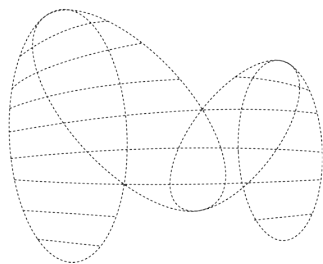# TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

Tactical Tech is a Berlin-based organisation working at the intersection of technology, human rights and civil liberties.

Our mission is to address how data and digital technologies impact human rights, social justice, power structures and accountability. We do this by looking critically at the challenges and opportunities these new technologies bring in order to raise awareness, find practical solutions and build capacity.

What follows are highlights of how we realised our goals and mission in 2017. It was a great year in terms of reaching a broader audience, starting a public discussion about how digital technologies influence our right to privacy and laying the groundwork for broader public engagements for the year to come. Within the context of our digital security work we continued developing mitigation strategies and skills aimed at a broad audience and also engaged in specialised security trainings supporting women HRDs and human rights focused investigators. As always, our partner organisations have played a crucial role in adapting our materials and sharing them with their specific contexts, and of course collaborating with us closely on delivering projects and events.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Face-to-Face
We engaged with nearly **35,000** people across **55** events, **25** talks and **34** workshops & trainings

In Hand
We printed and distributed **12,000** toolkits, guides and resources

Eyes
We reached over **1,710,000** people through our online resources, on social media, and through our monthly newsletter
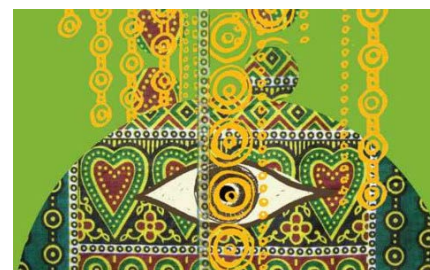
POLITICS OF DATA

Through our Glass Room exhibition and public education intervention, which looked at the interplay of tech and human rights, we found a way to get people talking about online privacy, digital security and brought significant media coverage to those topics.

EXPOSING AND SHAPING ISSUES
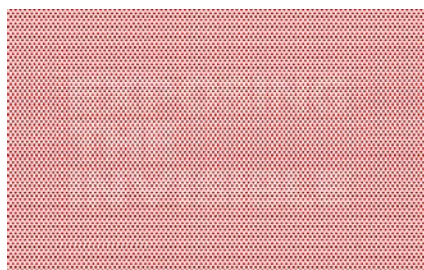
We experimented with new methods of digital investigation and convened and led an international gathering of leading investigators working to uncover abuses of power and corruption through digital tools.

DEFENDING ESSENTIAL FREEDOMS

We've put our training methodology into practice by focusing our efforts on long-term effects rather than quick fixes. An external evaluation confirmed the impact of this work with women human rights defenders.

POLITICS OF DATA
Aimed at a public audience who are concerned about the data traces they leave behind.

THE GLASS ROOM

The Glass Room is a unique public intervention that remixes art with technology and politics to engage people with the importance of online privacy. We teamed up with Mozilla to open a pop-up exhibition on a London high-street, designed to look like a familiar tech store. Close to 19,000 people visited The Glass Room, many of whom may never have considered how their data is collected, or who the companies behind their screens are. The long queues outside the door on the closing weekend showed that privacy concerns of the general public are genuine and we were happy to be in a position to help them to more thoroughly discover and ask questions about their online lives. An external evaluation of the project found that visitors expressed an increased awareness of data and privacy issues after attending the exhibition.

We also developed a smaller, portable version of the exhibition in 2017 and trialled at different events throughout Europe including tech festivals in Copenhagen, Prague and Kosovo; at Kista library in Stockholm; and in the UK at two major galleries, the Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum.


A busy weekend at The Glass Room London on a day which saw close to 1500 visitors coming to find out about their online life. The busiest day had over 2000 visitors. Photo: David Mirzeoff

"At least someone cares about my privacy concerns and is taking the effort to explain it to me. It's so important that people know about this stuff."

"I feel as if my mind has been opened!"
Quotes from visitors to The Glass Room

DATA DETOX KIT
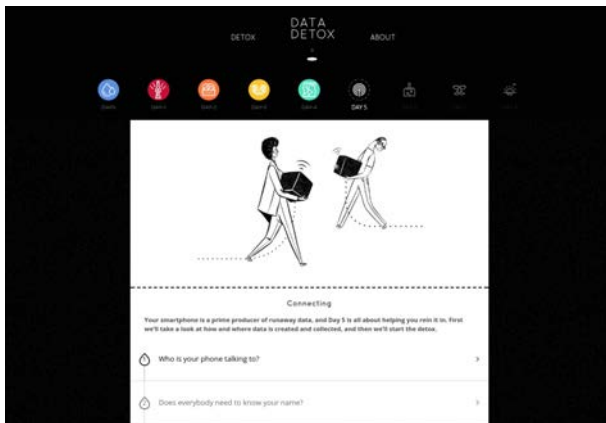
A web app prototype of the Data Detox Kit was designed and built in 2017 and was launched in November, receiving over 100,000 visitors in the first three months.

This is an eight day self-learning guide that teaches you how to reduce data traces. With the kit we've found a format that works really well and the response from the public, the media and our partners indicates that there is huge public demand for toolkits such as this . The kit was also translated into Burmese, Czech and Swedish and journalists have helped spread the word by writing about their own experience of the data detox:

"...instead of making and breaking that same New Year's pledge once again, I decided to try out another way of clearing up my headspace: I was going to do a digital detox." Vogue

"I feel somewhat purged of my sins!" New Scientist

ME AND MY SHADOW

The Me and My Shadow project teaches people about the data traces they leave behind. In 2017, we extended and further developed or curricula for digital privacy trainers on topics such as 'How Mobiles Work' and 'Choosing Chat Apps'. These materials were also translated and made available in Spanish. This curricula can be picked up and used by anyone who is interested in the topic and we trained people across Asia, Latin America and Europe on how to deliver their own workshops on online privacy.

Together with the Barcelona City Council, we developed a Privacy and Political Participation Curriculum which can now serve as a basis for other local councils wanting to protect the personal data of their citizens.
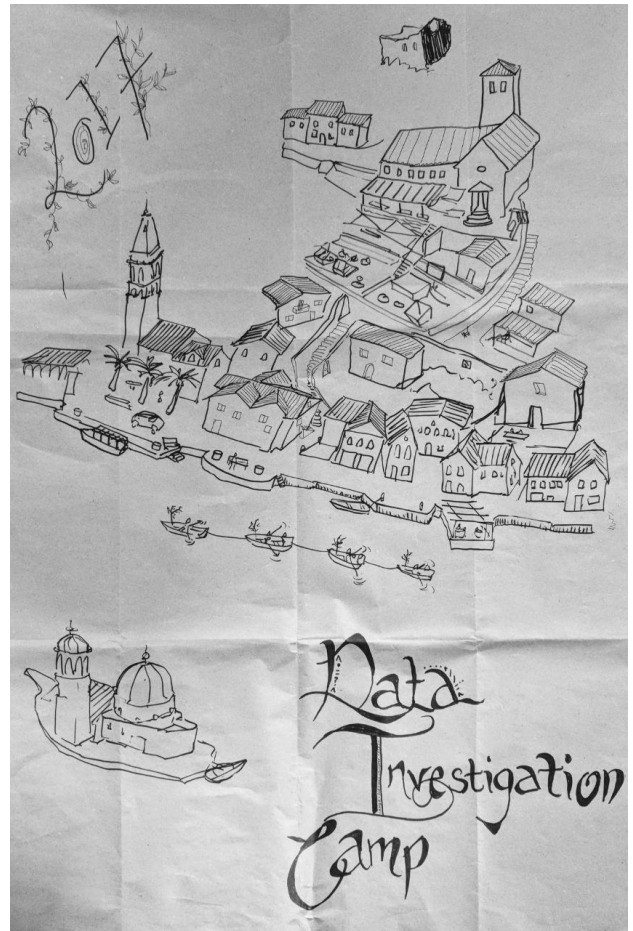
DATA INVESTIGATION CAMP

Tools, techniques, know-how and critical perspectives are essential components of digital investigations. In order to share knowledge and inspire innovative approaches, we brought together leading international artists, technologists, citizen investigators and developers to our Data Investigation Camp.

Alongside our partners at Share Lab, we invited this diverse group to the site of an old monastery in the Balkans. Here, five days of structured tracks dealt with the tricky 'how' and 'why' questions of investigation, the methods used, and how to realise these methods with tangible outcomes.

The learning of new skills, and the sharing of existing ones resulted in unique partnerships. For example, an artist and an activist paired up to find creative ways to use facial recognition software to automatically classify online videos showing scenes of armed conflict.

"Overcoming the fear of technology, demystifying the complexity of methods and building a community to exchange knowledge is an important value that empowers researchers, activists, as well as developers and data analysts." Camp participant

A sketch of the surrounding area where the Data Investigation Camp was held. Created by one of our camp participants for Tactical Tech.
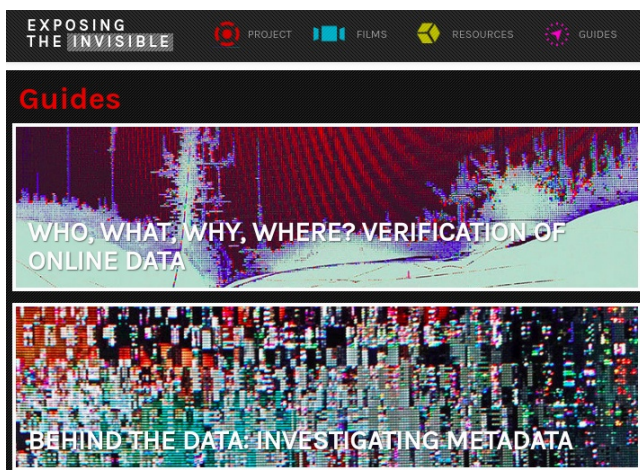
Screenshot from exposingtheinvisible.org. Other guides and resources included 'How to Investigate Sensitive Leaks', 'Decoding Data', 'Social Media Investigation' and 'Smart Searching with Google Dorking'.

INVESTIGATING SECURELY

It's important that digital investigation methods are safe and secure for the investigators. For this reason, we've been using our in-house digital security knowledge as a basis for new Exposing the Invisible guides and resources. To give an example, the 'Leak and Onion Soup' guide was released to highlight the political and technical opportunities and risks of using Tor Browser and Tails (an anonymity-focused operating system) to investigate sensitive leaks and sources online.

TELLING STORIES

The Exposing the Invisible team put their methods into practice with an article about investigating on Instagram. Findings included Vladmir Putin's spokesperson spending beyond his means by wearing an 18-carat gold watch and honeymooning on one of the most expensive yachts on the world – these details are visible to anyone looking at his public account, you just need to know how to find them.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL SECURITY

Our digital security strategy, including how we train civil society organisations and which resources we invest in, has significantly changed in the last year. Following research on effective training methodologies, we found that short interventions and quick fix techniques weren't working in the long term. With this in mind, we did trainings with more focused groups, over a longer period of time, encouraging capacity building and community strengthening so that those being trained could also train their peers and create more relevant resources for their communities.

So how does this work in practice? In 2017, we helped women human rights defenders safeguard against hate speech and online harassment by hosting two Gender and Tech Institutes, one in Asia and one in Latin America. These events offered practical support and training in digital privacy and security to contextualise how digital technologies impact gender rights. The outcome is that the facilitators and particpants leave in a better position to defend themselves, make informed choices, and are able to build capacity by passing on advice to their local communities.

"I returned to my transformed home, having learnt a lot of things, and having transformed my relationship with technology: transformations that I continue to weave into my life."
Gender and Technology Institute participant
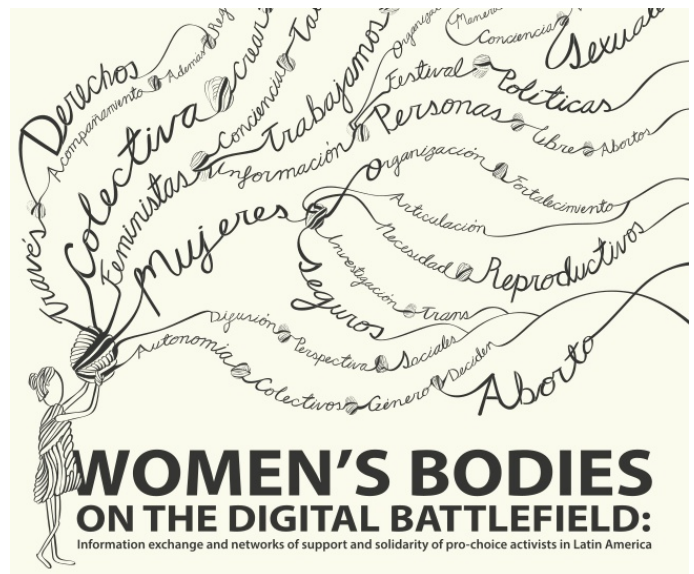
We published a summary of the risks and attacks pro-choice activists face, how their activism is interwoven with personal networks of support, and their struggle to balance visibility with anonymity online and off. This was published in English and in Spanish.

SECURITY-IN-A-BOX

Security-in-a-box is Tactical Tech's longest standing project and continues to offer a broad range and detailed content on digital security. Much of 2017 was spent working behind the scenes to improve the website infastructure so that the content could be used, updated and translated more easily.

GENDER AND TECH WIKI

The collectively written wiki platform provides women net activists and human rights defenders with community-driven resources. It's been produced in collaboration with women from over 25 countries as a place to post skills, tell stories and share events.

Maya Indira Ganesh spoke at the annual Das ist Netzpolitik festival on behalf of Tactical Tech about data and discrimination.
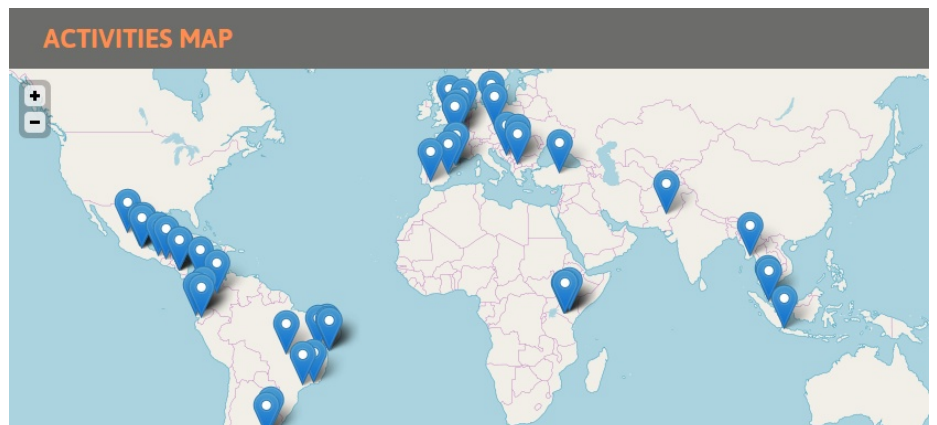
An interactive Activities Map on the Gender and Tech Wiki showing events, trainings and workshops, past and present.

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW
What goes on behind the scenes

EXTERNAL PROJECTS

We initiated a new research project examining how data is influencing elections and other democratic processes across the world. The timeliness of this research lead to a number of collaborations, including with the Oxford Internet Institute, the Who Targets Me project, and with a growing number of international media outlets.

We developed an MA level academic course examining the interplay of tech, design and ethics. University of Potsdam students enrolled in the course examined at the political nature of design and how it can create, reinforce and shift power dynamics. Building on this approach, we also began a new series on this topic by publishing an essay on Weaponised Design.

Tactical Tech's co-founders were comissioned by the Heinrich Böll Foundation to write an essay about technofixes – using data and technology to solve social, environmental and political problems. Efficiency and Madness, was published as a small booklet and all copies have since been snapped up.
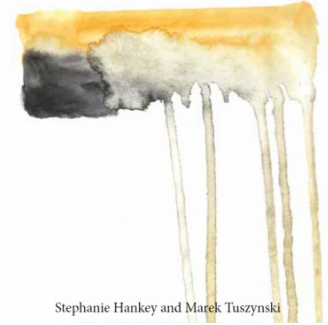
The Efficiency and Madness essay, printed as a small booklet.

GOVERNING BOARD

We're thrilled to welcome two new board members: Gillian Caldwell and Gus Hosein. Gillian is the Executive Director of Global Witness and brings a wealth of organisational, management and campaigning expertise to the board. Gus is the Executive Director of Privacy International and brings his knowledge of technology and data related issues and his experience running a comparable sized organisation.

Changes to the board: Andre Wilkens was made chair of the board. We said thank you and goodbye to Rahul Bhargava and Katarzyna Szmielewicz to whom we're extremely grateful for their invaluable contributions.

FINANCE

For 2017, we successfully secured €2.2 million in funding, including core funding from: the Sigrid Rausing Trust, a private human rights foundation and the Oak Foundation.

AUDIT AND EVALUATION

We conducted four financial audits, one organisational and three project audits – all without findings. Two large-scale external evaluations were also carried out and we were pleased to see that our work has a timely relevancy and that our audiences, partners, and peers think highly of our work.

IN THE PRESS

The Glass Room was featured on Channel 4 News in the UK the night before the opening, watched by 2 million viewers.

Tactical Tech continued to be featured prominently in the mainstream global media. The Glass Room, and the Data Detox Kit, were the main catalysts for this collectively gaining over 80 items of press coverage including features in Vogue, Channel 4 News, Design Week, Al Jazeera, and BBC Radio 4, among others. A new collaboration began with KCRW Radio Berlin, the German arm of US based radio station NPR, to feature Tactical Tech on their weekly radio show: 'Tech Thursdays', a partnership that will continue into 2018.

Stichting The Tactical Technology Collective

Abridged Financial Statements
(extracts from the full audited financial statements)

Year ended: 31 December 2017

Stichting The Tactical Technology Collective

Contents

Legal and administrative information
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Status

The organisation is registered under Dutch law as a non-profit foundation (Stichting). The organisation was founded on the 21 February 2003. The Company was established under a deed which sets out the objects, powers and governance of the organisation.

Directors

Stephanie Hankey
Marek Tuszynski

Principal Operational Address

Brunnenstrasse 9
Berlin 10119
Germany
Tel:(+49) (0)30 41 71 53 33
Email: ttc@tacticaltech.org
Website: https://tacticaltech.org

Registered Office

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Amsterdam
1043 GR
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Banker

ABN Amro
Corporate Non-Residents
Postbus 283
1000 EA
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Auditor

Nick Brajkovich Limited
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditor
29 Withers Avenue
Warrington
Cheshire
WA2 8EU

UK Registered Number : FCO28520

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Total 2017 €	Total 2016 €
Incoming Resources					
Activities for generating funds					
Training & toolkits		15,000	28,911	43,911	87,183
Donations		-	2,992	2,992	-
Interest received		-	5	5	462
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Politics of data		1,024,240	-	1,024,240	794,779
Shaping & exposing issues		411,795		411,795	289,249
Digital security & privacy		652,457	-	652,457	1,028,239
Administration & overheads		-	-	-	-
General programme funding		49,077	31,474	80,551	239,714
Total incoming resources		2,152,569	63,382	2,215,951	2,439,626
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds					
Training & toolkits		23,056	46,743	69,799	78,345
Charitable activities					
Politics of data		1,145,946	-	1,145,946	761,090
Shaping & exposing issues		313,201	-	313,201	251,923
Digital security & privacy		547,168	-	547,168	745,420
General programme costs	2	102,586	128,562	231,148	182,981
Compliance costs	3	-	8,724	8,724	8,549
Total expenditure		2,131,957	184,029	2,315,986	2,028,308
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		20,612	(120,647)	(100,035)	411,318
Net Movement in funds					
Fund balances brought forward at 1st January		965,603	829,464	1,795,067	1,383,749
Fund balances carried forward at 31st December		986,215	708,817	1,695,032	1,795,067

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2017 €	2016 €	2016 €
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		4,551		3,875
Investment	6		25,000		-
Current assets					
Debtors	7	47,224		33,209	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,627,823		1,792,952	
			1,675,047		1,826,161
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	8		(9,566)		(34,969)
Net current assets			1,665,481		1,791,192
Total Net Assets			1,695,032		1,795,067
Funds	9		1,695,032		1,795,067

Notes forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

.1   Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and applicable accounting standards.

(b)   Incoming recognition

Revenue grants are included in the SOFA when received or receivable, whichever is earlier. Income from activities generating funds is recognised when invoiced.

Income from studios work, training and toolkits derives from fees for services provided by Tactical Tech.

(c)   Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes attributable VAT where this is charged.

(d)   Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by funders or which have been raised by the organisation for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

(e)   Governance costs

These are costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(f)   Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated at the following rates, so as to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives:

Computer equipment	25 % on cost
Fixtures and fittings	25 % reducing balance basis

(g)   Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Euros at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Euros at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Stichting The Tactical Technology Collective

Notes forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
2 Costs of general programme support		
Rent	57,769	41,854
Payroll costs	3,337	5,296
Insurance	7,770	689
Business tax*	-	(11,658)
Bad debts	296	-
Telephone & internet	3,640	4,908
Salaries	108,365	100,092
Travel expenses	9,776	13,143
Heat & light	2,490	1,385
Repairs & renewals	1,628	3,003
Postage, stationery & advertising	7,420	8,304
Household & cleaning	2,980	2,532
Professional fees for legal advice & payroll	4,811	4,068
Foreign exchange (gains)/ losses	2,982	(4,188)
Bank charges	2,663	2,656
Sundries	3,346	3,342
Cost of running Bangalore office	-	692
Website	6,047	2,256
Recruitment costs	2,882	1,166
Depreciation	2,946	3,411
	231,148	182,981

* In 2016 we received a return of Business Tax paid during the year, as the status of the Stichting was established to be of non-profit nature and therefore to be tax exempt.

Indirect costs and overheads represented 10.0 % of total programme expenditure during the year under review (2016: 9.0 %).

The Asia office based in Bangalore, India, was registered as a separate legal entity to provide TTC with support services. In 2016 TTC paid for the closing costs of this office, which is in the final stages of being wound up.

3 Compliance costs	2017 €	2016 €
Auditor's remuneration:		
Under/(over) provision from prior year	275	-
Current year	5,400	5,500
Domiciliation fees	3,049	3,049
	8,724	8,549

Notes forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

4 Staff costs

	2017 €	2016 €
	1,499,955	1,400,116

Stephanie Hankey and Marek Tuszynski are directors of TTC under Netherlands law. They are both self employed and receive funding from other sources, including a fellowship for related work. They invoice TTC for work done, this income is not related to their legal responsibilities as directors; rather, they receive income based on market rates for fulfilling their roles as directors respectively.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings €	Computer Equipment €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 January 2017	5,796	10,390	16,186
Additions	1,116	2,506	3,622
At 31 December 2017	6,912	12,896	19,808
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2017	3,351	8,960	12,311
Charge for the year	890	2,056	2,946
At 31 December 2017	4,241	11,016	15,257
Net book value			
At 31 December 2017	2,671	1,880	4,551
At 31 December 2016	2,445	1,430	3,875

6 Investment

Stephanie Hankey and Marek Tuszynski each owned 50% of the issued share capital of Tactical Tech Collective gGmbH, a tax exempt, not for profit entity, which was set up in order to receive a small grant from the German Foreign Ministry in the years 2014 – 2016. They have agreed to sell their shares to Tactical Tech, the necessary paperwork was in the process of being finalized at the balance sheet date.

7 Debtors

	2017 €	2016 €
Trade debtors	29,167	2,060
Prepayments & accrued income	18,057	31,149
	47,224	33,209

Trade debtors are the Mozilla foundation with two invoices relating to the partnership on the Glass Room Exhibition in London. The accrued income originates from invoices due for payment in relation to trainings and workshops done by Tactical Tech in 2016 under Fees for Services.

Stichting The Tactical Technology Collective

Notes forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

8   Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 €	2016 €
Accounts payable	–	–
Other creditors	–	29,469
Accruals	9,566	5,500
	9,566	34,969

The accruals are a small number of consultancy invoices received in January 2018 for services provided in 2017.

9   Funds

	Balance as at 01.01.2017 €	Incoming resources €	Outgoing resources €	Balance as at 31.12.17 €
Restricted funds				
Training & toolkits	18,106	15,000	23,056	10,050
Politics of data	241,769	1,024,240	1,145,946	120,063
Shaping & exposing issues	(17,113)	411,795	313,201	81,481
Digital security & privacy	669,332	652,457	547,168	774,621
General programme funding (overheads)	53,509	49,077	102,586	0
Total	**965,603**	**2,152,569**	**2,131,957**	**986,215**
Unrestricted funds				
Training & toolkits	150,931	28,911	46,743	133,099
General programme Funds (overheads)	678,533	34,471	137,286	575,718
Total	**829,464**	**63,382**	**184,029**	**708,817**
	1,795,067	2,215,951	2,315,986	1,695,032