



Quaker
Council for
European
Affairs

Annual Report 2022



Acronyms

AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
BBL	Brown Bag Lunch
CFSC	Canadian Friends Service Committee
CSDP	European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
ECRE	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
EEAS	European External Action Service
ENAAT	European Network Against Arms Trade
EPLO	European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
EU	European Union
FCNL	Friends Committee on National Legislation
FWCC	Friends World Committee for Consultation
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
NFPB	Northern Friends Peace Board
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
PATRIR	Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania
PICUM	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
QARN	Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network
QCEA	Quaker Council for European Affairs
QPSW	Quaker Peace and Social Witness
QUNO	Quaker United Nations Office
UN	United Nations
YFPF	Young Professionals in Foreign Policy

**Quaker
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JEREMY LESTER



MARTIN TOUWEN

Introduction

The European Union arose from a continent wrecked by military conflict, aggressive nationalism and genocide. 2022 was a year of awakening from complacent self-congratulation at the very real achievements of nations sharing their sovereignty and relaxing their borders. In this year once more military spending and conflict on Europe's borders challenge us. Inflation, inequality and energy crisis succeeded the last waves of Covid, while droughts and wild weather caused by climate change tell us that the Anthropocene is wildly out of kilter. All enough to sink a little Quaker advocacy organisation.

But QCEA did not sink. Far from it. Dovile, Laëtitia, Saskia and Xavier kept Quaker House buoyant. 'Around Europe' was issued like clockwork, a record of the team's advocacy work on Europe's faltering migration and peace policies.

When the Executive Committee met in August, the new Director, Tracey Martin, had been appointed and was preparing to come to Brussels. She arrived in November in time for QCEA's study tour. At the same meeting Martin Touwen was appointed as the new clerk from September onwards.

In September the General Assembly agreed to split the existing clerk role into two

distinct roles: one clerk for the Executive Committee (and thus the 'president of the board of directors' of QCEA according to Belgian law), which ensures QCEA's business is managed properly, and one clerk for the General Assembly, which provides the bridge between QCEA and the Quaker family across Europe. Martin Ford was appointed as General Assembly clerk.

After adopting an interim strategy in September, the November meeting of the General Assembly was used to get a broad impetus from Friends for a new strategy fitting to the changed circumstances in Europe and the world, to be adopted in Spring 2023. This proved to be a very valuable process.

As outgoing clerk of QCEA, I, Jeremy, found it a real pleasure to join staff, whenever possible in person, for their weekly reviews. I will miss the buzz but know QCEA to be in good hands.

As incoming clerk, I, Martin, enjoy the vibrancy of the team and all Friends and partners supporting them and the spirit to move on and tackle the next challenges.

Jeremy Lester, outgoing clerk and Martin Touwen, incoming clerk

Quaker House



The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on conferences and events around the world. From large conventions to small meetings, the virus has caused an unprecedented disruption in the way people plan and attend events. Likewise, for more than two years Quaker House stayed dormant. 2022 marked a slow comeback of the in-person events at our beloved space.

Last year eight events organised by QCEA, other human rights and peace NGOs as well as Quaker groups were held at Quaker House. It has once again become a safe, discrete and welcoming space to organise events. It is uplifting to see diverse groups coming back to share their ideas, projects and dreams for our society and the planet!

QCEA team updates

TRACEY MARTIN



In 2022 QCEA's small team grew by two members. In May Dovile Bogusyte joined the organisation as a Communications Officer. Dovile is in charge of creating and producing communication materials about QCEA's activities and supporting fundraising efforts.

Later in the year, QCEA appointed a new Director, Tracey Martin. Tracey is a Quaker activist and facilitator who brings to QCEA over 25 years of management experience in the international development sector, at head office, regional and country levels. She was clerk of the Peace Sub-Committee of Quaker Peace and Social Witness of Britain Yearly Meeting as well as of the Quaker World Relations Committee. Tracey is also known for her work at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre where she coordinated the peace, social justice and climate crisis work as well as running courses on climate justice, peace and poetry.

SASKIA BASA



Together with Saskia Basa (Project Manager), Xavier Verhaeghe (Office Manager) and Laëtitia Sédou (QCEA Associate), we have been working on building a strong team that promotes Quaker values and works with a sense of united purpose and trust in each other.

XAVIER VERHAEGHE



DOVILE BOGUSYTE



LAETTIA SEDOU





SASKIA BASA AT PEACE AND SERVICE ANNUAL MEETING IN BAD PYRMONT

QCEA's Peace Programme

2022 brought escalating tensions in Sudan, Haiti, Lebanon, Myanmar, Afghanistan and marked the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia. These developments infused the work of QCEA's Peace Programme with an inevitable sense of urgency. As EU Member States and nations worldwide rushed to top up their military stockpiles with new equipment and ammunition, we were reminded of past moments in history when the fears of an arms race and military escalation became a reality.

In this context, QCEA ramped up its efforts to advocate for peace by highlighting the key risks of military approaches and advocating for more explicit consideration of civilian-led, nonviolent responses to conflict at the EU level.

QCEA contributed to a vibrant Quaker community, facilitating engagement with EU developments and peacebuilding efforts

2022 was the year when the Covid-19 pandemic was loosening its grip, and thus a time where Friends reignited their in-person connections and meetings. QCEA was represented in several gatherings, including Europe and Middle East Section Annual Gathering (21 May) and Britain Yearly Meeting (22 May) and Peace and Service Annual Meeting in Bad Pyrmont (7-9 October) organising information sessions and updating Friends about QCEA's ongoing activities.

QCEA strove to engage with young people in 2022 by leading a session as part of the study tour programme of the Department of Political Science and International Studies

of Birmingham University (26 January) and delivering a workshop during Europe and Middle East Young Friends Spring Gathering, exploring different political and spiritual approaches to pacifism and nonviolence (15 June).

QCEA also published three articles in *Among Friends*, a first one in March 2022 'Ukraine: Why militarism brought us here – And why we need to hold our ground as peace advocates' (by Saskia Basa) a second one in summer 2022 "Is the Militarisation of the EU a Response to Threats?" (by Laëtitia Sédou) and a third one in November 2022 "Is the European Union funding corrupt arms dealers?" (by Laëtitia Sédou).

Bringing new ideas for nonviolent conflict resolution and peacebuilding to EU institutions as alternatives to further militarisation

In 2022, QCEA contributed to EU policy discussions with new ideas, approaches and practices for conflict resolution, bringing attention to viable alternatives to militarisation that contribute to long-term, sustainable peace.

QCEA emphasised the importance of meaningful and systematic civil society engagement across all areas of EU peacebuilding action. The Project Manager participated in a workshop hosted by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and EPLO, urging EU officials to take steps to ensure diverse representation of all strata of society, particularly minority voices, in dialogue initiatives and programming. QCEA also continued to emphasise the importance of principles of inclusiveness and gender equality as cornerstones of EU peacebuilding engagement, while also highlighting the risks of advancing representation without a willingness to transform structures of power in the process (see QCEA's dedicated [blogpost](#) on the topic). QCEA built on these arguments and on previous work on gender inclusiveness during an Informal exchange with Tiina Vahtras of EEAS on the Report on the Baseline Study on Integrating Human Rights and Gender into the European Union's CSDP, facilitated by EPLO on 15 February.

In 2022 QCEA continued to play an active part in the ENAAT, bringing attention to the harms of militarisation and the arms trade. In our activities and engagements, we reminded people in EU institutions of the enduring importance of implementing stricter standards to arms exports from EU Member States, particularly when there is evidence that they may be used in war crimes or human rights violations. On 18 May QCEA spoke at an event in the European Parliament entitled '[European arms trade & human rights: The case of Yemen and the alleged War Crimes](#)', organised by Centre Delas and jointly hosted by the parliamentary groups The Left and Greens/ EFA. The workshop aimed at bringing attention to arms exports to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, arms that continue to fuel

violence against Yemeni civilians in what has become one of the biggest humanitarian crises ever recorded.

QCEA also stressed the importance of articulating a security concept beyond



SASKIA BASA AT AN EVENT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 'EUROPEAN ARMS TRADE & HUMAN RIGHTS: THE CASE OF YEMEN AND THE ALLEGED WAR CRIMES'

militarisation, particularly by amplifying bottom-up approaches that have proved effective in a diversity of contexts. Project Manager Saskia Basa spoke of two such practices - citizen's diplomacy and nonviolent civilian protection- at the European Forum, a platform for progressive and green voices that took place in Athens on 21 October. We also continued to advocate for wider implementation of peace education across Europe, given growing eco-anxiety, misinformation and polarisation affecting youth across Europe. To bring this message to a wider audience, we published an article at the *Green European Journal*, Europe's leading political ecology magazine: '[Why Peace Education Deserves a Place in Europe's Education Systems](#)'.

In 2022 Quaker House continued to provide a safe space for dialogue between different actors and perspectives, and as an incubator for new ideas for EU action for peace. For example, on 22 September QCEA hosted a round table jointly organised by PAX and Berghof Foundation exploring possibilities for EU support to nonviolent movements. During the event, civil society actors and EU officials from the DG INTPA and EEAS shared ideas on how support could be provided within existing funding mechanisms.

QCEA promoted alternative responses to the Russian invasion of Ukraine focused on shared security and sustainable, long-term peace approaches.

In the early days of the invasion, QCEA issued a position statement calling for intensification of diplomatic efforts, followed by a joint statement on the Peace Testimony and Ukraine, endorsed by the heads of the main Quaker agencies FWCC, QUNO Geneva, QUNO New York, FCNL, AFSC, CFSC, and QPSW.

On 24 May, QCEA organised an online event alongside our partner YFPF entitled “Europe’s Military Drift: From a Soft Power Union to ‘Security Provider’”, exploring some key dilemmas on peace and security and bringing to light key concerns linked to the EU’s role in providing direct military support to an active conflict for the first time in its history. Despite the opposing views expressed, the exchange was fruitful in laying out different arguments and building common ground on the need to establish clear tracking and accountability mechanisms as a precedent for other possible future assistance measures.

In relation to the EU’s response to the invasion, QCEA gave input in multiple policy spaces on how to expand channels of support to Ukrainian civil society active in conflict areas and civilians more broadly. QCEA participated in a consultation call with MEP Idoia Villanueva ‘Peace in Ukraine’ outlining avenues for cooperation (18 March), attended a civil society consultation hosted by the Netherlands Permanent Representation to the EU and the EEAS emphasising the need for a functioning and accessible complaints mechanism (18 November), and hosted a coordination workshop on nonviolent responses to Ukraine, organised by PATRIR and Un Ponte Per, Novact, with some of its Ukrainian partners (7 October).

In this context, QCEA ramped up its efforts to advocate for peace by highlighting the key risks of military approaches and advocating for more explicit consideration of civilian-led, nonviolent responses to conflict at the EU level.



COORDINATION WORKSHOP ON NONVIOLENT RESPONSES TO UKRAINE, ORGANISED BY PATRIR AND UN PONTE PER, NOVACT, WITH SOME OF ITS UKRAINIAN PARTNERS

QCEA worked to break silos between action for peace, climate and the environment

While the impacts of climate change continued to worsen, with devastating floods in Pakistan, record ice melt in the Arctic, extensive droughts across Europe, and catastrophic wildfires from the Iberian Peninsula to the Balkans, QCEA intensified its work to develop an EU policy framework that recognises the links between climate and peace and tackles them in ways that put human rights at the centre.

QCEA worked to raise awareness of the issue of military emissions as a key driver and contributor to the climate crisis. Despite mounting evidence of the military’s substantial greenhouse gas emissions, the military is exempt from reporting obligations and was left out of the COP26 agenda. QCEA raised this issue at COP26 in Glasgow and in the months that followed, organising an online webinar with NFPB and QPSW entitled ‘Is COP26 enough? Peace, Militarism and the Climate Crisis: a missing piece’ (29 January). The event gathered over 80 participants from Europe and beyond to reflect on the outcomes of COP26 in relation to peace and militarism, sharing strategies and ideas to ensure that emissions associated with the military are discussed in future summits. (Recording available on Youtube).

This theme was further developed in an online event QCEA organised with QUNO Geneva in the context of the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding: ‘What is missing (and needed) post-COP26? Root Causes, Human Rights and Avoiding Securitization in Climate Action and Natural Resource Management’ (2 February). This event enabled an exchange between several civil society actors and David R. Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, attracting over 100 participants to reflect on the advance of securitised responses to climate change to the detriment of human rights protections. Participants were positive that opportunities to strengthen rights-based responses inherent to the just transition may emerge in the context of the UN resolution on the right to a clean and sustainable

environment.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 was a stark reminder of the lasting and at times irreversible environmental impacts of war: water, soil and air pollution, biodiversity loss, deforestation, resource depletion. To bring attention to the ecological dimension of armed conflict, QCEA organised an in-person event with YFPF ‘Nature as collateral damage? Environmental impacts of the war in Ukraine’, where participants heard a first assessment of environmental incidents recorded in Ukraine and discussed ways forward to increase accountability for environmental harm committed in the context of war, while building momentum for the recognition of ecocide as a crime under international law.



QCEA AND YFPF EVENT ‘NATURE AS COLLATERAL DAMAGE? ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE’

In parallel to our events and activities, QCEA continued to develop its publication ‘Storytelling from the Frontlines: Forefronting the voices of communities most affected by militarism and the climate crisis’ throughout 2022. Through testimonies from communities from different parts of the world, the publication makes evident the connections between climate crisis and militarism and highlights the lived experience of individuals and communities working creatively and resourcefully to find solutions to the issues that affect them.

The climate crisis is a factor that creates both challenges and opportunities for peace. Moving forward, QCEA would like to play an active role in supporting the EU to seize opportunities for peace in its internal and external action, and will continue to develop this work through its dedicated Climate Justice & Peace Programme from 2023.

QCEA's Human Rights Programme

While all our work is premised on respect for human rights, our work focusing on this area specifically was limited in 2023 as we didn't have a dedicated member of staff. We acted primarily to support the work of other organisations and maintained our relationships with some of our key partners in human rights work, including PICUM, ECRE and QARN.

QCEA endorsed the demands of civil society organisations working on migration regarding the proposed reform of the Schengen borders code by signing a joint statement led by PICUM. We also hosted a closed-door Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) discussion with a delegation of human rights defenders from El Salvador, organised by Christian Aid and EPLO, at Quaker House.



STUDY TOUR'S PARTICIPANTS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

QCEA's study tour

In Autumn 2022 QCEA organised its first study tour since 2019. The study tour, entitled "Europe at a Crossroads", focused on EU militarisation, climate change and migration policies. Over four days 24 participants from all over the world visited EU institutions and participated in workshops and discussions to dive deep into current issues. During the interactive sessions with QCEA partners, we talked about the future of asylum in the EU, whether the EU is still a climate pioneer and what it should do differently to honour its founding principles of peace. To wind down in between the sessions, we watched a movie on the Colombian peace process, discovered Quaker House secrets and improved our chocolate knowledge with Kate McNally.

The tour allowed us to come together, discuss and reflect on the issues QCEA works on in a safe space. Despite everything that has been going on in Europe and the world, we looked together for hope and found it in each other's company.

Moving forward

In November 2022 QCEA started the process of developing a new strategy for the next three years (2023 to 2026). At the General Assembly in November 2022, members shared the concerns of their Quaker communities and reflected on how QCEA should work going forward.

Members of staff started interviewing people from organisations that have worked with QCEA in the past as well as individuals who know QCEA. They asked how QCEA was different from other organisations, what it was good at and where it might make a difference in the current context in Europe. People value our independence, our ability to work across issues and make links between them and our ability to convene and facilitate safe spaces where people can listen to each other even when they do not agree.

We looked for issues where these strengths could make a difference and where our Quaker approach to bringing about change would be valued.

The Quaker peace testimony underpins all our work. Cultural and structural violence, the exploitation of our planet and economic and racial injustice are the root causes of the crises we face today.

The new strategy was adopted at the General Assembly in April 2023. Over the next three years Quaker Council for European Affairs will focus on three themes:

- Migration and peace
- Climate justice and peace
- Dialogues for transformation

People migrating from one place to another are affected by structural and physical violence. QCEA will bring peacebuilding approaches to the issue of migration, showing what needs to change so that migration can be safe and the rights of people who migrate can be upheld.

It is vital that European responses to the climate crisis are underpinned by a respect for human rights, a commitment to equality and minimise the potential for conflict. QCEA will bring a peace lens to Europe's transition to sustainability, identifying potential conflicts and showing how these can be addressed. We will seek to make evident the complex links between the climate crisis, conflict and responses to conflict, militarism and migration.

QCEA believes that transformative change is needed if we are to address the challenges of our times. This is only possible if people across political, social and geographic divides can listen and understand each other and seek common ground. We will build on our experience of quiet diplomacy and creating safe spaces for sensitive conversations to convene and facilitate dialogues on contentious and crucial issues between people with differing views and experiences, enabling them to deeply listen to each other and together consider ways forward. This work will need to be discreet and the outcomes will not be immediate. It is long-term and risky but it is necessary and QCEA is one of the few organisations able to do this.



Treasurer's

Report



JOELLE DUBOIS

The year 2022 has seen the arrival of two new staff members, Communications Officer Dovile Bogusyte, and later QCEA's Director Tracey Martin.

They joined Saskia Basa, (Project Manager), Laëtitia Sedou, working part-time for QCEA, but mainly representing ENAAT, and Xavier Verhaeghen, Office Manager. The level of expenditure and income in 2022 is a reflection of the staffing situation. The QCEA team is the main asset of the organisation and accounts for most of its expenditure.

The team worked on various projects and activities, and had a quite busy end of the year with the organisation of the Study Tour and development of the new strategy.

The members of the QCEA team and the board are very grateful for the continuous support received from the Yearly Meetings across Europe as well as for donations from individual Quakers and local meetings. Without this, there simply wouldn't be an opportunity for the Quaker voice to be heard by the European institutions.

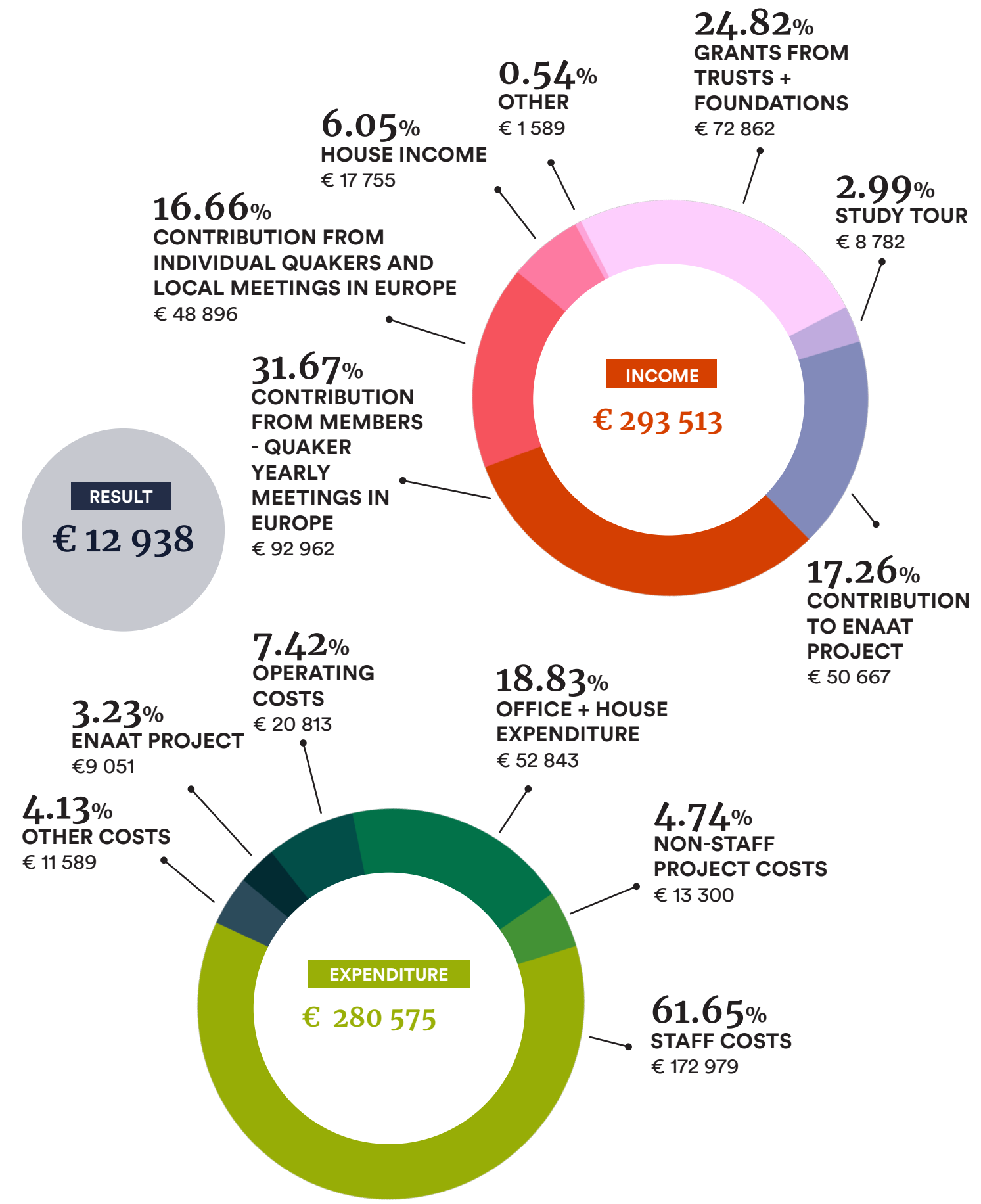
We would like to thank Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for their substantial and continuous support as well as the PoldenPuckham Charitable Foundation, CB & HH Taylor 1984 Charitable Trust, Sir James Reckitt Charity, The Oliver Morland Charitable Trust and The Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark Charitable Trust.

We would also like to thank the support groups of QCEA established in Ireland, the Netherlands and Great Britain. They are acting as ambassadors of QCEA in their respective regions, spreading the word about QCEA activities, challenges and opportunities.

If you wish to strengthen the position of QCEA through a donation or a legacy, visit this link or contact Dovile Bogusyte at dovile.bogusyte@qcea.org.

Joëlle Dubois, QCEA Treasurer

The year at a glance



Our people in 2022

Our General Assembly, Executive Committee and other committees are an active part of QCEA's work all year round. This was especially true in 2022.

The Executive Committee met regularly to consider a wide range of strategic, management and governance matters, including programme work, risk management, staffing, fundraising, relationships with other organisations and legal issues. Executive Committee members have led specific initiatives as individuals, small groups and sub-committees.

We would like to express a special thank you to those who supported us in 2022 and without whom the work of QCEA would not be possible.

Executive Committee

Jeremy Lester	Co-Clerk
Linda Craig	Co-Clerk
Martin Touwen	Clerk
Joëlle Dubois	Treasurer
Loretta O'Brien	Gerald Turner
Phillip Spenser	Andreas Schulze
Roger Cassidy	

Other members of the General Assembly

Arne Govaerts	Belgium and Luxembourg YM
Haifa Rashed	Britain YM
Luzie Ursula Wingen	Britain YM
Hans Aaen	Denmark YM
Dale Andrew	France YM
Birgit Felleisen	Germany YM
Seán McCrum	Ireland YM
Martine Kuipers	Netherlands YM
Roger Cassidy	Norway YM
Ron Ockwell	Switzerland YM
Michael Eccles	EMES
Corien van Dorp	Friends of QCEA (VVQREA)
John Crosfield	British Friends of QCEA
Per Becker	Sweden YM
Neville Keery	Founder member
Martyn Bond	Founder member
Mavis Airey	Founder member

Alternate General Assembly members

Paul Holdsworth	Belgium and Luxembourg YM
Rebecca Bellamy	Britain YM
Lara Wik	Norway YM
Russell Bradshaw	Sweden YM
Peter van Leeuwen	Friends of QCEA (VVQREA)
Pauline Goggin	Ireland YM
Marcie Winstanley	Europe and Middle East Friend (EMEYF)
Paula Christophersen	EMEYF
George Thurley	EMEYF

Support Group Treasurers

Martin Ford	Treasurer, British Friends of QCEA
Hennie Jansen	Treasurer, VVQREA

Nominations Committee

Seán McCrum	Clerk
Christina Johnsson	Pavel Marusinec
Lisa Specht	Faith Biddle

British Friends of QCEA

Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick	Clerk
Martin Ford	Treasurer
Martin Hughes	Keith Archer
Sarah Dodgson	Marcie Winstanley
Elspeth Wollen	Rebecca Bellamy
John Crosfield	William Becher
Richard Seebohm	

Ireland QCEA Support Committee

Seán McCrum	Clerk
Loretta O'Brien	Rachel Cave
Margaret Grey	Martin Leavy

Netherlands Friends of QCEA (VVQREA)

Corien van Dorp	Clerk
Hennie Jansen	Treasurer
Peter van Leeuwen	
Peter Sprey	

Staff and volunteers in Brussels

Tracey Martin	Director
Xavier Verhaeghe	Office Manager
Saskia Basa	Project Manager and Europe and Middle East Young Friends Secretary
Dovile Bogusyte	Communications Officer
Andreas Schulze	QCEA Associate (IT)
Kate McNally	QCEA Associate
Laëtitia Sédou	European Network Against Arms Trade Programme Worker, QCEA Associate

