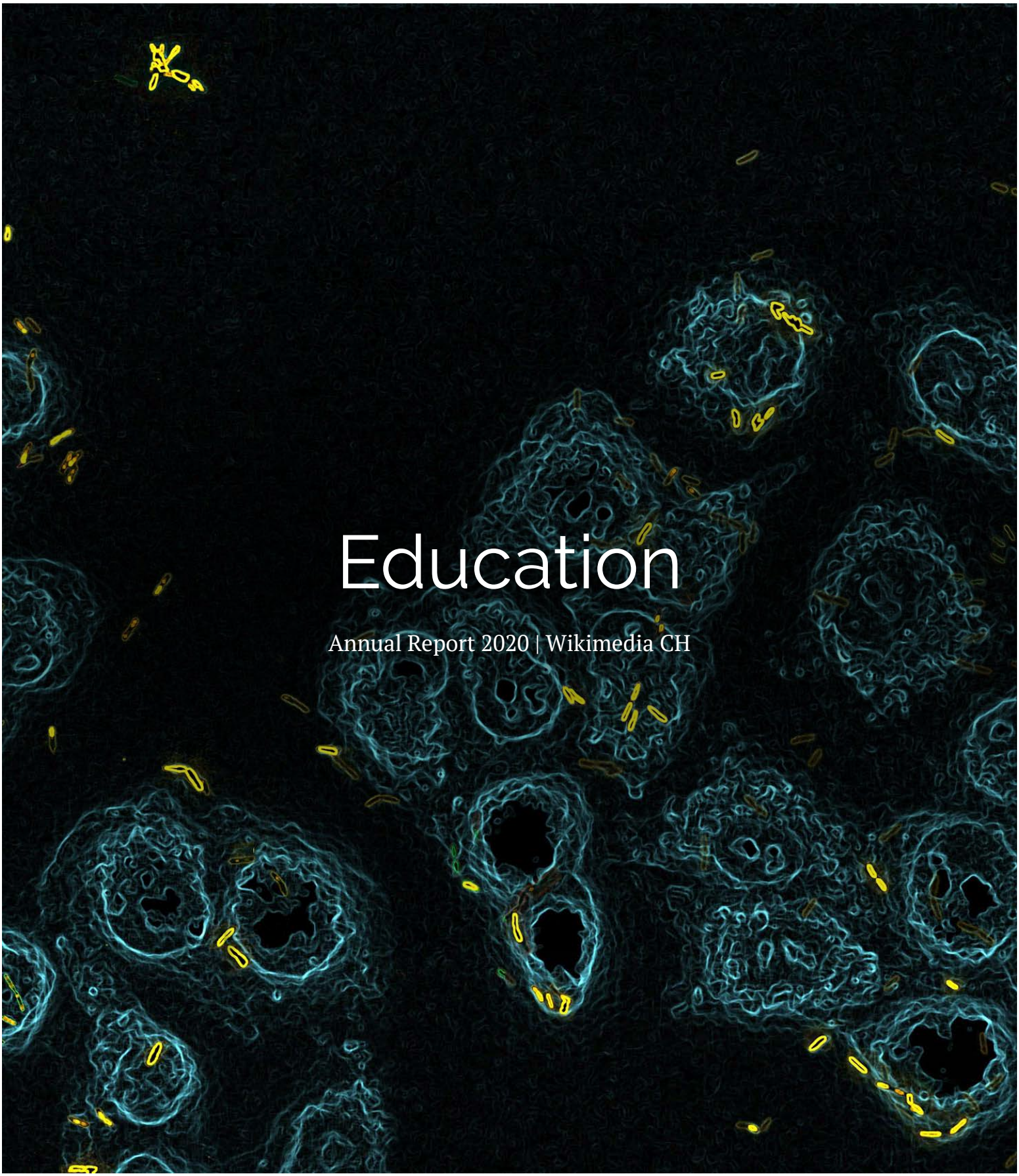

Education

Annual Report 2020 | Wikimedia CH

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Introduction & Strategy

Programme Education delivers and collaborates on educational programmes that advance learning at every level, from children to adults. Our work supports lifelong learning, as well as teachers and professors at schools, universities and other institutions of higher education. We use the word “education” as proposed by the Swiss and European programmes and in alignment with the Movement’s 2030 Strategy, applying the term not only to schools or universities but also to the learning and development of every person at every age.

In the early months of 2020, we carried out Programme Education as planned. But with the closure of schools and universities due to the pandemic, we changed course, focusing instead on organisational projects to face the future with more effective and useful tools. The main achievement was developing and launching Openedu.ch, a project to organise the material available through Wikimedia projects for schools, universities and continuous training. Although currently in its beta version, openedu.ch is already receiving good feedback from potential partners and other chapters.

Our approach for 2020 primarily aimed to offer professional services – and tools, methodologies and case studies – to the main actors in the field of education, namely teachers, educators, cantonal departments, universities, etc. To satisfy the increasing number of requests for content and activities, we played more of a supporting role instead of becoming a main player. By doing so, we aim to enable important actors already active within Switzerland’s education field to become motivators and mentors. This approach will ultimately allow education programmes to be replicated within all cantons while increasing our partnerships and visibility. In our view, this closely aligns with the overall Wikimedia 2030 Strategy, specifically tackling the concept of “knowledge as a service”.

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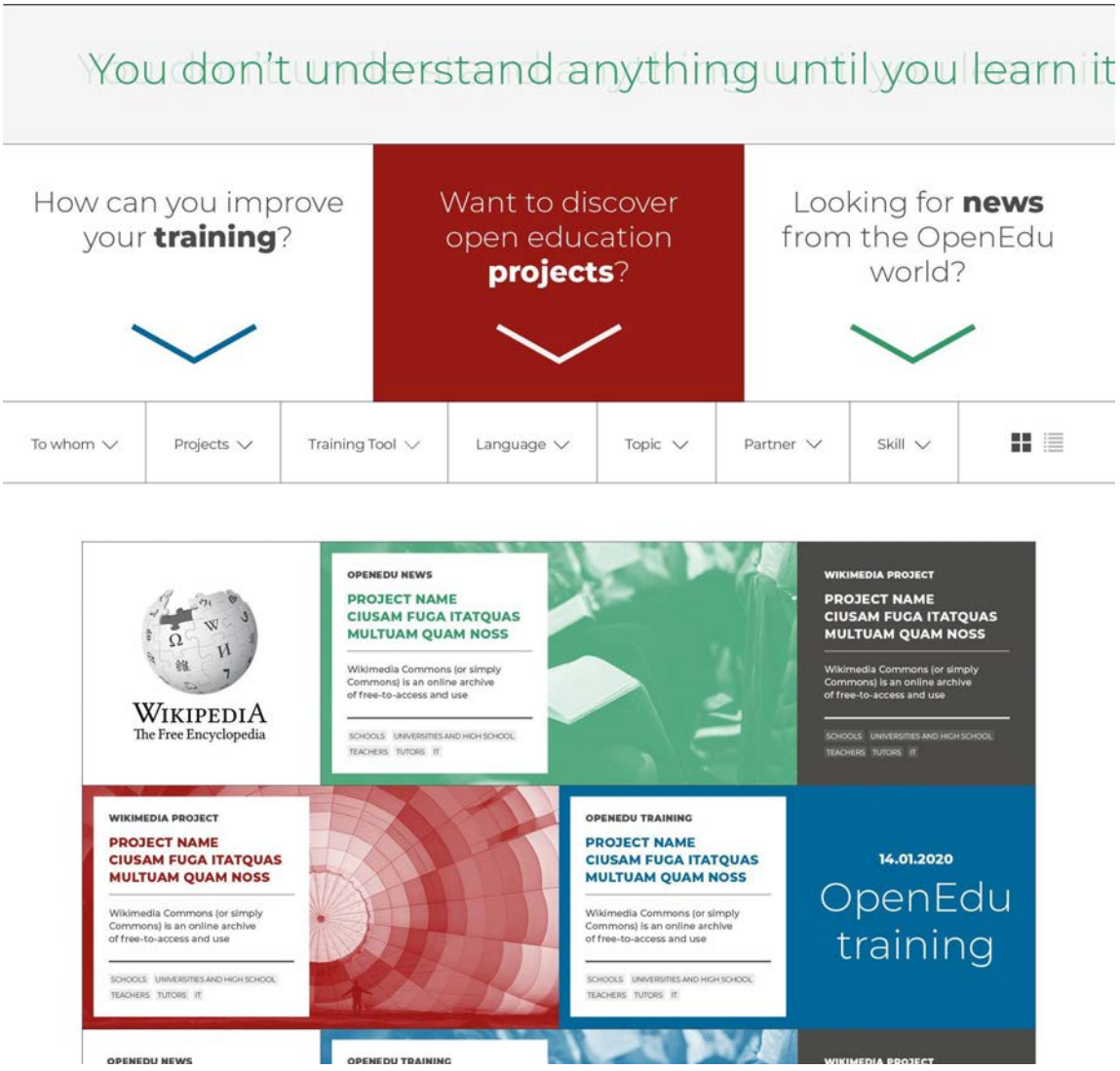
Schools

(primary and lower secondary levels)

The year 2020 was an opportunity to take time and resources to look at ways to support schools and students, both during and after the pandemic. As mentioned, chief among these efforts was launching the beta version of openedu.ch, which aims to create a more usable, accessible format of the content found on Wikimedia projects for teachers, educators and education departments. While the project proposes tools and experiences related more closely to teaching, pedagogy and current school curricula, it also incorporates the broader, more

inclusive concept of lifelong education. The platform and related resources focus on inclusivity and equity: closing the digital gap, facilitating access to learning, creating connections across curricula, increasing representation, democratising knowledge and promoting neutrality in information.



A screenshot of training for OpenEdu.ch, a WMCH project to organize the material available through Wikimedia for schools, universities and continuous learning (3 - see photo credits at the end of the page)

We have also been working on strengthening partnerships in this area. For example, we looked at how to better support Dicoado, a dictionary for and written by students that is present in Switzerland's French linguistic area. Similarly, we strengthened our long-time partnership with Wikimini, an online encyclopedia for and by kids that receives around 200,000 pageviews per month. In December, we helped migrate it to a new server in a more reliable data centre. We also began planning improvements to the platform as it expands to other languages.

The Wikimini home page (French version), an online encyclopedia for and by kids that receives around 200,000 pageviews per month (4)

Moreover, we have started a collaboration with Chinderzytig, an association of teachers that publishes a newspaper for young people. We are also discussing a potential collaboration with Klexikon, a Wikipedia for young people and a very widespread project in the German linguistic area. Last, we supported a project to simplify the Italian Wikipedia with the aim of making it more accessible to students by following the Txikipedia model in the Basque community.

We also started the new season of #theLab, a series of laboratories in collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland. Unfortunately, we had to stop them at the end of February due to the pandemic.

These projects align with the goal of changing the school programme in Switzerland, where digital skills have been introduced in schools starting at the primary level and where Wikimedia projects can play an important role.

Universities & High Schools

Much of our work with universities and high schools continued in 2020 despite the pandemic.

A key activity in this area was the 2020 Wiki Science Competition, an international online photo contest to encourage the creation and, especially, the free sharing of scientific imagery. In 2020, we organised the national event and the year's edition of the photo contest, and also hosted an awards ceremony for the 2019 Swiss winners of the competition. For the first time, we joined the international organisation team and supported all international activities in collaboration with Wikimedia Estonia. One of our Wiki Science Competition photographs, taken by Dr Hans Stuessi, was featured in Figure 1A, a scientific image exhibition organised each year in Lausanne.

Switzerland's national winners of the 2019 Wiki Science Competition (6)

We also had a significant collaboration with Science et Cité concerning the project "Dr Edith Wicki", which focuses on outreach in universities' scientific departments. The goal of the collaboration was to inform universities about the potential to publish scientific content on Wikipedia.

While our planned hackathons with some major universities were pushed back to 2021, we were able to organise an important edit-a-thon with ETH Zurich and 500 Women Scientists in celebration of International Women's Day. The objective of the event was to increase the representation of women on Wikipedia.

The edit-a-thon to increase the representation of women on Wikipedia, which Wikipedia CH organized with 500 Women Scientists and ETH Zürich (7)

Additionally, the WikiNeocomensia project continued throughout 2020 with seminars for 18 students who were studying the humanities at the University of Neuchâtel. Also as part of the WikiNeocomensia project, Adrien Wyssbrod, PhD, University of Cambridge, and Amandine Cabrio, PhD student, University of Neuchâtel, gave a class to a group of doctoral students from the universities of Geneva, Lausanne, Fribourg and Neuchâtel to teach them why and how to share their research on Wikipedia as part of the objectives of science divulgation recommended by the Swiss confederation.

Last, we began collaborating with Franklin University, one of the oldest American institutions of higher education in Europe and the first to be established in Switzerland. Together, we organised a webinar about fake news, which included a presentation by Leila Zia, Principal Research Scientist and Head of Research at Wikimedia Foundation. Later in the year, we were invited to present during a webinar entitled “What makes information ‘reliable,’ and what does it mean for you? A conversation with the Wikimedia Team”.

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning was one of the pillars of our 2020 plan, but due to the pandemic, we postponed much of it to 2021. Instead, we focused on the openedu.ch initiative, which includes a lifelong learning component. We also planned and prepared the lifelong-learning platform for 2021, as well as built partnerships.

We did, however, successfully complete a few activities, which were all online. One of these encompassed the virtual Wikicamps we organised this year in collaboration with Service Civil International (SCI). This year included two virtual camps: the annual Wikipedia for Peace Camp and a special camp celebrating SCI's 100th anniversary. The first, Wikipedia for Peace

Online: No More War, was a huge success in terms of representation and diversity, with more than half of the 15 participants comprising women or students and with two Wikipedians from Wikimedia Armenia. The theme of the second virtual camp was "Writing about SCI History".

Editors at the wikicamp called Wikipedia for Peace Online: No More War! (9)

The virtual Wikicamps served as a model that helped us build a format we have started proposing to larger institutions and partners to train on Wikimedia projects while encouraging team building. For example, we have proposed this format to the International Federation of the Red Cross.

For the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), we made progress around creating a framework, while the agreements for a MOOC led us to the first meetings with SwissMOOC for a possible collaboration.

Reorganization & Diversity

The pandemic was an opportunity to reconsider Programme Education's organisation, including ways to improve communication and distribute responsibilities better.

The creation of the first Swiss-wide project (openedu.ch) in a country where education is managed by canton and decentralised helped us learn how to approach schools and institutions and consider how to better organise the programme to be more efficient.

We also improved our communication materials, updated our strategy and extended the team to include experts and teachers. We have also considered continuing in that direction by creating a scientific committee that can help improve the programme.

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Photo Credits

1. Illustration of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* colonization of the host lung tissue. Early infection of epithelial lung cells (blue, CellTrace CFSE) by the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (yellow, mCherry). This photo was Switzerland's 1st National Finalist in the microscopy category of the WikiScience Competition 2019. Photo by Benoit-Joseph Laventie - Own work, CC BY 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=84408565.

2. University of Zurich, located in the city of Zurich and the largest university in Switzerland. Photo by Roland zh, upload on 10. Juli 2009 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7274263.

3. A screenshot of Openedu.ch training. Openedu.ch is a WMCH project to organise the material available through Wikimedia for schools, universities and continuous learning. Photo by Ilario - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=92478870.

4. The Wikimini home page (French version), an online encyclopedia for and by kids that receives around 200,000 pageviews per month. In 2020, Wikimedia CH strengthened our longtime partnership with Wikimini, helping to migrate it to a new server in a more reliable data centre and planning improvements to the platform as it expands to other languages. Photo by Ilario - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=101110449.

5. The Laténium, south side, reflected in water. The Laténium is an archeology museum located in Hauterive, a suburb of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The University of Neuchâtel and the Laténium work with Wikimedia CH to deliver WikiNeocomensia, a project whereby Wikipedians train future museum personnel to edit Wikipedia and share the results of their research, with the aim of improving the quality of articles and learning about scientific disclosure. Photo by Albertine - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16802436.

6. Switzerland's national winners of the 2019 Wiki Science Competition, an international photo competition. These national winners were honored at an award ceremony at ETH Zürich, hosted by Wikimedia CH. Photo by Kerstin

Sonnekalb - Own work, CC0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=87940112.

7. The edit-a-thon to increase the representation of women on Wikipedia, which Wikipedia CH organised with 500 Women Scientists and ETH Zürich. Photo by Kerstin Sonnekalb - Own work, CC0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=87941224.

8. Compilation of seeds with elaiosomes. These seeds are dispersed by ants, known as myrmecochory. Starting from top left: *Borago officinalis* · *Chelidonium majus* · *Corydalis cava* · *Corydalis sempervirens Cytisus scoparius* · *Dicentra torulosa* · *Euphorbia lathyris* · *Euphorbia cyparissias Jeffersonia diphylla* · *Pentaglottis sempervirens* · *Symphytum officinale* · *Viola elatior*. Photo by Hans Stuessi - Own work, CC BY 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=84435326.

9. Editors at the wikicamp called Wikipedia for Peace Online: No More War! Wikimedia CH organised it in collaboration with Service Civil International. Photo by Xendzi - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=42660388.

10. The blackboard eraser I used during my PhD. Photo by Alessandro Patelli - Own work, CC BY 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=84106251.

11. Pfäffikersee by night. Pfäffikersee (or Lake Pfäffikon) is a lake in the canton of Zurich. The lake was created in the last ice age when a moraine blocked off the ability for the lake to empty north towards Winterthur. Photo by Lriese 1 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49061475.

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