

IASWECE Annual Report 2024





Dear friends, colleagues, donors and supporters,

2024 has been a turbulent year in many ways. In addition to the escalating conflicts in many countries, the struggle of indigenous peoples for their rights, of communities for freedom of choice, the ongoing threat to children, to nature, the unbridled advance of artificial intelligence into our lives, and many other issues have marked our day by day. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to those who are suffering most.

But there has also been good news: more and more educators are raising their voices for an education based on the needs of children rather than vested interests; there have been advances in the defence of the unquestionable protection of the ecosystem; evidence of the risks of mobile phone and social media use in the lives of our children and young people; the growing need to curb the uncontrolled interference of artificial intelligence in the face of moral aggression in our lives, and surely many others. We must continue to work tirelessly for a better world, and in the case of IASWECE and the entire community that supports us, for the rights of children and the fundamental importance of early childhood education as a cornerstone of life.

Many people continue to work for children, and IASWECE is honoured to know and support them, to the best of our ability, together with our partners, who in different ways are advancing hand in hand with us. This is possible thanks to the efforts of our donors, sponsors, kindergartens, the IASWECE council and the countries it members represent, but also to all the mentors and trainers who travel the world bringing Waldorf education to every corner where families and educators need it. To all of them, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

In this sense, the centenary of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education is drawing ever closer, and we hope to bring together as many people as possible who want to join IASWECE in protecting early childhood through education. On behalf of our many colleagues who are committed to our same endeavour, we send you our heartfelt greetings.

Warm regards,

Tina Iwersen, Jacqueline Walter-Baumgartner, Janni Nicol, Philipp Reubke (Board)

Susan Howard, Mary-G Häuptle, Lourdes Tormes (Coordinating Group)



United States

“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.”

Dr. Helmut von Kügelgen
from the Preamble to the IASWECE Statutes



IASWECE COUNCIL

In 2024, the Council of IASWECE met twice: once in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and once online in October. Both meetings focused on preparations for the 2026 celebrations and the international conference marking the 100th anniversary of Waldorf Early Childhood education. The council is committed to deepening the study themes of the conference and how we bring these inspirations to our countries and the world. The projects that IASWECE supports remain a key topic on the agenda; hearing lively reports about the activities in the projects highlights the benefits of these activities for the educators and, ultimately, for the children in often remote settings. In Ljubljana, the council participated in two consultation workshops on some of the results of the partner organisation HERMMES, focusing on digital media and the young child, curriculum guidelines, media competency, resilience and media maturity. See [HERMMES.EU](https://www.hermmes.eu)

INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS MEETING AND COLLABORATION

Steiner/Waldorf early childhood training colleagues participated in 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. In 2024, topics included the early history and identity of the Waldorf kindergarten movement, collaborative research, working with parents, and the relationship of Waldorf education and anthroposophy in our training courses.

The IASWECE Working Group also surveyed training courses worldwide to gather suggestions for updates and changes to the IASWECE Guidelines for Training.

CONFERENCE IN CHILE JULY 2024

The Ibero-American Conference, which takes place in Latin America every four years, took place in July 2024. It was an excellent opportunity for IASWECE to have a presence and meet with 80 kindergarten teachers from Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil, to explore questions about the quality of the early childhood settings and the importance of suitable teacher education. This highlight of the year has strengthened and deepened the connection with the countries in this region, and IASWECE looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

“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

IASWECE specifically supports the training and mentoring of early childhood educators, as well as country collaboration, which strengthens the common work of educators. We strongly believe that the local mentoring and training is the basis for a solid growth of the educational impulses in the different countries.

In the year 2024, IASWECE was able to support 29 projects in 21 countries. The following listing shows the total number of participants in all the activities in each country or region:



Lebanon

TRAINING

Chile: 31
Colombia: 29
Croatia: 90
Egypt: 9
Indonesia: 35
Iran: 39
Kyrgyzstan: 40
Lebanon: 16
Madagascar: 8
Romania: 48
Russia: 45
South Africa: 73
Switzerland: 12
Turkey: 70
Vietnam: 250
Zimbabwe: 14

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Armenia: 6
Russia: 8
Ukraine: 35
Zimbabwe: 40

MENTORING

Egypt: 9
Fiji: 3
India: 12
Indonesia: 25
South Africa: 10
Turkey: 30
Vietnam: 10

NEW GRADUATES

Chile: 27
Colombia: 4
Croatia: 30
Indonesia: 27
Iran: 19
Romania: 10
Russia: 7
South Africa: 42
Switzerland: 12
Turkey: 55
Vietnam: 20

COUNTRY COLLABORATION MEETINGS

Central America: 55
Croatia: 89
India: 59
Kyrgyzstan: 40
Romania: 91
Turkey: 396

Working closely with partner organisations is crucial for the work of IASWECE. Each one of them works in different fields towards the same goals: the protection of childhood and youth, addressing the current and future needs of our world and society, providing pedagogical and financial support where needed, and promoting freedom for spiritual and educational pursuits. The closest partners of IASWECE 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, the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education, the Alliance for Childhood, the European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy, and the European Network of Steiner/Waldorf Parents. Furthermore, in light of the already mentioned global conflicts, we perceive the need to strengthen our relationship with organisations working more specifically in this field.

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 2024, 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



IASWECE Council in Hungary

MEMBERS OF IASWECE COUNCIL 2024

- 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 2024



Mary-G Häuptle
South Africa



Tina Iwersen
Finland



Janni Nicol
United Kingdom



Philipp Reubke
France/Switzerland



Jacqueline
Walter-Baumgartner
Switzerland

COORDINATING GROUP 2024



Mary-G Häuptle
South Africa



Susan Howard
USA



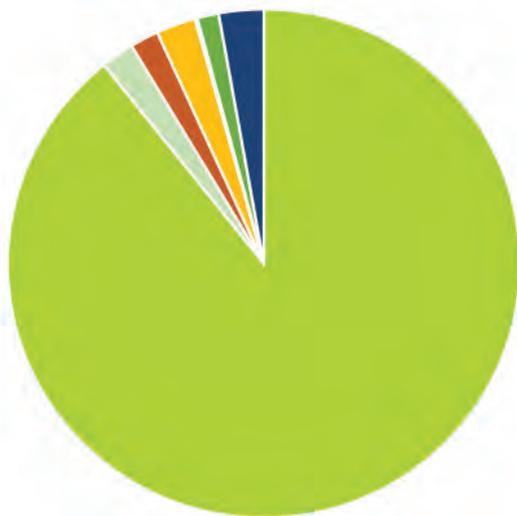
Lourdes Tormes
Spain

STAFF

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

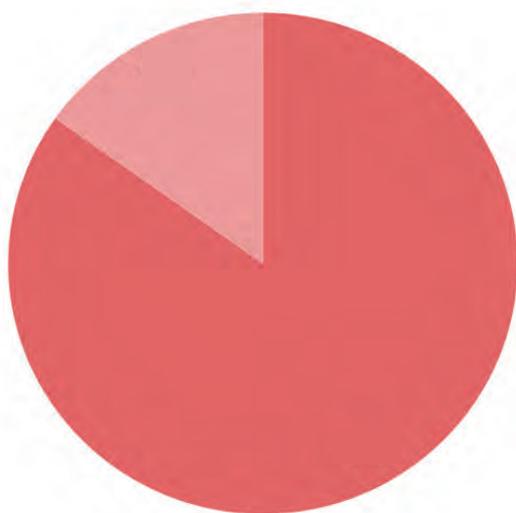
FINANCIAL YEAR RESULTS 2024

TOTAL INCOME 2024



	2024	2023
Membership Contributions	284,013 €	284,764 €
Donations	12,540 €	24,230 €
Unrestricted Donations	6,750 €	15,237 €
Restricted Donations	5,800 €	8,993 €
Sponsoring	8,000 €	0 €
Annual Sponsorship	8,000 €	0 €
Other income	13,949 €	34,356 €
Publications	500 €	749 €
Reimbursements members	4,350 €	24,717 €
Other Proceeds	9,100 €	8,890 €
Total Income	351,440 €	351,440 €

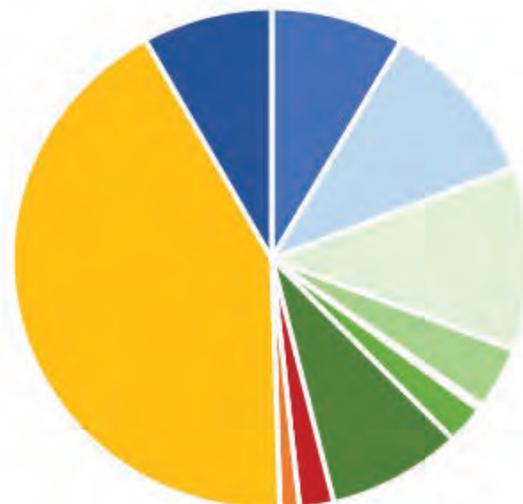
TOTAL EXPENSES 2024



Core Activities	283,133 €
Salaries and administration	51,551 €
General Operating Costs Association	43,574 €
General Operating Costs Germany	3,188 €
General Operating Costs Spain	1,100 €
General Operating Costs USA	2,268 €
General Operating Costs Belgium	1,421 €
Total Expenses	340,188 €

CORE ACTIVITIES 2024

Africa	24,000 €
Asia	31,020 €
Europe	34,220 €
Latin America	11,600 €
Pacific Region	1,000 €
Extra Support Fund	7,091 €
Working groups & thematic projects	24,294 €
Collaboration with other organisations	6,146 €
Donations/contributions to other organisations	3,500 €
Coordination & Support international work (1 1/2 positions)	122,371 €
Implementation and Organisation	23,395 €
Total Expense for Core Activities	288,637 €



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Dotzler, Ursula
Farnleitner, Ulrike
Jackstadt, Sigrid
Matsuura, Sono
Nicol, Janni
Paulsen, Eldbjoerg
Q., Niamh and Albert
Taplin, Jill
Walter-Baumgartner, Jacqueline
W., Leoni Friederike

DONATIONS FROM KINDERGARTENS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Australia Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education, AU
Japanese Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education, JP
Kindergarten Wien-Mauer, AT
Kindling, UK
Konpeitou Puppet Group, JP
Korea Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (KASWECE), KR
Mercurius
NESWEC, UK & Hochiming & Hanoi, VT
Riksföreningen Waldorfförskolornas Samråd, SE
Steinerbarenaheforbundet, NO
Waldorf School in Cantabria, ES
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America, US, CA, MX
Vereinigung der Waldorfkindergrärten, 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 2024

There were 21 founding member associations in 2006. In 2024 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 -lasteaedade Liit
- Finland:** Steinerkasvatuksen liitto/varhaiskasvatusjaosto
- France:** Fédération des Écoles Steiner-Waldorf
- Germany:** Vereinigung der Waldorfkinderergärten 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:** Asociația Educatoarelor Waldorf din România
- 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:** Waldorf Early Childhood Education Network, Thailand (SWECENT)
- Taiwan:** Taiwan Association of Steiner-Waldorf Kindergartens
- Ukraine:** Асоціація вальдорфських ініціатив в Україні
- United Kingdom:** Waldorf UK
- Vietnam:** Steiner-Waldorf Association in Vietnam (SWAVN)



United States



Sweden

United States



Croatia



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IASWECE

International Association for
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education