



ENGINEERING WITHOUT BORDERS ARGENTINA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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About us

Engineering Without Borders Argentina (EWB-Ar) is an interdisciplinary non-profit civil association, which intends to work in favor of the development of vulnerable communities by means of engineering projects.

EWB-Ar is a novel area in the field of engineering in Argentina, suggesting that the knowledge of engineers as well as of other professionals and workers should assemble one another in order to bring development and generation of capacities closer to the most vulnerable communities of the country.

There are socio-technical issues in Argentina that EWB-Ar would like to address together with the government and other civil society organizations, developing new skills and interests in the students and professionals; and also promoting interest in working on social projects and technological innovation.

The organization was created in March, 2012, as a result of the merger of three groups of people who wanted to undertake an initiative of this kind in Argentina. In mid-2015, EWB-Ar has 160 active volunteers, 10 completed projects, and 14 projects in execution in 5 cities of the country.

What do we do?

- In coordination with organizations, institutions, universities, and companies, we make engineering projects that promote community development in vulnerable situations.
- We share our vision and experiences by means of training courses and activities that systematize field-based learning.

Our Mission

Our mission is to collaborate in the construction of a fair, inclusive, and supportive society through the participative elaboration of comprehensive projects rooted in technology; to promote engineering-oriented goals towards sustainable human development, fulfillment of Human Rights, stewardship of nature, and empowerment of vulnerable populations; to promote a place that integrates diversity and mobilizes citizen participation.

Areas of work



EWB-Ar projects help community development processes while focusing on the following areas:





Our philosophy

At EWB-Ar, we approach problems from a **socio-technical perspective**, which consists in understanding technology and engineering as an integrated part of socio-economic, cultural, and environmental aspects.

With our different projects, we seek to strengthen the **exploitation of local resources and knowledge**, in order to ensure **the sustainability** of our intervention over time.

Community development requires alliances and networks to work in a long-term relationship; hence we call the State, universities and organizations of civil society to work together.

We promote **collaborative work** with communities throughout the different stages of a project: diagnosis, design, budget, planning, funding, execution, and monitoring.

We celebrate **diversity** and encourage **interdisciplinarity**, because we believe that when contributions come from many different perspectives, they come with a wider and more comprehensive vision.

We also promote **participatory management**, because we are convinced that everybody can contribute to the cause, and we conceive volunteer work as a **formative experience**.

Work Teams



The Board

President: Adán Levy, Eng.

Vice President: Jorge Fontán Balestra, Eng.

Secretary: Alejandra Portatadino, Eng.

Treasurer: Roque Marfil, Eng.

Regular Board Members: Joaquín Fernández Bugna, Eng., Guillermo Poltarak, Eng., Gaspar Oyuela.

Alternate Board Members: Mariano Cerrella, GD., Natalia Zlachevsky, BA., Iara Culla Bonzini, BA.

Supervisory Commission: Estela Cammarota, Eng., Lucas Herrero, Eng., Agustín Lohigorry, MA.

Our Achievements

BEFORE AND AFTER Community Hall Ramón Carrillo



BEFORE AND AFTER First Bridge in Colonia Dora



BEFORE AND AFTER Metal workshop in La Cárcova

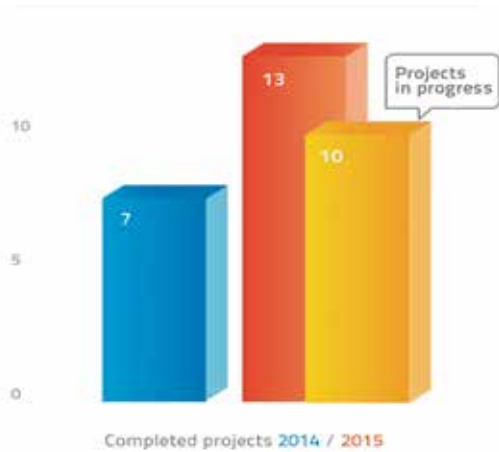




EWB-Ar 2015

EWB-Ar 2015 in Numbers

Completed Projects



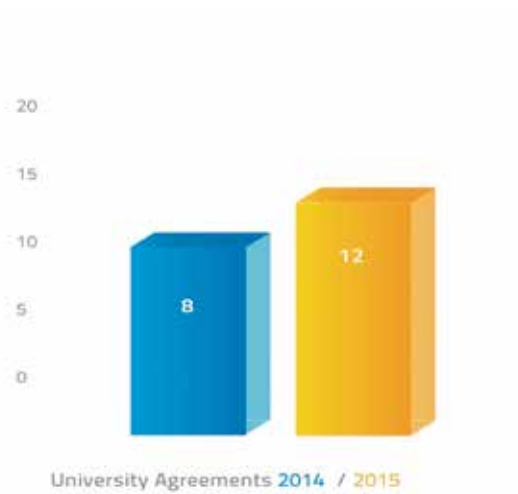
Active Volunteers



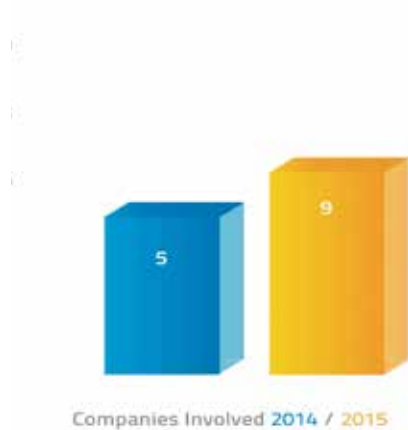
Number of provinces covered



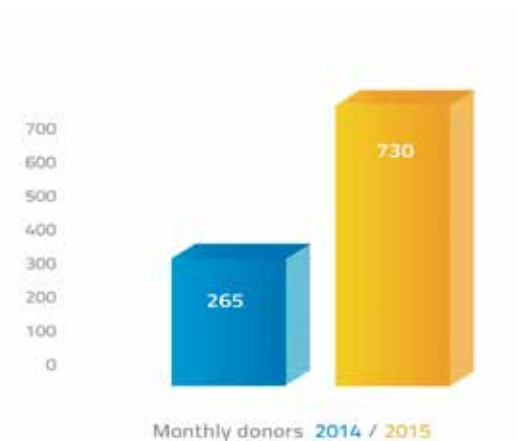
University Agreements



Companies Involved



Monthly Donors





Completed Projects during 2015

During the last twelve months we were able to finish projects, of which we are very proud. Each of them, from the execution of an infrastructure project to the creation of technical documentation, represents significant learning opportunities for the organization. In addition, the projects have promoted the formation of partnerships with institutions and organizations, and the consolidation of project teams that will allow EWB-Ar to continue growing.

Second Bridge in Colonia Dora



Second Bridge in Colonia Dora Completed

We built the second bridge for the community of Puente Negro, in which 500 people were isolated. The poor conditions of roads and bridges in rural landscapes made it difficult to have access to goods supply, water provision by tank truck, commercial transportation of the surplus agricultural production of subsistence economies, the passage of ambulances, road machinery, school, and it was also difficult to get to urban centers.

Provision of hot water in Farm School



Water heating system in EFA Avellaneda farm school

We built a system to provide the students from the EFA Avellaneda farm school in Colonia Dora with hot water. The goal was to create a safer environment by optimizing the use of resources. This school operates under an alternating system where rural students live in the establishment for two weeks and then return home to implement what they have learned during that time. The system involved students in different stages representing an educational experience.

A Water and Energy in a rural community.

First Stage:
El Negrito
Community



Building of water tanks and collection surface areas with the community

El Negrito community is geographically isolated and does not have overhead power lines. The inhabitants drink rainwater that they harvest from their ceilings and store in wells, however, in dry seasons, they have to resort to other sources of water which are not safe for human consumption. We completed the first stage in which rainwater collection and storage systems were designed and built, ensuring twenty liters of safe drinking water per day per person for the entire community throughout the year.

Restoration of a Community Meal Center

La Cárcova Neighborhood,
San Martín
District



"Los alegres pichoncitos", the Community Meal Center

We repaired the roof and the electrical system of the community meal center "Los Alegres Pichoncitos" in La Cárcova neighborhood where 160 children eat every day. The building structure conditions as well as the electric installation showed a deterioration that threatened the participants of the space.

Electrical Safety Workshop

Villa 20, Lugano



Workshop on electric safety at "Los Patitos" feeding center

The workshop gives basic technical concepts as well as educational materials to the neighbors and includes in its final stages practical activities at the attendants' houses. This initiative was developed due to the extreme precarious situation of the electric systems of the Villa 20 houses, which exposed the families inhabiting them to great risks.

Restoration of a Sports Field

Villa 20, Lugano



Restoration of a Sports Field in Villa 20

We repaired a sports area for the promotion of social inclusion where young people and adults gather to take part in different activities.

Courses

Strategic Management of Social Projects: Towards Sustainable Development

● Postgraduate Course

**Buenos Aires Regional Faculty,
Technological National University**

Second edition: May- September 2015

Graduates: 17

Academic Director:

Estela Cammarota, Eng



Class of 2015

Energy and Sustainable Development: Tools for Practicing

● Certificate of Advanced Study

**National University of La Matanza
(UNLaM)**

First Edition: June - October 2015

Graduates: 18

Academic Director:

Agustín Lohigorry, MA.



Class of 2015

Milestones of the Year

A Close Liaison with EWB-Switzerland

This relationship has allowed us to advance on the construction of two classrooms for the school EFA-Avellaneda: ten Swiss volunteers traveled in order to work for a month in Santiago del Estero and also the organization contributed to the financing of the project. Currently this collaboration is strengthened by working together in the design and fund-raising of the extension for a kindergarten in Quilmes district, Buenos Aires province.

Swiss volunteers traveled in order to work for a month in Santiago del Estero



Volunteers of EWB- Switzerland

We won the People's Choice Award!

We won the People's Choice Award on the Stephan Schmidheiny Innovation for Sustainability Awards. We received votes from more than thirty countries all over the world; such as Paraguay, Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, and Canada. Athletes Manu Ginóbili and Juan M. Hernandez, as well as journalists Reynaldo Sietecase,

María Julia Oliván, and Nicolás Artusi helped us spread the campaign



We received votes from more than thirty countries

An Australian without Borders

Louis Clarke, a 21-year-old Australian, lived in Colonia Dora as an EWB-Ar volunteer. He helped with the construction of the second bridge, working side by side with the neighbors and fully integrated to the "Santiagoño" rhythm. Upon returning to Perth, Louis created a bond between EWB-Australia and EWB-Argentina. In Santiago they still miss him and remember him. In Louis words: "Engineering projects are much more than just design and construction."



Louis Clark

"Engineering projects are much more than just design and construction"

Estelita Cammarota in TEDxLagunaSetúbal

In October, Estela Cammarota, founding member of EWB-Ar, gave a speech in TEDxLagunaSetúbal in the city of Santa Fe. In such event, she shared her journey from her studying of industrial engineering, her working in the Devoto prison and her gathering with Engineers Without Borders: the place she "has been walking towards all her life".



Estela Cammarota



Looking Forward

Projects in Progress

Building of Classrooms in Farming School

● Colonia Dora

The EFA-Avellaneda school provides access to secondary education and it is aimed at improving the sustainability capacity of the economic resources of those families who live in the area. We are finishing the construction of classrooms, which will allow the educational offer to increase by 60%, and will include more young people from rural areas. This construction was built along with volunteers from EWB-Switzerland, teachers, parents, and school's students.



News Classrooms in EFA Avellaneda



Water and Energy in a Rural Community: Second Stage

● El Negrito Community



El Negrito, Santiago del Estero

After having completed the first stage of the project, we are on the search for funding. On the second stage, we seek to ensure thirty liters of water per person per day for personal hygiene and cleaning, as well as for improving quality and quantity of water sources for animals.

Extension of a Kindergarten

● Villa La Florida, Quilmes District

We are currently working every week on the extension of the No. 3 Kindergarten with the aim of improving the conditions of the children who attend and thus increasing the educational offer in an area of social vulnerability. We ended the year with the foundations and metal work done. In 2016 we will continue with the openings, installations, and finish work to complete the project.



Volunteers working in La Florida Kindergarten

Construction of a Nursery

● La Cárcova Neighborhood, San Martín District

We will work on the building of a nursery in La Cárcova neighborhood with a construction method based on industrial unused materials. The project aims at creating a space which provides support for children thus helping mothers who cannot get formal jobs partly due to the lack of places of this kind.



Nursery Center View

The project aims at creating a space which provides support for children

The Virtual School of EWB-Ar

The central focus of our mission is to share the perspective and the experience of EWB-Ar. We want people from all over the country and the region to have access to our courses; that is why we are developing the Virtual School of EWB-Ar. We will be launching the platform at the beginning of 2016. This project was made possible thanks to the ALCOA [Aluminum Company of America] award we were granted this year as part of a competition organized by EWB International.

This project was
made possible thanks
to the ALCOA



Management System Development

We are developing an online management system for social organizations that will allow us to manage projects, volunteers, and materials. This system is meant to encourage inner participation, to democratize information, and to efficiently manage different aspects of this kind of organizations.





Future Expectations

EWB-Ar is an organization that seeks to accompany local development processes connecting specific needs with volunteers, resources and solutions, in coordination with the State and different people from the civil society in Argentina.

The aim for 2016 is to increase the coordinators team and to consolidate the territorial work in the different communities. At the same time, the organization seeks to improve the processes and mechanisms for the incorporation of new projects and the treatment of demands.

As an organization, EWB-Ar aims at being sustainable over time, which implies the need to incorporate the necessary number of employees to develop, with seriousness and commitment, the different responsibilities that arise from a continuously growing organization.

In the future, we aim at placing the organization as a referent in community development engineering and influencing the training of students of engineering and other related fields. For this reason, the training and impact area will be a crosscutting priority working inside and outside in the circulation of different kinds of knowledge.



Our Collaborators

Professional Councils

Professional Council of Civil Engineering – CABA – (CPIC)

Professional Council of Industrial Engineering – CABA – (CPII)

Professional Council of Architecture and Urbanism – CABA – (CPAU)

Universities

National Technological University – Buenos Aires Regional Faculty (UTN – FRBA)

National Technological University – Haedo Regional Faculty (UTN – FRH)

National Technological University – Rio Grande Regional Faculty (UTN – FRRG)

National University of La Matanza (UNLaM)

National University of Santiago del Estero (UNSE)

National University of Jujuy (UNJu)

Buenos Aires Institute of Technology (ITBA)

Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA)

Catholic University of Salta (UCASAL)

San Juan Bosco National University of Patagonia (UNP)

Pepperdine University

21st Century University

Civil Society Organizations

IngOG+

Responde Non-profit Association

Colectando Sol [Collecting Sun]

TISA Network

CEDA

Companies

Adimra – Car transfer to the construction sites for volunteers

Din S.A. - Supply of storage space for building materials

Cablevisión - Contribution to projects

Fibertel - Internet connection

Flecha Bus – Bus discounts

IBM - Contribution to projects

Jg Electricidad – Technical support and donation of electric materials

Marsh – Volunteers insurance

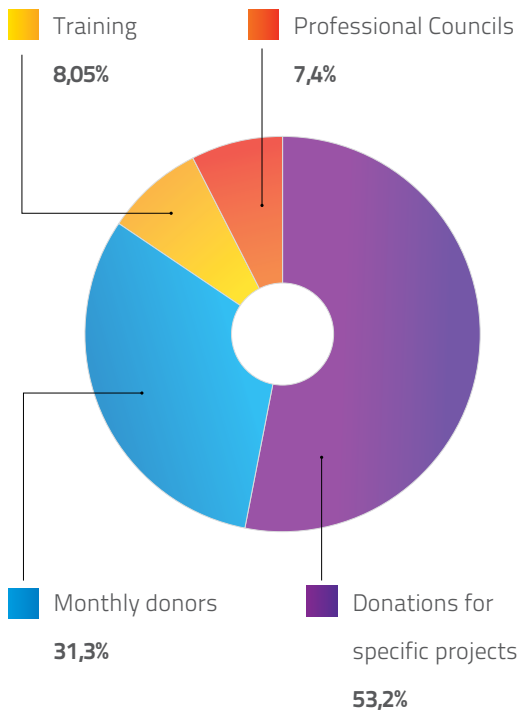
MRM – Broadcasting and Media

Pentaka S.A – Donation of construction profiles

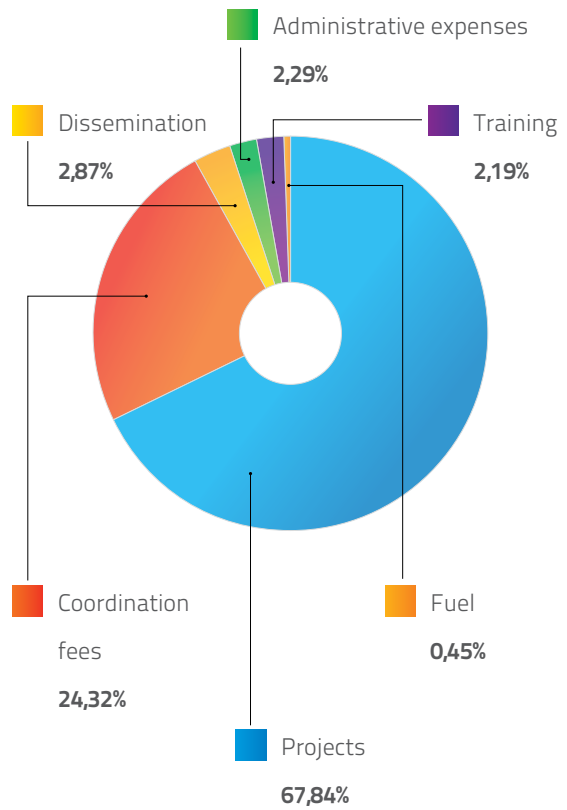


Financial Report

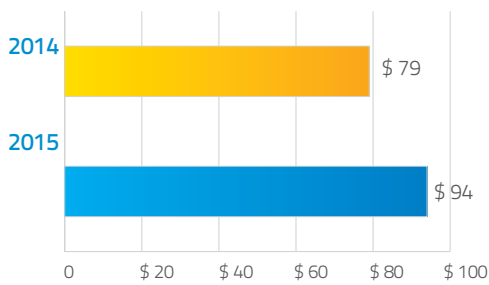
Income



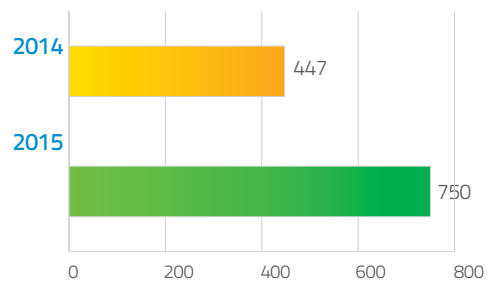
Costs

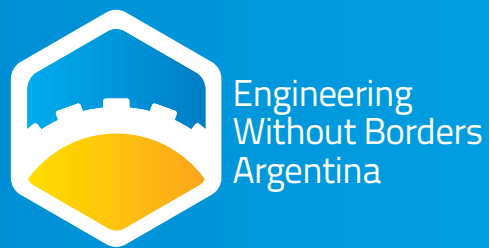


Average amount of monthly donation



Number of monthly donors at the end of the year





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