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Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

**SwissCore**

Contact Office for European Research  
Innovation and Education

Swiss Science Briefing 2020

# A Sustainable Europe through Transdisciplinary Research

05 February 2020 – 17:30-20:00

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

Place du Luxembourg 1

1050 Brussels

 swiss academies  
of arts and sciences



**SHARING KNOWLEDGE  
& EXCELLENCE.**

# Event Summary



The next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe (2021-2027), focuses on European policy priorities and societal challenges such as climate change and digital transformation. The programme will include sustainability at its heart: the aspired impact goals in the thematic clusters of the Pillar “Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness” and in the R&I Missions strongly link to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The tight interconnection of the societal challenges addressed within the different clusters and R&I Missions calls for a systems-based approach involving multi-actors in an interdisciplinary or even transdisciplinary manner. Including social sciences and humanities into projects from the design phase through to the implementation will be crucial, because the impact and effectiveness of R&I solutions will depend on their uptake in society. Horizon Europe therefore offers an excellent framework for the development of transformative pathways towards global sustainability and an opportunity for science, policy and practice communities to work together.

With the aim to inspire these most promising approaches, this Swiss Science Briefing presents good practice examples based on an OECD study as well as design principles for transdisciplinary undertakings from specific research projects. These two insights are complemented by the perspective of a major funding agency involved in sponsoring transdisciplinary research. Following the presentation of the concrete steps taken by the European Commission for the Horizon Europe strategic planning, the discussion will elaborate on how to best implement transdisciplinarity in the upcoming programme.

# Event Agenda



**From 17:00**    **Registration**

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**17:30**

Welcome

**Urs Bucher**

Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU

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**17:40**

Panel discussion with perspectives from:

**Global: Jakob Zinsstag**, Co-Chair of the OECD Global Science Forum study “Addressing societal challenges using transdisciplinary research” and President of Scientific Advisory Board of the Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net) of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

**Science**

**Minxia Luo**, Senior PhD student in Gerontopsychology in the Department of Psychology and in the Research Priority Programme “Dynamics of Healthy Ageing” at the University of Zurich, Switzerland

**Michael Stauffacher**, Professor in the Transdisciplinary Lab at the ETH Zurich and Member of the Steering Committee Sustainability Research of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, Switzerland

**Funder: AnnaMaria Oltorp**, Head of Research Cooperation Unit, Swedish International Development Agency Sida

**Policy: Thomas Arnold**, Advisor Sustainable Development Goals, DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission

Moderated by: **Antonio Loprieno**, President of ALLEA (European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities)

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**19:00**

Networking Apéro

## Speakers

**Antonio Loprieno**, an Egyptologist with a PhD from Turin and a Habilitation from Göttingen, was chair at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and at the University of Basel. Among the higher education management positions he held, he was Rector of the University of Basel, President of both the Swiss Rectors' Conference and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. Since December 2019 he is President of the Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany.

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**Jakob Zinsstag**, with a PhD in tropical animal health, worked several years at the International Trypanotolerance Centre in The Gambia and was Director of the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Côte d'Ivoire. He now is Deputy Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, where he also heads a research group on human and animal health.

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**Minxia Luo's** PhD project focuses on using mobile sensing technology to examine everyday cognitive activities in relation to cognitive health in old age. With a Master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Hong Kong, she pursued an internship at the Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization (WHO) and presented her work at the United Nations' 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development in New York in 2018.

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**Michael Stauffacher**, with a PhD in sociology, is professor in the Department of Environmental Systems Science at the ETH Zurich, where he is also Co-Director of the Transdisciplinarity Lab. In addition, he serves as President of the Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research (SAGUF) and as a Board member of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS).

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**AnnaMaria Oltorp** is heading the Unit for Research Cooperation at the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) since 2014. During 2009-2014 she led the work of implementing the Swedish regional development cooperation strategy with Asia, the last three years out of the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok.

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**Thomas Arnold** is Advisor "Sustainable Development Goals" DG RTD of the European Commission. Previously he has worked in the same DG as Advisor "Sustainable Bioeconomy" and as Head of Unit with responsibility for different areas, including International Scientific Cooperation, Research and SMEs, and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.