REN21
RENEWABLES NOW

ANNUAL REPORT

22

THE POWER OF MANY

REN21 is the only global renewable energy community that brings together actors from science, academia, governments, NGOs, and industry to collectively drive the rapid, fair transition to renewables. Founded in 2004, REN21 has over 18 years of experience in providing credible insights and connecting ecosystems inside and outside the renewable energy sphere. Our objective is to support and accelerate the transition to renewable energy.

Today, REN21 drives the renewable energy transition by creating an enabling environment for renewables to become the obvious choice. We ensure a systemic approach, opening multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary spaces for communication and debate to drive the uptake of renewables. Our ever-growing community comprises almost 100 members and more than 4,000 experts from all regions who continuously contribute to REN21's knowledge, dialogue, and communication efforts. Collectively, we work to drive the rapid uptake of renewables. Together!

>4000
CONTRIBUTORS
from across the globe

97
MEMBERS
from governments, NGOs, industry, academia, science

15 KEY FUNDING PARTNERS

MESSAGE FROM RANA ADIB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2022 has been nothing short of challenging – on all fronts. Starting with an unprecedented energy crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it unfolded with recurring news of record heat, wildfires, floods and droughts around the globe. In the media, we read about governments resorting to subsidies for fossil fuels to shield citizens from price increases, and at the same time about the record-breaking profits of oil companies. This was also the year we learned that, for the first time in decades, the number of people without access to electricity is increasing. **There is no denying it: something is wrong, and it requires urgent attention.**

Amid these alarming trends, renewable energy stands out from the crowd. In 2022, the growth in newly installed renewable power capacity reached unprecedented levels. But it is not enough. The world is still far from being safe and secure. It's clear that we cannot afford business as usual.

For REN21, 2022 also brought its fair share of challenges. Yet in the face of adversity, we found opportunities. It's in our DNA to use obstacles as a catalyst for innovation and growth, and I can confidently say that we have emerged stronger. This Annual Report doesn't just celebrate our achievements, it also lays the groundwork for the work ahead. Transforming the world's energy systems requires that we work collectively and adopt a more inclusive and equitable perspective. It requires that we act on facts and knowledge and not on misconceptions and economic interest.

By placing renewables at the core of societies and economies, we have the power to change the world and to shape a future that is prosperous, sustainable and fair. The actions we take today will reverberate across generations to come. Now is the moment to "reboot the world" with renewables. Let's rise to the challenge and seize the opportunity.

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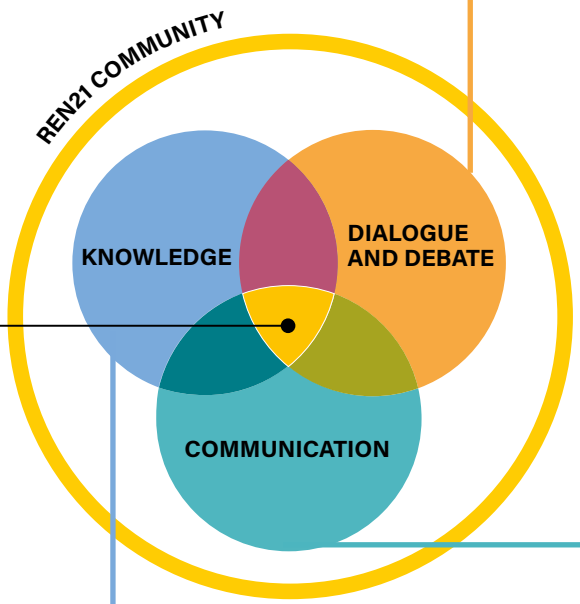
2022 IN NUMBERS



THE SWEET SPOT FOR **CHANGING NORMS**

DIALOGUES

- **6 Global RENdez-vous**: +500 people, covering leadership, energy security, etc.
- **9 Africa RENdez-vous**: +800 people, more than 45 African countries
- **+1,300 participants** over the year
- **4 workshops** on the *Renewable Energy and Sustainability Report* (RESR)
- **2 workshops** on Engaging Citizens in Grid Planning in the Paris Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure (PAC)

OUTREACH

Renewables 2022
Global Status Report (GSR)

- **61 stories generated**, with a potential **reach of 1,764,697,466 readers**

UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022

- Press release in **6 regional languages**
- **472 mentions** on all digital platforms, generating **23,000,000 impressions** (number of times social media browsers have showed the content)

Africa work

- **8 *Africa Roundup* newsletters** produced and disseminated

KNOWLEDGE

Renewables 2022
Global Status Report (GSR)

- More than **650 contributors**
- Microsite and Perspectives companion

2022 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report

- Community increased more than 3x compared to previous editions: **260+ contributors in 2022**

CONSOLIDATING EVIDENCE AND DATA

The world missed an opportunity

Released a few months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine – and at the peak of a particularly severe and early heat wave across the world – the *Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR)* – takes stock of the unprecedented growth in the renewable energy sector. It also documents the missed chance for a renewable energy recovery.

The 2022 report builds on input from a growing community of contributors and reviewers – 650 individuals or institutions, nearly double the number from the 2021 edition – and includes more than 2,000 references. In 2022, the GSR expanded in scope to include a chapter dedicated to renewables in and for cities, recognising the vital role that urban stakeholders and sub-national governments play in the renewable energy transition.

In response to a changing global environment exacerbated by the polycrisis of 2022 and the growing urgency to better understand and address the obstacles hindering the transition to renewables, we decided to evolve the flagship GSR into a series of five modules which collectively would offer readers a systemic global overview of the status of renewables. In discussion over the last four years, the new modular approach will enable REN21 to deliver more targeted knowledge products designed to address specific areas and needs and to expand the renewable energy discussion into key sectors and ecosystems.

Energy security rises to the top of the agenda

A joint publication with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the 2022 *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report* highlights the breakthrough growth of renewable energy in South-East and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The report also emphasises the need to accelerate this growth to reduce fossil fuel dependency and enhance energy security in the UNECE region. This "regional" lesson strongly resonates with the global context, faced with a historical energy crisis and an unprecedented concern about energy supply.

How to decarbonise transport?

Decarbonising transport, the second largest energy end-use sector, is crucial to keep the global average temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius. While scientists agree on the necessity and urgency of shifting to low-carbon transport, views diverge on how this transition should and could occur. The upcoming edition of the *Renewables Global Futures Report* (GFR) captures the current thinking about a sustainable transport and energy future, presenting a range of contemporary viewpoints and identifying emerging debates and areas of controversy. The report's development phase, running from 2020 to 2021, involved interviews with diverse experts, analysis of existing scenarios, views from the private sector, and input from country and regional sources. We also put in place a new authoring team to strategically re-orientate the project to focus on key tension points – such as fuel, infrastructure and governance. The target launch date for the GFR is November 2023, coinciding with the inaugural celebration of the United Nations' World Sustainable Transport Day.

Sustainability of renewables: building a shared understanding and narrative

Renewables are increasingly meeting resistance and concerns about the sustainability of renewable energy technologies, infrastructure and supply chains. This emerging narrative tends to ignore the wide-ranging benefits that renewable energy can bring, and it undermines the much-needed social support for renewables.

Scheduled for launch in late 2023, the *Renewable Energy and Sustainability Report* (RESR) brings together the whole range of stakeholders involved in the transition to renewables to critically discuss these concerns and assesss them in light of the overall benefits of renewables and the existing mitigation measures. Working with an Advisory Committee of 25 experts representing the environment sector, human rights, labour, finance, climate and others, REN21 held 3 workshops throughout the year to frame and provide input to the project and report's outline.

BUILDING AND BRIDGING

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE

REN21's strategic intelligence portfolio responds to the reality that the renewable energy voices are often scaterred which can blur and undermine the powerful renewables agenda. The objectives of the strategic intelligence work are to:

1) Develop and share strategic intelligence by providing the knowledge products that position renewables in relevant decision making and conversations, particularly in non-energy sectors (e.g., Strategic Intelligence briefs, newsletters, stakeholder maps);
2) Broaden the renewable energy community by gathering individuals and organisations that can strategically support the deployment of renewables. (e.g., the RENdez-vous event series, community events);
3) Strengthen renewable energy leadership by offering the space for the renewables community to come together and develop joint activities (e.g., communication campaigns, topical/regional position papers, leadership building sessions). The Strategic Intelligence work of REN21 has served to frame emerging issues on renewables in Africa as well as the relevant stakeholders to engage with. More broadly it has been regularly used to identify the trending topics in the public space where REN21 can provide feedback and/or context to dispel some common myths and misconpcetions and enable a more constructive dialogue.

In 2022, REN21 strategic intelligence work mainly served to identify emerging trends in the renewable energy landscape and some of the blind spots. It also served to identify and strenghten the emerging voices of renewables in the world and more specifically in Africa. This intelligence was directly used to develop and frame the RENdez-vous series as an open and secure platform for local voices to be heard and seen at the global level.

GROWING THE FOOTPRINT AND MEMBER BASE ACROSS REGIONS

REN21 welcomed its first youth-driven organisation as a member. The European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) joined in 2022, adding the perspective of young people to our signature multi-stakeholder approach. Engaging with REN21 gives them an additional platform to be heard and acknowledged and to influence the renewable energy transition they want to see.

RENDEZ-VOUS:
A SPACE FOR OPEN AND FRANK CONVERSATIONS

Initiated in 2021 as part of REN21's strategic regional and global engagement, the monthly virtual RENdez-vous continued in 2022, alternating between a global focus and a regional focus on Africa, and garnering ever-growing popularity (between 50 to 100 participants on average per event).

At the meetings, the keynote speaker, panellists and participants engage in a creative, informal and interactive online discussion. Under Chatham House Rules, the RENdez-vous series creates a "safe and empowering space" to allow for exchange and questions free from institutional positioning and discourse.

The RENdez-vous Africa series was built to respond to the reality that most of the current discussions about Africa take place at the political level and do not consider the African perspective on renewables and their role in the continent's economic development. Strengthening the African voice in the debate and building up the engagement of various stakeholders is a cornerstone for anchoring the African perspective in the global discussion.

Topics in 2022 included the role of natural gas in Africa's energy mix, how to harness the potential of hydrogen and mitigate its downsides, and the socio-economic benefits of strengthening local value chains, among others.

In the lead-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (COP 27), billed as the "African COP", a RENdez-vous explored ways to amplify the voice of renewable energy at the global event and to demonstrate that renewables can meet many climate objectives and support a just energy transition.

"Renewables are the only future we have. They are an African common destination. If we don't choose a destination, we can get into trouble."

Linus Mofor
Senior Environmental Affairs Officer at the African Climate Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

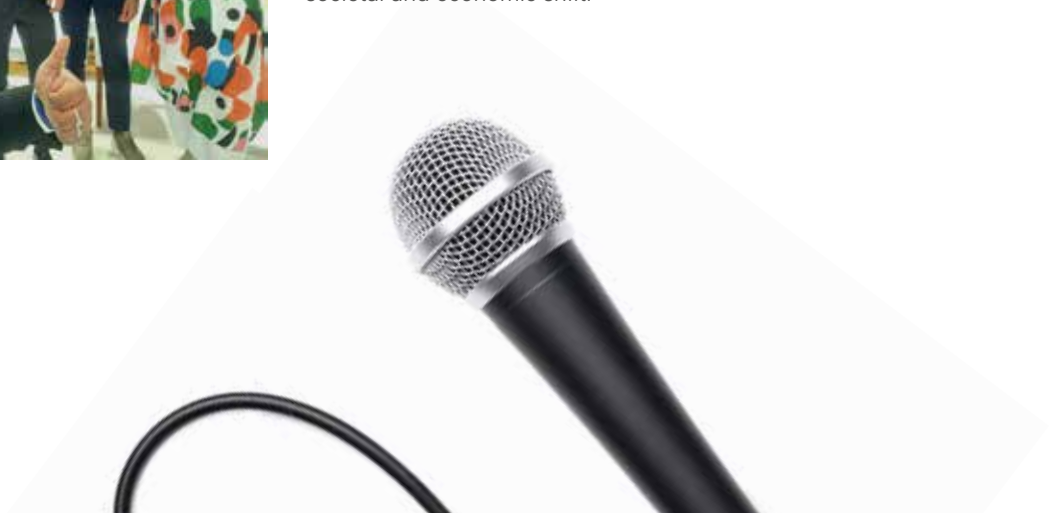
"Lets own our poverty, lets own our response, and this response has to be renewables."

Mohammed Adow
Director
Power Shift Africa

ANCHORING THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH IN COP27

REN21 attended COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, working with REN21 Members and others to illustrate the role of renewables in climate mitigation and building resilience. We collaborated alongside the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, the Global Wind Energy Council, the Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable, ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability, the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport, We Mean Business, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), among others.

REN21 also engaged in a TEDx-style intervention on the We Don't Have Time x UNDP hour show and was featured in the Transformers Podcast of the UN Science, Business and Policy Forum. In both interventions, REN21 Executive Director Rana Adib emphasised that the energy transition is more than a fuel shift. It is a full societal and economic shift.



SUPPORTING AND LEVERAGING MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

As a "network of networks", REN21 engages with its members in many ways.

Grids: The weak link

As part of the PAC consortium (Paris Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure), and leveraging its regional Members, REN21 organised two workshops in 2022: one in collaboration with the Latin American Energy Association (OLADE) in South America and the other with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Asia-Pacific. Among the key learnings, it was clear that the possibilities for citizen participation in grid planning differ greatly among regions.

G20

REN21 co-published with RE100 the policy brief *Ambition on Renewables in the G20*. The brief explores the relationship between high electricity-consuming countries in the G20 and the pace of progress in renewable electricity deployment, corporate procurement and investment opportunities. The brief concludes that the G20 countries are under-performing across all aspects of leadership and progress on renewable electricity, in particular renewable power capacities.

SHAPING THE NARRATIVE

Sharing knowledge and data and bringing to the forefront the different voices of renewables are central to our communications activities. Leveraging traditional and digital media, efforts in 2022 resulted in growing visibility for REN21 in important international and regional media, as well as larger audience engagement on key social media platforms, such as LinkedIn and Twitter.

With 200 posts on LinkedIn throughout the year, REN21 gained nearly 3,000 followers – generating 4,000 reactions, 100 comments and 500 shares. Alternating between organic and shared posts, REN21 used the platform to shine a spotlight on the findings of its knowledge products published throughout the year and on the activities and news of REN21 Members and the REN21 Community.

By securing stories in some of the most influential global outlets such as BBC, the Associated Press, Forbes, Le Monde, Reuters, and many others, REN21 was able to reach beyond the usual circles and bring to the public eye some of the latest developments on renewables, contributing to correcting facts and debunking some of the myths and misconceptions that hinder social acceptance and support for renewables.

Leveraging the outreach of its Members and Community, REN21 also appeared in numerous press releases, podcasts and videos.

Through the **Africa RENdez-vous** series, REN21 has helped to convene and strengthen the powerful but disparate voices around what renewables mean for Africa. From the wealth of knowledge brought together at the RENdez-vous, REN21 produced eight *Roundup* newsletters, and a three-minute film titled "Voice of Change" where prominent African figures share their perspectives on renewables for Africa.

Building on its Africa portfolio, REN21 also launched the Energise Africa campaign, featuring some of the most prominent and thought-provoking voices of renewables in Africa. With more than 40 quote cards in English and French, the campaign was rolled out on various REN21 media platforms (such as LinkedIn and Facebook) and showcased the benefits and opportunities of renewables for the African continent.

In parallel, REN21 has regularly published its quarterly global newsletter. Sent to more than 12,000 subscribers, the newsletter is our platform for sharing new developments and providing Members with opportunities to connect on subjects of interest. The newsletter is an additional tool in building and strengthening bridges among REN21 Members and the REN21 Community.

GROWING STRONGER AND SMARTER

STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT

In 2022, REN21 bolstered its in-house expertise and capacity to cover key topics in the renewable energy transition: sustainability, transport and heating/cooling. New staff were added to the Knowledge and Data Team to strengthen the work around the *Renewables Global Status Report* and the *Renewable Energy and Sustainability Report*. REN21's administrative and financial functions, as well as the communications team, were also reinforced to better serve the Secretariat and increase its outreach.

By December 2022, the REN21 team represented more than 15 nationalities, spanning diverse backgrounds and experience ranging from engineering to biology, environmental science, social and political science, and communications. With regular collective trainings and individual mentoring during the year, this diverse team of professionals also learned to integrate the Agile project management system across all work streams, leading to greater transparency, flexibility and overall capacity to manage large and complex projects.

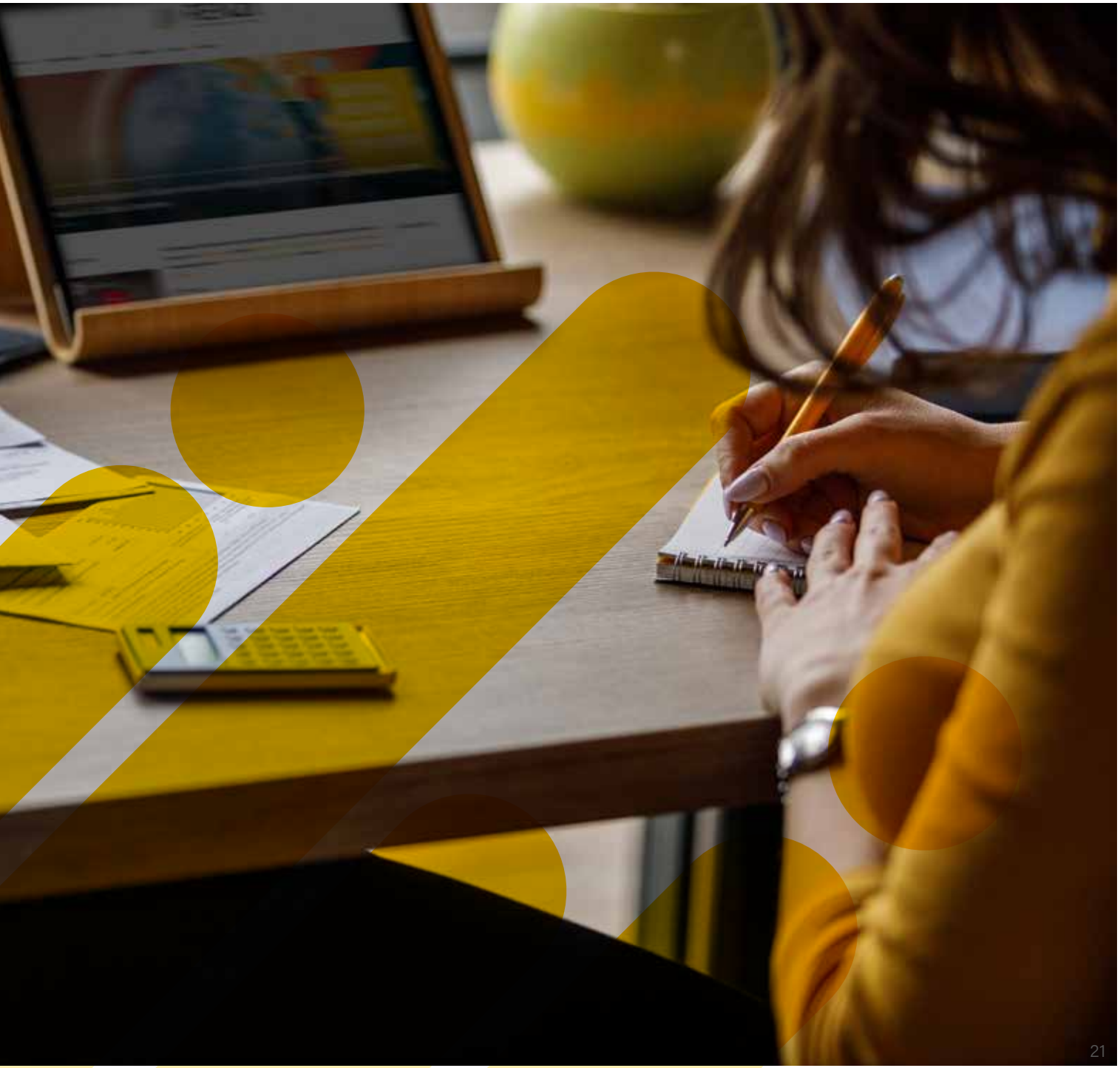
PROGRAMME FUNDING

The year 2022 underscored the importance of being able to respond to unforeseen challenges and emerging issues. A diversified funding structure that supports core, programmatic and project funding will help REN21 align with its mission and meet future needs. Recognising this need, REN21's Steering Committee voted to incorporate voluntary contributions as a funding option. This addition gives funders greater flexibility in supporting REN21, allowing for three-year programme cycle engagement. Moving from project to programmatic (three-year) funding will also give REN21 better visibility over the medium to long term and enhance its capacity to address, work and deliver on key priorities.

ACCOUNTS 2021

All values in Euro (€)	2021	Total
Non-taxable income		
Membership fees	0.00	
Grants	1,848,539.14	
Other income	29,883.69	
		1,878,422.83
Non-taxable expenses		
In-house consultants (within the REN21 Secretariat)	512,113.84	
Wages and salaries	1,013,730.45	
Travel expenses	9,243.96	
Consulting	26,029.18	
Advertising and print costs	132,645.85	
Rent	92,223.69	
Legal and tax consulting fees	6,600.00	
Office supplies and telephone	1,163.32	
Contributions and insurance	4,563.80	
Incidental monetary transaction costs	3,386.51	
Other expenses	69,965.74	
		1,871,666.34
Profit/loss		6,756.49
Fund management		
Tax free income		0.02
Loss carried forward prior year		-143,802.23
Profit/loss carried forward		**€ -137,045.72** *

** The residual loss of 2021 results from a historical provision for payment gap recovery for 2017 funding of € 68,857.85 carried forward and a delay in the reception of IREC funding of € 125,000.00 due to IREC's contracting process. With the integration of overhead costs in project budgeting and the growth of total funding expected to reach almost € 2.3 million in 2022, it is foreseen to settle these losses next year.*



REN21 MEMBERS

Research and Academia

AEE - Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE-INTEC)

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Fundacion Bariloche (FB)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Solar Energy Society (ISES)

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

National Research University Higher School of Economics Russia (HSE)

South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)

The Energy and Resources (Institute TERI)

University of Technology - Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTS)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

Governments and Government Agencies

Afghanistan

Austria

Brazil

Denmark

Dominican Republic

Germany

India

Mexico

Norway

Republic of Korea

South Africa

South Australia

Spain

United Arab Emirates

United States of America

Inter-governmental Organisations

Asia Pacific Energy Research Center (APERC)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

Electric Power Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Executive Committee) (EPC)

European Commission (EC)

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

International Energy Agency (IEA)

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

OLADE (Latin American Energy Organization)

Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

World Bank (WB)

Non-governmental Organisations

African Association for Rural Electrification (Club-ER)

CDP

Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)

Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)

Climate Action Network International (CAN-I)

Coalition de Ciudades Capitales de las Americas (CC35)

Energy Cities

European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)

Fundacion Renovables (FER)

Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)

Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)

Greenpeace International

ICLEI

Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

Jeune Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)

Mali Folkecenter (MFC)

PowerforAll

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

SLOCAT Partnership on sustainable, low carbon transport (SLOCAT)

Solar Cookers International (SCI)

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)

The Global 100% Renewable Energy Platform (Global 100%RE)

World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)

World Future Council (WFC)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Industry Associations

Africa Minigrids Developers Association (AMDA)

Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)

American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

Associação Lusófona de Energias Renováveis (ALER)

Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)

Clean Energy Council (CEC)

Euroheat & Power (EHP)

European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)

European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)

Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)

Global Solar Council (GSC)

Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

Indian Renewable Energy Federation (IREF)

International Geothermal Association (IGA)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

Portuguese Association Of Renewable Energy (APREN)

RE100/Climate Group (RE100)

RES4Africa Foundation (RES4Africa)

Solar Power Europe (SPE)

Union International de Transport Publique (UITP)

World Bioenergy Association (WBA)

World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

Members at large

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Kirsty Hamilton

Peter Rae

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