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SwissCore

Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Swiss Science Briefing 2019

Switzerland, Europe and Beyond: Global SDGs and the Science Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

28 February 2019 – 17:30-19:00

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

Place du Luxembourg 1

1050 Brussels

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Event Summary

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership.

The current strategy of the European Union puts SDGs at its centre. In his "State of the Union" speech on 12 September 2018, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker announced the "Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs". Sustainable development is also a focus in the framework programmes for research and innovation of the European Union. The current [Horizon 2020 programme](#) mentions it as a cross-cutting issue of particular attention and the focus on sustainable development will further increase in the upcoming framework programme [Horizon Europe](#), due to start in 2021. The second of the three pillars of the programme titled "Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness" aligns thematic clusters with Union and global policy priorities explicitly mentioning the SDGs.

Several European University Alliances including CESAER, LERU and the Guild, as well as the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities ALLEA, have announced their own actions to advance SDGs. They believe they can contribute to implementing SDGs with their disciplinary fields and through cooperation with peers in developing countries. In this context, this Swiss Science Briefing aims at highlighting how science can contribute not only to the technical aspects of development, but also in a broader sense to investigating the socio-cultural side effects. How are science and science institutions interacting with society to enable fact-based decisions in a knowledge-based society? Our event will elaborate on these questions and propose ways on how science institutions in Switzerland and all over Europe can work with the European Commission in order to achieve SDGs.

Event Agenda

From 17:00	**Registration**
17:30	Welcome
	Urs Bucher,
	Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU
17:40	Keynote: "Swiss science between European and global challenges"
	Antonio Loprieno,
	President, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
	President, European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA)
18:10	Panel discussion with responses from
	David Bohmert,
	Secretary General, Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)
	Adam Tyson,
	Head of Unit North America, Latin America and Caribbean, Directorate C – International Cooperation, European Commission
	Moderated by: Rahel Byland, SwissCore
19:00	Networking Apéro

Speakers

Antonio Loprieno, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, of the Federation of European Academies (ALLEA), and of the Austrian Science Council

Antonio Loprieno (1955) is an Egyptologist specialized in Egyptian and Semitic languages. After his PhD from Turin (1977) and his Habilitation from Göttingen (1984), he became professor at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), from where he moved to the University of Basel (2000), serving as Professor, and then as Rector (2006-2015) and President of the Swiss Rectors' Conference (2008-2015). Besides his academic appointments in Egyptology and Higher Education Management, he is currently President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, of the Federation of European Academies (ALLEA), and of the Austrian Science Council.

David Bohmert, Secretary General, Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)

David Bohmert is Secretary-General of CESAER and previously worked at the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) as Swiss Delegate in the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and served in the ESFI Executive Board from 2016 to 2018. He was Member of the ESFRI Implementation Group (IG) until February 2014 and chaired the IG for the 2016 ESFRI Roadmap. Until 2016, he was Head of Office at SwissCore - the liaison office for Research, Education and Innovation. He held positions as Senior Policy Advisor at the Netherlands House for Education and Research (Neth-ER), Policy Officer International Affairs at Association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and Development Officer at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). He holds a master in Public Administration from the UvA.

Adam Tyson, Head of Unit North America, Latin America and Caribbean, Directorate C – International Cooperation, European Commission

Adam Tyson is responsible for international cooperation with North America, Latin America and Caribbean at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. In his former position, he was responsible for overseeing the development of EU higher education policies and the higher education strand of the Erasmus+ programme at the Directorate General for Education and Culture, where he also held posts dealing with the policy coordination of all areas covered by DG Education and Culture, and has led EU work on issues such as combating poverty and social exclusion and fighting discrimination and communication and speechwriting for various Commissioners. Before moving to the Commission, Adam spent ten years in Brussels working for the UK Government in the fields of labour and social affairs.