

Internationale Montessori Vereniging 'Association Montessori Internationale' A.M.I. Amsterdam

Management Board's report

The Association Montessori Internationale was founded in 1929 by Dr. Maria Montessori herself to maintain the integrity of her life's work, and to ensure that it would be perpetuated after her death. Today AMI is a recognized worldwide movement with a mission of promoting and propagating Dr. Montessori's scientific pedagogy. The objectives of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), as stated in article 3 of the Articles of Association, are as follows: to maintain, propagate and further the pedagogical principles and practices of Dr Maria Montessori for the full development of the human being. These objectives are achieved in the following ways:

Teacher Training and Montessori Courses

The Association Montessori Internationale accredits training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses that are internationally recognized for their high standard and authenticity. Training centres accredited by AMI are independent entities which remain under the supervision of AMI's quality assurance procedures, are staffed by AMI Teacher Trainers and the courses given are examined by an external examiner appointed by AMI.

Montessori training is a process of re-orientation where the students begin to discover for themselves the profound truths underlying the Montessori approach. The Diploma qualifications offered by the Association Montessori Internationale prepare adults to work with children at four levels: Assistants to Infancy (0-3), Casa dei Bambini (3-6), Elementary (6-12) and Adolescence (12 – 18).

Innovative projects include working with a variety of partners and stakeholders (governments, schools, individuals and other NGO's) across most continents to bring high quality Montessori education and teacher training to increasing numbers of adults and children. Work has progressed in relation to additional ancillary Montessori courses for the following: The development of a coaching programme forming part of the Global School Accreditation process, the revision of the content of the Seminars for the Training of Trainers programme, continued refinement of the Trainers programme when applying Montessori principles for those working with elders with Dementia, Disability and Ageing (MDDA), the training of Youth Coaches working with young people in sport (Montessori Sport) and Training of Trainers programme for Montessori School Leaders/Administrators. A pilot programme of the Montessori Awareness Practice course was also completed in 2023 and will form the basis for a revised second pilot in 2024. In addition, a 30 hour course focusing on quality in the online environment was devised and will be further refined in 2024. The Community Rooted Education programme continued to be rolled out in South Africa and further refined. Discussions are ongoing with regard to its development into an 'emergency response' model.

During the year qualifications were delivered to create further professional development opportunities for teachers and the public. The new AMI 12-18 (Adolescent) Diploma courses were reviewed, revised and finalised. Courses at this level were held in Australia, India, Sweden, USA and Mexico, with many additional courses planned in the future. The two year in-service Certificate programme 'Montessori Mastery' for 12-18 teachers was ratified as the highest level of professional development for teachers by the Dutch authorities in the Netherlands in collaboration with the Montessori School Community Amsterdam. 2023 saw the introduction of an Assistants Course adjunct to Orientation courses at 0-3, 3-6 and 6-12 levels. Many short courses continued to be delivered in an online or blended format – these included Orientation courses and the Core Principles course. Orientation courses continued to be offered at all four levels (0-18), as well as the Montessori School Leader/Administrator's Course, and the Montessori Sports Course which reached more than 1,000 students. Most Montessori teacher training courses were delivered in a blended format to accommodate the changing landscape and learning choices of participants. The Montessori for Dementia, Disability and Ageing Courses continued and were attended by a diverse range of students from across all continents. The EsF grassroots course, (Community Rooted Education

(CoRE)) completed the pilot phase and was implemented, through the Indaba Foundation, in under-resourced communities in South Africa, alongside a CoRE Facilitators Training, building on the knowledge developed in India. 2023 was a year of quality scaling and seven CoRE programmes were offered in total, with 222 Early Childhood Practitioners enrolled. 100 women graduated with a CoRE certificate in November 2023. CoRE training work impacted approximately 5,000 children across multiple municipal districts in and around the Western Cape. Also, in Africa the second fully funded 3-6 International Diploma course in Tanzania enrolled 43 students and recruited for a fully funded 6-12 International Diploma course to begin in January 2024. Work continued on the content and design of the AMI Blended format for the 0- 3 and 6-12 International Diploma Courses (funded by the Wend Collaborative). Whole sections of the content of these courses have been revisited and revised, also from the perspective of the competencies they achieve.

The international Scientific Pedagogy Group and its sub-committees meet regularly to advise the Scientific Pedagogical Department on Montessori philosophy and methodology and its application in varied circumstances around the world. The Group assists in the implementation of quality assurance procedures for training centres and is responsible for reviewing the content of new and revised courses. It is also in the process of continuing to develop a global school accreditation system having created a new course design for Coaches and Evaluators during the year. The SPG gave final approval to the revised 12-18 blended Diploma course, is monitoring the outcomes of the 'low residency' 6-12 course and working groups continue to design the 0-3 and 6-12 competency based blended courses. The Scientific Pedagogy department oversees the examination process throughout the world. The department was intensely busy evaluating and monitoring Trainers and Training Centres on permissible course programmes and how to implement satellite programmes. Regular, online meetings with Trainers of all levels were organised to facilitate the discussion of a variety of pedagogical issues and continue as collaborative discussions for theoretical and practical dialogue. The outcome of these meetings has enabled the establishment of a number of working groups, convened for their expertise. Projects such as the re-calibrating and re-designing of the 6-12 Timeline of Life, the investigation of best practice in teaching additional languages in Montessori environments and what constitutes quality in the online environment highlight a few of the areas of focus.

The Trainers website was further populated enabling better access to shared resources, Trainers briefing documents and AMI guidance and a one-day International Trainers meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2023.

The international Training Group guides trainees through the Training of Trainers Programme towards the goal of becoming AMI Teacher Trainers. This Programme provides the participants with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the ideas and principles of Dr. Maria Montessori and the skills to pass the knowledge gained to future generations of Montessori teachers. There are two pathways to becoming an AMI Teacher Trainer: the Traditional programme route (attendance on 3 courses) and the Seminar programme route (attendance on 2 courses and 6 two-week seminars). During 2023, Seminar 6 was completed at all levels (0-12) and a revision of content (online and in person) was undertaken. Throughout the year the Trainers in Training are invited to online meetings, creating a cohesive and supportive global community. A total of 183 potential Trainers were in Training at the 0-18 levels by December 2023 (185 in 2022): 23 at the 0-3 level, 97 at the 3-6 level, 35 at the 6-12 level and 28 Trainers in Training at the 12-18 level. 14 Trainers, 8 Associate Trainers and 24 Auxiliary Trainers qualified in 2023 (almost double the number that qualified in 2022). A small number of Trainers in Training have also begun the process at both the Administrator (12 Trainers and 2 Trainers in Training) and Montessori Dementia, Disability and Ageing levels (4 Trainers, 1 Auxiliary Trainer and 5 Trainers in Training).

School recognition certificates are issued to those schools in the USA and Canada that adhere to AMI standards. The global accreditation programme progressed during 2023 with the addition of the Coaching and Evaluator programme. Preparation is underway to help identify guidelines for Affiliates in respect of the administration of the GSA process.

Congresses, Conferences and Refresher Courses

Voices of EsF

Three online gatherings took place this year with a focus on providing practical tools for those interested in Montessori for social impact. More than 60 people joined the first online gathering in February 2023 on the topic *Building Local Relationships*. The presentations were followed by break out discussions in smaller groups, guided by discussion questions and a plenary session to share the outcomes of discussions.

A second online gathering in May discussed *"Raising Funds for Montessori Initiatives."* The session started with a presentation on experiences and tips for fundraising by Eleanor Latimer (MGGF) and Dawn Brochenin (Ncinci One's Montessori, SA). A document with tips for fundraising that resulted from the session, as well as the recording of the session, were shared as a follow-up. More than 110 people attended the final online event in 2023 on the topic of "Adaptation in Changing Times and Circumstances" held in October. The programme will continue with a final session planned for May 2024 and a new Voices of EsF programme will then be planned to begin in September 2024.

International Montessori Congress

The 29th International Montessori Congress took place in Bangkok in August 2023 with over 41 nationalities represented and strong representation from USA, Australia and Thailand. It was successful in raising visibility and fostering strong and meaningful connections between Montessorians worldwide as well as building connections in the ASEAN region. The Montessori Association of Thailand has developed strong connections with senior stakeholders in the Thai Government and HRH the Princess opened the first day. On the closing day of the Thailand Congress, Montessori Mexico was announced as the host body of the 30th International Montessori Congress which will be held in Mexico from 1st to 4th May 2026. A working group of the AMI Board and others is in the planning process for the 2029 International Congress – the occasion of AMI's 100th birthday.

Montessori ASEAN Symposium

The Montessori ASEAN Symposium will serve as a platform for Montessori communities, government agencies and non-government bodies in the ASEAN Member States to collaborate and discuss strategies aimed at advancing education in this region.

Governmental authorities from Thailand, UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) representatives from the Asia-Pacific region, and the SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) Director joined AMI leadership at an inaugural meeting in Thailand in August 2023.

As well as such major international events, regular national conferences and study conferences are held and attended by AMI representatives. This year AMI representatives spoke either in person or online at a wide variety of events organised across all continents. Notably, in Dubai at the UN COP 28 event, in December 2023, where a presentation was made on the integrated sustainability programme of AMI schools. The presentation was in the Greening Education Pavilion. There were additional events attended by AMI representatives in Chihuahua –Mexico, Beijing –China, Vancouver –Canada, Bergen –Norway and an AMI North American Trainers meeting in Arizona, USA. In addition, certified Refresher courses are organized by local AMI training centres and/or Affiliated Societies in various parts of the world. In the United States there is an annual refresher course organised by AMI/USA and EAA, this was organised in Baltimore, Maryland in 2023. An Indian strategic planning meeting was held in October in Bengaluru, India.

Communications and Digital Resources

In 2023, AMI was able to attend a private viewing of a new film, “A Fully Human Being”, release anticipated in 2024. The Treasure Article (unpublished writings), also for members, was published in December 2023. AMI’s communications strategy was further developed, and our social media presence increased exponentially to provide the global community with a multiplicity of resources and connection. In particular, LinkedIn became a focus for new offerings. AMI's social media accounts have experienced significant growth with over 100,000 followers across various platforms. There is regular communication with 8,000 AMI members through specifically targeted newsletters. Additionally, a free monthly digest that contains a collection of content and links to open resources is sent to more than 19,000 (15,000 in 2022) subscribers.

The Course Administration System continued to be refined enabling a streamlined system of course registration, quality assurance and certification to take place. The Aid to Life, AMI Digital, MDDA and EsF websites were upgraded and revised with additional languages being added to the first two. A new timeline of Human Beings was researched and re-designed and made available to Trainers for review.

Membership and Affiliated Societies

Membership in AMI is open to everyone who recognizes the value of AMI’s work and wishes to support it. AMI hosts an annual global meeting (that includes the formal Annual General Meeting (AGM)) and forum for members in April in the Netherlands. This year the Annual Global meeting was held in Delft, for the first time, and provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with colleagues and friends from around the world.

The AGM was attended by representatives of approximately 50 countries and registered 300 attendees. Countries such as Indonesia augmented the usual diverse geographical range of attendees. Our membership is global and this year alone, members represent 90 different countries.

In addition to supporting the work of AMI, members also receive AMI’s publications enabling them to view original documents from the AMI archives and providing information on the global activities of the movement. An analysis of Affiliate communication channels will take place in the coming year. However, generally there is much greater connection on a variety of social media and other platforms and an increasing reach across the world.

AMI maintains close contact and cooperation with Montessori societies worldwide. Licence agreements with these affiliated societies are in place and there is continued interest from societies in territories new to AMI. Societies become the in-country voice of AMI and offer events, conferences and also offer to the general public access to AMI Montessori advice and guidance. Two new societies gained affiliation status in 2023 and were welcomed into the AMI network they were: Australia: Montessori Schools and Centres, Australia (MSCA) and Tanzania: Montessori Community of Tanzania. Societies also offer the possibility of translating AMI documents into mother tongue languages. Societies, Training Centres and Members have assisted in providing translations for a number of initiatives including 37 different language translations for the free classified cards on the AMI Digital website (this is an increase from 34 languages in 2022) as well as the Aid to Life (www.aidtolife.org) website which increased to 24 different languages with 10 translations still in process.

Publications

AMI publishes an academic Journal and regular newsletters and hosts a number of websites. AMI also assists the Montessori Pierson Publishing company in increasing its range of publications into additional languages. Several new translations of Dr. Montessori’s books have been published this year and carry the AMI logo as a mark of approval. Books are now published in more than 25 languages. Revised publications

of existing works continue to be re-published in both Spanish and Dutch. Work is nearing completion on a collection of writings by Mario Montessori and a collection of writings on Cosmic Education.

Outreach Work

Africa

Coordination

Funding from a US Foundation has enabled AMI to devote time to the continent of Africa. Conversations have been held with organisations and individuals in Uganda, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Ghana, and Senegal where there is keen interest to establish training and set up more Montessori schools. Work is ongoing on a mapping of contacts across Africa and plans for a follow up of the Africa Round Table with an event on the African Continent are being explored. The current, funded AMI Courses in Tanzania are key to the coordination efforts with multi-country representation of people who play a key role in strengthening Montessori education in their communities. Work is also ongoing to identify and support strong and committed teachers to work towards meeting the requirements of the AMI Trainers of Training Programme.

AMI is working closely with a range of supportive foundations, including the Indaba Foundation and the Arthur Waser Foundation, to support and increase the number of trained AMI adults on the African continent. Affiliated Societies and Training Centres are also involved in supporting outreach initiatives on this and other continents.

The Arthur Waser Foundation also supported the creation of a Montessori Design instrument for building Montessori Schools and the website montessori-architecture.org. During the year the book *Montessori Architecture* was published. In Tanzania the “Simba Vision”—the very first school designed with the Design Instrument—has won the Architecture Project of the Year as well as Educational Project of the Year at the Dezeen Awards 2023, from an international field of 4,800 entries.

In Kenya, an architecture competition for the construction of Montessori schools will use this design instrument commencing in 2024.

The Wend Collaborative supported the establishment of Montessori for Kenya – an umbrella organisation to support the growth and consolidation of Montessori education in Kenya. Montessori for Kenya has become the key voice in the country, supporting the training of teachers, liaising with government in the process of recognition of the curriculum, and providing project management for the different initiatives in Kenya. Ongoing future support for this initiative will be provided by the US Foundation that supports Corner of Hope. Wend also continues to play a key role in the support and expansion of the Samburu nomadic schools, the first of their kind in the world.

The Peter Hesse Foundation (PHF) continued to spread Montessori education to children in poor communities by training teachers and assisting qualifying graduates with furniture and materials to open schools in their own communities. To enhance accessibility PHF takes mobile training to underserved areas and sets up a model Montessori classroom environment for children while using the same environment for training teachers locally. The model school is passed on to a qualified teacher when PHF move on to train in another area. This academic year, student-teachers from Senegal, Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo are attending a course. In addition to the mobile training in Senegal, the Foundation continues to support schools in Abengourou, Ivory Coast, and in Haiti with amongst other things, Montessori materials.

AMI’s Head of Outreach visited Senegal in December and discussed strengthening the collaboration between AMI and the Foundation to support more children in under-resourced areas. A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed to solidify the collaboration and explore avenues for further collaboration in line with the mission of both entities.

Kenya

The Corner of Hope schools continue to run at full capacity serving approximately 300 children each year from 3 – 12 years of age.

Three teachers from Corner of Hope are following the 3-6 AMI International Diploma course in Dar es Salaam and continue to provide mentorship support to the teachers in the new schools in Pokot. There are also positive outcomes as mentor teachers from the different initiatives come together and exchange ideas and challenges.

New land has been purchased adjacent to the current Corner of Hope school and will enable the building of a large school, with the intention of serving children up to 18, as well as providing a workshop, administrative and meeting facilities and a community library. This development will significantly increase the number of staff in the schools and will require additional administrative capacity. In preparation, there is currently a strong focus on building human capacity to have a strong and skilled team. Particularly for the 6-12 there is a need for more teachers and for continued mentoring support for the current teachers. Four teachers from Corner of Hope are expected to start on the AMI 6-12 Course in Mwanza in January 2024.

Colleagues from Montessori for Kenya attended the 29th International Montessori Congress in Thailand and presented in the Educateurs sans Frontières break-out session. A former Corner of Hope Teacher was one of the keynote speakers who shared the positive impact of Montessori education for the pastoralist Samburu communities and how it supported wildlife preservation in the area.

Samburu

225 children – 125 boys and 100 girls – were enrolled in Montessori programmes in Samburu in 2023. One of the highlights of 2023 was the opening of the fourth school at Louwai Obo. AMI continued to provide support for the training and supervision of the teachers throughout the year to build and develop best practices. Three teachers are currently pursuing their International AMI Diplomas in Tanzania and are due to graduate in 2024.

Four teachers were accepted to join the 6-12 Diploma Course in January 2024. This will make it possible to offer Nomadic Montessori 6-12 schools in Namunyak Conservancy.

East Pokot

Four teachers completed their training in 2023 to join the three pioneer teachers and a further three teachers started their first year of their training. The first teachers were supported with funds from the Montessori Global Growth Fund (MGGF). Four Montessori environments have been set up by the teachers in remote communities in Pokot. Two of these environments have been established in government schools, and a third environment has been set up in a temporary structure in a community with no access to education.

A substantial sum has been donated by a supporter of the initiative to build a school in this community. In total, 56,000 dollars has been raised through a Global Giving campaign. A mentor teacher supports the teachers on-site and is currently enrolled in the AMI 3-6 International Diploma course in Dar es Salaam. There are also frequent mentoring visits by the Corner of Hope teachers to offer guidance and support.

Ethiopia

An AMI 3-6 Trainer travelled to Ethiopia in January 2023 at the request of the Bruh Tesfa Training College, with the support of the Arthur Waser Foundation. The aim was to assess and strengthen the training and develop a comprehensive course that would align with government requirements for teacher

training. She also gave a workshop for the teachers in the Bruh Tesfa schools to discuss the importance of working with sensorial material and giving language, and to discuss the importance of order in the prepared environment. A second workshop was then organised focusing on "Language and the Brain".

Two teachers are currently pursuing the AMI 3-6 course in Tanzania, and they are expected to graduate in 2024. There is strong interest in setting up an organisation in Ethiopia to bring together the Montessori network and work towards increasing access to quality early childhood education.

Tanzania

The 3-6 course in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania will complete in July 2024. It was originally planned to start with a 6-12 course in Mwanza in June 2023, but the start date was delayed due to a high number of applicants and logistical challenges. Over 65 applications came in from across Africa which demonstrates the strong interest in 6-12 Montessori education. In the end 40 students reported in Mwanza to start the foundation course in January 2024.

South Africa

The Indaba Foundation has continued to work with AMI on the pilot programmes and training of Facilitators to introduce the EsF Community Rooted Education programme in the under resourced townships of the Western Cape. A research project is running alongside the programme and fundraising initiatives, supported by AMI, are underway to enable the expansion of this work. Prior to 2023, approximately 30 women participated in two proof of concept CoRE trainings. The scaling of CoRE in 2023 delivered seven CoRE programs in total, with 222 ECD Practitioners enrolled. 100 women graduated with a CoRE certificate in November 2023, impacting approximately 5,000 children across multiple districts.

Expanding the Outreach network

Voices of EsF

Three online gatherings took place this year with a focus on providing practical tools for those interested in Montessori for social impact. 110 people participated in the final session. A community platform was used, providing a space for voices to connect and the AMI EsF community network online was launched with the title Montessori Worldwide. The soft launch of the platform started in August 2023 and was then opened at the beginning of September. The platform's purpose is to facilitate a platform for greater engagement between stakeholders and communities and broaden AMI's network.

In line with the strategic objectives to bring Montessori education to all children, AMI along with its Affiliates is increasingly involved in discussions at a government and local level in a variety of countries with a view to enabling wider access to Montessori education through government/public school/outreach initiatives. Work continues with the Thai Government and a new MOU with the Ministry of Children and Youth was signed. Notable progress in this area was also made by AMI Affiliate Montessori Mexico in gaining support for their project for children aged three and under being held with their mothers in Mexican prisons.

AMI thanks its Affiliates in Norway and Kenya for enabling the official government recognition of the Montessori curriculum. Teachers in Kenya are now able to receive their official Kenyan Teacher number having completed the National Diploma offered under AMI.

Partners that have contributed to or worked alongside AMI in 2023 include The Montessori Pierson Publishing Company (MPPC), The Montessori Global Growth Fund (MGGF), The Indaba Education Fund, Montessori Sports, the MM75 Fund, The Wend Collaborative and the Arthur Waser Foundation. Additional generous support was received from a Foundation for AMI's Dementia and Ageing work and

the Montessori Knowledge Hub. Two additional requests were made to this foundation and were approved in 2023 for roll out in 2024: AMI Capacity Building and a new Emergency Response initiative. Another Foundation continued to generously support the work and expansion of the Corner of Hope initiative, purchasing land to support the expansion of the school and enabling the work of Montessori for Kenya (MfK) to grow.

The Montessori House

In 2010 AMI received a generous donation, which enabled the purchase of 163 Koninginneweg. It is gradually being converted to enable additional space to be turned into an exhibition, archive and research centre and a facility for providing lectures and seminars in addition to housing the AMI Secretariat.

The overarching vision for the existing two buildings is to incorporate a lecture and exhibition space and fund-raising is ongoing. During 2023, the ground floor of 163 was gutted in preparation for an extension and remodelling. Regrettably, the building company went into administration in the process of the work and AMI has had to seek an alternative building company and faces increased costs. The focus returned to obtaining quotes for the ground floor conversion of the kitchen into additional office space and an extension that will enable more space for meetings and the display of various archival materials. The renovations will now be completed in 2024.

AMI's archive has received a number of generous donations of documents, pictures and letters over the last year. Work has continued on classifying and cataloguing the existing archive as well as on these newly donated works. The new project entitled the Montessori Knowledge Hub and Repository is underway. The hub will enable open access to many archival documents, publications and artefacts and has been generously supported by a large grant, awarded at the end of 2021 for work commencing in 2022. Work on the technical build is underway and the initial design of the website is progressing, as well as the preparation of documents, artefacts and collections. A Maria Montessori archival website will be launched in 2024 as a pre-cursor to the hub.

Montessori for Dementia, Disability and Ageing

Montessori for Dementia Disability and Ageing currently has 6 Trainers in Training from France, Brazil, Finland, UK, Spain and the UK with more applications in the pipeline. They join the existing 4 active AMI MDDA Trainers. We were sorry to have to accept the resignation of Michelle Bourgeois PhD, one of our original advisors, due to her retirement and would like to honor the contribution she made to AMI and the work. 20 courses took place online and in person in 6 countries with 400 workshop attendance certificates awarded and 43 Practitioner Certificates awarded – the latter due to the lifting of restrictions post COVID. The MDDA website was upgraded, and new videos were commissioned to complement the AMI course programmes. A Quality Assurance Accreditation process was completed, and a Montessori Fundamentals course outlined for all those wishing to become MDDA Trainers. Presentations and workshops were offered in the USA and at the International Congress in Bangkok.

Research and Development

The Global Research Group continues to meet to identify priorities.

The AMI team continues to support researchers from around the world in their pursuit of archival materials and fact checking. Researchers represent a wide remit and contact AMI for academic, broadcast (radio, television, podcast and film) or publishing reasons. In addition, AMI is often a point of contact for museums that are building exhibitions that include references to Maria Montessori or Montessori Education. Several films were researched by a variety of producers from different countries in Europe and will be released in the coming years. AMI personnel are also often interviewed by authors researching a wide variety of topics for upcoming publication.

UNESCO and UN representation

AMI and Kenyan and Norwegian colleagues presented at the COP 28 event in Dubai and UN and UNESCO representatives attended a variety of meetings in Paris and New York. AMI was also invited to join the International Task Force on Teachers For Education, 2030 a specialised agency of UNESCO focused on SDG 4c. After the SEAMO and AMI Montessori meeting at the International Congress, follow-up actions have been made for future collaboration.

Strategic Plan 2023-2028

2023 saw the launch of the new plan and achievements this year have been guided by the goals underlining the three pillars of AMI, Capacity, Outreach and Legacy.

Personnel Developments

2023 saw the launch of the first full year of the Presidency of Alain Tschudin. Four new Administrators were appointed during 2023, three in the Pedagogy Department (replacing existing staff members, two full-time and one part-time) and one providing part-time IT general support. An additional part-time contracted member of the finance team was appointed in October 2023. The Executive Assistant to the Executive Director left AMI in October 2023.

No significant movements in personnel are expected during the coming year other than roles identified in the three-year Capacity Building and Emergency Response grants.

Developments in 2023

1. AMI launched its 2023-2028 five-year Strategic Plan.
2. Work continued with the Training Centres in the USA, guided by the Director of Training Centre Evolution and Growth as an outcome of the “Bold Goal”. Blended courses are underway, a dedicated US Training Centre website was established, regular meetings were undertaken to strategise for the future and Satellite courses were supported. The working groups continue to examine Competencies at 0-3 and 6-12 levels to review and develop content for blended courses at both of these levels.
3. 14 new Trainers (7 in 2022), 8 Associate Trainers (4 in 2022) and 24 new Auxiliary Trainers (15 in 2022) qualified in 2023.
4. Training of Trainers seminar programmes completed at all levels in an online format each culminating in one in person event and seminar were re-designed with a view to implementation in 2024.
5. On 31 December 2023 there were currently 183 Trainers in Training across all 0 to 18 levels: 23 at the 0–3 level, 97 at the 3–6 level, 35 at the 6–12 level and 28 Trainers in Training at the 12–18 level.
6. 96 Diploma Courses commenced in 2023 (89 in 2022). These ran alongside the modular courses which commenced in 2021 and 2022. There were 231 Orientation/Assistants Certificate Courses started in 2023 (183 in 2022). The income from course fees decreased in 2023 compared to 2022 reflecting lower numbers of students attending courses.
7. Five 12-18 (Adolescent) Diploma courses continued or began in Sweden, USA, Mexico, India and Australia. A new Training Centre was established in Kodaikanal, India to run Adolescent Training. 6 additional 12-18 online certificate Workshops and Orientations were offered.
8. 12 AMI Administrators courses took place in nine countries: On-line in Australia, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland and the USA; Hybrid in the Czech Republic; In Person in France and the USA; and Blended in Australia, Norway and USA.

9. 20 Courses in Dementia, Disability and Ageing were held in various parts of the world, mainly Europe, USA and Australia. Over 400 students attended and of these 43 went on to obtain their Certification.
10. Montessori Sports engaged with over 1,000 students from 79 countries and the course was translated into Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Italian and Dutch with translations in Arabic, Thai, Korean and Portuguese underway. Students from Sri Lanka, Luxembourg, Ivory Coast and Réunion, joined in 2023. Further development of the course content will include input from 20+ AMI Trainers who are taking the course and providing feedback. An update of the course will be launched in spring 2024.
11. The development of a world-wide system for School Accreditation continues with the Coaching and Evaluation course drafted, conditions for Accrediting bodies drafted and revisions to the self-study under way.
12. AMI, with the support of the Wend Foundation, continued to work on a strategic communications initiative, with a particular focus on increased communications within the Montessori community. Participation in our online social media increased significantly raising awareness of AMI across the globe. The introduction of Trainer Tuesday posts reached an audience of 30,000. The free Digest attracted 19,000 subscribers (15,000 in 2022). AMI Talks are open to public access. These talks provide researched and practical examples of how the Montessori method adapts to the new challenges of today with expert practitioners presenting alongside external speakers. During 2023, four AMI Talks took place digitally and received more than 4,000 views on YouTube and more than 6,000 plays on podcast platforms. Live Spanish interpretation was provided, and this will be repeated in 2024. The main website of AMI received 150,000 new users in 2023. Other websites targeted to specific audiences included MDA with 17,000 users and EsF's relaunched site which increased user accessibility and had over 1,500 users since being launched in November 2023. AMI Digital added to the number of freely available resources and increased the number of languages to 37 in 2023. Aid to Life became available in 24 languages.
13. AMI continued to innovate in their actions to serve more children in more countries irrespective of their socio-economic group. We expanded our contribution to global initiatives: AMI became a member of the new UNESCO initiative Greening Education; AMI presented at COP 28 in December 2023 in Dubai; we are a strategic partner of the Our Planet Our Future initiative; AMI has been accepted as a member of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and are partnering with other members of the Alliance in creating a Montessori in Emergencies - response initiative.
14. AMI, in collaboration with the Indaba Foundation, continued to scale the Community Rooted Education initiative.
15. AMI with the Arthur Waser Foundation published the Montessori Architecture book.
16. The Knowledge Hub infrastructure build is underway as well as a new Maria Montessori Archives website.
17. Renovations to the building of 163 began and will create space in The Maria Montessori House for additional displays of the Montessori Archives.

Financial Results

The overall revenue balance for the year was negative Euro (387,278) of which Euro (321,892) could be deducted from our unrestricted capital and Euro (65,387) could be deducted from restricted reserves. Our operating result amounted to a deficit of Euro (375,421) compared to our budgeted surplus of Euro 7,868.

The main reason for the overall deficit compared to budget was a reduction in Course Income partially resulting from an increase in the provision for doubtful debts, increased travel costs and maintenance costs, and higher personnel costs due to restricted ability to charge staff costs to grants whilst new funding requests were in the process of being considered.

The reduction in current liabilities on the balance sheet is the result of the reduction in funds held in advance following the purchase of the land in Kenya.