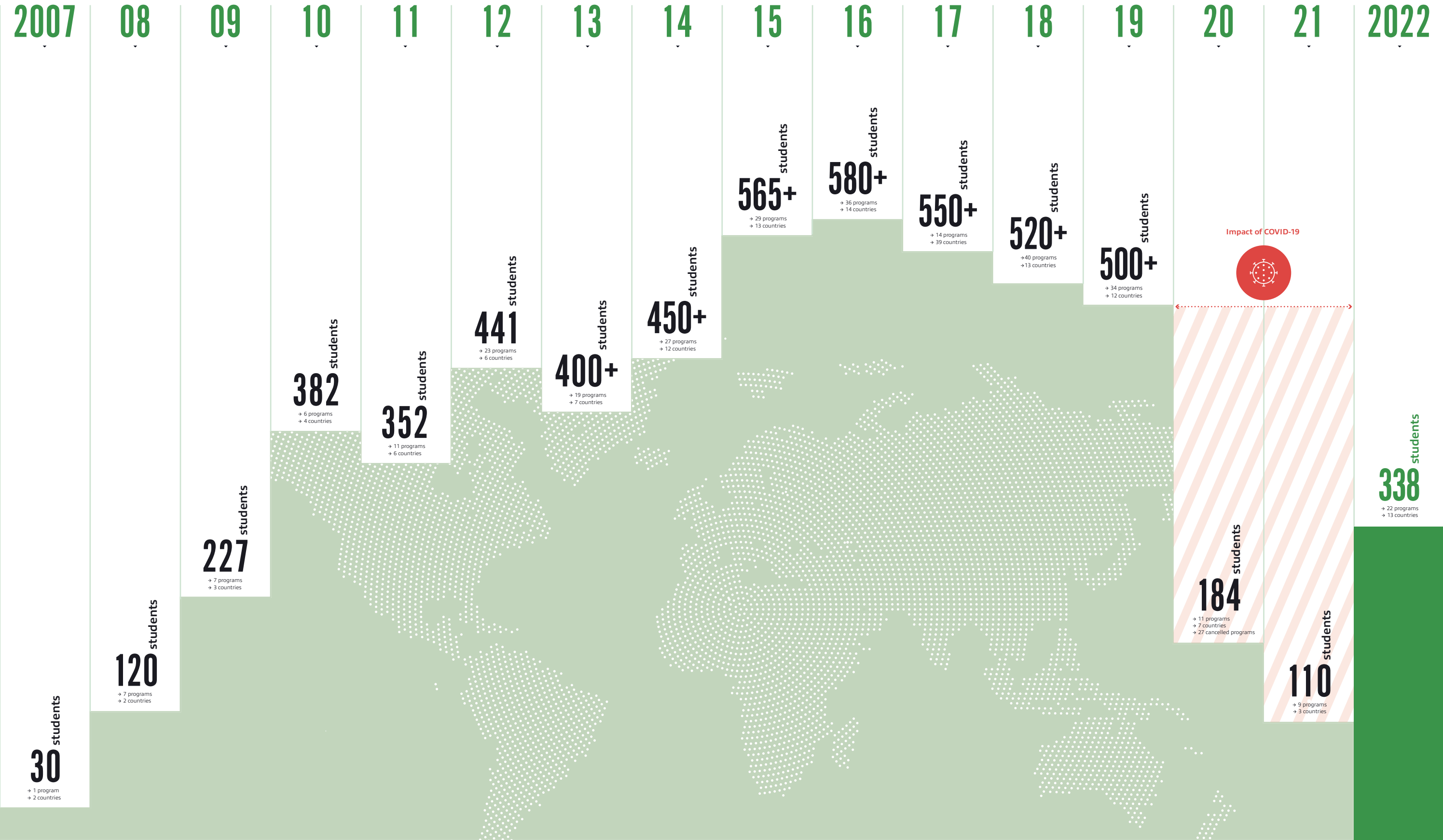


2022 REPORT OF INTERNA- TIONAL ACTIVITIES IN EDUCA- TION & RESEARCH

The year we
reconnected

Evolution of the DGES
international programs 2007-2022



Tertiary Education in the Canton of Vaud

15 universities:

Tier-one universities (T1)



Universities of Teacher Education (UTE)



Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)



Table of Contents

Evolution of the DGES international programs 2007-2022	2
Vaud Institutions of Higher Education	4
Table of Contents	5
Message from Jérémie Leuthold	6
In conversation with Movetia Director Olivier Tschopp	8
International programs for Vaud students, 2022 locations worldwide	10
Language & culture for teachers and teaching	12
Made-in-Switzerland innovation	13
Napoli underground: A visual inspiration	14
The drumbeat of inspiration	15
Artistic perspectives on urban living	16
Venice Milk of Dream	17
Experiencing outdoor education in Swiss mountains	18
Ultrasound education internationalisation@home	19
Designers make playtime “sus-toy-nable”	20
Interprofessional health research and immersion	21
Special needs & inclusive education	22
Type design with Ελληνική character	23
Complexities of the cariocas life	24
Water, water. Everywhere in Bangalore?	25
Northern perspectives on social work	26
KimCheese design for seniors	27
K-pics: A lens on Korean style	28
Digital technology in teaching materials	29
Winds of change in Newfoundland	30
Nursing care and disaster preparedness	31
Words design a Chilean message	32
Of luxury & craftsmanship in the Philippines	33
Innovations for massive challenges sprint forward	34

Message from the Director General



The year 2022 can be considered one of transition. Indeed, we conducted a review of our support for the universities' international affairs, as well as an assessment of their needs and strategic vision for the years to come. This reflection followed the retirement of the DGES Head of International Affairs, who had developed these programs over a period of more than 10 years. What came out is that the Canton's support is appreciated universally by the Vaud universities, partners and the Swissnex network. Moreover, this support is consistent with a reaffirmed political will to promote the international profile of the Canton's universities. The DGES has thus decided to pursue this activity, reinforcing some aspects, notably concerning research, innovation and the principle of environmental sustainability and monitoring.

After two years marked by the restrictions – practically synonymous with isolation – due to the pandemic, 2022 was also a year of reconnection internationally. As such, people were able to gain renewed confidence in daily movement and interaction, after such need for caution and the obligation to limit travel. This process was more or less progressive: for some people it signaled freedom and they went back to all their regular activities as before, others needed more time to adapt. For the universities' international programs, it meant reopening in large part the opportunities for trips outside of Europe. And so, students had the opportunity to go to Ghana, Brazil, Chile and Canada – and even to India, Korea and Japan – within the framework of their studies.

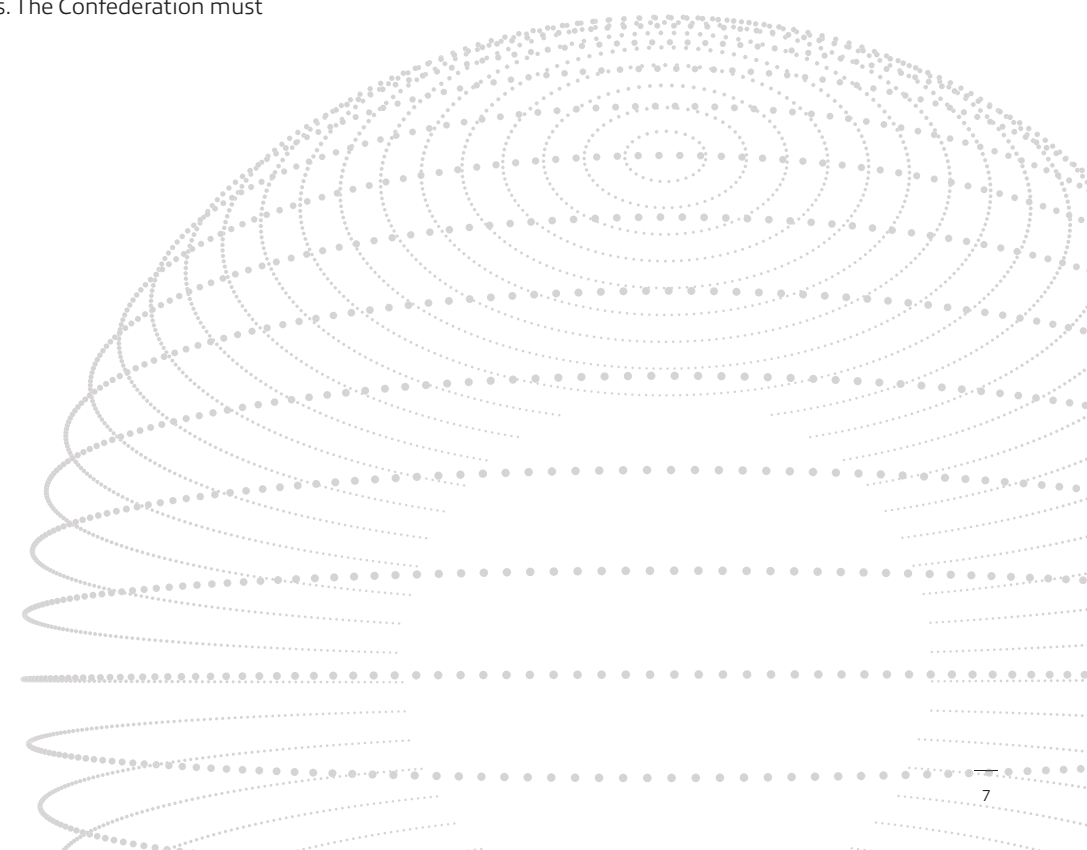
Jérémie Leuthold,
Director General,
Board of Higher Education,
Canton of Vaud

Among the numerous effects of the pandemic, we can also cite an acceleration in terms of digital innovation and generalized use of tools like videoconferences or podcast-based courses. Overall, this can be considered as a strength, enriching teaching practices in higher education. Nevertheless, we must not forget that the use of these tools brought to light socio-economic disparities. Let's also keep in mind that live, in-the-flesh human connection is irreplaceable! Some students have never visited faraway lands, with divergent cultural practices even within the same profession. The Canton's International Affairs Department views it as primordial to ensure for them the opportunity to have this experience. It opens their minds and helps them grow the understanding that there are a variety of ways to seek solutions to shared problems, prompting reconsideration of their own cognitive reflexes and habits.

I would also like to reiterate a highly important element of the political context that the field of higher education faces since May 2021: the unilateral rupture of negotiations on the constitutional accord with the European Union, with the consequence of seeing Switzerland excluded from the Horizon Europe program. The Vaud State Council continues to lobby the Federal Council for Switzerland's reintegration into this important program, alongside all others in the academic, research and development fields. The consequences of this exclusion are beginning to be felt – both in the academic and economic realms. The Confederation must

make every effort to find a solution that is satisfactory for all parties. The DGES has been closely following future developments in this area, committed to supporting the State Council's initiatives.

I hope you will enjoy discovering all the programs that took place in 2022 under the auspices of the Department of International Affairs of the DGES, as well as the more in-depth articles we've brought to you here!



In conversation with Movetia Director Olivier Tschopp

Movetia is Switzerland's national agency for exchange and mobility. It funds and supports programs for students and apprentices of all ages, both within Switzerland and around the world. It aims to ensure mobility is firmly anchored in Swiss educational policy, so all young people benefit from this experience at least once during the course of their education. We spoke with **Movetia Director Olivier Tschopp** to learn more.



Olivier Tschopp,
Movetia Director

Q. Tell us your background and why you are passionate about encouraging student mobility.

I like to say that I am a child of the education system because my career "classroom" has always been in the educational field, first as a teacher then a school principal, then head of service and finally Secretary General of the Department of Education for the Canton of Jura, prior to my role here at Movetia. So I know all the levels of the system well. This experience intersects with another aspect of my life, which is that due to my father's work, we moved every three or four years. I had the chance to live abroad – in Algeria, in Belgium and in various regions of Switzerland. For me, a taste for both mobility and education is natural.

Q. What is Movetia and how does it fit into the landscape of education in Switzerland?

Movetia is a national agency, yet we collaborate closely with the cantons, given that the cantons are responsible for education in Switzerland. We support individuals in their personal mobility projects but also facilitate cooperation and partnerships among educational institutions – from primary to high schools, for apprentices, and for universities. We collaborate with the Swiss diplomatic corps – the embassies for example often have an education advisor, sometimes connected to the Swissnex network. We are building networks with our counterpart agencies abroad, such as all the Erasmus

agencies in Europe, and other organizations that are responsible for youth exchange programs nationally and regionally.

One thing to note is that about 20% of our activity deals with promoting mobility within Switzerland. This is why we are also linked to the Federal Office of Culture, to grow national cohesion and promote learning of national languages through exchanges for young people and for teachers.

Q. What would you say about the benefits of mobility for young people, for the country?

Mobility is not a nice-to-have, it is a must-have. It's invaluable in an intercultural and globalized world. It develops skills that you just don't get in the classroom; students build networks that can bring them value personally and for future professions. It also has value for the institutions that will seek out and develop best practices in the education field.

Though short-term trips are a great place to start, you can multiply the advantages with a long-term immersion by two, three, four or five. That's why I'm a fan of programs like Erasmus+ and other programs of six months or a year. You become actively immersed in the culture, not passively observing.

For Switzerland, it is a value-added in terms of the employment market and having a skilled workforce, so an economic interest. It helps build links for international collaboration, for example in research.

Q. Some cantons, including Vaud, have direct relationships and partnerships with organizations and schools abroad. How does this fit with your activity?

The Swiss system is designed to be complementary. So both routes to partnership-building are possible and neither negates the other. We focus more on framework projects, and specific projects can be created and implemented directly by those involved.

We are new on the scene here, established in 2017. We have no intention of taking over the good work being done at the cantonal level. Indeed, we can learn from mature programs and share them as best practices. We can also help ensure equal opportunities for students across Switzerland, no matter their canton, economic situation, field of study or minority status in terms of origins, gender, orientation or situation of handicap, for example. In addition, programs for primary and secondary school, and for professional training are less developed than at the tertiary education level, so we aim to help there.

Q. What impact do external forces such as COVID or environmental considerations have on your activity?

Regarding environmental costs, there is a real awakening – this is not just a fashion – many institutions and especially young people are very conscientious. For our part, we create incentives to prioritize projects with train travel rather than by air, as one example. Exchanges to exotic locales were very trendy before COVID. Now, people are becoming aware that unique, impactful cultural experiences can be found closer to home, including within the country. We have also developed more agility in terms of digitalization, though I have to say nothing replaces an immersive experience. But for hybrid models where first contacts can be online, why not?

Q. What would you say to a student heading for an experience abroad, what advice, particularly for one who is hesitant?

First, don't be afraid. Dare to launch. There are things that you can prepare, there are others that are unpredictable and it's a chance. Living in immersion is important – make local contacts, learn and live within the local culture, resist the temptation to stick within a bubble of others on exchange. Get off the campus, make contacts. This pertains more to long-term exchanges, but knowing not everyone is able to go for a year-long program, I also encourage students on shorter exchanges to get out of their comfort zones to reap the most benefit.



International programs for Vaud students

2022 locations worldwide



Made-in-Switzerland innovation

February 14 –17, 2022

Lucerne, Lugano & Zurich, Switzerland



"With IMM I had the opportunity to do a tour of Switzerland that was perfectly organized and included a good variety of visits. I particularly enjoyed the mix of 'professional' encounters, such as discovering schools and projects (SUPSI and iHome), and 'relaxing' visits, like visiting a Lucerne brewery or the Relish Guitars shop."

The concept: IIM (International Innovation Management) is a multidisciplinary program for business students and various engineering streams to deep dive into concepts – and experiences – of innovation and entrepreneurship. Launched in 2015, the program culminated, until 2020, in a 2-weeks tour in Silicon Valley and San Francisco. After going online in 2021, the new 2022 concept offers a whirlwind tour to top spots for innovation in Switzerland.

Inspiring, varied tour: Featuring iHome (the home of the future); Relish Guitars Switzerland (new guitar technologies); and Planted (vegan food creation). They also visited partner campus *Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana* (SUPSI and SUPSI-Fablab) at two locations – Lugano-Viganello and Mendrisio – where various installations offered a comparative picture of innovation training in Switzerland.

Innovation is child's play: Not exactly... but the Lego® Serious Play® workshop is a guided experience for adults that draws upon the inherently innovative process of play – not just brick building but reaching to the core of how humans learn and develop. The session inspired both reflection and dialogue, and promoted collaborative problem-solving through imaginative processes.

Bringing San Francisco to Switzerland: The program's Made-in-Switzerland focus offered a real discovery of the influences of culture, policy and diversity in Switzerland. But San Francisco was not completely absent from the program, as students had the opportunity to discuss innovation with representatives of Swissnex San Francisco.

Fields:

Business and Engineering

Partner institution:

School of Engineering and Management Vaud (HEIG-VD)

Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI and SUPSI-Fablab)

Students from VAUD	Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 12 –	– 2 –



Language & culture for teachers and teaching

February 21 – 25, 2022

Lugano & Lausanne Switzerland



The concept: This for-credit program offering an immersion in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland for Vaud student teachers is an opportunity to discover another geographical, linguistic and cultural reality for teaching and learning. It also enables comparison of pedagogic and didactic methodologies for learning and teaching foreign languages.

Same country, different cultures: Despite the two educational systems being in Switzerland, the differences in structure (educational cycles) and educational cultural habits stood out. This program thus offered a taste of how to adapt to different curricula. The Vaud students also became aware of differences in classroom habits and styles, such as smaller classrooms and fewer students, and less formality, with students and teachers addressing each other with familiar terms (*tutoiement*).

Putting theory into practice: Each of the students from Vaud was paired with a local peer for joint work. The Vaud students accompanied their partners to their in-classroom practicums and to courses at the Department of Education and Learning / University of Teacher Education. Participants were tasked with designing and presenting an activity related to the teaching and learning of a target language, as well as an activity related to pluralistic approaches using the pedagogic materials available (EOLE, CARAP, PEL, ELODIL). The project concluded with participants writing a reflective text on plurilingualism and otherness in the two school systems, and an assessment of the activities developed.

"You don't have to go far to experience otherness and learn from it."

Field:

Teacher Education

Partner institutions:

University of Teacher Education (HEP Vaud)

Department of Education and Learning / University of Teacher Education (DFA/ASP, Locarno)

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 3 –	– 3 –
Professor/assistant from VAUD	Professors/assistants from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 1 –	– 2 –



Napoli underground: A visual inspiration

March 3 – 26, 2022
NAPLES, ITALY



The concept: Discovering the layers of Naples – what you see, what you do not. Exploring both historic and literal sediment, guided by locals from the budding art and music scene.

Many interpretations of porosity: From the Museo Capdimonte to Pompeii. From the Hermann Nitsch Foundation to Capri. ECAL Bachelor students in Visual Arts followed the path of German philosopher and cultural critic Walter Benjamin's texts on Naples. Students gained insights into new sources and methodologies for art. These were then examined through research, film and documentary work to be shared and critiqued in collective sessions each evening.

Vedi Napoli e poi muori: The beauty and variety of Naples never ceased to reveal new artistic expressions at once rich, complex, baroque and fragile. Encounters with artists, curators, gallerists, architects and musicians – all had insights into their realities, both in terms of their heritage and impact of outside influences. "You see Naples then you die" may be hyperbole for some, but the visual variety is sustenance for artists just beginning their university studies.

Perspectives high and low: Climbing Vesuvius by foot helped gel the team – indeed, travelling as a group was as much a discovery as the surroundings. On the ground, the city felt all the more awake and alive with culture and social events as it emerged from three years of COVID.

Field:
Visual Arts

Partner institution:
ECAL/University
of Art and Design Lausanne

Students from VAUD	Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 10 –	– 3 –



The drumbeat of inspiration

March 21 - April 5, 2022
ACCRA, GHANA & CULLY, SWITZERLAND



The concept: A two-week program in Ghana, mixing musical styles and promoting cultural and artistic exchange.

Finding the beat: HEMU students made artistic discoveries in rhythms, harmonies, and instruments that they can now integrate into their own artistic practices and future projects. They explored the Ghanaian culture and West African music, enjoying dynamic exchanges with students from Ghanaian music universities. An absolute highlight was a joint project with the famed Ayekoo Drummers of Ghana, who are known for their distinct and unique sound blending African rhythms with jazz, which they later played together on stage at the annual Cully Jazz Festival.

Culture as inspiration: With divergent social and cultural norms, ways of working, and artistic approaches, students were challenged to work with the unknown, and in so doing, were deeply inspired. They learned that in Ghana, drum rhythms communicate important messages such as honouring unity or ancestors. Drums can also mark important occasions and rites of passage.

Performances: Students performed in and around Accra in major venues, including at the National Theater Accra, where they gave a concert benefitting the Infanta Malaria Foundation; at the Ghana Club, where the Swiss embassy in Accra organized a private concert; and at the Accra Jazz Club, where they gave a public concert. Upon their return to Switzerland, they topped off their unforgettable Ghanaian experience by playing at the annual Cully Jazz Festival.

"I am very grateful to have been able to take this trip to Ghana, which will remain an unforgettable experience. We were wonderfully well hosted, and were able to share, play, and exchange our respective repertoires with Ghanaian musicians over the two weeks and thus benefit from their precious advice and communicative energy. This experience gives me new keys to integrate into my game for the future."

Fields:
Music, Jazz

Partner institutions:
Haute Ecole de Musique Vaud
Valais Fribourg (HEMU)
-
Ayekoo Drummers of Ghana

Students from VAUD	Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 8 –	– 2 –

Professors/assistants
from
PARTNER INSTITUTION

– 3 –



Venice Milk of Dreams

April 21 – 25, 2022
VENICE, ITALY



“Venice Biennale 2022 was a visual trip towards the nucleus of what is today’s contemporary art narratives. A recurrent motif throughout the pavilions was the use of the human figure, be it figurative or not. My personal translation is that after two years of a pandemic with no social interaction and a postponed Biennale, there was a need to see the unseen. It stimulated me to clean the “mirror” and place it in front of the world and view it with all its quirks without any barriers.”

The concept: ECAL Master of Visual Arts students join more than 250 artists from 58 countries at the Venice Biennial – *La Biennale di Venezia* – of contemporary art’s main exhibition, The Milk of Dreams. As part of the event program, students organize a critical discussion in an auditorium around themes and experiences, sharing opinions and seeking new routes.

The Milk of Dreams: The event’s theme is taken from the title of a book by surrealist artist and novelist Leonora Carrington. In it, life is continually re-imagined in a magical dream world. Likewise, the event itself approached many subjects through many angles, helping the students reimagine their own approaches to art.

Diversity: For the first time ever, women and nonbinary artists were in the majority at this 59th edition of the Biennial. Diversity nourishes the creative spirit and indeed, the event reflected an international art scene sparkling with creativity. It also gave rise to observation and questioning of men’s central place historically in art and in contemporary culture. Post-pandemic, the event’s vitality was particularly felt.

Context for Master’s work: For second-year students, just weeks away from presenting their thesis projects, this encounter with international actors of the contemporary art scene was particularly motivating and led to reflections on individual practice. For the first-year students, it was a chance to flexibly explore new avenues for their upcoming Master’s projects theoretically and artistically.

Fields:
Visual Arts

Partner institution:
ECAL/University
of Art and Design
Lausanne

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 5 –	– 14 –

Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 4 –



Artistic perspectives on urban living

April 25 – 29, 2022
LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND & POTSDAM, GERMANY



The concept: A workshop exploring didactic approaches in music and visual arts education, the place of new technologies in this realm, and the impact of locality on developing student creativity.

Creativity, environment and teaching: Participants defined a topic exploring audio-visual arts education, new technologies, and location in the context of an urban environment. Reflecting on their personal creative processes, they explored how to best transfer their overall experience into teaching practices. Interdisciplinary course content and language (French/German) was adapted based on the audience and locations. For their projects, students used art to answer deeper questions in the different urban environments of Lausanne, Berlin, and Potsdam: What defines ‘city living’? What role does social interaction play? What is the relationship between nature and the urban environment? What role do schools and artistic practices play? Does the aesthetic experience change one’s perspective?

Multiple sources of inspiration: Students attended a Computer Assisted Music (CAM) course at Lausanne’s school of jazz and contemporary music (EJMA), and reflected on the role of new technologies in music education. Artistic urban walks in Lausanne and in Potsdam allowed them to collect audio and video footage for their respective group projects.

Surprising discoveries: Conducting interviews for their projects in Potsdam helped the Swiss students understand how much Germany’s post-war history influences peoples’ everyday lives still today.

“We were amazed at the power of art: because it was for an art project, people in the streets were open to us interviewing them. We learned several life stories and part of Germany’s history, and hadn’t realized how much the East-West divide is still so present in people’s lives.”

Field:
Teacher Education

Partner institutions:
University of Teacher Education
(HEP Vaud)
-
University of Potsdam
(Universität Potsdam-Golm)

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 8 –	– 9 –

Professors/ assistants from VAUD	Professor/ assistant from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 2 –	– 1 –



Experiencing outdoor education in Swiss mountains

May 6 – 13, 2022

CHÂTEAU D'OEX & OLIVONE, SWITZERLAND



"We were all different, yet our visions of the world converged. We all aspire to changing the current paradigm in order to move towards a freer, more sustainable, and united world. For me, there is an important connection between community and the current upheavals. Indeed, it is together, hand in hand, that we will succeed in building the world of the future, and [...] for this, we [must] learn to live together, despite our differences."

The concept: Bringing student teachers from two different linguistic regions of Switzerland to learn together. The program enables participants to develop their applied teaching skills in an outdoor education context, with the added dimensions of sustainability and inclusion.

Over the mountains: Swiss teaching and learning methods vary depending on the linguistic region. The Vaud participants learned that their peers from Ticino approach outdoor education based on elements linked to geographical skills and refer to an epistemic field linked to this discipline. In Ticino, the vision of school and of a teacher's role within a given community is different, north or south of the Alps, despite similar social and educational contexts.

Distinct populations: Teaching in mountainous areas has specific characteristics. A significant dimension relates to agriculture and the land – for example, pupils may be children of local farmers, or of immigrant employees working in agriculture, tourism, or caregiving. These differing populations can be challenging from a pedagogical and sustainability training perspective, as the groups have different relationships with the environment. The Vaud student teachers were struck to see pupils leaving school for the mountain pastures.

Building paths forward: Program participants devised educational trails in Château d'Oex (VD) and Olivone (TI), testing them not only with local schoolchildren, but with different interested parties such as regional parks and local stakeholders, families, and extra-curricular institutions.



Field:

Teacher Education

Partner institutions:

University of Teacher Education (HEP Vaud)

Department of Education and Learning / University of Teacher Education (DFFA/ASP)

Students from VAUD
– 10 –

Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 11 –

Professor/assistant from VAUD
– 1 –

Professor/assistant from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 1 –

Ultrasound education – internationalisation@home

May 15 – June 10, 2022

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND



The concept: A new, flexible way to offer intense international perspectives without travel. Discovering other ultrasound educational practices and expertise, and gaining skills needed for flexible practice in the future – all at home.

Adaptation, evolution: Prior to the COVID pandemic, the intention was to send students from HESAV's Medical Radiology Technology program to Lisbon, where they would study ultrasound techniques with Dr. Ricardo Teresa Ribeiro. The *Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa* has long experience teaching ultrasound and Dr. Ribeiro's expertise is appreciated across Europe. Finally able to launch the program in 2022, organizers opted for a safer, less costly and more ecological solution: inviting Dr. Ribeiro to HESAV to offer the students "internationalisation@home".

Mixed teaching methods: The first two weeks of the program consisted of theoretical work done online. This was then tested and enhanced over two weeks onsite at HESAV in a skills lab, guided by Dr. Ribeiro and with the collaboration of industry partners. This unique approach had an added bonus of enabling HESAV teachers to develop new teaching competencies in the field of abdominal ultrasound, in alignment with HESAV's strategic vision.

Picture perfect – anywhere: Flexible learning helps build flexibility in skills for future practice. Integrating the imaging modalities learned in this course will help extend students' skills to enable them to work outside of a typical medical imaging department, such as providing healthcare services in homecare facilities, sports facilities or patients' homes.

"At the beginning, I was quite afraid to enroll in this module because of my "bad English" (ha, ha, ha). But finally, I don't regret one moment, because this opportunity allowed me to develop my skills in abdominal ultrasound examinations here in our school. It was a great experience, and I appreciated the theoretical teaching combined directly to a lot of practice on my colleagues. In the future, I would really like to enhance my skills and apply for a job in ultrasound department."



Field:

Medical Radiology Technology

Partner institutions:

School of health sciences Vaud (HESAV)

Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa (ESTeSL)

Students from VAUD
– 13 –

Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 3 –

Professor/assistant from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 1 –

Designers make playtime “sus-toy-nable”

May 18 – 28, 2022

HELSINKI & FISKARS, FINLAND



“From the scent of birch in Artek’s production workshops, to the heat of Iittala’s ovens, to the deafening noise of Fiskars’ forging machines, I’m bringing back a wealth of knowledge and memories in my luggage – as a designer and a man!”

The concept: “ECAL Toys with Artek”: Creating toys for children to play with by repurposing cast-off or semi-finished materials, embracing the Artek spirit of promoting conscious manufacturing and the use of natural materials throughout the process.

Bringing sustainability and fun together: Today, more than ever, the environmental impacts of industrial production cannot be ignored. What creative, fun solutions can be found to recycle materials destined for destruction while promoting sustainable development and resource recovery?

Work hard, play hard: While students had a number of deliverables to produce – including, 1:1 models and prototypes, technical drawings, photos, and detailed research – they also enjoyed ‘playtime’ of their own. They participated in the Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale, and visited leading Finnish designers’ studios and factories, including, among others, the Artek A-Factory, “Harri Koskinen design studio”, and Vaarnii furniture designer.

Tangible results of design theory: Visiting Iittala glass production such as the historic landmarks Paimio Sanatorium designed by iconic Finnish architect and one of Artek’s founders, Alvar Aalto, and touring the Aalto workshop and house served as very tangible sources of inspiration for the students.

A kaleidoscope of experiences: Every aspect of the students’ field trip in Finland – from breathing new life into otherwise unwanted furniture components and scrap materials, to seeing practical applications to solutions developed over the semester, and ultimately developing and producing projects for a public exhibition – added vivid colour to the student experience.

Fields:

Industrial Design & Products

Partner institution:

ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne

Students from VAUD

– 27 –

Professors/assistants from VAUD

– 2 –



Interprofessional health research and immersion

June 13 - 24, 2022

VAUD, GRAUBÜNDEN, NEUCHÂTEL & TICINO, SWITZERLAND



The concept: Nursing and medical students are immersed in unfamiliar care and cultural settings to work on collaborative research projects. Learning research Bachelor’s thesis methodologies while gaining hands-on experience.

Rich experiences closer to home: Due to the pandemic, this program moved back home after having been held in China and India for many years. With projects in four Swiss cantons, it was a richly rewarding opportunity to gain research and practice skills while discovering Switzerland’s diversity.

Cultivating greater cultural awareness: Students conducted in-depth research interviews in distinctly different communities. In St-Loup (Vaud), one group focused on aging populations, discovering prayer as part of care in this Deaconess Community. In La Chaux-de-Fonds (Neuchâtel), a team researched health challenges for asylum seekers, including psychological fragility and barriers due to literacy levels. In Lugano (Ticino), a third group examined the impact of health professionals’ gender awareness on care approaches (specifically for myocardial infarction). A fourth group studied living with chronic illness in an isolated community in Val Müstair (Graubünden), where access to acute-care centres is challenging.

Leveraging skills in an interprofessional setting: This was a practical experience in how best to leverage different professions’ strengths and skills to enhance collaborative work and outcomes. They learned effective conflict management and how to define the qualities of positive leadership.

“Cultural differences do not exist only across borders, they are very present even within a country like Switzerland.”

Fields:

Nursing Sciences and Medicine

Partner institutions:

Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source

University of Lausanne (UNIL),
Faculty of Biology and Medicine

Students from VAUD

– 18 –

Professor/assistant from VAUD

– 1 –



Special needs & inclusive education

June 19 – July 1, 2022
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND



"It was a wonderful and enriching experience that gave us a new perspective on inclusion. We were able to observe inclusion at different levels (mainstream school, institution, other countries, external stakeholders). As a result, we even decided to focus our professional dissertation on a theme studied during the two-week course. What we've learned is that it costs nothing to open your eyes and pass on your values to others."

The concept: A two week program delving deeply into special needs and inclusive education theory in Switzerland, and the "Who", "What", and "Why" of inclusive education.

"Educate together. Shape the future": Partner institution PH Zurich's guiding principle, "Educate together. Shape the future", was evident in its innovative teaching for all levels of education, contributing to the development of inclusive education in educational practices and society. Students from Vaud appreciated this first-hand look and reflected on the application of these practices in Western Switzerland.

Practical experiences: Students visited a number of local schools, both mainstream (public) and specialized (private). In the latter category, the Unterstrass Institute stood out for its teacher-training program for future teachers with intellectual disabilities. Alongside these visits, dynamic Q&A sessions with Disability Rights activists and educators were also especially impactful.

Higher inclusion levels: Switzerland has an inclusive educational approach for children with disabilities and learning difficulties; special needs education is set down in law, and provides affected children the right to specialized schooling and/or support. Inclusive education levels are high in the canton of Zurich compared to the canton of Vaud.

See the sights: During downtime, participants enjoyed an excursion to Mount Rigi, with its stunning views of three major lakes, a visit to Switzerland's Chocolate Museum in Kilchberg, a guided tour of downtown Zurich and a lakeside barbecue.

Field:
Education

Partner institutions:
University of Teacher Education
(HEP Vaud)

Zurich University of Teacher
Education (PH Zurich)

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS
--------------------------	--

– 5 – – 22 –

Professors/assistants
from
PARTNER INSTITUTION

– 2 –



Type design with Ελληνική character

June 30 – July 9, 2022
ATHENS & THESSALONIKI, GREECE



The concept: After a semester studying and working with Greek typography, ECAL Master Type Design students see it live in Greece: graffiti, inscriptions on monuments, signs and billboards, books and magazines that all put their "book learning" to the test. Students are moved to push the boundaries of rules and habits in type design.

Same but different: In the bustling Athenian streets, Greek culture came to life – its history, contemporary art, music, food, and of course writing – as another Europe, Mediterranean. The Middle Eastern influence was exotic for some, familiar to others. When visiting the port city of Thessaloniki, they were confronted with a charming, more "Balkan" cultural experience. The voices in the street were with some Albanian, Slavic and Armenian sprinkled in.

Encounters that impact: Students visited institutions like the parliamentary library, national printer and the epigraphic museum; graphic design studios Beetroot and Thessaloniki; and typography studios Cannibale Type and Karlopolous Associates. Beyond these informative visits was another type of encounter that equally inspired their creativity: enjoying Mediterranean hospitality with lively discussions into the night, shared meals and human warmth.

Culmination: Students' work was exhibited at a conference in Thessaloniki, where they met professionals from around the world. It was the occasion to see their original typefaces in the Greek alphabet through the eyes of locals. What was the impact of nationalism, westernization, cultural appropriation, prestige?

"The time I spent to meticulously understand the structure of Greek language and script, a writing system I couldn't read or hear, worked as a crucial clue to understanding cities, people, and Greek cultures. Also, one of the best opportunities was the type conference in Thessaloniki. It helped and motivated me to figure out the atmosphere of the type design communities outside of Switzerland."

Field:
Type Design

Partner institutions:
ECAL/University of Art
and Design Lausanne

Institute for the Study of
Typography and Visual
Communication,
University of Nicosia

Students from VAUD	Professors/assistants from VAUD
--------------------------	---------------------------------------

– 13 – – 4 –



Complexities of the *cariocas* life

August 2 – 15, 2022
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL



"When we go out into the field, we realize that reality is often far more complex, and that it's important to get as much information as possible from different players in order to understand what influences the behaviors, policies and actions of a society in general."

The concept: Part of a program for UNIL Bachelor of Social Sciences students covering major global challenges. With support from Swissnex Brazil, observing – and in some cases contributing to – social initiatives in place in Rio de Janeiro, particularly with regard to education and care for women and others experiencing gender-based violence.

First sights are foretelling: Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro, the students rapidly remarked the transition from poor areas to relative wealth at the centre. They saw signs – literally – attesting to the prevalence of sexual violence. Then they arrived at their marbled hotel, prompting reflection on their own privilege as students in an affluent country.

Social action: It was clear that within the beautiful setting and culture, inequality, injustice, and violence were present. Yet it was heartening to see how many diverse projects – all with advantages and disadvantages – aimed to address such issues and support those in need. Political protection for women; promotion of skills for employment; support for survivors of violence; education.

Real-life experience: The social sciences program at UNIL includes methodologies and research techniques for field work. This learning gained real meaning with this experience on the ground, through interaction with agencies working to support women and those experiencing gender violence. A particular question that stayed with the students was, what was the role of culture in social innovation research?

Water, water. Everywhere in Bangalore?

August 2 – 15, 2022
BANGALORE, INDIA



The concept: Part of a program for UNIL Bachelor of Social Sciences students covering major global challenges. Observing – and in some cases contributing to – social initiatives in place in Bangalore to deal with issues of water management.

On the ground: The social sciences program at UNIL includes methodologies and research techniques for field work. This learning gained real meaning with this experience on the ground, through interaction with the local community and those operating water management programs.

Thought-provoking contrasts: India, and Bangalore in particular, is strikingly different from the world the students know. They witnessed high socio-economic differences in the region, from deep poverty to great wealth. They also saw how the authoritarian governance made it difficult to debate issues.

Present and future challenges: Among the student population, awareness of environmental issues is high, but the trip highlighted for this group how Switzerland – and Europe in general – must recognize the urgency. They were impressed by the professionalism of the experts they met, the systemic mobilization of impacted communities, and the importance placed on teaching children. Aware that resource security, including water, is in fact a global problem, the students realized that the expertise they saw in Bangalore could be valuable to contexts like Switzerland when the realities of climate change become (even) more apparent at home.

"Entire communities are springing up around issues arising from the consequences of environmental disruption, encouraging citizens to continue innovating through work and community involvement."

Field:
Social Sciences

Partner institution:
University of Lausanne (UNIL)

Students from VAUD	Professor/assistant from VAUD
– 12 –	– 1 –



Field:
Social Sciences

Partner institution:
University of Lausanne (UNIL)

Students from VAUD	Professor/assistant from VAUD
– 5 –	– 1 –



Northern perspectives on social work

August 5 – 19, 2022
SUDBURY, CANADA



"My perceptions have certainly been shaken up and I'm seeing through different lenses, enabling me to see the world from a new perspective. So I'm going to continue to bite fully into life – but with a little touch of maple syrup on top!"

The concept: Exploring professional practices in social work with marginalized populations. A focus on ethical questions surrounding interventions with these populations and considering intercultural contexts.

A quiet campus: Laurentian University's large, spread-out campus, located on the outskirts of Sudbury, had just re-opened after COVID. The sense of isolation posed challenges: How to adapt? How to meet? How to get places?

Learning: The Northern Ontario city of Sudbury provided rich territory to explore pressing issues for social work: multiculturalism, multilingualism (the city and university are officially French-English bilingual), poverty, healthcare and the environmental impacts of pollution from mining. The program mixed presentations, workshops, activities and group work. The intercultural experience was woven in throughout. Each day was built around a specific theme covering key elements impacting social work: controversies and ethical dilemmas; migration; feminism; militancy and activism; francophone minority experience; anglophone initiatives; and "indigenous day".

Creative journals: A notable feature of the learning was the use of creative journals, enabling students to delve deeper into their own reflections throughout the program, expressing themselves through drawing, texts and collages.

Encounter with an indigenous culture: Sudbury is situated on the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and about 11% of the city population is Indigenous. The day devoted to learning from indigenous experience provided cultural insights that were particularly unique for the Swiss students.



Field:
Social Work

Partner institutions:
University of Social Work and Health Lausanne (HETSL)

Laurentian University
of Sudbury

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 17 –	– 12 –

Professors/ assistants from VAUD	Professors/ assistants from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 2 –	– 2 –

KimCheese design for seniors

August 29 – September 9, 2022
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA



The concept: The "KimCheese" program is based on the model of the popular interdisciplinary China Hardware Innovation and Switzerland India Social Innovation camps, focussing on giving students real-life experience in the cycle of product development and social innovation. KimCheese specifically targets sustainable solutions for senior citizens. Unlike its predecessors, KimCheese includes students from the partner country, South Korea.

Fair trade (1): Incorporating environmental sustainability into the solution design is key. To achieve this, students had to assess the sustainability of the product itself, the carbon footprint involved in travel, and the implementation activities in both contexts. Fairness in terms of inclusivity and accessibility is also inherent in solutions to support seniors in daily life.

Fair trade (2): Teams of Swiss and Korean students respectively worked on their projects ahead of the exchange. Then, the Korean students tested their solutions in Switzerland while the Swiss students tested theirs in Korea! The participation of seniors' centres in each country helped ensure products worked in both environments. The Swiss and Korean institutions brought complementary knowledge and investment in the program, aiming to address the mutual challenge of aging populations.

Summary of senior solutions: Two Korean solutions for inclusivity: *Sooda*, a machine dispensing intergenerational "chat" along with soda; *NeCreate* an App promoting neighbourhood social networks; and finally, Open Door, and informational kit for elders at risk of poverty and isolation. From Switzerland, three solutions for mobility: *Gira* for autonomy in meal preparation; *Montessori Stepladder* for safe access to heights; *Caddiehack*, a sturdy, multidirectional food cart.



"The KimCheese program made me realize how small and unexpected differences – such as the road pavement requiring bigger wheels in Korea – can have huge impacts on international designs."

Fields:
Engineering and
Industrial Design

Partner institutions:
EPFL - Swiss Federal
Institute of Technology

ECAL/University of Art
and Design Lausanne

Hongik University, Seoul

Korea Advanced Institute
for Science and Technology
(KAIST), Daejeon

Students from VAUD	Students from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 9 –	– 12 –

Professors/ assistants from VAUD	Professors/ assistants from PARTNER INSTITUTION
– 2 –	– 2 –

K-pics: A lens on Korean style

September 30 - October 11, 2022
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA



"We were challenged to develop a concept, respond to a totally new environment and allow the unpredictability of this environment to shape our processes and work. This way of creating will help the class gain a better understanding of grant proposals, honouring deadlines, installing artwork, being sensitive to working in other countries, to collaborating, and to having fun in the process. The lessons learned on this trip will stay with me as I chart my way through my final two semesters at ECAL and beyond."

The concept: The influence of Korean culture has burgeoned in the West over the last decade: picture the 2012 global success of PSY's song *Gangnam Style*, K-drama films, K-pop music, or kimchi. ECAL Master of Photography students were challenged to seek the influences of Korean soft power in their personal environment.

Pressures to produce: Navigating geographic, temporal, linguistic, and cultural contexts as well as the city's sheer size and the workshop's short duration, students needed their best lenses to prepare a public exhibition.

Cultural exploration: Producing meaningful work about a foreign culture is a daunting exercise that requires a very sensitive approach. To define their respective research projects, students began by exploring their own roots, to contrast these to Korean culture. One student drew upon childhood memories of sauerkraut to find a focus on kimchi – asking "did it explode?" spoke of both the literal fermentation-induced explosion of kimchi jars and the worldwide explosion of kimchi's popularity. Other projects featured the fetishization of Korean men by Western women; cultural appropriation of the traditional Korean "hanbok" dress; the young rebels of Korean society; and more.

Exhibiting in Seoul: The program culminated with a photography and video temporary exhibition at the famous Platform-L exhibition hall in Gangnam. Organised in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy in Seoul's Office of Cultural Affairs, they welcomed over 100 visitors in just a few hours.

Fields:

Design/Photography

Partner institutions:

ECAL/University
of Art and Design Lausanne

Chung-Ang University

Students
from
VAUD

– 12 –

Professors/
assistants from
VAUD

– 2 –

Professor/
assistant from
PARTNER INSTITUTION

– 1 –



Digital technology in teaching materials

October 24 – 28, 2022
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND



The concept: Learning how to design and test one's own teaching materials using new digital tools (3D printer, laser cutter, etc.), and evaluating how digital technology can be integrated into teaching, including as a tool for creation and transformation.

Cultural impact on education: Dialogue and exchange enabled the student teachers from Vaud and Zurich to learn more about the differences between the structure of their respective university systems and benefit from different perspectives on digital education. When comparing the Zurich and Thurgau universities with their own, HEP Vaud students were particularly impressed by the level of innovation of "the small HEP" in Thurgau compared with the bigger universities of teacher education.

Learning tech with tech: This program included only three hours of lectures, compared to forty hours of practical sessions immersed in technology. Students used rapid prototyping methods, made designs on computers, built 'low-tech' artefacts, and more.

In action: Visits to other universities and organizations in the Zurich area allowed students to observe and participate in new pedagogical approaches. Students found this particularly valuable from an educational and personal perspective. Two inspiring STEM-related visits – the first to startbahn29 in Dübendorf, and the second to a Makerspace in Thurgau – underscored the sheer extent of what is possible when it comes to integrating digital fabrication and new pedagogical tools in teaching.

"I was impressed by the culture of open doors and creative production at the University of Applied Sciences Thurgau. I wish there were more opportunities like this at our institution too because it's so great to develop new ideas with others."

Field:

Teacher Education

Partner institutions:

University of Teacher Education
(HEP Vaud)

University of Education Zurich
(PHZH, Pädagogische Hochschule
Zürich)

Students
from
VAUD
– 4 –

Students
from
PARTNER
INSTITUTION
– 4 –

Professor/
assistant from
VAUD
– 1 –

Professor/
assistant from
PARTNER
INSTITUTION
– 1 –



Winds of change in Newfoundland

October 10 – 22, 2022
FOGO ISLAND, CANADA



"The trip to Fogo was a great experience in terms of getting to know the culture and community of the island. This allowed us to prepare well for the upcoming project and enabled us to interact directly with the environment and the people which we are designing for."

The concept: ECAL Product Design students explore the visual integration of wind turbines.

A rock in the middle of the ocean: Historically, Fogo Island's economy was based on small scale fishing. This resource declined due to the destruction of the local eco-system, mainly by large scale international fishing, leaving the islanders facing tough times. Many young people left to seek better quality of life elsewhere. Yet Fogo has another resource due to its exposed situation: a great abundance of wind.

Hope for sustainability: ShoreFast, a foundation on the island, is working to rebuild a sustainable economy, including financial, environmental and social sustainability. Partnering with ShoreFast and meeting with the small community, the students researched how to visually integrate wind turbines in the landscape. This is often a challenge in wind energy implementation, so the anticipated results could also serve as case studies for similar situations.

Taking cues from the environment: During their research, the students gained a true appreciation for the setting – observing the natural environment, fauna and flora. Warmly welcomed by islanders, they gained both a taste of local heritage and culture, and understanding of local perspectives to inform the design practice. Following their return to Switzerland, the students continued through a semester to develop projects: a design, prototype and text explaining how their solution meets the needs of the environment and the culture.

Nursing care and disaster preparedness

November 14 - December 2, 2022
HIROSHIMA, JAPAN



The concept: Working alongside Japanese students and taking part in classes, simulations, and work placements to better understand how culture influences the relationship to health, illness and caregiving, with a focus on how nurses are trained to deal with disasters.

When history informs present-day action: Three-quarters of a century later, it remains crucial to understand the impact of the 1945 atomic bomb in Hiroshima on the life and health of the population. This affects the general approach to disaster preparedness for nurses. Earthquakes and tsunamis are commonplace, so healthcare workers must be well-trained in the prevention and treatment of injury.

Identifying differences to build strengths: Working in various specialized areas of nursing gave insights into skills and concepts to integrate into their own practice. Students also discussed and compared Japanese and Swiss nursing care practices. They explored values and beliefs in healthcare, health promotion and disease prevention, and discussed the impacts of these on a population's health. These discussions naturally prompted introspection.

Future growth: This exchange was limited to two students with strong English skills, high motivation, and solid involvement in their training. It demonstrated high value-added and organizers hope to expand through a pedagogical framework that promotes even greater student involvement, for example in initiatives such as joint project work and hosting Japanese students in Lausanne.

"Interactions with patients showed the importance of rituals (personal grooming, meals, and ways of moving) for patients' sense of autonomy."

Field:
Product Design

Partner institution:
ECAL/University
of Art and Design Lausanne

Students from VAUD	Professors/ assistants from VAUD
- 16 -	- 5 -



Field:
Nursing

Partner institutions:
Haute École de la
Santé La Source
-
Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima
College of Nursing

Students from VAUD	Professor/assistant from VAUD
- 2 -	- 1 -



Words design a Chilean message

November 6 – 16, 2022
SANTIAGO, CHILE



"This week in Chile allowed me to take a step back, particularly due to the political situation, which influenced every place and every person we met. This reminded me of the privilege I have of being a student in Europe, but also raised questions about the meaning and my relationship to my practice as a graphic designer today."

The concept: A composition for the *Suizspacio* project promoting artistic exchange between Chile and Switzerland, supported by the Swiss Embassy. ECAL graphic design students create posters and a publication to celebrate the distinctiveness of both Swiss graphic design and Chilean poetry.

A political context: Chile experienced military dictatorship between 1973 and 1990, followed by years of prosperity until 2019, when discontent over prices and services provoked street demonstrations. In their exchanges with Chilean poets, the students discovered how such a context incites an urgency for activists and artists to convey a message in words and images.

A story in the streets: In addition to several artist, designer and printer visits, tours in Santiago and beyond told Chile's story in art and architecture. The emblematic GAM museum (outside and in); murals and graffiti in Valparaíso; the utopian city of Ciudad Abierta, a 1970s artists' colony; and at the Santiago metro where they met the *Suizspacio* architects – and saw their own work on display.

The works: Inspired by the spirit of Chilean political posters, collecting words and poems from around them, and leveraging their talent as the next generation of quintessential Swiss design, the students created posters that were visually appealing and thought-provoking. It was moving for them to see their work exhibited in the context in which it was created.

Of luxury & craftsmanship in the Philippines

November 6 – 16, 2022
CEBU & MALAPASCUA ISLAND, PHILIPPINES



The concept: Collaborating directly with luxury brands and artisans, "behind the scenes" of luxury. Projects connected with communication to benefit the program and the brands – moving into strategic, current themes such as sustainability and consumer experience.

The art of weaving: The Philippines has a unique weaving style – an aspect that is important to the research students are conducting for a project for the German brand DEDON, which makes high-end outdoor furniture. The students visited the DEDON factory, which has been operating in the Philippines for over 20 years, where artisans guided them in learning to weave. Outside of the factory, weaving has always been a part of the culture; skilled artisans hone their craft at home with natural materials. DEDON employs about a hundred artisans in fair conditions, enabling a better standard of living.

A study in contrasts: The students, who normally work on the glamorous side of luxury brands, were brought to understand the seemingly humble yet critical art behind this – in its true context. Visits to artisanal markets and luxury environs complemented the connection with the artisans in the factory. The experience brought out reflections on privilege and appreciation for the artisans.

Expanded possibilities: This hands-on practice is rare in the students' cursus and interaction with brands, where visits to factories are usually observational. New understanding of the possibilities and limits of techniques will influence their future design innovation.

"It was very enriching to see how the locals work with the material and transform it, giving it a refined appearance thanks to a savoir-faire specific to their culture. Overall, it was a very beneficial trip to discover a culture and environment very representative of the brand for which we work."

Field:
Graphic Design

Partner institution:
ECAL/University of Art
and Design Lausanne

Students from VAUD	Professors/ assistants from VAUD
– 24 –	– 3 –



Field:
Design (MAS Luxury
& Craftsmanship)

Partner institution:
ECAL/University
of Art and Design Lausanne

Students from VAUD	Professors/assistants from VAUD
– 18 –	– 3 –

Innovations for massive challenges sprint forward

Climate change is – inarguably – an urgent challenge that requires immediate responses globally. MassChallenge Switzerland's ClimateTech track, a focus industry of its early-stage startup accelerator, is one step in the right direction. In 2022, Vaud gave its support to enable two ClimateTech startups to participate in a Design Sprint event – making a big leap forward towards their success.

ClearCO2, one of the two companies selected for the Design Sprint, offers a central platform tailored for SMEs to certify carbon savings, enabling large companies to buy local and high-quality carbon credits.

"Our challenge is that there's a big misconception... that carbon credits are a 'scam' or a 'free permit to pollute'," explains Sylvie Chin, CEO and Co-Founder of ClearCO2. "Tree planting and impact on CO₂ reductions are hard to monitor over 10 years."

MassChallenge supports startups at various stages of development from early deeptech, right up to startups already on the market. ClearCO2, say Chin, was at a very early stage when they applied to MassChallenge. The program helped them validate their market assumptions and shape their solution with a broad spectrum of support strategies, including a Design Sprint event.

Design Sprint guides teams to target specific challenges in a compressed, intense 5-day process. ClearCO2 was joined by another startup, Composite Recycling, in a September 2022 Design Sprint led by Stéph Cruchon, UX Designer, Sprintmaster and Founder of Design Sprint Ltd. in Lausanne.

ClearCO2 aimed to design a new strategy by the end of 2022 that would overcome their challenges so they could help SMEs in the food sector buy into the need to offset their CO₂ emissions, ensure it and demonstrate it.

Composite Recycling offers an alternative to landfilling or incinerating fibreglass, using a thermal process called pyrolysis to separate the fibres from the resin and make its outputs reusable. They came to the Design Sprint with the question: "How might we create a new strong product identity, by the end of the year, in order to help our clients advertise the use of our new recycled glass fibre in their products?"

Chin feels that as a very young company, ClearCO2 was particularly well-placed to benefit from a Design Sprint. "It helped us move from no clear Minimum Viable Product (MVP) to a prototype within one week."

Cara Tobin, has been one of three coaches for MassChallenge's ClimateTech track since its inception. An entrepreneur who had successfully launched a startup in the climate field, Tobin also works with an impact investment group, bringing insights from "both sides of the coin" to support startups in their journey. In 2022 alone, Tobin coached 42 startups.

She joined the teams at the Design Sprint event primarily to "lend a hand", letting the startups reach insights on their own, under Cruchon's guidance. Following the event, she was there to help them integrate the results into their overall pitch.

"The Design Sprint is a great arrow in MassChallenge's quiver," says Tobin. "Turning to unique strategies like this to

help accelerate startups is one of the things that sets MassChallenge apart. It also shows how MassChallenge adapts support to the startups with their individual needs, giving them the best chances for success."

Tobin notes the overall strength of Switzerland's innovation infrastructure, citing the country's top ranking for innovation by the United Nations 13 years in a row. "This mindset makes us future-ready. This is doubly, triply true for innovation addressing sustainability challenges, it's an absolute must. I'm really pleased to see Vaud invest in and partner with organizations supporting climate initiatives. MassChallenge is among numerous organizations who have benefited from this commitment."

Today, with their innovation in an area where effective recycling had previously been out of reach, Composite Recycling is reaching clients from the marine, aerospace, automobile, sporting goods and chemical industries.

As for ClearCO2, they were awarded the "Champion of Our Planet 2023 - Europe" supported by the United Nations (UNIDO), the Global School for New Leadership, the Impact Hub and the Vienna Business Agency. After years of bootstrapping, says Chin, they are working with two pilot clients (the food-bank network in Austria and a bakery chain). With feedback from their clients' top management, they will be getting the solution to market readiness in late 2023.

"This Design Sprint worked like magic and helped us reach the impossible, saving us months of trial and error," says Chin, summing up the experience. "It really showed the quality of the Design Sprint process, which we recommend to any startup!"

<https://www.clearco2.com>
<https://composite-recycling.ch>
<https://design-sprint.com>

WHAT IS MASSCHALLENGE?

MassChallenge is a nonprofit that connects startups, experts, corporations, and communities to grow and transform businesses and economies. It uses an equity-free model to accelerate promising high-impact startups with bold, disruptive ideas and a broad spectrum of practical help from coaching to connections with investors. The Swiss antenna was created in 2016. In response to important social needs, the accelerator program focuses on four industry tracks: Sustainable food, sustainable industry, health innovation and climate solutions.

WHAT IS DESIGN SPRINT?

Design Sprint is the idea acceleration methodology developed at Google Ventures in Palo Alto over a decade ago. Used by businesses from multinationals to early-stage startups, it involves designing, prototyping and testing specific innovation challenges in just 5 days. Design Sprint Ltd. was established by Stéph Cruchon in Lausanne 2015 to support European companies through the process.



“We have it in our power to
begin the world over again.”

— Thomas Paine

Contact Information:

**Board of Higher Education (DGES)
International Affairs**
Av. de l'Elysée 4
CH – 1014 Lausanne
Switzerland
+41 21 316 94 74

Christine Gaulis
Head of International Affairs,
Foresight and Innovation
christine.gaulis@vd.ch
+41 21 316 94 94

Ioanna Cagnazzo
International Affairs Project Assistant
ioanna.cagnazzo@vd.ch
+41 21 316 94 74

Odile Cornuz
Strategic Missions Officer

Concept:
DGES International Affairs

Editorial Content:
Sheena Kennedy
www.kennedywordfactory.ch

Graphic Design:
Christophe Le Coz
www.ateliermauborget.ch

Special thanks to the professors, students
and administrators of Vaud institutions who
contributed information and support
necessary to the creation of this report.
