



Annual Report 2021



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SWP Annual Report 2021

Foreword

In 2021, the Swiss water community put a lot of effort into contributing to solving global water challenges, despite the restrictive Covid regulations all over the globe. Organizations and individuals reacted flexibly to the changing situation, putting great efforts into keeping up exchanges and support systems, even in virtual ways.

Among the SWP highlights of 2021 was the webinar **“Water Quality in Switzerland and globally: Challenges, solutions and lessons learned”** on the occasion of the World Water Day in March. 18 SWP members came together before and during this webinar to exchange about their contributions to address water quality challenges.

Another important event was the **Stockholm World Water Week** in August, even though the event took place virtually. The SWP co-hosted three sessions which involved around 40 SWP members and partners who served as conveners, speakers, moderators and facilitators and **attracted 375 participants from 71 countries**.

In July resp. September, in partnership with **Innovate4Water** and the **Swiss Water & Climate Forum** (SWCF), the SWP supported two events that gave participating SWP members the possibility to present their innovations and solutions and to network with other water and sanitation actors.

The **SWP 2021 General Assembly took place as a hybrid event at AQUA4D in Sierre** and was attended by 47 members and external guests. The GA was an opportunity to stimulate exchanges among Swiss water actors face to face during those virtual times.

In 2021, the **SWP Youth** developed rapidly with **almost 200 members** by the end of the year and well-recognized activities such as the SWP Youth Water Challenge.

A special thanks goes to **Olga Darazs** who resigned from her position as SWP Chair and Steering Board member after 10 years in this position. She was on the Steering Board and (Co-)Chair since the organisation was founded. Her contributions to the development of the platform were significant. The Swiss Water Partnership thanks Olga for her enormous efforts and commitment to the organisation.

Darcy Molnar
SWP Co-Chair

Johannes Heeb
SWP Co-Chair



1. About the Swiss Water Partnership

The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) was launched in 2012, 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 to contribute 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.

Switzerland's privileged situation as Europe's water tower and the fact that around **80% of its water footprint** is originating from other countries, call for the country to take responsibility to support others in achieving water security for their population and ecosystems.

Switzerland has a vibrant water sector. Swiss water professionals have demonstrated capacity to develop effective and pragmatic solutions to improve transboundary water management, flood protection, and water pollution control, among others. Swiss water research and the Swiss water and wastewater operators' training and continuing education system are globally recognized. Many countries show interest in Swiss water technologies such as on micro-pollutants, waste management (waste to energy), and hydropower. Finally, Switzerland's development cooperation in water is highly recognized, 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, such as the shaping the water targets under SDG 6, a key milestone in the global water architecture.

The SWP is an independent, value-based multi-stakeholder platform that brings together **around 70 member organizations** from the Swiss academic, civil society, public and private spheres. The SWP is a non-profit association that develops, shares, and promotes innovative solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries.



2. Achievements 2021

2.1 SWP Vision

Driven by its values of solidarity and integrity, the Swiss Water Partnership strives to become a **globally well-recognised brand of high-quality solutions for water security** and the **platform for water in Switzerland**.

The SWP operates therefore as:

- **A knowledge hub**
 - The SWP is a **dynamic learning platform**, facilitating exchange of knowhow and experience between the members as well as with their partners abroad.
 - The SWP contributes to training and promoting the **new generation of water specialists**.
 - The SWP regularly **informs** its members, in a targeted manner, on global water issues.
- **A knowledge setter**
 - The SWP develops itself to a **think-tank**: it enables **space for reflexion** and discussion on key water challenges between stakeholders from various sectors and facilitates **brainstorming** (also with external actors) for the development of innovative cross-sector innovations contributing to water security.
- **A cross-sector innovation carrier**
 - The SWP prepares the **ground for innovative cross-sector projects** to be implemented internationally.
 - The SWP brings cross-sector innovations and expertise **where it is needed**.
 - The SWP **promotes** the **knowledge** and these **innovations and expertise internationally** and feeds them into policy processes in Switzerland, nationally and globally.

2.2 Objectives & Outcomes in the 2021 context

This chapter reflects on the objectives reached and gives an overview of the SWP activities realized in 2021. See Figure 1 for the three outcomes and outputs foreseen for Phase 3.



Impact	Swiss knowhow and expertise contribute to improve living conditions through improved water security						
	SWP Vision: SWP is recognised globally as a brand of high quality solutions and as the water hub in Switzerland						
Outcomes	Outcome 1 Youth for Water		Outcome 2 Innovations for SDG Water		Outcome 3 Strong Swiss Voice		
	Swiss Youth is engaged and influences water-related reflections		Innovations enhancing the effectiveness of approaches to achieve water-related SDG targets are generated and/or tested and shared		Swiss water expertise is demanded by key actors to contribute to the achievement of water-related SDG targets		
Outputs	Output 1.1	Output 2.1	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 3.1	Output 3.2	Output 3.3
	Attracting Youth	Connecting Youth	Think Tank	Flagship initiatives	Policy / SDG dialogue	Swiss and international events	Swiss and international networks
	DYNAMIC LEARNING				WATER DIALOGUE	STRONG SWISS VOICE	

Fig 1: Vision and Outcomes SWP Phase 3

After an almost immediate stop of activities in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021 the activities started to take place again, even though often virtually. Also, the Swiss Water Partnership and its member organisations had adapted their activities and offered and participated more in virtual events, like the Stockholm World Water Week 2021.

SWP members had the possibility to share their knowledge and to exchange about current water issues at the webinar at the **World Water Day 2021**, the presentation of the new SWP members and the participation at virtual sessions at the **World Water Week**. The partnership with **Innovate4Water** and the **Swiss Water & Climate Forum** (SWCF) brought the participating SWP members the possibility to network and present their innovations and solutions. The **SWP Youth** gained many new members and increased their network with other youth groups.

Due to expected reduced income for SWP services, the SWP Steering Board decided to follow a **conservative financial scenario** for 2021, which also meant for the SWP Secretariat to reduce planned hours for the year. The reduced capacities had the consequence that not all activities could be taken forward as planned (e.g. the flagship initiatives).



2.3 Outcome 1: Youth for Water

Under Outcome 1, the Swiss Water Partnership aims to **engage Swiss youth in the water sector and to involve them to influence water-related reflections**. In 2021, SWP Youth developed rapidly with many new members and well recognized activities like the SWP Youth Water Challenge. In the end of 2021, SWP youth had **almost 200 members**. The SWP Youth's management committee continued with the same people: Abishek Narayan (Doctoral Researcher at Eawag and ETH Zurich), Elodie Feijoo (Water Networks Facilitator at Skat Consulting), Donato Patrissi (WASH Project Manager at SUPSI in Hawassa, Ethiopia) and Sandra FÜRST (SWP Secretariat and Youth Focal Point). Abishek Narayan also continued to represent SWP Youth in the SWP Steering Board. At the end of the year was a change of management: Elodie Feijoo Seara has been serving on the Youth Management Committee (YMC) since the beginning of SWP Youth. We would like to thank her for being a strong youth leader and advocate, demonstrating her passion for meaningful youth engagement on an everyday basis. As a replacement we welcome Esther Greenwood, a doctoral researcher at Eawag and ETH Zürich.

The following Outputs have been defined under Outcome 1:

Output
1.1 Awareness on the relevance of water for sustainable development raised among Swiss youth (Attracting Youth)
1.2 Opportunities for young professionals to get involved created (Connecting Youth)

In 2021, SWP Youth co-created a youth session with other youth networks across the globe in occasion of the **Stockholm World Water Week**, with a leading role of SWP Youth. Another highlight of the year was the 5-year celebration of the **Swiss Junior Water Prize**. On occasion of the award show of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize during the Stockholm World Water Week, the organizers, sponsors and winners of the SJWP met in Willisau to celebrate, jointly watch the online award show and exchange with 5 years of SJWP winners on their experience.

The **SWP Youth Water Challenge** is one of SWP Youth's major activities. Almost 100 young people from 40 countries applied to last years' **Challenge**. Co-creation workshops and coaching sessions were offered to support them develop innovative water solutions in small teams. 9 winning projects were selected which will be implemented in 7 different countries over a period of a year. In addition to a seed grant of up to 2000 CHF each of these projects also receive mentorship from senior Swiss water experts from the SWP member organisations.



Other SWP Youth activities like **Networkshops, Matura Mentoring** and **promotion of Swiss and global youth initiatives and events** continued like in previous years. The Swiss Water and Climate Forum has been one of the first face-to-face events for SWP youth members to meet and engage. The SWP Youth working group got awarded as the winner of the challenge of the forum and gained funding of 5000 CHF. SWP Youth has furthermore supported the simulation of the Swiss Youth Parliament (**Jugendsession/ Session des jeunes/ Sessione dei giovani**) by offering its youth water expertise to the 200 high school students as well as by organising a workshop for one of the working groups (22 participants) with focus on water in a globalised world.

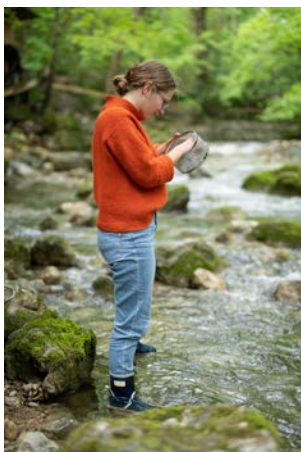
Overall, the activities attract and connect young people in the water sector and **promote the new generation of water specialists by engaging youth** in water-related reflections. The next step should be to **further involve** the youth in all SWP activities. Below more details on the youth activities are given.

2.3.1 Swiss Junior Water Prize

It is encouraging to see that the contribution of young people in all fields is increasingly recognized. The impetus of youth is particularly evident when it comes to protecting the environment and fighting the effects of climate change. Youth are very conscious that their own future is at stake, and they are motivated to express their opinion, take sides, step into action, and to act with determination. However, they are also aware of their lack of expertise and are willing to work side by side with senior experts who have the experience and the know-how to tackle today's challenges. Every opportunity to encourage this intergenerational cooperation is worth to engage in.

Since 2017, the SWP and the Swiss Toilet Organisation (STO) join efforts to grant the Swiss Junior Water Prize, an **award to incentivize young students to grow an interest in water and sustainability issues**, and to **create interaction opportunities between promising young talents and professionals in the Swiss water sector**. The Swiss Junior Water Prize (Swiss-JWP) is awarded to young students between 15 and 20 years old, who have conducted school projects related to water and sanitation with proven environmental, scientific, social or technological significance.

The Swiss Junior Water Prize 2021 was granted to **Jeanne Käser** for the project "Contamination des invertébrés aquatiques par les néonicotinoïdes : Un état des lieux pour le Seyon". Jeanne Käser carried out her work in the canton of Neuchâtel, on the river Seyon flowing downstream from an intensely used agricultural area. She studied



*Photo: Swiss-JWP
winner Jeanne Käser*

the **impact and prevalence of five common neonicotinoids on aquatic invertebrates**. For this purpose, she developed an innovative method for future studies on the subject, consisting of sampling, sorting and determination, sample processing and laboratory analysis.

As winner of the Swiss-JWP, Jeanne Käser was entitled to represent Switzerland at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). It was not surprising that the international competition had to be **held online** for a second time in a row, due to the pandemic. The Swiss entry and a short video presentation of the research can be found in this [link](#). The SJWP 2021 was attended by **44 finalists from 32 countries** who submitted written projects evaluated by the jury. The Award Ceremony was broadcasted on August 24th and featured the participation of alumni and alumnae from previous editions of the SJWP, as the prize is celebrating its 25th anniversary. As expected, the patron of the prize H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden dedicated a moving message to the finalists and announced the winner of the prize.

2021 marked the **5th year in which the Swiss-JWP has been awarded**. To celebrate this milestone, the SWP and the STO took the opportunity to bring together the talented winners of the Swiss-JWP during these 5 years and to thank the people and organisations that have generously supported the prize along the way. The [event](#) took place on August 24th in the Stadtmühle Willisau (LU), where the guests watched the Award Ceremony of the SJWP and then engaged in a productive discussion on water and climate change challenges in Switzerland and in the world, the relevance and the future of the Swiss-JWP to the Swiss water scene, the role of youth in contributing to solve water challenges, and the importance of intergenerational cooperation as the only way to move forward.



*Photo: Former Swiss-JWP winners, Zamir Borojevic,
Anna Lenna Klein and Laura Bauer (f.l.)*

The winners Anna Lenna Klein (2017), Laura Bauer (2021), Zamir Borojevic (2019) and Jeanne Käser (2021), gave the participants an overview of their research projects and their experiences after the prize. It was particularly rewarding to hear that all of them **drew valuable lessons from the challenge**

of representing Switzerland and have a special place in their hearts for the memories of the prize. Equally inspiring was to know that **all of them care for water and for the environment beyond the prize** and beyond an obligatory school project.



They engage actively in activities like bringing their initial research one step forward, sensitizing for water pollution in the community, collaborating in water projects abroad, bringing relevant water and environmental topics to school children in a fun way or raising awareness in their circle of influence.

Since the Swiss-JWP was created, great care has been given to exposing the winners to **exchange with different actors within the Swiss water sector**. This aspect of the prize is particularly important given the current situation caused by the pandemic, especially taking into consideration that Jeanne Käser was able to represent Switzerland in the SJWP, but that the contest was held online and the trip to Stockholm did not take place.

We are as strong as our network of partners and sponsors. A special thanks goes out to **Karla Schlie from STO** for coordinating the SJWP activities in the 5th year, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) which grants the Stockholm Junior Water Prize and Swiss Youth in Science (Schweizer Jugend forscht), the national science contest that frames the SJWP award. The activity was sponsored by **Skat Foundation, Xylem and seecon** in 2021.

2.3.2 SWP Youth Water Challenge 2021

The SWP Youth Water Challenge is open to participants between 15 and 30 years old, who have an **innovative project related to “Water for development”** that is conducted in or related to Switzerland. This year, in order to encourage collaboration between Swiss and International young water talents, the SWP Youth water challenge has been designed to facilitate the **co-creation of water solutions**. Therefore, the first step of the process was to take part in the Co-Creation Workshop. SWP Youth has received close to a hundred inspiring applications from 40 countries, of which 30 participants have been selected to join the workshop. It allowed them to form teams and to identify most urgent water challenges. They have then been working on **designing solutions** to address these challenges in all parts of the world. The workshop was followed by **coaching sessions** for the groups with coaches from [collaboratio helvetica](#) to support the group members in developing their solution and their proposal.

The teams as well as other youth have been invited to submit their project ideas in August. Based on a set of criteria the SWP Youth management committee, supported by dedicated SWP Steering Board and secretariat members, have carefully reviewed all project proposals to choose the most promising, innovative and sustainable ideas.

The **nine winners** currently implement their projects in seven countries over a period of one year (until Sep. 2022). Therefore, they not only receive seed funding of up to 2000 CHF, but also gain mentorship from leading Swiss water experts, and visibility in the SWP platform as well as in several Swiss and global professional networks. Take a look at all the winning projects [here](#).



The challenge is financially supported by **Geberit AG, Eawag, and Holinger AG**. A special thanks also goes to the numerous mentors of the youth project teams: **Darcy Molnar (ETH), Rupa Mukerji (HELVETAS), Michael Kropac (cewas), Marc-Antoine Mennequerre (WATA), Regula Meierhofer (Eawag), Dorothee Spuhler (Eawag), Mara Tignino (Geneva Water Hub) and Ahmed Haj Asaad (Geo Expertise)**.

2.3.3 Results of the SWP Youth Call for Proposals 2020

In the summer of 2020, SWP Youth received 10 proposals from Afghanistan, Brazil, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Switzerland, after the [call for proposals](#). **Four young project leaders** won grants (up to CHF 1'000 per project) to support their exciting project proposals. One year after, some of the projects had been finalized and presented:

1. **The drop**, a Swiss documentary film, confronts the audience with the topic of water not only as a necessity, but also as an **indicator of social justice, racial inequalities** and a **trigger for social transformative change**. Following a young Swiss student through the USA, Canada, Guatemala and Bolivia, different stories and interviews illustrate how a global system fails to consider its people equally (watch the [trailer](#) here). The financial support from SWP Youth allowed **Maevia Griffiths** to work with Luc Halhoute (Post-production and co-directing of photography) and Moïse Cortat (Music and Sound Post-production) on the image and sound post-production, and thus to finalize her documentary. The Drop was selected for screening at the 2021 Water Docs film festival in Toronto.
2. **Human rights feedback platform** is a simple and confidential online feedback platform that aims to sensitize and mobilize health workers and patients to increase their knowledge of the human right to water and sanitation and **enable them to demand their rights**. The project includes awareness campaigns on this topic.
3. **Water boundaryless chain**: the project had to be cancelled due to limited capacities of the winner.
4. **Networkshops**: in 2021, two Networkshops took place, one virtually, one face-to-face (with 32 participants). The networking events aim to link Swiss young water talents to professionals of the Swiss water for development sector. At the events 4 SWP member organisations - one from research, private, public, NGO sector - present a specific problem from a real case of their work to **discuss potential solutions** with the youth participants. Additionally, it allows to exchange with youth participants on work-related questions and to promote sector-specific insights.



Photo: Participants in a Networkshop discussion with Marc-André Bünzli from Swiss Humanitarian

2.3.4 SWP Youth Session at Stockholm World Water Week 2021 “Multi-Dimensional Role of Youth in Building Resilience”

Involving youth is of vital importance when it comes to resilience, and it can be done in different ways and at different levels. In August 2021 Keerthana, a SWP Youth member, co-created with our close youth water partner organisations the youth session at World Water Week on the **Multi-Dimensional Role of Youth in Building Resilience**. It focused on 3 topics: 1) Water security for peace and cooperation; 2) Nature-based solutions for climate resilience; and 3) WASH in fragile settings. The session has started by setting the scene with 3 concrete examples of how to incorporate youth in resilience building. It gave voice to youth on different roundtables, while promoting intergenerational dialogue with senior experts. The roundtables were organised in 4 different languages to increase inclusiveness and participation. Participants had the opportunity to network and share their perspectives on various themes. For more insights, you can watch the session [here](#).



Photo: Screenshot of the youth session at the Stockholm World Water Week



Key messages:

The population is younger, and a large part of this young population is exposed to water insecurity. Therefore, more and more young people are willing to act and bring changes to water governance. For example, many young entrepreneurs are trying to set up start-ups in a fragile context and bring solutions to grassroots communities. They also take part in global conversation on water management. More and more organisations acknowledge the importance of youth participation, which is positive. However, the road between recognition and effective youth engagement is still long. **Lack of precedent** makes it difficult for organizations to involve youth in all stages of water governance as they often do not know how to proceed. Participants mentioned that organisations should be supported to **build better youth engagement strategies**.

On the other side of the spectrum, youth need to be better equipped to carry out their role, with better technical knowledge, know-how and more experience. **Improving educational programs** from a young age to include more water and climate knowledge (NBS/WASH/Peacebuilding), and developing water and sanitation vocational training in fragile countries were identified as key actions to help youth involvement in the water sector. Finally, **more funding for actions** have been mentioned as key for young people. Though often not yet convincing enough for donors, youth can play a key role in building resilience, whether it is by raising awareness, developing start-ups in their communities, or allowing youth from fragile regions to have a voice in governance mechanisms.

2.4 Outcome 2: Innovations for SDG Water

Under Outcome 2, the SWP intends to **create spaces for reflections, strengthen collaboration and jointly generate, test, share and contribute to innovations**, which enhance achieving the water-related SDG targets. SWP aims to facilitate the joint creation of innovations and solutions by the members and to contribute to the global policy dialogue through knowledge sharing.

Objective
2.1 Opportunities created for Swiss water actors, incl. Youth, to share, learn from each other, and jointly contribute to innovations (SWP Think Tank)
2.2 Innovative ideas tested within the framework of flagship initiatives (SWP Flagship Initiatives)

The basis to create joint innovations is for the members to know each other and to know each other's projects. To stimulate this, SWP organized two webinars, one on occasion of the World Water Day 2021 and another to present the new SWP



members. The General Assembly brought the members together and stimulated the exchange on how to harness innovation to solve local water issues - and scale up to a national and global level. A breakout session at the General Assembly brought out common ideas and approaches regarding the UN Water Theme 2022 “Groundwater” and started the collaboration for the World Water Forum 2022.

The objective to enable a dynamic learning environment by **creating space for reflection and dialogue** was reached in 2021 even though the circumstances were not ideal, as most of the activities could only take place virtually. There is still potential to increase spaces for **developing, testing and sharing innovations**.

2.4.1 Webinar World Water Day 2021

On occasion of the World Water Day, the Swiss Water Partnership organized a virtual event to exchange project experiences with partners. The webinar “**Water Quality in Switzerland and globally: Challenges, solutions and lessons learned**” had the objectives to deepen the understanding of challenges around water quality in Switzerland and internationally, to bring Swiss actors together, share solutions and approaches and create a Swiss voice and to discuss which solutions and approaches from Switzerland could be applied internationally.

The SWP addresses the topic of access to water and improved quality of water, mostly in the context of development work and humanitarian aid. But access to clean water is a global concern – it is of high relevance also for the Northern countries. For SWP and Switzerland, the **protection and improvement of access to clean water** has a high priority and relevance. The topic is also linked to the UN water theme 2021 “**Valuing water**” as clean water is an important value for people living in Switzerland, but often not recognized enough.

The World Water Day was an opportunity to create awareness of the situation and the need for efforts to improve the water quality, in Switzerland and globally and considering that experiences and solutions from Switzerland could contribute to projects internationally.



Photo: Flyer SWP Webinar World Water Day

The virtual event was moderated by Daniel Maselli from SDC and a welcome note was given by Mr. **Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**. Mr Arrojo mentioned that water scarcity and lack of access – for 2.2 billion who cannot fulfil their human right to WASH – is in part due to water pollution. The water quality is a factor of inequality and inequity and therefore, more efforts to protect water ecosystems is needed.

National focus

The focus of the Swiss part of the webinar was on the overall water resources situation in Switzerland (groundwater and surface water pollution), the drinking water supply and management, wastewater treatment and the legal framework. The webinar showed how the municipalities and the water utilities manage water quality and how they deal with emerging pollutants (e.g. organic micropollutants).

Christian Stamm from Eawag presented the experience and lessons learned around water quality from the last 60 years in Switzerland. **André Olschewski from Holinger** presented the situation of drinking water supply in Switzerland. Finally, **Pascal Wunderlin from VSA** focused on wastewater treatment in Switzerland.

The main challenges in Switzerland for the next years will be the monitoring of the introduction of organic micropollutants from industrial wastewater into the water bodies and the implementation of new technologies to treat wastewater with such substances and. The upgrade of municipal wastewater treatment plants until 2040 will cause additional costs of around 9 CHF per person and year, which is broadly accepted.



International focus

The international part of the webinar aimed to get an overview of the challenges on international level and presented Swiss solutions for water treatment on household level, for industrial use and strengthening of municipalities in wastewater treatment, data management and business opportunities abroad.

Joel Podgorski from Eawag presented a groundwater quality prediction modelling project that utilizes machine learning with data of natural/ geological-origin contamination. **Devi Bühler from Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW)** developed a technological innovation with, the LaundReCycle for the re-use of grey water on household level. The product is an off-grid laundromat, energy and water self-sufficient. **Alexandra Kappeler from Helvetas** presented a project on integral solutions in wastewater management for growing cities in Bolivia, strengthening the capacities of municipal operators. **Andreas Steiner from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** presented SDC's Water Pollution Program which aims to improve health, livelihoods and environmentally sustainable growth through better water quality. **Shivani Swamy from Livinguard** focused in her presentation on the importance of technology selection and problem-based innovations at the example of India. **Lukas Bouman from Eawag** presented the advantages and challenges of different passive, in-line chlorination options for rural water supply systems. **David Avery of Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE)** is supporting Swiss small- and middle-income enterprises in their international infrastructure projects. S-GE matches requests from abroad with solutions from Switzerland.

The SWP Webinar contributed to deepen the **understanding of the water quality challenges and lessons learned in Switzerland** and presented a wide range of solutions to face similar challenges globally, which can give the participants inputs for their daily work in the international context. The event was the result of Swiss water actors brought together in a Working Group on water quality for **three months to share solutions and approaches**, to create a Swiss voice and to prepare the webinar together. Finally, the discussion showed that Switzerland has responsibilities in the international context on aspects such as technology transfer, water footprint, water tower of Europe, SDG monitoring framework, and data collection, and that further collaboration between different sector actors is the only way to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal on water quality.

In total **89 participants and 14 speakers from 18 SWP members** were participating in the virtual event. The high number of participants showed a broad interest in the topic and the majority is interested to participate at further events or exchanges around the topic water quality. The detailed report can be found [here](#).



2.4.2 SWP General Assembly

In occasion of the SWP General Assembly, Swiss water actors gathered at the AQUA4D headquarters in Sierre, Valais. The morning session with pitches on the two focus topics “Swiss water efficiency: Alleviating the water crisis in Salgesch” and “Water management: Sustainable and efficient solutions to reduce value chain water footprint” animated the discussions among the SWP members and other participants. To illustrate the “act local, think global” mindset, the day began with very specific local examples before zooming out to how Swiss actors are supporting water conservation around the world.

Agriculture in the Valais region has always been reliant on snowmelt from its glaciers, and climate change is accelerating this process and putting water supplies at risk. There is a lack of water supply, especially in summer, when agriculture really needs water. Innovative technologies can support to close the gap, for example through monitoring and track plant growth with satellite measurements, water storage systems and water saving methodologies. But incentives from policy side and tools to promote more efficient integrated water management need to be set in place additionally.

When looking at global level, it can be noticed that official Swiss water consumption is going down, while the external Swiss water footprint is increasing. The country is to a certain extent externalizing its water footprint. This is something that Swiss NGOs and companies are combatting. Sustainable projects were presented, ranging from a sustainable strawberry cultivation project in Spain, to a supply chain approach, with incentives and promotion of water stewardship at all levels, from farm to policy and market, to an urban waste recycling project for nutrient recovery for agriculture.

Finally, in a panel discussion, strong arguments regarding the inherent interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral nature of water were made. Only the collaboration of different actors can result in a successful combination of incentives, regulations and financing to bring water sector projects further.

2.4.3 Presentation of new SWP members

One of the key objectives of the Swiss Water Partnership is to be a growing network of water actors and to foster the exchange between the members. After **new members** very shortly presented themselves at the General Assembly in September, the Secretariat organised a more in-depth online presentation event in November 2021. The objective was to give the new SWP members of 2021 the opportunity to present their organisation or company to the other SWP members and other interested partners. This short introduction brought insights to their work and helped to connect interested members with them.

Droople SA



Droople is a Swiss cleantech, building the **Internet of Water**. Droople accelerates the adoption of sustainable practices, promotes the integration of water conservation systems, and educates on the value of this essential resource. The 5-year focus is to **digitize water filtration systems** with a retrofit solution based on smart flow, temperature and hardness sensors. Vendors and service providers are equipped with an AI-enabled cloud platform, enabling monitoring, predictive maintenance and unlocking water and energy savings.

GWF Messsysteme AG

GWF MessSysteme AG is the leading company in Switzerland for **measuring and recording consumption data for gas, water, electricity and heat**. It offers its customers pioneering system solutions for reading, communicating and managing metering data. GWF is a Swiss family-owned company with over 200 employees and a success story spanning more than 120 years. The company has evolved from a proven meter manufacturer to a competent and innovative partner for **metering systems and meter data management**.

SAPI International

Save the People International (SAPI) is an association which focuses its interventions in three complementary sectors, namely health, emergencies and protection. With a group of WASH experts over the past 5 years, the association has served more than 24,000 households and 12,400 students with **clean water and sanitation services** in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Burundi and the Central African Republic. In each country, a WASH team monitors interventions on the ground.

Toilets for all

Toilets for All is a Swiss foundation which contributes to closing the huge gap in **access to clean and dignified toilets for the world's population** (SDG 6.2), leaving no one behind. The foundation aims to achieve this goal through different collaborative actions, acting as an **enabler for both entrepreneurs and funders**, but also legislative organisations, select communities and government bodies, and focusing on the emergent sector of circular off-grid in-home sanitation (COGIHS) and related hygiene efforts. Toilets for All believes that this is where the highest impact can be made, with the greatest knock-on effect on other SDGs.

The SWP warmly welcomes its new members!

2.4.4 Partnerships with Innovate4Water and Swiss Water and Climate Forum

The SWP partnered with the Innovate4Water in Lausanne and the Swiss Water and Climate Forum in Willisau in 2021. Both events aimed to bring water stakeholders together.



- **Innovate4Water**

Innovate4Water is a **marketplace for sustainable development**, organized by **Waterpreneurs**. The 2-day marketplace event in Lausanne built bridges between the private sector and all the other key stakeholders leveraging water-related sector opportunities. The Swiss Water Partnership supported Waterpreneurs in **communicating** the event to the SWP members and **moderated one pitch session** at the event. Three SWP members pitched their innovations and projects during the event. SWP was also engaged in networking during the event and gained **two new members**.



Photo: Christian Zurbrugg, Steering Board member SWP, moderated a session at Innovate4Water in Lausanne

- **Swiss Water& Climate Forum**

The Swiss Water & Climate Forum (SWCF) is a large-scale **project incubator for tackling climate and water-related challenges** on the regional level. **Cewas** organizes the Forum every two years as the culmination of a two-year project development cycle. In September 2021, a first forum took place in Willisau. As partner, SWP supported the organizers in communicating the event and mobilizing SWP Youth to participate. At the end of the forum, **9 innovative, sustainable projects** were created and discussed in multi-sectoral stakeholder groups. What all projects have in common is their claim to find local answers to global questions in the field of climate and water.

SWP Youth members participated in the first edition of the Swiss Water and Climate Forum and submitted a project in advance, which was discussed in a group during the forum. The team lead by Delphine Magara and Miriam Bergqvist won the seed funding prize with their solution **"WH20 for Youth"**, which aims to make a **youth-friendly stakeholder map** of the Swiss water sector. For more information please visit the entry in the [SWCF blog](#).



Photo: Winners of SWCF prize and the SWP Youth representatives at the event



2.5 Outcome 3: Strong Swiss Voice

The third outcome “Strong Swiss Voice” focuses on the water dialogue on **water-related SDG targets and highlighting Swiss water expertise**. SWP’s convening power and its international presence shall contribute to the review, refinement, adoption and replication of effective approaches for water security.

Objective
3.1 A dialogue on selected issues related to the monitoring and implementation of water-related SDG targets facilitated in Switzerland (Water Dialogue)
3.2 Swiss water expertise highlighted at Swiss and international events (Events)
3.3 Relationships built/ maintained with key sector actors (Networks)

For the second year on a row, the opportunities to participate at international events and the international exchange with other networks and partners was limited in 2021.

Nevertheless, many SWP members used the chance to present their projects and innovative approaches during the virtual **Stockholm World Water Week**. This participation contributed to the promotion of Swiss expertise on international level and strengthened the collaboration among SWP members. Several bilateral exchanges with other water partnership took place at the Stockholm World Water Week and other virtual events.

SWP preparation for the planned **study tours** had to be stopped due to the cancellation of the ADB study tour and the postponement of the ASEAN study tour. To further inform and spark the interest with the ASEAN group, a small team of the SWP Secretariat, SDC, Federal Office of Environment and Geneva Water Hub presented what they can expect when coming to Switzerland for the tour.

With the expectation that more events can take place physically again from 2023 onwards, also the opportunities to gain **recognition for the Swiss water actors** and to **create concrete projects and strategic partnerships** shall increase again.

2.5.1 Stockholm World Water Week 2021

The preparation for the Stockholm World Water Week 2021 had started at the SWP General Assembly 2020 where members exchanged about the UN Water theme “Valuing Water” which generally would be the central theme of the SWWW as well. However, towards the end of 2020, SIWI announced another topic for the Stockholm



World Water Week 2021: “**Building Resilience Faster**”. In several working group meetings, the interested SWP members brainstormed about different focus areas within this topic and built two groups, one focusing on the water flow diagram, the other on impact investment and sustainable financing models and prepared the session proposal. SWP Youth took the lead of the elaboration of the session proposal with other youth groups from all over the world (see section 2.3.4.).

SWP participation at the Stockholm World Water Week generally aims to **promote the Swiss knowhow** on water internationally, **present Swiss solutions and expertise** in an international environment and **network with other water stakeholders** from all over the world. The collaboration amongst SWP members and to working together on specific topics are additional positive outcomes.

The SWP co-hosted **three sessions** at the Stockholm World Water Week and coordinated the Swiss participation at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) (see table). . The three sessions involved around 40 convenors, speakers, moderators and facilitators from SWP members and partners and **attracted 375 participants from 71 countries**.

Title	Co-Convenors	Date and time	No of participants
Water Stories: Visual narratives of Urban Flows	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Eawag, HEKS, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), UNICEF, SWP	23 August 2021, 13:00-14:30 CET and 26 August 2021, 21:00-22:30	190
With Impact Investment & Innovative Financing Models to Systemic Change	Livinguard, Geo Expertise, Cewas, ZHAW, SDC, SWP	26 August 2021, 17:00-18:00 CET	85
Multi-dimensional Role of Youth in Building Resilience	International Secretariat for Water, SIWI, French Water Partnership, Global Water Partnership, Netherlands Water Partnership, Young Water Solutions, UNESCO, Youth Delegates to the World Water Council, Central Asia Youth 4 Water Network, Young Expert Programmes, Water Youth Network	23 August 2021, 17:00-18:00 CET	100
Stockholm Junior Water Prize Award	STO, SWP	24 August 2021, 14:00-15:00 CET	-

Fig. 2: Overview of SWP sessions at Stockholm World Water Week 2021



- **Session on Water Stories: Visual narratives of Urban Flows**

In 2018, 55 percent of the population worldwide lived in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68 percent by 2050 (UN, 2018). With rising populations, cities are increasingly confronted with water shortages, flooding, ground water challenges, and pollution. Intensifying concern about climate change and human and environmental health **requires holistic urban water management** more than ever before. It's becoming more challenging to supply water in the required quantity and quality and to deal with the produced wastewater in a safe way.

The **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Eawag, HEKS, Stockholm Environment Institute, UNICEF and Swiss Water Partnership** got together to develop a tool to make urban water flows visible. The goal of the initiative is to make the current state of a city's water situation readily available to the public and relevant actors to improve a city's water management. The presentation of the tool at the Stockholm World Water Week intended to shape the further development of the water flow diagram together with a broad audience.

The water sector is lacking an **easy-to-use visualization tool** to identify the issues and challenges related to urban water flows that require priority action. The tool captures, through a set of visual diagrams, relevant natural and human processes to inform strategic decisions. The diagram is a communication and awareness raising tool with 3 main purposes:

- Raise awareness through co-created information as a precondition for citizen participation in the dialogue with duty bearers. The water stories allow citizens to easily understand the water flows and related issues of their city.
- Provide evidence for policy makers and urban water planners: Decision makers will be able to understand the current and future risks and opportunities and to come up with concrete solutions. Additionally, comparison among similar cities should foster transfer of best practices.
- Foster collaboration between Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to enable holistic urban water management in line with the sustainable development goals.

The preparation for the World Water Week helped to **sharpen the initial idea** and **understand better the challenges** that will arise when developing such a tool. Two interactive sessions at Stockholm World Water Week could confirm the potential of such a tool.

The main takeaways from the session were:

- It is not possible to design one tool to **satisfy all the needs** of different users.
- **Dissemination of the tool** will be crucial. Not many tools are widely known.
- **Data availability and accessibility** will be challenging.



Photo: Visualization of group discussions

The session also clarified the aspects that will need careful attention during the development of the tool. These include:

- System boundaries
- Seasonal and regional variability
- Visual indication of “affordability and “accessibility” (Human right aspects)
- Visualization of water quality
- Different types of resources that can be reused: water, heat, nutrients, organics
- Classification of processes (from rainwater harvesting, to blue-green infrastructure and advanced wastewater treatment plants)

This session can be watched [here](#).

It is planned to further develop the Water Flow Diagram tool with Eawag, SDC, HEKS and SWP involved.

- **Session on Impact Investment & Innovative Financing Models to Systemic Change**

The water sector, while being key to our survival, remain grossly underfunded and sustainable financing models have not been mainstreamed. Most efforts are project-based, resulting in time-bound availability of funds and hampering sustainability. Impact businesses and innovative financial modeling can play a key role in creating long lasting positive outcomes. The session discussed how to **mainstream innovative and sustainable financing models** and how **impact investment** in the water sector can be improved.



Short pitches of **Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth of University of Zürich**, **Livinguard**, **Geo Expertise**, **Cewas** and **GWF** showed success stories of projects for innovative and sustainable financing models for WASH, involving the communities. The presenters were challenged by **Fabrice Fretz from SDC** and **Shabana Abbas from Aqua for All** with questions on how to find solutions to **reduce greenwashing** in investment and to **scale up** the best practices of sustainable financing models to bridge the funding gap.

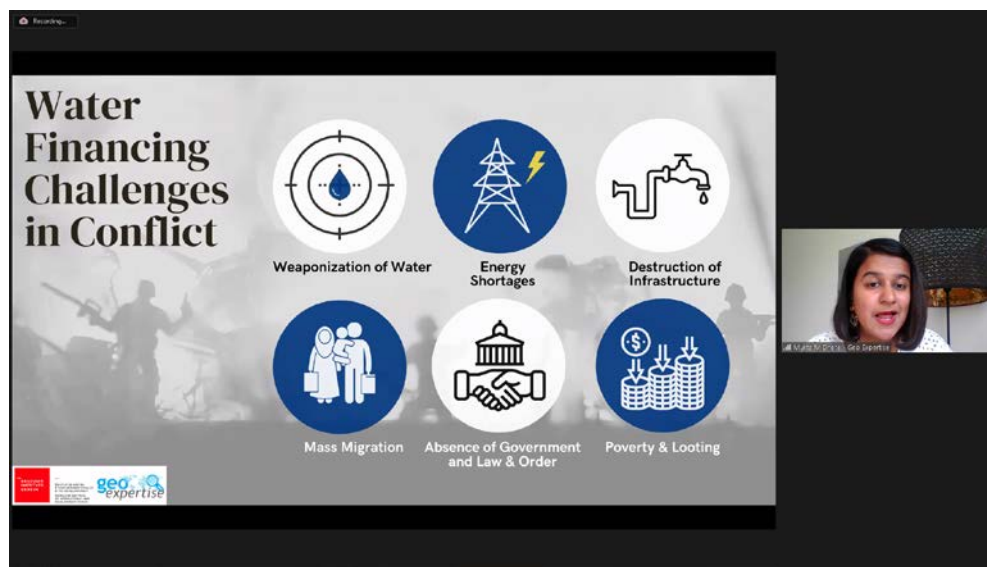


Photo: Mukta Dhere from Geo Expertise presents a solution for sustainable financing models

The participants were asked to answer a poll on “**Why do only 3 percent of impact investment go into the water sector**”. The most mentioned answers were:

- high risk
- poor governance
- missing incentives, and
- low market returns



Photo: Poll result

Following up on the poll, the participants were invited to discuss how we can create **long lasting positive outcomes**, more **transparency in investment** and exchanged about the **need of more regulations**.



The key messages of the session were:

1. **Reliable, open data is needed** and it has to be defined which institution is in charge.
2. With low-cost data collection with **inclusion of the local communities** we can increase awareness and get more reliable data.
3. For policy reforms concerning climate change, **long-time series** need to be collected, starting now to see trends and to know where we are heading to.

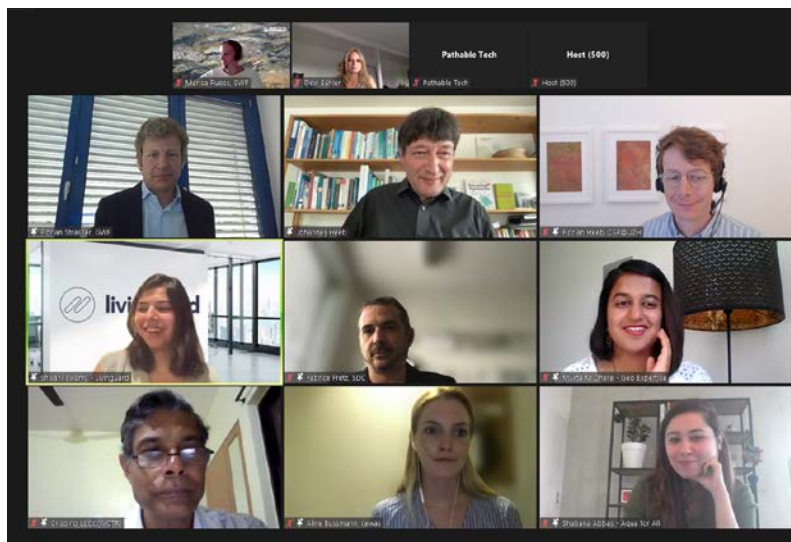


Photo: Speakers of the session “With Impact Investment & Innovative Financing Models to Systemic Change”

This session can be watched [here](#).

- ***Conclusion of the Swiss participation at the Stockholm World Water Week***

The webinars gave the SWP members the opportunity to create **visibility of Swiss water solutions internationally** and to **promote the SWP members’ knowhow**. The possibilities to network were reduced due to the change to an online format. On the other hand, the online event created a broader visibility with participants from many countries who usually would not travel to Stockholm. The **number of attendees was substantial**, and the positive effect of the recorded online sessions is the possibility to watch it again.

Compared to the WWW 2020, the virtual conference was organized more professionally, and the different formats gave the co-convenors the possibility to structure the session in the preferred way. The virtual platform additionally allowed to organize bilateral meetings and offered networking sessions.



The preparation of the sessions with the SWP members was a positive experience. After many months experience with virtual events, the speakers have more experience in holding short and precise presentations and exchanges in breakout rooms became normal for all participants.

All sessions used **creative formats and tools to increase the interaction with the audience** and to make the sessions more attractive: The session on Water Stories focused mainly on the interactive part with breakout room discussions and hired visual rapporteurs to document the results. In the finance session, challengers had the task to ask questions to the speakers. The youth session used the Miro board for documentation and exchanged in breakout rooms with the participants.

The winner of the Swiss Junior Water Prize presented a very promising project and generated through her video additional visibility for Switzerland. Even though she could not travel to Stockholm this year, the **gathering to watch the award ceremony with former winners, sponsors and other involved actors** was appreciated by all participants and motivated looking into further options to make the Swiss Junior Water Prize more visible and attractive.

Overall, the objectives to promote Swiss knowhow and present Swiss high-quality solutions and expertise in an international environment have been reached. The networking possibilities with other (international) water stakeholders was limited due to the missing personal contact. The **collaboration for the preparation of events among the SWP members was very constructive and motivating**. SWP Youth took over a special role in coordinating and moderation the Youth session and gained broad visibility and a positive reputation in the youth networks. The goal for next year's World Water Week should be to prepare again a variety of proposals with different partners to position the Swiss brand and create visibility.



3. Financial Overview

The 2021 **expenditures** of Swiss Water Partnership were **CHF 270'710.93**, well below the CHF 392'136 budgeted.

On the **income** side, the total SDC contribution amounted to **CHF 195'164.52**, CHF 163'702.04 as usual contribution (60% of accrued expenses) plus CHF 31'462.48 as deficit cover. Other income sources were the membership fees of **CHF 58'000.00** and sponsorship of **CHF 23'045.45**.

This results in a positive balance of **CHF 5'499** for 2021. This same amount was negative on the SWP account. Thanks to the deficit cover from SDC, the Swiss Water Partnership will end the phase 3 with a zero balance on the account.

EXPENSES	Budget 2021	Financial Report 2021
Remuneration	279'100.00	220'931.25
Coordination	148'500.00	126'527.50
Secretary General	55'800.00	32'705.00
Focal Point Suisse Romande	55'800.00	34'100.00
Administration	9'000.00	17'600.00
Bookkeeping and Audit	10'000.00	8'410.00
Graphic design / Facilitator	0.00	1'588.00
Translation	0.00	0.00
Material expenses	43'500.00	11'927.21
International events (exhibition space + materials, seminar fees)	35'000.00	10'207.03
Swiss events	5'000.00	320.00
Print (flyers, brochures, etc.)	1'000.00	27.86
Website hosting + continuous improvements	2'500.00	1'277.42
Finance expenses ZKB	0.00	95.10
Travel expenses	11'500.00	1'000.03
Airfare international events	6'000.00	0.00
Expenses accomodation and food	4'000.00	341.07
Train tickets within Switzerland	1'500.00	658.96
Other costs	30'000.00	12'074.85
Flagship initiatives	10'000.00	0.00
Swiss Junior Water Prize	10'000.00	2'691.85
Youth initiatives	10'000.00	9'383.00
VAT (7.7%)	28'036.00	24'777.39
TOTAL COSTS	392'136.00	270'710.93



INCOME	Budget 2021	Financial Report 2021
SDC contribution	232'000	195'164.52
Membership fees	55'000.00	58'000.00
Other income	105'000.00	23'045.45
Member contribution for events, trainings, etc.	20'000.00	7'545.45
Event sponsorship external	20'000.00	0.00
Swiss Junior Water Prize sponsorship	10'000.00	3'000.00
Youth initiative sponsorship	10'000.00	12'500.00
Flagship initiative sponsorship	19'000.00	0.00
Other resources/income (study tour)	26'000.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	392'000.00	276'209.97
Balance	-136.00	5'499.04

Fig. 3: Financial Report 2021

As in 2020, few events took place physically in 2021. The consequence for SWP was that the income for events, trainings and study tours was very low, while the SWP Secretariat used almost the same capacities for normal coordination tasks and the organisation for virtual events. The **contribution of SDC** (usual contribution plus deficit coverage) made up the largest part of the SWP income with 71%. With the **membership**

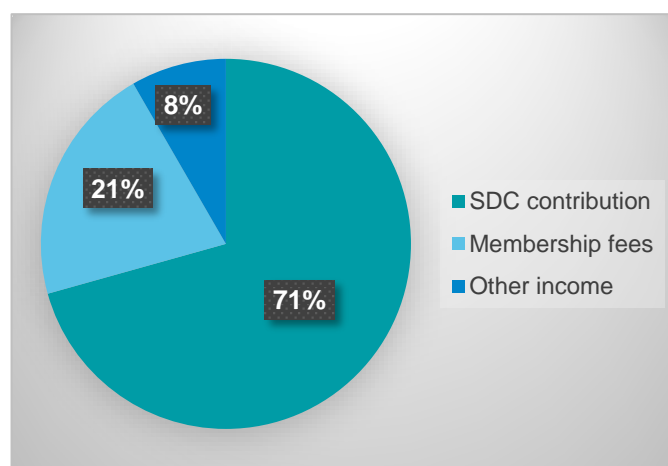


Fig. 4: Income Repartition 2021

fee, 21% of the SWP income was generated. The high amount of membership fees (compared to budget) can be explained by many delayed payments in former years which were finally paid in 2021. Due to the small number of events happening face to face in the second Covid-19 year and the income missed through this, the **sponsorships** and contributions to events generated only 8% of the income in 2021. This 8% was generated through the Swiss Junior Water Prize and SWP Youth Water Challenge sponsorship as well as the contributions to the Stockholm World Water Week virtual conference.

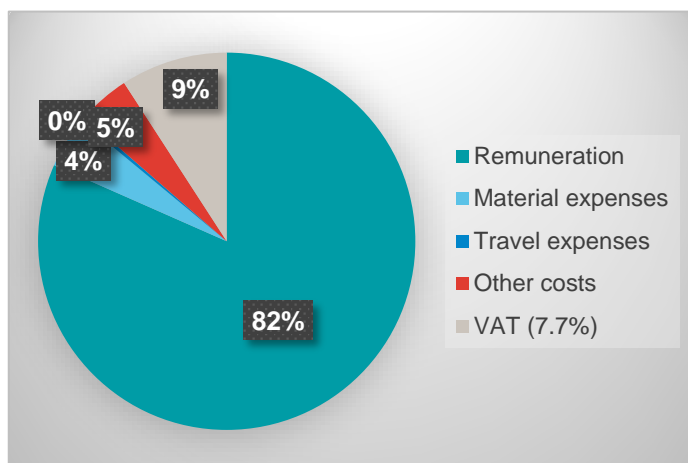


Fig. 5: Expense Repartition 2021

planned activities were reduced and certain activities could not be realized (e.g. the elaboration of a position paper on the Swiss water footprint as a flagship initiative). Also **travel** (0.5%) and **material** expenses (4%) were very low for the second time on a row.

Given the Covid-19 situation and the expected financial loss, the SWP Steering Board decided to limit the hours as much as possible which resulted in reduced hours for the Secretary General and Focal Point Suisse Romande for the year 2021. Through this measure, the SWP Secretariat reduced the expenses for **remuneration**¹ (82% of all expenses). This meant that capacities for

4. Achievements of Phase 3 and lessons learned

2021 was the last year of the SWP phase 3. Whereas Phase 1 (May 2012 - April 2015) enabled the launch and build-up of the platform (mobilising members, developing a vision and a business model), Phase 2 (May 2015 - December 2018) resulted in a consolidation of the international recognition of Swiss water expertise. For Phase 3, the goal was to **stabilize the platform** and facilitating the development and testing of **promising, innovative approaches** contributing to achieving the Agenda 2030, especially the water-related SDG targets and which SWP members jointly develop and test.

Between January 2019 and December 2021, the SWP has **achieved a solid and diverse membership base** with around 70 members. The SWP has gained visibility in Switzerland and abroad and is recognized as “the place to be” as Swiss water actor. The **knowledge exchange and networking** activities are well attended and valued by members, showing a dynamic membership base interested in learning across the science-policy-practice spheres. A [SWP member survey](#) conducted in 2020 showed that the satisfaction with the different activities is mostly high and that the activities are seen as relevant, also for the future. The founding of a **SWP Youth in 2019** and their activities, such as the 2020 and 2021 calls for proposals, have been a podium for young people to express concerns and contribute new ideas on water security. At

¹ Remuneration total 2019 (pre-covid): CHF 253'172
Remuneration total 2020 (covid): CHF 225'050



a key moment for Switzerland's global cooperation policy, SWP members advocated jointly for a more prominent consideration of water resources in the **Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021-24** through a public statement signed on 23rd of August 2019, evidencing also an active role in national water dialogues of global relevance.

One of the biggest challenges in 2020 was the immediate influence of the **Covid-19 pandemic** on the activities of SWP. National and international events had to be **cancelled and postponed**. Through this change to virtual events, an important **income generating opportunity** got lost. Consequently, the platform elaborated different **scenarios for 2021** and SDC supported the SWP with additional resources in 2020 and 2021. The Swiss Water Partnership collected and shared Covid-19 response projects of the members in the July 2020 newsletter, illustrating the response of the Swiss water actors abroad. The youth activities despite the lockdowns and pandemic continued to gain traction.

This period also left important **lessons learned that will need to be included in the future**:

- It is important to continuously broaden, increase and maintain an active **membership base** that covers private-public-academic-civil society. Doing justice to all interests is a balancing act but contributes to a more sustainable and efficient platform.
- **Networking and connecting** (among members, with external partners and intergenerational exchange) as well as **international visibility and reputation** under the Swiss flag are the main values of the SWP membership.
- Knowledge exchange and learning through sharing stories on water solutions and the presentation of products and innovations can **strengthen the SWP think tank function** and lead to the development of new ideas and joint solutions.
- The **Covid-19 pandemic** influenced the way of working towards more virtual events and online work, and it is, expected this will in part continue to be so, shaping the SWP activities.
- The need to **diversify income** sources and reduce financial dependency of SDC is important, as the current financing modality will not continue after 2026. The diversification can be done by increasing the number of members, developing more income earning activities (sponsorships and contributions to events) or, in case the resources cannot be obtained, by reducing the objectives.
- The **impact of SWP activities**, from outreach to cases of effective partnerships born in SWP, need to be better monitored and communicated.

The networking and knowledge exchange among SWP members is highly valued and ideally also translates into **opening up business or work opportunities**. This is an additional benefit for the members that is needed to keep members interested and requires more attention in Phase 4. SWP is a balancing act between a sector community around knowledge and members' commercial interests. **Flagship initiatives** as a modality for joint development and testing of ideas and innovative solutions for SDG6 (SWP's *think tank function*) have so far been limited by the upfront



time investment of members and **financial resources**². A pilot project in Ethiopia with Nestlé has been on hold due to political difficulties in the country. **More dynamic and quicker processes** to exchange on new ideas (drawing in also external expertise) seem to be a better option to get **new co-creation processes** started. Some concrete ideas are to organize 1) quarterly “meet-the-members” sessions where members have the opportunity to present themselves, their new topics and solutions as well as to ask for collaborations, and 2) temporary topic-interest based discussions and brainstorming sessions.

For the development of the platform, SWP has to **revisit and sharpen Swiss water expertise areas**, for example through updating members’ expertise topics on the SWP website and communicate them more regularly. More **joint work** under Swiss innovations for SDG6 is needed. It demands more knowledge of who is doing what and regular events where members can meet and get to know each other’s projects, new topics and products as well as questions for collaboration. SWP members can become a sounding board for other members’ innovative ideas and approaches and can help scaling them up. The existing **working groups** (e.g. for preparing a webinar at the occasion of the World Water Day 2021 on the topic “Water Quality in Switzerland and globally: Challenges, solutions and lessons learned”) are good vessels for these exchanges.

The experience from phase 3 shows that organizing **study tours** is a highly important activity that allows thematic exchange between members and foreign delegations. These activities should be developed further and virtual alternatives shall be analysed as alternative for groups with limited travelling possibilities. Apart from study tours, the demand for technical assistance has been low in phase 3 but shall nevertheless continue to be a potential income generation modality.

5. Outlook new SWP phase

Aware of our strengths and considering the lessons learned so far, the key **ambitions** of the SWP for the 2022-2025 are the following:

- **More joint work** under *Swiss innovations for SDG6* is needed.
- A **stable platform** (objective of phase 3) will remain an objective in phase 4, aiming towards a more resilient and agile platform for the future.
- **Facilitate clusters** around members’ expertise around **focus topics** to maintain the diverse membership base and promote private sector actors.
- **Broaden the membership base** by including other sectors (e.g. finance, pharmaceutical, chemistry, etc.)
- For the development of the platform, SWP has to **revisit and sharpen Swiss water expertise areas** and communicate them clearly externally to

² Flagship Initiatives explored to date are: Report about Swiss water footprint and rotational internship project. The initiatives were put on hold due to the reduction of human resources, based on the conservative financial scenario for 2020 and 2021.



potential partners and other key stakeholders interested in the swiss water sector.

- **More dynamic and quicker processes** to exchange on new ideas and solutions lead to more co-development.
- Strengthening the search for sponsorship and the creation of new activities leads to **financial diversification**.
- **Monitoring impact and communicate** added value to members.
- **Integrate** SWP youth activities in all SWP activities.

6. Members of the SWP

The SWP is a partnership comprising currently 70 members. The SWP General Assembly of September 2021 approved **four new members**: Toilets for all and SAPI International from NGOs and GWF Messsysteme and Droople from the private sector. Reasons of two members to leave the SWP were that they didn't have water projects anymore resp. had moved the water projects to an office abroad. One network (Alliance Sud) left, as it is represented through its members. Also, the memberships of several members had to be cancelled in 2021 due to lack of payment. 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.

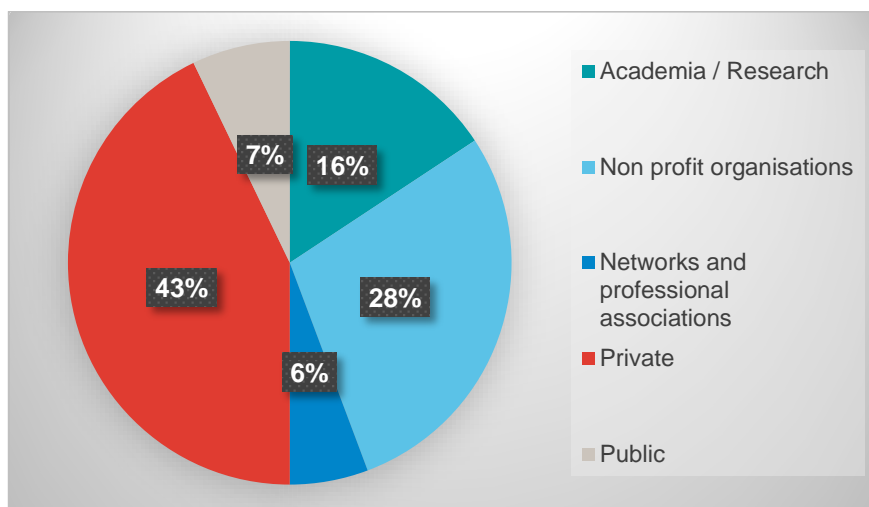


Fig. 6: SWP Member Repartition by Sector 2021

In general, the [member organizations of the SWP](#) contribute to shape the platform's strategy and activities through their active involvement in the General Assembly, Working and Discussion Groups, and events. Under the SWP umbrella, members further enhance their expertise, visibility and potential impact by learning from each other, jointly developing and discussing new ideas, promoting them within national and international events and by bringing them to key international actors in the water sector.



7. Organizational Set-Up

7.1 Steering Board

The total of 12 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 twice a year to review the Secretariat's work and give strategic advice.

In 2021, **Olga Darazs** resigned from her position as SWP Chair and Steering Board member. She was in the Steering Board and (Co-)Chair since the organisation was founded. Her contribution to the development of the platform were significant in the 10 years. The Swiss Water Partnerships thanks Olga for her big efforts and commitment for the organisation.

SB Member	Member organisation	Elected	End of Mandate	Sector
Andreas Zysset	EBP	2021	2024	Private
Chris Zurbrugg	Eawag	2021	2024	Research
Darcy Molnar	ETHZ, Institute of Environmental Engineering	2019	2022	Research
Derko Kopitopoulos	Ecopsis	2021	2024	Private
Christof Sonderegger	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)	2020	2023	Public
Eric Plan	Cleantech Alps	2021	2024	Network / professional associations
Simon Zbinden	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	2020	2023	Public
Johannes Heeb	Cewas	2021	2024	Private
Nidal Salim	Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH)	2021	2024	Non-Profit
Rose Osinde Alabaster	Water, Environment and Human Development Initiative (WEHDI)	2020	2023	Non-Profit
Abishek Narayan	SWP Youth Management Committee, Eawag	2020	2023	Youth

Fig. 7: Steering Board Composition 2021



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.

Coordinator: Marisa Ruoss

Marisa Ruoss holds a Bachelor in Geography and Anthropology and an international Master in Metropolitan Studies with the focus on urban water supply in Mexico City. She has gained field experience in inclusive WASH through strengthening the capacity of a municipality in Cameroon and worked on policy and advocacy in a Water and Sanitation Network in Tanzania. 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 B.A. in Social and Cultural Studies and a M.Sc. 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 and African 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 Working and Discussion Groups

The SWP provides its members the opportunity to take the lead and/or actively engage in Discussion or Working Groups on specific topics or in preparation of a specific event. Any member can launch a **Discussion Group** to exchange, discuss or innovate, as they are a dynamic tool open to any member interested in shaping the SWP. The creation of a **Working Group** is more formalized as the Steering Board has to validate it along with its planned objectives and outputs. It needs a host member and 2-3 other members from at least two different sectors. The Working Groups are free to invite additional stakeholders from outside SWP (on national or international level) to collaborate for an event or to work at a specific topic.

In 2021, a Working Group was in place to prepare the World Water Forum 2022. The starting point was the General Assembly 2021. Further meetings took place virtually. The working group was composed of the following members, also from public, private, academia and NGO:

Public sector	Private sector	NGO	Academia
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swiss Humanitarian Aid	WATA Technologies	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	Eawag
City of Lausanne – Solidarit’eau	Swiss Fresh Water	Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC) members: Caritas Switzerland, Fastenaktion, HEKS/EPER, HELVETAS, Swissaid, Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes	Geneva Water Hub
Canton Geneva	Links to Water Development	World Vision International	Network for Water and Life (NEWAL) - CLOC West Africa (ETH Zürich)
	Hycon/ CLARA	The Blue Miracle	ZHAW
	Sanitation and Water Entrepreneurship Pact (CEWAS)	Access to Water Foundation	
	Switzerland Global Enterprise		

Fig. 8: Overview Working Group World Water Forum

In 2021, no Discussion Group was active. The SWP members are invited to launch new dynamic groups and link them with the SWP activities and value propositions.