



IASWECE

International Association for
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

Annual Report 2023



Dear friends, colleagues, donors and supporters,

We are gradually approaching the 100th anniversary of the birth of the first Waldorf kindergarten in Stuttgart in 1926. During this time, the challenges of a rapidly changing society are becoming stronger. The use of digital media, the unrestrained presence of artificial intelligence, the challenges and potentials of diversity, and many other factors have driven us to look for new ways of working, training, communicating and responding to the world.

There are many political and social conflicts in the world today, and several of IASWECE's projects are involved in these conflicts. To all of them go our warmest thoughts and wishes for peace and hope for the future. Other projects in situations of extreme economic hardships are trying with all their efforts to plant a seed for the future of the children in their countries. Teachers and mentors have been traveling the world, often retired early childhood educators who are still enthusiastically devoted and committed to childhood. We would like to thank them all for their invaluable dedication.

In 2023, the member countries of IASWECE made a great effort to achieve a substantial increase in donations, as have individual donors, kindergartens, and associations in various countries who, with larger and smaller contributions, made it possible for our association's activity to be ever more fruitful and to reach more and more children, educators, and trainees. Without all these contributions, IASWECE's activities would not be possible. We are infinitely grateful to our donors. We also value enormously those who closely followed and supported the activity of IASWECE inwardly through their daily work with the children, families and trainees and to the ever-increasing number of readers of our newsletters.

Although 2026 seemed very much in the future, in 2023 we launched the preparation of the fundamentals for the celebration of the Centenary of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, together with the Pedagogical Section. This international celebration will take place at the Goetheanum, in Dornach, Switzerland, but we hope also locally in many other places around the world. We encourage everyone to start preparing for this great celebration, honouring the past, considering the present and preparing for the challenges and opportunities in the future.

The ongoing and meaningful collaboration with our partners, such as the Hague Circle, the Friends of Waldorf Education, the European Council for Steiner/Waldorf Education (ECSWE), the Alliance for Childhood, and the Pedagogical and Medical Sections at the Goetheanum, has enriched our perception of the current pedagogical, political and social challenges our children face, and how to address them in cooperation with each other.

On behalf of our many colleagues who are committed to our same endeavour, we send you our heartfelt greetings.

Tina Iwersen, Jacqueline Walter-Baumgartner, Janni Nicol, Philipp Reubke (Board)
Susan Howard, Mary-G Häuptle, Lourdes Tormes (Coordinating Group)

"Against a background of prevailing materialistic trends in education and modern culture, the protection, indeed the salvation, of childhood as the fundamental stage of each individual's unfolding life has become a worldwide pioneering work.

In our Association, all who serve the education of children, the training of educators, the cooperation with parents, and the development of human culture at large - spiritually, legally and economically, work together.

The fruitfulness of worldwide cooperation beyond all limits of language, politics and religion is a tried and tested experience."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2023

IASWECE COUNCIL

In 2023, the Council of IASWECE met twice, once in Liestal (Switzerland) and once in Hamburg (Germany). Both meetings focussed on the richness of cultural diversity, illustrated by the presentations of the representatives from Brazil and North America, trying to deepen how we can transform our practices out of the awareness of the diversity and uniqueness of each culture.

It was a joy to welcome our colleague Ae Rawimas as the representative of a new member country of IASWECE, Thailand.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS MEETING AND COLLABORATION

A growing number of Steiner/Waldorf early childhood training colleagues joined monthly teleconference meetings of the IASWECE Trainers Network to discuss key issues in the development and renewal of Steiner Waldorf early childhood training. IASWECE colleagues were also active in monthly International Teacher Education Project (ITEP) online meetings, sponsored by the Pedagogical Section, working with themes from the document Towards Pedagogical Creativity - Formative Guidelines for Steiner Teacher Education.

Together with one of our partners, the Alliance for Childhood, we have been working on how to build media maturity and the core competencies for the child, and how to support families. In a similar direction, the Hague Circle has been working on what Waldorf education can do to contribute to a new approach to understanding the world.

WORLD TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 10-15 APRIL 2023

In their daily pedagogical practice, teachers and early childhood educators ask: what can contribute to a healthier living environment and social renewal, and what concrete steps can be taken to promote the desired skills and capacities? The conference theme - Affirming – Nurturing – Trusting, an Education for Today and Tomorrow - was developed over many years through colloquiums and consultations with teachers worldwide. In the conference presenters and participants worked on the following questions:

- How can education foster an appreciation of the physical foundations of our existence today?
- How can education inspire empathy?
- How do people awaken to a sense of responsibility for nature and society?
- How can we plant seeds for lifelong learning and continuous development in childhood and youth?

Philipp Reubke and Constanza Kaliks from the Pedagogical Section, supported by the members of the Hague Circle, welcomed 1000 participants from 62 countries. Members of the IASWECE Council, Board and Coordinating Group were active presenters and participants in the conference.

"Love is higher than opinion. The most diverse opinions get along when people love each other[...] But this is one of the most important tasks of mankind today and in the future: this living with one another, this understanding with one another. And as long as this human community mood does not develop, there can be no talk of an occult development."
Rudolf Steiner (Stuttgart, September 1, 1906, GA 95)



PROJECT SUPPORT

The preparation of early childhood educators and collaboration among colleagues is the basis for the capacity building of Waldorf education in each country. IASWECE's financial support is specifically directed towards projects for the training of early childhood educators, introductory courses in Waldorf education, mentoring of early childhood educators and the organisation of regional and international conferences. In the year 2023, IASWECE was able to support 34 projects in 26 countries. The list in the right column shows the total number of participants in all the activities in each country or region:

TRAINING

Croatia: 90
Egypt: postponed
Ethiopia: 50
Indonesia: 153
Kyrgyzstan: 32
Lebanon: 16
Madagascar: 70
Poland: 46
Romania: 50
Russia: 31
South Africa: 91
Turkey: 73
Vietnam: 400
Ukraine: postponed

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Albania: 50
Armenia: 3
Bulgaria: 50
Iran: 72
Turkey: 100
Vietnam: 80

MENTORING

Croatia: 9
Fiji: 2
Indonesia: 4
Ivory Coast: 4
South Africa: 48
Turkey: 37

NEW GRADUATES

Armenia: 3
Colombia: 6
Croatia: 1
Poland: 33
Romania: 12
South Africa: 22
Turkey: 15
Vietnam: 6
Zimbabwe: 13

COUNTRY COLLABORATION MEETINGS

Costa Rica: 35
Croatia: 75
India: 70
Romania: 86
Vietnam: 400



OUR PARTNERS - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Many people around the world are concerned about the well-being of children and early childhood education. Within the Waldorf education movement, in addition to the individual support and awareness of thousands of educators and families, various organisations pursue the same goals in different ways. Our close partners are the Pedagogical and Medical Sections of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum in Switzerland, the Hague Circle/International Forum for Waldorf Education, the Friends of Waldorf Education, and the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education. Furthermore, and in light of global conflicts of all kinds, it is becoming increasingly necessary to work together with organisations more specifically involved in the intervention in these traumatic situations for children.

Our common activity takes place through conferences, meetings, working groups, collaborative research projects, training and deepening courses, and the development of resources, as well as through partnerships and sponsorships among colleagues worldwide.

DIGITAL MEDIA AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Through the collaboration within the EU co-funded Erasmus project HERMMES (Holistic Education, Resilience and Media Maturity in Educational Settings), IASWECE, in partnership with ECSWE, ELIANT, ENSWaP and other institutions, support ongoing research on the effects of digital media on healthy development and how to ensure that children develop foundational human skills before being exposed to digital technology. HERMMES aims to create health in our digitalized society by developing an alternative media education curriculum template for educational settings in which the widening of the media spectrum follows the developing psychosocial maturity of the learners. HERMMES also offers guidelines for the educational community to support this alternative media curriculum's transformation, implementation, and effectiveness. Both aspects cultivate the right to screen-free education in early childhood and advocate for using a rich palette of analogue media through the arts and crafts to develop the essential competencies needed to engage later with digital media in a meaningful, creative and responsible way. In addition, diverse training possibilities are being developed for educators, teachers and parents to help raise awareness and develop the pedagogical skills that foster a healthy media approach for children and adults.

TRADEMARK

IASWECE continues to collaborate with our partners in the Pedagogical Section, Federation (Bund) of Waldorf Schools, Friends of Waldorf Education, and the Hague Circle - International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education - to protect the names Steiner and Waldorf and the quality they stand for. In 2023, the International Licensing Group reviewed and approved applications from country associations and Steiner/Waldorf kindergartens and schools for licences authorising the use of the names.

STEINER/WALDORF ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERS

Pedagogical Section of the School of Spiritual Science - ps.goetheanum.org

Medical Section of the School of Spiritual Science - medsektion-goetheanum.org

Hague Circle - International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education waldorf-international.org

Friends of Waldorf Education (Freunde der Erziehungskunst) freunde-waldorf.de

ECSWE - European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education ecswe.net

AFC - Alliance for Childhood European Network Group allianceforchildhood.eu

ENSWaP - European Network of Steiner/Waldorf Parents enswap.org

ELIANT - European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy eliant.eu



IASWECE Council in Slovenia

MEMBERS OF IASWECE COUNCIL 2023

- Thi Phuong Dung Cao, Vietnam
- Louise DeForest and Susan Howard, North America
- Sara de los Santos, Sweden
- Sarah Dickson, East Africa
- Ursula Dotzler, Austria
- Tanja Eeg, Denmark
- Svetlana Efremova, Russia
- Svetlana Eks and Natalia Orlova, Ukraine
- Loïs Eijenraam, Netherlands
- Ulrike Farnleitner, Ireland
- Sucheta Garud, India
- Anne-Kathrin Hantel, Sigrid Jackstadt and Birgit Krohmer, Germany
- Mary-G Häuptle, South Africa
- Tina Iwersen, Finland
- Silvia Jensen, Brazil
- Ae-Young Jeong, Korea
- Shy-Tyng Kai, Taiwan
- Joli Kiss, Hungary
- Janja Kokalj, Slovenia
- Magdalena Kuczora, Poland
- Kathy MacFarlane, New Zealand
- Sono Matsuura, Japan
- Heli Müristaja and Marelle Tann, Estonia
- Janni Nicol, United Kingdom
- Gabriela Popescu, Romania
- Rasa Ragauskaitė-Driukiene, Lithuania
- Philipp Reubke, Board
- Michal Reshef, Israel
- Cathy Seiwert, France
- Silvia Rizzoli, Italy
- Tánja Smolková, Czech Republic
- Lourdes Tormes, Spain
- Aurelia Udo de Haes, Norway
- Inneke Van Esbroeck, Belgium
- Heather Van Zyl, Australia
- Jacqueline Walter-Baumgartner, Switzerland
- Hao Bing and Li Zhang, China

BOARD 2023



Mary-G Häuptle
South Africa



Tina Iwersen
Finland



Janni Nicol
United Kingdom



Philipp Reubke
France/Switzerland



Jacqueline
Walter-Baumgartner
Switzerland

COORDINATING GROUP 2023



Mary-G Häuptle
South Africa



Susan Howard
USA



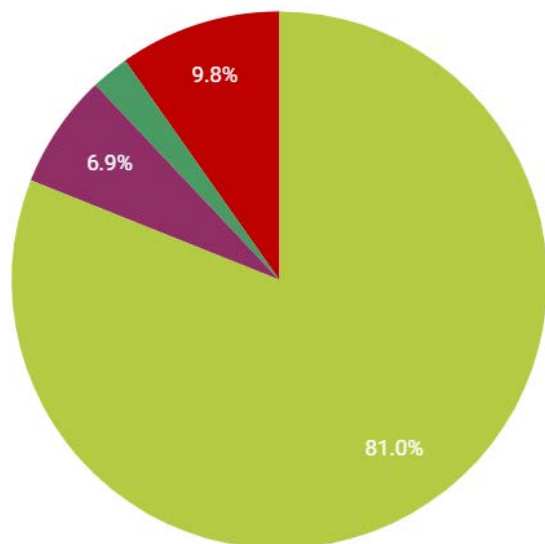
Lourdes Tormes
Spain

STAFF

- Administrative Support: Lara Radysh, USA
- Finance Office: Jennifer Langscheid, Germany

FINANCIAL YEAR RESULTS 2023

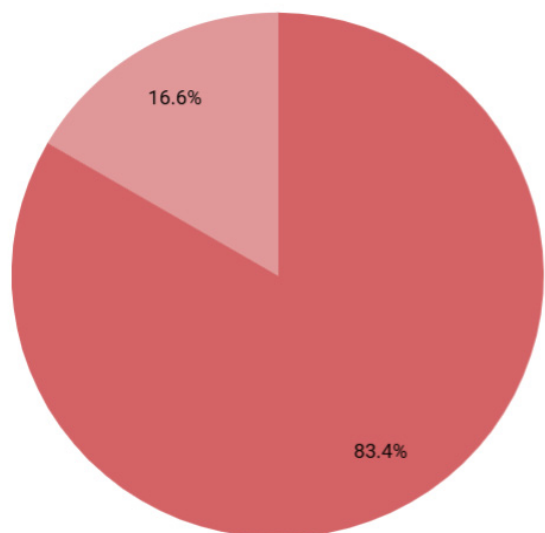
TOTAL INCOME 2023



	2023	2022
Membership Contributions	284,764 €	272,400 €
Donations	24,230 €	22,682 €
Unrestricted Donations	15,237 €	11,714 €
Restricted Donations	8,993 €	10,968 €
Sponsoring	8,000 €	0 €
Annual Sponsorship	8,000 €	0 €
Other income	34,356 €	35,720 €
Publications	749 €	116 €
Release from reserves	0 €	0 €
Reimbursements members	24,717 €	29,214 €
Other Proceeds	8,890 €	6,390 €

Total Income **351,440 €** **301,200 €**

TOTAL EXPENSES 2023

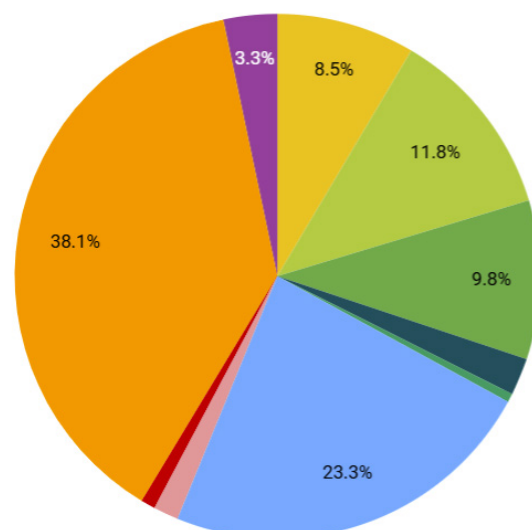


Core Activities	283,133 €
Salaries and administration	56,370 €
General Operating Costs Association	19,500 €
General Operating Costs Germany	15,450 €
General Operating Costs Spain	1,720 €
General Operating Costs USA	18,100 €
General Operating Costs Belgium	600 €

Total Expenses **339,503 €**

CORE ACTIVITIES 2023

Africa	24,100 €
Asia	33,455 €
Europe	27,750 €
Latin America	6,500 €
Pacific Region	1,500 €
Working groups & thematic projects	65,837 €
Collaboration with other organisations	4,370 €
Donations/contributions to other organisations	2,500 €
Coordination & Support international work (1 1/2 positions)	107,773 €
Implementation and Organisation	9,358 €
Total Expense for Core Activities	283,133 €



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

B.G.P., Olga Carolina
Dotzler, Ursula
F., Frauke
F., Helmut
F., Nancy
Gambardella, Andrea
Gjessing Paulsen, Eldbjorg
Häuptle, Mary-G
Henning, Erika
Jackstadt, Sigrid
J. R. L., María
K., Pauline
Koteen Soule, Holly
Matsuura, Sono
N., Monica
O., Margaret
O., Robin
S., Linda
S., Lisa
S., Diana
Taplin, Jill
Van der D., A.M.
Reubke, Philipp
Popescu, Gabriela
V., Jo

Walter-Baumgartner, Jacqueline
Y., Ayako
Z., Sandra

DONATIONS FROM KINDERGARTENS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Austrian National Kindergarten Meeting, AT
Kiga Wien-Mauer, AT
Mercurius
Kindling, UK
Nanohanaen Kindergarten, JP
Nanohanaen Parents, JP
Steinerbarnehageforbundet, NO
Verein zur Förderung der Waldorfpädagogik Delmenhorst, DE
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN), USA
Waldorf School Cantabria, ES
Waldorfkindergarten Celle, DE
Związek Szkół i Przedszkoli Waldorfskich w Polsce, PL

All IASWECE member country associations make yearly membership contributions to IASWECE.

Thank You



MEMBER COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS 2023

There were 21 founding member associations in 2006. In 2023 membership has grown to 37 member associations.

Australia: Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education

Austria: Waldorfbund Österreich

Belgium: Federatie voor R.Steinerscholen in Vlaanderen

Brazil: Federação das Escolas Waldorf no Brasil (FEWB)

China: China Early Childhood Education Forum (CECEF)

Czech Republic: Asociace waldorfských materských škol

Denmark: Sammenslutningen af Rudolf Steiner Dagtilbud i Danmark

East Africa: East Africa Association of Waldorf Schools

Estonia: Eesti Vabade Waldorfkoolide ja -lasteaegade Liit

Finland: Steinerkasvatuksen liitto/varhaiskasvatusjaosto

France: Fédération des Écoles Steiner-Waldorf

Germany: Vereinigung der Waldorfkindergärten e.V.

Hungary: Magyar Waldorf Szövetség

India: Sadhana, Indian Waldorf Kindergarten Association (SIWKA)

Ireland: BLÁTHÚ Steiner Early Childhood Association

Israel: Israeli Kindergarten Teachers Circle

Italy: Associazione Sole Luna e Stelle & La Federazione delle Scuole Steiner-Waldorf in Italia

Japan: Japanese Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

Lithuania: Lietuvos Valdorfo vaikystės pedagogikos iniciatyvų asociacija - LVVPIA

Korea, Republic of: Korea Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (KASWECE)

Netherlands: Vereniging van vrijescholen

New Zealand: Steiner Education Aotearoa New Zealand

North America: (Canada, USA and Mexico): Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)

Norway: Steinerbarnehageforbundet i Norge

Poland: Związek Szkół i Przedszkoli Waldorfskich w Polsce

Romania: Asociatia Educatoarelor Waldorf din Romania

Russia: Дошкольный Вальдорфский центр

Slovenia: Zavod za razvoj waldorfskih škol in vrtcev - zveza

South Africa: Federation of Waldorf Schools of Southern Africa (SAFWS)

Spain: Asociación de Centros Educativos Waldorf en España

Sweden: Riksföreningen Waldorfförskolornas Samråd, RWS

Switzerland: Koordinationsstelle Elementarpädagogik Rudolf-Steiner-Schul-Bewegung, Schweiz und Liechtenstein

Thailand: Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education Network, Thailand (SWECENT)

Taiwan: Taiwan Association of Steiner-Waldorf Kindergartens

Ukraine: Асоціація вальдорфських ініціатив в Україні

United Kingdom: Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship

Vietnam: Steiner-Waldorf Association in Vietnam (SWAVN)





USA



Sweden



New York



Spain

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