

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

















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PHOTOGRAPHY: FEN Archives (credits & locations page 39)

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Reflection



2024 was a year that filled us with pride and reaffirmed our commitment to quality education. We not only reached key milestones that demonstrate the impact of the Escuela Nueva Activa (ENA) model on the lives of children and young people, especially in rural areas, but also embraced new challenges that confirmed ENA's ability to adapt and respond to the needs of each territory.

One of the most meaningful moments was receiving the *Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award*, a prestigious recognition that validates our efforts to promote research and rigorous evaluation of our work's impact, particularly in strengthening student and teacher learning.

We thank our strategic allies, teachers, funders, communities, and team members for their continued support. Their trust has been essential in advancing our mission to ensure a quality education that nurtures critical, compassionate, and engaged citizens.

Looking ahead, 2025 inspires us to continue moving forward with determination, knowing that each step can open up opportunities, foster meaningful learning, and build a better future for children and youth in Colombia and the world.

VICKY COLBERT

Founder & Executive Director

About Us

MISSION

We improve the quality, relevance, and efficiency of education by rethinking the way we learn and promoting active, cooperative, and personalized learning centered on the learner.



VISION

Our goal is for all children, regardless of their circumstances, to have access to quality education and opportunities to fully develop their human potential and achieve outstanding outcomes.

We want to improve the lives of children and their families through a quality education that empowers them as individuals and nurtures an ethos of peace and participation where children, teachers, and communities are the main actors of change; in which the students learn how to learn and education becomes instrumental to improve their, and their families' lives, and to promote a meaningful social change.

PROGRAMS & ADAPTATIONS



ESCUELA NUEVA ACTIVA (ENA)

Educational solution that improves quality, efficiency, and equity in education in rural contexts through a cooperative, active, and flexible learning process focused on the learner.



ESCUELA ACTIVA URBANA (EAU)

Adapts the strategies and materials of the Escuela Nueva Activa model to urban contexts.



ENA LEARNING CIRCLES (CAENA)

Adapts the strategies and materials of the ENA model to support the reintegration of out-of-school and highly vulnerable children and youth into the education system, restoring their right to a quality education.



THINK EQUAL PROGRAM

It fosters and promotes the development of socialemotional skills through a learning plan with activities and topics specially designed for children aged three to five.

STRATEGIC LINES



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We promote success stories trough the full implementation of the ENA model. We do it by developing projects in formal educational settings and providing training and pedagogical guidance, delivering learning materials, and conducting monitoring, and evaluation processes. We also develop customized solutions that adapt the principles and methodologies of the ENA model to new contexts and populations.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Its objective is to create and promote a learning community around the ENA model. We aim to connect different allies, encourage interaction and exchange of ideas, systematize experiences and best practices, develop publications, and promote academic events, among other activities.



STRATEGIC LINES



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Through this Line, we promote research, innovation, and evaluation on ENA. Our work focuses on curriculum design and training processes, as well as the application of metrics, indicators, and instruments, in both cognitive and socioemotional dimensions.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This Line seeks to strengthen a coalition of global and multi-sectoral partners through medium - long-term partnerships that help consolidate the pedagogical transformation we envision, and to provide funding for the development of strategic projects.



SOME SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS





SOME SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Schools, Universities, and Think-tanks























Private Sector and Private Associations





















International Organizations





























2024 Projects



2024 IN NUMBERS

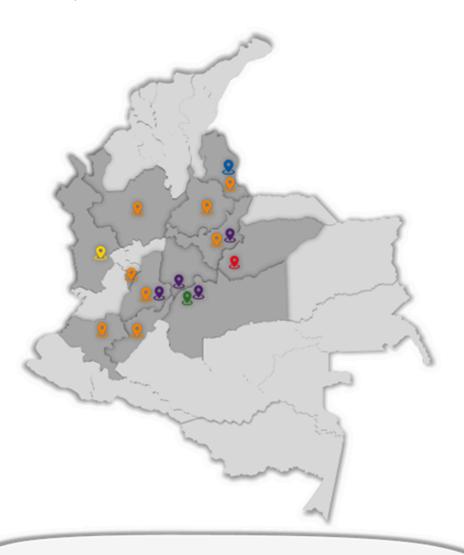






122 RURAL SCHOOLS

OUR FOOTPRINT



- Resignification of the Institutional Educational Project (IEP)
 Department of Meta (Acacias, Castilla La Nueva, El Castillo, Guamal)
- Support for the Rural Center for Research and Education CRIEET Department of Casanare (Tauramena)
- Department of Choco (Quibdo, Medio Atrato)
- Virtual Course in ENA Strategies
 Departments of Antioquia, Boyaca, Cauca, Huila, Norte de Santander,
 Quindio, Santander, and Tolima
- Decido mi Futuro (DMF) Program
 Departments of Boyaca, Cundinamarca, Tolima, and Meta
- Training Workshop on ENA Strategies
 Department of Norte de Santander (Cucuta)

RESIGNIFICATION OF THE PEI(*)

In 2024, we continued supporting seven targeted rural Educational Institutions in the department of Meta to reformulate and update their *Institutional Educational Projects* (*PEI*, for its name in Spanish) (*), based on an analysis of each school's context and needs.

The initiative aims to enhance institutional capacity at 55 rural schools across the municipalities of Acacias, Castilla La Nueva, El Castillo, and Guamal, promoting the PEI as an updated, living, and relevant document that can guide school dynamics and continuous improvement processes.

The project also includes aligning the activities with the technical support of the Departmental Secretariat of Education, ensuring institutional coherence and long-term sustainability.

(*) Guidelines for orientating teaching, research, and social engagement functions within the framework of the school's mission, vision, and values.

CP Before the intervention, we faced the challenge of updating our mission, the model, and pedagogical approach, as social and academic demands had changed over the years.

Corpoeducacion and FEN came to guide the update of the *PEI*, bringing their knowledge and experience. It positively contributed to a transformation in the school's educational processes.

Teacher Yolanda Rincon (Acacias - Meta)



TEACHERS

Together with school leadership teams and teachers, we initiated Phase 2 of the review of the *Institutional Strategic Framework* with updates to the schools' guidelines.

This stage incorporated actions aimed at strengthening the educational project and the enhancement of the pedagogical practices, framed within the principles of Formative Assessment as a tool to continuously improve teaching and learning processes.



- Corpoeducacion
- Ecopetrol S.A.
- Departmental Secretary of Education



Key activities executed:

- We delivered 98 workshops and collaborative sessions to redesign strategic planning documents, update the curricular framework, and enhance pedagogical practices. We also integrated strategies to ensure continuity of learning and evidence-informed methods that strengthen lesson planning and classroom management.
- Conducted 28 virtual technical support sessions with the teams from each Educational Institution.
- Support and development of the virtual meetings *Pedagogy Up to Date*, focused on curricular flexibility.
- Administered the project's Baseline Assessment in each school.

These actions enabled progress in developing more relevant, dynamic, and locally grounded *Institutional Educational Projects (PEI)*, while also generating valuable lessons that reinforce our commitment to improving the quality, relevance, and efficiency of education.

SUPPORT FOR THE CRIEET

Iln May, we established a collaboration agreement with GeoPark Colombia, a hydrocarbon exploration and production company, aimed at contributing to the improvement of education quality in seven rural CRIEET schools in the municipality of Tauramena (Casanare).

This initiative comprises teacher training, pedagogical support, and the provision of learning materials based on the Escuela Nueva Activa (ENA) model.

The agreement is designed to strengthen the pedagogical capacities of teachers and school leaders through strategies and tools from the ENA model, thereby fostering more active, participatory, and personalized classroom practices that transform learning environments and support the students' holistic development.

The project has improved relationships among teachers and students as well as between teachers and students.

We've also seen noticeable changes in the students as qualities such as leadership, teamwork, and cooperation begin to flourish. All this is due to the strategies implemented by teachers in their ongoing pedagogical work based on the training received through this partnership.

School Principal John F. Ruiz (Tauramena - Casanare)





Following the presentation of the project to departmental and local education authorities, we conducted the teacher profiling and data collection for the Baseline Assessment. This involved aministering three tailored instruments: two with students in grades 3 to 5 and one with teachers.

With this phase completed, we moved on to the core components of our intervention: teacher training, pedagogical support, and the provision of learning materials.





Key activities implemented:

- Aministered the Baseline
 Assessment through 91 student
 surveys and 12 teacher
 questionnaires, aimed at identifying
 starting points and specific needs.
- Conducted two in-person teacher training workshops focused on tools and strategies from the ENA model.
- Carried out 12 classroom observation visits to provide support and formative feedback to teachers.
- Provided 33 sets of ENA Learning Guides.
- Strengthened school microcenters by facilitating three sessions on reading comprehension skills.
- Carried out virtual support sessions for teachers.

These actions sought to strengthen pedagogical practices and provide teachers with the necessary support for the effective implementation of the ENA model in the classroom, promoting a more active, participatory, and student-centered education.

EDUCAPAZ

EDUCAPAZ is an alliance of seven civil society organizations working to contribute to peacebuilding in Colombia.

The initiative addresses two structural problems linked to the armed conflict: first, the normalization of violence in the culture, which calls for the formation of a new Generation of Peace through educational processes in citizenship, reconciliation, and socio-emotional development; and second, the lack of educational opportunities in rural territories historically affected by war, where illegal economies pose a constant threat to children and youth.

The driving force behind this coalition is the need for a more comprehensive and contextualized education that responds to the needs and realities of families and rural communities. MASTRO F. CHARLOS

33 STUDENTS



KEY EDUCATION



15 RURAL SCHOOLS

Among the transformations that have emerged since EDUCAPAZ arrived, the most significant has been the strengthening of my pedagogical practice.

Teacher Marisol Martinez - Medio Atrato (Choco)

EDUCAPAZ's purpose is to ensure that good practices in peace education (developed in schools, communities, and public policies) are scaled up across Colombia, especially in territories most affected by the armed conflict.

To achieve this, its efforts focus on strengthening the education system through territorial, national, and global partnerships that help amplify its impact and consolidate a culture of peace through education.



- Aulas en Paz Program
- Convivencia Productiva
- Foundation for Reconciliation
- Los Andes University
- Javeriana University of Cali
- CINEP
- Fe y Alegria Foundation
- Fundación Escuela Nueva (FEN)



In 2024, FEN's actions were concentrated in Choco, including initiatives such as:

Participation in the seminar
"Deepening Citizenship Education for
Reconciliation and Socio-emotional
Development - CRESE" and the event
"Mapping Pathways and Opening
Roads in Choco", which provided
opportunities to share successful
peacebuilding experiences.

Implementation of a deep-dive session on Ethnoeducation, Interculturality, and Educational Public Policy.

Support for the reformulation of Choco's Intercultural Ethnoeducational Public Policy through promotion and awareness-raising processes.

Strengthening pedagogical practices through *Project-Based Learning and Productive Pedagogical Projects*, designed to reinforce the territory's agricultural and cultural vocation.

These actions strengthened the capacity of education community stakeholders to plan classroom activities more effectively, and improving the school climate and the socio-emotional wellbeing of students.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM IN ENA STRATEGIES

In March, we launched the first cohort of the Virtual Professional Development Program on ENA Strategies with 15 rural primary school teachers. During this training process, we carried out the following activities:

- Weekly synchronous sessions that encouraged peer-to-peer exchange of experiences and learning.
- Ongoing, personalized pedagogical support provided by expert trainers.
- Three virtual microcenters focused on key ENA topics.

Grounded in a solid conceptual framework and practical tools for promoting effective pedagogical practice with ENA, the program enabled teachers to advance their professional development and strengthen their pedagogical work in terms of classroom organization, assessment, and planning.

Through the meetings, processes, and tasks, we realized that the range of possibilities offered by Escuela Nueva Activa goes far beyond the Learning Guides. The ENA model goes further.

During this training process, I felt very supported and was able to transform my pedagogical practice within the classroom.

Teacher Henry D. Uribe - Entrerrios (Antioquia)



DECIDO MI FUTURO (DMF) PROGRAM

In 2024, we developed educational materials for students in the *Decido mi Futuro Program*, an initiative through which Fundación Enlaza works to ensure that rural children in Colombia have access to *Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)*. By equipping students with knowledge and skills, the initiative seeks to reduce early pregnancy and sexual violence, contributing to safer and more informed rural communities over time.

FEN carried out the following activities:

- Writing and editing Learning Guides that integrate CSE content with classroom activities.
- Design and development of a virtual teacher training course, created to support the understanding and pedagogical use of the Learning Guides.

The Program provided teachers with tools to address *CSE* in a relevant and reflective way, aligned with the school curriculum, thereby promoting protective and transformative educational environments.

The result is a curriculum that can be implemented from 2nd to 5th grade, which complies with all international guidelines and Colombian laws. Most importantly, it ensures that Colombian boys and girls (...) understand that the power to shape their life project is in their hands.

Juana Oberlaender- Enlaza Foundation Director



DEPARTMENTS

ENA INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

With funding from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in mid-August, we launched an initiative to improve education quality at the Buena Esperanza Technical School in Cucuta (Norte de Santander).

The project included two key actions:

- An on-site introductory workshop on the Escuela Nueva Activa (ENA) model, where primary school teachers learned about its key elements and core curricular tool: the Learning Guides.
- The provision of 15 sets of ENA Learning Guides to support and strengthen teaching and learning processes in the classroom.

The training enabled teachers to become familiar with the use of ENA pedagogical materials and to understand their practical application in the classroom, fostering a more active, participatory, and personalized educational experience.

Through this initiative, we reaffirmed our commitment to inclusive and transformative education, and took another step toward expanding the ENA model as an effective response to the educational challenges faced by the country's most vulnerable communities.

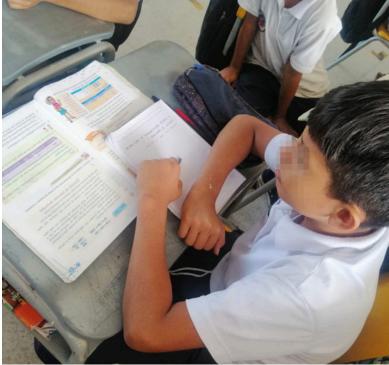


CUCUTA (NORTE

Research & Evaluation







WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE?

In 2024, our Monitoring and Evaluation team made significant progress in strengthening various tools and methodologies used to measure the impact and effectiveness of the Escuela Nueva Activa (ENA) model, reaffirming our commitment to rigorous research, educational innovation, and continuous improvement.

This year's key achievements include:







Adaptation, application, and psychometric analysis of the reliability of the scales in the socio-emotional learning assessment tool, with the addition of new dimensions on gender equality and growth mindset.

All the scales in this instrument demonstrated sufficient reliability (Cronbach's Alpha values close to or above 0.6).

The original instrument was reduced to 46 items.



As part of an ongoing project, the reading assessment tool Evaluar para Avanzar was applied for the first time with 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade students from the CRIEET school in Tauramena (Casanare – Colombia), to measure reading competencies.

The assessment evaluated literal, inferential, and critical reading comprehension skills.



Design of a teacher checklist to support the formative self-assessment of reading routines in the classroom. This tool aims to strengthen teaching practices by encouraging the implementation of activities that effectively and practically enhance students' literal, inferential, and critical reading skills.



Development of the training session "How do we assess in ENA?", designed for teachers participating in the Virtual Professional Development Program on ENA Strategies. The session emphasized formative assessment as a cornerstone of the pedagogical process.



Re-scoring of the EGMA (Early Grade Math Assessment) and EGRA (Early Grade Reading Assessment) results from the Ecopetrol Meta project was carried out using the evaluation criteria of the Aprendamos Todos a Leer (ATAL) program. This adaptation made it possible to identify progress in key aspects of reading development and to compare the results with national standards for assessing learning in reading and Mathematics.



Conducted a virtual microcenter focused on strengthening reading competencies in seven rural schools in Tauramena (Casanare).



Deployment of a student coding system and pre-completion of evaluation instruments, combined with a digital scanning process for answer sheets.

These measures optimized the collection, systematization, and analysis of data.

These achievements allow us to continue adapting our strategies to the particularities of each territory, ensuring contextualized evaluations that help us understand what is truly happening in the classroom.

Drawing on this evidence, we enhance the learning processes, adjust or reinforce our pedagogical strategies, and define realistic goals for the expected impact of each project.

Community Connections



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE - RENUEVA

Renueva, FEN's virtual campus, continues to establish itself as a key space for teachers' ongoing professional development and the construction of a strong community of practice.

Through this platform they connect, collaborate, and build networks that foster the exchange of ideas and experiences with colleagues from different regions of the country.

More than just a training platform, Renueva has become a meeting point where teachers access resources that support the understanding and implementation of the ENA model and enrich their pedagogical practice through peer dialogue and collaborative learning.

In this way, Renueva contributes to pedagogical transformation in the classroom and strengthens educators' professional growth and commitment to relevant, high-quality education.

Renueva provides spaces for dialogue and reflection. Through the forums, I can exchange ideas and concepts and learn from other colleagues, thus enriching my teaching practice. It is a tool that facilitates knowledge-sharing and teamwork.

Teacher Ana Moreno (Acacias - Meta)





VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM



In 2024, two volunteers joined our cause and contributed their time, enthusiasm, analysis, research, ideas, and proposals to FEN, significantly supporting the fulfillment of our mission.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE INPUT!



ANAHI RAMOS SILVA

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Public Policy Claremont McKenna College (CMC) During the volunteer experience, I enhanced my data analysis skills, improved my communication in Spanish, and developed a more critical perspective when interpreting information.

I also strengthened my ability to create tables and charts in Excel.

I learned how to conduct formal research. It was very nice to be able to interview Colombian teachers and learn from their experiences.

I appreciated the level of independence I had to carry out the agreed-upon activities.



CAROLINE ALBACETE

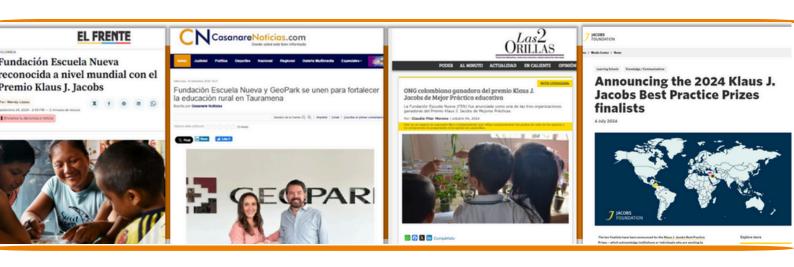
Summa cum laude from the Honors Program at Fordham University, with a major in French and History.

COMMUNICATIONS

















A Global Movement



PUBLICATIONS

CONTEXTO MEDIA



Who pays attention to best practices when it comes to improving the quality of education in Colombia? (In Spanish)

Eduardo Vélez Bustillo

COLLABORATIVE CHANGEMAKING LABS

<u>It's What You Set in Motion. A Toolbox for Collaborative</u>
<u>Changemaking</u>

Greg Van Kirk

INNOVATION FOR CHANGE



Educational Innovation: talking with Vicky Colbert (in Spanish)

Juan Pablo Catalan's Podcast.

LEAMOS PUBLISHING HOUSE



#InnovateHers (Spanish edition)

Barbara Koushan y Kathy Harley.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS

In April, we accompanied an international delegation -attending the *Together 2024* event- on a visit to Gimnasio Santander School in Tunja (Boyaca).

Eight leaders and philanthropists -members of the *International Education Funders Group (IEFG)*- had the opportunity to witness firsthand the active, participatory, and collaborative learning approach of the Escuela Activa Urbana (EAU). In addition to touring some elementary and secondary classrooms, the group engaged in open dialogue with teachers, students, and parents.

Together 2024 sought to explore innovative experiences addressing educational transitions, fostering change in education, and helping students adapt to new roles and environments while developing their full potential.

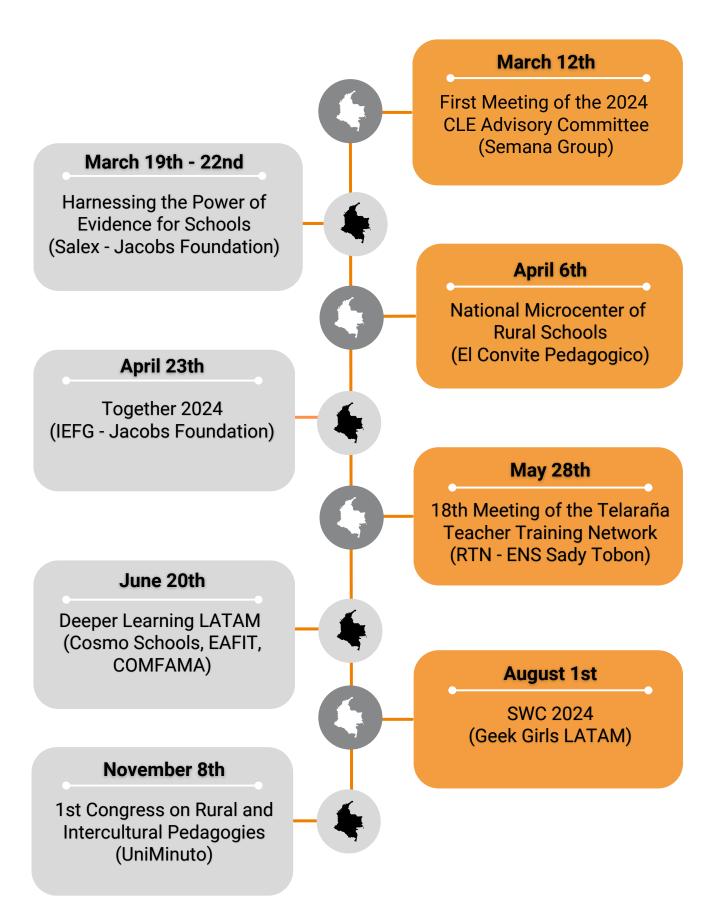






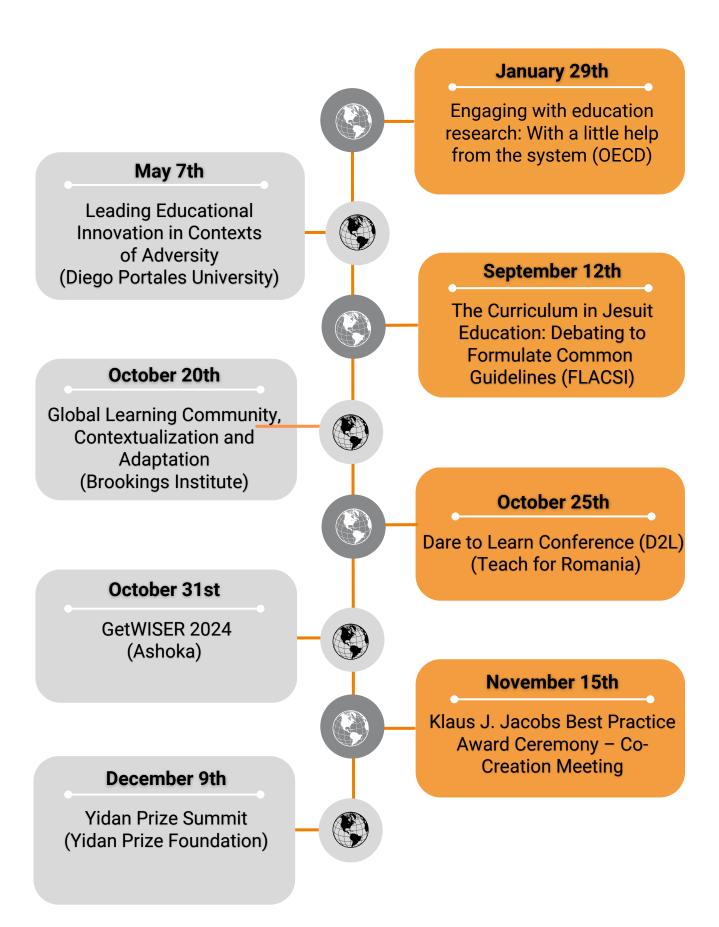


NATIONAL EVENTS PARTICIPATION (*)



(*) Invited to participate as panelists or keynote speakers

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS PARTICIPATION (*)



(*) Invited to participate as panelists or keynote speakers

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

KLAUS J. JACOBS BEST PRACTICE PRIZE

In November, FEN received this prestigious biennial award, granted by the Jacobs Foundation of Switzerland, which recognizes non-governmental organizations, companies, and/or social enterprises that have achieved outstanding accomplishments through innovative educational solutions supported by rigorous evidence.

The selection process included a thorough evaluation based on criteria such as impact, effectiveness, sustainability, and the quality of scientific evidence. After a careful review, the jury shortlisted 10 finalist organizations, and selected three winners.

Alongside FEN, Imagine Worldwide, which operates in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Laboratório de Educação (LABEDU), based in Brazil, were also honored.

This award reaffirms our commitment to promoting research and rigorously evaluating the impact of the Escuela Nueva Activa (ENA) model. It also reflects the positive effect our work has had on the lives of thousands of children and young people through a new educational paradigm based on cooperative, personalized, and participatory learning.

More information here.



We are humbled and thrilled with this remarkable recognition! Receiving this prize renews our commitment towards effectiveness and equity in education and gives us hope for greater things to come for many children.

Vicky Colbert

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

HUNDRED HALL OF FAME



The *Hall of Fame* recognizes educational innovations that have demonstrated sustained growth in impact and scalability year after year. Over time, these organizations have shown evidence of their ability to respond to the current needs of education.

HundrED's Team

Also in November, the Finnish non-profit organization HundrED -once again-recognized FEN as one of the 12 most innovative, impactful, and scalable educational projects worldwide.

The distinction was announced during the launch ceremony of HundrED's Global Collection 2025. The Hall of Fame category, created in 2021, was maintained to highlight social innovations that have consistently provided solutions that effectively address global educational needs.

FEN remains the only organization in
Latin America to receive this
recognition, which serves as renewed
motivation to improve the lives of
children and young people in Colombia
and the world through quality
education. This honor also reinforces
our commitment to promoting a change
in educational practices through a
cooperative, personalized, and
student-centered model.

Learn more about the 2025 Global Collection and its *Hall of Fame* here.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

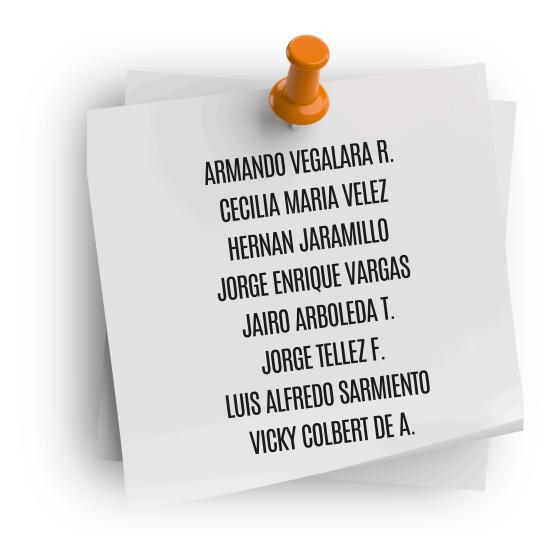


PHOTO CREDITS & LOCATIONS

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