

Annual Report 2017

2017 marks the first full year of LINGO as a registered entity.

Highlights of our work in 2017 have been:

1. Gastivist Collective



Illustration 1: The Gastivists logo

We established the Gastivist Collective following a strategy session on fossil gas at COP22 in Marrakesh. The Gastivist Collective works to empower, support and grow grassroots groups mobilizing against the expansion of fossil gas infrastructure in Europe and the Mediterranean. We are a horizontal collective, founded in 2016, that facilitates networking between NGOs and grassroots groups on an international level and to collectively implement priority activities, advocacy and actions.

We facilitated a 3-day European anti-gas conference funded and hosted by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and are facilitating the implementation of the resulting work streams set up at the conference: collective action, outreach to other movements, community exchange, speakers tour, research and network infrastructure. (Conference report: <http://www.rosalux.eu/topics/social-ecological-transformation/global-gas-lock-in-linking-north-south-resistance/>)



Illustration 2: Gastivists facilitating a strategy meeting

We organized a double digit number of actions, meetings and events around gas at and during COP23 in Bonn where besides reaching hundreds of delegates, we got an excellent social media response (tens of thousands of views), as well as some newspaper and TV coverage. (Democracy Now programme on fossil gas: https://www.democracynow.org/2017/11/16/activists_at_cop23_decry_companies_corporate)

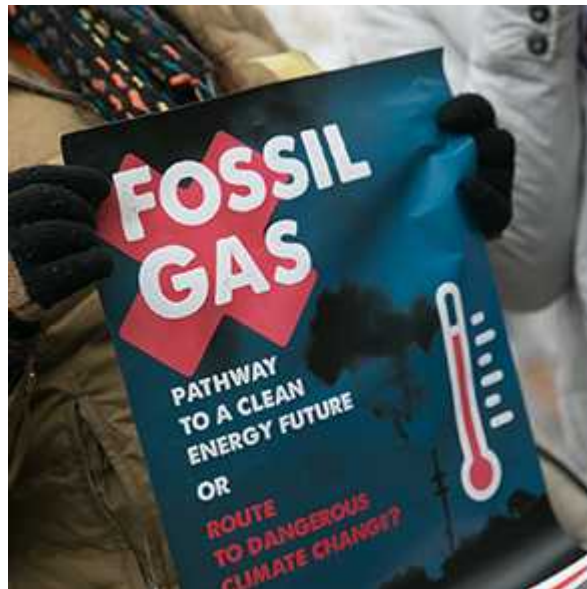


Illustration 3: Poster for our side-event at COP23.



Illustration 4: NoTAP solidarity action in Bonn

We organized an international “NoTAP” Day of Action with actions in nine cities in 7 countries. TAP stands for the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, a major fossil gas pipeline currently trying to get multibillion Euros of public support.

We sent a monthly „Gastivist Newsletter“ to a few hundred subscribers.



We carried the gas issue into networks and coalitions and are slowly getting to the point where work against fossil gas is considered as a “normal” and integral part of the climate movement.

We set up a website (gastivists.org) with a map of gastivists (currently in beta stage) and some resources about gas, as well as social media channels (200 followers on twitter and ~1000 on facebook) and an open source visual identity for gastivists.

We supported other organizations (350.org, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Friends of the Earth Europe & International, Food and Water Watch) to make better use of their own funds and make their work more useful for or directed towards anti-gas struggles.

We leveraged an initial support by Patagonia (7k USD) to attract further contributions from other foundations (LUSH 10k EUR, Guerrilla Foundation 12k EUR).

We mobilized ~50 people to participate in the EU Projects of Common Interest consultation, opposing fossil gas projects (See result [here](#)).

We held workshops on gas at climate camps, supported media work on the EIB loan to TAP, and organized and facilitated a number of coordination meetings and calls, building a wider anti-gas network.

2. Calculation on emissions investment of the energy transition

Together with the World Future Council we performed a groundbreaking calculation on how much fossil energy needs to be invested in building a 100% clean energy infrastructure globally, defusing an important argument of critics of a rapid energy transition. The calculation was published by the founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, Jakob von Uexkuell. Blog post: *The climate cost of 100% renewable energy* https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-climate-cost-of-100-renewable-energy_us_59366c58e4b0c670a3ce6806

3. Keep it in the Ground Fund

We created a website and visual identity for the Keep it in the Ground Fund which aims to channel resources which are currently used for offsetting projects towards more effective efforts to keep millions of tons of CO₂ in the ground.



Illustration 5: Keep it in the Ground Fund logo

4. Ende Gelände

LINGO is part of the Ende Gelände coalition and in 2017 we helped organize two successful actions of mass civil disobedience. We helped with translation and action logistics (August) and mobilization, speaker's programme, translation coordination (November) and some minor tasks.



Illustration 6: Invitation for Ende Gelände 2017

5. Tribunal for the Rights of Nature

We helped organize the case on German lignite and held a training session on climate game changers at the International Rights of Nature Tribunal.



Illustration 7: Putting coal into the museum - Action framing the Lignite case at the Rights of Nature Tribunal

6. Coal End Game Workshop at Peoples' Climate Summit

We organized a workshop together with partners from India, featuring former Minister of environment of Northrhine Westphalia Bärbel Höhn and speakers from four continents.



Illustration 8: Announcement of the Coal End Game workshop

7. Coal vigil and shuttle service to Hambach Forest

Outside main COP23 entrance we manned a coal information point, drawing attention to the coal being mined just outside Bonn and the destruction of the beautiful Hambach Forest and exposing the unwillingness of the German and NRW governments to let go of coal. We coordinated a shuttle service with volunteers from the region which allowed over 100 journalists, government and non-government COP delegates to visit Hambach Forest and Hambach Mine – Europe's biggest coal mine.



Illustration 9: The Coal vigil outside the main entrance to COP23.

8. Submissions and Letters

We made a submission to the United Nations Ocean Dialogues: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/13480UN%20Ocean%20Conference%20-%20LINGO%20Submission.pdf> and to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's Energy Sector Strategy (<http://leave-it-in-the-ground.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AIIB-draft-Energy-Sector-Strategy-LINGO-comments.pdf>) and supported and co-signed a number of letters and petitions on a variety of issues aligned with our mission.

9. Fundraising

We developed project proposals on mapping unburnable carbon, ending exploration, a sufficiency and decarbonization road map, Lake Malawi oil exploration resistance, and redirecting offsets. We submitted over 20 grant applications to Climate Strategies Accelerator, Stiftung Mercator (2 applications), IDEAS for US Solutions Fund (4 applications), Global Greengrants Fund, Oak Foundation.

10. Exploratory work

We had exploratory conversations on a climate tort lawsuit in Mexico and drafted discussion papers on the Climate Bottom Line (a strategic approach towards evaluating how much fossil carbon stays in the ground) and on promoting the keeping it in the ground framing in OPEC countries.

11. Administrative issues

We opened a bank account for LINGO e.V. with Triodos Bank, one of the ethical banks and applied for UNFCCC accredited observer status.