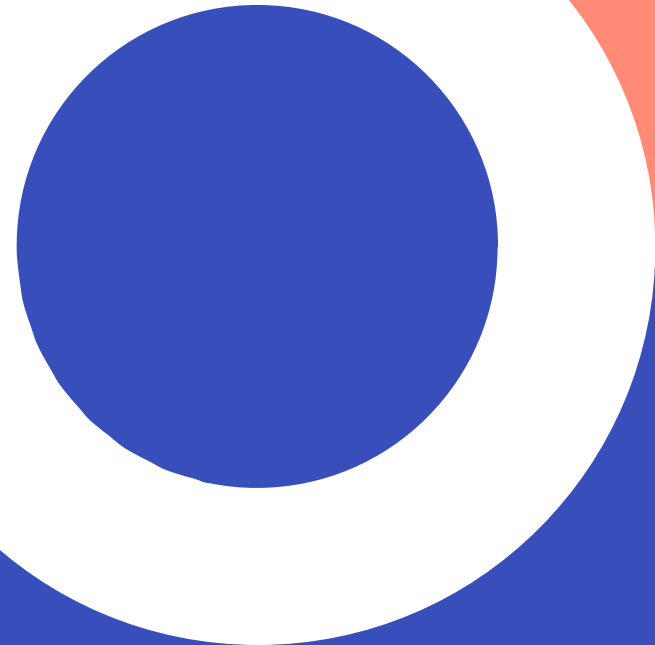


VaLoo

Annual Activity Report 2024



Annual activity report VaLoo 2024



VaLoo, the Network for Circular Sanitation Switzerland, was founded on the November 19th, 2021 on World Toilet Day. VaLoo brings together engaged actors collaborating to promote and facilitate the implementation of resource-oriented sanitation systems in Switzerland.

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Preface

Dear Members and Partners, dear interested readers,

Nearly 120 members and partners are part of VaLoo. A warm welcome to all who joined our journey in 2024.

In 2024, VaLoo gained visibility through our Flushlight exhibition, touring from Lyss to Geneva and Zurich (page 11). The neon pink toilet made an eye-catching statement. The exhibition lives on as a podcast series and you can rent the roadshow for your next event! - contact us at info@va-loo.ch.

Rather than focusing on politics, advocacy work emphasized exchanging ideas with authorities. VaLoo's three ongoing Impact Projects (page 8) facilitate these fruitful interactions. In addition to preparing a summary of the Connect the Networks (CtN) event, the International Working Group is planning its next international exchange (page 6). The Knowledge Group worked on case studies, that will be published soon (page 10).

We sadly parted ways with our co-workers Andri Heidler and Gina Marti in 2024. They were both instrumental in shaping the VaLoo network for the first three years. We are happy to have Salomé Brozman join us as the new communications and admin specialist. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Till-Baptiste Römmelt for successfully completing the roadshow.

We look forward to seeing you at the member assembly on March 28 in Bienne. We would also be delighted if you could encourage new members and interested partners to attend our visits, working group meetings and member assembly. This will further expand our network!

Bastian Etter for the Board

Louise Carpentier for the Secretariat

Questions or inspiration? Feel free to contact us at info@va-loo.ch

Association

VaLoo's structural organization went through a pivotal year in 2024. With VaLoo's growth, the question of how to facilitate co-creation while enabling efficiency and action was at the forefront of discussion. InstantZ helped define the process towards a holacratic organizational structure. It is an innovative structure that gives creative freedom to those who wish to play an active role in VaLoo.

Want to learn more? Reach out to us and we'd be happy to include you on our journey!

Text: Kayla, Louise

Board

We held two member assemblies and two member workshops in 2024. At our extraordinary assembly in February, we agreed to change the statute so VaLoo could request tax exemption. The request will be handled in the coming months.

Philipp Markus joined the board during the members assembly in April 2024. His previous experience in research and engagement with Swiss stakeholders are an asset. To help the VaLoo secretariat, especially with fundraising, the board met monthly from January to May and bi-monthly from June to December. We also held 4 half-day workshops and one full-day workshop to learn about holacratic management. In total, board members volunteered 750 hours towards VaLoo's mission. Kai Udert and Vincent Carel stepped down at the end of the year to focus on resource-oriented sanitation projects. Both will remain part of the VaLoo network, Kai Udert actively supports the political work and fundraising. Our sincere thanks go out to both of them and the entire board for their dedication.

Text: Kayla, Louise

Secretariat

In 2024, VaLoo employed seven people, including two interns to assist with the Roadshow. Two secretariat members left in August: Andri Heidler and Gina Marti. Andri was a key founder involved in VaLoo from the beginning and whose dedication was instrumental in ensuring impactful political activities. Gina was in charge of communications and had many successful, long-lasting contributions, such as the website, the infographic, and her favourite project, our podcast series. Andri and Gina will be missed, and we wish them good health and continued success in their future endeavors. At the end of the year, VaLoo hired an admin and communications specialist: Salomé Brozman. We wish her a warm welcome and look forward to working with her in 2025! We also would like to thank Louise Carpentier for her engagement in coordinating the many different VaLoo projects. Finally, we congratulate Till-Baptiste Römmelt on his Roadshow success and wish him all the best on his journey.

Due to the reduction in woman and man power at the secretariat from May to December, Kayla Coppens, Bastian Etter and Reto Wey were mandated to support the secretariat with coordination and fundraising. We thank them for their special efforts and dedication over the past year!

Text: Kayla, Louise

International Collaboration

2024 was a year of taking on new tasks and helping to restructure the working group. Until now, we have had the regular working group meeting with members from RAE, NetSan and VaLoo coupled with regional sub-group structures in France, Germany and Switzerland. At the beginning of the year, we replaced the regional groups with four thematic subgroups:

1. Connect the Networks (CtN) Congress
2. European Network (SuSanA chapter)
3. Knowledge Sharing
4. EU Policy Monitoring

The Working Group International Collaboration held over 20 online meetings this year.



Fig. 1: CtN23. Photo: Marco Schlütter

The CtN2023 recap video was released just in time for World Toilet Day ([click here](#)), a written summary is in progress. Meanwhile, CtN2025 (in Paris) planning has begun. A large part of accommodation and catering costs will be covered by the Fondation de la Progrès Humain (FPH) this time. Save the date: 26.11-30.11.2025. More information coming soon via VaLoo

Subgroup 2 started to evaluate the pros and cons of an international umbrella organization. In collaboration with the worldwide active informal network Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) an idea was proposed for a regional European chapter, similar to existing chapters in Africa or South America. This should only be pursued if maintaining such a structure does not hinder important work.

In the knowledge transfer subgroup (3), key publications from RAE, NetSan, and VaLoo were translated and shared to combine resources and learn from each other. A call for papers among the networks, resulted in 46 submissions, ranging from educational websites to technical guidelines.

After prioritizing the submissions, the first documents are now being translated, so stay tuned!

The 4th sub group followed a members initiative to streamline political actions in a more plannable approach rather than acting ad-hoc as a deadline approaches. The idea: constant EU policy monitoring for relevant content relating to our cause and targeted action proposals to dedicated policy working groups. There is only one problem: The subgroup needs more support! Drop us an **email** if you like the idea (or any of the other subgroups)!

Text: Michel, Ivo



Fig. 2: CtN23. Photo: Marco Schlütter

Advocacy

The year 2024 marked a shift from national political advocacy work to advocacy work through impact projects in collaboration with cantonal and national authorities. In 2023, following several back and forth revisions between the two parliamentary chambers regarding the new Environmental Protection Law draft, the commissions agreed that VaLoo's proposals should be addressed at ordinance level, i.e. in coordination with the line departments. VaLoo is in contact with the latter via impact projects. In 2025, VaLoo hopes to achieve first results from its impact projects as part of its advocacy activities.

Advocacy work focuses on three main axes:

- Initiate explicit regulation of recycling nutrients from human excreta. For example, clarifying the legal status of human faeces and urine separated at source, and identifying the necessary pathways to obtain permission to sell and use compost which includes processed dry toilet contents (see Impact Project 1 below).
- Create a regulatory framework that enables the use of on-site circular sanitation systems, e.g. around the obligation to connect to a sewerage network and the disposal of treated wastewater (see the activity update of the Impact Projects 2 and 3 below).
- Encourage separate urine collection, treatment, and fertilizer production

Text: Philippe, Philipp

Impact Projects

Between 2022 and 2025, VaLoo will have enabled three impact projects to strengthen cooperation with authorities and decision-makers and improve the framework conditions for the implementation of water and nutrient cycles. These projects address regulatory challenges identified by members and involve regulatory stakeholders such as authorities and associations.

Impact Project 1: Nutrient recovery - composting (Kompotoi - ZH)

In 2024, an exchange took place between the cantonal and national authorities, VaLoo, Kompotoi and the Kunz tree nursery. The meeting resulted in concrete proposals for the future treatment of dry toilet contents as compost, to be developed initially by the AWEL and FOEN offices. Initial test results were published in the industry magazine KompostForum, and a further test run took place in Uster. The compost has been tested and the final results will follow shortly. The project will end in April 2025. The final results will be presented on April 11 at the facility.



Fig. 3: Photo: Kai Udert

Impact Project 2: legal framework - sewer connection (an-eco, GE)

Working with the cantonal administration, the project team established an enabling framework for recyclable and decentralized sanitation in 2024. Key achievements in 2024 included: economic proof of concept of decentralized circular sanitation systems (compared to the standard centralized model); set up of a regulatory framework for new future projects, starting with the different standards that must be met by these systems; authorities expressing interest in water reuse and a need for further research; and initial intercantonal contacts. We will continue to work with authorities to build an enabling framework in 2025.

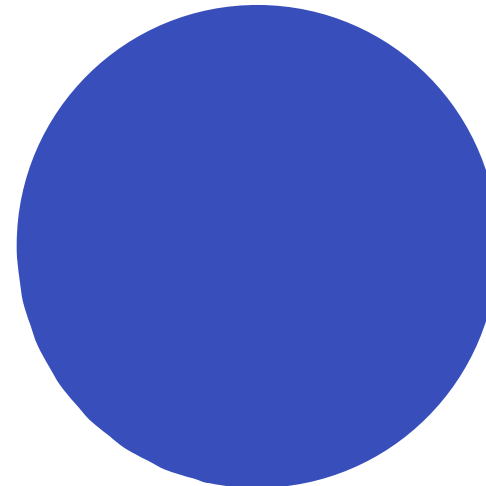
Impact Project 3: Greywater reuse (ZHAW - ZH)

In 2024, the ZHAW team began work on this project. In cooperation with representatives of the federal government, cantons and operators, the aim is to lay the foundations for a greywater treatment guideline.

Some of the most relevant results:

- Exchange with representatives of EAWAG (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) involved in the Swiss Water Reuse Project and an-eco, on whose findings the project can be built upon.
- Creation of a list of best practice examples, both in Switzerland and internationally
- Creation of a database of greywater treatment measurements from realized projects
- Creation of a questionnaire for operators and users of decentralized wastewater treatment plants
- Exchange with AWEL, ZH and EAWAG on challenges and opportunities

Text: Marius, Dirk, Jojo, Louise




Public Relations

We have updated the VaLoo infographic based on member requests. The newest version is integrated into the website and available for download.

We have completed work on the 5 case studies illustrating the implementation of circular sanitation systems. We thank Delia Gregori for her creative work and will publish the results soon. We are grateful to all who contributed.

Text: Louise



REQUIREMENTS

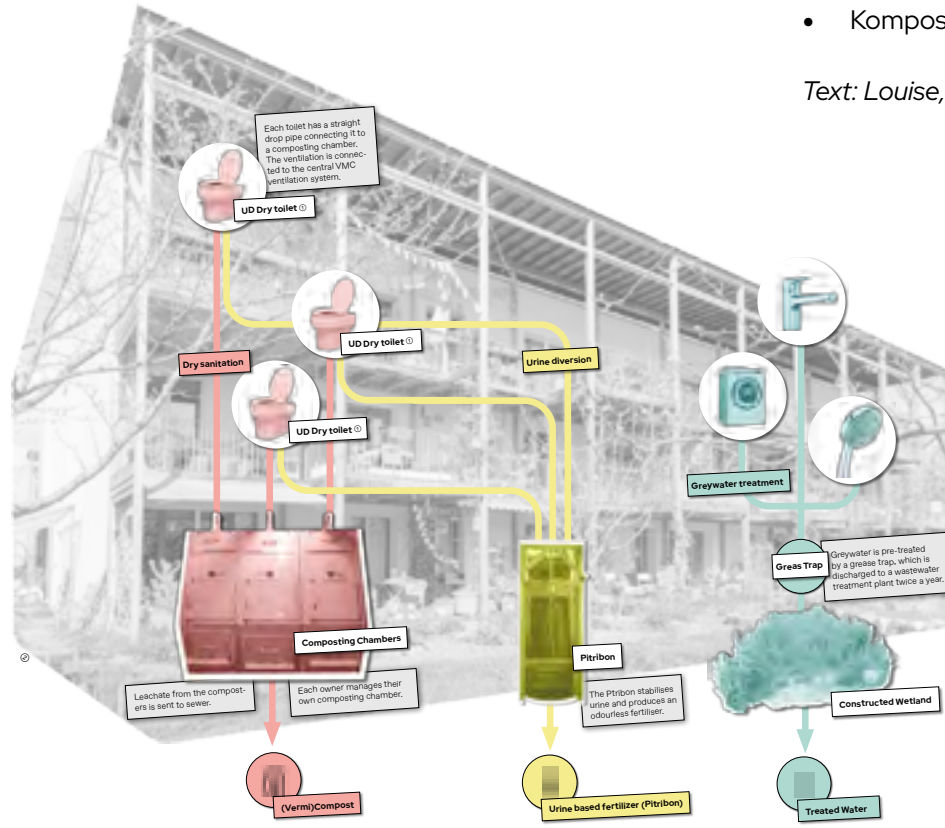
- Space**
0.7m²/p.e. in the basement (in total 30m²)
1.7m²/p.e. outside (in total 50m²)
- Energy Use**
4.4 - 11.6kWh/p.e./year
(in total 200 - 500kWh/year)
(heating system urine treatment & small pumps for compost leachate)
- Cost**
CAPEX: 889 - 3 111CHF/p.e.
(in total 40 000 - 140 000 CHF)
OPEX: 100CHF /p.e./year
- Operations & Maintenance**
Operation by inhabitants: 100h/year
Maintenance by aneco: 30-40 h/year
(each apartment operates its own composting chamber)

TARGET OUTPUT

- (Vermi) Compost**
Used onsite in the garden after maturation
- Urine based fertilizer (Pitribon)**
Part (1.5 m³/year) is used onsite in the garden. Once certified, rest (up to 20m³/year) could be used as fertilizer in agriculture and/or urban public spaces.
- Treated Water**
The treated water is not reused on site but reenters water cycle via to stormwater drains.

Urine & Faeces treatment Faeces & Greywater treatment

© & © Images taken by Michael Ottenwaelter
p.e. = Population Equivalent, CAPEX = Capital Expenses,
OPEX = Operating Expenses, Graphic: Delia Gregori



CRESSY
Cooperative Equilibre, 2011
45 p.e. (13 apartments)

The first circular sanitation building in Geneva, built by the Cooperative Equilibre. It is a 13-apartment building that uses source separation of urine, faeces and greywater. Faeces are collected by dry toilets and composted in the cellar, urine is collected by a diversion on the toilet seat and turned into fertilizer in the cellar, and greywater is treated in a constructed wetland in the garden.

Route de Lœx 77,
1232 Confignon

News

Additionally, the media covered our topic and reported actively about our members and VaLoo this year. We have compiled a small chronological selection:

- SRF Akzent Ausstellung Flushlight, Audio (Link, from min. 11:04)
- Terre & Nature, La suisse romande découvre l'art de changer l'urine en engrais (Link)
- Radio Rasa, Stream Ein Klo für die Zukunft
- TAZ, Der Stoffkreislauf beginnt im Klo: Pipi für die Böden (Link)
- TAZ, Was hat uns bloß so uriniert? (Link)
- Kompost Forum: 1 Brünzlete = 3 Rüebli (Link)

Text: Louise, Salomé

Fig. 4: Case Study Cressy (in development). Graphic: Delia Gregori

Roadshow

Flushlight – Touring exhibition about water and nutrient cycles

With 11 exhibitions in 8 locations, Flushlight reached a wide audience and created attractive educational materials.

As its first stop, Flushlight was presented at Olma 2023 in reduced form. Since then, the exhibition has evolved organically (mirror illustration, podcasts, toilet, water tank cube with solar roof, table/counter), culminating in its final stop at the Stadtgärtnerei in Zurich in autumn 2024. This was the longest and most extensive stop, with various events and exhibits (see image “Impression of the exhibition at the Stadtgärtnerei, Zurich”). On the website, you can explore impressions and find a list of stops under the Roadshow Map.



Fig. 5: Impression of the exhibition at the Stadtgärtnerei, Zürich. Photo: Julian Gisler

This experience helped Till, Lukas, and Jojo learn about different event formats. The event also helped them make contacts and learn how to create a more effective 2025 awareness campaign.

Text: Till



Fig. 6: Roadshow Map (Link)

The Year In Figures

The annual accounts for 2024 were externally revised by ATO Treuhand.

Revenues: The Migros Pioneer Fund is the main source of revenue for VaLoo. Other revenues include support by Ernst Göhner for the Flushlight exhibition as well as membership fees and donations from companies.

The annual accounts 2024 were approved by the Members Assembly in March 2025.

Text: Louise, Salomé

The year in figures - Financial report for the association period 01.01.2024 - 31.12.2024			
Income Statement		Balance	
Income	CHF	Assets	CHF
Income from foundations and projects	398.538	Current assets	
Membership fees	6.850	Cash equivalents	180.809
Donations	4.534	Receivables	327
Trading income	93	Withholding tax	236
Revenue reduction	48	Prepaid expenses	1.090
Total Income	409.968	Total Assets	184.293
Expenditure		Liabilities	
Project expenditure		Current liabilities	
VaLoo Transition	47.542	Accounts payable	44.949
Workshops	4.067	Notes Payable	116.149
Fundraising	36.840	Total current liabilities	161.098
Member projects, impact projects, legal advice	37.381		
Coaching	8.440	Equity	
Knowledge & Awareness	13.184	Association assets	11'024
International Collaboration	904	Earnings	2.486
Further expenses Migros Pioneer Fund project	269	Total equity	13.510
Roadshow expense and service agreement	57.770	Total Balance	174.608
Personnel costs			
Wages	157.588		
Social Security	19.444		
Other personnel costs	4.364		
Operating costs			
Room rental, property insurance	5.885		
Office supplies, bookkeeping, consulting	3.925		
Member assembly, board meetings	4.361		
IT expenses	791		
Advertising expenses (advertising, travel, memberships & networking)	4.925		
Interest, bank charges	148		
Change in valuation reserves	323		
Non-operating expenses	0		
Total expenditure	407.685		
Total revenue	409.968		
Total expenditure	407.685		
Profit of the association	2.283		

Outlook

In 2025, we will have completed our first impact projects and will focus more on our core business, advocacy work and impact projects. We have formulated a strategy with 5 priorities for 2025:

1. **Impact:** We will complete our first three impact projects and try to secure two continuations with the aim to consolidate initial regulatory successes.
2. **Network and events:** In addition to the second Connect the Networks event in November 2025, member events such as workshops on our impact projects, guided tours, network meetings and much more will be organized. There will also be a focus on knowledge transfer: an Eawag-VaLoo PEAK course on Resource-Oriented Sanitation Systems will take place in January 2026 - be there!
3. **Awareness:** our Flushlight touring exhibition presented from its best side in selected locations.
4. **Funding:** Apart from the lack of funding for 2025, we are already working to secure our activities for 2026 and 2027.
5. **Organizational development:** We want to support our employees and committed members and partners in developing their potential and interests. We are committed to shared governance and are piloting a holocratic organizational structure.

We look forward to driving change with an ever-expanding network!

Save The Date

- March 28th, 2025: General Members Assembly and Working Group Workshops, Biel/Bienne
- April 11th, 2025 14-16h Uster: Closing workshop Impact Project 1 nutrient recycling through composting
- April 24th, 2025 ARA Thunersee - guided tour for VaLoo
- May 22nd, 2025 18h Shitstorical Tour
- September 6th, 2025 ARA Neugut - Open day
- DATE PLACE TBD: Closing workshop Impact Project 2 legal framework - Mandatory Sewer Connection
- November 26th-30th, 2025 near Paris: 2nd Connect the Networks Congress
- January 26th, 2026 Dübendorf EAWAG-VaLoo PEAK course

All events will be published on our website (news)

Support

We would like to thank Ernst Göhner for supporting our Flushlight exhibition, as well as our implementing partners Grün Stadt Zürich, Eawag, Seeländische Wasserversorgung SWG, Blue Community, ZHAW and Kompotoi.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our launch partner, the Migros Pioneer Fund.

Between 2021 and 2024 VaLoo is made possible by the Migros Pioneer Fund. It looks for and supports ideas with social potential. It enables pioneering projects that break new ground and seek out forward-looking solutions. Its impact-oriented funding approach combines financial support with coaching services. The Migros Pioneer Fund is part of the Migros Group's social engagement and is enabled by the Migros Group with around CHF 15 million annually.

For further information: www.migros-pionierfonds.ch/en

Made possible by  **MIGROS**
Pioneer Fund

ERNST GÖHNER
STIFTUNG

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