

2

0

1

9



Cases

Ongoing cases

- ① Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- ② Beni, DR Congo
- ③ Duazon, Liberia
- ④ Armenia



# EquipSent

Enable Education Everywhere

# Annual Report

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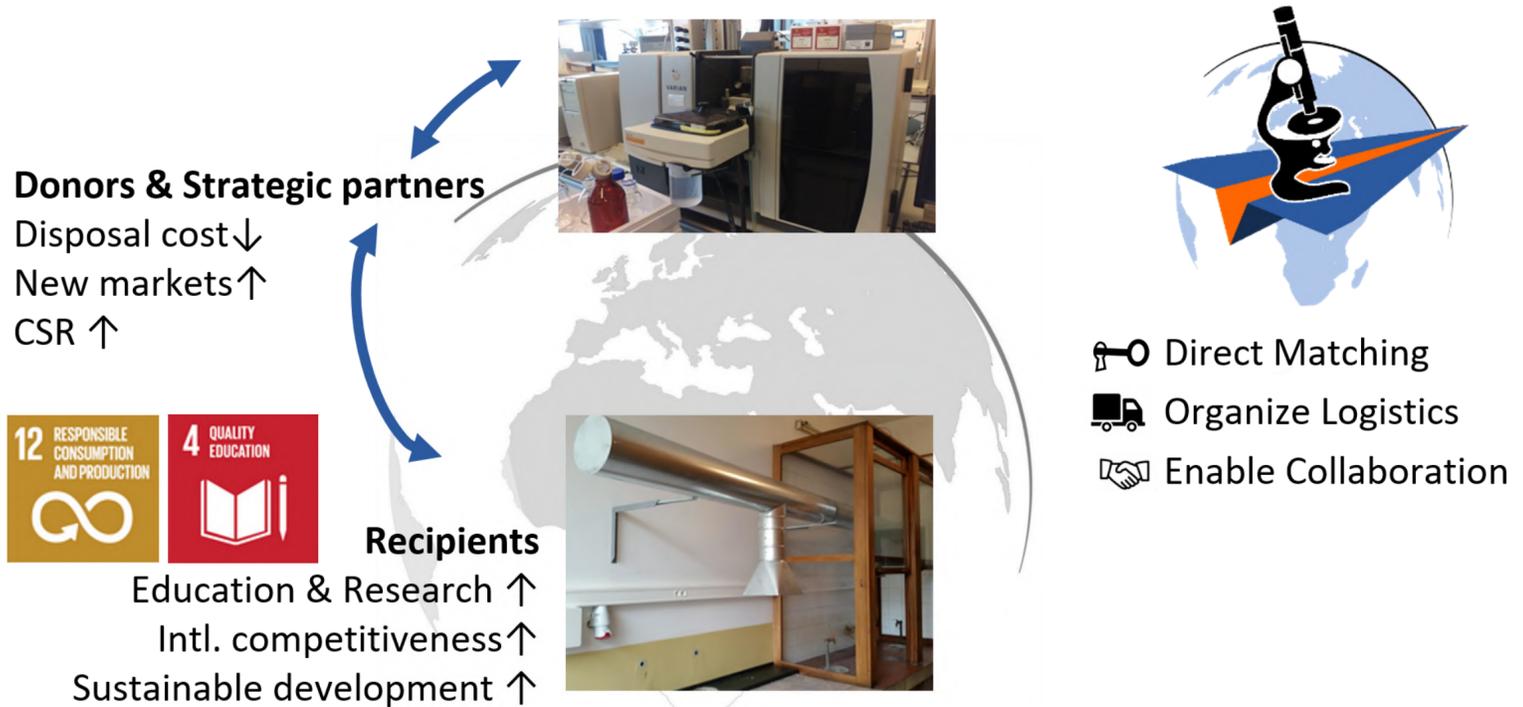
## **EQUIPSENT IN NUMBERS**

# Our Mission

EquipSent (ES) is a volunteer based organisation 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 April 2019 in Zürich, Switzerland. The board was elected as follows:

Marcela Giraldo C. & Dorothea Wiebecke (Co-Presidents),  
Jan-Georg Rosenboom (consultant to co-presidency)

*Acknowledgment:*

*Especial thanks to Katharina Keller and Jannick Griner who in spite of not being elected as board members, kindly offered a high commitment to shape the organization together - Marcela*

## EquipSent Members

In 2019, we were 19 EquipSent members!

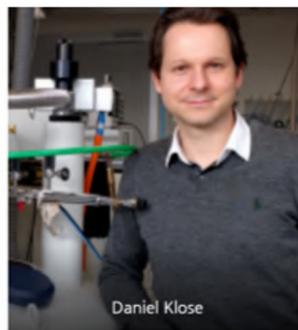
*In alphabetic order:* Alena Budinska, Anahit Torosyan, Anna Thumann, Daniel Klose, Dorothea Wiebecke, Ellinor Thelander, Gregor Jotzu, Irina Ritsch, Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Jannick Griner, Jonas Böskén, Katharina Keller, Lea Cebulla, Marcela Giraldo, Mohammad Ismael Nouraddini Halvae, Selver Pepic, Sarah Rowan, Timo Niepel, Wilfred Elegba



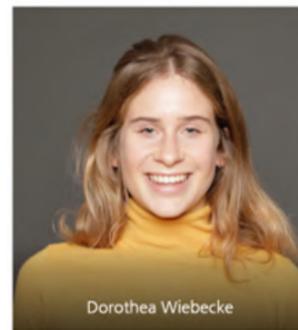
Anahit Torosyan



Anna Thumann



Daniel Klose



Dorothea Wiebecke



Gregor Jotzu



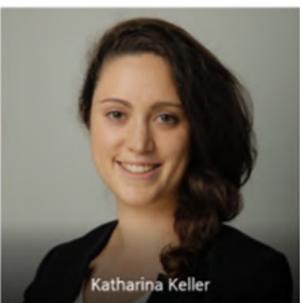
Irina Ritsch



Jan-Georg Rosenboom



Jannick Griner



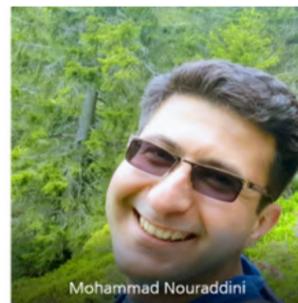
Katharina Keller



Lea Cebulla



Marcela Giraldo



Mohammad Nouraddini



Sarah Rowan



Selver Pepic



Timo Niepel



Wilfred Elegba

# Cases

## Electronic devices for an Applied Sciences Lab in Beni, DR Congo

In 2018, the EquipSent crew finalized the packing of four large wooden crates filled with electronic goods for the Christian Bilingual University of Congo, UCBC.

In 2019, the shipment of the ready-packed crates moves on after choosing one of the quoted logistic operators. The payment is arranged between the US branch of Congo Initiative (NGO) and a shipping company based in the UK, with EquipSent and the beneficiaries as coordinating parties.



Case leaders. Left to right: Irina Ritsch, Marcela Giraldo and Katharina Keller

Multiple challenges on this transfer arose during the shipping process all the way to Beni, following the route: Zurich- London (UK), London (UK) – Mombassa (Kenya), Mombassa (Kenya) – Kampala (Uganda) and finally Kampala (Uganda) - Beni (Congo).

Taxes to be cleared at every border (UK, Kenya, Uganda and Congo) and real time coordination with: public functionaries at the Mombassa port, drivers in land mainly in Kenya and Uganda, translators, the shipping company and the recipients in Congo. All of which were handled by the EquipSent case leader(s). Finally, the four wooden crates made it to the Congolese border where the recipient picked them up and negotiated in person the local customs.



Congolese staff at UCBC after receiving physics and electronics devices for hands-on-training



In the end, the four boxes (nearly 400 kg) full of Physics and Electronics equipment (oscilloscopes, power supplies, multimeters and many more) reached The Christian Bilingual University of Congo (UCBC), to support the new narrative which is being written by this young university teaching applied sciences and vocational training to promising minds. These devices will serve for hands-on-training of the future Congolese electrical engineers and natural scientists, nearly 300 students. They also plan to serve local projects on renewable energy.

## First follow up with UCBC, Congo



Our recipients reported to us that equipment tests followed a few months after the equipment arrival. In addition, UCBC was encouraged by the successful equipment transfer, to renovate a classroom to become the next Applied Science Electronics Lab. Due to covid'19 and insecurities in the region furnishing the new Lab was postponed. We look into the future to see the new lab and classroom in operation. Cheers for the next generation of Congolese electrical engineers!

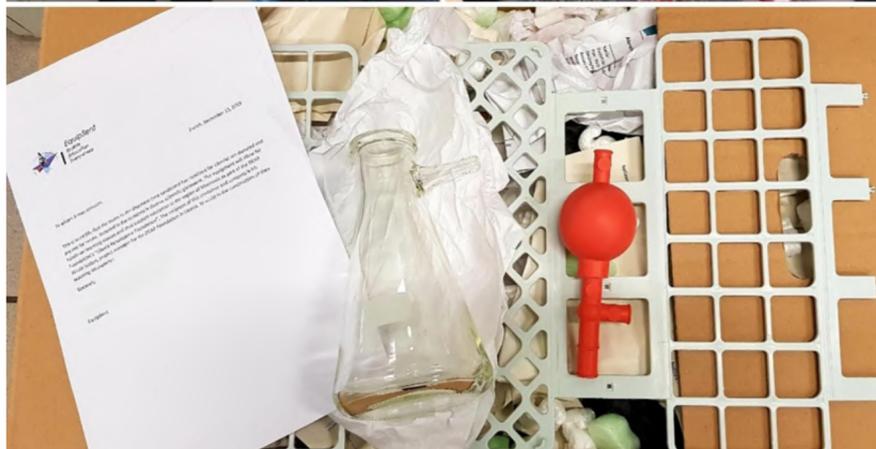
## Glassware for the children in Duazon, Liberia

EquipSent onboarded on its third transfer in partnership with DEAR Foundation. This time talented children at Liberia Renaissance Education Complex (LREC) in Duazon were the target beneficiaries. LREC is a public school founded by the Swiss DEAR Foundation. It is renowned by its high academic standards and vocational training in Liberia. It provides affordable education to talented children based on merit and need.

Followed by a skype session in which the need was established, the EquipSent team investigated the inventory to match the need of the recipient to start a basic chemistry lab. The main matching elements were diverse glassware like test tubes of various volumes, pipettes, crystallizing dishes, flasks, graduated cylinders, among others



Pre-selected pieces of glassware



EquipSent team preparing the shipment and documents. Case leader: Sarah Rowan



Dedicated classrooms for sciences are expected to open in 2020 and will benefit nearly 126 students!

The legal documents were prepared by EquipSent and the shipment was organized in coordination with the recipient and DEAR Foundation. The shipment took place towards the end of 2019. Finally, LREC received various glassware for basic chemistry courses.

## Equipping a pharmaceuticals crew (Yerevan, Armenian)

The EquipSent team, on its mission to enable education everywhere, started to plan its fourth transfer of scientific equipment to Yerevan, Armenia. This new transfer to Yerevan State Medical University includes scientific devices, such as UV-spectrophotometer, analytical scale, chemical storage cabinet, vortexer, and pipettes. The transfer will enable research of natural product-based drug development.

As research goes hand in hand with skilled people, at the same time the devices will be used for education and hands-on training sessions for students in pharmacology. Equipment donations are actually both from the UK and from Switzerland making this EquipSent's first decentralized shipping. So great prospect in many ways! In 2020, logistics and funding are the next milestones to tackle.



First decentralized case in preparation, stay tuned!

.Case leader: Anahit Toroyan

# Equipment Donations

In 2019, EquipSent receives several equipment donations, most of them thanks to the personal network from EquipSenders. The communication with donors and the transportation to our storage room were organized by the team. The donated equipment included a laminar flow, vortexers, ovens, various analytical devices for chemistry, among others. This year was also exciting because we received the first two donations from companies. The first one, functional early-discarded analytical scales. Here, the EquipSent team organized the logistics to transport the pieces to the storage room. The second one, an UV-spectrometer (located in the UK), which has been already matched with a potential recipient.



Jannick Griner receiving a donation of equipment



Timo Niepel at our storage room after finalizing a tough inventory



Diverse devices donated to EquipSent instead of being trashed

## Towards established processes

### EquipSent recipient form

With successful transfers already established, the team drafts the first version of the follow up questionnaire for recipients. This form should help the team to plan future equipment transfers more efficiently and evaluate future repeated transfers to the same beneficiaries. We expect the recipient to fill this form at least once every six-months.

### Guidelines for receiving equipment and How-to-case

With much experience collected from the successful transfers from ES to beneficiaries and the repeated donation of out-of-use equipment to EquipSent, the team decides to write down guidelines clarifying the steps for streamlined processes and reduced efforts. First, the guidelines for receiving equipment in the organization, so that every ES member could potentially organize an equipment transfer. Second, the How-to-case which is meant as a guideline for case leaders on how to start a case from the matching phase and step-by-step bring it to success.

# Business model development



Day to action. Business model/ strategy team. From left to right: Marcela Giraldo, Daniel Klose, Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Jannick Griner & Katharina Keller.

## Team structure

**Strategy:** The strategy team works to figure out concepts for pricing, market analysis, financing and related requirements, such as acquiring tax-exemption. This team designs the strategy to approach different stakeholders and attract donations from them.

**Equipment management:** All equipment that is temporarily in EquipSent's possession is taken care of by this team. This includes in particular management of the storage facilities and incoming requests.

**Case management:** This team keeps an overview of all cases. It helps out case leaders in need and can also be a starting hub for new cases. It is ideally composed of members who worked in a case before and have some experience.

**Recruiting & HR:** Volunteers are one of our most valuable resources. Recruitment of new people is paramount too. This team focuses on managing memberships, getting the right people on board and helping them join teams and activities.

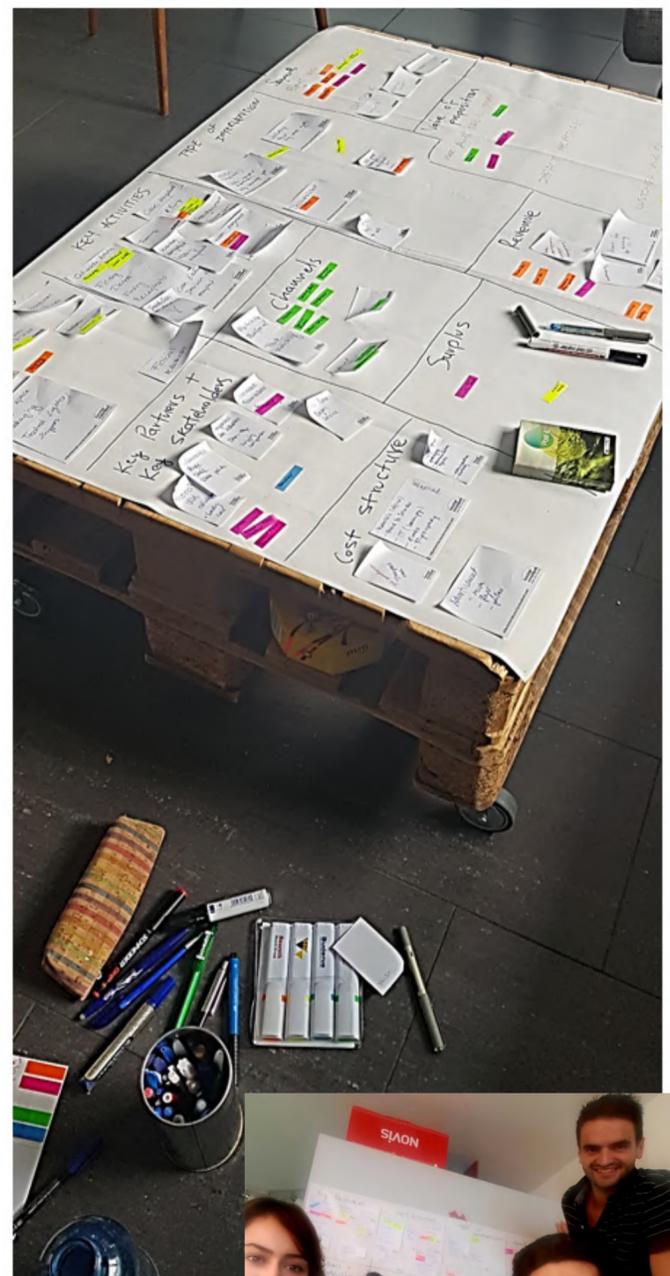
**Corporate Relations:** Responsible for identifying new partners such as foundations, company donors, law firms, shipment companies. Creates guidelines, coordinates outreaching activities, like company pitches.

**Marketing:** This team manages outwards channels - such as the website and social media. This team designs essentially the communication strategy, success stories, and spreads the word of team achievements. Depending on what the goal is they work closely with other teams.



Parallel to our operations, we formed a business model development team which later on transformed into the Strategy team. Here, we keep pushing the development of a sustainable and scalable organization. The core team is formed (in alphabetic order) by: Daniel Klose, Jannick Griner, Katharina Keller and Marcela Giraldo. Special mention to Mohammad Ismael Nouraddini Halvae and Jan-Georg Rosenboom who contributed with their ideas and time in an early stage of this team.

Main achievements include the ideation of the team structure, Social Business Model Canvas, first impact indicators, among others.



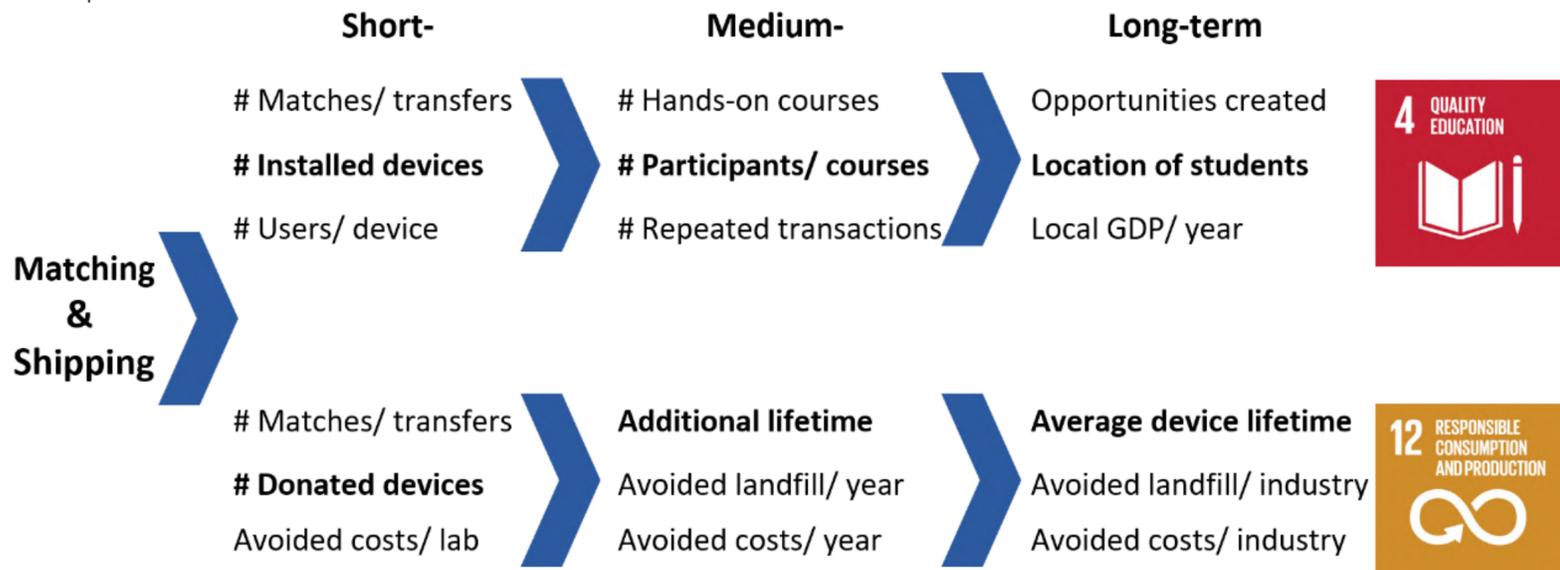
Day to action. EquipSent's business model team developing the Social business model canvas



## Impact Indicators

In 2019, EquipSent defined key performance indicators to measure our progress towards two SDGs: (4) Quality Education and (12) Responsible Production and Consumption (see below).

EquipSent aligns with several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. We aim to address quality education by hands-on training (Goal 4). By doing so we aim to foster development and innovation by enabling research. By spreading awareness and by extending the life-cycle of equipment we want to promote sustainable consumption (Goal 12).



## Statutes update

After conversations among the business model crew, the team decides to strengthen the non-profit character of the organization by making updates in the statutes, especially to fulfill requirements to become a tax-exempted organization. Updates to the statutes in the following categories were proposed:

- Membership: full & associate members
- Simplified internal structure, lean & flexible: GA, Board, Auditors
- Legal requirements for tax exemption
- Clarifications (minor)

The updated version of the statutes will be voted at the next General Assembly. Stay tuned!

## Programs for social innovation

### Clinton Global Foundation CGI U commitment maker

EquipSent was selected for third consecutive time to attend the 2019 edition of the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI). The first international meeting hosted by Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland! This annual conference brings together leaders in politics, philanthropists, NGOs, social enterprises, members of media, among others, to discuss pressing global challenges and find effective solutions.

In 2019, EquipSent was represented by:

Sarah Rowan, Dorothea Wiebecke and Marcela Giraldo.



This time, in contrast to previous years, the Commitment to Action had a 1-year duration including a series of webinars and workshops. Our commitment makers proposed the following timeline to CGI U:

- End 2019: Established a new match (Equipment in our inventory with Recipient in low-income country).
- Beginning 2020: Third prototype case completed - Glassware transfer to LREC Liberia.
- Beginning 2020: Create "How to Donate" guidelines.
- Beginning 2020: First impact report from Sarajevo University (installed mass spectrometer mid 2019).
- Mid 2020: Established strategy to approach either governmental institutions or companies.
- Mid 2020: Matching and next cases ongoing.
- Mid 2020: Establish a first decentralized case.
- Mid 2020: First impact report from UCBC, Congo (installed electronic devices end 2019).
- Mid 2020: EquipSent awareness event (PubQuiz).
- End 2020: Finish decentralized case and establish new cases.

Stay tuned for the 2020 to hear more about the milestones reached and new learnings from our commitment makers!

## UZH Innovators Camp

EquipSent was selected to attend the UZH Innovators camp under recommendation from Barbara LaCara and Student Project House. This is an in-class program for entrepreneurs, which this year was devoted to social innovations. Social initiatives belonging to the partner institutions (University of Zurich, ETH and the Zurich University of Arts (ZHdK)) were encouraged to apply. EquipSent's representing team was formed by Marcela Giraldo, Mohammad Ismael Nouraddini Halvae and Katharina Keller. Apart from an initiation of feedback loops with experts, coaches, and having the chance to network with other social initiatives and camp participants, EquipSent also pitched at the International Trade Center (ITC) and Impact HUB Geneva. A final pitch in front of an expert jury (UBS, investors, Redbull project manager, economics professor, philanthropists..) took place the last day of the Camp.



Mohammad and Katharina (left to right) at the final round of pitches



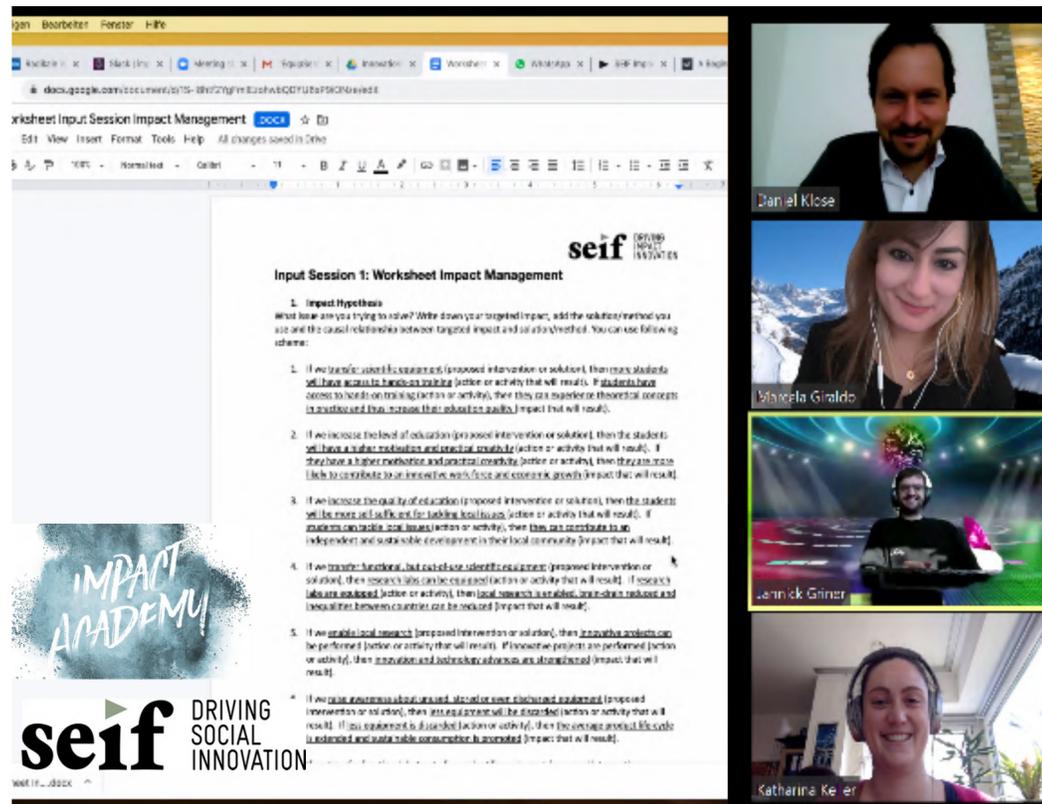
Marcela Giraldo at the final pitch with the expert jury



Impressions from the UZH Innovation Camp

## Impact Academy

EquipSent registers to the Impact Academy program (autumn cycle) under recommendation from Barbara LaCara and Student Project House. The team was selected as one of the 38 impact driven initiatives for a six-month coaching session including at least 9h with a coach from the banking industry, in our case from Credit Suisse. The targeted support is focused on areas like: impact management, impact finance, business development between market entry to growth phase, among others. The core team representing EquipSent in this program are (from top to bottom in the picture): Daniel Klose, Marcela Giraldo, Jannick Griner and Katharina Keller.



Strategy team working on Impact Management. From top to bottom: Daniel Klose, Marcela Giraldo, Jannick Griner & Katharina Keller.

# Financial Report

In 2019, everybody worked on honorary capacity without compensation. Small costs (e.g. printed promotional material, postage of documents, expensed during social activities and meetings) were kindly financed as donations of the active members. The storage room was provided by ETH Zurich free of cost. A locker and meeting facilities were kindly provided by the Student Project House. In addition, a fundraiser led by Jan-Georg Rosenboom on his birthday collected 226 CHF on EquipSent's name.



	Income (CHF)	Cost (CHF)	Donations (CHF)	Total (CHF)
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Cases revenue	20.99			
Fundraiser	226			
Grants	0			
<b>Operating costs</b>				
IT (website domain)		133.7		
Marketing material (flyers, poster, cards)		42.25		
Equipment Management expenses		114.91		
Cases expenses		50		
Snacks & drinks		143.1		
Transport costs (trains ES members)		0		
Donations ES members			257.96	
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>246.99</b>			
<b>Total operating costs</b>		<b>483.96</b>		
<b>Donations ES members</b>			<b>257.96</b>	
<b>Balance</b>				<b>20.99</b>

# Funding efforts

- Parallel to successful transfers, 2019 was also very exciting because EquipSent was granted two budgets from internal partner organizations at ETH. First, the renewable seed funding from SPH (400 CHF). Second, the AVETH funding for diversity projects. A total of 1000 CHF for a right start into the next semester!
- In 2019, we submitted a proposal to the Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences, to participate in the U-change convocatory for sustainable projects (Category A) with ETH as host institution (Project No 316). The project goal is three-fold: outreach activities, awareness creation and marketing strategies to address target audiences for EquipSent. Stay tuned for the follow-ups to come in 2020.

# Visibility

To reach out to potential partners, donors and sponsors promotional materials in social media were updated and the Slide Deck for pitching further improved. This included the design and constant evolution of the EquipSent's Slide Deck further used and adapted to several pitches through the year.

In 2019, the growing EquipSent team embarked on different activities to draw attention and raise awareness in its local context. Such activities included: pitches at the AVETH roundtable, ETH sustainability apero, invited pitches at Student-Project House (ETH) in events like: Peers & Beers, UNITECH international, innovation managers meeting at SPH (Swisscom, Zurich insurances, migros, ewz, among others), International Trade Center, Impact HUB Geneva, UZH Innovation Camp, among others.



Top: Our co-president Dorothea Wiebecke spreading the word about our work at the autumn Sustainability Apero. Bottom: Irina Ritsch spreading the word at the invited pitch from SPH to the UNITECH community

This year, a pitch to the Multifunctional Ferroic Materials Group (ETH) headed by Professor Fiebig led to the advertisement of EquipSent in the group website and the introduction of the organization at the Professors meeting from the Materials Department.



### EquipSent - An initiative to strengthen research and education in the world

We are proud to have with our colleague **Marcela Giraldo** the co-president of the social initiative [EquipSent](#) in the team. To strengthen research and education in the world, EquipSent provides lower-income countries with fully functional scientific equipment that has been early disposed in high-income countries. Follow their journey and get more information on their sustainable transfers [here](#).

Post about EquipSent kindly published by the Multifunctional Ferroic Materials homepage

In 2019, articles from EquipSenders were also published in different media:

**EquipSent**  
Enable education everywhere!

Dorothea Wiebecke

**Laborunterricht – ein Privileg**

Als ETH-Studierende haben wir das Privileg alltäglich mit modernster Laborausstattung arbeiten zu dürfen. In anderen Teilen der Welt fehlen vielen Hochschulen die nötigen finanziellen Ressourcen, die für die Umsetzung von praktischer Lehre und Forschung notwendig wären. Deshalb haben viele Studierende nie die Chance, nebst der theoretischen Ausbildung, praktische Erfahrung zu sammeln. Der Mangel an weiterbringenden Möglichkeiten führt unter anderem zu Phänomenen wie dem 'Brain Drain'. Dabei wandern talentierte Studierende ins Ausland ab, woran die Forschung und Entwicklung in den betroffenen Ländern leidet.

**Für bessere Forschung überall**

Wenn an westlichen Institutionen oder Firmen Geräte nicht mehr gebraucht werden, landen sie oft in Abstellräumen, obschon sie brauchbar wären. Diesem Umstand möchte EquipSent entgegenwirken. Wir vermitteln ausrangiertes, aber funktionstüchtiges Labormaterial an akademische Standorte, wo es gebraucht werden kann und somit Forschung und Bildung unterstützt. Bisher haben wir erfolgreich mehrere Analytik Geräte an die Universität Sarajevo gesendet. Ausserdem konnten wir 400 kg an elektronischen Geräten an die Universität Beni im Kongo senden. Zurzeit arbeiten wir daran, ein Labor in Liberia mit Glaswaren für einfache Versuche auszustatten.

Haben wir dein Interesse geweckt? Bleibe auf dem Laufendem via Instagram und Facebook (@equipsent)! Schreibe uns jeder Zeit bei allfälligen Fragen – wir freuen uns von Dir zu hören!

www.equipsent.org,  
info@equipsent.com

Das Team des Studierendenprojekts EquipSent

Article about EquipSent kindly published by VeBiS, the biology student magazine from ETH



This year the EquipSent's website suffered a major makeover and more professional design including the ties to social media for news feed. In addition, the EquipSent team kept stirring the social media with especial focus on LinkedIn and Instagram feeds. The EquipSent's social media closes December 2019 with the following numbers:

- LinkedIn: 20 followers
- Facebook: 120 followers
- Instagram: 67 followers

The team also decides to expand its social media reach with a twitter account, which quickly gained 27 followers.



### Give equipment a second life!

29.04.2020  
By: Zydruone Jaskauskaitė

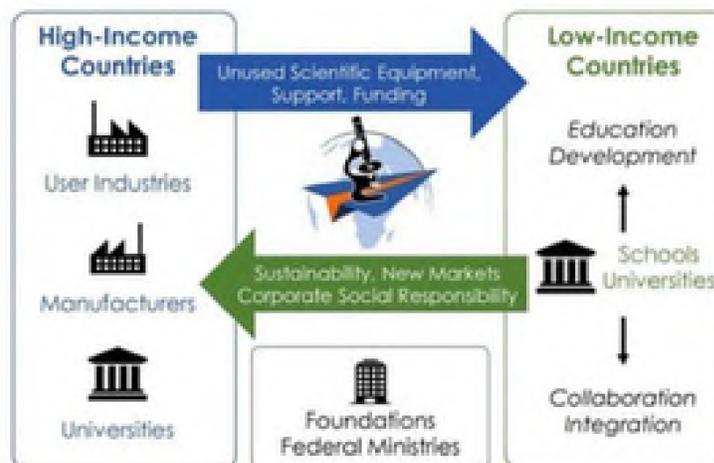
EquipSent initiative organizes the transfer of out-of-use, but still functional laboratory equipment which can be used for teaching and research in the fields of the natural sciences and engineering.

Scientific laboratory equipment is often stored somewhere without a purpose after its standard usage time expires. And unfortunately, in many cases different kinds of still functional devices end up as rubbish.

In many of these cases the equipment still functions and is exactly what schools or universities need to train their students.

EquipSent found a sustainable way to fight this challenge. Acting as a facilitator, EquipSent is redistributing outdated, but still functioning devices from high-income countries to partner institutions in low-income countries with the goal of improving teaching and learning experience for both, teachers and students.

Read more about the initiative on [EquipSent.org](#)



EquipSent distribution model

Article about EquipSent kindly published by ETH for Development (ETH4D) in their homepage

	GET INVOLVED	OUR SPACE	PROJECTS	MAKERSPACE
	#TOP	#BOTTOM		

EquipSent  
Enable Education - Everywhere



**Abstract**

Scientific laboratory equipment is often stored unused after its standard usage time, and sadly by default eventually ends up in the trash. In many cases the equipment is still functional, and potentially exactly what a school or university elsewhere needs for the training of talented students. EquipSent seeks to put such resources to better and more sustainable use by redistributing unused devices from high-income countries to partner institutions in low-income countries.

**Description**

Laboratory equipment is a fundamental component of education at university level, yet it is often lacking in low-income countries due to high acquisition costs. We promote access to adequate education by facilitating transfers of out-of-use, functional equipment to educational institutions in need. As students at ETH Zurich, we appreciate the extensive practical experience offered along with theoretical education in our studies. However, in many institutions globally, practical experience with laboratory instruments is not offered due to financial limitations. Young people with great potential leave their home country and contribute to science and development in other countries, which results in a "brain drain". In companies and research institutions of high-income countries, slightly outdated equipment is often not used after replacement with a newer device. The aim of EquipSent (ES) is to organize equipment transfers from European donors to universities and schools in low-income countries, thus enabling the hands-on training crucial for adequate education. By improving the teaching situation at educational institutions in these countries, we aim to solidify the foundations for a long-lasting, skilled workforce which can help create an impactful economy as well as a sustainable and independent society.

**Contact**

Get in touch with us if you have questions [info@equipsent.org](mailto:info@equipsent.org) or visit our website <https://equipsent.org/> or follow us on social media: LinkedIn, Instagram, twitter and facebook as @equipsent.



Article about EquipSent kindly published by the Student Project House, ETH

# Social

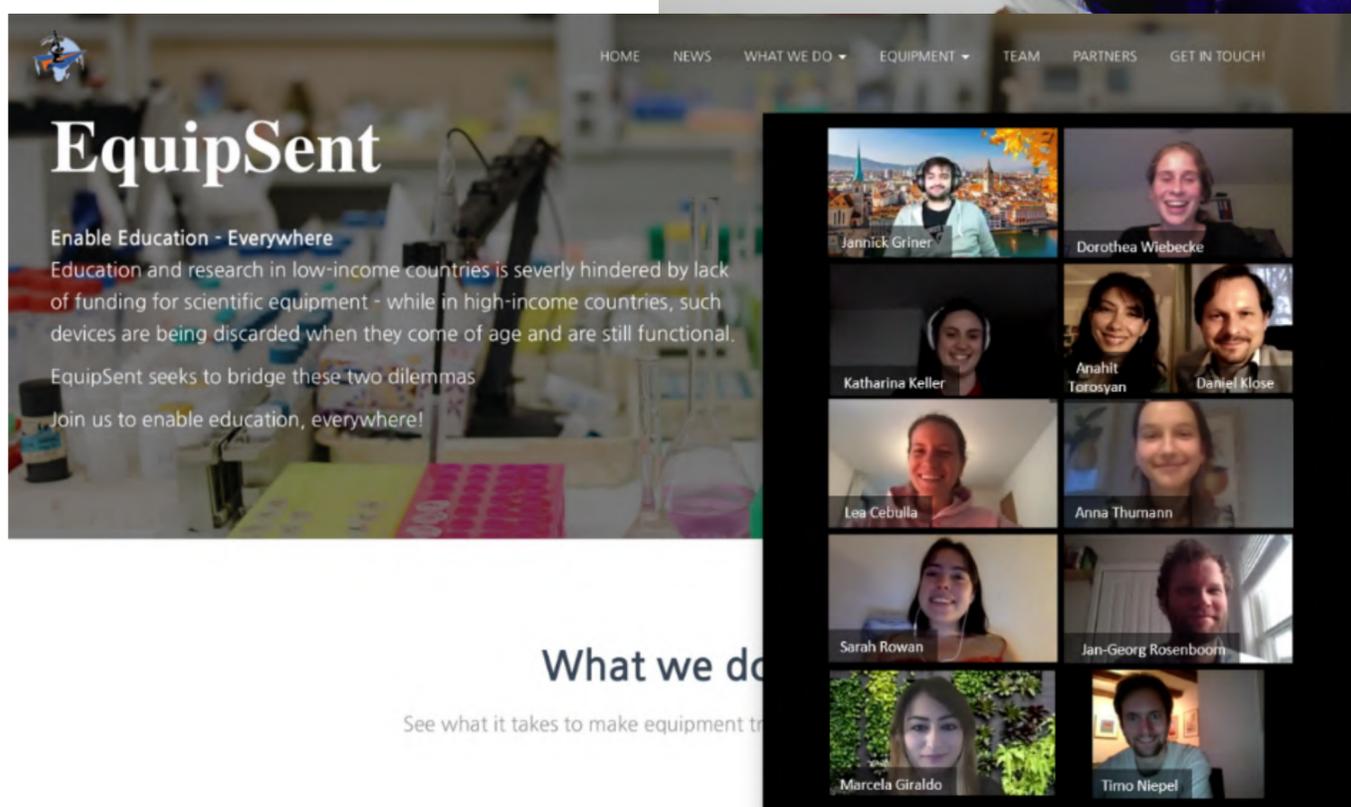
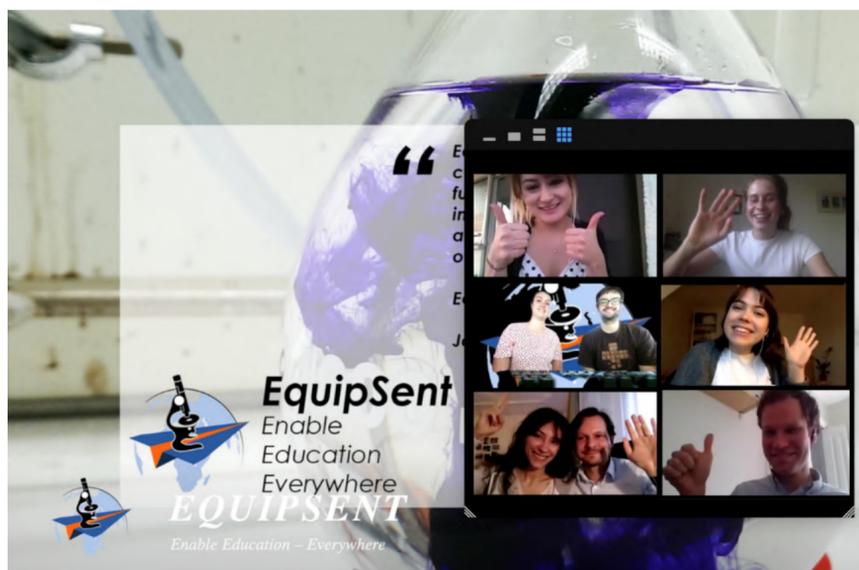
In our mission to enable education everywhere there was also room for social activities and having some fun together. Below some pictures from the committed EquipSent's team in organizational activities like the Kick-off or Hours-to-discussion.



Memories from our semester kick-off, dinner together and Xmas gluhwein after our last Hour-to-discussion before new year



Our co-presidents, Dorothea Wiebecke and Marcela Giraldo from EquipSent with Marco and Eric from the Scivvy team. Finding common ground to enhance education around the world



The EquipSent team remained united, positive, active, and finding new opportunities while beating the barriers and challenges imposed by Covid'19

# ES in numbers - 2019



We were 19 EquipSenders!

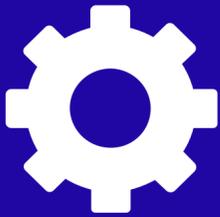
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We concluded 2-equipment transfers!

We received 1-follow up!

We received the first equipment donation from a company!



We initiated one equipment transfer! (Yerevan, Armenia)



ES was represented and/or promoted in at least 7-different programs, events

- CGI U Scotland
- UZH Innovation Camp
- Impact Academy
- ETH Sustainability Àperos
- Peers & Beers
- AVETH roundtable
- UNITECH International
- Other pitches



Thank  
you for a  
great  
year!





## Contact us

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@equipsent

