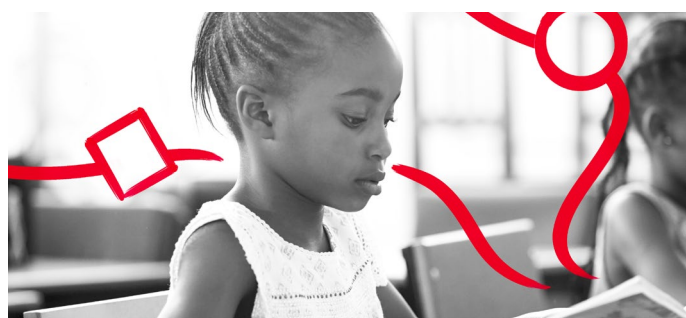


Fundación Occident

25 years of partnerships to build new futures

Activity Report 2023



 **Occident
Fundación**

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The team of Fundación Occident

Chairman Federico Halpern	Vice-Chairwoman Laura Halpern	Managing Director Ignacio Gallardo-Bravo
Deputy Director Susana Codina	Project Specialist Laura López	Administrative Specialist Esther Jutge

And our collaborators: GCO corporate units, partners in projects, volunteers, support teams for project management and communication. You are many, and we are deeply grateful to you.



Federico Halpern

Chairman of Fundación Occident



Our foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2023. Throughout these years, we have collaborated with organisations and people with different expertise from Spain and other countries. We are closing a cycle, witnessing the future of the people and initiatives we have promoted.

But we are looking to the future with renewed enthusiasm. With the same commitment and a new name: Fundación Occident. We remain committed towards young talent and equal opportunities, with the aim of making a reality the new futures we envision together.



Laura Halpern

Vice-Chairwoman of Fundación Occident



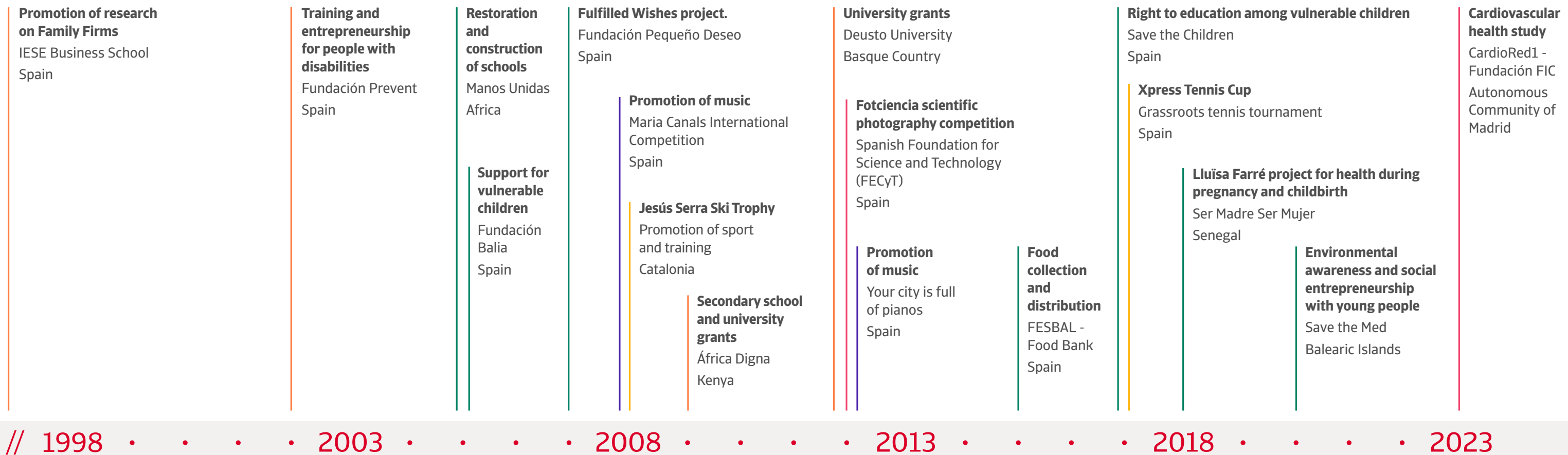
In this activity report, we intend to provide more visibility and a voice to our collaborators and the young artists, scientists, sportspeople, entrepreneurs and students we support.

We also work with women who are going to become mothers, with young people who voice the planet's needs and with doctors who want the best health for everyone. We invite you to discover them on these pages.

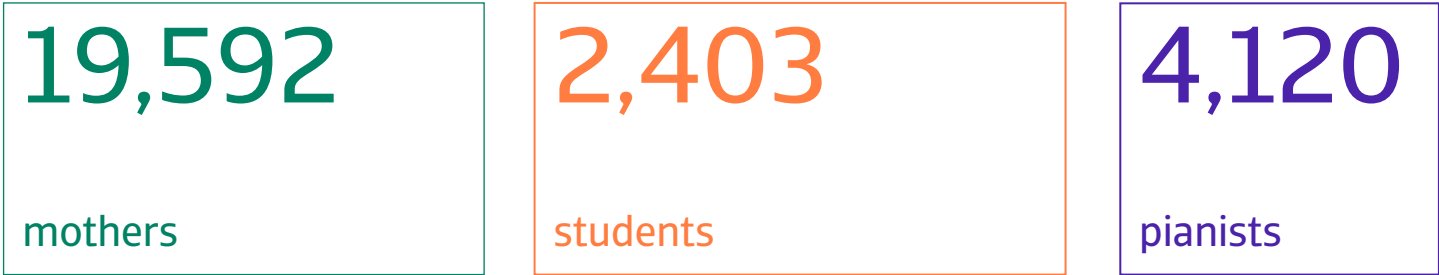
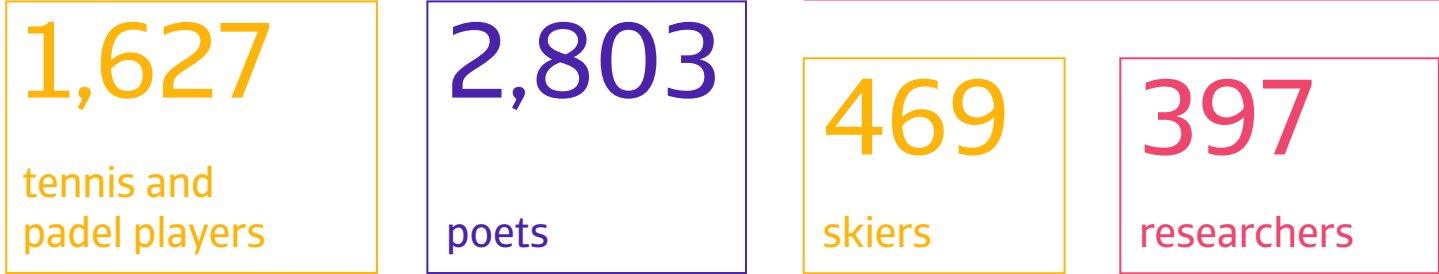
25 years of shared projects

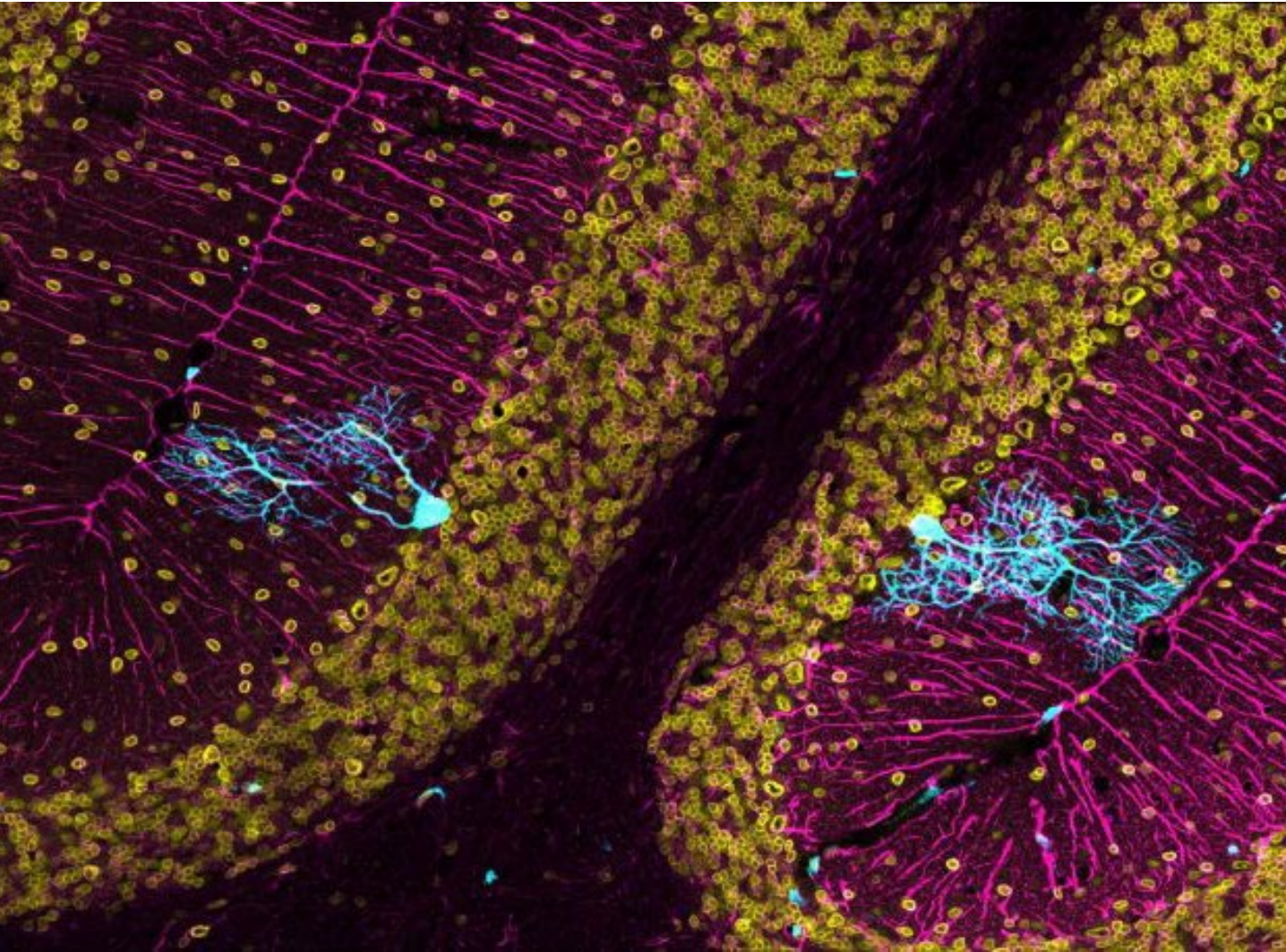
- Business and teaching
- Research
- Social action
- Promoting the arts
- Sport

In these 25 years of Fundación Occident, many projects and stories have been shared. There are so many that it is not easy to summarise them all. In this short timeline we have highlighted some projects that, as a whole, represent the diversity of programmes to which we have committed and the organisations that we support. Discover them all by reading this document or our website.



2023 figures





Research

We look to the future through research

Talent, collaboration and research. What better pillars to build the future we desire.

We have always collaborated with excellent research centres in Spain, supported the careers of young researchers and sought new ways of connecting with the beneficiaries of this research. Fotciencia, the science photography competition that has reached its 20th anniversary this year, has been the spearhead of our informative formats. On the occasion of another anniversary, five years of our research awards, we are adding the first workshop on food and health. Through this workshop we connect with associations of doctors, nurses and nutritionists, as well as with associations interested in the vegan diet.

Image:
Pablo González Téllez de Meneses. Fotciencia winner, Año Cajal special category.

The research programmes

- Predoctoral student grant & Support for young postdoctoral researchers **CNB-CSIC**
- Dean's Office project aimed at the professional development of scientific staff in training **National Centre for Cancer Research (CNIO)**
- Fundación Occident Visiting Researchers Programme **National Centre for Cancer Research (CNIO)**
- Fundación Occident Visiting Researchers Programme **Centre for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC)**
- Fundación Occident Visiting Researchers Programme **Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC)**
- PreveCardio, epidemiological study of cardiovascular risk factors in the population **CardioRed1 - Interhospital Foundation for Cardiovascular Research (FIC)**
- Sant Pau Hospital Cardiovascular Professorship **Cardiovascular Research Foundation**
- Fotciencia scientific photography competition **Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECyT)**
- Fundación Occident Support to young researchers **Lleida Biomedical Research Institute (IRB Lleida)**
- Jesús Serra Research Awards**

€ 570,323

investment

10

programmes

8

collaborating organisations

397

researchers

Diet, nutrition and health
Astrophysics
Biomedicine

support for research

Cancer
Cardiovascular diseases

Canary Islands
Catalonia
Autonomous Community of Madrid

17

cities

12

research centres, universities and hospitals

8

photography exhibitions

406

participants dissemination events

3,546

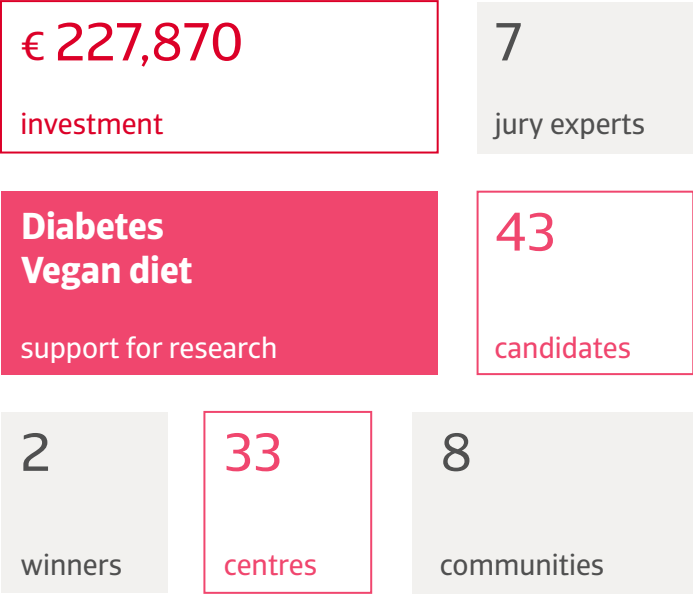
participants PreveCardio study

Feeding health with research

In 2023, the Jesús Serra Research Awards reached its 5th anniversary. Once again, the winners presented pioneering research on food, nutrition and health.

At University of Navarra, Maira Bes-Rastrollo is studying what a healthy vegan diet is. In Barcelona, Manuel Irimia, ICREA researcher at the Centre for Genomic Regulation, is researching the molecular mechanisms that regulate insulin secretion.

The programme's figures



Understanding the risks in order to take care of our heart

80% of cardiovascular accidents can be prevented. This is why four hospitals and 42 health centres in the Autonomous Community of Madrid are working together on the CardioRed project to improve cardiovascular care for more than 1 million people. By supporting the PreveCardio study, we are joining forces not only to reduce risk factors such as smoking and high blood pressure, but also to address prevention with equality in mind, through a campaign led by health centres.

Our partner:
CardioRed1, FIC Foundation



The programme's figures

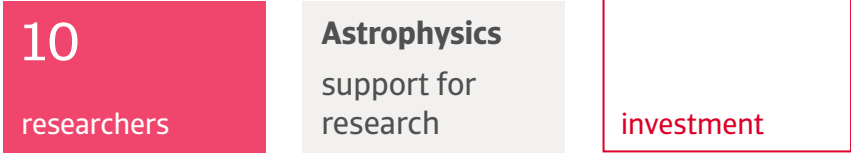


New outlook of the universe

Our collaboration with the Canary Islands Astrophysics Institute (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, IAC) was established in 2014 to attract leading international researchers to this centre. The aim is to promote new lines of research in exploring the universe through new collaborations with young researchers from the IAC. 44 visiting researchers have already participated in this programme, 10 of them in 2023.

Our partner:
Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands

The programme's figures





Business and teaching

The future we deserve

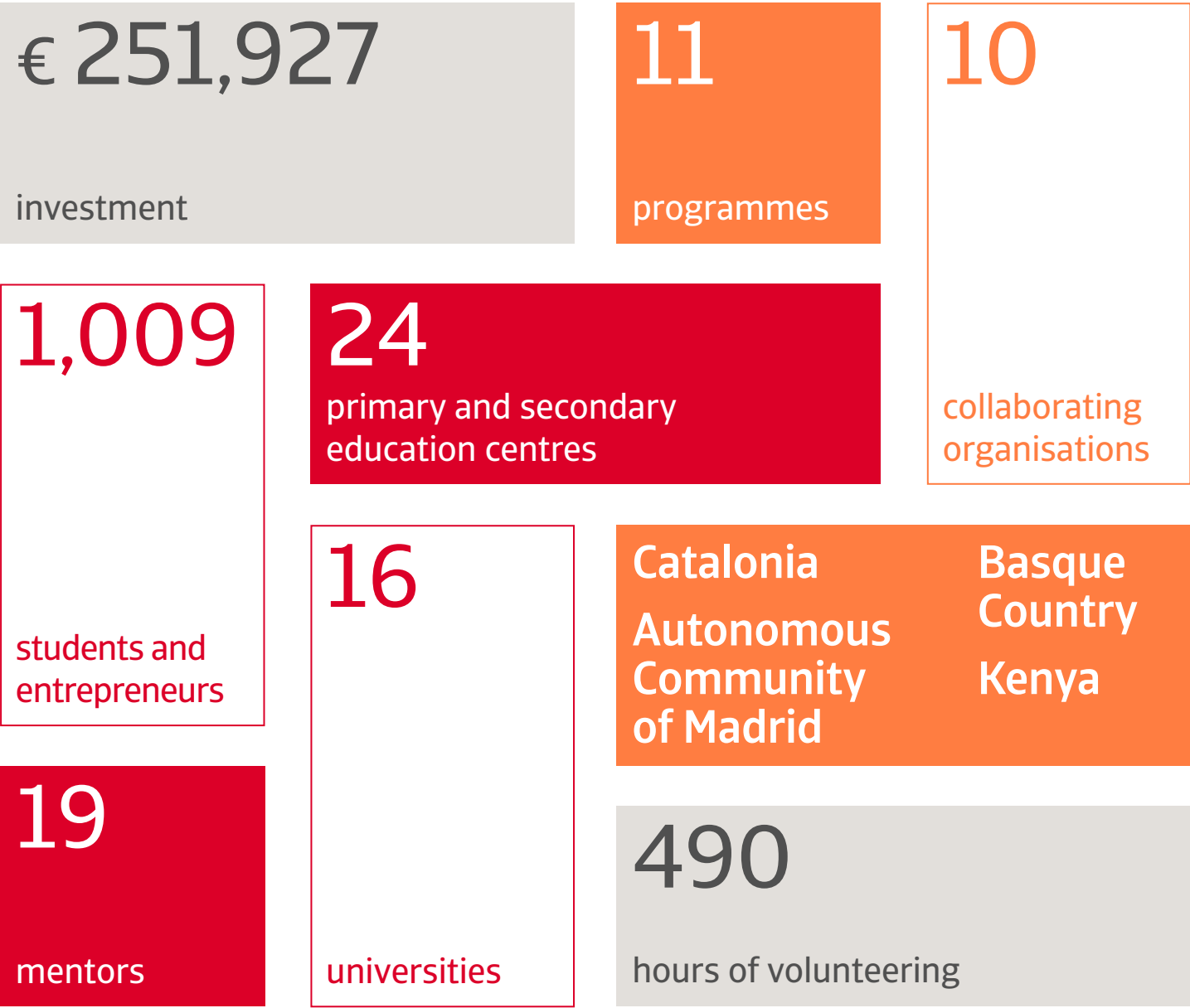
Our origins. Our family. Our limitations and strengths. Our past and our future. We are all different, but we all deserve what’s best.

We want to create the canvas for talented young people in Spain and the world to paint a new future. So that they can study, undertake new projects, value themselves and feel valued. With this aim, we collaborate with institutions that, like us, have committed to them. We also offer them the best we have: our team’s talent and commitment.

Image:
Students of the África Digna programme (Kenya).

The business and teaching programmes

- Grants for refugees **Acnur**
- Grants for students in secondary and higher education in Kenya **África Digna**
- Degree Grant for Academic Excellence Family Support **Institut Químic Sarrià (IQS)**
- University grants **City Council of Pont de Vilomara**
- Grants for the winners of the FJS tennis tournament **Abat Oliba CEU University**
- University grants for underprivileged students **Deusto University**
- Entrepreneurship programme “Aprende y Emprende” **Fundación Prevent**
- “Nova” University Grants **Fundación Prevent**
- Promotion of young talent **Fundación Princesa de Girona**
- Training on healthy habits aimed at children **Fundación Tomando Conciencia**
- Corporate volunteer mentoring for young people at risk of exclusion **Exit Foundation**

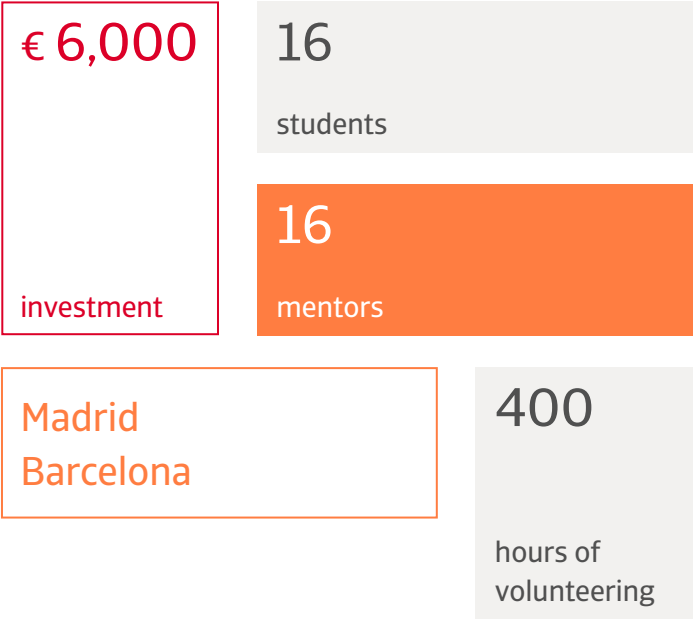


Where there is a commitment, one plus one is always more than two

Through the #coachExit mentoring programme, Exit Foundation builds bridges between young people at risk of dropping out and the business world. One of these bridges has connected with Fundación Occident and GCO since 2021. Our volunteers work with each of these young people so they can imagine the future they deserve, and we then encourage them to fly.

Our partner:
Exit Foundation

The programme's figures



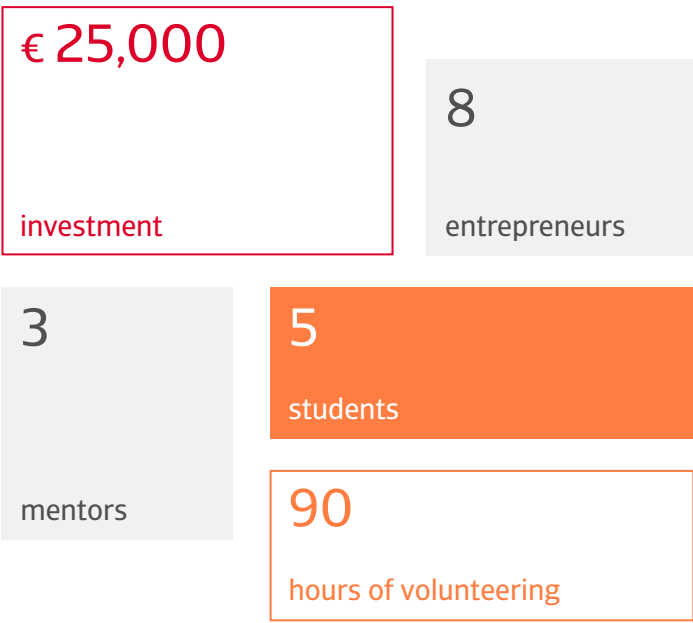
In the face of a challenge, the answer is to create a new opportunity

Although we all face challenges, some people with functional diversity can find them unattainable. This is why we work with Fundación Prevent to create new opportunities for university students and entrepreneurs with disabilities. We forge bonds with unique people, envisioning their professional experiences from a different viewpoint and providing mentoring and job opportunities. The rest, their future, is only theirs.

Our partner:
Fundación Prevent



The programme's figures



You are the person responsible for the change the world is awaiting.

Student of the Tomando Conciencia programme, 2023

The future is written by conscious young people

Convinced that there is no greater force for change than that of our young people, we collaborate with Fundación Tomando Conciencia in an educational programme for children between 10 and 12 years of age. The aim is to develop knowledge and skills geared towards building a fairer and more sustainable society. Through the programme, we also invite their teachers and schools, families and friends to participate.

Our partner:
Fundación Tomando Conciencia

The programme's figures

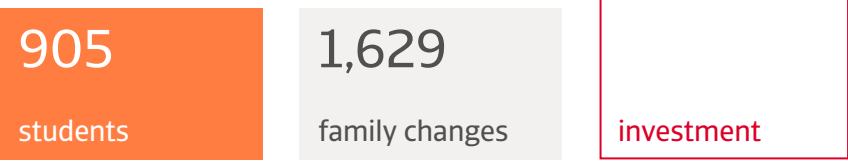




Image:
Students of the Changemakers project.
Save the Med

We create more self-aware societies

We create relationships of trust, security and well-being. We develop projects to empower older people, women and children in situations of vulnerability.

We address food poverty and the sustainability of our planet not only with a financial commitment, but also with volunteering. We work to make sure that these small wishes we all have, and that sometimes seem impossible, become a reality.

And we want our support to reach out as far as possible. To this end, we collaborate with organisations that work in international cooperation and that host war refugees and that like us believe we all deserve to open new doors to the future.

The social action programmes

- Charity padel tennis tournament for GCO employees **Apadema**
- Management of non-food items **Associació La Sagrera es mou**
- Teaming promoted by ACyC with GCO employees **Spanish Federation of Food Banks Teaming (FESBAL)**
- Project for the collection and distribution of food **Tenerife Food Bank**
- Accompanying minors in a situation of risk **Fundación Balia**
- Impulsa Programme, for educational and emotional reinforcement among the most vulnerable children **Save the Children**
- Charity magic festival for GCO employees and mediators **Fundación Abracadabra**

- “Deseos cumplidos” project aimed at sick minors and Euro Solidarity Project with GCO employees **Fundación Pequeño Deseo**
- Construction of a primary school in Maroua, Cameroon **Manos Unidas**
- Lluïsa Farré Project in Senegal, Togo, Gambia and Cape Verde **Ser Madre Ser Mujer**
- Improvement of maternal and child health in Meki, Ethiopia **Fundación Pablo Horstmann**
- Environmental awareness and social entrepreneurship **Save the Med**
- Corporate volunteering Clean-up Day & Environmental awareness and education platform **Fundación Ecomar**

€ 418,531

investment

13

programmes

13

collaborating organisations

693

employees and relatives

19,592

women

1,394

students

Andalusia
Aragón
Catalonia
Autonomous Community of Madrid
Autonomous Community of Valencia
Balearic Islands
Navarre

Basque Country
Cape Verde
Cameroon
Ethiopia
Gambia
Kenya
Senegal
Togo

There's no small dream if it turns out to be a big day

Fundación Pequeño Deseo works with children with serious or chronic illnesses, mostly hospitalised, with the aim of making their greatest wish come true. The goal is to gift them with moments of joy and enthusiasm that generate positive emotions and have an effect on their mood and well-being, making them stronger for their daily struggle. With this in mind, we have been working with this Foundation since 2007, making the wishes of more than 400 children across Spain come true.

Our partner:
Fundación Pequeño Deseo

The programme's figures

€ 12,000

investment

9

boy dreamers

10

girl dreamers

19

wishes fulfilled

Andalusia
Aragón
Castilla la Mancha
Catalonia
Autonomous Community of Madrid
Navarre

Image:
April's dream: go to Disneyland Paris



Safe environments in which to grow

We all deserve to grow in a safe environment, where we can feed our self-esteem and forge bonds of trust. At the Balia Tetuán Centre in Madrid, a hundred children in vulnerable situations receive tutoring and education in values and develop their emotional and digital skills. 18 children between 5 and 7 years of age attended the Jesús Serra Classroom in 2023. It was a pleasure to see them laugh while learning and shaping the world around them.

Our partner:
Fundación Balia

The programme's figures

18

children

€ 32,963

investment

81%

improve academically

600

hours of support



Food banks, a first step to eradicate food poverty

The Spanish Federation of Food Banks (FESBAL) serves more than one million people a year in Spain, including over 200,000 children. We collaborate with FESBAL in a microdonation programme that brings together employees from Atradius Crédito y Caución and GCO. This programme raised more than €22,000 for Spanish food banks. In collaboration with the Tenerife Food Bank, we also participate in the collection and distribution of food at a local level.

Our partner:
Spanish Federation of Food Banks, Tenerife Food Bank

The programme's figures

€ 22,385

investment

€ 12,385

microdonations





Sport

We're expanding sports reach

The foundations of our programmes supporting skiing, tennis and padel tennis are effort and solidarity, competitiveness and sport understood from a viewpoint of equal opportunities.

We support people with functional diversity to become the sportspeople they want to be, we promote sports among young people and we continue supporting Baqueira Beret as a benchmark environment in skiing.

Image:
María Torres (left) and Lola Ochoa (right) at the Porto tournament doubles event, where they won the gold medal in doubles and Lola also in the singles category.

The sports programmes

- Promotion of sport and training through skiing **Jesús Serra Ski Trophy**
- Fundación Occident inclusive campus for the initiation and technification of skiers and riders **Aran Inclusive Sports Centre (CDIA)**
- Spanish Cup Circuit for inclusive alpine skiing **Aran Inclusive Sports Centre (CDIA)**
- Winter sports activities in Baqueira for GCO employees and mediators with disabilities **Aran Inclusive Sports Centre (CDIA)**
- Summer sports activities for GCO disabled employees and mediators
- Values project in educational centres **Llafranc Tennis Club**
- Professional tennis player in a wheelchair **Quico Tur**
- Professional tennis player in a wheelchair **Lola Ochoa**
- Tennis tournament aimed at children and young people with the objective of promoting grassroots tennis **Xpress Tennis Cup**
- Sports project for the promotion of the practice of basic padel skills **Xpress Padel Cup**



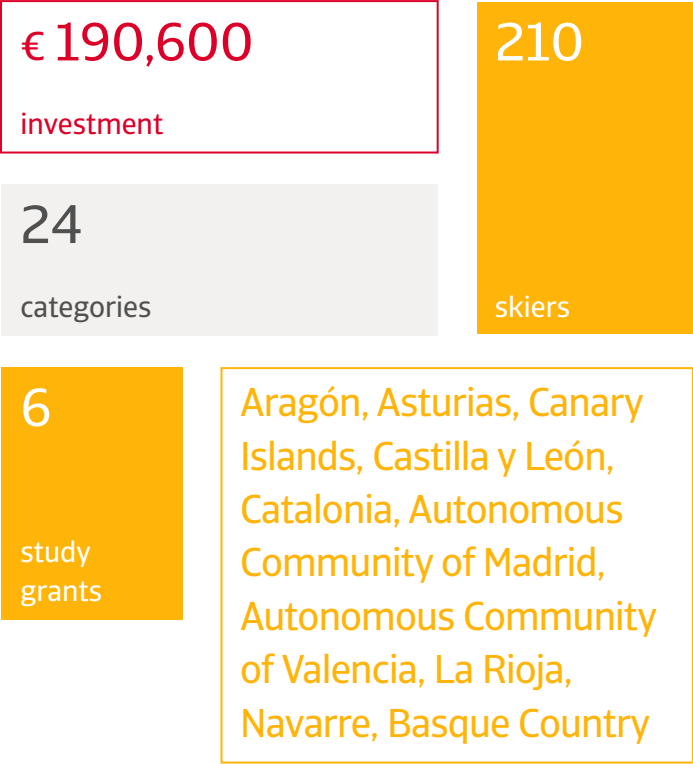
Skiing brings together all generations in Baqueira

In 2023, we held the 15th edition of the Jesús Serra Ski Trophy, which brings together skiers of all ages in a same tournament. It also encourages this activity among the youngest students with six study grants aimed at promoting their long-term training and employment. We remain committed to this sport and the Baqueira Beret Ski Resort, which was sponsored by Jesús Serra and Santamanas, founder of GCO and our Foundation.

Our partner:
Baqueira Beret Ski Resort



The programme's figures



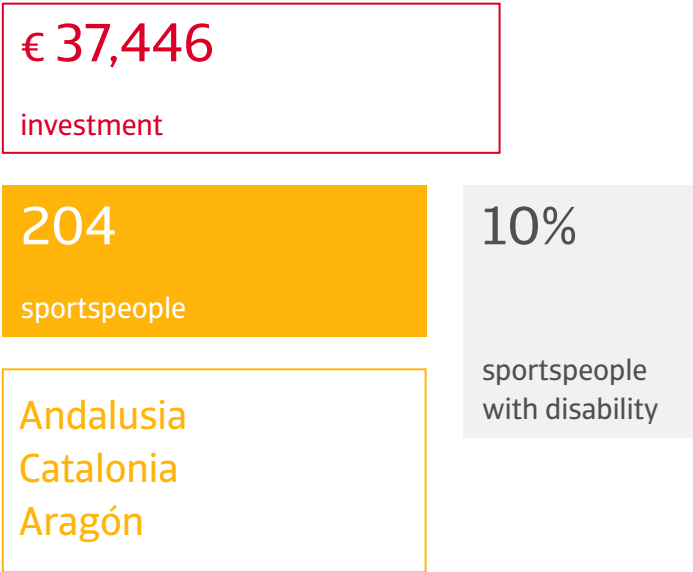
Skiing above everything

In sports, like in life, we are all unique. And what defines us is our tenacity and professionalism. This is why, the Fundación Occident Cup - Spanish Para Alpine Ski Cup includes sportspeople with and without disabilities in a same competition, raising awareness on the relevance of sport in the normalisation of disabilities, whether they are physical, intellectual or sensory. In 2023, twenty skiers with functional and neuronal diversity participated, that is, 56% of the affiliated athletes with disabilities.

Our partner:
Aran Inclusive Sports Centre (CDIA),
Baqueira Beret, Sierra Nevada and Formigal ski resorts



The programme's figures

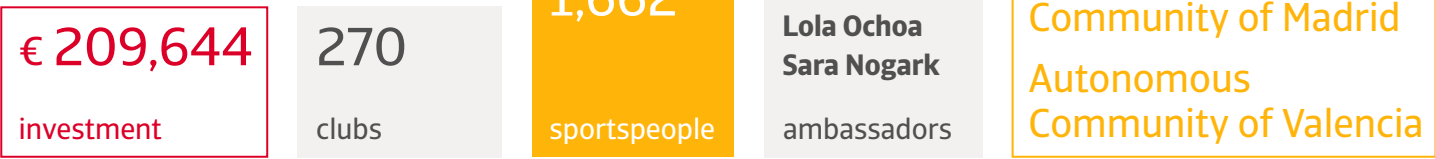


Empowerment on the court

Fundación Occident promotes young talent in racket sports through two tennis and padel tennis tournaments for young people between 8 and 14 years old. With more than 1,600 players participating in eight cities in Spain, the Xpress tournaments have become the sporting events par excellence in these sports in our country.

Our partner:
Wilson

The programme's figures





Promoting the arts

Arts as an instrument of individual and collective growth

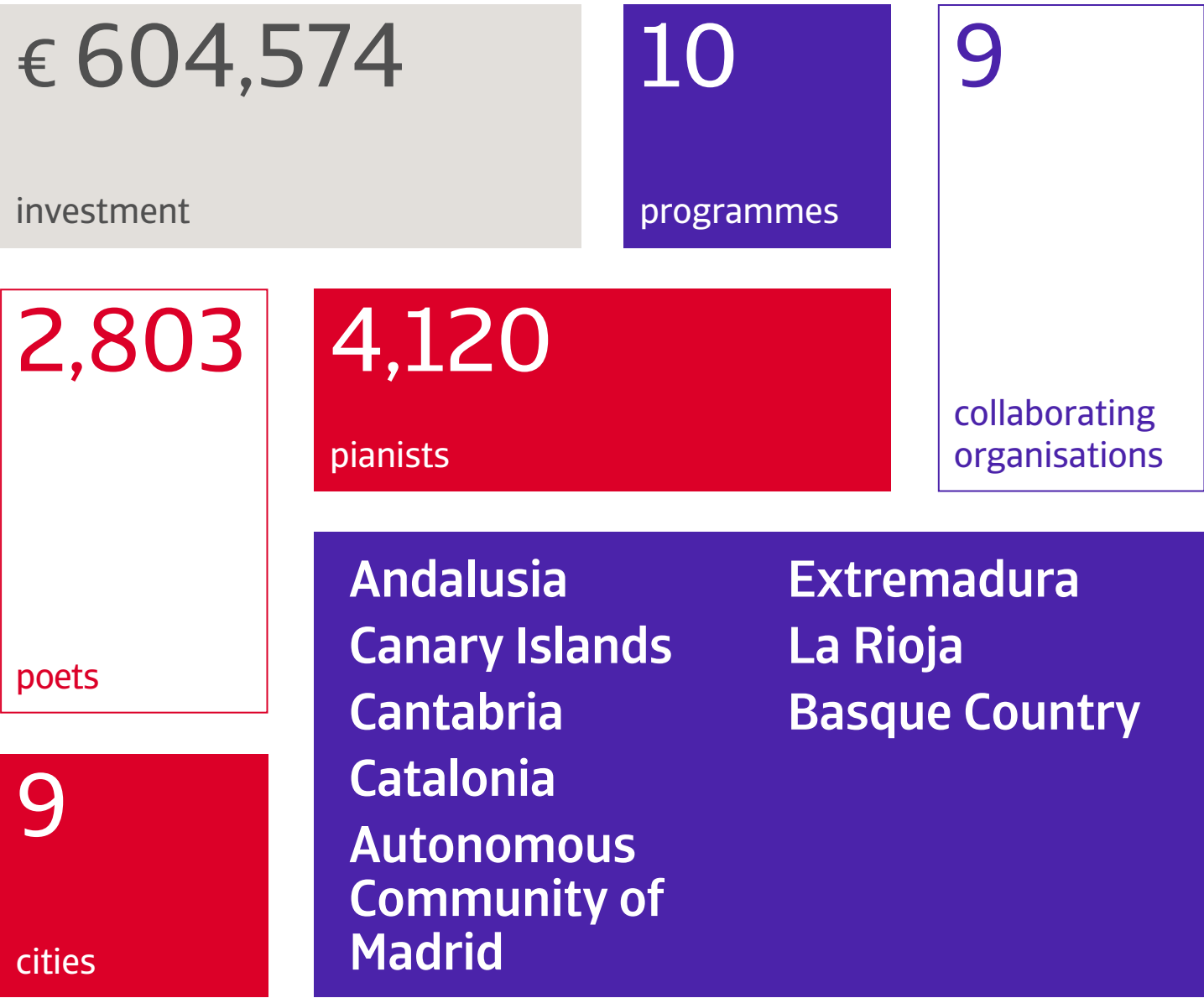
Although experts do not agree to the extent to which art is a form of expression that sets us apart from other species, at our Foundation we are convinced that art makes us better. It not only allows us to connect with ourselves, but also with others and with collective challenges and hopes.

With art, the feelings and capabilities of young people grow, we enjoy what unites us despite the differences, and we create future opportunities for poets and musicians. Because we all grow with art.

Image:
Noa Abike Bazuaye Martínez, one of the winners of the Jesús Serra Poetry Competition in 2023.

The arts promotion programmes

- Fundación Occident Prize for the winner of the **International Music Piano Competition**
- “Your city is full of pianos”** in Barcelona, Córdoba, Madrid and Palma de Mallorca
- Piano professorship grant **Reina Sofía School of Music - Fundación Albéniz**
- Jesús Serra Poetry Competition**
- “Get into Poetry” Project**, promoting poetry among young people
- “¡Me Toca!” grants for at-risk youth to study the piano **Maria Canals International Competition**
- Cultural activities for GCO employees and mediators **Fundació Amics del MNAC**
- “Niños y niñas del Raval” artistic educational project and “jóvenes del Raval” **Fundación Macba**
- Visits for GCO employees and mediators **Fundación Macba**
- Inclusive art for artistic development in people with disabilities **Grupo Sifu**



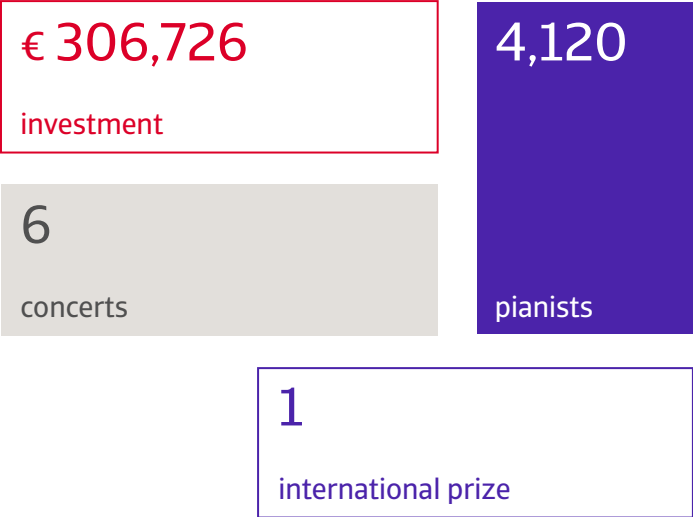
Taking music everywhere

Practising and enjoying music has no rules, just those that one wants to impose on themselves. That is why we promote the talent of the youngest pianists, we seek future concertists and we create spaces for those who see music as a meeting place where they are happy, even if it is just for a short time. We believe in one music for all, which is why we take it to every corner of Spain.

Our partner:
Maria Canals International Competition, Symphonic orchestras of Bilbao, Madrid, Seville and Tenerife. Reina Sofía School of Music and Grupo Sifu



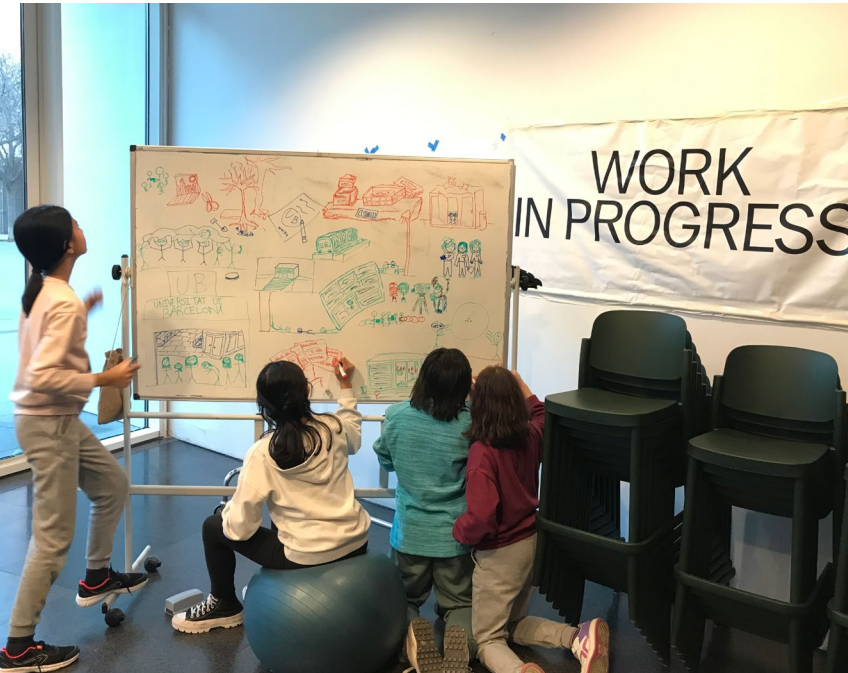
The programme's figures



Art, the heart that beats in El Raval

In collaboration with Fundació MACBA, we create spaces for artistic co-creation so children and young people in El Raval, Barcelona, can express themselves in prejudice-free environments with the support of artists, seeking a collective experience in an environment full of imagination and with the possibility of breaking the rules.

Our partner:
Fundación Macba



The programme's figures



El drama musical de mi silencio
consiste en no saber
qué palabras sobrevivirán
después de todo,

con qué violencia sacudirán
el cuaderno cerrado.

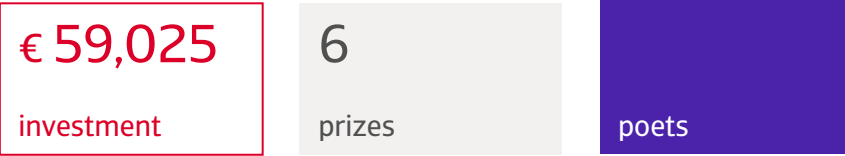
The musical drama of my silence
lies in not knowing
which words will survive
after everything,
with what violence they will shake
the closed notebook.

Fragment. Poem by José Manuel
Martín Portales

Poetry, the expression of young people to the world

From the outset, the main aim of the Foundation has been to promote poetic creation by rewarding the inspiration of young people with talent in this literary genre. This sixteenth edition of the poetry competition includes more than one thousand poems from more than twenty countries, rewarding the best talent, in both youth and adult poetry.

The programme's figures



Your voices, our raison d'être

- Business and teaching
- Research
- Social action
- Promoting the arts
- Sport



Victoria Arregui, 2023 Jesús Serra Poetry Prize Winner.

For those who express themselves through poetry, prizes like this one show us that we are not alone. That poetry is still today a special way of understanding the world. And it's ours.



Maira Bes-Rastrollo. University of Navarra. 2023 Jesús Serra Research Awards.

We need to understand the effect of diet on health and sustainability better in order to take the appropriate public health measures that enable us to take care of the population's and planet's health.



Mark Hlatky (left), Stanford University.
Carlos Morillo (right), Calgary University.
Fundación Occident Visiting Researchers - CNIC.

We study whether pregnancy and other reproductive factors have implications in women's cardiovascular risk. My visit, supported by the Foundation, should encourage a long-term collaboration with the CNIC to study women's heart health.
Dr. Hlatky.

David Filgueiras' and José Jalife's team have developed a unique atrial fibrillation model in an animal model. I have a great interest in continuing to explore together new avenues to understand the mechanisms and possible new treatments for this condition suffered by 50 million people worldwide.
Dr. Morillo.



Diego Velasco. Deusto student.

This grant has allowed me to leave my hometown, Burgos, and grow personally and academically in a new environment.



Natalia Guerra. GCO volunteer. Clean Up Day 2023. Fundación Ecomar.

When it comes to the beneficiaries of our programmes, what motivates us most is knowing their story and how we can help them. This is a sample of some of their voices. There are many more, and each of their stories is important to us.



Jonathan Mamora. Winner of the 68th Maria Canals International Competition.

For a young pianist like me, being able to participate in this competition has been a pleasure and honour. And now, the opportunity to play in venues across Spain makes it even more satisfying.



Angelica Muema.
Loreto High School.

After my father's accident, I thought I could never study again. I want to be a doctor, and I'm working hard to get the best grades and go to university.

Gastón. Fundación Pequeño Deseo.

Spending so much time away from my home for my treatment has been tough, but I have had the opportunity to travel to Madrid to meet Benzema, and even though I got very nervous, as soon as I had him in front of me, I could not stop smiling and felt very happy.



Conrad Sastre. Winner of the Grant and the 2023 Jesús Serra Ski Trophy.

Receiving this prize has been a great joy. It not only allows me to perfect my skiing skills, one of my great passions, but also to continue with my professional development. I am very grateful for this valuable opportunity.

Collaborating together to advance further

- Business and teaching
- Research
- Social action
- Promoting the arts
- Sport

Rosa Capeáns. Director of Scientific Culture and Innovation.

Fotciencia's images bring scientific activity closer to society. Collaborating with Fundación Occident has helped us increase the impact of this initiative, which also encourages the research community to disseminate its work.

Quico Tur


Francisco Tur. Professional tennis player in a wheelchair.

What can I say after all these years of support! When life puts obstacles in your way, the best thing you can do is find organisations such as Fundación Occident that help you overcome them.

FECYT
INNOVACIÓN

Enric Campàs. Mayor.

Jesús Serra, the founder of GCO, was born in Pont de Vilomara, and is an inspiration for our population, especially for the younger ones, when it comes to being born in a small town not conditioning how far one can go. By means of Fundación Occident's grants, we want to continue pushing our young people's talent.


Ajuntament de El Pont de Vilomara i Rocafort

ONG
SER MADRE SER MUJER

Nerea Roldán. Co-founder.


Our NGO was created as a personal project to improve maternal and child health in Africa. Partners such as Fundación Occident, which put their heart in everything they do, have been key to consolidating the project.

CNIB
CENTRO NACIONAL DE BIOTECNOLOGIA

Mario Mellado. Director.

With the support to young researchers, the collaboration that we initiated with Fundación Occident during COVID has consolidated itself. Supporting young talent is a safe bet for the future.

Our Foundation was established with a series of projects shared between GCO and people and organisations with whom we share work, interests and, above all, the aim of opening new doors to the future, to ensure equal opportunities for all. Today we are proud of boasting a network of collaborators that contribute their effort in supporting talent and vulnerable people, fostering research and promoting arts and sport.


CDIA
CENTRO DE DEPORTES DE INVIERNO ADAPTADOS

Andrés Gómez. Director.

In our collaboration with Fundación Occident and GCO, we do not only work towards sports inclusion, but also towards the full incorporation of people with disabilities to their work environment.


ACNUR

Paloma María Acedo Díaz. Strategic Partnerships Director of the Spanish Committee.

Armed conflicts lead to the forced displacement of millions of people. For such a vulnerable population, education is the most powerful tool to break the cycle of poverty. Thanks to the support of Fundación Occident, we are guaranteeing the refugee's access to university through the DAFI Grants.

Jordi Vivancos. Director.

The ¡Me toca! programme has reached the lives of hundreds of children in situations of vulnerability through music. We collaborate with Fundación Occident to show that we care about them and that they can look to the future with hope.

MCB
Maria Canals Barcelona


FUNDACIÓN PREVENT
Inclusión laboral de personas con discapacidad.

Montse Moré. Director.

The NOVA Grants are presented as a collaborative space that connects university talent with disabilities to companies, creating more inclusive labour opportunities.


Save the Children

Andrés Conde. Executive Director.

Through the Impulsa programme, we support children in situations of vulnerability so that they receive quality educational support and can progress with their studies and not fall behind. Our aim: avoid children from dropping out and helping them achieve a better future.



www.fundacionoccident.org