



**wace**  
advancing cooperative &  
work-integrated education

Annual Report

June 30, 2021 – July 1, 2022

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## **Introduction**

For quite a few years, and increasingly during the COVID years, - we have seen around the world a growing appreciation for WIL and other forms of experiential learning integrated into the formal educational curricula. WACE has been at the forefront of this development, advocating tirelessly for the benefits of WIL, pointing out the value of WIL for the personal development of young people and the importance for employability in both short and long term.

The mission of WACE is truly global, executed through collecting evidence (research), sharing best practice, creating partnerships, and overall promoting the significance of WIL. At the same time over the decades and even more so in recent years, we have been working closely with national and regional associations which have the same or similar missions and through so-called WACE satellite offices around the world.

As Co-Chairmen of WACE, we are proud of these achievements and encouraged by these positive global trends. We are particularly pleased with how WACE as an organisation has managed to transform itself in a strong membership association, supported by significant volunteering. Without the commitment of the Vice Presidents, the support of the WACE executive team, the engagement of a broad membership and the various national organisations, WACE would not have been able to transform itself so successfully. We want to express our appreciation for that. And last but not least, we want to express our gratitude to the University of Waterloo in Canada for its active support and hosting the WACE secretariat.

It is truly encouraging to see how WIL is taking a prominent place in the world of higher education and we are happy to note how important the work of WACE is in this transformation.

WACE Executive Committee Co-Chairs: Prof Maurits Van Roojen & Dr Sampan Silapanad

## **WACE Strategic Operations**

The past year has been focused on strengthening the administrative infrastructure for the WACE Secretariat at the University of Waterloo. This has resulted in contracting with Redstone Agency, a Canadian based administration agency to provide communications, membership and financial services support. This administrative support has been crucial as we expand our membership base, continue to deliver programs and communicate with our members. With the departure of four Executive Committee members, whose terms were completed, we introduced an e-voting system for our first executive election process. Furthermore, this year will be our first financial audit under Canadian regulations.

Vice Chair Strategic Operations: Dr Norah McRae

## **WACE Finance Report**

It is with great pleasure that we can report yet another year of financial success for WACE. Our first ever Canadian audit process has been a healthy exercise and we are very grateful for the diligence of the audit team. Bottom line, we have had another year of profit and are building back our financial resources for further program and service delivery for our members. Our finances will now be handled by Redstone Agency and we look forward to ongoing support in financial management from that team and our new incoming treasurer.

## **WACE Programs & Partnerships**

The network of WACE member National and regional WIL Associations has continued to expand with THENSA ( South Africa ), ETDP ( South Africa ) and Dual Studieren ( Austria ) joining during the reporting period. Representatives from these associations continue to provide strategic advice to WACE through their representation on the Global Strategy Council and the WACE National Associations Committee. Regular updates are provided to WACE members through the quarterly newsletters.

The process of consolidating WACE regional offices has continued with MOUs signed with SASCE for Africa and one for Thailand in development. Planning for the 2022 International Research Symposium at Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Japan continued during this period under the leadership of Keiko Miyakawa from the Japan Regional Office with Rikichi Izumiya from Kanazawa Institute of Technology. The partnership with the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group continued with involvement by WACE members on panels on two global webinars on Employability and joint promotion activities.

[Global Challenge](#), is a WACE program in partnership with [Practera](#), an educational technology company. In the program global student teams undertake online projects to help business, government and community organisations identify practical 'Shared Value' initiatives to create social, environmental and economic value linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The program has grown substantially with 4 programs delivered to 390 students from 29 universities over this period. Several participating universities have subsequently become WACE members. Outcomes for students and client organisations remain consistently strong. Many presentations on Global Challenge were delivered to conferences over this period. Support from members of the WACE community by facilitating sessions for the program has been pivotal to its ongoing success.

WACE is pleased to announce that we have accepted a proposal to extend our partnership with the leaders of the Global WIL modules program <https://globalwil.org/>. This program offers professional development for WIL practitioners. The extended partnership will allow for WACE certification of completion of these modules and provide support for the administration of these

modules through our WACE secretariat office. In 2023, a capstone offering will be delivered rounding out the full set of modules available for completion.

Vice Chair Programs and Partnerships: Judie Kay

### **WACE Global Charter for CWIE**

The focus of the past year has been on ensuring financial stability and sustainable growth of existing WACE programming. To that end the Global Challenge (GC) has been the appropriate priority with respect to programs development. As the Charter initiatives were grounded in the UNSDGs, and the Global Challenge projects are as well, the GC program growth has nicely contributed to the development of new global opportunities for student engagement. Though these remote, international Challenge team opportunities are quite different from the development of the new f2f opportunities first conceptualized in the Charter, they nevertheless exemplify the pivot work WACE has done as a result of the pandemic while still aligning nicely with Charter goals.

The launch of the Global Strategy Council earlier this year also marked the start of a new governance body that has already explored several ideas and directions for WACE which will also further some of the Charter Calls to Action. It is my sincere hope that this group, along with others, undertakes some important Charter identified work in the areas of Quality Assurance and Intercultural/Diversity/Inclusion work. Both these areas remain important for WACE and are extremely relevant for the inclusive development of CWIE models.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the inaugural VC Charter Chair and to be leaving the Charter itself as a compass for future direction setting for current and new CWIE professional and scholars wishing to continue to contribute to the growth of this model of education worldwide.

Vice Chair WACE Global Charter, Dr Nancy Johnson

### **International Research Committee**

The International Research Committee, in collaboration with the team at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology in Japan, delivered the most highly attended International Research Symposium in the history of WACE. Despite having to move the conference to a virtual event for out-of-country participants, we had strong engagement from the many presenters, speakers and delegates. Furthermore, the IRC developed a conference proceedings publication for this event. In 2023 we look forward to seeing the 3rd Edition of the International Handbook for WIL which is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work of many members of the IRC, working towards yet another first rate publication that will benefit the global WIL community for years to come.

## **WACE Japan Office**

Throughout FY2022, Japan Forum for Work Integrated Learning (NPO WIL), as WACE Japan Office, collaborated with the WACE Secretariat in planning and organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> WACE International Symposium, which was held on Aug. 31-Sept.2, 2022 in Kanazawa, Japan, hosted by Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT).

The WACE IRS held for the first time in Japan provided great opportunity for universities and corporations to be exposed to the latest global research on CWIE and had a significant impact on the future growth and development of CWIE in Japan and globally.

Starting in March 2021, IRS preparatory meetings were held monthly to prepare for an in-person event in Kanazawa, but due to restrictions on entry into Japan for the Corona expansion, the IRS2022 was conducted online for overseas participants and hybrid for Japanese.

It attracted the highest number of participants ever at an IRS conference, a total of 286 delegates attended the conference, 178 online and 106 in-person. Delegates represented 79 institutions across a network of 15 countries. 22 companies were represented at the conference, with 40 industry delegates.

There were 52 papers/posters presented on the Hopin platform, with simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation provided. The presentations were substantial, reflecting the diverse development status of CWIE.

The three-day IRS program was highly commended. The WACE Global showcase, a Japan program organized by KIT that included case studies of Japanese companies' coops, and networking sessions that featured a lively global discussion.

Despite the challenging environment to hold IRS event, the main factors that contributed to the success of IRS2022 can be summarized as follows.

- Leadership, and the professionalism and hard work of WACE IRS organising team, WACE research group and UW team.
- The high level of commitment, effort, and support from within KIT around the hosting of the IRS.
- The collaborative structure of WACE and National Associations and their members for the global development of CWIE. The contribution and cooperation of members as presenters, moderators, and reviewers of papers for the three-day program was essential for the successful implementation of the IRS conference.

We report on the results of IRS 2022 for the future development of CWIE in the Japan region, as well as some of the other activities conducted by WACE Japan and beyond 2022.

- The hosting of the IRS has had a strong impact on KIT at the levels of the institution and has served to positively showcase KIT as the first Japanese Cooperative Education/WIL program.

- Continue to support KIT and other universities deepen its relationship with WACE and WACE members to develop high quality CWIE programs.
- The success of IRS 2022 further demonstrated that WACE is the only global organization in both research and practice of CWIE. It also demonstrated the importance of national associations in WACE.
  - WACE Japan will strengthen its relationship building with Japanese universities, companies, and CWIE-related organizations in order to increase Japanese participation in WACE events.
  - Launched new Japanese-language website this summer to introduce WACE's new organization and its services to increase Japanese members.

WACE Japan Office: Keiko Miyakawa

## **WACE Europe Office**

### **Center for Activity Theory- University West**

Activity theory - with its focus on social dynamics within and across scenes of collective labor - has often been applied in studies of WIL. This work has taken place globally, and WIL researchers who use activity theory across the globe need a way to network with each other so they can continue developing activity theory to best address scenes of work.

With the grand opening of the **Center for Activity Theory at the University West** this need for global hub will be fulfilled. The center will host events and disseminate publications applying activity theory to WIL, strengthening the global research community. The launch of the Center was online on the **13th of August 2021**. The webpage is to be found here: <https://www.hv.se/en/research/research-environments/learning-in-and-for-the-new-working-life/centre-for-activity-theory/>

### **VILAR Conference 2021**

The annual conference was a success, the conference participants were researchers, practitioners, politicians etc. The conference were only online and key-notes were Norah McRae and Henri Jacobs.

### **LEARNING IN AND FOR THE NEW WORKING LIFE (LINA), UNIVERSITY WEST**

The research environment has during the year invited the global WIL community to webinars, during this the 21 webinars was given with very different themes, such as “Work-integrated education: Contributions to workplace innovation”, Running formative interventions online: sharing experiences from an international research community of activity theorists”, “AR, VR and AI - something for the future education?”.

WACE Europe Office: Gunnar Peterson, University West