



© CBM Schweiz

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Swiss Network for Education  
& International Cooperation

- 3** Editorial
- 4** About us
- 5** RECI Institutional Developments in 2023
- 6** Partnership highlights
- 7-9** Education Forum 2023
- 10-11** Online RECI Open Space: Thematic Webinars
- 12-13** Timeline and Numbers 2023
- 14-17** RECI Working Groups
  - 14** Adult Education
  - 15** Education in Emergencies
  - 16-17** Teacher Training for Quality Education
- 18-19** Advocacy
- 20-21** Financial Report
- 22** Members, Board & Back Office
- 23** Strategic Partners & Donors



RECI Board, from left to right : Beatrice Schulter, Lisa Isler, Corinne Pernet, Jean-Marie Byll-Cataria, Valeria Kunz & Malika Kons (missing in this picture: Moira Faul and Myriam Gallio)

**Dear readers,  
Dear members, partners and  
friends of RECI,**

2023 was a pivotal year for RECI halfway through our 2021-2025 strategy. Through innovative approaches such as member-led working groups and online events, we have seen a significant increase in member participation in the first two years of the current strategy: in-kind contributions through collaboration and participation in our work have more than doubled and our network has grown by a third, from 30 to more than 40 members.

The growth of our network and the increasing number of events required extended coordination and communication. As a consequence, in 2022, we were faced with financial challenges, which we were able to solve last year thanks to the generous additional financial support from our members. The fact that members voted in favour of adjusting membership fees from 2024 onwards is confirmation that our strategy and the cooperation within the network are highly relevant to our members.

In the 2023 Annual Report, you can read about the exciting events, the discussions and advocacy activities we were able to organise thanks to this support, with the highlight of our 2023 Education Forum “Mind the Gap”, aiming at promoting access to quality education and lifelong learning for all worldwide.

We would like to thank all our members, partners and supporters and wish you an exciting read!

Jean-Marie Byll-Cataria  
President

Beatrice Schulter  
Executive Director

### OUR NETWORK

RECI is an independent, non-profit Swiss network comprising over 40 members: NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, and experts working in the fields of education and international cooperation.

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen the impact of Swiss organisations on international education practice and policy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the international human rights conventions are the framework for our work.

### OUR WORK

We are a driving force in promoting exchange and mutual learning to enhance access to quality education globally. Through events such as workshops, conferences, and webinars, we foster dynamic dialogue among our members, partners, and the broader public. Together, we develop recommendations and practical tools to actualize the right to education for everyone.

### OUR VISION

A world in which everyone's right to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning is realised.

The year 2023 marks the successful culmination of the first part of RECI's strategic plan for the period 2021-2025. RECI was pleased to welcome five new members. Three working groups led by our members are now operational, including the new group working on adult education issues (see p.14).

At the General Assembly, Lisa Isler, former director of cinfo, joined our Board while Corinne Pernet, Malika Kons, and Moira Faul were re-elected for a second term. The focus of discussions was to secure the financial prospects of RECI. The members discussed and supported two proposals from the Board: extra contributions in 2023 to support the Education Forum and a new membership fee structure starting in 2024. Both endeavours were successful, with members contributing an additional 13,210 CHF in 2023 and approving the new fee structure.

The RECI annual event, the Thematic Day has become the Education Forum. Our cornerstone event has evolved and attracted a larger audience over the years. The new name "Education Forum" better reflects the essence of our gathering:

our commitment to mutual learning, knowledge sharing, co-creation and our vision to engage with a broad audience within Switzerland and beyond. The Education Forum 2023 took an unconventional format, being organised for the first time by the three RECI working groups and the Back Office using the Open Space methodology (see pp.7-9).

In 2023, RECI was deeply engaged in advocacy efforts: apart from strategic discussions on how RECI could position itself in national and international advocacy discussions on education and international cooperation, we have seized two opportunities for joint advocacy activities. RECI organised the European and North American regional event of the Global Action Week for Education (see p.18). In addition, RECI led on the elaboration of a joint position paper in response to the consultation on the draft Swiss strategy for international cooperation 2025-2028, which was submitted on behalf of RECI members and the Board (see p.19)



RECI Members at the IC Forum, February 15 2023

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### An Enriching Day Filled With Inspiring Encounters at the IC Forum

Organised on February 15th by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, this year's International Cooperation Forum Switzerland centered on education and international cooperation. The RECI Back Office and numerous members participated in exhibitions, workshops, panel discussions, and insightful exchanges with field experts and organisations.

### Constructive Debriefing with GCE members at the Education Cannot Wait High-Level Financing Conference 2023

Education Cannot Wait and Switzerland co-hosted a high-level conference on February 16-17 to secure finances for education in emergencies for the next four years. RECI participated and organised a debriefing with Global Campaign for Education (GCE) members in Geneva. Together, we developed concrete recommendations to enhance education funding commitments, among other initiatives.

### Launch of the GEM 2023 Report on Technology and Education

The Swiss launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report 2023 (GEM 2023) on technology and education, organised by SDC, RECI, the Swiss Commission for UNESCO, and FoBBIZ, was held on October 24th. The event discussed global progress toward SDG 4 and EdTech's impact on equality. Following a panel discussion, participants engaged in interactive workshops in Bern and online to continue the conversation.

### FOSIT 2023 Symposium: RECI in Lugano for Quality Education for All!

At the FOSIT 2023 Symposium, RECI contributed to the concept and realisation of this event. Director Beatrice Schulter emphasised the need for urgent action amid the global education crisis, which is worsened by conflicts, pandemics, and climate change. Beatrice Schulter also led an interactive workshop on "Building a Good School Beyond Bricks." On an annual basis, FOSIT convenes experts to discuss global issues with an international cooperation focus. This collaboration has boosted RECI's visibility among education and international cooperation organisations in Ticino.



We all work in education, but probably one of the most powerful educational tools we have is being role models.

Nina Luhr



## RECI EDUCATION FORUM 2023 “MIND THE GAP”

RECI's annual event, now known as the "Education Forum", brought together experts and interested parties from all over Switzerland and beyond to spend a whole day discussing topical issues proposed and developed by members.

Our gratitude to the 100 participants who animated the RECI Education Forum 2023 “Mind the Gap”, both in Bern and online on November 21, contributing to rich and stimulating discussions.

Special thanks to our speakers; **Prof. Dr. Leon Tickly** (University of Bristol), **Prof. Dr. Elaine Unterhalter** (University College London), **Christine Semambo Sempebwa** (Forum African Women Educationalists, FAWE, Uganda), **Nicole Sourt Sánchez** (Sensability – Expertise for Inclusion, Switzerland), and **Nina Luhr's** (SAIH, Norway), who travelled long distances to enrich our exchanges.

The engaging panel discussion set the stage for the day: Speakers highlighted diverse gaps in the realisation of SDG4 and advocated for inclusive education, knowledge co-creation, decolonization of curricula, and for continuous

reassessment of power dynamics in various societal sectors.

After a stimulating debate, the Forum transitioned to its interactive part. Participants eagerly embraced the Open Space methodology\*, organising 14 workshops on topics like disability inclusion, future literacy, and human rights in cultural contexts. The closing session emphasised the importance of ongoing dialogue and mutual learning, extending beyond the event to involve colleagues in the field.

Consequently, the upcoming "Mind the Gap 2.0" Education Forum will delve deeper into discussions and explore additional topics. The event will be held online, enabling global participation.

You can find recordings of the panel discussion and closing sessions, along with workshop reports, on our website.

*\*The Open Space methodology fosters innovative discussions through self-organisation, allowing participants to create their own agenda around a central theme.*

MIND  
THE  
GAP



“The event was a great networking event. It discussed very key development topics. It was time very well utilised.  
Anonymous participant”



“Compared to academic conferences where people are very competitive, in this Forum there are some very important and nice relationships that have been acted out in a very comfortable space to work in.  
Elaine Unterhalter”



## OROS – ONLINE RECI OPEN SPACE

RECI organised four OROS events in 2023. These online events facilitate learning and exchange among network members and partners,

featuring themes defined by the members themselves. To increase their impact, they are recorded and publicly shared.

### From Special Schools to Inclusive Education Systems for Disabilities: The Case of Madagascar

During the webinar on inclusive education in Madagascar on March 9th, over 30 participants gathered to discuss the challenges and successes in transitioning from a segregated educational system to an inclusive environment. Organised by CBM Switzerland, CBM global representatives in Madagascar and their national partners highlighted innovative strategies to address the needs of every learner.



**Decolonising Education Financing: ENACE Regional Event within the Global Action Week on Education** (see p.18)

### Critical Insights from a Vocational Education and Training-Impact Study in Colombia

On June 22nd, Vivamos Mejor presented an impact assessment based on a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) to evaluate the effect of a vocational training programme that included psychosocial support for young people in Colombia. A dozen participants engaged in lively discussions during the webinar.



### Promoting Basic Skills for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Young People and Adults

On August 24th, organised by the Adult Education Working Group in collaboration with our partner FoBBIZ, we explored the development of basic skills for adults. Two speakers from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) examined basic skills programmes for vulnerable groups in Switzerland, sparking keen interest and questions from the 27 participants. Two network members then presented projects focused on marginalised groups in Egypt and Tanzania.



# RECI TIMELINE IN 2023



## RECI IN NUMBERS

# 2023

**260**  
Participants to RECI Events



**30** Institutional Members



**13** Individual Members



**14**  
Events



**3** Working Groups



**344** Volunteers' hours (including Board)



**75**  
Global South & International Participants



**1202**  
Members' Working Hours



## THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

In 2023, RECI brings together three thematic working groups, each led by a network member and with approximately 10 participants per group.

### ADULT EDUCATION — NEW WORKING GROUP

Adult education plays an essential role in promoting lifelong learning, providing individuals with opportunities for personal and professional development. In addition, vocational training and cultural education form an integral part of international collaboration in education. The group aims to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on international adult education initiatives.

In collaboration with our partner FoBIZZ (Swiss Forum for Vocational Education and Training and International Cooperation), the working group organised the OROS "Promoting equitable access to essential skills and quality education" (see p.11) and participated in the organisation of the Education Forum (see pp.7-9).

From 2024, the new working group was renamed Lifelong Learning,

The working groups are essential for RECI to conduct in-depth and specialised thematic work, tailored to the priorities, needs, and capacities of its members.

with a change of conveners to Carol Switzer and Nina Volles from Paeradigms.

#### CONVENER

Marianne Müller  
**SVEB** (Swiss Federation for Adult Learning)

#### MEMBERS

Oula Abu-Amsha  
Individual Member

Samir Boulos  
**Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (PHZH)**

Sibylle Ganz-Koechlin  
Individual Member

Lisa Isler,  
RECI Board

Carol Switzer  
**Paeradigms**

Nina Volles,  
**Paeradigms**

Jackie Vorpe,  
**FoBIZZ** (Partner)

Niklaus Waldvogel,  
**Swisscontact** (non-member)

## WORKING GROUP — EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Children and youth have a right to education, including in emergency situations. Yet, 72 million crisis-affected children and youth are currently out of school, with a majority, 84%, living in protracted crises. Education in Emergency (EiE) programmes are designed to minimize the barriers that emergencies pose, mitigate disruptions in education, ensure the continuity of learning, and, whenever feasible, enhance the quality of education while addressing protection concerns.

The RECI EiE working group is offering a platform to discuss relevant themes in EiE among its members and partners. In 2023, the working group structured the discussion and collaboration around three sub-groups on education in emergency situations and migration, the Triple Nexus approach, and transformative gender approaches. Additionally, the group also engaged in the organisation of the Education Forum (see pp.7-9).

#### CONVENERS

Valeria Kunz  
Derya Kaygisiz  
**Save the Children**  
**Switzerland**

#### MEMBERS

Oula Abu-Amsha  
Individual Member

Kathrin Baumann  
**Right To Play**

Nicolas Cacciuttolo  
**Helvetas**

Sàra Dienes  
**Helpcode**

Consuelo Guardia  
Macchiavello  
Individual Member

Anne Malaplate  
Individual Member

Daniela Marassi  
**Terre des Hommes Suisse**

François Niada  
**SDC (Partner)**

Marion Panizzon  
Individual Member

Roberta Pellizzoli  
**Helpcode**

Chiara Quintavalle  
**Helpcode**

Beatrice Rutishauser Ramm  
Individual Member



## TEACHER TRAINING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION — WORKING GROUP

Quality education relies on well-trained and supported teaching staff, yet the reality is often different, especially in the Global South. Too many teachers find themselves facing classrooms without adequate training, basic infrastructure, and teaching materials. The RECI Teacher Training for Quality Education (TTQE) working group develops approaches and tools to support the initial and ongoing training of teachers to ensure quality education for all children.

Over the past 2 years, the working group has developed a report on TTQE, based on recommendations from our 2019 and 2020 Thematic Days. These recommendations show the benefits of international cooperation in early childhood development (ECD), primary and secondary education, both formal and non-formal. The report reflects the collaborative efforts from the TTQE working group and RECI members.

Based on the results of Thematic Day 2022, the group focused on preparing and presenting RECI members' experiences of teacher training in relation to SDG 4.7.

Members were invited to share their organisation's work to inspire practices within and beyond RECI. These experiences will be published on the RECI website in 2024, along with various other resources.

### CONVENERS

Thibaut Lauwerier  
**eduCoop**

### MEMBERS

Oula Abu-Amsha  
Individual Member

Cristina Carulla  
**Enfants du Monde**

Anahy Gajardo  
**Terre des Hommes Suisse**

Sybille Ganz-Köchlin  
Individual Member

Derya Kaygisiz  
**Save the Children Switzerland**

Valeria Kunz  
**Save the Children Switzerland**

Anne Malaplate-Miladinov  
Individual Member

Marion Panizzon  
Individual Member

Nina Volles,  
**Paeradigms**

Andrea Wynistorf  
**Swiss Academy for Development**



The group also developed a manifesto based on the 2022 Thematic Day workshop results, focusing on SDG 4.7, presented at the 2023 Education Forum.

Additionally, two conferences titled inspir'ED, aimed at bringing together different perspectives to inspire the training of teachers both locally and globally, were held at

the University of Geneva, one in June on global citizenship education in teacher training and another in December on digital education and inclusion in schools.

Lastly, the group also contributed to the organisation of the Education Forum (see pp.7-9).

## ADVOCACY

Throughout 2023, RECI has undertaken several advocacy activities within the network and at public events with its partners.

### INVESTING IN A JUST WORLD. DECOLONISING EDUCATION FINANCING NOW!

RECI took a leading role in the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2023 from May 29 to June 2, organised by the Global Campaign for Education on the theme of decolonising education financing.

For too long, global debates on education finance have focused solely on international aid, even though national education budgets represent the largest portion of education financing. International aid constitutes the smallest part of education financing, yet it influences how national education budgets can be allocated.

RECI, part of the European and North American Campaign for Education (ENACE), hosted the online regional ENACE event with over 60 education advocates. In collaboration with NORRAG and eduCoop, the event showcased four experts, including tax justice specialist David Archer, who explained various perspectives on

why it is essential to rethink education finance to ensure the achievement of SDG 4 by 2030.

*Watch the recordings on our website: [www.reci-education.ch](http://www.reci-education.ch).*

Also, as part of GAWE, we organised two workshops exclusively for our members to engage in in-depth discussions on the decolonisation of education financing and to collectively consider the role RECI can play in advancing the discussion in Switzerland, as well as what members can do in their respective programme

Throughout the action week, RECI and its members widely shared campaign messages and information on social media to raise awareness of the issue.

### RECI'S POSITION ON THE SWISS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY 2025-2028

RECI responded to the draft Swiss International Cooperation Strategy 2025-2028 and expressed its concerns in a position statement. The statement highlights the lack of attention given to education, which is crucial for achieving the SDGs. RECI proposed specific recommendations highlighting education as a central theme of human development, promoting an inclusive educational continuum and emphasising the role of education in achieving the SDGs related to sustainable economic development, the environmental protection, peace and security, and good governance.

RECI regrets, among other things, the budget reduction and requests

that special financial assistance for Ukraine be funded through an additional credit.

### RECI ADVOCACY STRATEGY

A workshop for RECI member organisations was organised in collaboration with our member, the Salève Foundation, to reflect on RECI's potential with regards to advocacy. The RECI Board convened for a day of reflection to discuss RECI's advocacy strategy in more detail, based on the outcomes of the workshop. The results of these discussions are the basis for the discussions in the framework of the new overall RECI strategy for 2026 and beyond.



DECOLONISING  
EDUCATION  
FINANCING  
with David Archer

GCE ENACE Regional  
OROS – Online  
May 3, 2023



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INCOME STATEMENT

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
Membership fees	33'322,37	24'300,00
In-kind contributions from members	75'920,00	80'685,00
In-kind contributions from members (conceptual)	60'822,50	83'835,00
Donations from members	18'070,00	0,00
Contributions/donations from third parties	3'311,90	3'000,00
Contributions from public sector (SDC)	149'000,00	141'000,00
Contributions for services rendered	4'252,50	3'819,05
<b>Income</b>	<b>344 699,27</b>	<b>336 639,05</b>
Direct project costs	-43'604,78	-48'782,59
In-kind contributions from members	-136'742,50	-164'520,00
Services back-office	-133'504,80	-134'315,00
<b>Direct project costs</b>	<b>-313 852,08</b>	<b>-347 617,59</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>30 847,19</b>	<b>-10 978,54</b>
Office rent	-4 782,24	-3 496,48
Office supplies, printed matter	-199,70	-298,50
Communications (telephone, postage, internet)	-1'011,21	-1'017,36
Accounting, consulting, auditing	-6'761,90	-4'502,15
IT expenses	-45,65	-693,65
Representation and travel expenses	-1 025,00	-911,46
Other operating expenses	-40,60	0,00
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	<b>-13 866,30</b>	<b>-10 919,60</b>
Financial expenses	-129,92	-95,78
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>-129,92</b>	<b>-95,78</b>
<b>Net profit/loss of the year</b>	<b>16 850,97</b>	<b>-21 993,92</b>

## BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash (bank accounts)	32 048,24	36 354,34
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	1 084,37	3 010,65
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>33 132,61</b>	<b>39 364,99</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>33 132,61</b>	<b>39 364,99</b>

## LIABILITIES AND ORGANISATION EQUITY

Payables for goods and services/accounts payable	0,00	14 033,35
Other short-term/current liabilities (current account PCF)	4 544,44	0,00
Advances received	0,00	750
Accrued expenses and deferred income	17 221,60	15 521,60
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>	<b>21 766,04</b>	<b>30 304,95</b>
Other long-term liabilities (current account PCF)	0,00	14 544,44
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>14 544,44</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>21 766,04</b>	<b>44 849,39</b>
<b>Free capital:</b>		
Loss/profit carried forward	-5'484,40	16'509,52
Net profit/loss of the year	16'850,97	-21'993,92
<b>ORGANISATION EQUITY</b>	<b>11 366,57</b>	<b>-5 484,40</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ORGANISATION EQUITY</b>	<b>33 132,61</b>	<b>39 364,99</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN CAPITAL

<b>Free capital:</b>		
Loss/profit carried forward	-5'484,40	16'509,52
Net profit/loss of the year	16'850,97	-21'993,92
<b>ORGANISATION EQUITY</b>	<b>11 366,57</b>	<b>-5 484,40</b>

The detailed annual financial statements, prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, and the report of the auditors Von Graffenried Treuhand AG are available on our website

## MEMBERS, BOARD & BACK OFFICE



### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Oula Abu-Amsha  
Jean-Marie Byll-Cataria  
Barbara Class  
Sibylle Ganz-Koechlin  
Consuelo Guardia M.  
Tina Hascher  
Lisa Isler  
Malika Kons  
Rosemarie Lausset  
Anne Malaplate-Miladinov  
Jorge Montoya-Romani  
Marion Panizzon  
Beatrice Rutishauser Ramm

### BOARD

Jean-Marie Byll-Cataria  
RECI President  
Moiria Faul  
NORRAG  
Myriam Gallio  
Enfants du Monde  
Lisa Isler  
Malika Kons  
Valeria Kunz  
Save the Children Switzerland  
Corinne Pernet  
PHZH IPE

### RECI Back Office

Beatrice Schuster  
Executive Director  
Nadine Bernasconi  
Communications Officer

S V E B ■ Schweizerischer Verband für Weiterbildung  
Fédération suisse pour la formation continue  
Federazione Svizzera per la formazione continua  
F S E A ■ Swiss Federation for Adult Learning



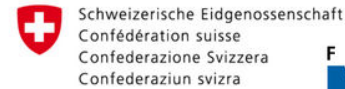
Schweiz  
Suisse  
Svizzera  
Svizra



Pestalozzi  
Children's  
Foundation



## OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS & DONORS



Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO  
Schweizerische UNESCO-Kommission  
Commissione svizzera per l'UNESCO  
Commissiun svizra per l'UNESCO



We extend a heartfelt thank you to our members whose extra financial contribution made the Education Forum 2023 possible

CBM Schweiz  
Helvetas  
Medicor Foundation  
Paeradigms  
Enfants du Monde  
PHZH IPE  
Salève Foundation  
Save the Children Switzerland  
Terre des Hommes Suisse

UNICEF Switzerland &  
Liechtenstein  
Vivamos Mejor  
World Vision Schweiz

2 institutional members and 6  
individual members that wish  
to remain anonymous



ENACE Members at the ECW HLFC, February 16, 2023



Swiss Network for Education  
& International Cooperation

## JOIN US & BECOME A MEMBER !



[info@reci-education.ch](mailto:info@reci-education.ch)

[www.reci-education.ch](http://www.reci-education.ch)

## SUPPORT US

By supporting RECI, you contribute to improving the quality of Swiss education projects in the Global South and to giving more children and adults worldwide access to quality education.

Make a donation : Postfinance: IBAN CH10 0900 0000 6126 8126 0  
Account holder: RECI – Réseau Suisse Éducation et Coopération Internationale

