

FALLING WALLS LAB

FALLING WALLS
SCIENCE SUMMIT

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SCIENCE SUMMIT

FALLING WALLS

WHICH ARE
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FINAL REPORT 2022

FALLING WALLS LAB

IN A NUTSHELL

The global interdisciplinary pitch competition for students and early-career professionals.

Three minutes is all it takes! Falling Walls Lab is a world-class pitch competition, networking forum, and stepping stone that brings together a diverse and interdisciplinary pool of students and early-career professionals by providing a stage for breakthrough ideas both globally and locally.

Our multifaceted formats support our participants in driving their innovations and develop their communication skills, fostering collaboration and creating a space for our impactful and sustainable community to thrive.



“THE BEST PART WAS MEETING 79 OTHER PEOPLE ON THE SAME JOURNEY AS I AM WITH EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER IDEAS TO CHANGE THE WORLD. IT WAS TRULY INSPIRING!”

2022 FALLING WALLS LAB WINNER



FALLING WALLS LAB

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 – The ongoing pandemic, rising inflation, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine are but a few challenges that deeply impacted the world this year.

Against the backdrop of these global issues, and with great resolve and dedication, our partners did not let these things deter them from their commitment to offering a stage for innovative solutions.

From March through September, **63 international Falling Walls Labs** took place from Armenia to Zimbabwe in **52 countries**. With many Labs returning to in-person events, the benefits of online formats were often incorporated into the Labs to increase their accessibility and reach.

By the end of the Lab season, **80 international Lab winners** had secured their spot in the global Falling Walls Lab finale. Upon their arrival in Berlin in early November, the Lab winners were immersed in the German research landscape and quickly formed bonds with their fellow competitors.

The distinguished jury, chaired by Dame Sarah Springman, Principal of St Hilda's College, Oxford, had the difficult task of selecting the three **Breakthrough Winners of the Year** in the Emerging Talents category of Falling Walls.

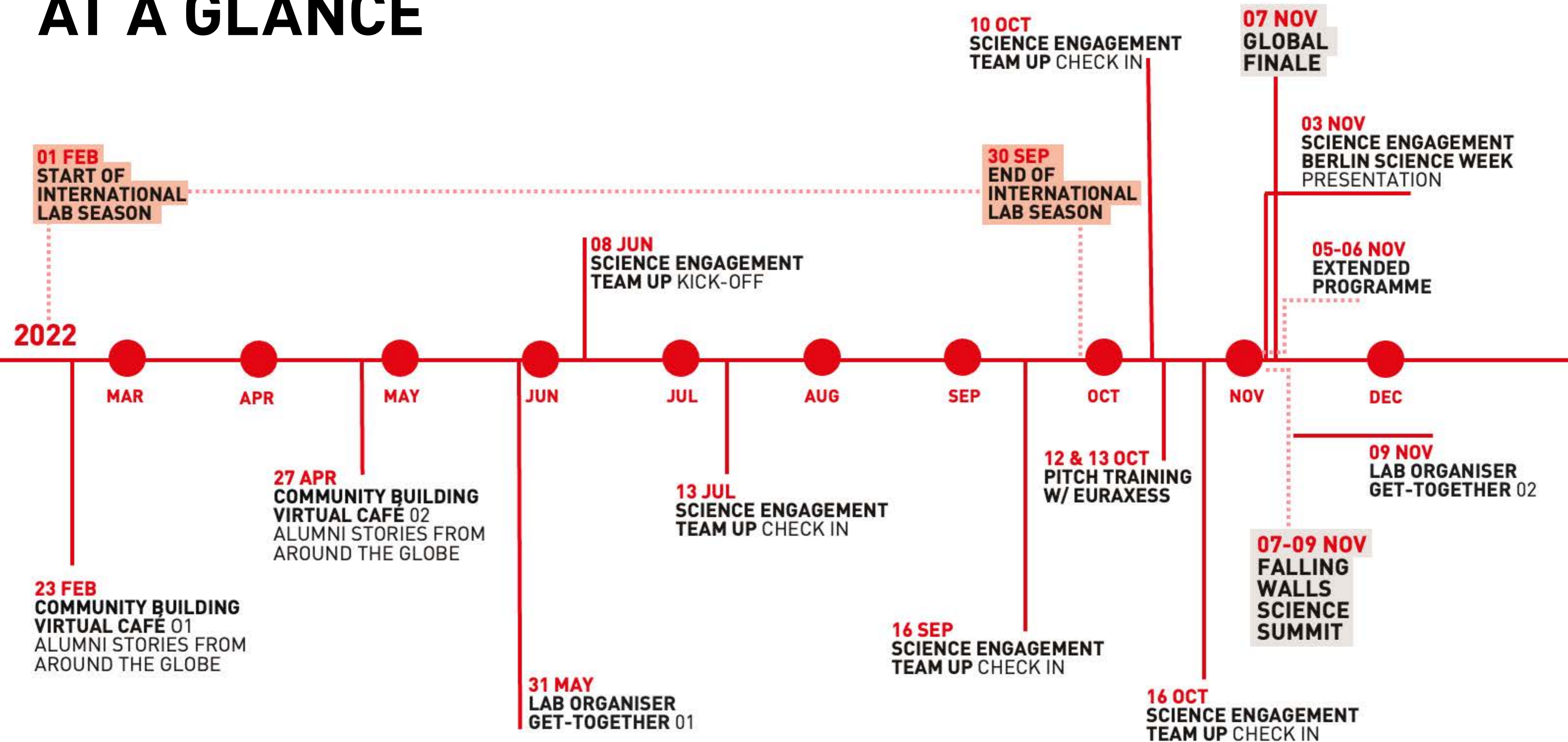
Falling Walls Lab India winner, **Ayushi Chauhan**, won third place for her pitch on 'Breaking the Wall of Tuberculosis'. **Emma Horn**, Falling Walls Lab Cape Town winner, secured second place for 'Breaking the Wall of Tile Manufacturing'.

First place went to **Tamlyn Sasha Naidu**, winner of Falling Walls Lab Pretoria, for 'Breaking the Wall of Acid Mine Drainage'. Her project tackles mining-related water pollution and land loss by using waste products from the refining and agricultural sectors to treat mining wastewater. This results in a nutrient-rich sludge which can be used for hydroponic farming.

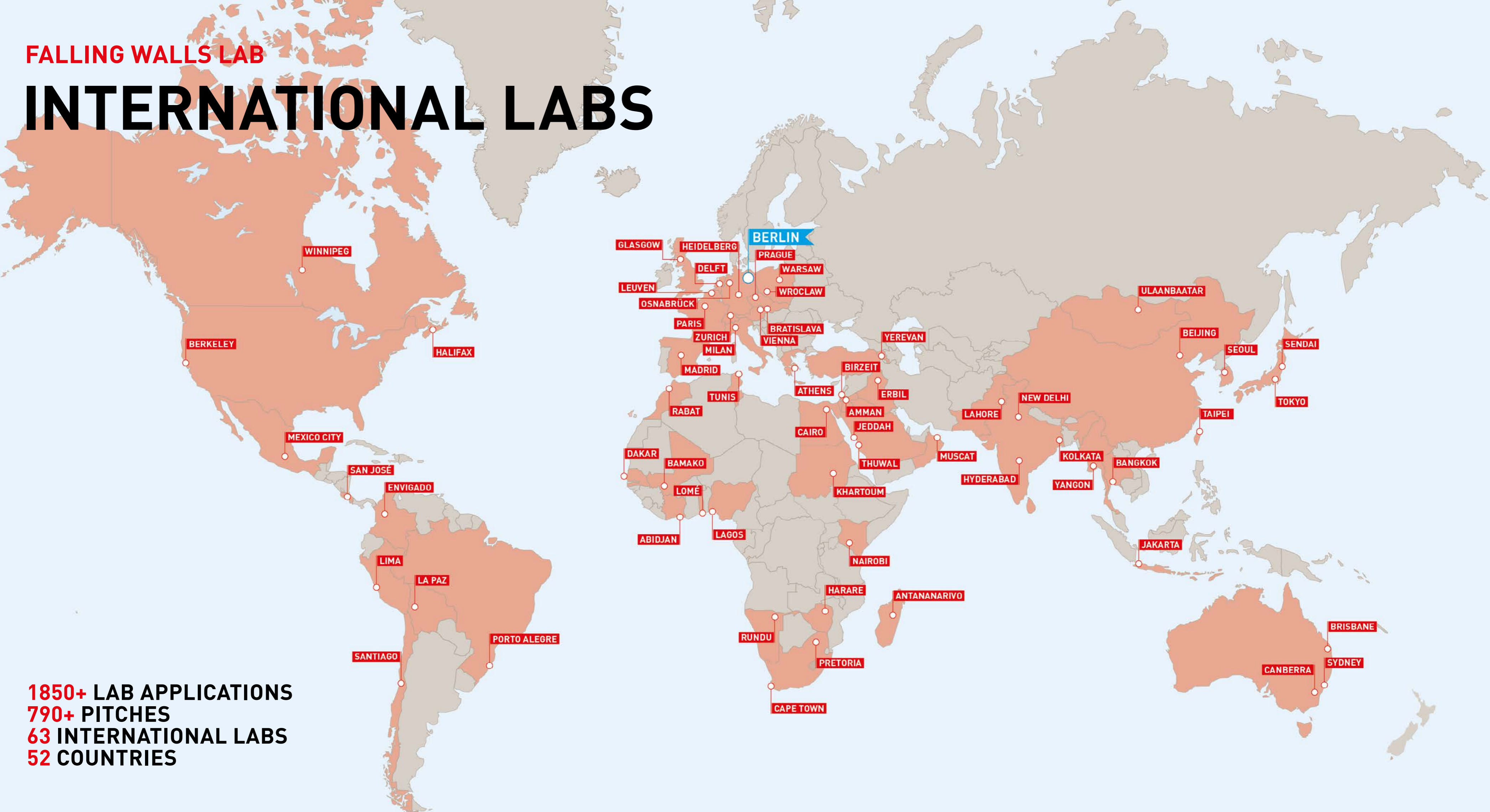
On 9 November, Tamlyn, Emma, and Ayushi pitched their winning projects on the grand stage of the Science Summit, sharing the stage that day with world-renowned scientists and changemakers.



AT A GLANCE



INTERNATIONAL LABS



1850+ LAB APPLICATIONS
790+ PITCHES
63 INTERNATIONAL LABS
52 COUNTRIES

FALLING WALLS LAB

A GLOBAL NETWORK OF LAB ORGANISERS

“FALLING WALLS LAB IS A FLAGSHIP EVENT THAT IS CHARACTERIZED BY A HIGH LEVEL OF IMPACT BOTH AMONG PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS AMONG RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATION PROMOTERS. FOR ANY ORGANIZER, FALLING WALLS LAB IS A POSSIBILITY TO OFFER A HIGH-LEVEL, VERY ATTRACTIVE EVENT THAT SUPPORTS GREAT IDEAS.”

IRENA RUSAK-ROJAS *DAAD, Falling Walls Lab Costa Rica Organiser*

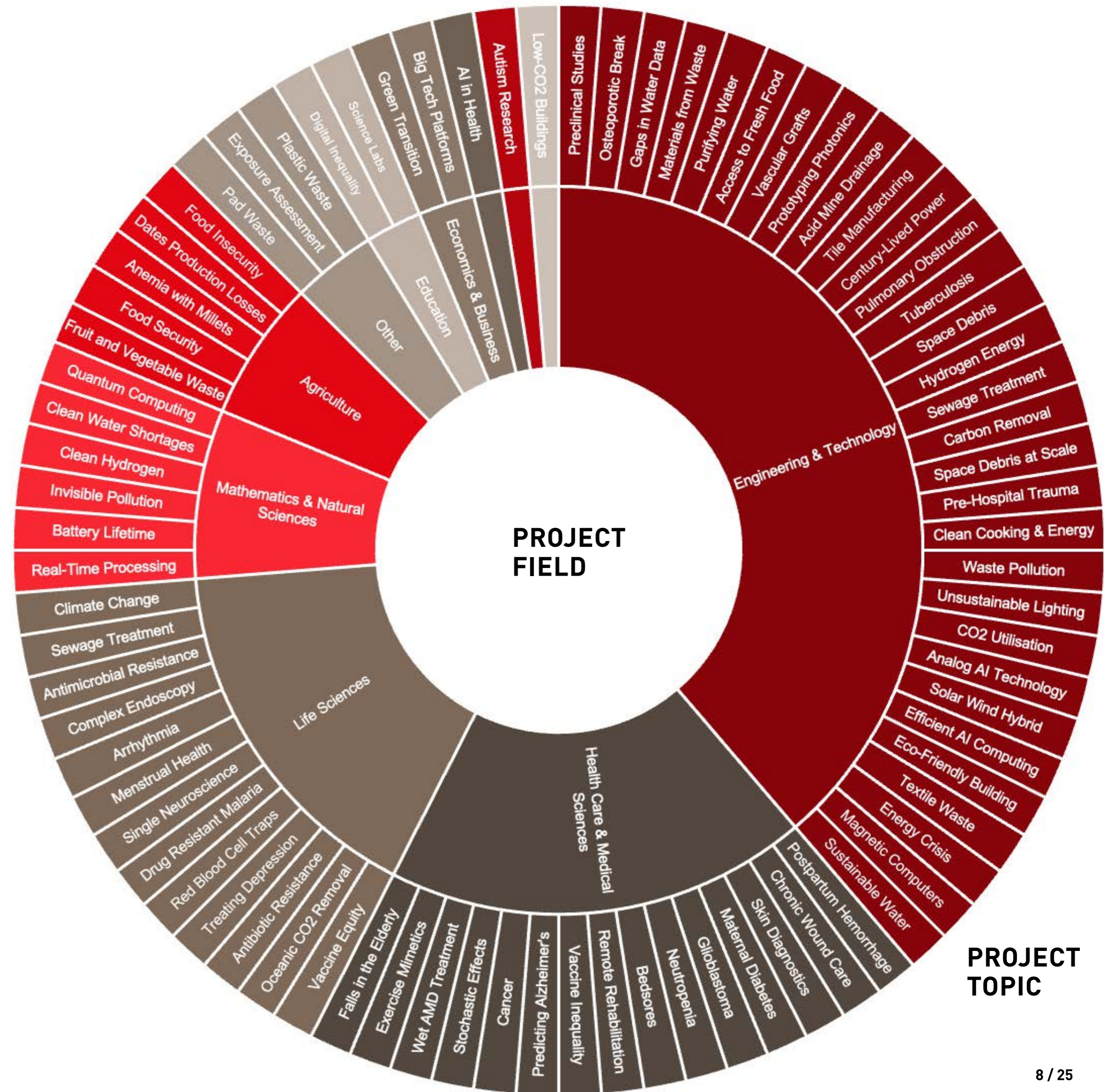
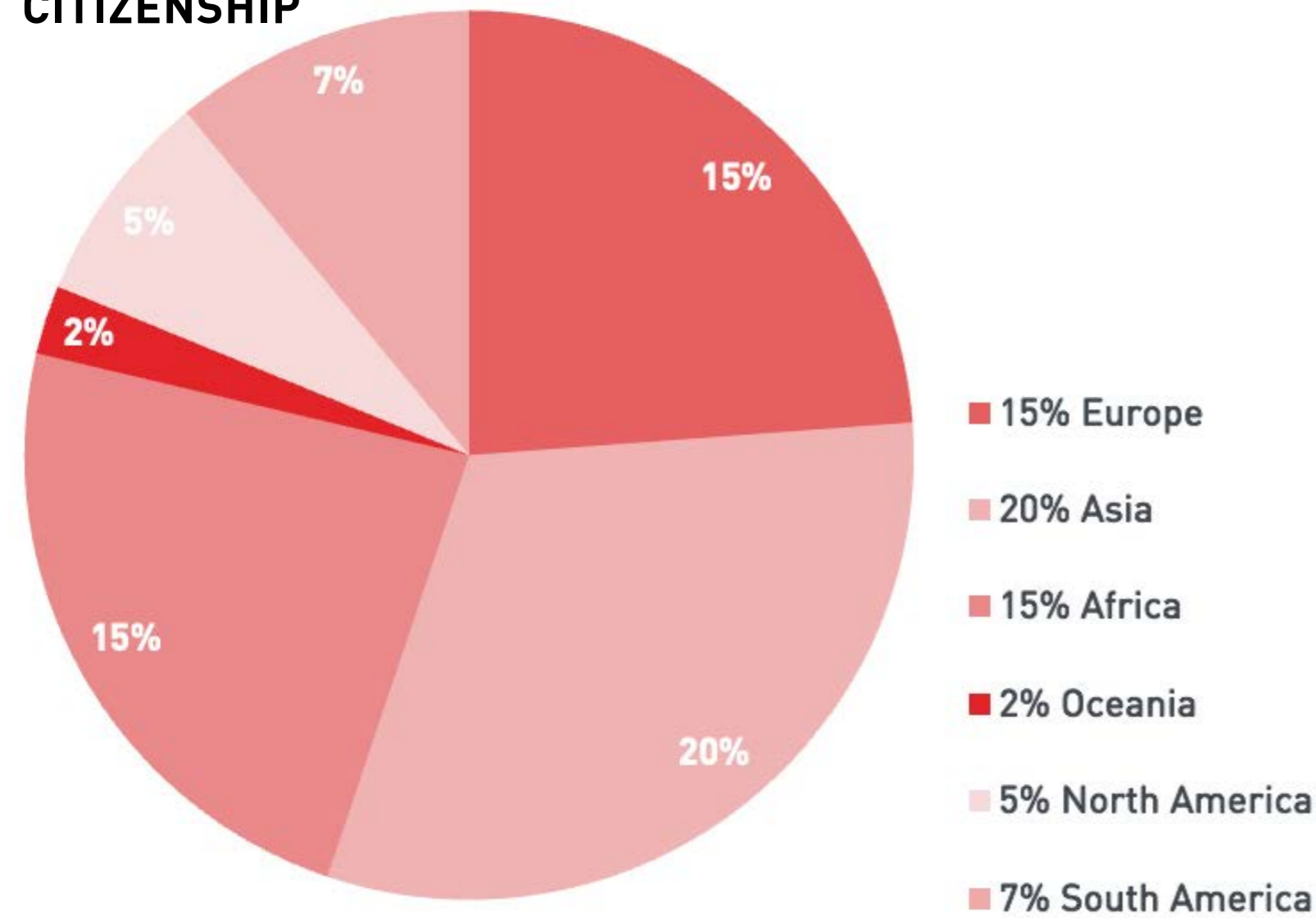
93% of the 2022 Lab organisers were satisfied or very satisfied with the experience of organising a Falling Walls Lab.



THE WINNERS

From Maureen Gumbo's pitch on 'Breaking the Wall of Clean Water Shortages' to Stanislava Králová's pitch on 'Breaking the Wall of Antibiotic Resistance' – the Lab winners and their topics spanned the disciplines and the globe!

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP





“IT’S NOT ONLY MAKING THE WALLS FALL, BUT IT’S CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER!”

DAME SARAH SPRINGMAN *St Hilda’s College, Oxford, Jury Chair*



80 PITCHES IN BERLIN

“FALLING WALLS WAS A TRULY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE, WHERE ONE GOT A CHANCE TO MEET WITH THE RESEARCHERS, INNOVATORS AND CHANGE-MAKERS OF TOMORROW. THE EVENT WAS EXCELLENT, THE OVERALL SCOPE OF TOPICS AND BREAKTHROUGHS WAS UNPARALLELED, AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND CONNECT WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF PROFESSIONALS.”

2022 FALLING WALLS LAB WINNER

FIVE DAYS TO CELEBRATE INNOVATION

05 NOV



2-3.30PM
INTRO EVENT: WELCOME
TO FALLING WALLS LAB
BERLIN 2022

4-6PM
HANGOUT WITH
SPRINGER NATURE ON
SCIENCE
COMMUNICATION AND
PUBLISHING

7PM
DINNER ON INVITATION BY
THE GERMAN RESEARCH
FOUNDATION (DFG)

06 NOV



12-4.30PM
NETWORKING LUNCH AND
'INSIGHTS INTO GERMAN
RESEARCH' INFORMATION
SESSION HOSTED BY THE
DAAD AND THE DFG

07 NOV



9AM-4PM
FALLING WALLS LAB
PITCHES DAY

4.30-5.30PM
JOINT AWARDS
CEREMONY
WITH FALLING WALLS
ENGAGE & FALLING
WALLS VENTURE

6.30-11PM
BERLIN SCIENCEPRENEURS
NIGHT

08 NOV



8.30AM-6PM
FALLING WALLS
CIRCLE

7PM
EVENING EVENT

09 NOV



9AM-6PM
FALLING WALLS
BREAKTHROUGHS OF
THE YEAR

6PM
FAREWELL DRINKS

THE GLOBAL FINALE

On 7 November, **80 Lab winners from Australia to Zimbabwe** took the stage at the global finale in Berlin. The event was watched by 1200+ distinguished guests at the venue and livestreamed to 9500+ viewers in 130 countries.

1 DAY, 80 WINNERS, 3 MINUTES EACH

78 IN-PERSON PITCHES
2 PRE-RECORDED VIDEO PITCHES

1.200+ ON-SITE GUESTS
9500+ GLOBAL LIVESTREAM VIEWERS
93000+ PAGE VIEWS

**“A MUST FOR EMERGING RESEARCHERS
AND ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONALS ALIKE.
AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER.”**

TAMLYN SASHA NAIDU *2022 Breakthrough Winner of the Year, Emerging Talents*



EMERGING TALENTS JURY

CHAIR



SARAH SPRINGMAN
ST HILDA'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD United Kingdom

CO-CHAIR



CARL-HENRIK HELDIN
NOBEL FOUNDATION
Sweden



MARCO LOHSE
GOOGLE
Germany



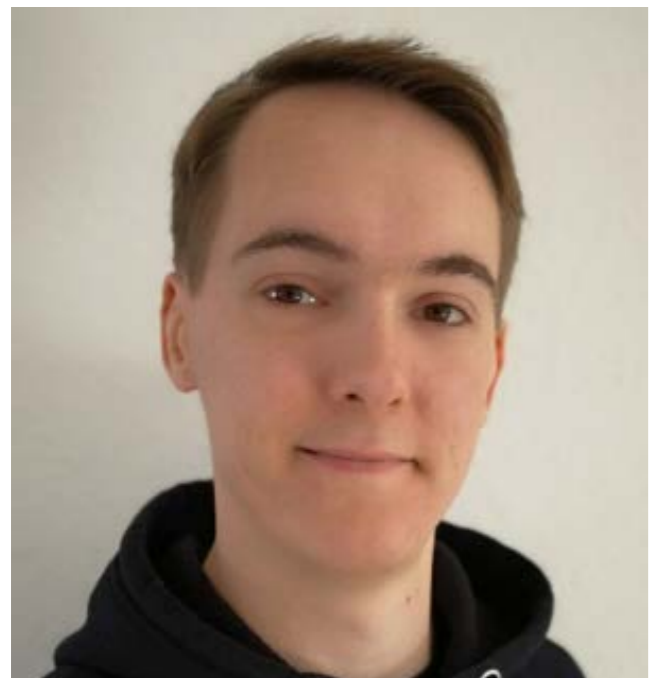
SWATI MEHERISHI
SPRINGER NATURE
India



RAJ B APTE
X, THE MOONSHOT FACTORY
USA



KATHRIN KOHS
DFG
Germany



CHRISTIAN SCHARUN
KIT
Germany



MICHAEL HÖRIG
DAAD
Belgium



MEI-HUNG CHIU
NTNU
Taiwan



SVEN WAGNER
SARTORIUS
Germany



KYLIE AHERN
STEM MATTERS
Australia

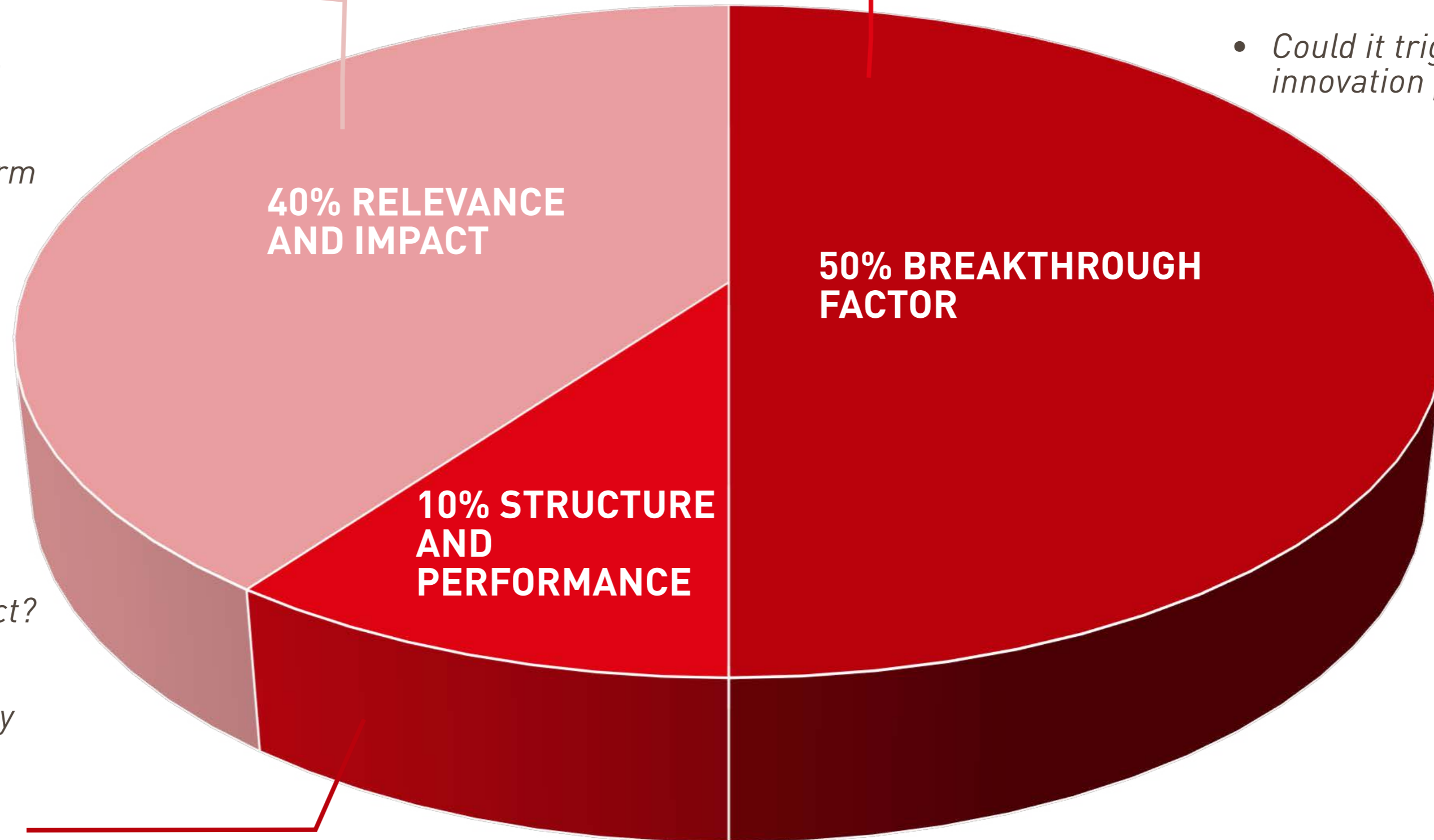


VANIA ZUIN ZEIDLER
LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY
Germany

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- *Who is the target group?*
- *Does the idea affect a broad group or does it have a deep impact on a small group?*
- *Does the idea have short-term or long-term effects?*

- *Is the presentation well structured? Does it clearly explain breakthrough and impact?*
- *Does the candidate present a proof of concept/the feasibility of the project?*
- *Is the candidate able to explain the idea well?*



- *Is the project original and does it have potential for innovation?*
- *Does it represent a groundbreaking idea, initiative or discovery?*
- *Could it trigger other innovation processes?*

BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR



TAMLYN SASHA NAIDU
BREAKING THE WALL OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE

Tamlyn's project tackles mining-related water pollution and land loss. She uses waste products from the refining and agricultural sectors to treat mining wastewater, resulting in a nutrient-rich sludge which can be used for hydroponic farming.



EMMA HORN
BREAKING THE WALL OF TILE MANUFACTURING

Emma's work explores the first bio-tile binder jet 3D printer. The printing of the sustainable and aesthetic bio-tiles is highly scalable and requires negligible energy input.



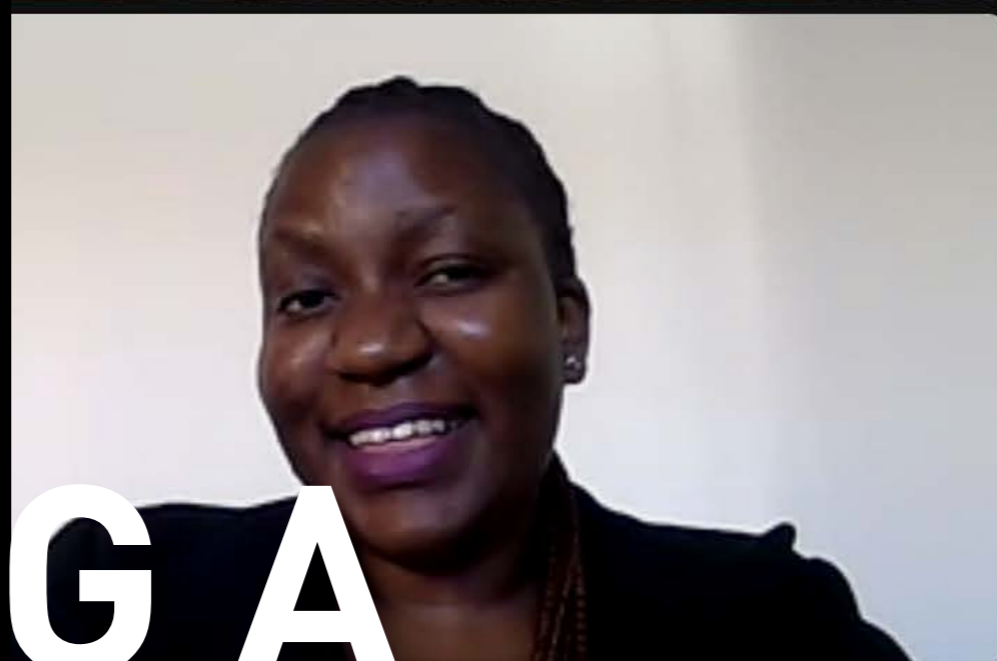
AYUSHI CHAUHAN
BREAKING THE WALL OF TUBERCULOSIS

Ayushi's project addresses the lack of an accessible tool for proper monitoring of DR-TB cases. She is working on a new generation of portable devices that will enable the rapid detection of point mutations responsible for DR-TB.



“I ARRIVED ON MY OWN AND LEFT WITH MANY NEW FRIENDS. THE FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT ALLOWED ME TO CONNECT WITH BRILLIANT PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON A VERY PERSONAL AND DEEPLY ENGAGING LEVEL. IT WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE WHICH I’M VERY GRATEFUL FOR.”

JOHANNES STANGL *2022 Falling Walls Lab Austria Winner*



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF (EX)CHANGE

VIRTUAL CAFÉS

Alumni Stories from around the World

A motivating format of great exchange, the Virtual Cafés provide an environment for Falling Walls Lab alumni and alumni from other Falling Walls projects to join in on inspiring talks and networking opportunities.

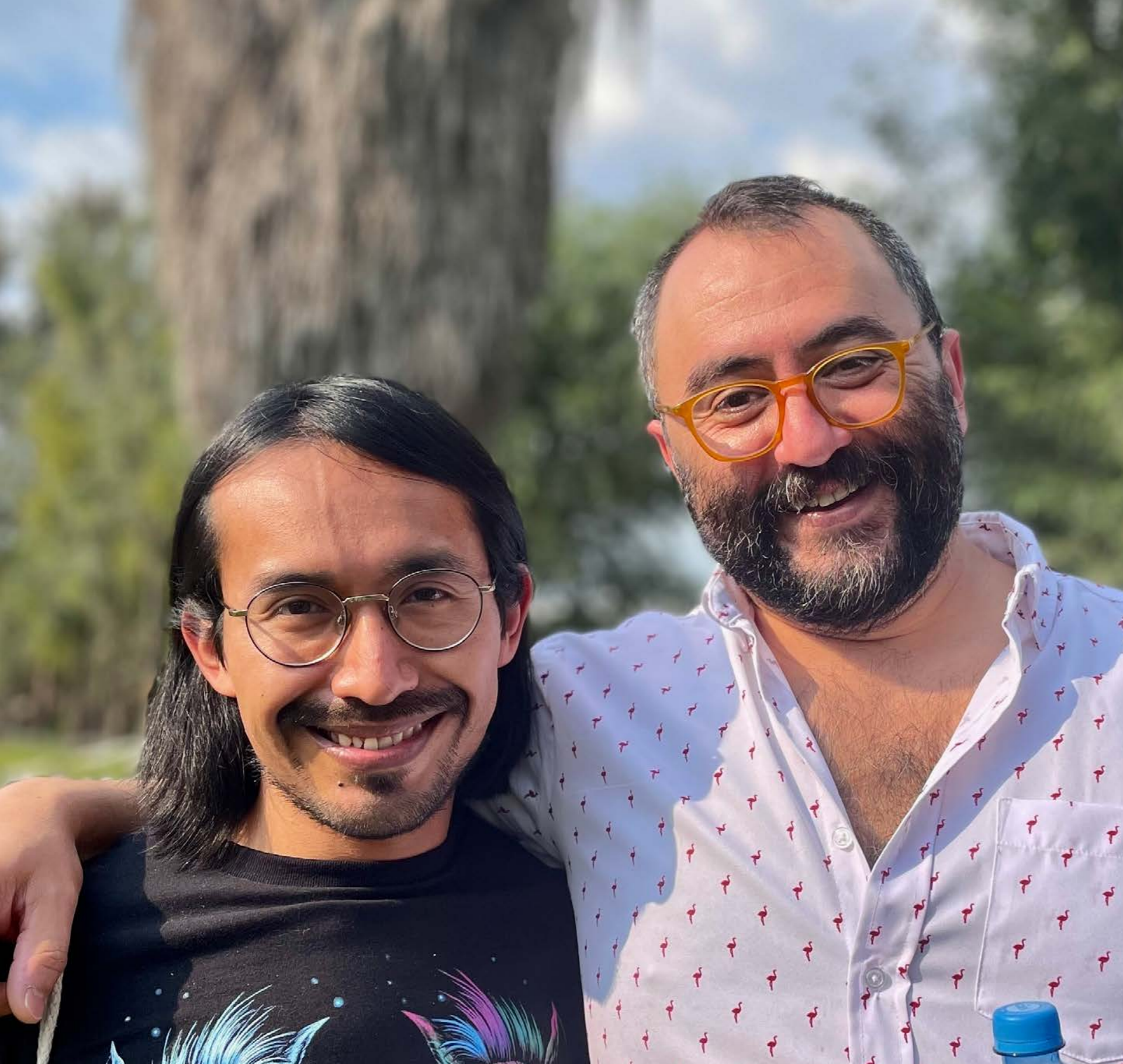
During a Virtual Café, different career paths and selected projects from the Falling Walls Lab alumni community are showcased. In 2022, Falling Walls Lab focused on two regions specifically: **Asia and Latin America**.

Alumni from 15 countries joined the Virtual Cafés, as well as 8 Falling Walls Lab alumni from the selected regions who joined as interviewees.

“I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE MET OTHER FALLING WALLS LAB ALUMNI (...). AS ALWAYS, I’M TRYING TO FIND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO CONTINUE ON WITH THIS PROJECT AND I THANK YOU FOR THE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAVE INVITED ME TO.”

2022 FALLING WALLS LAB ALUMNUS





FALLING WALLS LAB

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT TEAM-UP

This new science engagement mentoring programme was initiated by Falling Walls Engage and Falling Walls Lab with the aim of leveling up award-winning research projects through science engagement, thereby fostering the emergence of local and international science engagement initiatives.

Through one-on-one exchange with experienced science engagement practitioners, select early-career professionals receive tailored advice on how to best incorporate new elements of science engagement and communication into their project and work (or the teams come up with a new initiative together). The mentoring is facilitated by the teams of Engage and Lab through a structured framework which includes regular check-ins to provide guidance and check on progress and mentorship goals, thus building a global community of changemakers and science engagement professionals.

In 2022, the new format included **1 kick-off, 3 check-ins throughout the year, 2 international Falling Walls Engage Hub meetings, and a final presentation at Berlin Science Week** with all three tandems.

“IT HAS JUST BEEN A FEW MONTHS OF BEING A MENTEE AND THE AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE I HAVE GAINED IS GREAT. I HAVE GAINED SO MUCH INSIGHTS ON THE PROJECT AND I AM QUITE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE IMPACT IT WILL MAKE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. THANKS TO THE SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT TEAM-UP.”

2021 FALLING WALLS LAB ALUMNUS

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Falling Walls Lab runs its own social media channels on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#), with a steadily growing number of highly engaged followers and exclusive LinkedIn groups. In addition, content is published across all Falling Walls channels, with a total **reach of 45,400+ followers** worldwide.



3,400+
+17%

Follower growth in 2022



230+

Followers
(account launched in 2022)



20,000+
+21%

Newsletter subscribers



1,000,000+
+54%

Page view growth in 2022



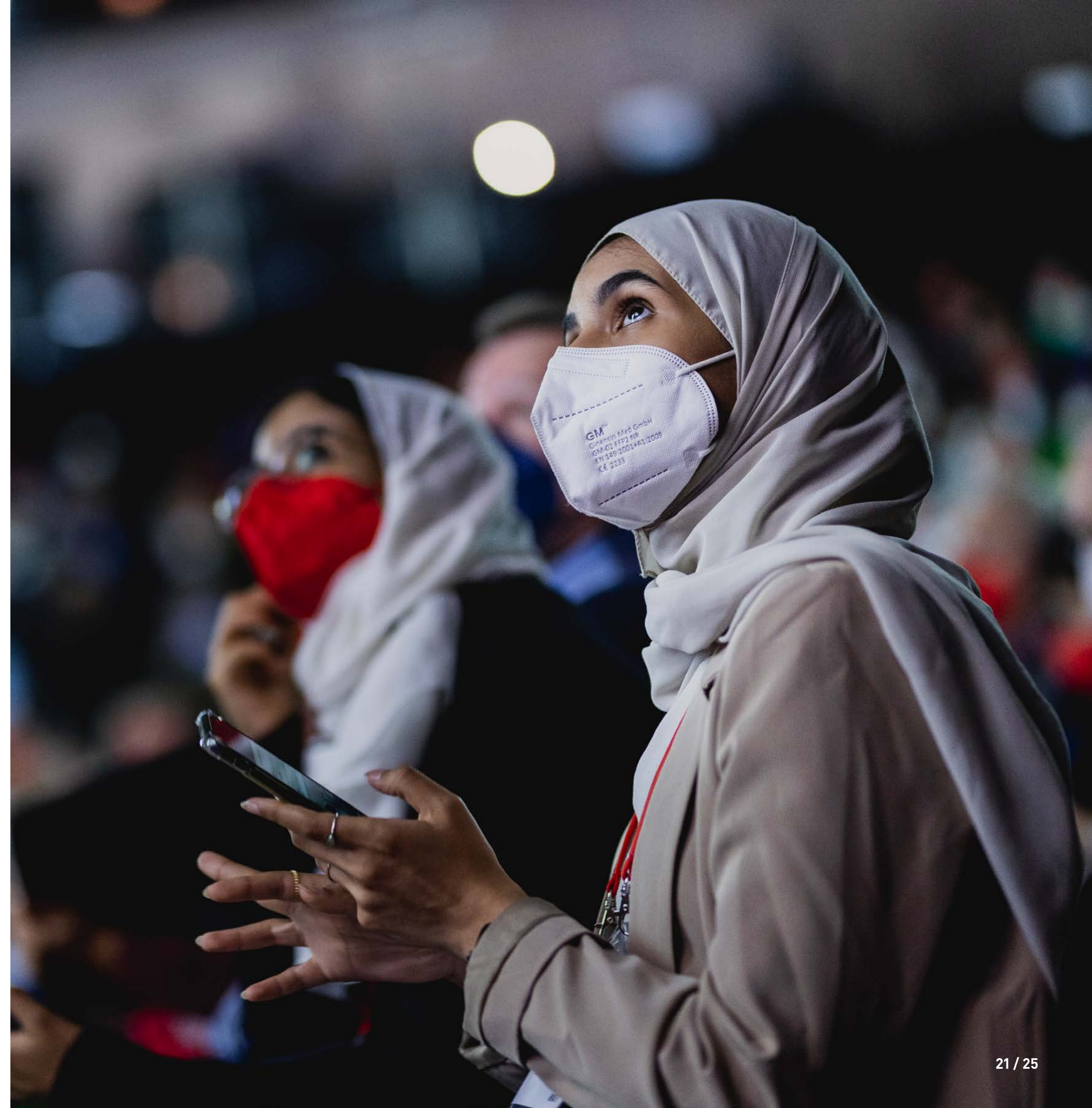
15,600+
+8%

Follower growth in 2022

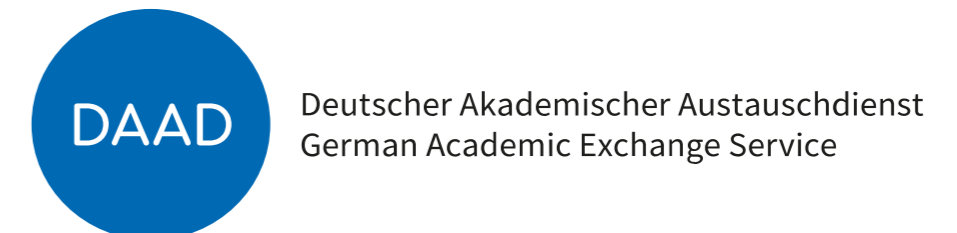
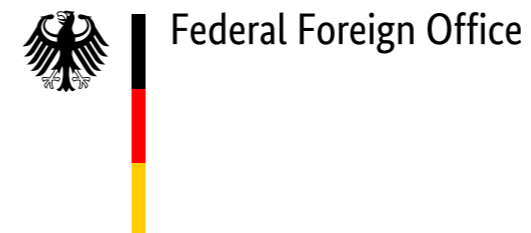


6,170+
+31%

Follower growth in 2022



PARTNERS



APPENDIX: INTERNATIONAL LABS

City	Country	Organiser & Partners
Yerevan	Armenia	National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, A. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory
Brisbane	Australia	Queensland University of Technology, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, DAAD, EURAXESS
Canberra	Australia	Australian Academy of Science
Sydney	Australia	DAAD, EURAXESS, Australian Academy of Science
Vienna	Austria	TU Wien Doctoral School
Leuven	Belgium	KU Leuven
La Paz	Bolivia	DAAD, Universidad Católica Boliviana 'San Pablo', German Embassy La Paz, Hanns Seidel Foundation Bolivia, German Chambers of Commerce Abroad Bolivia, Stiftung Verbundenheit/Junges Netzwerk, EURAXESS
Porto Alegre	Brazil	DWIH São Paulo, DAAD, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Tecnopuc, EURAXESS
Halifax	Canada	Dalhousie University
Winnipeg	Canada	University of Manitoba
Santiago	Chile	DAAD, Ciencia Joven, PUCV, EURAXESS
Beijing	China	DAAD, IOP-CAS, YIPA-CAS, Helmholtz Association
Envigado	Colombia	University Institution of Envigado, Universidad ECCI, EAFIT University
San José	Costa Rica	DAAD, German Embassy Costa Rica, University of Costa Rica
Abidjan	Côte d'Ivoire	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Kaydan Foundation, Incub'Ivoir, Atlantique International Business School, DVI
Prague	Czech Republic	DAAD, German Embassy Prague, National Library of Technology
Cairo	Egypt	DAAD
Paris	France	European Commission, Paris Sciences et Lettres University
Berlin	Germany	IGAFa, Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung
Heidelberg	Germany	Wissensfabrik, Heidelberg University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Heidelberg Karlsruhe Strategic Partnership (HEiKA), hei_INNOVATION
Osnabrück	Germany	Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences
Athens	Greece	SciCo Science Communication, Athena Research Center
Hyderabad	India	International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad
Kolkata	India	School of Life Sciences & Biotechnology, E-YUVA Centre, Centre for Incubation, BioNEST, IIT Guwahati, Fourth Aid Foundation
New Delhi	India	DAAD, DWIH New Delhi, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
Jakarta	Indonesia	DAAD, Universitas Pembangunan Jaya
Erbil	Iraq	DAAD, University of Kurdistan Hewler
Milan	Italy	University of Milano-Bicocca
Sendai	Japan	Tohoku University
Tokyo	Japan	EURAXESS, Kobe University, DWIH Tokyo
Nairobi	Kenya	Training Centre in Communication, Kenya National Innovation Agency, Viktoria Ventures, Melanin Kapital
Antananarivo	Madagascar	DAAD
Bamako	Mali	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, DAAD, Donilab, Lenali, Jokkolabs, MDA, SMTD, Orange Mali, APEX

APPENDIX: INTERNATIONAL LABS

City	Country	Organiser & Partners
Mexico City	Mexico	DAAD, German Embassy Mexico City, Goethe-Institut Mexico, EURAXESS, German Centre Mexico
Ulaanbaatar	Mongolia	DAAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Arts & Media Project Management & Consulting NGO, National University of Mongolia, German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology
Rabat	Morocco	Mohammed V University, Faculty of Sciences
Yangon	Myanmar	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Impact Hub Yangon, Scholar Institute, Strategy First University, SME Hub Myanmar
Rundu	Namibia	DAAD, Growth Roots
Lagos	Nigeria	DAAD
Muscat	Oman	Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation
Lahore	Pakistan	School of Management, Forman Christian College (a Chartered University), The Leadership Forum
Birzeit	Palestine	Birzeit University, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Unit
Lima	Peru	DAAD, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Zentrum für Innovation und Entrepreneurship
Warsaw	Poland	pro science, Warsaw University of Technology, ENHANCE Alliance, German Embassy Warsaw, Patent Office of the Republic of Poland
Wroclaw	Poland	University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Wroclaw Academic Hub, German Embassy Poland, Silesian University of Technology, Wroclaw Medical University
Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	University of Business and Technology
Thuwal	Saudi Arabia	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
Dakar	Senegal	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, ISM, ESP, UVS, UCAO, Jokkolabs, CTIC, Orange, Polaris Asso, USAID
Bratislava	Slovakia	DAAD, Comenius University Bratislava
Cape Town	South Africa	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Univeristy of Cape Town
Pretoria	South Africa	DAAD, Tshwane University of Technology
Seoul	South Korea	DAAD, EURAXESS, TU Darmstadt
Madrid	Spain	Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Complutense University of Madrid: Office for the Transfer of Research Results
Khartoum	Sudan	Next Einstein Forum, Alneelian University, The National Graduate Employment Agency, Sudanese National Academy of Sciences, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Sudan Office, GIZ Country Office Sudan, STEM Sudan Initiative, hannibal and brothers
Zurich	Switzerland	Empa, ETH Zürich, UZH, Hirslanden, ZHAW, ZHdK
Taipei	Taiwan	DAAD, Ministry of Science and Technology, German Institute Taipei
Bangkok	Thailand	DAAD, National Science and Technology Development Agency, EURAXESS, Chulalongkorn School of Integrated Innovation, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
Delft	The Netherlands	TU Delft, TNO, STUD
Lomé	Togo	DAAD, University of Lomé, University of Kara, GIZ, DHL, InrosLackner, Siemens Energy, Brussels Airlines
Tunis	Tunisia	DAAD, Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in The Maghreb
Glasgow	United Kingdom	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow City Innovation District
Berkeley	USA	DWIH San Francisco, Consulate General San Francisco, schoolab San Francisco, EURAXESS
Harare	Zimbabwe	University of Zimbabwe, Harare Institute of Technology, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe, Deutsch-Connect



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