



# **Annual Report 2023**

May 2024

**SWP Secretariat**

c/o Helvetas

Weinbergstrasse 22a

8021 Zürich

[info@swisswaterpartnership.ch](mailto:info@swisswaterpartnership.ch)

[www.swisswaterpartnership.ch](http://www.swisswaterpartnership.ch)



# SWP Annual Report 2023

## Content

<b>1. Foreword .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. About the Swiss Water Partnership .....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 SWP Vision and Impact.....	8
<b>4. Achievements 2023 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Outcome 1: Networking, exchange and learning .....	10
4.2 Outcome 2: Building solutions together .....	13
4.3 Outcome 3: The Swiss voice in global spaces for water security .....	20
4.4 Outcome 4: Platform Development .....	27
<b>5. Financial Overview .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6. Members of the SWP .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>7. Organizational structure .....</b>	<b>34</b>
7.1 Steering Board .....	35
7.2 Secretariat.....	36
7.3 SWP Youth .....	37
<b>Annex I: Membership list as per 31.12.2023 .....</b>	<b>39</b>



## 1. Foreword

Dear Members and Partners,

I am delighted to share with you our annual report for the year 2023.

In 2023, the Swiss Water Partnership was actively engaged in several key events and initiatives aimed at advancing our mission. These included an event on the 'Human Right to Water' with Pedro Arrojo Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation, our participation in the **UN 2023 Water Conference**, and our General Assembly hosted by Switzerland Global Enterprise. Additionally, we showcased Swiss water expertise at the **Stockholm World Water Week** with a booth and supported the Swiss finalists of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. We also submitted a response on Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy. Through SWP Youth, we launched a new edition of the Water Challenge, culminating in the selection of six youth projects for support. Furthermore, we are proud to announce the launch of our **new SWP website**, offering a modern and engaging platform to highlight our members' contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my esteemed co-chair, Darcy Molnar, who served alongside me between October 2021 until the end of 2023. Darcy has been a much-appreciated member of the Steering Board with a heart for the education of future water professionals and as a representative for the academic membership base. She has served on the SWP Steering Board on behalf of ETH Zurich, the Institute of Environmental Engineering (IfU), for an impressive decade, starting from her first SB meeting in November 2013. She has contributed much to the SWP with her keen eye for solid processes, alertness, and constructive inputs. The **Swiss Water Partnership is profoundly thankful to Darcy Molnar** for her energy, dedication, and time.

Warm regards,

Johannes Heeb  
SWP Chair



## 2. Executive Summary

### Activities 2023

The year 2023 started with a joint event of several members and other stakeholders on “Human Right to Water – from St. Gallen to New York” with Pedro Arrojo Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation. In March, several of our members, including SWP Youth, participated at the UN 2023 Water Conference, a milestone towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The General Assembly in May was a great opportunity for our members to network, exchange and to get to know Switzerland Global Enterprise, at whose facilities the event took place.

Then, we were present at the Stockholm World Water Week in August with a SWP booth, where several SWP members and partners participated in an attractive and well-visited program. We were also proud to accompany and support the finalists of Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2023, who were invited to present their project at the World Water Week. In September, we submitted a response on Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2025-28, promoting the interests of our members in contributing to solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries. Through SWP Youth we launched a new edition of the SWP Youth Water Challenge, with several events leading up to the winner's ceremony in October, selecting six youth projects that will receive financial support and mentoring to make them happen. Finally, we are also very pleased with our new [SWP website](#), which went live at the end of the year. It presents the SWP in a modern, clean, and appealing look and puts our members in the spotlight.

### Finances and membership base

In 2023, the Swiss Water Partnership generated an income of 342'228 CHF, falling short by around 30% of the budgeted 482'055 CHF. This income comprised 58% from SDC contributions, 16% from membership fees, and 26% from member contributions for services and sponsorship, as well as in-kind contributions. Conversely, expenses totaled 387'929 CHF, approximately 94'000 CHF (20%) lower than budgeted. Despite the lower than budgeted expenses, a negative balance of 45'701 CHF was recorded for the year, resulting in a negative capital of 13'379 CHF. Measures to enhance income and reduce expenses are necessary for financial sustainability.

Per end of 2023, the Swiss Water Partnership counted 65 members. Five new members were welcomed over the year, with one already confirmed at the General Assembly 2023 and four pending confirmations at the General Assembly 2024. At the same time, five members exit the SWP per end of 2023. The partnership's composition comprises 43% private sector actors, 28% non-profit organizations, 16% academia and research, 6% networks and professional associations, and 7% public sector entities.



### **Lessons learnt and steering implications**

To ensure financial stability, the Swiss Water Partnership must diversify its revenue streams by expanding its membership base, improving membership retention and securing additional sponsorship for youth activities. Efforts to enhance visibility, such as the launch of a new website and increased engagement on LinkedIn, are underway. Adjusting membership fees and leveraging member activities for revenue are also viable strategies. Furthermore, the partnership aims to refine its vision and strategy for the post-2025 period to better meet the needs of its members. These actions are intended to bolster financial resources, sustain member engagement, and solidify the partnership's position as the first entry for Swiss water expertise in addressing global water challenges.



### 3. About the Swiss Water Partnership

Switzerland has a vibrant water sector. Swiss water professionals have demonstrated their capacity to develop innovative and effective solutions to improve among others **transboundary water management, flood protection, and water pollution control and treatment. Swiss water research** and the **Swiss water and wastewater operators' training** and continuing education system are globally recognised. Many countries show interest in Swiss water technologies such as on **micro-pollutants, waste management (waste to energy), and hydropower**. Switzerland's development cooperation in water is highly recognised, in particular for its **long-term institutional and capacity building, contribution to water for peace, local governance, risk management, innovative partnerships with the public and the private sector, and contributing to global water policies incl. shaping the new global water architecture**. Finally, the presence of both private investors and UN organisations including UN Water in Switzerland represents a unique opportunity for the Swiss water sector to link up and thus create an added value for the sector.

The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) was launched in 2012 based on the initiative of SDC with the aim to contribute to solving global water challenges and position Switzerland at the forefront of the international water community. More specifically, the SWP aims at **contributing to achieving water-related SDG targets by providing space for reflections and partnership creation, developing innovative solutions, and raising visibility of good practices at international level**.

The SWP is an **independent, value-based platform** that brings together member organisations from the Swiss academic, civil society, public and private spheres. The SWP is a non-profit association. Its bylaws define its scope, objectives, guiding principles, and organs (the General Assembly, steering board, and secretariat).

The goal and guiding principles of the SWP are to bring together relevant Swiss stakeholders active in the international water sector, with the aim to ensure that the members and their partners abroad **contribute in a coordinated and effective way** to promote:

- sustainable and equitable use of water resources
- sustainable provision of universal access to drinking water and sanitation for all citizens
- sustainable and equitable management of ecosystems, including water, food and energy production aspects
- mitigation and adaptation to prevent natural hazards
- Swiss know-how and experiences in addressing the above-mentioned challenges, particularly by working together in preparing and implementing major international processes and events.





### 3.1. SWP Vision and Impact

The SWP's **vision** is to be a **globally recognized Swiss platform of high-quality trans-disciplinary water solutions**.

The envisioned **impact** of the Swiss Water Partnership is that Swiss know-how and expertise contribute to **global water security<sup>1</sup> for sustainable development**.

The Swiss Water Partnership is expected to have an indirect impact on the **lives of the people** most vulnerable and exposed to water-related risks and challenges (lack of sustainable access to water and sanitation, water-related disasters, water-related conflicts, etc.), on **environmental protection** as well as **economic development** of the countries the members are working in.

The SWP activities mainly seek to contribute to achieving **SDG 6** on water but also relate to other SDGs like SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 on food, SDG 3 on health, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 11 on sustainable cities or SDG 13 on climate action.

The role of the Swiss Water Partnership is to facilitate Swiss water actors, including youth, to exchange their **knowledge and expertise**, to learn, **co-develop** and jointly **contribute innovative solutions to global water challenges**.

Our **impact hypothesis** is that *if* the Swiss Water Partnership continues with a diverse and active membership base of Swiss actors in the water domain, including youth, which is well connected and facilitated, *then* its members can mutually benefit from networking, knowledge exchange and learning from each other. *If* the members know each other's interests, expertise and competences, *then* they can co-develop joint projects, approaches and innovative solutions relevant for global water security, building synergies across the science-practice-policy spheres. Engaging youth will generate new ideas for the sector and will prepare the new generation of water professionals. *If* the SWP is well connected and present at global water fora and events with a strong Swiss voice, the members have the space to share and contribute Swiss water solutions internationally. This international presence will allow the review, refinement, adoption, and replication of effective approaches. Well-connected and bundled Swiss know-how and expertise will hence contribute to global water security for sustainable development.

---

<sup>1</sup> Water security is at the heart of SDG6, which states «ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all». Water security can be defined, following UN-Water, as 'the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability' (UN-Water, 2013).





## 4. Achievements 2023

In 2022, The Swiss Water Partnership started a new phase (2022-2025) and defined four outcomes (see Figure 1):

- Outcome 1: Networking, exchange, learning
- Outcome 2: Building solutions together
- Outcome 3: The Swiss voice in global spaces for water security
- Outcome 4: Platform development

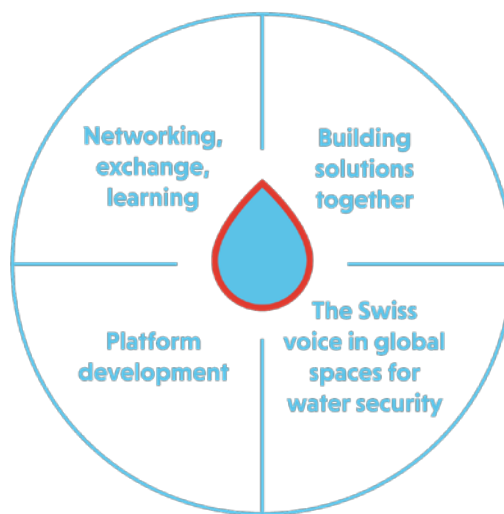


Figure 1 – Outcomes SWP Phase 4 (2022-2025)

This chapter gives an overview of the SWP activities realized in 2023 for each outcome. A summary of the key activities is given in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of key activities in 2023 for each outcome

<b>Outcome 1</b>	<b>Outcome 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Assembly SWP</li> <li>• General Assembly SWP Youth</li> <li>• Workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockholm Junior Water Prize</li> <li>• Youth Water Challenge 2023</li> <li>• Event Pedro Arrojo Agudo in St.Gallen</li> <li>• Consultation response ODA Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome3</b>	<b>Outcome 4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Water conference</li> <li>• Stockholm World Water Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New website</li> <li>• Maintained membership relations</li> </ul>



#### 4.1. Outcome 1: Networking, exchange and learning

The core activities of the Swiss Water Partnership and main value for its members are **networking and connecting** as well as **knowledge exchange and learning**. The goal is that the SWP members have increased their knowledge and expertise of current water-related topics through the platform's work.

The SWP has three main **outputs** for this:

- a) Provide spaces for members to know each other and their expertise areas and network
- b) Share and enrich Swiss knowledge and expertise among members and with external experts
- c) Facilitate the exchange between young people and senior water experts to enhance inter-generational learning and professional insertion

#### SWP General Assembly 2023 and SWP Youth General Assembly 2023

The [General Assembly 2023](#) took place at the headquarters of its new member **Switzerland Global Enterprise** in Zurich. The 33 participants represented 15 member organizations. Several representatives of the SWP Youth joined the afternoon program. The minutes of the General Assembly were sent to all members.



Figure 2 – Group picture at the General Assembly at Switzerland Global Enterprise in Zurich

David Avery presented how **Switzerland Global Enterprise**, as Swiss export promotion organization, supports Swiss SMEs in their international business, particularly on cleantech (including smart cities, circular economy, and energy efficiency). In the last five years, S-GE has supported 86 companies in the field of water and wastewater.

To identify new **opportunities for collaboration** among members, four SWP members pitched ideas which were then discussed in subgroups. Topics included *Distribution of water technologies through microfranchising* and *Lighthouse Initiatives for resource-efficient non-grid systems*. Interactive workshops were conducted to explore collaboration opportunities and synergies among members based on the presented approaches.



In the statutory part, chaired by Johannes Heeb, members were informed on the key achievements of 2022 (as presented in the **2022 operational report**) and the audited **financial report**. The overview of activities in 2023/2024 was approved, an update was given on the state of SWP membership and rotations in Steering Board members were approved.

Finally, the reflections on **Strategic positioning of the SWP 2026+** that have taken place at steering board level were presented. André Wehrli as **SDC** representative provided background to the decision to end core contribution to SWP per December 2025. Due to lack of human resources, SDC cannot be part of the Steering Board after the GA. Yet, SDC continues as a strong supporter and partner to the SWP in a new form of cooperation still to be defined. The secretariat presented the main elements of the layered **business model** of SWP starting 2026: 1) financing the secretariat and the core activities of the platform through the membership fees. 2) Additionally, the SWP shall offer services for which members pay additionally, based on their participation per event. 3) Sponsorship will be continued, as an additional third source of income. The Steering Board suggests 33% increase in **membership fee**. The new membership fees will need to be approved with a vote in 2024, to enter into force in 2025. Overall, members agreed with the business model proposed and the increase in membership fees. Yet members also suggest that the moment should be used to revise the objectives for SWP 2026+. Various potential actions were suggested to increase the membership base, new fundraising streams and a clear communication strategy on the added value for members with an increase in membership fees.

In parallel to SWP's main general assembly, the younger generation had its own **SWP Youth General Assembly** during the afternoon, at Swiss Global Enterprise as well. Approximately 15 young people attended the afternoon where an input was provided about how to effectively advocate for youth representation in decision-making. The input was based on the Youth Coordinator's experiences made as a Youth Representative to the Swiss Delegation at the UN Water Conference in New York in March 2023, and was followed by a round of Q&A. After this, groups were formed for a brief ideation workshop on lessons learnt from the past editions of the "SWP Youth Water Challenge" and how the 2023 Water Challenge, including its co-creation workshop, could be made more accessible and attractive to Swiss-based youth. Finally, two new members to the Youth Coordination Team were elected: Johnmark Acheampong and Lena Xue, PhD students at EAWAG Zurich. One of the senior Youth Coordinators, Abishek Narayan, stepped back as Youth Coordinator and changed his role to SWP Youth Advisor.

### **Matura Mentoring Initiative**

The SWP Youth members Georg Odermatt, Julian Rieder and Solène Schaub have been conducting the second year of Matura Mentoring Initiative (MMI). The MMI is a joint undertaking by SWP Youth, the Swiss Toilet Organisation and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Switzerland. Its purpose is to motivate and guide Matura



students to do a Matura thesis in the field of water. To this end, the team offers students the opportunity to get in contact with experts in a water-specific topic and thus work on exciting and current issues and benefit from the expert's knowledge. The team reached out to several high schools and compiled a list of topics provided by SWP members who are available to accompany a Matura Thesis. In 2023, three theses were completed: Two students worked together on the topic of microplastics in the Aare, and the other worked on water self-sufficiency by collecting rainwater.

### Networkshops

SWP Youth's Networkshops of 2023 took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Helvetas Headquarters in Zurich. Approximately 40 attendees exchanged ideas and got inspired by four invited experts from different sectors: Karin Gallandat from SECO (public sector), Randolph Waters from Xylem (private sector), Christoph Lüthi from Sandec (academia) and Amie Heath from World Vision (NGO/ non-profit) provided insights in applied project cases and discussed viable solutions to pin-pointed questions with the audience. The event was followed by a lively apéro and several social media posts were created and shared on SWP Youth's instagram and LinkedIn. The apéro was sponsored by Xylem and the venue was hosted by Helvetas.



*Figure 3 – Impressions from the Networkshops at Helvetas in Zurich*





## 4.2. Outcome 2: Building solutions together

One of the main reasons for the foundation of the Swiss Water Partnership was to **create partnerships and synergies** among SWP members by putting together different actors with complementary know-how and expertise. Building solutions together remains a central element in the SWP's strategy. The SWP builds on the assumption that there is a demand for 'bundled Swiss expertise'.

Mobilising Swiss water actors for global water issues is one of SWP's value propositions. The partnership aims at supporting Swiss water actors to participate in policy processes particularly related to the **monitoring and implementation of SDG 6** and promoting the operationalisation of the human rights to water and sanitation principles. To achieve SDG 6, SWP can provide space for reflections, partnership development, and dialogue, and by promoting the joint development of new ideas. The joint contribution to global policy dialogues on SDG 6 by joint statements to federal consultations is one specific output of this co-development.

The SWP has three main **outputs** for this:

- a) Facilitate spaces for members to co-create / co-develop joint projects and innovations, bridging science-practice-policy spheres on water.
- b) Actively engage young people in all activities to co-create innovative water solutions and policies
- c) Support SWP members to contribute jointly to global policy dialogues on SDG6.

### **Working session and event with Pedro Arrojo Agudo in St. Gallen**

Together with Skat Foundation, Blue Communities St. Gallen, the City of St. Gallen, the University of St. Gallen, OST – Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, and HEKS/EPER (Swiss Church Aid), the Swiss Water Partnership organized a (closed) working session as well as a public event with the UN special rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation Pedro Arrojo Agudo on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The working session was attended by representatives of Eawag, SDC (facilitation), Canton of St. Gallen (representing the Platform Agenda 2023 Ostschweiz), Solidarit'eau Suisse, Blue Community/HEKS, SUPSI (representing the city-city partnership Lugano-Hawassa) and Skat Foundation. Its main objective was to better understand the process around the upcoming UN Water Conference in March and to explore opportunities for the Swiss actors to contribute.

Pedro Arrojo Agudo gave an introduction about the importance of the UN Water Conference, which he sees as the start to an enhanced engagement of the UN with water/WASH. A varied participation of actors, particularly of the right holders is important. Three examples of engagement by Swiss actors were discussed, namely Blue Communities, City-city partnerships as a form of municipal initiative beyond financial contributions through Solidarit'eau, and the water flow diagram developed by Eawag/Sandec as a tool for advocacy for access to water. Mayors were identified as key players to push for a stronger focus on water (and WASH) in the agendas of



cities/municipalities. The participants agreed upon next steps towards participation at the UN water conference (see more on this below under Outcome 3).

The public event “Human Rights to Water – from St. Gallen to New York: Local Action for Global Challenges” took on the question of how the global water crisis affects actors on the ground, and what possibilities for action we have. It started with a keynote speech by Pedro Arrojo Agudo, followed by an input by Peter Jans, the city councillor of the municipality of St. Gallen. It was rounded off by a panel discussion between the two previous speakers, Simon Zbinden, Head of Water Section, SDC, Anna Sidonia Marugg, winner of the Junior Stockholm Water Prize Switzerland 2020 and activist in water/climate, Dorothee Spuhler, researcher at Eawag/Sandec and Gaston Jehle, Association Drink&Donate, moderated by Bertha Camacho, Skat Foundation. The event was free of charge and took place at the university of St. Gallen.

### Consultation response ODA Strategy

In June 2023, the Federal Council launched the public consultation on Switzerland's next International Cooperation Strategy 2025-28. In terms of content, the strategy was in big parts a continuation of the current one, as it maintains its overall objectives and relies on existing approaches. However, many stakeholders are very concerned about the proposed budget frame, in which 1.5 bn CHF are earmarked for supporting Ukraine and its neighbouring countries. As the overall budget is not going to increase, this means significant budget cuts for many other countries, which also affects many SWP members.

The SWP has sent a consultation response with the following key messages:

- We disapprove of the **decrease of Switzerland's ODA** to 0.42 % of the Swiss GNI. This should be increased to 0.7 %.
- The important **support for Ukraine is to be financed through additional funds** and should not come at the expense of Switzerland's long-term support of the most vulnerable.
- We would welcome it if the Strategy showed **financial resources budgeted along each of the 4 strategic objectives**.
- We miss policy coherence as **Switzerland's considerable environmental footprints are not recognized** and we demand policies for responsible consumption and production at home and overseas by Swiss private sector and consumers.
- We would appreciate it if the **relevance of all stakeholders** was equally recognized in the wording of the Strategy.

With the goal of facilitating consultation responses by the SWP members (as it is more favorable to send several consultation responses, i.e. one by SWP and separate ones by all interested members, than one consolidated response). the SWP Secretariat also provided all its members with a **template for their own consultation response**.



This template could either be used as is or modified to best reflect each member's position. In addition, the Secretariat also provided with a template for the respective cover letter as well as a step-by step guide for the submission of the consultation response.

### **Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Switzerland**

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Switzerland recognizes young students between 15 and 20 years old who have conducted outstanding school projects written on water and sanitation issues with proven environmental, scientific, social, or technological significance. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Switzerland (SJWP-CH) has been awarded since 2017, initially under the name Swiss Junior Water Prize. It is a joint effort of the Swiss Water Partnership and the Swiss Toilet Organisation, aiming to encourage Swiss Youth to grow an interest in water and sustainability issues.

The projects eligible to contend for the SJWP-CH are selected from those submitted to the national science contest Swiss Youth in Science (SYiS). In one of the final steps, the jury of SYiS applies a set of criteria specifically developed to assess water-related projects. Possible candidates for the prize are applied sciences projects that address an environmentally and socially relevant topic related to water and/or sanitation in a solutions-oriented way. The SJWP-CH is presented during the National Finals Award Ceremony along with more than 30 special prizes.

In 2023 it was awarded to Frederick Steinmann and Karim Malik for the project **“Modular IoT Aquaponics Control Unit”**. It addresses the important issue of smart and targeted use of available water supply as well as food security by investigating easily applicable and large-scale scientific Aquaponic gardening Control Unit systems in the West African setting. The expert jury of the Swiss Youth in Science National Competition praised the two young researchers and their project for the issues it attempts to address, its inventiveness, scientific rigour, precision, tenacity, and the innovative aspects of the work.

At the end of May, Frederick and Karim participated in the Swiss Water Partnership General Assembly, where they collected the first feedback and reactions from actors in the Swiss water sector. A couple of weeks later, the Skat Foundation, a long-time main sponsor of the prize, hosted a hybrid coaching session for Frederik and Karim where they rehearsed their project presentation according to the time limitations they would face in Stockholm. At the beginning of August, they were coached by Michael Kropac, co-director of cewas at the Stadtmühle in Willisau, and rehearsed an effective way to tell the story of their project idea compellingly.





*Figure 4 – Karim Malik and Frederick Steinmann during their third interview with the jury in Stockholm (left, Photo credit: STO) and at the SJWP Award Ceremony with the other finalists and H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden (right, Photo credit: SIWI).*

At Stockholm World Water Week, Karim and Frederick were competing against 30 entries from other countries and had the opportunity to showcase their project in three interviews. They demonstrated the relevance, applicability, and growth potential of their idea with great presentation skills and a high level of technical knowledge, delivering convincing answers to all questions that the jury formulated. Besides defending their projects in front of the jury, the students had many opportunities to increase their knowledge, gain skills, exercise cultural exchange, and establish friendships. They visited the offices and laboratories of Xylem where they learnt about state-of-the-art research and technology in the water industry. They also participated in the World Water Week Session “Empowering the next generation to close the gender gap”, where they discussed with the panellists on topics of youth and gender inclusion in the water sector. Karim and Frederick also had the opportunity to hold a last project presentation at the booth of the Swiss Water Partnership in the venue of World Water Week, where they didn’t fail to amaze the participants with their innovative control unit and their well-funded know-how. The highlight of the week was the award ceremony of the SJWP, where the finalists had the opportunity to meet H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, the patron of the prize.

Even though the Swiss entry did not win in the end, the week in Stockholm was a full success for Karim Malik and Frederick Steinmann. Not only did they gain valuable experiences at this prestigious international event, their innovation also caught the attention of Xylem’s experts in Stockholm and gave way to very interesting discussions, which would turn into valuable opportunities. Taking advantage of a gap year before his university studies, Karim Malik started an internship at Xylem’s facilities in Stockholm, where he put his IT skills into practice while participating in some of the most innovative programs of this global company. The opportunity was offered to both winners, but Frederik Steinmann, who is younger than his team partner, must concentrate on finishing his secondary education before seizing this opportunity.

A special “thank you” to our sponsors **Xylem**, **Skat Foundation**, **seecon**, **cewas** and **Stadt Zug**. We also thank **Karla Schlie** from the Swiss Toilet Organisation for



coordinating this prize and our partners **VSA** and **Schweizer Jugend forscht** for their support.

### SWP Youth Water Challenge

For the water challenge 2023, Swiss and International young water talents came together to co-create and shape innovative water projects. From January to November 2023, the SWP Youth Coordinators guided through the process by conducting a co-creation workshop, providing inputs on systems thinking and on how to make a good project application as well as an open door Q&A session for each project team. 50 participants joined the Co-Creation Workshop and the different sessions.

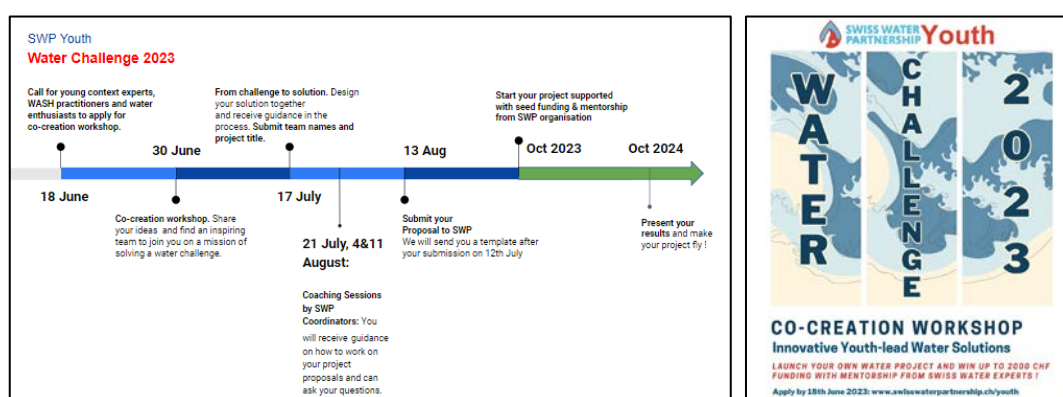


Figure 5 – Illustration of the timeline of the 2023 Water Challenge and flyer for the co-creation workshop

As a result, SWP Youth received 18 projects from all over the world and carefully selected the top 6 through several rounds of evaluation and following up with some projects to clarify questions before the final selection.

The Winner's ceremony at the end of October 2023 was held online. In the event, results from previous years' projects were presented by the 2022 winners themselves (see next section), including valuable lessons learned over the past year of mentorship and project implementation. After that, the winners of 2023 were announced. We congratulate the winning projects 2023, which are presented on the [SWP website](#) as well as in the following list:

- The Power of Valves, Cabo Verde: This science-based short movie about Water Infrastructure aims to reach out to civil society to raise awareness on the problem of poor water services in Cabo Verde and in developing countries.
- Drip Drop Savers, Zambia: This project will install rainwater harvesting barrels with an integrated filter system, to serve toilets and menstruation management facilities at the Chakunkula combined school in peri-urban Lusaka. It will be complemented with workshops for the students on good hygiene practices.
- Smallholder adaptation to water scarcity, Argentina: the project aims at optimizing irrigation for small-scale grape producers in water scarce areas.



This will be done through inclusive adaptation measures and a low-cost and low-tech solutions at the farm-level, in collaboration with local researchers.

- Mandomaji, Kenya: Using a compressed earth technique for bricks, Elizabeth Ntukai's trains and collaborates with women in rural Kenya to build rain harvesting tanks and pit latrines which allows women to build structures without masonry expertise.
- Feutap Rainwater Project, Cameroon: This is a local rainwater harvest solution that will be implemented in an Agroecology School. Rainwater storage facilities at the educational center will be complemented with awareness campaigns to educate the community on effective and safe rainwater harvesting.
- WASH and Climate Innovation Hub, Burundi: The Project aims to teach local economically challenged women how to make ceramic water filters and promote their use to make lifesaving drinking water available for every household in Mbaza-Miduha locality, a marginalized community located in Rugombo Commune in North-Western Burundi.

The winners will implement their projects in 6 different countries over a period of one year. Therefore, they not only received seed funding of up to 2000 CHF, but also gained mentorship from leading Swiss water experts, and visibility in the SWP platform as well as in several Swiss and global professional networks.

We thank the 2023 sponsors **Eawag**, **EPB** and **Photrack AG** for continually making the water challenge possible.

### Updates from the 2022 Water Challenge Winning Projects

The winning project teams of 2022 listed below each provided a project update in July 2023 (2-5 pages) and a short final report on the deliveries by October 2023, complemented by a mentor's written approval and in some cases videos and photos of their project outputs. In addition, a majority of the teams attended the Winners ceremony of 2023 (see above) to present their main outputs and lessons learnt to the next Water Challenge Generation. All projects were approved by their respective mentors. Find them listed below.

- **Waterwomen:** Empowering women as young water leaders through capacity building and training of female water professionals in Bangladesh
- **Openversum:** Water filters as a business-in-a-box, to deliver safe drinking water for all in Ecuador
- **She Shelters Sierra Leone:** A menstrual hygiene management (MHM) project for young girls in school of Sierra Leone
- **Water Lovers Ravi:** Clean Drinking Water through water quality assessment and handpump installation for People of Ravi, Pakistan
- **EKYOTO FOR WATER:** Advocating and awareness-raising on water management through community-led conversations in Uganda



- **BRIXSAN:** Organic, locally produced product to accelerate fecal decomposition and elimination of odours to improve rural sanitation in Peru
- **Sodis:** Bringing clean and safe water through solar water disinfection (SODIS) to a school in Kenya

### Water Stressed – the SWP Youth Podcast

The SWP Youth podcast [Water Stressed](#) has been launched in 2022, which talks about global problems related to water. Francesco Campo and Donato Patrissi are leading and moderating the episodes. 7 episodes with up to 140 listeners were issued in 2023 and uploaded on Acast, Spotify and featured on SWP's LinkedIn site.

- November 2023: Is meat production sustainable? With Dr. Claudia Ringler and Dr. Abdul Sattar
- October 2023: Should we eat less meat? With Dr. Claudia Ringler and Oleksandr Mialyk
- May 2023: The dying Colorado river with Abraham Lustgarten
- April 2023: Agriculture, Inequalities and Water with Barbara van Koppen
- March 2023: Amazon Rivers in the Sky with David Dao
- February 2023: Preventing Floods Supporting Pakistan with Eng. Muhibulla and Andrea Cippa
- January 2023: Pakistan in deep waters with Eric Bardou and Caroline Hancock-Ebner



### 4.3. Outcome 3: The Swiss voice in global spaces for water security

The Swiss Water Partnership is well recognized through its participation at international events. Building up on this in the new phase, the platform aims at further **promoting Swiss water innovation internationally** by facilitating and organizing the members' voice at global events. Swiss solutions can only contribute to achieving the Agenda 2030 if they are shared, critically reviewed, refined, adopted, and implemented at a larger scale. International exposure and visibility for Swiss water solutions is therefore needed. The Swiss voice in global spaces for water security contributes to exposure and visibility by **convening policy debates and the development of positions**, organising **events both in Switzerland and internationally**, and **maintaining and developing partnerships with key actors**.

The SWP has three main **outputs** for this:

- The platform facilitates and organizes the members' voice at global events, including youth.
- Facilitate international exchange with water experts.
- Link Swiss expertise and solutions to market demand through the partnership.

### UN Water Conference 2023

From March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, an incredible 46 years after the first **UN Water conference** in Mar de la Plata (1977), member states of the UN reconvened in New York to review the implementation of the objectives of the International Decade for Action, *Water for Sustainable Development*, 2018–2028 at its midterm.

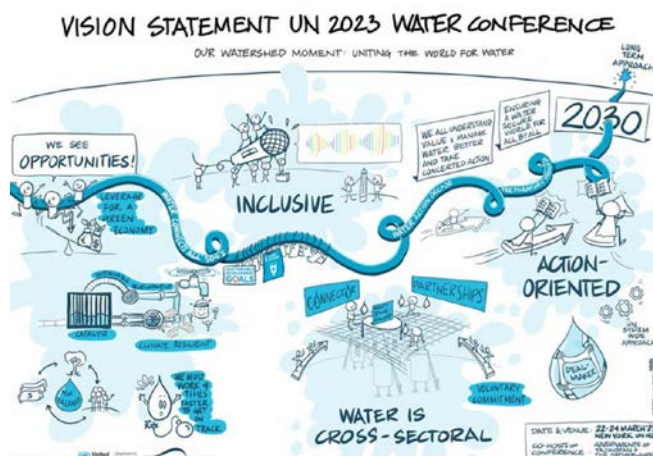


Figure 6 – Vision Statement on the UN Water Conference 2023

Co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands, the conference featured plenary meetings for member states and five interactive dialogues. Notably, Switzerland co-chaired with Senegal the interactive dialogue on "**Water for Cooperation**: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda."





SWP members were represented at the **UN Water conference** through Andreas Zysset (**EBP** and Steering Board member), Abishek Narayan (**EAWAG** and Steering Board member), Delphine Magara (Youth Management Committee Member of **SWP Youth**, more on this below) and Marilene de Souza Alves (a delegate of **HEKS/EPER** from Brazil).

Through these members, the SWP was part of the **side event** organized by **Eawag and SDC** entitled *Know your water: action-oriented partnerships* at the interface between science, politics, and practice to empower municipalities to build to reduce inequity and increase resilience in **urban water management** at Columbia University. This side event focused the urban water flow diagram, a tool to visualize and understand urban water flows, as a first step to address urban challenges in access to water for all in quantity, quality, at the right moment. This was followed by a **Swiss âpero** hosted by SDC, Eawag and the Swiss Business Hub USA.

SWP members also joined their voices online, through a social **media campaign on LinkedIn** to encourage and showcase **SWP member organization's commitments** to the **Water Action Agenda** and support members in getting visibility under a joint Swiss flag. The Water Action Agenda is a collection of commitments and pledges, across nations, stakeholders and professionals on actions that help accelerate implementation and improve impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Water Action Agenda is a key outcome of the conference, and of its **842 actions**, 52 are committed to by Swiss -based organizations. Six members participated in the social media campaign in the week running up to World Water Day 2023: Droopie, EBP, Eawag-SDC-Blue community, SWP Youth, Openversum and Helvetas. The engagement rate<sup>2</sup> of the LinkedIn campaign was overall good, between 5-10% with a peak of 23% (2% is generally considered as good) (see Figure 8).



Figure 7 – Schedule of posts and examples of visuals produced during the LinkedIn campaign on Water Action Agenda

Between November 2022 and April 2023, the **SWP secretariat supported** these forms of Swiss presence. The SWP as special accredited organization, registered

<sup>2</sup> The LinkedIn engagement rate is the measurement that counts how many people have interacted with a page's posts through likes, comments, and shares.



SWP representatives for the conference. Online member meetings were organized (in December 2022 and February 2023 with 19 participants from 14 organizations) to enable interested members to be informed, connect, and jointly organize their presence and events. In addition, the secretariat compiled a helpful overview [programme of events](#) organized by Swiss-based actors. Support was also given to disseminate the Eawag side-event and a list of contacts of Swiss-based actors present in New York. For the LinkedIn campaign, posts were by the interested members according to a daily schedule and common template for visuals.

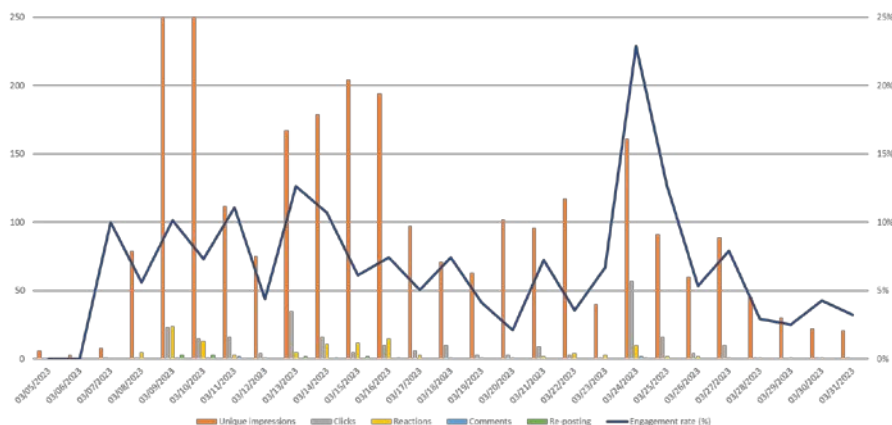


Figure 8 – LinkedIn statistics during the campaign

The [conference outcome](#) is that water has taken a more central stage in the global agenda, to ensure monitoring of the Water Action Agenda and to work towards a more regular exchange through two United Nations conferences on water to be convened in 2026 and 2028.

With a delegate from **SWP Youth**, we also had the chance to represent the youth of Switzerland in New York. The hosts of the UN Water Conference 2023 defined youth empowerment as a main point of the conference's agenda and SWP Youth took the opportunity to join **Switzerland's Delegation**. The Youth envoy's goals for the conference were based on SWP Youth's and the [Global Youth Movement for Water \(GYMW\)](#)'s mission, as follows:

1. Represent the interests of the Swiss youth in the water sector globally and collect relevant opportunities and information to report back to the youth
2. Raise awareness on the Global Youth Movement for Water and its agenda across stakeholders and learn more about possibilities to implement the «[30-30-30-target](#)» which aims at the inclusion, participation and representation at all levels, from all sectors and stakeholders, of at least 30% of youth below 30 years old by 2030.
3. Advocate for more meaningful youth inclusion in the Swiss Development Cooperation's projects in the water sector.





SWP Youth submitted its [commitment](#) to contribute to the SDG Water Action Agenda. More info about SWP Youth’s participation at the conference can be found in the Youth envoy’s [report](#) and the respective [presentation](#).



Figure 9 – SWP Youth and the Global Youth Movement at UN Water Conference in New York

## Stockholm World Water Week 2023

The 2023 World Water Week’s theme was “Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World”. The event took place from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of August and was hosted both in-person and hybrid with over 15’000 participants from 193 countries in total (see Figure 10).

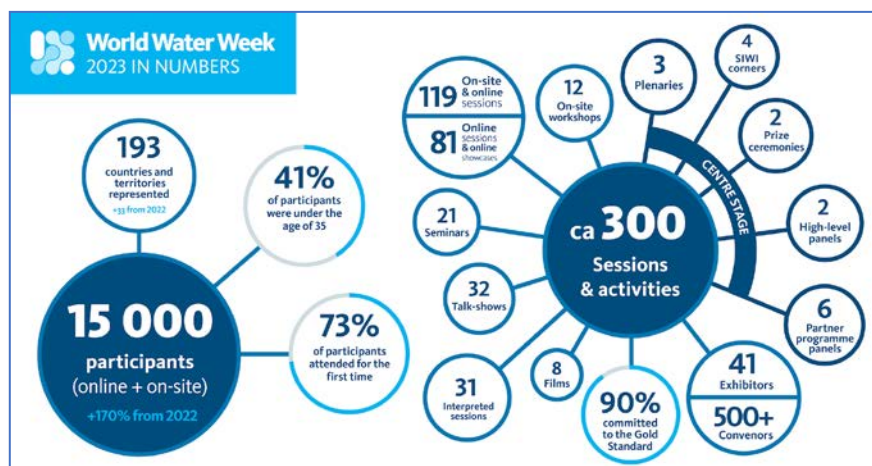


Figure 10 – World Water Week 2023 in numbers (provided by SIWI/Worldwaterweek)

The SWP participated at World Water Week in person with SWP coordinator Michèle Heeb and Sandra Fürst from the SWP Secretariat, the Co-Chair Johannes Heeb, as well as Akanksha Jain, Youth Coordinator for SWP Youth. The SWP offered several **services to its members**: an overview is given below in Table 2.



Table 2 – Overview of the use of services by SWP members and partners at Stockholm World Water Week 2023.

Services offered	Users
Advertisement (screen, roll-up, printed material <sup>3</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All SWP members<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Centre for Hydrogeology and Geothermics (CHYN) of University of Neuchâtel (advertisement on screen)</li> <li>• cewas (printed material)</li> <li>• Seecon (printed material)</li> <li>• Eawag/sandec (publications)</li> <li>• S-GE (roll-up)</li> </ul>
Use of exhibition space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eawag/sandec</li> </ul>
Time slot at booth for event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eawag/sandec</li> <li>• SWSC (Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium, which comprises several Swiss NGOs of which 5 (HEKS/EPER, Helvetas, CARITAS, Swissaid, Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes) are SWP members. The SWSC is supported by SDC, also a SWP member)</li> <li>• Human Right 2 Water (including presentations by representatives of Geneva Water Hub, Nestlé, Veolia<sup>5</sup> and IADB<sup>5</sup>)</li> <li>• Swiss Toilet organization / Swiss finalists of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize</li> </ul>
Co-convening of session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWP</li> <li>• Eawag/sandec</li> <li>• FHNW</li> <li>• ZHAW</li> <li>• Oxyle</li> <li>• South Pole</li> <li>• cewas</li> </ul>
Co-host of Swiss Apero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eawag/sandec</li> </ul>
Use of networking space/ meeting corner of booth <sup>6</sup>	All SWP members present

<sup>3</sup> The placement of printed material such as flyers, business cards and brochures was free of charge for all SWP members. For the use of the screen as well as the exhibition of roll-ups a fee was charged, except for members already paying a fee for participating in the booth program.

<sup>4</sup> The backwall of the booth included the logos of all SWP members (around 70 Swiss stakeholders in the water sector) and so did all publication material (print and online)

<sup>5</sup> Non-SWP member

<sup>6</sup> This was free of charge and open for all Swiss stakeholders and exact participation was not recorded. The list of participants includes companies/organizations that have used the booth for meetings and exchanges with international experts but is not exhaustive.



To showcase the SWP and its members, the SWP organized a booth of 20m<sup>2</sup>. It featured a backdrop wall of 12.5 meters, a 55" inch screen, speakers and microphone, a sofa, chairs and tables and a coffee machine. This allowed for the booth to be used in a very versatile way: As a networking and meeting space, to hold panels and presentations, exhibit technology and place advertisements. The booth was shared with the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), who used a small part of the booth. This proved to be beneficial not only for financial reasons but also by generating even more visitors to the booth.

SWP members and partners had the possibility to exhibit products, rent time slots at the booth for their events and have promotional material (such as advertisements on the screen, posters or roll-ups) featured. The use of the networking and meeting space was free of charge for all SWP members.

As illustrated in Figure 11, the SWP booth was **well visited** throughout the whole week, providing an attractive program (see Figure 13) and a very popular networking and meeting spot. Also, the **networking apéro**, jointly organized by the SWP and Eawag/Sandec, was very well attended.



Figure 11 – The booth just before the opening of the World Water Week (top left), during an event of “Human Rights 2 Water” (top right), with visitors mingling (bottom left) and during the Swiss Apéro (bottom right) (Photo credit: SWP Secretariat).

In addition, the SWP secretariat and SWP Youth were actively participating in **three sessions**, two of them as co-convenors and speaker, one as a speaker. All sessions the SWP co-convened were committed to the inclusion of youth and gender equality and adhered to the World Water Week gold standard, meaning that 40% or more of





the speakers were women and at least one of the speakers was under the age of 35. The 90-minute online and on-site sessions allowed active audience engagement.

The first session entitled “**Global innovations for urban water circularity: State-of-the-art**” was co-convened by the SWP and six members: Cewas, Oxyle, South Pole (all private sector) and Eawag/Sandec, FHNW and ZHAW (all academia). The session showcased recent innovations in sustainable, **decentralized water reuse technologies, necessary business models** and regulative frameworks as effective alternatives to centralized urban water management infrastructure. It provided a discussion platform on best practices on how to upscale innovative on-site urban water management solutions to enable urban water circularity (see Figure 12).



Figure 12 – Impressions of the session on urban water circularity: SWP Youth coordinator Akanksha Jain presenting, participants at World Café and group photo of all speakers and facilitators (Photo credit: SWP Secretariat).

Representing SWP Youth, Akanksha Jain was co-convening a session specifically dedicated to youth engagement together with other youth organizations (Session “**Youth engagement in global water processes: building an influential movement**”) and has also been invited to speak at a session convened by UN organizations (Session “**Activating the innovation accelerator of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**”).



Figure 13 – Flyers used at Stockholm World Water Week for the program at the booth, the session on urban water circularity and the Swiss Apéro.



#### 4.4. Outcome 4: Platform Development

The main stakeholders of the Swiss Water Partnership are the **members**. The SWP activities are expected to enhance their competences, presence at international level, and visibility. The platform uses the available means of communication to share the members' thematic expertise publicly.

The SWP has three main **outputs** for this:

- Ensure a growing, diverse and active membership base, around Swiss expertise areas in water and related sectors, through the member acquisition activities of the SWP Secretariat.
- Contribute to the platform's financial sustainability.
- The SWP Secretariat facilitates a growing and dynamic SWP youth.

##### New website and social media

The Swiss Water Partnership had used the same website since its beginning and after over ten years, it was time for a new website. In a first workshop in 2022, the main elements of the new SWP Website were discussed with the **working group** consisting of the Swiss Toilet Organisation, WATALUX, ETH Zürich and SWP Youth. Based on this, offers from several website designers were obtained and reviewed and the company Pulpco selected to design the new website. The website structure and content were developed based on the input of the working group, which was then validated by the Steering Board members as well as the members of the working group mid-February and again in April.

All content was developed on figma (see Figure 14). Some content remained from the old website, but many parts of the content had to be adapted or rewritten. In particular, the page on "Activities" had to be newly created. The new website also features a specific Youth section, created by a Youth coordinator and the Youth focal point. Some elements such as membership registration form, thematic and sector filters had to be newly created.

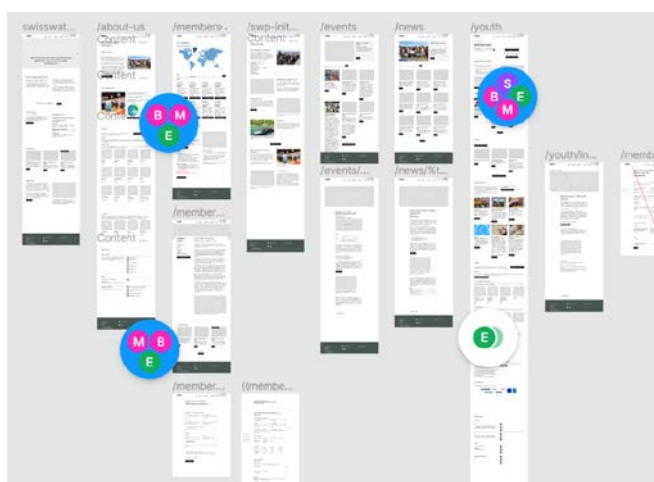


Figure 14 – Overview of the structure and content provided on figma



The finalization of the content, the creation of all the forms and various features for the members proved to be a quite tedious and time-consuming process, but in **November 2023 the website was finally live**. It presents the Swiss Water Partnership in a more modern, clean and appealing look and features the SWP Youth activities more prominently and spotlights the members. All members have their own profile and can post Events and News through an easy-to-use interface.

Next to the website, the SWP's main communication channels are **LinkedIn and Twitter**. Until the end of the year 2023, the SWP had a total of **3'481 followers** on the two platforms (LinkedIn 2'439, Twitter 1'042). The main channel and focus of communication efforts is LinkedIn, with an increase of over one third of followers in 2023 (see Figure 15). The Twitter account has not been used anymore and will be closed out of ethical concerns and to concentrate on LinkedIn as the main social media channel. Since May 2023, SWP Youth is present on Instagram, with 10 posts in 2023 and so far, 99 followers.

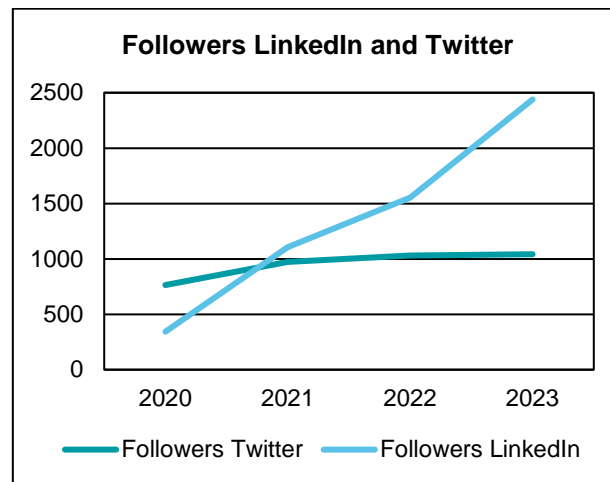


Figure 15 – Development of followers on social media over the years



## 5. Financial Overview

The **income** of the Swiss Water Partnership in 2023 amounted to **342'228 CHF** as detailed per source in Table 3 and its repartition illustrated in Figure 16. It consists of the SDC contribution of **197'844 CHF<sup>7</sup>** (58 % of income), membership fees of **55'000 CHF** (16 %) and **50'928 CHF** in the form of member contributions for offered services and sponsorship as well as the in-kind contribution of the Steering Board members and Youth coordinators (together 26 %). In total, the income in 2023 is around 30 % lower than the 482'056 CHF budgeted.

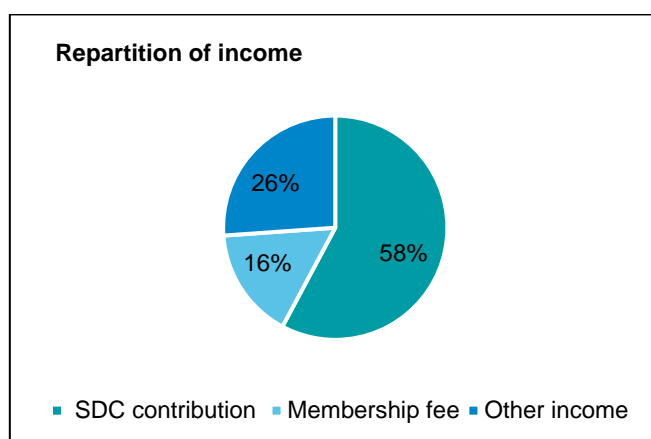
The differences between the budgeted and actual incomes can be explained as follows: in 2023, no study tour has been organised by the SWP as there was no request. The lower in-kind contributions are due to a Steering Board that is smaller than its maximum seize and not all members attending each meeting. Further, no Swiss event was organized for which a contribution could have been charged and unfortunately, SWP Youth has experienced a drop in sponsorship due to the discontinuation of several sponsors that could not be replaced in the same year. The income through members' contribution and sponsorship at international events was achieved through attractive offers for members to participate at Stockholm World Water Week and a general contribution through the "Messe- und Projektkommission (MPK)" of S-GE.

Table 3 – Income of the Swiss Water Partnership 2023

Income in CHF	Budget 2023	Actuals 2023
<b>SDC contribution</b>	250'000	197'843
<b>Study Tour Fee</b>	60'000	0
<b>Membership fee</b>	56'000	55'000
<b>In-kind contribution</b>	56'056	38'457
<b>Additional Income</b>	60'000	50'928
Member contribution for Swiss events	10'000	0
Member contribution and sponsorship for international events	25'000	33'929
Youth initiative sponsorship	15'000	6'499
SJWP Sponsorship	10'000	10'500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>482'056</b>	<b>342'228</b>

<sup>7</sup> The total amount received from SDC in 2023 was 255'000 CHF. The actual contribution of SDC for 2023 is 51 % of SWP's audited expenses (CHF 387'929) or CHF 197'843. The difference between the instalments received up to 2023 and the actual contribution is CHF 79'547 which is an advance payment of the 2024 contribution.





*Figure 16 - Income repartition 2023*

Total **expenses** of the Swiss Water Partnership in 2023 amount to **CHF 387'929 CHF**, 94'000 CHF less than budgeted. The detailed expenses are listed in Table 4 below and their repartition is illustrated in Figure 17. The biggest share of the expenses were the remunerations of the secretariat, bookkeeping and auditing as well as graphic design and hosting of the website, making a total of 282'606 CHF (or 73 % of total expenses). Consumables amounted to 29'122 CHF (8 %) and expenses for travel and subsistence were low<sup>8</sup> with only 5'385 CHF (1 %). Summarized under "Other costs" with a total of 70'816 CHF (18 %) are the costs for the Youth Initiatives (such as Water Challenge, workshops, youth participation at national and international conferences and events), and the costs for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). Other costs include the in-kind contributions and the writing off of unpaid membership fees from 2022 and earlier, as they will most probably not be recovered anymore.

The differences between the budgeted and actual expenses can be explained as follows: low *travel and accommodation* expenses are due to only inner-European travels by the Secretariat and the Co-chair (Stockholm World Water Week) and little activity within Switzerland. The *remuneration* for the Secretariat was 10 % lower than budgeted but higher when compared to the previous years (2022: 236'172 CHF). The latter is due to the additional workload for the creation of the new website and several changes in the coordinator function in 2023: the activities in the periods in-between coordinator changes were temporarily covered by secretariat staff with higher rates, with intern support. Moreover, the Secretary General has taken on more tasks than in previous years to ensure the functioning of the secretariat. The expenses for *graphic design services* were related to the creation of the new website. Website design took longer than expected, so most of the expenses were incurred in 2023 rather than in 2022, when only around 25 % of the budget was used. The costs for *webhosting* were lower than budgeted as some contracts that had become redundant were cancelled in 2023. Around 10 % more than budgeted was spent on

---

<sup>8</sup> Travel expenses for SWP Youth (in total around 2000 CHF) are not included here but considered under Youth initiatives.

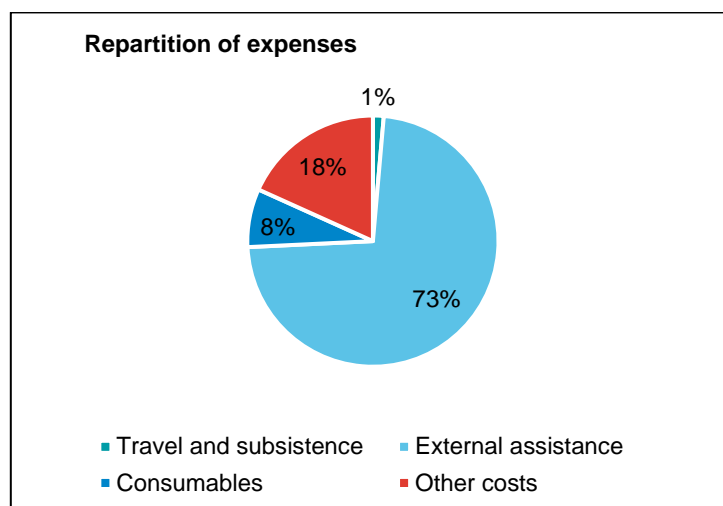


*consumables*, mainly due to higher expenses for the Stockholm World Water Week, which were covered by the contributions of the participating members. No expenses were incurred for study tours, whereas the expenses for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize as well as the Youth activities were higher than their budget. The overspending on the well-established and popular Youth initiatives (Networkshops, Youth Water Challenge, participation of Youth Coordinators at national and international events), was important to be able to keep them going despite a temporary lack of sponsorship.

Overall, the SWP had a **negative result** for 2023 of CHF 45'701 CHF. The SWP capital was 32'322 CHF by 2022's closing and now has a negative capital of **13'379 CHF**. To cover this negative capital (debt) and ensure its financial sustainability, the SWP in 2024 will most importantly need to **increase income** by more income from (inter)national events, sponsorships and membership fees and decrease expenses, notably bringing secretariat remuneration costs down to 2022 levels.

Table 4 – Expenses of the Swiss Water Partnership in 2023

Expenses in CHF	Budget 2023	Actuals 2023
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>	9'500	5'385
Airfare international events	3'000	1'343
Expenses accommodation and food	5'000	3'747
Train tickets within Switzerland	1'500	295
<b>External assistance</b>	312'556	282'606
Secretariat total	296'056	267'927
<i>Coordination</i>	156'057	154'745
<i>Secretary General</i>	60'775	40'739
<i>Focal Point Youth</i>	57'092	57'092
<i>Administration</i>	20'355	15'351
<i>Moderation of events</i>	1'777	0
Bookkeeping and Audit	10'000	6'032
Graphic design	5'000	8'214
Website hosting	1'500	432
<b>Consumables</b>	26'500	29'122
International events (booth, materials, seminar fees etc.)	20'000	25'945
Swiss events (Learning events, market places)	5'000	2'422
Print (flyers, brochures, business cards, etc.)	1'000	260
Other material cost and expenses (bank and other fees)	500	494
<b>Other costs</b>	133'499	70'816
Study Tours	55'000	-
Youth initiatives	10'000	14'514
SJWP	10'000	13'346
In-kind contribution SWP SB Members & YMC	56'056	38'457
Contingency fund (write-off unpaid membership fees)	2'443	4'500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>482'056</b>	<b>387'929</b>



*Figure 17 – Expenses repartition 2023*



## 6. Members of the SWP

As per end of 2023, the following **five members left** the Swiss Water Partnership: C Greene solution (Start-up/SME; company in hibernation), GeoExpertise (SME; excluded due to unpaid membership fees), Georg Fischer (SME; did not make use of membership) the Federal Office for Agriculture (public; no longer of interest due to little focus on global water sector) and Waterpreneurs (SME; prefer to be member of the French Water Partnership).

During 2023, the Swiss Water Partnership gained **five new members**. One of them, Openversum (Start-up/SME) joined before the General Assembly 2023 and has thus already been confirmed at the GA 2023. The other four, Clara Waters AG (Start-up/SME), everybodyneedswater (NGO), Human Right 2 Water (NGO) and Xylem Europe GmbH (Transnational company, TNC) joined later and will need to be confirmed at the General Assembly in 2024.

This results in **65 members as per end of 2023**, of which five will no longer be member as of 1.1.2024. An additional four will need to be officially confirmed at the General Assembly 2024. A complete list of all the members is given in Annex I.

The partnership remains **well-balanced** with 43% private sector actors, 28% non-profit organizations, 16% academia and research, 6% networks and professional associations, and 7% public sector, as illustrated in Figure 18.

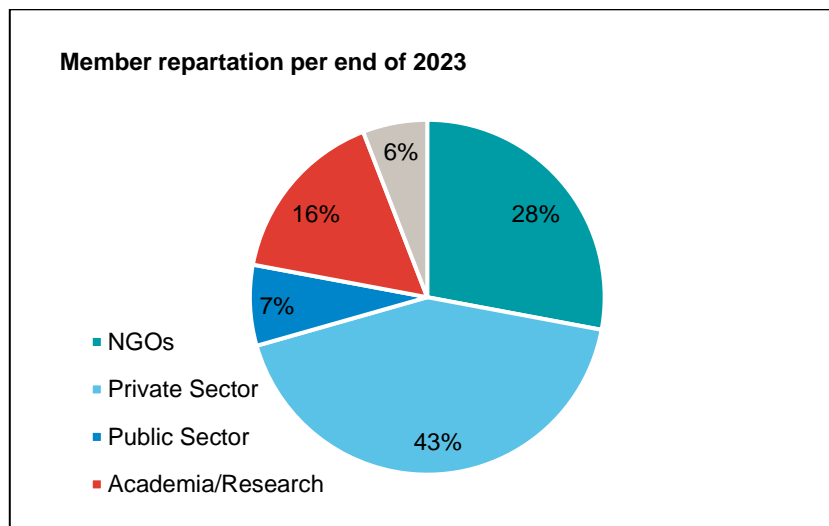


Figure 18 – SWP Member Repartition by Sector per end of 2023



## 7. Organizational structure

The Swiss Water Partnership association is composed of the following bodies: the **members** (General Assembly), the **steering board** (strategic orientation) and the **secretariat** (management).

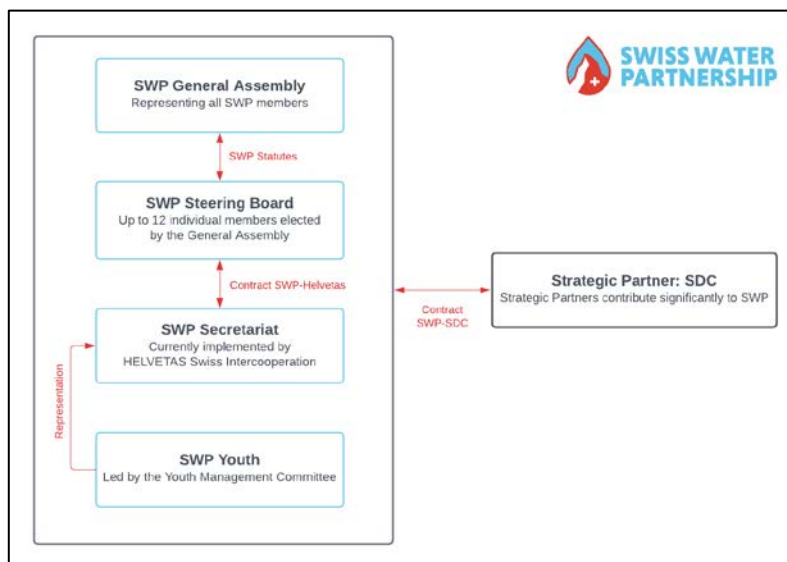


Figure 19 – Organizational structure SWP

The platform is based on **members' initiative**, and the secretariat has a facilitating function. Based on the SWP statutes, the **roles and responsibilities of the different bodies** can be summarised as follows:

Task	Steering board	Chair	Secretariat	Members
Planning, operational issues	Guide the secretariat in developing a strategic orientation & yearly program, oversee implementation	Gives strategic support related to achievements of the SWP objectives and to key topics to maintain the development of the partnership and the sustainability of it.	Develop a yearly program, facilitate working/ discussion groups, facilitate spaces for co-creation, organise regular meetings (e.g. GA) and participation at key international events, maintains regular contact with SWP members and approaches potential new members	Get involved in the planning process, launch initiatives, actively participate in the activities



Task	Steering board	Chair	Secretariat	Members
<b>Communication</b>	Review & validate the strategy	See Steering Board	Ensure day-to-day communication, provide/ share information from and to the members, guarantee information transparency	Provide / share information
<b>Financial issues</b>	Review & validate the yearly budget, the financial report & audit	Validation of finances	Draft and manage the budget, elaborate the financial report and organise the financial audit	Contribute to the budget with their fees, approve the yearly budget, financial report & audit
<b>Reporting</b>	Review & validate the annual report	See SB	Elaborate the annual and activity reports	Provide reporting of activities, approve annual report

## 7.1. Steering Board

The Steering Board members are key decision-makers, representing the SWP member organizations across the sectors and reflecting the multi-stakeholder character of the Swiss Water Partnership. The SWP Steering Board meets three times a year to review the Secretariat's work and give strategic advice.

At the General Assembly 2023, the follow representatives left the Steering Board:

- Christoph Sonderegger, State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)
- Nidal Salim, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH)
- Abishek Narayan, SWP Youth
- Simon Zbinden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Elected were:

- David Avery, Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE)
- Karin Gallandat, State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)

Table 5 lists all members of the Steering Board after the General Assembly 2023.



Table 5 – Steering Board Composition 2023 after the General Assembly 2023

No.	Name	Member organisation	Year (re-) elected	End of Mandate	Sector
1	David Avery <sup>1</sup>	Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE)	2023	2026	Network / professional association
2	Karin Gallandat	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)	2023	2026	Public
3	Esther Greenwood	SWP Youth Management Committee	2022	2025	SWP Youth
4	Johannes Heeb	Cewas/Seecon	2021	2024	Private
5	Derko Kopitopoulos	Ecopsis	2021	2024	Private
6	Darcy Molnar <sup>1</sup>	Institute of Environmental Engineering, ETHZ	2019	2023	Research
7	Eric Plan	Cleantech Alps	2021	2024	Network / professional association
8	Frank Wiederkehr	Skat Consulting	2022	2025	Private
9	Chris Zurbrugg	Eawag	2021	2024	Research
10	Andreas Zysset	EBP	2021	2024	Private

<sup>1</sup> Stepping down as per end of 2023

## 7.2. Secretariat

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation hosts the SWP Secretariat. The Secretariat team consists of three water experts and one administrative assistant. You can contact the secretariat by writing to [info@swisswaterpartnership.ch](mailto:info@swisswaterpartnership.ch).

In 2023, the SWP Secretariat saw several changes: The previous coordinator, Marisa Ruoss, left the secretariat by end of January 2023. Michèle Heeb took over the position as of mid-June 2023. The SWP Secretariat would like to thank Elodie Feijoo, Erika Zarate and Sandra Fürst for their interim work and support with the most urgent coordination tasks during the period between February and mid-June to cover the coordinator role. We are also grateful to Marc Monnet, who supported the development of the website in his role as an intern.

In addition, Rahel Oehri started as the new administrative assistant as of February 2023, replacing Isabel Baier, who left per end of 2022.

### **Coordinator: Michèle Heeb**

Michèle Heeb holds a Master and a PhD degree in environmental science and a post-graduate degree (MAS) in development and cooperation. She has around 10 years of experience in the water sector, both in Switzerland and internationally, having worked in academia, development cooperation, and in close collaboration and exchange with the public and private sector. Before joining the Swiss Water Partnership and Helvetas, she has worked on sustainable sanitation in Haiti for several years.





As Coordinator of the SWP, she is the main contact point for the SWP members and for external requests. She is in charge of the day-to-day operational and financial management of the platform, including drafting the action plans and annual reports. She organizes the steering board meetings and the General Assemblies and facilitates and manages the SWP's Swiss and international events.

#### **Secretary General: Bernita Doornbos**

Bernita Doornbos is an agricultural engineer specialized in irrigation with experience in irrigation and rural development projects in the Andean region (Ecuador, Peru). Her PhD research was on the introduction of sprinkler irrigation in smallholders' production systems in Cusco, Peru. She has training experience on integrated water resources management for water professionals and has done consultancies in water resources management, irrigation, climate change adaptation and rural development in the Andean region. She has been working with HELVETAS in the Andes since 2007, on climate change adaptation and natural resource management with the Peru program. She is currently Head Water, Food and Climate at Helvetas' Advisory Services department.

#### **Focal Point Youth: Sandra Fürst**

Sandra Fürst holds a BA in Social and Cultural Studies and a MSc degree in Geography and Development Research with focus on International Relations, Rural Development and Agricultural Water Management. She has several years of working experience in water-related global, regional and national development and research projects as well as with global water networks, like RWSN, RésEAU, AGUASAN and SWA. She works for Skat Consulting, as a subcontractor of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and is responsible for the coordination of SWP Youth, facilitates the activities of SWP youth representatives, advises the SWP secretariat and Steering Board in strategic decisions and supports all SWP activities e.g., international events and study tours.

### **7.3. SWP Youth**

SWP Youth was created in 2019 under the Youth Strategy of the Swiss Water Partnership. Its mission is to strengthen the involvement of youth in the water for development sector, both in Switzerland and globally and counts over 400 youth members. SWP Youth is a platform where youth can organise and participate in trainings, mentorships and other capacity-building activities. It aims at:

- enabling and empowering youth to participate in water-related issues
- creating an active community of young water professionals, students and future water leaders;
- acting as a platform for launching youth-led initiatives.



The SWP Youth is organised in a decentralised structure consisting of its members, the Youth Focal Point from the SWP Secretariat, Youth coordinators, and Youth advisors.

The Youth Coordinators form the Youth Management Committee (YMC) and are a dedicated team young people (below 30 years old). They act as a representation, coordination and communication point between the SWP Youth and the SWP steering board, secretariat, and member organisations. In 2023, the YMC consisted of the following people:

- Johnmark Nyame Acheampong
- Esther Greenwood
- Akanksha Jain
- Delphine Magara
- Lena Xue

Youth Advisors are individuals from SWP member organisations that are above 30 and volunteer to provide guidance and feedback to SWP Youth members. In 2023, Abishek Narayan and Donato Patrisi served as Youth advisors.



## Annex I: Membership list as per 31.12.2023

No.	Member	Sector/Category	Comment
1	Access to Water Foundation	NGO	
2	Antenna Foundation	NGO	
3	CARITAS Switzerland	NGO	
4	CDE - University of Berne, Centre for Development and Environment	Research	
5	CEWAS/Seecon	Consulting	
6	Cleantech Alps	Networks and professional associations	
7	Creaholic	SME	
8	CSD Engineers	Transnational company	
9	Das blaue Wunder	NGO	
10	Direction Générale de l'Eau du Canton de Genève	Government	
11	Droople	Start-Up / SME	
12	EAWAG / EAWAG Sandec	Research	
13	EBP Schweiz	Consulting	
14	ecopsis	Consulting	
15	EPFL - IIE (Environmental Engineering Institute)	Research	
16	ETHZ-Institute of Environmental Engineering	Research	
17	Evodrop AG	Start-Up / SME	
18	Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW Hochschule für Life Sciences HLS /Institut für Ecopreneurship IEC	Research	
19	Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office - FSVO	Government	
20	Geberit International AG	Transnational company	
21	Geneva Water Hub / University of Geneva	Research	
22	Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health - GIWEH	NGO	
23	GWF MessSysteme AG	SME	
24	HAFL - Bern University of Applied Sciences - Agricultural, Forest and Food Science	Research	
25	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	NGO	
26	HOLINGER International Consultants GmbH	Consulting	
27	Hycon	SME	
28	hydrosolutions ltd	Consulting	



No.	Member	Sector/Category	Comment
29	iDE - International Development Enterprises	SME	
30	Links to Water Development SA	SME	
31	Minikus Vogt & Partner	Consulting	
32	Nestlé S.A.	Transnational company	
33	Openversum	Start-Up / SME	
34	Oxyle AG	SME	
35	photrack ag	SME	
36	RWB Holding	SME	
37	Sanakvo Foundation	SME	
38	Skat Consulting Ltd	Consulting	
39	Skat Foundation	NGO	
40	South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd.	SME	
41	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs - SECO	Government	
42	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC	Government	
43	Swiss Fresh Water	SME	
44	Swiss Institute for Speleology and Karst Studies (SISKA)	NGO	
45	Swiss Interchurch Aid - HEKS	NGO	
46	Swiss Red Cross	NGO	
47	Swiss Society of Hydrogeology	Networks and professional associations	
48	Swiss Toilet Organization	NGO	
49	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	Research	
50	Swiss Water Association - VSA	Networks and professional associations	
51	Switzerland Global Enterprise	Networks and professional associations	
52	Terre des Hommes	NGO	
53	Toilets for all	NGO	
54	UMTEC - OST Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Institute of Environmental and Process Engineering	Research	
55	University of Neuchatel - Centre for Hydrogeology and Geothermics (CHYN)	Research	
56	WATALUX	SME	
57	Water for Water	NGO	
58	World Vision Switzerland	NGO	
59	WWF Switzerland	NGO	



No.	Member	Sector/Category	Comment
60	Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Institute of National Resource Science	Research	
61	C Greene Solutions	Start-Up / SME	Membership ending per 31.12. 2023
62	Federal Office for Agriculture - Fachbereich Internationale nachhaltige Landwirtschaft	Government	Membership ending per 31.12. 2023
63	Geo Expertise	NGO	Membership ending per 31.12. 2023
64	Georg Fischer AG	Transnational company	Membership ending per 31.12. 2023
65	Waterpreneurs	SME	Membership ending per 31.12. 2023
	Clara Waters	Start-Up / SME	to be confirmed at GA 2024
	Everybodyneedswater	NGO	to be confirmed at GA 2024
	Human Right 2 Water	NGO	to be confirmed at GA 2024
	Xylem Europe GmbH	Transnational company	to be confirmed at GA 2024