



**Dieter Imboden – Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF**

Since 2005, Prof. Dieter Imboden is President of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the major Swiss funding agency for basic research. Dieter Imboden has been Professor of Environmental Physics in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the ETH Zurich since 1988. The focus of his work shifted more and more from scientific research to research policy to which he has been actively contributing since 2000. Since January 2009, Dieter Imboden is also President of the association of the European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCs). EUROHORCs formulated together with ESF a roadmap that includes the way towards a European Grant Union through initiatives like the Lead Agency Procedure.



**Georg Bechtold – German Research Foundation DFG**

Dr.-Ing. Georg Bechtold is programme manager in DFG's department for Chemistry and Process engineering. Apart from being responsible for the administration of proposals in the field of polymer science, he is member of DFG's ERA Chemistry team and heads the secretariat of ERA Chemistry's Open Initiative. He is contact point of DFG's International Affairs office for questions relating to proposal processing. Dr. Bechtold is particularly interested in bottom-up components of the ERA and in development of bi- or multilateral programmes with researcher-initiated projects. He obtained his PhD in mechanical engineering in 2000 and joined DFG after a postdoctoral research stay in 2003.



**Anneli Pauli – DG Research, European Commission**

Since 2008, Dr. Anneli Pauli is Deputy Director-General for DG Research responsible for the development of the European Research Area (ERA). Before joining the Commission as Deputy Director-General at the Joint Research Centre, Dr. Pauli was Vice-President of the Academy of Finland (2001-2007) in charge of science policy, research funding and international cooperation. Previously, she had worked, among other things, as Secretary General of the Research Council for Environment and Natural Resources in the Academy of Finland, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of the Finnish Centre of Excellence Programmes. Currently, Dr. Pauli is Chair of Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) of the EU. She has been member of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and involved in ERA-NET projects. She has also worked in numerous international, European and national committees dealing with science and technology policy. She obtained her PhD at the University of Helsinki.



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Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

**SwissCore  
and  
the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union**

kindly invite you to a

Science Briefing

on

**Realizing the ERA bottom up:  
the Lead Agency Procedure as a cornerstone  
of a European Grant Union**

with

**Dieter Imboden**

President of the Research Council,  
Swiss National Science Foundation  
and President of EUROHORCs

**Georg Bechtold**

Programme Manager, German Research Foundation – DFG

and

**Anneli Pauli**

Deputy Director-General, DG Research, European Commission

Monday, 26 October 2009, 12:00 – 14:30

Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels

The **European Research Area** has seen a rapid development with the five initiatives launched by the European Commission in 2008. The aim of ERA initiatives such as Joint Programming or the Researchers Partnership is to establish by 2020 “the fifth freedom”, the EU-wide circulation of knowledge, researchers and technology without borders and obstacles.

National initiatives also contribute to the creation of the ERA. The concept of the **Lead Agency Procedure** has been developed between German, Austrian and Swiss research organisations (DFG, FWF and SNSF) in order to simplify the evaluation process of bi- or trilateral projects. This trust-based procedure ensures mutual recognition of the evaluation process operated by the Lead Agency institution, while each partner is funded by its own national organisation.

**Prof. Dieter Imboden**, President of the Research Council of the SNSF and President of EUROHORCs, will present the concept and objectives of the Lead Agency Procedure, the first experiences with its realisation as well as possible developments of the scheme towards a “European Grant Union”.

Since 2009, scientists from D-A-CH countries (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) are able to submit proposals under the new evaluation and funding rules. **Dr. Georg Bechtold**, programme manager at the DFG, will focus his presentation on the practical aspects of the Lead Agency process, including some of the unforeseen pitfalls and solutions to overcome them.

This new type of bottom-up collaboration at transnational level will be commented by **Dr. Anneli Pauli**, Deputy Director-General for Research, in the light of the implementation of the ERA initiatives and the further construction of the ERA.

The **panel discussion** following the presentations will allow the public to enter into the debate on new instruments of cooperation and on the principle of subsidiarity in the ongoing construction of the ERA (top-down, bottom-up or a combination of both).

## Programme

Monday, 26 October 2009, 12:00 – 14:30

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| 12:00 | Sandwich lunch   |
| 12:30 | <b>Welcome and introduction</b><br>Balz Abplanalp<br>Science Counsellor, Mission of Switzerland to the EU  |
| 12:40 | <b>The Lead Agency Procedure: concept and targets on the way towards a European Grant Union</b><br>Dieter Imboden<br>President of the Research Council,<br>Swiss National Science Foundation |
| 13:00 | <b>Implementation of the Lead Agency Procedure</b><br>Georg Bechtold<br>Programme Manager,<br>German Research Foundation – DFG   |
| 13:20 | <b>Developing the European Research Area: What can the EU gain from the D-A-CH experience?</b><br>Anneli Pauli,<br>Deputy Director-General, DG Research,<br>European Commission              |
| 13:40 | <b>Panel discussion</b><br>moderated by Maryline Maillard<br>Head of Office, SwissCore   |
| 14:30 | Coffee   |

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