



EquipSent

Enable Education Everywhere

Annual Report

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Our Mission

EquipSent (ES) is a volunteer based organization founded in 2017 in Zurich, Switzerland, with the goal to extend the life-cycle of scientific equipment and at the same time enhance the quality of education around the world by enabling hands-on training. These two goals are simultaneously achieved by matching donors of out-of-use, but functional devices, to educational institution receivers with limited financial resources.

The goals of EquipSent are:

- Minimising waste - by reducing the disposal of out of use yet functional scientific equipment in well-funded research institutions.
- Improving education - by supporting universities & schools with limited funding to attain access to such functional equipment.
- Reducing global inequality - by establishing collaborations between research institutions in high-income and low-income countries.
- Fostering international collaboration - by building a network of donors and recipients which facilitates the achievement of the above goals.

The Team

Elected Board

The annual general assembly was held in March 2018 in Zurich.

Jan-Georg Rosenboom was confirmed as president for the year, and Marcela Giraldo joined as vice-president. The board furthermore included Katharina Keller, Selver Pepic and Irina Ritsch.

Organisational aspects and changes 2018

As a consequence for the more public appearance of EquipSent and in feedback from future partners, EquipSent realised the need to better formulate the vision and mode of operation. With input from coaching sessions the first drafts of 'impact evaluation criteria' were created, which are an important tool for EquipSent to build a sustainable working mode for future fair and transparent equipment donations. The structure of ES was also slightly adjusted to accommodate a new team for social media.

EquipSent Members

In alphabetic order: Alena Budinska, Anuli Uzozie, Carolin Gold, Dorothea Wiebecke, Gastón Larrazábal, Gregor Jotzu, Irina Ritsch, Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Jannick Griner, Jennifer Brown, Jonas Bösken, Katharina Keller, Marcela Giraldo, Ramona Achermann, Sarah Rowan, Selver Pepic, Timo Niepel, Wilfred Elegba,

Prototype cases

A graphite furnace on the move

The first equipment donation prototype case by ES was initiated in 2017, and continued in 2018. The donation consisted of valuable chemical analytics tools located in Switzerland to the chemistry department at the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

At the beginning of 2018 the agreement had been reached to proceed with this donation, shipping routes had been researched, and financial means to finance transportation had been found by the recipient. In 2018 the success story continued in Zurich by getting the equipment ready for transportation. At its target location in Sarajevo the laboratory room was upgraded to allow for the accommodation and safe operation of the novel devices. Mid-2018 the final donation documents were signed, and the tax exemption had been successfully negotiated.



Case co-leader: Selver Pepic and the graphite furnace on the move (Zurich, Switzerland)



Laboratory at University of Sarajevo preparing and awaiting the coming devices

In early December 2018 it was finally time for the equipment to leave Zurich. Several members of ES picked up the packaged equipment (Kuhn & Partner was hired to do professional packaging) and handed it over to the logistics company Kühne and Nagel. The documentation team was active, providing us with footage of the transportation efforts. Only a short time later the happy news reached ES, that the equipment had safely reached the University of Sarajevo. However, as ES is also dedicated to establish personal connections between the donors and recipients, and to monitor the long-term impact of the donations, this case will not be over in 2018, but will rather move into the impact evaluation phase.



Members of EquipSent are packing the van destined with analytical devices for the University of Sarajevo

As an outlook for early 2019, a visit of a scientist of the donating institute to the University of Sarajevo is being organized to install the equipment, and establish direct contact between the groups. He will be accompanied by at least one ES member to document the installation process and to visit the chemistry labs and the staff of the chemistry department.

Oscilloscopes for Beni, DR Congo

2018 was an exciting year, because ES managed its first recipient-initiated donation case. Contacted already in late 2017 by Prof. Benjamin Lawson, this case focused on finding and delivering scientific equipment for the training of electrical engineers and the development of a renewable energy lab at the Christian Bilingual University of Congo (UCBC) in Beni, DR Congo.

In contrast to the graphite furnace transfer from Zurich to Sarajevo, this case started with a specific list of material required to start the student practical course, which included multimeters, oscilloscopes, and signal generators. UCBC was investigated as a suitable recipient by an ES feasibility analysis, which concluded that a potential transfer of equipment would be evaluated as high impact.

The ES team thus got to work contacting fellow scientists in the Zurich area, looking for functional devices that were no longer needed, and blocked valuable storage space in their current location. Indeed, a substantial list of items could be identified in a short time, sourced from different research groups.



Our team in a skype call with the recipient in Beni, DR Congo



The Physics lab course workshop donates electronic devices to free storage space and enable education everywhere



The donor representative signs the donation forms for the electronic devices destined for Congo

A growing team of EquipSenders got together to arrange the collection, intermediate storage and packaging of the material for transportation, while the legal team prepared all documents required for shipping. The situation was further complicated by the outbreak of Ebola in the destination region, but communication was sustained in this challenging time by the dedicated input of the recipients and EquipSent, including the organization of video calls.

Financing the shipment costs was a major challenge for this donation, but UCBC had a long-standing collaboration with the Chicago (USA) -based charitable organization 'Congo Initiative' (CI). After fruitful communication with them, money could be sourced to pay for the shipment of the ready-packed equipment, and at the end of 2018 several logistics options for shipping of four large wooden crates filled with valuable electronics goods for UCBC were being investigated.



The functional oscilloscopes are packed into recycled shipping crates

Equipment Donations

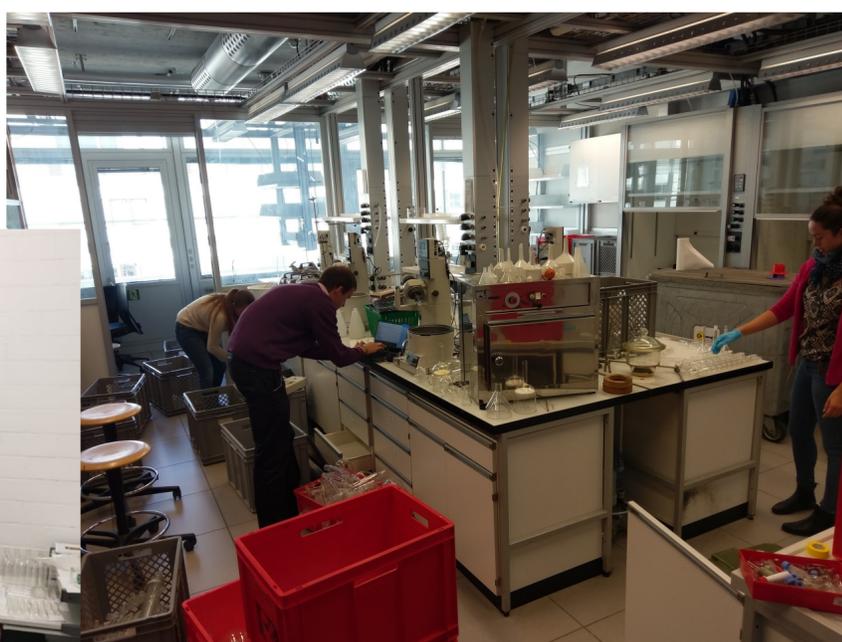
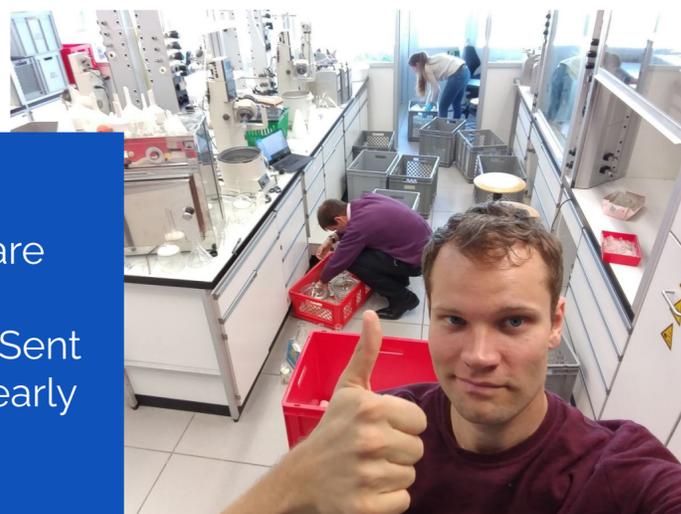
New inventory, new storage space

2018 was also an exciting year in terms of donor-initiated equipment donations. With increasing recognition of ES within the Zurich scientific community, several offers of devices for donation reached our members. The largest quantity of material came from the dissolution of a former chemistry laboratory, resulting in a large mass of valuable, functional chemistry glass-ware, and various small electronic/analytical devices.

In a large combined effort, involving also spontaneous volunteers outside of the immediate ES team, the glass-ware was sorted and categorized for intermediate storage until suitable recipients could be found. This required for the first time a larger scale storage space, which was kindly provided by the Student Project House, ETH. Potential recipients of the material were quickly screened and contacted. The arrangement of a transfer of a subset of this equipment was investigated for the following year. Stay tuned for 2019!!



More than 1600 pieces of glassware for chemistry donated to EquipSent instead of being early disposed!



Valuable glassware is donated to EquipSent instead of being trashed

Coaching opportunities

Project Together

In 2017 EquipSent was chosen as a participant for ProjectTogether, a social start-up incubator based in Berlin, Germany. Jan-Georg Rosenboom represented ES at several sponsored pitching and coaching workshops, which were used to sharpen the concept of ES, and build a stronger pitch in collaboration with a personal coach.

ETH Student Project House - SPH

As a growing student-initiated organisation, EquipSent had the urgent need for team facilities, and the opening and extension of the ETH-based Student Project House (SPH) offered the ideal opportunity for growth. EquipSent became an officially recognised project by SPH, which implied the access to meeting facilities and coaching, as well as offering a valuable hub for recruiting new members.

Swiss Student Sustainability Challenge

Supported by SPH, EquipSent competed in the 2018 Swiss Student Sustainability Challenge (SSSC). EquipSent was chosen as a finalist for pitching at the event in Bern, and as a finalist team EquipSent had the unique opportunity to get in touch with Swiss specialists for start-up founding. During the challenge the team received several sponsored personal coaching sessions from leading Swiss experts. The valuable experience in pitching could be directly applied to find future industry partners for equipment donations at Zurich-based company fairs, such as the Polymesse.

Clinton Global Initiative University - Chicago

As in the previous year, EquipSent was delighted to be selected as a participant for the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU), which was hosted at the University of Chicago in October 2018. The CGIU events are internationally renowned events to bring together social entrepreneurs and future change-makers from around the world, to network, exchange on challenges and solutions, and to learn from panels of specialists. In 2018, EquipSent was represented by Katharina Keller, Jan-Georg Rosenboom, and Irina Ritsch, and travel expenses were kindly supported by ETH Global. Several contacts to students from around the world, including universities in severely underfunded regions could be made, and the exchange with other participants helped shape a better view and vision for the EquipSent of the future. Based on the idea of the 'Day of Action' in the course of CGIU, ES introduced the weekly 'Hours to Action', a fixed time-slot for all members to sit down individually and work on their currently most pressing issue in ES in a more social setting.



Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Katharina Keller and Irina Ritsch represent EquipSent at the 2018 CGIU in Chicago

Financial Report

In 2018 EquipSent received no third-party funding or invested capital. All work was done on a voluntary basis without compensation. Small costs (e.g. printed promotional material, postage of documents, expenses during social activities and meetings) were kindly financed as donations of the active members. The intermediate storage room was kindly provided by SPH at ETH Zurich free of charge. Space for storage of small items, as well as meeting facilities were kindly provided by the Student Project House. ETH Global kindly provided funding for the travel costs of three members of ES for attending the 2018 Clinton Global Initiative University. A list of categorized expenses is presented in the table below, including the amount of donations by EquipSent members.



	Income (CHF)	Cost (CHF)	Donation (CHF)	Total (CHF)
Operating Income				
Cases revenue (Sarajevo case)	0			
Fundraisers	0			
Grants	0			
Operating costs				
IT (website domain)		203.66		
Marketing material (flyers, poster, cards)		100.95		
Equipment Management expenses		56.55		
Cases expenses		0		
Snacks & drinks		345		
Transport costs (trains ES members)		70		
Donations ES members			776.16	
Total operating income	0			
Total operating costs		776.16		
Donations ES members			776.16	
Balance				0

Visibility

In 2018, EquipSent gained more visibility due to great efforts within the team. We focused here in three main aspects: awareness events, online presence and articles.

Awareness events

ES was part of the SSC Sustainability Aperero that was co-organized by the various sustainability-driven organizations at ETH Zurich. The event presented different projects that allow students to get involved in increasing sustainability in various aspects of life. Besides raising awareness for sustainable use of scientific equipment and learning more about other initiatives at ETH Zurich, the event was a great opportunity to find fitting personalities to our volunteer network and new members were recruited.

Online presence



- ES gained new followers in facebook in an organic manner and given the efforts of the leading editor team of reaching out to their own facebook network.
- ES decided to expand our social media presence by opening a LinkedIn account, aiming for socializing to a corporate audience, potential manufacturers, other donors of equipment or potential sponsors of our transfers.
- ES also decided to expand our online presence by opening Instagram to raise awareness within the young crowd and have a closer communication to recipients, foundations or similar initiatives with social fiber.
- ES established a new web presence for a growing initiative. Spearheaded by Jannick Griner, EquipSent's online appearance received a major makeover in 2018. The new webpage (equipsent.org) was not only designed to give a more intuitive understanding of the modus operandi of equipsent, but it also included better capabilities for future collaborations (i.e. donor, recipients or partners) to get in touch via questionnaires. The 'News' section was introduced as a means to communicate ongoing events to the outside world.

Articles

In 2018, we had the pleasure to be featured in the ETH ambassador's blog and the AMPERE Bulletin

- Article at ETH ambassadors blog (see link below)
<https://blogs.ethz.ch/ETHambassadors/2018/11/29/young-student-leaders-tackle-global-challenges/>
- Article in the AMPERE Bulletin (see page 32)
<https://ampere-society.org/bulletins/AmpereBulletin273.pdf>

Enable
Education
Everywhere...



...with EquipSent!

Initial Situation

In high-income countries, scientific equipment is often stored unused after its usage time in research laboratories. Older devices are eventually discarded, even though they are still functional. In low-income countries, schools and universities are lacking the funds to acquire even the most basic devices for adequate training of talented students. The resulting 'brain-drain' to other countries hinders the self-development in such regions.

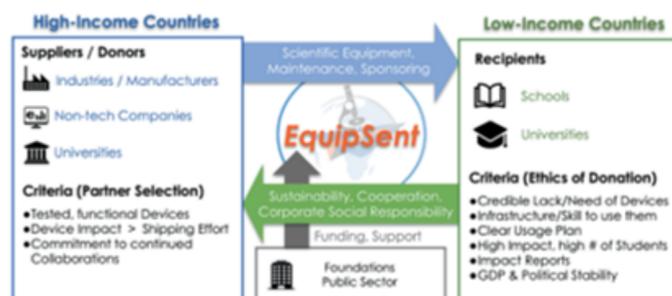
Our Solution

EquipSent seeks to connect these two worlds by directly matching donors of scientific equipment with those in need. As an intermediary between both parties, we reduce administrative efforts and help organizing the shipping, installation and legal contracting. Expenses are shared between the recipient and the industrial sponsors in return for CSR, new markets and advertisement.

Target Impact

- Access to Education. Students around the world will be granted access to hands-on training and education, rather than theory only.
- Collaboration and Development. The matched donor, sponsor and recipient of equipment are encouraged to collaborate on a long-term basis, which offers learning opportunities on all sides.
- Resource Efficiency & Waste Minimization. The equipment donor profits by reducing costs for space, waste and personnel, while benefitting from a positive image generated through sustainable use.

Founded by a group of ETH students, EquipSent is giving a second life to devices, promotes sustainable use and offers access to education and research to more people.



Do you know about no longer used, but functional scientific equipment in your research group or do you know of a university in need?

Do you want to learn more about what we do?

Check out our website EquipSent.org and get in touch with us!

our Partners



Social activities

With a growing team, it also became more important to focus on a team-building and coordination strategy. In 2018, this was achieved by combining organisational events, such as the general assembly with social activities. A highlight was a board meeting held in Basel, as a means of better including the Basel-based ES members, which was followed by attending a local festival and fireworks.



The team is growing, General Assembly!



The successful general assembly was celebrated with dinner. Some of our members in the picture.



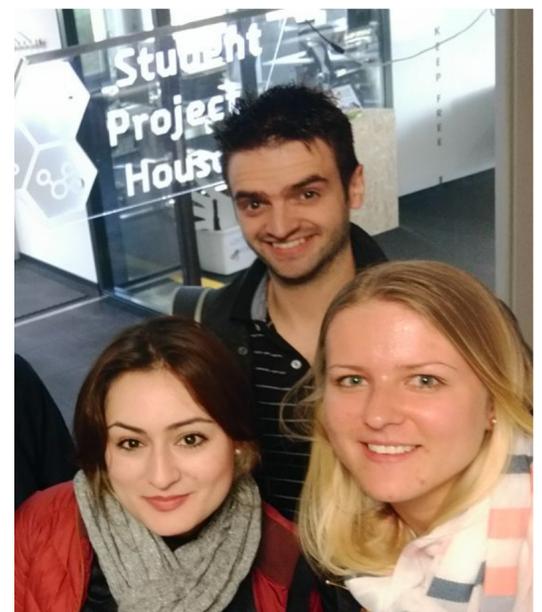
We meet wherever and whenever we can!



After an exciting meeting in Basel to promote remote working of ES, some members of the team enjoyed the famous river fireworks on the 31st of July



Enable Education Everywhere!



Our traditional Hour-to-action at Student Project House, ETH

ES in numbers - 2018



We were 18 EquipSenders!



In alphabetic order: Alena Budinska, Anuli Uzozie, Carolin Gold, Dorothea Wiebecke, Gastón Larrazábal, Gregor Jotzu, Irina Ritsch, Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Jannick Griner, Jennifer Brown, Jonas Bösken, Katharina Keller, Marcela Giraldo, Ramona Achermann, Sarah Rowan, Selver Pepic, Timo Niepel, Wilfred Elegba,



We concluded 1-equipment transfer! (Sarajevo)



We initiated one equipment transfer! (Congo)



We initiated one equipment match (glassware)

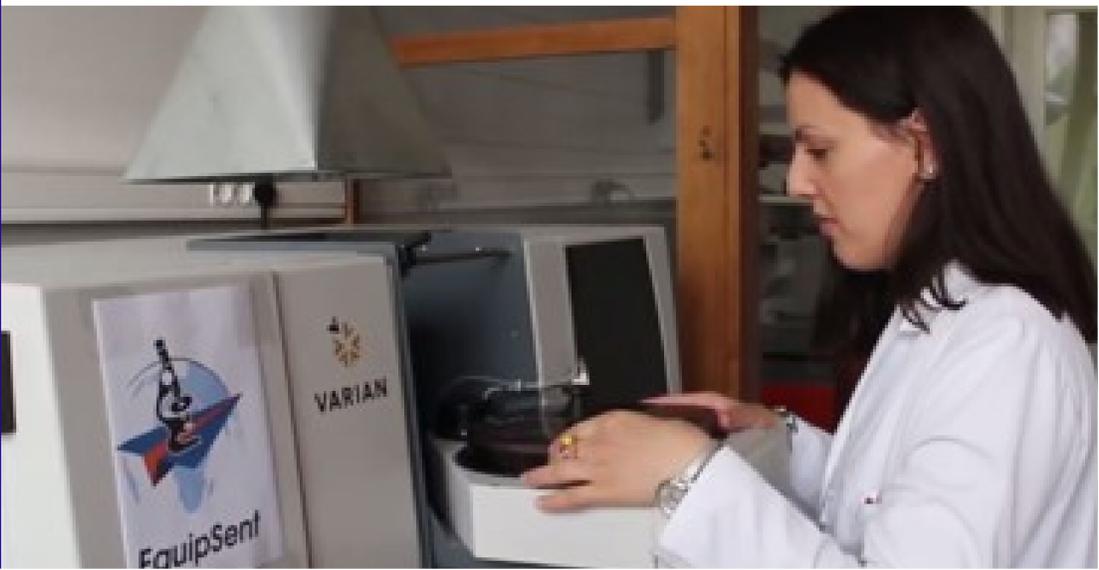
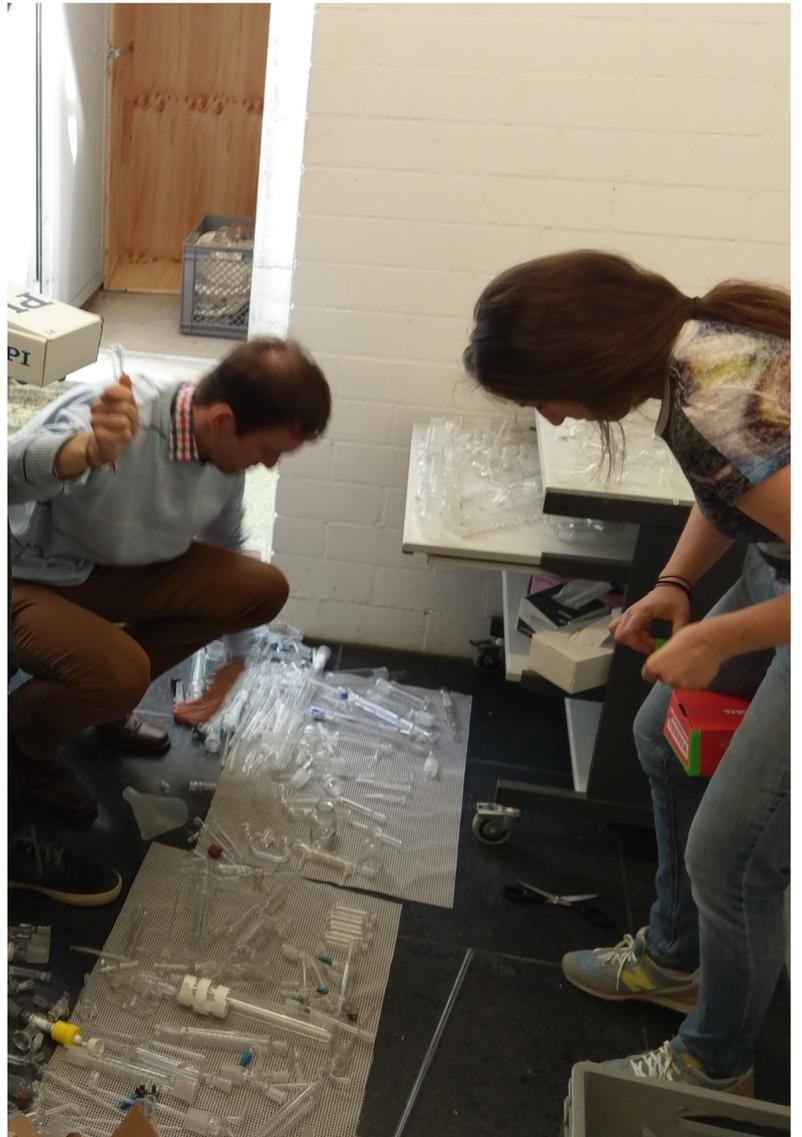


ES was represented and promoted at 5-different events

- CGI U Chicago
- Swiss Student Sustainability Challenge
- ETH Sustainability Aperos
- ChemTogether company fair
- ETH Sustainability week



Thank
you for a
great
year!





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