venetian residents and supporters all over the world, showing that Venice is united, vigilant and ready to be a protagonist in all decisions that concern it with the same long-term vision with which the city was originally constructed, as well as the power of the tradition, the intelligence and the rigour of Venetian citizens and all who love Venice.

“Venezia è Laguna” is one of many actions alongside support for the grassroots citizens’ petition organised by the Comitato No Grandi Navi, to participation in conferences as well as demonstrations, networking with opinion leaders, social media “mining” and contributions to international campaigns to block cruise industry expansion and infrastructure at the cost of local communities and environmental damage. Instead, we are working to ensure that the cruise ship problem will be addressed with a more strategic focus that does not carry heavy impacts for the lagoon nor the everyday life of Venice and that the problems will not be shunted to other places.



# I Against Giant Cruise Ships

## I.1 Research and dissemination

### I.1.02 Gruppo Spontaneo Ca'Tron, 2014



WahV coordinated a working group of activists and independent experts to review the Port Authority's plan to dredge a new navigation channel for cruise ships to come into Venice. Working in concert with various professionals, a collection of technical reports was produced as part of the consultation process of the environmental impact assessment by the Italian Environment Ministry. With very little time available, the coordinating role of WahV allowed each member of the working group to focus their specific expertise while ensuring that all aspects of the plan were addressed by the group as a whole. WahV, in collaboration with the Cambridge University Coastal Research Unit, submitted a paper concerning the strategic and (non) precautionary aspects of the dredging plan and the general approach, in the light of known uncertainties. Alongside these reports we also promoted a petition on the Avaaz platform that attracted over 100,000 signatures and was presented to the Prime Minister in May 2015. Minister in May 2015.

## I.2 Collaboration with other groups

### I.2.01 Venice's Visual database, 2017 - 2018

*Collection of signs of resistance against cruise ships*



WahV continuously monitors opposition to large cruise ships in Venice. There are many types of signals throughout the city in a variety of locations from lampposts and steps on bridges to people's homes, these are subtle reminders as well as shouts of outrage. WahV began this collection to show the world that the Venetians are far from passive about this continuing perversion of the destiny of Venice, the lagoon and civic life.

### I.2.02 Let the Mediterranean breathe, 2017 - ongoing



The project "Let the Mediterranean breathe" is supported by the German association NABU and involves Comitato No Grandi Navi, Cittadini per l'Aria and various national and European groups.

#### **Workshop on atmospheric pollution in maritime sector**

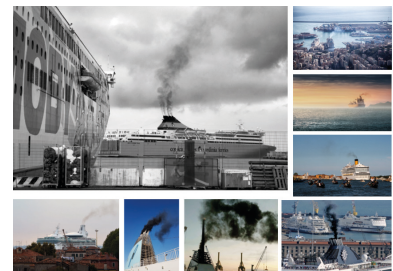
A workshop was hosted in September 2017 by WahV in collaboration with



## I.2 Collaboration with other groups

Cittadini per l'Aria that built connections between experts, local communities and public agencies responsible for air quality in the main Italian port-cities. The results of an epidemiological study in Civitavecchia were presented publicly for the first time, clearly demonstrating the adverse health effects of ship emissions.

**#SEAOFSMOKE** - Photography competition to highlight shipping pollution in the Mediterranean: Cittadini per l'Aria and WahV held a photo contest to show belching smoke from cruise ships, ferries and cargo ships. The jury was composed of opinion leaders who share our goals to improve air quality and impose tougher restrictions on maritime traffic: fashion designer Angela Missoni, writer Taiye Selasi, journalist on climate change Jeff Goodell, Victoria and Albert Museum photography curator Marta Weiss and president of Italia Nostra Venice chapter, Lidia Fersuoch.



### Nitrogen oxide monitoring pilot study

There is increasing evidence from epidemiological studies that illnesses associated with air pollution are directly correlated with the proximity of homes to busy ports.

In preparation for a broad ranging citizen science air quality monitoring initiative, we participated in a pilot study of atmospheric nitrogen oxide levels organised by the German environmental group NABU and Cittadini per l'Aria. Other Italian partners were Ancona, Civitavecchia, Genoa, La Spezia, Livorno, Monfalcone, Naples,



## I.3 Messaging channels

In order to provide the residents and the world with a greater potential to understand the critical issues affecting Venice, we work with different partners, through multiple channels, to disseminate key facts about the threats to the city and lagoon system alongside opportunities to address them, and encourage broader participation in decision-making. Our strategy - and mission - combines RESEARCH with ACTION

The campaigns pinpoint the deficiencies of policy makers: several misconceived plans to reroute cruise ships have been proposed but a concrete solution has not yet been found and no inter-disciplinary, objective, comparative analysis of all the options has ever been carried out. Moreover, to date, infringement procedures for persistent exceedances of other limit values for air quality, including nitrogen dioxide levels, have been launched by the European Commission against Italy. In light of these failures, our campaigns invite international support to strengthen our appeal. They are also relevant across the world in different disciplines: we need rational approaches to complex problems, based on the best available scientific knowledge.

# I Against Giant Cruise Ships

## I.3 Messaging channels

### I.3.01 Posters *2017 - ongoing*



Since 2017, WahV has deployed a range of approaches to information delivery about the cruise industry's impact on Venice and the rest of the world, communicating up-to-date and reliable research and statistics in a clear and easily-digested format.

The decision to find a solution to Venice's infamous cruise ship problem and the urgent need for tighter regulations and controls, in line with available solutions. was taken by the Italian government in 2012 yet nothing significant has changed in all this time to pinpoint the underlying unsustainability of the cruise industry. To contrast this inadequacy, WahV has been providing clear and objective information on critical issues in order to anchor the debate.

Themes have gone from the specific environmental consequences of cruise ships and associated proposals to more generalised themes like safeguarding the lagoon and air quality which also refer to everyday water traffic in Venice and the urgent need for tighter regulations and controls, in line with available solutions.

A further dimension of this campaign is the way it highlights WahV research, based on a variety of sources of reliable, objective information, that gets transmitted at street level to everyone: tourists, residents, workers, students, workers, and decision makers.

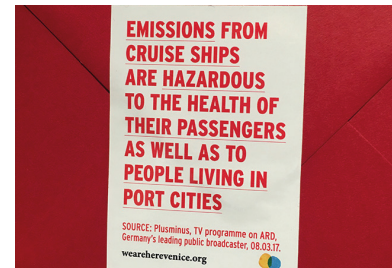
The posters are distributed within the regular bill-posting scheme of the city administration, alongside exhibition announcements, other cultural events and institutional communications.

The statements contain findings from scientific journals, official reports and reputable media sources. The intention is more than generic "awareness-raising", the strong bold letters represent the magnification of the voice of Venice and also try to make it impossible for policy makers to act as if they do not know what they should know.

## 1.3 Messaging channels

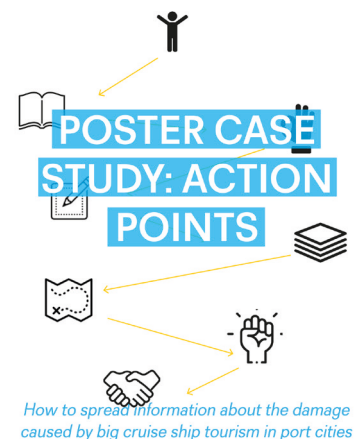
### 1.3.02 Air Quality, the Biennale and Environmental Justice 2018

Our campaign began with a letter in April 2018 to Biennale curators, offering them a way to help spread the word about the importance of Venice as a living city and evidence-based approaches to policy making with specific reference to the cruise ship paradox. Many replied, expressing support for WahV's initiative. Over 20 national pavilions at the XVI Venice Architecture Biennale as well as other collateral events distributed our sticker statements in their official press packs during the vernissage and/or directly to exhibit visitors. Over 8,000 stickers have been given around Venice, on bags, phones, laptops and elsewhere.



### 1.3.03 Leafleting 2019 - ongoing

In October 2019 We are here Venice staged an intervention targeting cruise ship passengers. We distributed flyers to people who had just landed in Venice or were about to leave using the same language and promotional style as the cruise industry, but conveying messages about the damage caused, taken from reliable scientific sources. Focus groups helped us create the final flyer. Volunteers who had some experience in leafleting or activist interventions, handed out the flyers in two strategic places for intercepting arriving and departing tourists.



### 1.3.04 Anti-cruise ship awareness campaign manual 2019 - ongoing

An open-source manual was produced to guide other groups and associations with similar problems caused by cruise ships, anywhere in the world. It explains how to create site specific awareness and resistance campaigns against the damaging expansion of this industry in the places we live and how to affirm the rights of the city.

## 1.4 Global Cruise Activist Network 2020 - ongoing

This was established in April 2020 via Zoom. We are here Venice is working closely with the informal steering group to unite community groups and other activists across the world to jointly call for a rethink of the cruise industry. Both Venice's notoriety and particular vulnerability help highlight the need to push for tighter sustainability standards for cruising everywhere.



## II Ecosystem Restoration



Project period : 01.01.2016 - 31.12.2020

Total Income : €45,073.35

Expenditure : incomplete information

Funding information..

- Institution
- Commercial Company
- Private Trust







# II Ecosystem Restoration

## II.1 LagunaViva

Generally speaking, wetlands store more carbon than any other ecosystem, improve water quality, protect us from storms and provide food and livelihoods. Predominantly formed by sediments, originally brought by the rivers, and moved around by currents, shaped and levelled by the tides and waves, the salt marsh (or barene in the Venetian dialect) are home to a highly specialised range of salt-tolerant vegetation.

LagunaViva represents a natural salt marsh repurposed as a garden. It is a key part of V-AC Foundation's strategy at Palazzo delle Zattere to engage with everyday life in Venice and the city's inextricable relationship with the lagoon. The conceptual approach was originally developed by Assemble and We are here Venice in 2017. It repropose a miniature but functioning version of the salt marsh microcosm, the natural habitat that characterises the Venetian Lagoon, largely situated above water level but regularly submerged by the tides. Lying at the intersection of water and the sky, salt marsh has some unique amphibious features that can be seen as a metaphor of Venice.

In the LagunaViva reproduction of the salt marsh, the plants have been positioned in purpose built tanks as found in nature, in terms of quota relative to water level. In the imitation small inner channels, a pump system reproduces gentle flows similar to tides and allows for regulation of water level.

The plants were taken directly from the Venetian Lagoon, following guidelines of the authority responsible for safeguarding the lagoon (Provveditorato Interregionale per le Opere Pubbliche di Venezia). Some species are found exclusively in the Venetian lagoon whereas others are common to coastal wetlands throughout the world.



### II.1.01 Installation *2017 - 2018*

The tanks were proposed by We are here Venice to enhance the on-going conversation about the intimate and mutually dependent relationship between Venice and its context, building on the successful experiment by Jane da Mosto with muf architecture/art for the British Pavilion at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition.

Compressing all this into an installation meant re-interpreting the spatial relationships to reveal the details of the very unusual environment that gave rise to Venice and the Venetian culture. This "living lagoon" is a resource for research and teaching on ecological resilience and the natural systems that underpin the survival of the city.

The tiles come from Granby Workshop, a social enterprise in Liverpool (UK) founded by Assemble. The design was inspired by the richness of Venetian floors and made using an adapted version of 19th Century British encaustic tile-making

## II.1 LagunaViva

techniques; every tile is different. These tiles were also featured in the Central Pavilion of the 16th International Architecture Exhibition.

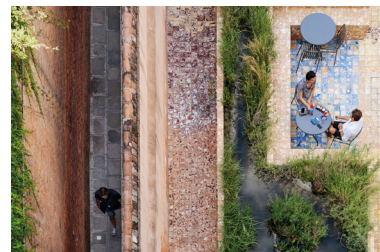
### II.1.02 Maintenance and renovation 2018 - 2020

#### Maintenance

The collaboration continued through to 2020 in order to compensate for "short cuts" during the installation, made necessary by the scheduling limitations at the VAC Foundation. Ongoing attention is necessary to substitute or direct natural processes of the open lagoon.

#### Renovation of Sudest 1401 2020

VAC Foundation restaurant Sudest 1401 is a main user of the LagunaViva. During its renovation, WahV consulted on how to bring a natural atmosphere from the exterior to its interior space.



## II.2 VITAL 2019- ongoing

A collaboration began in 2019 with Laguna B to find ways to compensate the business' environmental impacts at a local scale and, more generally, reframe the value that can be attributed to protecting and reviving salt marsh in the Venice lagoon. Initially, the focus was mainly on carbon sequestration properties for carbon offsetting. A multidisciplinary international workshop launched the project in January 2020. A group of experts dedicated to preserving the Venetian Lagoon, guided by the latest scientific research is taking the initiative forwards. In late 2020 it was renamed VITAL (Venice nATural cAPital). <https://www.v-i-t-a-l.org/en/>

VITAL addresses the maintenance and enhancement of the natural capital of the Venetian Lagoon.	About	It/En
VITAL is a group of experts dedicated to preserving the Venetian Lagoon, guided by the latest scientific research. The ecological heritage of the Lagoon is considered a form of natural capital that produces different types of wealth. VITAL is committed to finding ways to protect and enhance the natural capital for the benefit of future generations.		
The Venetian Lagoon ecosystem incorporates multiple activities crucial to life. Each of these contributes significantly to mitigating some of the anthropogenic processes—including climate change—that threaten the city of Venice itself. These ecosystem services include:		
© absorption of considerable quantities of CO2 by the salt marshes, a natural feature typical of the Lagoon.		

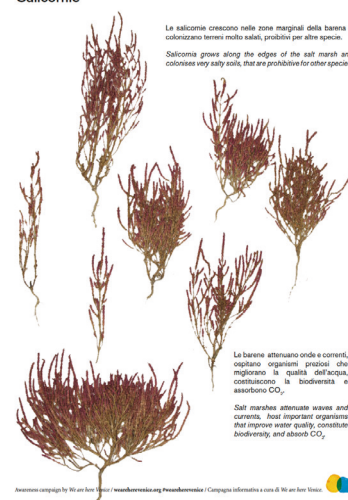


## II.3 Research and dissemination

### Lagoon flora, 2020 - ongoing

In Autumn 2020, WahV's billposting campaign brought plants from the Venetian lagoon into the city to highlight this other dimension of Venice's existence, as well as the importance of the health of the lagoon in protecting Venice, its citizens and its visitors. The plants shown in the posters come from herbariums and are therefore dead specimens, normally used for studying and record-keeping. They represent what could be left of the lagoon if the salt marsh is allowed to continue to disappear.

#### Salicornie





# I. Water Levels

*Flooding is not the only problem for Venice. Rising water levels are consuming the fabric of the city, day after day, which requires constant attention also from scientists and technical experts. WahV is dedicated to contributing to improved understanding of the tides and sea level rise scenarios so that Venice can be better equipped to participate in necessary, critical decision making in the coming years.*

Project period : -01.01.2016 - 31.12.2020

Total Income : €17,840.20

Expenditure : €28,996.51

Funding information :

- La Biennale visitors' donation
- Private donations
- WahV's intern voluntary contributions
- Institutions







# III Water Levels

## III.1 Lagoon circulation

### III.1.01 Analysis of the effects on lagoon circulation of modification of inlet architecture by the MOSE system 2016 - 2017

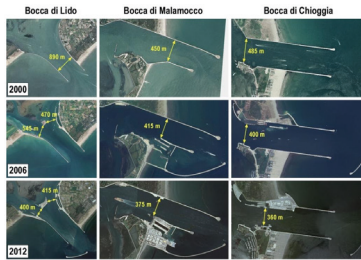


Fig. 1 - Restringimento della sezione delle bocche di porto dovuto alla realizzazione del MOSE (foto aeree georeferenziate tratte dal GeoPortale Nazionale del Ministero dell'Ambiente <http://www.pcn.minambiente.it/GN/>).

In collaboration with IPROS Environmental Engineering and researchers from the University of Padua, tidal data were analysed from the various monitoring stations in the lagoon operated by ISPRA. Variations in tidal amplitude and the oscillations in relative water level at different stations were taken to indicate lagoon currents and reflect changes in the hydrodynamic regime of the lagoon associated with changes to inlet architecture resulting from construction of the MOSE system. The final results and inferences were published by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti di Venezia.

Matticchio, B., Carniello, L., Canesso, D., Ziggiotto, E., & Cordella, M. (2017). Recent changes in tidal propagation in the Venice Lagoon: effects of changes in the inlet structure. Atti dell'Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Vol. Classe di). Venice.

## III.2 Commemoration of 1966 “Aqua Granda”

WahV was invited to join the official committee established by the Mayor’s office to commemorate 50 years since the major flood of 1966. An exhibition, a publication and a series of public presentations on the life of Piazza San Marco, within the project ‘Aqua Granda 1966 – 2016’ of the City of Venice were organized at the Olivetti Showroom and in the Area Marciana from November 2016 to January 2017. This was also in partnership with FAI – Fondo Ambiente Italiano and the Associazione Piazza San Marco in collaboration with Venice IUAV Architecture University (Prof. Monica Centanni).

### III.2.01 L’Acqua e la Piazza *2016*

Instead of revisiting the dramatic days of the great flood, L’acqua e la Piazza explored the ongoing relationship between Venetians, the water and the heart of the city, Piazza San Marco. The Piazza’s daily life reveals a place that suffers from more and more flooding, prompting reflections about its future.

#### Acqua in Piazza

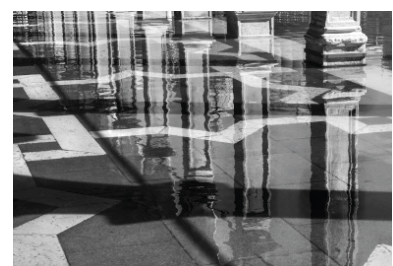
This multi-site exhibition, conceived and curated Eleonora Sovrani, brought together experiences and impressions, images and other information that revealed the on-going, difficult relationship with water and periodic flooding among the businesses of the Associazione Piazza San Marco.

The fourteen boutiques, galleries, shops, bars, restaurants and hotels located around the Piazza and in the immediate surroundings (shown on a map/postcard/invitation distributed throughout Venice) in the ‘distributed exhibition’ were identifiable by the water line across their windows marking the level reached on 4th November 1966. An accompanying book was published, *Acqua in Piazza*, written by Jane da Mosto and Gianandrea Mencini, containing data, observations and explanations to stimulate thinking about the interrelationship between Venice and water.



#### Ritorno in Piazza

In parallel, photographs of Piazza San Marco by Anna Zemella were exhibited at the Olivetti Showroom managed by FAI – Fondo Ambiente Italiano. Throughout the period of these exhibitions, a series of public lectures were arranged by WahV in collaboration with FAI Delegazione di Venezia.



# III. Water Levels

## III.3 Collaboration with CPSM

We are here Venice began cooperating with the Municipal Tide Forecast and Warning Center (CPSM) in 2016 on issues connected to improving forecasting services, outreach activities and awareness raising about the inevitable uncertainty of water level forecasts, exacerbated by the effects of climate change, despite the reliability and accuracy of the research, monitoring and forecasting work of the centre.

### III.3.01 Tide and Wave monitoring station

*2017 - 2018 with Arts Council Korea and the exhibition team*



The exhibition team with Arts Council Korea pioneered a new form of engagement with the host city of the Biennale, addressing a critical aspect of daily life, facilitated by We are here Venice.

During the 57th International Art Exhibition, the Korean Pavilion exhibition team with the help of We are here Venice, collected €10,000 in spontaneous donations in the pavilion from visitors. The funds were used to swiftly rebuild the tide and wave gauge which had been lost in 2016.



Measurements from this monitoring point at the Misericordia are of vital importance, particularly for the emergency services to evaluate the bridge clearance when called out during storms or flood situations.

We are here Venice managed the project in close collaboration with the Venice Municipality Tide Forecasting Department. It has been measuring data since September 2018.



<b>Donation Campaign</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Communication Support</b>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>
<b>Installation Tide Gauge</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Awareness raising initiative proposals</b>	<b>2018 - 2020</b>

### III.3.02 Open-access software *2018 - ongoing*

WahV has funded a young software engineer to convert the original software devised by the late Prof. Alberto Tomasin to forecast the daily astronomical tides. This is an important framework for the simulation of lagoon hydrodynamics and comparing results between studies.



# IV. Energy Futures

Considering Venice's poor air quality, WahV decided to address the issue of environmental damage caused by water traffic with a special focus on water transportation and mobility design.

Project period : 01.01.2017 - 31.12.2020

Total Income : €36,971.98

Expenditure : €22,354.56

Funding information :

- Commercial company
- Private donations



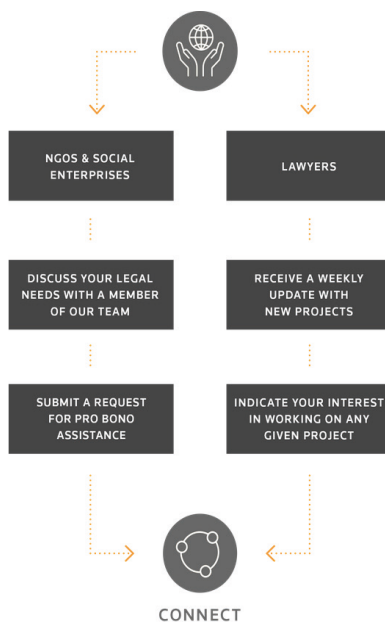




# IV Energy Futures

## IV.1 Emissions Reduction

WahV has been researching and analysing how to accelerate the adoption of technological advances greatly needed as regards alternative fuels and propulsion for local transport and commercial boats. Ultimately, we are acting to protect the health of the Venetian people and the city's fragile urban fabric and ecosystem.



### IV.1.01 Navigation Standards for Inland Waterways *2017 - ongoing*

Via the Trust Law pro bono legal network we were able to clarify issues relating to the European Directives relating to Inland Waterways and emissions from non road mobile machinery and compliance of the Venetian public transport fleet. Assistance was provided by Simmons & Simmons (Milan) and JP Morgan (London).

Via Cittadini per l'Aria and GCAN we remain in contact with many local, regional and international networks of experts, activists and community representatives engaged in clean air issues and reduction of shipping pollution.

### IV.1.02 Feasibility of sustainable public transport *(hydrogen-powered vessels)*

*2019-2020 Preliminary investigation and stakeholder engagement on behalf of Hyundai Motor Company (Seoul)*

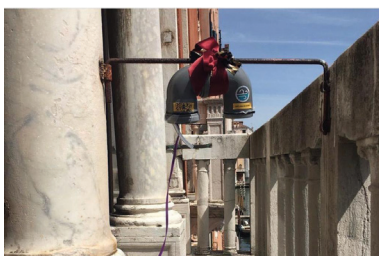


#### **Collaboration with Hyundai Motor Company, 2019 - 2020**

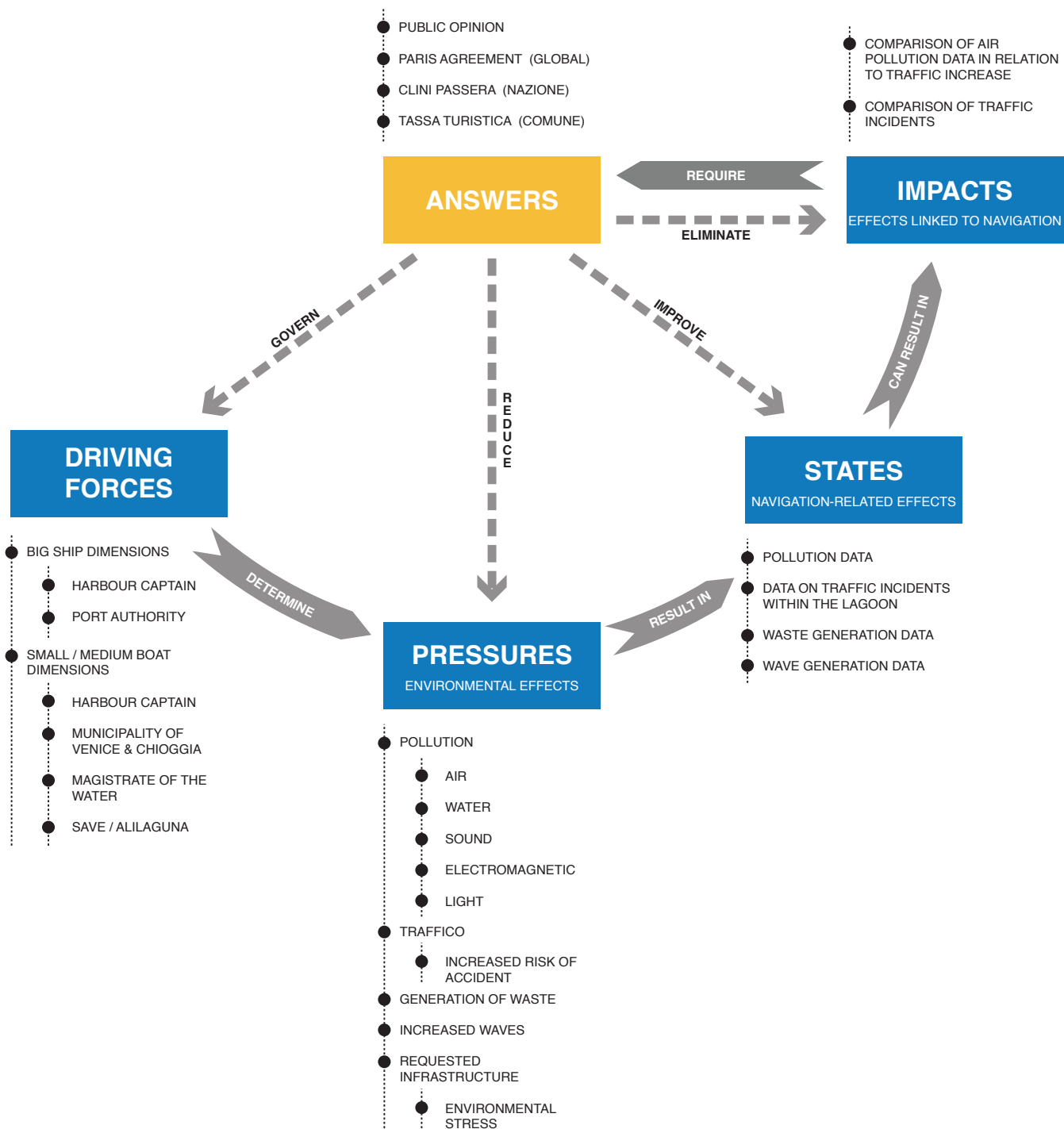
Clarification of regulatory framework and preliminary feasibility study for prototype hydrogen-fuelled public transport (A5) Extensive research was carried out regarding the possibility for small passenger boats powered by hydrogen in Venice. However, Italian regulations were an obstacle to the project which was halted as a consequence of the pandemic.

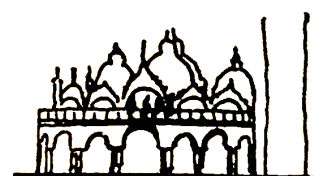
## IV.2. Air Quality & Citizen Science

### IV.2.01 Venetian Lockdown



We acquired 5 air quality sensors of the same type as used by the Luftdaten network, via Centraline del Basso, to gather PM2.5 and PM10 data. Instead of obtaining accurate recordings of background pollution levels, we learned about the complexities of reliable citizen science initiatives.





PIAZZA S. MARCO



TRAMONTO



RIFIUTI



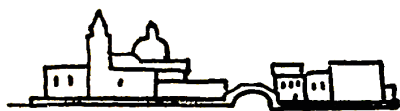
BARCHE



BARENE



NUVOLE



INSEDIAMENTI URBANI



BRICOLE



INDUSTRIE



BARCHE A REMI



GONDOLE



CHIESE



UCCELLI



VAPORINI



PONTE DI RIALTO



RETI DA PESCA



ISOLE DESERTE



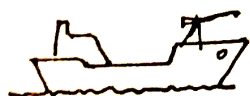
CASONI DI VALLE



PESCE



CAVANE



NAVI



MACCHINE



SPIAGGIA



MOTOSCAFO



PONTE DELLA LIBERTA'

# Language of Value

WahV believes it is crucial to define the parameters for better understanding transformations and trends in Venice.

In the context of a continuous and consistent research process, we aim to objectively clarify some of the current dynamics at play, and to redefine them on the basis of identifiable values

## Project Categories

LV1	Possible futures
LV2	Residencies/Internships
LV3	La Biennale di Venezia



# Language of Value

## WahV's SDGs Impact Assessment Chart















LANGUAGE OF VALUE's  
main target description for SDGs:

Selection parameters:

At least 3 projects work for the target:

13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change

17.17 Encourage effective partnerships

SDG#	DEFINITION		DIRECT IMPACT				
			PROJECT CATEGORY				
			Possible futures	Residencies / Internships	La Biennale	Exploratorium	Total
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<div>3</div> <div>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div> <div></div>	1	0	1	0	2
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div></div>	0	1	0	1	2
SDG6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<div>6</div> <div>CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</div> <div></div>	0	0	0	0	0
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<div>7</div> <div>AFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</div> <div></div>	0	0	0	0	0
SDG8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<div>8</div> <div>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div> <div></div>	6	0	0	0	6
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	<div>9</div> <div>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div> <div></div>	1	0	0	0	1
SDG10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	<div>10</div> <div>REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div> <div></div>	3	0	0	1	4
SDG11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<div>11</div> <div>SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</div> <div></div>	5	0	0	3	8
SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	<div>12</div> <div>RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</div> <div></div>	2	0	0	0	2
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	<div>13</div> <div>CLIMATE ACTION</div> <div></div>	1	1	1	0	3
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	<div>14</div> <div>LIFE BELOW WATER</div> <div></div>	0	0	0	0	0
SDG15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<div>15</div> <div>LIFE ON LAND</div> <div></div>	0	0	0	2	2
SDG16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<div>16</div> <div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div> <div></div>	4	0	0	0	4
SDG17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	<div>17</div> <div>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</div> <div></div>	2	1	0	2	5
			25	3	2	9	39

At least 2 projects work for the target:

4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanization

11.4 Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage

INDIRECT IMPACT				
PROJECT CATEGORY				
Possible futures	Residencies / Internships	La Biennale	Exploratorium	Total
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	5
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1
4	0	0	0	4
5	0	0	0	5
3	0	1	0	4
2	0	0	2	4
4	0	0	0	4
3	0	0	4	7
0	0	0	0	0
27	0	1	6	34

*N.B. The numbers of the chart are number of related targets of the linked goal.*

*For example, Project 'Possible futures' impacts directly to 6 targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 8, specifically, target 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 (SDG8 include total 12 targets<sup>1</sup>)*

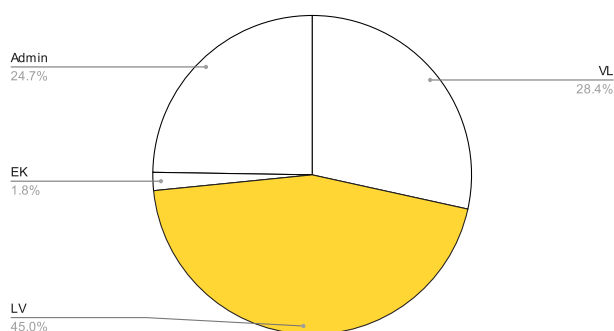


<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

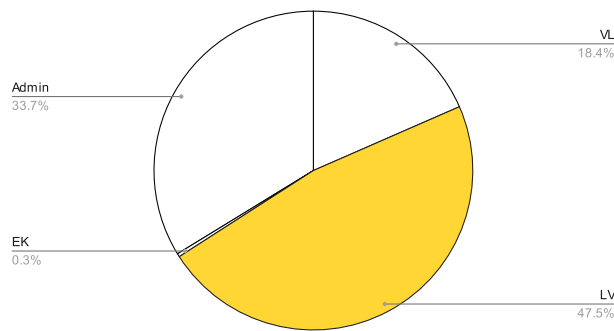
# Language of Value

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS 2015 - 2020

Total income

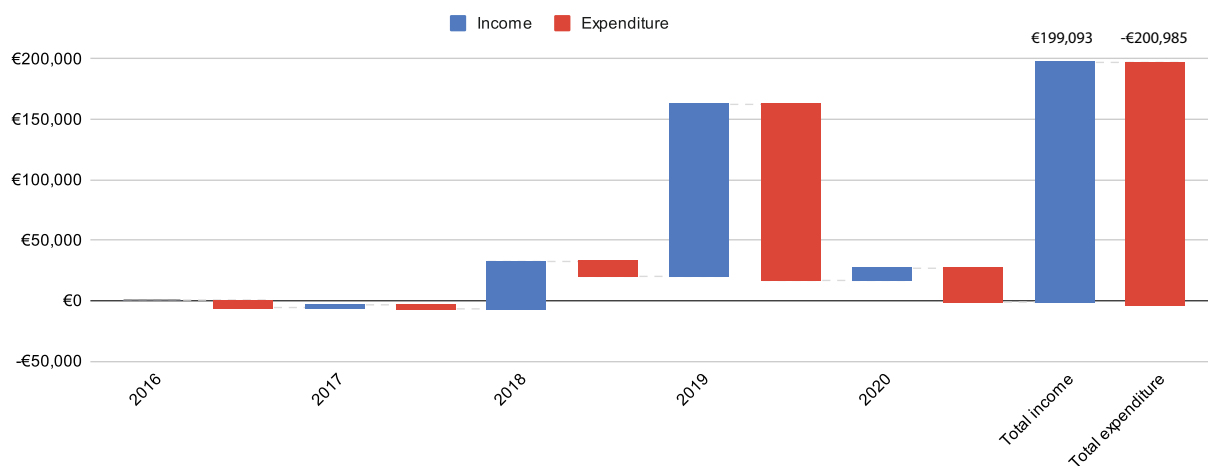


Total expenditure

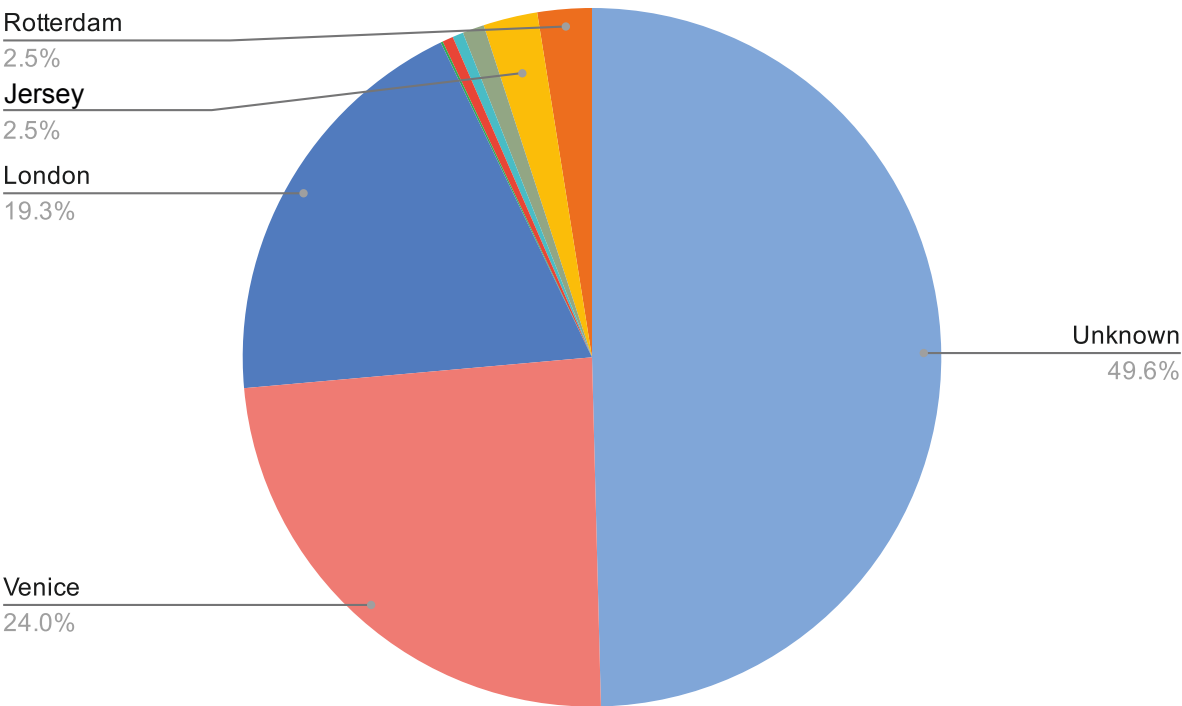


*This area has been almost entirely supported by private donors, acutely aware of the fundamental need to find better ways to address distortions in representation of Venice, the lagoon city. In particular, WahV received significant contributions to support research, analysis and communications for the 2019 Referendum. WahV has received institutional contributions for Residencies/ Internships and La Biennale related projects.*

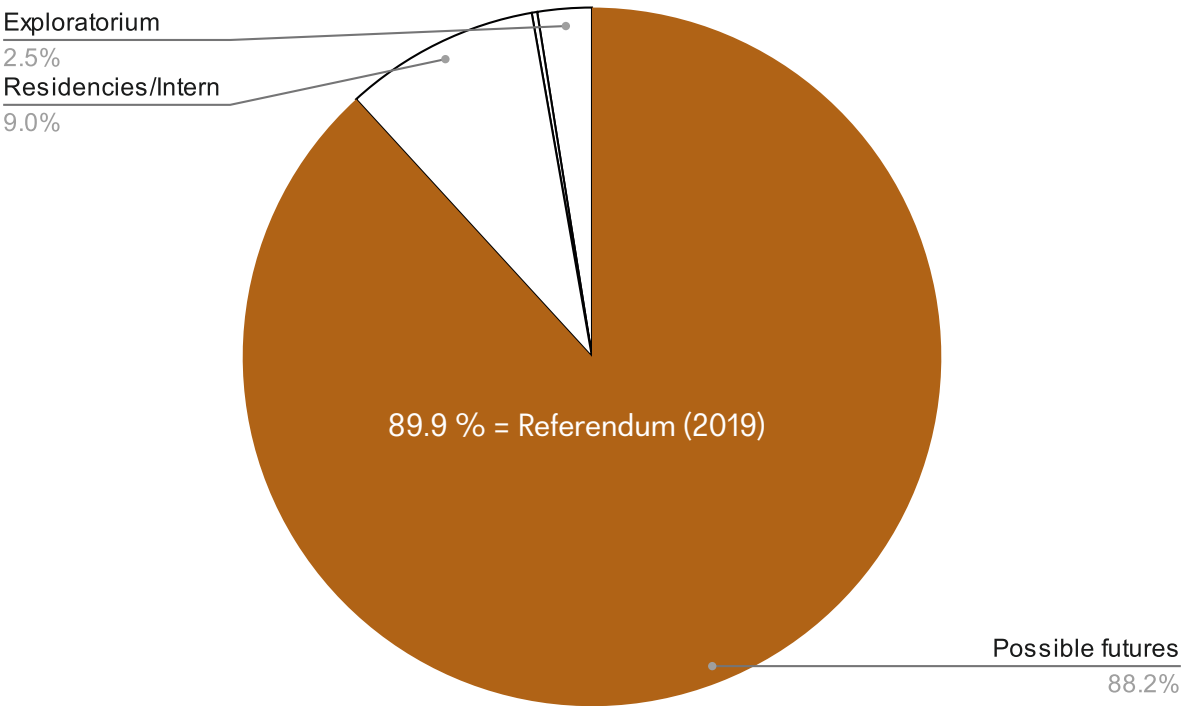
*WahV's expenditures is for research, data collection and analysis, organisation and participation in conferences and workshops, planning initiatives and residencies/internship programs, network activities, reports, and publications.*



# Geographical distribution of donors



# Project proportion





# Language of Value

## PROJECTS

### I Possible futures

- |            |   |                       |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>I.1</b> | <b>Theatrum Mundi</b>                                       | 2012 - 2016           |
| <b>I.2</b> | <b>Forum Futuro Arsenale</b>                                | 2013 - 2019           |
|            | • Arsenale Aperto   | 2014 - 2015           |
|            | • Picnic in Arsenale  | 2019                  |
| <b>I.3</b> | <b>Governance issues</b>                                    |                       |
|            | • UNESCO  | 2015 - <i>ongoing</i> |
|            | • Climathon Venice  | 2017 - 2019           |
|            | • Referendum  | 2017 - 2019           |
|            | • Whose city is it anyway?                                  | 2020                  |
| <b>I.4</b> | <b>Support for craftsmanship</b>                            |                       |
|            | • ECIPA workshops - EX LIBRIS                               | 2018                  |
|            | • LAGUNA cushion  | 2018 - <i>ongoing</i> |
| <b>I.5</b> | <b>Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)</b> | 2019 - <i>ongoing</i> |
| <b>I.6</b> | <b>Participative Envisioning</b>                            |                       |
|            | • Collective Bilposting Campaign                            | 2020 - <i>ongoing</i> |
| <b>I.7</b> | <b>Venice Exploratorium</b>                                 |                       |
|            | • Radical Observation / Green Triangle                      | 2020 - <i>ongoing</i> |
|            | • Zoöp  | 2020 - <i>ongoing</i> |
|            | • Fisheye   | 2020                  |
|            | • To protest or not to protest                              | 2020 - 2021           |
|            | • Tides of Tourism  | 2020                  |

## II Residencies/Internships

- II.1 Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per il Comune di Venezia e Laguna 2018 - ongoing
- II.2 Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia with Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia 2018 - 2019

## III La Biennale di Venezia

- III.0 12th, 13th, 14th International Architecture Exhibition 2010 - 2014
- III.1 National Pavilions – Giardini della Biennale
- British Pavilion - British Council 2017 - 2019
  - Korean Pavilion > VL III.2.01. Tide and Wave monitoring station 2017
  - National Pavilions 2018
  - Dutch Pavilion, *Who is We?* 2020 - 2021
- III.2 National Pavilions – Around Venice
- Antigua & Barbuda Pavilion 2017, 2018
- III.3 National Pavilions - Parallel Programmes
- CitizenSHIP (USA) 2018
  - Exploratorium (The Netherlands) 2020 - 2021
- III.4 Collateral Events
- VAC Foundation / Assemble 2018 - 2020
- III.5 Research
- How was it for you? Report 2018 - 2019
  - Harvard University 2019

# I Possible Futures



Project period :  
01.01.2017 - 31.12.2020  
Total Income : €175,593.48  
Expenditure : €158,863.46

Funding information :  
• Private donations 98.7%  
• Commercial company 1.3%





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# I Possible futures

## I.1 Theatrum Mundi *2012 - 2016*



Theatrum Mundi is a professional network of urbanists and artists created by Richard Sennett with Adam Kaasa, that offers a forum for cross-disciplinary discussion about practices relating to cultural and public space in the city. WahV's origins lie in collaborating with the network for the Public Programme of the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale "Common Ground," curated by David Chipperfield.

In July 2016, TM and WahW organised a second workshop in Venice specifically on CULTURE BEYOND TOURISM involving London School of Economics, mufart/architecture, Victoria & Albert Museum, and Barcelona municipality, among others.

## I.2 Forum Futuro Arsenale *2013 - 2019*

### I.2.01 Arsenale Aperto



The movement began in 2012 to monitor and contribute to the revitalisation of the enormous Arsenale compendium. WahV's principal contribution is organizing the FFA's participation in the annual "Arsenale Aperto " event (2014, 2015), an invitation to the city to explore and enjoy the extensive spaces that were previously dedicated to ship building followed by military use. The intention is to show how a range of temporary uses can lead to longer term projects in the mostly empty buildings. The FFA produced an articulated vision and plan for the future of the Arsenale, published in 2017 and revised in 2019.

## I.2 Forum Futuro Arsenale 2013 - 2019

### I.2.02 Picnic in Arsenale, 2019

*Giardino delle Vergini and the Darsena Grande*

The idea for this picnic was totally spontaneous, in response to the Circolo Italo-Britannico's request that we engage their guests during a visit to Venice: Marcus Binney, Executive President of SAVE Britain's Heritage, Eric Reynolds, Founder Director of Urban Space Management and Sharon Ament, Director of the Museum of London.

The gathering was in Giardino delle Vergini, opposite a glorious example of benign neglect – the string of historic warehouses that have been lying vacant for decades despite recent, impeccable restoration using public funds. Sporadically, these spaces are rented for special events by Vela, the hospitality division of Venice's public administration. Access to the Darsena Grande for traditional boats was made possible by special arrangement with the Marina Militare (Italian Navy) that controls all the waters of the Arsenale.

We see the cup half full and appreciate the fact that at least the area has been spared disastrous development of the type we've seen too much of, including in the close vicinity. But too few residents are aware that this public garden is normally open to the public, and that there are huge empty spaces suitable for productive activities in the Arsenale.

People at the picnic were invited to share their ideas, reflections and observations. WahV coordinated the arrangements on behalf of FFA and with the help of Nicolò Zen – founder of Il Caicio, La Laguna nel Bicchiere, and the staff of Vela and Cooperativa Il Cerchio.



# I Possible futures

## I.3 Governance issues, 2014 - ongoing

### I.3.01 UNESCO<sup>1</sup> 2014 - ongoing



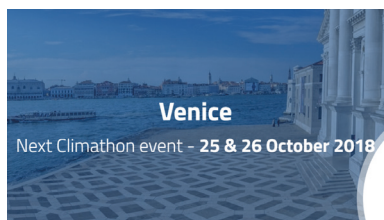
<sup>1</sup> Over the period WahV has monitored and analysed various parameters of city functions, including waste production, demography, opinion surveys, and tourist flows.

Local branches of nationally recognised NGOs – Italia Nostra, FAI and WWF – together with other Venetian associations, and with support from independent experts, have been appealing to UNESCO since 2014 to put Venice and the Lagoon on the List of Endangered World Heritage Sites.

A joint document to support this was expressly requested by the first Delegation of UNESCO, ICOMOS and RAMSAR representatives who visited Venice in 2015 to review the state of conservation of the Site, and its Management Plan. Another appeal, coordinated by WahV, was made in 2019 when the World Heritage Committee met in Baku, Azerbaijan and all groups met the delegation again in January 2020, in Venice.

A handful of persistently critical aspects threaten the existence and outstanding features of Venice and the Lagoon. Proposals have been made for effectively addressing the causes of these problems, starting now, and also using currently available legislative instruments. Suspension by UNESCO of the site's World Heritage status could potentially focus attention more effectively.

### I.3.02 Climathon Venice 2018



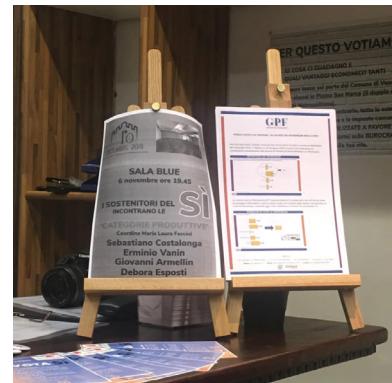
Climathon is a global, annual 24-hour climate change hackathon happening simultaneously in more than one hundred cities around the world, promoted by Climate-KIC. The challenges of the world's cities are addressed by people who have the passion and ability to solve them (innovators, entrepreneurs, students and professionals). After participating in the Climathon jury in 2017, WahV was invited to partner with CMCC Foundation to organise Climathon Venice 2018. The chosen theme was "Ideas and strategies for reducing resource use and waste in Venice". The event was hosted by Ca' Foscari Challenge School.

### I.3.03 Referendum 2017 - 2019

Venice and Mestre are different realities. They were arbitrarily united during Fascism in 1926 and their history and issues are entirely different. There have been repeated initiatives to rearticulate the administrations so that each would have potential autonomy to focus on their specifics and be directly accountable to voters.

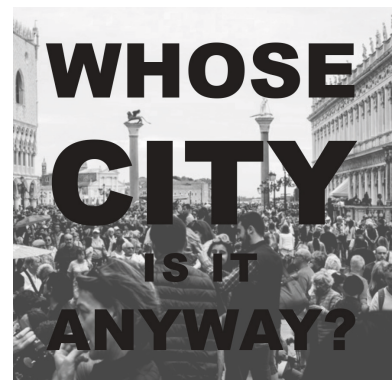
The fifth referendum took place on 1 Dec. 2019, despite significant political resistance to the consultation, including an appeal on behalf of the local population at the supreme court (Consiglio di Stato) in Rome (facilitated by WahV).

Though the outcome of the referendum was ambiguous due to low voter turnout, the residents of Venice (the historic city and islands) voted overwhelmingly in favour of autonomy as the only way to address the real needs of the city and its residents. On the mainland the outcome was also in favour of separation with a smaller majority (60% rather than 80%). WahV is not affiliated with any political party or candidate, but will continue to support efforts to secure greater self-governance for Venice.



### I.3.04 Whose city is it anyway? 2020

Written by Carolyn Smith and Jane Da Mosto, this is a comprehensive summary of Venice's relationships with different interest groups, including specific policy recommendations. Following lockdown and the consequent elimination of tourism, Venice was given an opportunity to review and address the city's challenges like under-regulation, agency and depopulation. Using the context of Venice's long and rich history, *Whose City Is It Anyway?* combines research on both economic and social factors. It has been awarded the 2021 "Premio per Venezia" by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere e Arti.





# I Possible futures

## I.4 Support for craftsmanship *2018 - ongoing*



### I.4.01 ECIPA workshop - EX LIBRIS *2018*

WahV was invited to support ECIPA, a local training agency, in organising kick-off workshops for some artisanal traineeships. EX LIBRIS involved crafts relating to the production of high quality, handmade paper, traditional publishing techniques, creative graphics, screen printing, engravings, book-binding.



### I.4.02 LAGUNA cushion *2018 - ongoing*

Inspired by our efforts, Chiarastella Cattana designed and produced a cushion dedicated to the Venice lagoon, as a "memento of the people, the rhythms of the seasons, traditional fishing that are part of a complex ecosystem that is now so vulnerable". 10% of sales are donated to WahV by the boutique.

## I.5 Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)



WahV joined ASviS in 2019, following a short project for BNP Paribas, who introduced us. The network's mission is to raise the awareness in Italy on the importance of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to: favour the development of a culture of sustainability at all levels, reorienting production and consumption models; analyse the implications and opportunities of the sustainable development Agenda for Italy; and contribute to both the definition of an Italian strategy for the implementation of the SDGs (by employing analytical and forecasting tools to help define policies for sustainable development) and the establishment of a monitoring system to track Italy's progress in attaining the SDGs

## I.6 Participative Envisioning 2020

### I.6.01 Collective Billposting Campaign 2020

Created in response to the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown, this ongoing project expands the awareness-raising of the bill-posting campaign by inviting Venetian residents to share their own ideas for the city. The project reuses previous posters left over from the campaign to offer participants total freedom with their designs. The importance of Venetian culture, the necessity of attracting more residents, and the urgent need to protect the city's lagoon system emerged from the consultation.

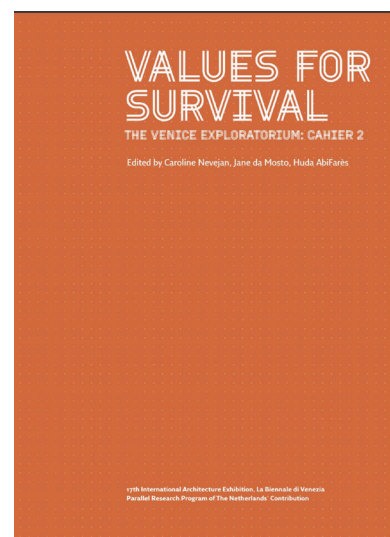
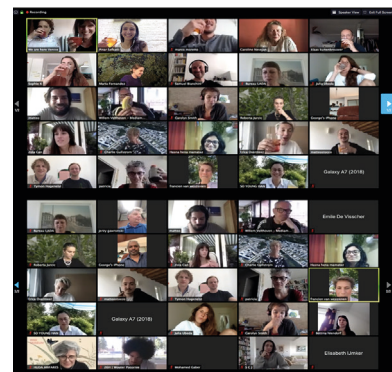


## I.7 Venice Exploratorium

In collaboration with Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam and Professor Caroline Nevejan (Chief Scientific Officer of Amsterdam Municipality), WahV co-curated this multi-disciplinary outreach programme which was due to run parallel to the Dutch Pavilion, but instead was carried out in advance of the rescheduled Architecture Biennale and triggered specific ongoing projects.

Joint online research and exchange was arranged between researchers and practitioners who had never met but shared a tendency to challenge the status quo and push our cities to make more sustainable choices while considering important environmental questions with regard to future development. Through a number of “tracks” incorporating both science and arts, the Exploratorium aimed to explain, discuss and crystallise what is valuable in a 21st century city in the context of climate change and increasing pressure from mass tourism. Through these reestablished values, goals in city development and future policy can emerge more clearly,

with the aim of ensuring a more sustainable future for everyone. The programme took place from April to July 2020, and has been documented on the Amsterdam Open Research Platform. Results were published by the Het Nieuwe Instituut in the series Values for Survival: Cahier 2 in September 2020.



# I Possible Futures

## I.7 Venice Exploratorium

### I.7.01 Radical Observation / Green Triangle

2020 - ongoing

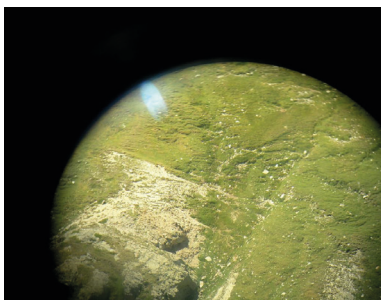


Radical Observation is the methodology by Debra Solomon/Urbaniahoeve that teaches natural world awareness towards ecosystem stewardship. It is intended for individuals and groups preparing to ask design questions about landscape interventions. Through regular practice of Radical Observation, individuals come to understand the patterns and rhythms of the ecosystem, experiencing themselves as part of it, gradually increasing their potential to be a knowledgeable steward of the area and focusing attention on processes occurring over time. In June 2020, two groups in the process of performing longterm ecological interventions in their public space simultaneously began performing and documenting their praxis of Radical Observation.

The Venice group started activating the Green Triangle, the name given by WahV to the space between homes assigned to families of the coast guard and the legendary walls of the Arsenale. It is one of the few ungated green spaces in the city in an area that many people don't know about or have never visited. In 2019, after it had been abandoned for many years, the area was cleared and a new fence installed behind the houses, along with a path and some lighting.

So Young Han from We are here Venice offers practical support and manages the Radical Observation praxis towards developing the Green Triangle initiative with local residents and community groups to ensure its lasting impact.

### I.7.02 Zoöp 2020 - ongoing

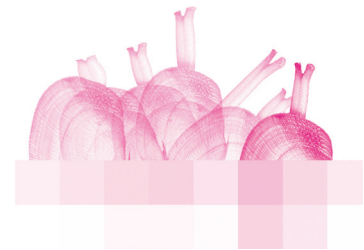


This site-specific research, in four different locations, critically explored and refined a method that makes legible as well as actionable multispecies community resilience, as part of the Zoöp initiative. This is a new form of legal organisation for representing and cooperating with nonhuman ecological communities, developed at the Neuhaus academy for more-than-human knowledge at Het Nieuwe Instituut.

## I.7. Venice Exploratorium

### I.7.03 Fisheye *2020*

How big is the impact of microorganisms on our planet? The radical COVID-19 crisis pointed out what microbiology has known for a long time. The scale relations and entanglements between social and ecological processes, visible and invisible worlds, are the main topics of Talking Sands-Fisheye.



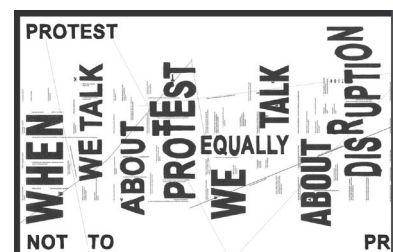
### I.7.04 Tides of Tourism *2020*

In this track we investigate tourism as a spatio-temporal phenomenon, with its own daily, weekly, seasonal and yearly rhythms, which are guided and governed as flows and tides. Rhythms, like tides, are temporal and spatial compositions; in an urban context they also gain a policy dimension. Conceptualizing tourism via these frames of reference provides for a reconsideration of the ontologies which surround demographics (that is, the tourist and the local), regulations (local and regional scales), and spatial usages and distributions, while rhythm interventions choreograph how these urban practices intersect. Our exploration takes place in Amsterdam, Venice and Glasgow: cities that have been adapted to tidal rhythms throughout the centuries.



### I.7.05 To protest or not to protest *2020 - 2021*

With this research, we explored and critically discussed the linguistics and iconography of disruption, protest and engagement – in the context of the ideas related to a multispecies urbanism. We explored these topics in relation to the urban context of Venice and Amsterdam, the 2020/2021 Biennial theme 'How will we live together?' and 'Values for Survival' as introduced by the Venice Exploratorium. With Protest or not to Protest we looked at the manifestation, contextualization and representation of disruption and activism as a spatial form, and as a form of engagement and care – in the media, online and otherwise.






## II. Residencies/Internships



Project period :  
01.01.2018- 31.12.2020  
Total Income : €18,000.00  
Expenditure : no records

Funding information :  
• Private donations 83.3%  
• NGO 16.7%



A detail from Michelangelo's famous fresco 'The Fall of Man' in the Sistine Chapel. The image focuses on the central figures: Adam, who is reclining on the left, and Eve, who is standing on the right. Adam is shown in a state of vulnerability, with his body stretched out and his arm reaching towards the forbidden fruit. Eve stands before him, holding the red apple in her hands, her gaze fixed on it. The background shows parts of other figures, including a woman in a green robe and a man in a blue robe, and a portion of the ornate architectural setting of the chapel. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the figures' bodies.

*Heritage conservation is a delicate matter and rather than clinging to established systems, it is important to engage new groups and to be able to adapt to changing situations. To this end, WahV facilitates and supports the integration of new human capital, assisting host institutions to prepare themselves for, and benefit from, the next generation.*



## II Residencies/Internships

### II.1 Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per il Comune di Venezia e Laguna *2018 - ongoing*



Between September 2018 and Spring 2020, WahV facilitated and provided financial support for the first and second professional internships at the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio for the City of Venice and the Lagoon on the basis of a framework agreement that also includes the Order of Architects P.P.C. of Veneto and IUAV University of Venice. This experience substitutes a portion of the architects' formal professional qualification. During the training period, each trainee had a chance to observe different aspects of the architecture profession, from carrying out executive drawings to site inspection procedures and interaction with other professions, both on-site as well as during office consultations. This project enriches the human capital available in Venice for the preservation of cultural heritage and facilitates more specific training of future professionals who will operate in the unique context of the Venetian urban fabric.

The value of this internship is also measurable by the actual work done by the intern for the already overstretched Soprintendenza. Additional funding was provided by Mrs. Cherry Dalton and Comitato Italiano per la Salvaguardia di Venezia.

## II.2 Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia with Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia *2018 - 2019*

The first ever Artist Residency at the Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia was arranged by WahV in collaboration with the Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, who provided studio space and artist facilities. WahV took care of fundraising, accommodation and ongoing support for the three month programme. A formal call was prepared by the Gallerie dell'Accademia and WahV was represented on the jury. The relational artist Claudio Beorchia was selected. For the vernissage, the artist together with curator Michele Tavola, a room guard and a staff member of the museum, gave performative guided tours, offering the public excerpts from the script assembled during the residency. "Aurale" is about the relationship between visitors and the Museum, and investigates the connection that is inevitably created between the audience and the artistic heritage in each of the rooms of the Gallerie dell'Accademia and its masterpieces. The artwork is now part of the permanent collection of the Gallerie dell'Accademia.





### III La Biennale di Venezia



Project period :  
01.09.2012- 31.12.2020

Funding information :  
• General budget



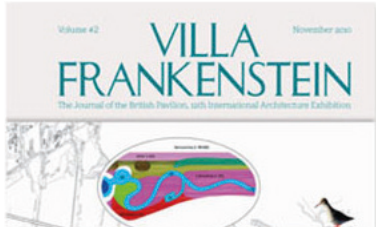


*Since its origins, the Venice Biennale has held a key position in the business and culture of the city. WahV has been involved in different ways with initiatives conceived either by us or by curators to enhance the relevance of the exhibitions to the hosting city. Certain activities prior to the establishment of WahV must be mentioned for their role in shaping our approach*



# III La Biennale di Venezia

## III.0 International Architecture Exhibition 2010 - 2014



### British Pavilion "Villa Frankenstein" 2010

Collaboration with art director muf architecture/art to design, plan and execute a lagoon related installation and public events

### 13th International Architecture Exhibition

"Common Ground" 2012



Partnership with David Chipperfield's curatorial team to arrange the public programme

### Swiss Pavilion 2014

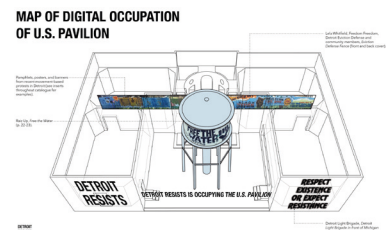


Acting as "interpreters" of the archives of Lucius Burkhardt and Cedric Price, guided by Tino Seghal, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Herzog De Meuron

## III.1 National Pavilions – Giardini della Biennale

### US Pavilion Collaboration for virtual reality occupation 2016

To parallel the US Pavilion exhibition about urban regeneration, WahV provided georeferencing data for a virtual reality based alternative exhibition in the pavilion created by the pressure group Detroit Resists.



### British Pavilion British Council 2017 - 2019

Art and Architecture Biennale "orientation" programme for Venice Fellows. On a monthly basis, the Venice Fellows met with someone from WahV to orientate their Venice experience more in the direction of residents (on a temporary basis) than tourists. When possible, WahV provided guidance for their individual research work as well.



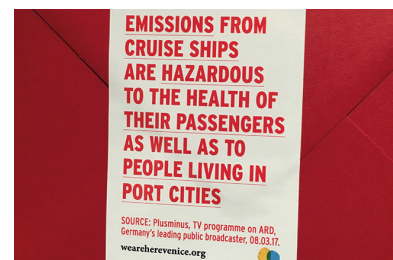
### Korean Pavilion fundraising for Venice 2017

WahV was approached by the curator and manager of the Korean Pavilion to propose a project for Venice that would counter-balance the advantages of the Pavilion from participating in the Venice Biennale, as described in VL III.2.01



### National Pavilions Sticker campaign 2018

The sticker campaign, executed in collaboration with curators of 40 national pavilions, benefitted from a more global dissemination via the media packs of each pavilion.



### Dutch Pavilion Het Nieuwe Instituut 2020 - 2021

WahV was engaged by the commissioner, curator and artist-activist representing the Netherlands in the Pavilion on pursuing a series of propositions to optimize the legacy from the 2021 installation and bring greater attention to the climate crisis.





# III La Biennale di Venezia

## III.2 National Pavilions – Around Venice

### **Antigua & Barbuda Pavilion** 2017 - 2018



Video-conferencing initiative connecting high school students in NY, Antigua and Venice to discuss environmental justice and share personal experiences of flooding. During the 2017 Art Biennale, a series of video conferences on environmental justice were arranged on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda Pavilion, connected also to schools in Manhattan and Antigua, including students who'd been evacuated following the hurricane in Barbuda.

## III.3 National Pavilions - Parallel Programmes

### **CitizenSHIP, USA** 2018

WahV advised Niall Atkinson (Associate Professor of Art History, University of Chicago) on stakeholders and themes for local engagement during the exhibition period.



### **Exploratorium, Netherlands** 2020 - 2021

With the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, WahV was invited to transform the planned parallel programme of the Dutch pavilion into an experimental online multi-stakeholder international collection of exercises in collaboration, as described in LV I.9.

## III.4 Collateral Events



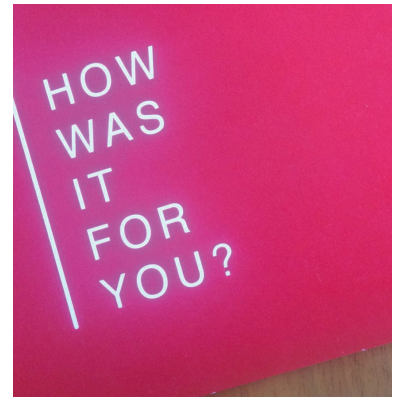
### **VAC Foundation / Assemble** 2018 - 2020

WahV was invited by the UK collective Assemble to propose and then design and execute an intervention at the VAC Foundation, as described in section VL II.1

## III.5 Research

### III.5.01 HOW WAS IT FOR YOU? *2018-2019*

How Was It For You? is an investigation into relations between the institution and the city and its residents, and considers opportunities for greater reciprocal enrichment. This report marks the beginning of We Are Here Venice's efforts to objectively clarify some of the dynamics, following years of experience and in the context of a continuous, ongoing research process. The size and influence of the Biennale institution means it is, and will continue to be, crucial in determining the future of the city. The report was undertaken during the XVI Architecture Biennale (Freospace, 2018) and is based on observations, collected data, interviews and media reports. The research presented in the study has stimulated some meaningful responses from exhibition curators and exhibitors and in the press.



### III.5.02 Harvard University *2019*

Anthropologists invited by the curator of the 2020/21 Architecture Biennale consulted with WahV on how to engage the living city in their proposal for the international exhibition in the Arsenale.





Photo Jane Da Mosto



Photo So Young Han



# Exchange of Knowledge

WahV designs and participates in initiatives that promise to raise awareness and inform public opinion. At the same time, awareness-raising events or actions are also opportunities to exchange knowledge, impressions and skills with those involved – a fundamental part of our research process.

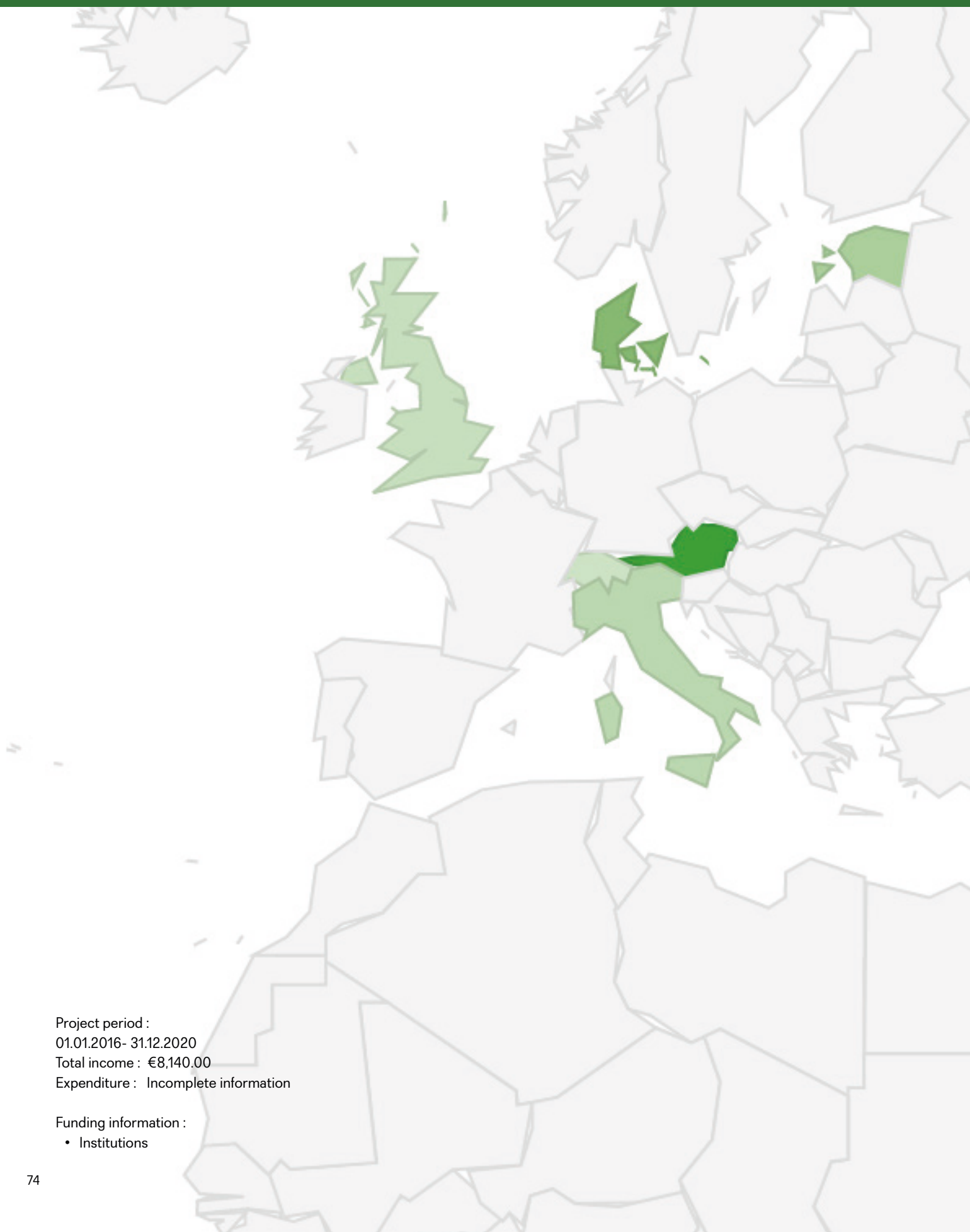
## Project Categories

- EK I      Field Trips and Orientation
- EK II      Conferences, Lectures & Talks



# Exchange of Knowledge

WahV's SDGs indication



Project period :  
01.01.2016- 31.12.2020  
Total income : €8,140.00  
Expenditure : Incomplete information

Funding information :  
• Institutions



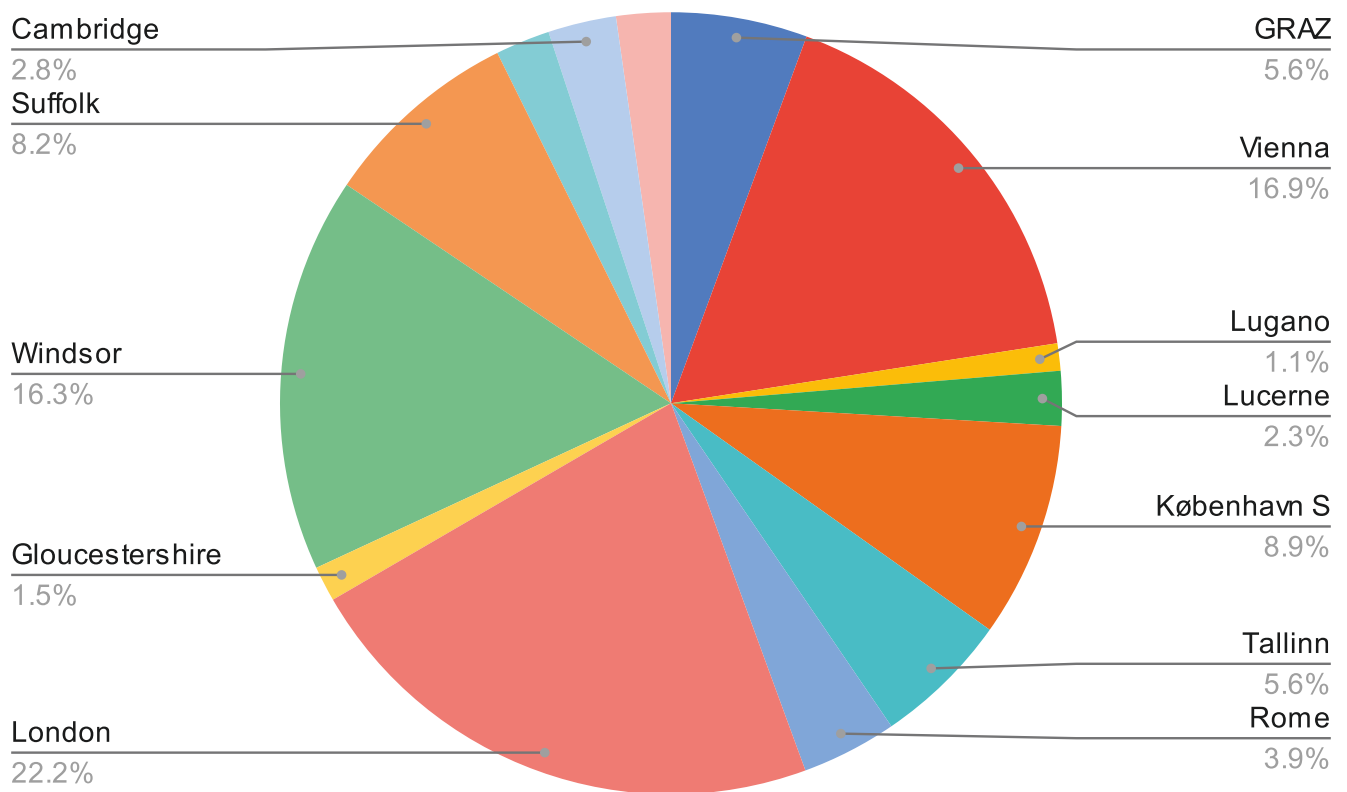
*Target 4.7 is one of the most important targets in terms of linkages with other SDGs and it is important to align measurement for target 4.7 related targets such as 12.8: “By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature” and 13.3: “Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning”.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Global Alliance for Monitoring Learning Fourth meeting, 2017 Madrid Spain



# Exchange of Knowledge

Distribution of donors\_lectures



# I Field Trips and Orientation

## I.1 Schools and Universities

2016 - ongoing

## I.2 Peggy Guggenheim Collection

- VENEZIA H2O
- Intern orientation

2018 - 2019

2019 - ongoing

## I.3 Thesis supervision, Curricular work experience

- Barena Bianca Collective

2018 - 2020

# II Conferences, Lectures & Talks





# I Field Trips and Orientation

## I.1 Schools and Universities



These collaborations are numerous, ranging from one-off sessions to regular contributions and exchanges. Since 2016, WahV has forged relationships with several schools, universities and continuing education programmes combining explanations relating to life in Venice and the lagoon and field trip experiences.

Wahv contributes regularly to the Sotheby's Institute of Art and John Hall Venice Course, among others. Building on a relationship established with Eton College, WahV organised fieldwork expeditions to investigate the implications of climate change for Venice, including preparatory work and follow-up exercises in collaboration with local schools - Liceo Franchetti and Liceo Foscarini. The output from these expeditions had a wider reach, shared with other schools in the UK and beyond via the Royal Geographical Society's online resource. WahV also recorded a podcast with the RGS to add to their educational materials. The teachers also published a journal article about the initiative. In December 2018, WahV went to Liceo Morin in Chirignago. This was part of a programme delivered together with Global Project and Comitato No Grandi Navi.

These activities stimulate students to become better informed about environmental issues in order to participate actively in the political decisions and choices that will determine their future.

## I.2 Peggy Guggenheim Collection



### I.2.01 VENEZIA H2O 2018 - 2019

We devised a set of six family workshops with the Guggenheim's team of educators on the theme of Venice's coexistence with water and the significance of the lagoon. The workshops ran between October 2018 and May 2019 and took place in several different locations around Venice, in collaboration also with other community groups and civic institutions.



### I.2.02 Intern orientation 2019 - ongoing

WahV periodically meets interns of the museum to support their orientation in Venice to appreciate it as a living city, understand the lagoon and explore themes relevant to the seasons and civic events.

## 1.3 Thesis supervision, Curricular work experience

We are frequently asked to contribute to thesis research and to host students for work experience. Our collaboration with Barena Bianca began when the collective (Pietro Consolandi and Fabio Cavalari) were still studying at IUAV and WahV was guest tutor on a module run by Angela Vettese and Elena Mazzi. Subsequently, WahV facilitated, produced and supported some specific initiatives.

### 1.3.01 Muevete Muevete Barena *2018*

Muevete Muevete Barena was a didactic happening that took place between Palazzo delle Zattere (V-A-C Foundation) and Campo Santo Stefano. Sixty Venetian children (aged 8-9 from Scuola Elementare B. Canal) paraded 30-meters of “anti-camouflage” fabric with a pattern design based on the Barene in Campalto. Refusing to surrender to exploitative logics leading to ecological and social downfall, fighting not to disappear, the “indigenous children” – almost an exotic species, among tourists and visitors – gave life to a metaphorical mythical animal of the lagoon sweeping through one of Venice's tourist hotspots. In Campo Santo Stefano, the children drew pictures on the paving with chalk, portraying elements of the venetian lagoon with frames composed by the Barene squares through a deconstruction and reconstruction of the fabric strip. Prior to the parade, the collective and invited experts held workshops to teach the children things they didn't already know about the lagoon.



### 1.3.02 Barena Primavera-Estate *2019*

Barena Primavera-Estate was a workshop developed in collaboration with Giorgia Cereda and produced and coordinated by We Are Here Venice. During World Ocean Day, 20 Venetian children recycled old shirts and became living symbols of the Lagoon. Each composed her/his own image on a clay tablet before stamping it on the shirt, using plants and flowers from the Barene, giving life to a personal interpretation of the Lagoon's ecosystem. The video, narrated by Francesco Da Mosto, that accompanies images from the workshop and the exploration of the Barene of Campalto, mocks the style of a commercial yet does not seek to sell anything. Rather, the “mock-mercial” encourages adoption of a set of ideals necessary to tackle the downward spiral of the Venetian ecosystem, in which the amount of Barene declined by about 70% during the last century. This mirrors the fall in the resident population of Venice too; each of us can be a Barena.





# I Field Trips and Orientation

## I.3 Thesis supervision, Curricular work experience

### I.3.03 Atención! 2019



Atención! is a bill posting campaign made mobile using hand-made carts made with recycled materials, developed by Barena Bianca, supported and produced by We are here Venice. Four specific messages regarding the survival of Venice and its Lagoon were circulated during the vernissage days of the 2019 Art Biennale.

Barena Bianca processed historical data of various negative trends associated with the Venetian Lagoon since the XVII Century, transforming the information into abstract images colour gradients – via special software. Four statistical sources and four posters in which each phase of the gradient corresponds to a value that intersects the others, forming shades of color that become more or less intense depending on the proportions of the represented data.

Each poster sets a dialogue between quantitative data and a phrase by great thinkers of the past, in an unsettling mirrored image of the romantic projection of poets and philosophers that gets distorted into the scientific and statistical observation of the future both in Venice and globally in the age of Anthropocene and climate's Great Acceleration.

The work is by its nature versatile, leaning both on an installative and a performative side. A first performance, in the neighborhood of Castello, was held at the opening of the show "Supermercato" at the Serra dei Giardini of Venice, contemporary to the 58. Art Biennale. The installation was hosted at the VAC Foundation, in LagunaViva, over the summer and was featured in a specially organised exhibition at Imperial College, London in February 2020.

## II Conferences, Lectures & Talks

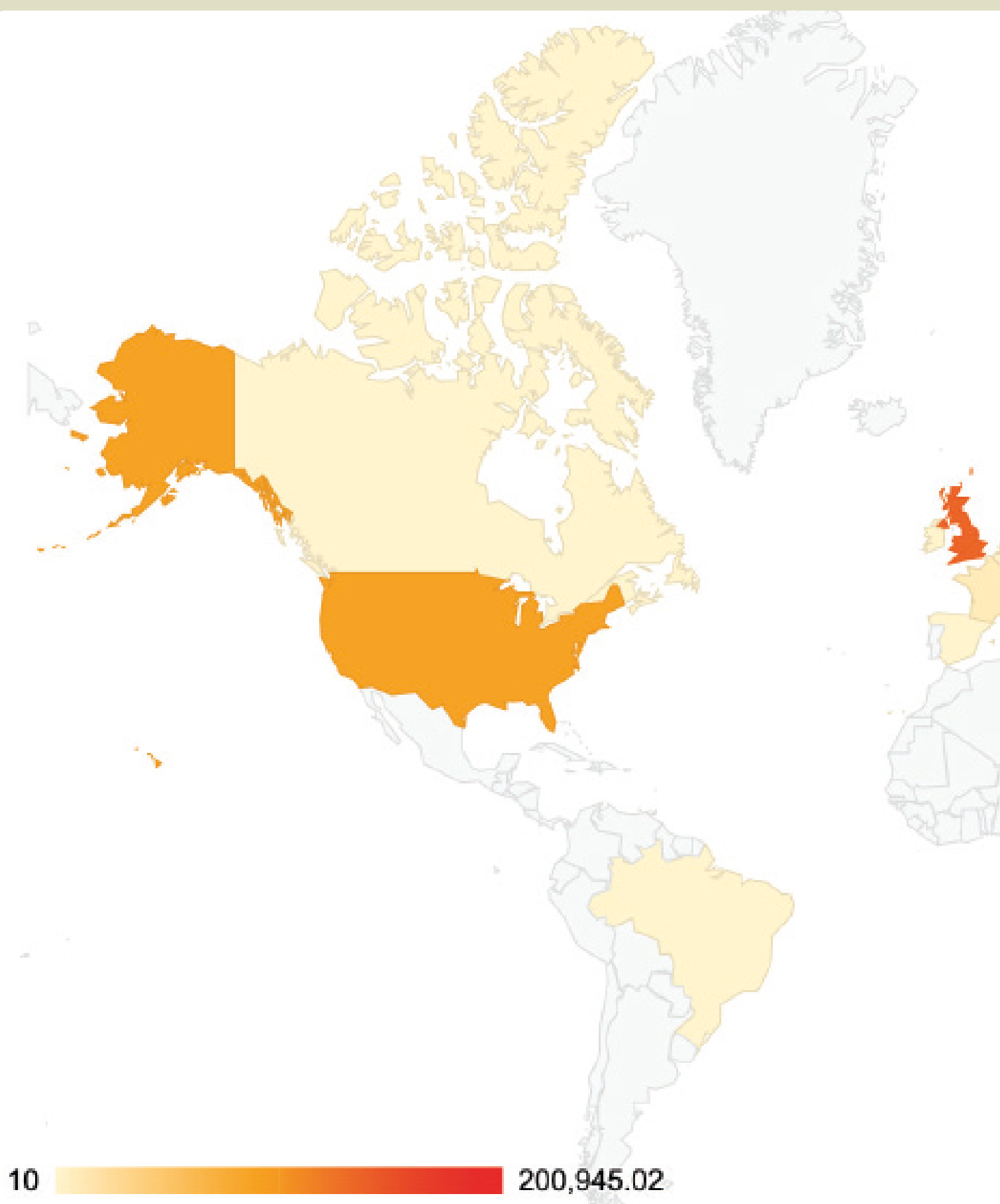
21/12/2020	L'attivismo ambientale a Venezia	Ca' Foscari, Venice
10/12/2020	Exploratorium Cahier II launch	Venice (via Zoom)
27/11/2020	Guggenheim interns talk	Venice
23/11/2020	Università della Svizzera Italiana, Academy of Architecture	Mendrisio (via Zoom)
29/10/2020	Guggenheim interns guided walk around Sant'Erasmo	Venice
22/10/2020	Guggenheim interns talk	Venice (via Zoom)
21/09/2020	"Venezia è Laguna" Activities for the Festival of the UN Sustainable Development Goals with the Peggy Guggenheim Collection	Venice (via Zoom)
07/07/2020	Guggenheim interns talk	Venice (via Zoom)
10/06/2020	La nave tentacolare / WALKING (THE) TRAJECTORIES: VENEZIA COME MODELLO PER IL FUTURO?	Venice
20/05/2020	Ocean Space Messy Studio - Acqua Alta	Venice (via Zoom)
11/03/2020	John Hall talk	Venice
20/02/2020	Presentation of the paper The Venice Paradox / Cruise ships and their Sense of Place at the Cartagena dialogue on "Cruise, Ports and Cities"	Cartagena, Colombia
15/02/2020	Trinity College Rome talk VAC	Venice
11/02/2020	Guggenheim talk at the Arsenale	Venice
28/01/2020	Offset brainstorming workshop	Venice
14/12/2019	Rhino & Luxury conference at Palazzo Polignac	Venice
03/12/2019	Billposting campaign against large cruise ships presentation	Valencia
28/10/2019	Digital ethics conference San Servolo	Venice
21/10/2019	Introductory talk for Eton students	Venice
14/10/2019	Talk for University of Liverpool at IUAV	Venice
30/09/2019	Talk for Australian Council at La Fenice	Venice
23/09/2019	Talk at the VAC	Venice
09/09/2019	British Council Fellows	Venice
04/09/2019	Sea Change conference, World Monuments Fund	Blackpool, UK
18/06/2019	Presentation - Action Practices in Venice and its Lagoon The 1st Sustainable Development Jeju International Conference	Jeju, Korea
13/03/2019	John Hall talk	Venice
08/02/2019	John Hall talk	Venice
09/01/2019	San Jose University lagoon excursion	Venice

No records before 31/12/2018



# 2015-2020

## Financial Analysis and Conclusions

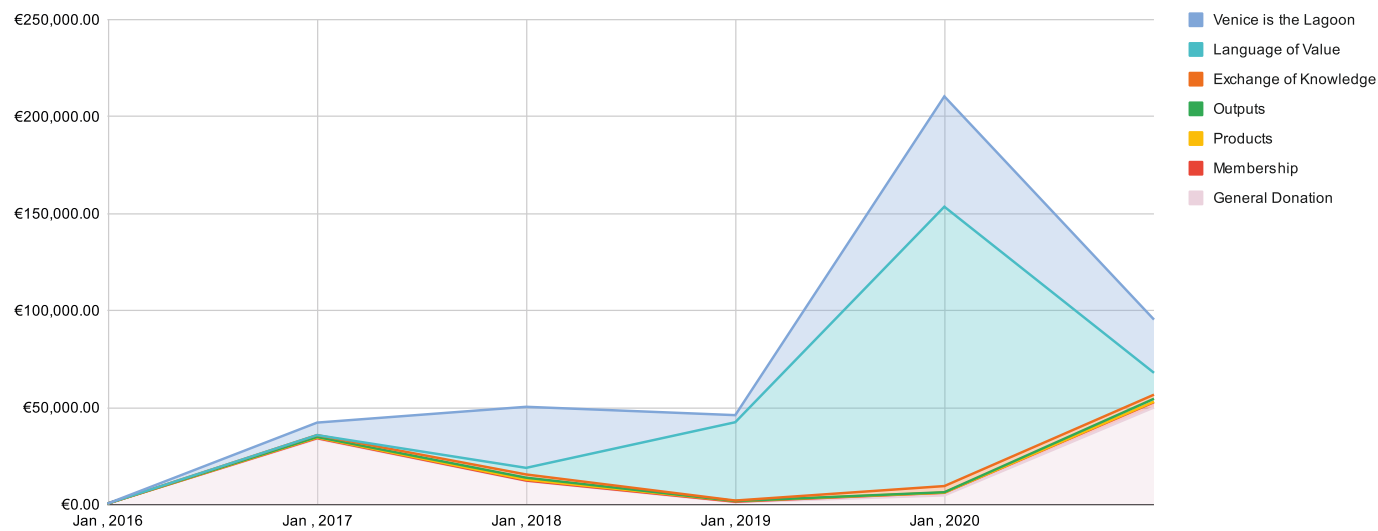




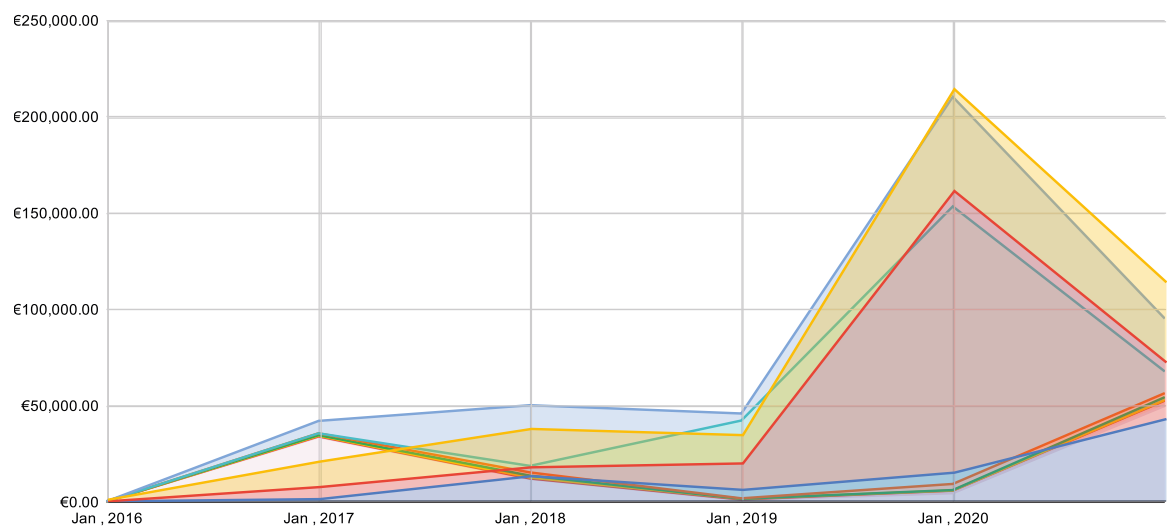
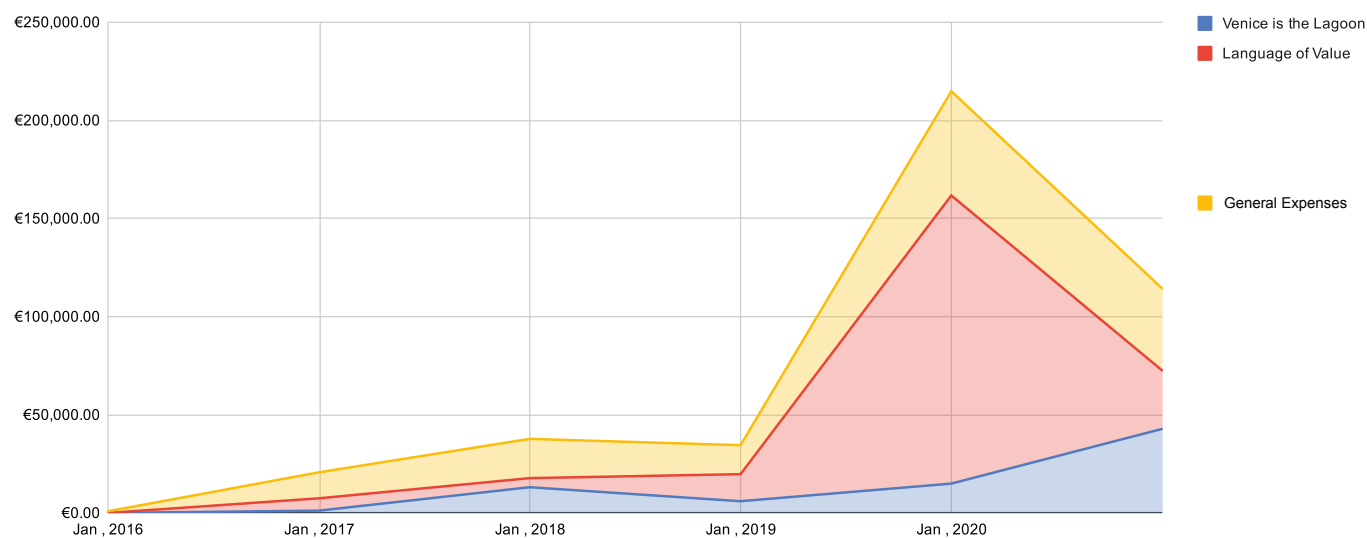
# 2015-2020

## Financial Analysis and Conclusion

### INCOME

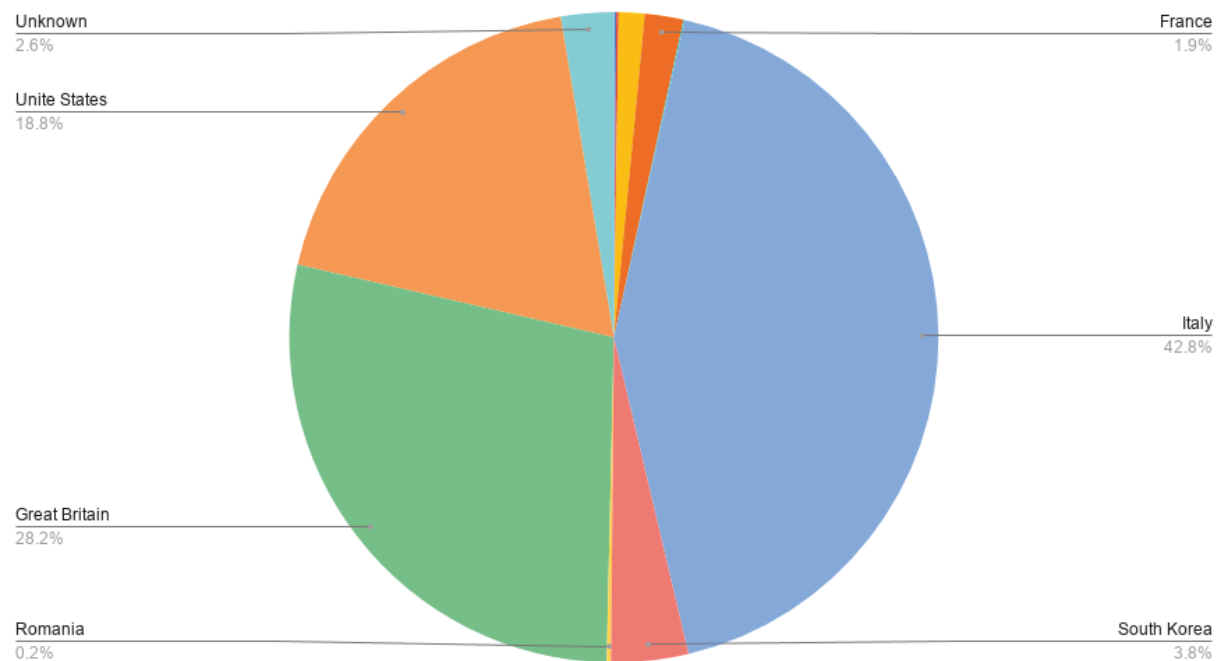


### EXPENDITURE





## Geographical distribution of donors



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

These pages have shown that WahV is an experiment worth continuing. We are enormously grateful to arch. So Young Han for her determination and dedication to carry out this review and rigorously apply the United Nations Agenda 2030 SDG Framework to an enormous collection of documents, recollections, image databases and notes. With these words I promise to spare So Young or anyone from having to repeat such a difficult task. Going forwards, we will improve our record keeping and be more methodical in defining projects, determining performance parameters, keeping track of partnerships, different types of inputs/outputs and recognising impacts with respect to the SDGs. The analysis has revealed the fundamental importance of the general budget to maintain stability and guarantee continuity that, in turn, facilitates an efficient systems approach to our work challenges. With all this experience and apparatus, we are now well equipped and hope to be able to continue making progress over the next five years (at least).

Jane da Mosto

# 2015-2020

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PUBLICATIONS

2016	Acqua in Piazza	JdM with Giannandrea Mencini
2016	Ritorno in Piazza	Anna Zemella
2017	Making Time for Conversations of Resistance	Liza Fior, Elke Krasny, JdM
2018	Donne come noi (Donna Moderna)	JdM
2019	Practicing Civic Ecology: Venice and the Lagoon (Angelika Fitz & Elke Krasny ed.)	JdM
2019	How Was It For You?	Carolyn Smith & JdM
2020	On Failure	JdM, Carolyn Smith, Kasia Ruszkowski
2020	Whose City Is It Anyway?	Carolyn Smith & JdM
2020	Rethinking Venice from an Ecosystem Services Perspective	Laura Onofri, Anil Markandya, Paulo Nunes, Tom Spencer, Arnas Palaima, JdM
2020	Exploratorium Cahiers II	Caroline Nevejan & JdM

### MEDIA COVERAGE

[www.weareherevenice.org](http://www.weareherevenice.org)

<https://www.instagram.com/weareherevenice/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/107818802702564/>





# 2015-2020

## PARTNERS AND PEOPLE

### PARTNERS

Organisations we work with include:

Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (ASVIS)  
British Council  
Centre for Humanities and Social Change - Venice  
Centraline dal Basso  
Chiarastella Cattana  
Cittadini per l'Aria  
Fondazione CMCC – Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Istituto di Scienze Marine (CNR Ismar)  
Collettivo Barena Bianca  
Comitato No Grandi Navi  
Comune di Venezia - Centro Previsione e Segnalazione Maree  
Eton College  
Forum Futuro Arsenale  
Gallerie Accademia di Venezia  
Het Nieuwe Instituut  
Hotel Metropole  
IUCN  
James Willis, artist  
John Hall Course  
Laguna B  
Ocean Space/TBA21  
Peggy Guggenheim Collection  
Pro Bono Italia  
Royal College of Art - School of Architecture  
Royal Geographical Society  
Sandberg Instituut  
Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali  
Soprintendenza Archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per il Comune di Venezia e Laguna  
Theatrum Mundi  
Transnational Giving Europe  
Trust Law  
Università Ca'Foscari  
Università IUAV di Venezia  
Università di Padova - Dip. Geoscienze e Dip. Ingegneria  
University of Cambridge - Cambridge Coastal Research Unit  
VAC Foundation

## PEOPLE

### Founders

Jane da Mosto  
Liza Fior

### Management board

Jane da Mosto – Executive Director  
Liza Fior – Non-executive Director  
Flora Pedulla – Treasurer  
Adrian Smith – Director

### Team

Camilla Bertolini – Chief Scientist  
Gabriella Gilmour – Strategic Advisor  
So Young Han – Strategic Planner  
Giorgia Pivato – Head of Operations  
Eleonora Sovrani – Artistic Director  
Jenny Stewart – Communications Advisor  
Carolyn Smith – Researcher

### Office Managers 2015-2020

Gabriella Gilmour  
Delia Mangano  
Kasia Ruszkowski

### Advisory board

Nell Butler – TV executive (London)  
Lilli Doriguzzi – Artist (Venice)  
Elke Krasny – Cultural theorist (Vienna)  
Francesco Loredan – Investor and philanthropist (London/Venice)  
Fabio Moretti – Attorney (Milan/Venice)  
Laura Onofri – Environmental economist (Venice)  
Barbara Pastor – Architect (Venice)  
Dalia Salaam Rishani – Philanthropist (London/Beirut)  
Samantha Weinberg – Writer (Devizes, UK)  
Cynthia Wu – Entrepreneur and philanthropist (Taipei, Taiwan)

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Lydia Allegretto (Exeter University)  
Dizzy Dalton (Durham University)  
Ryan Hendrick (Università Ca' Foscari)  
Olimpia Loredan (New College of the Humanities)  
Ariana Mion (Università di Pavia)  
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Matilde Quarin (Università Ca' Foscari)  
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Molly Strauss (London School of Economics)  
Giulia Vio (Università Ca' Foscari)  
Jack Wright (Università Ca' Foscari)  
Eugenia Zabar (Università Ca' Foscari)



This report was prepared by We are here Venice for the Annual General Meeting 2021. This is a condensed version for general distribution.

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