

SwissCore Annual Event 2025

30th Anniversary

A Generation of Knowledge

Impact of 30 Years of Swiss-EU Collaboration

3 September 2025 at 13:30

Event Summary



This event celebrates 30 years of fostering collaboration between Switzerland and the European Union in research, innovation and education. Since 1995, SwissCore has played a key role in connecting communities, facilitating dialogue and promoting the shared values and ambitions that underpin European cooperation. This anniversary is not only a moment to look back with pride, but also a timely opportunity to reflect on where we stand and where we are heading together.

The year 2025 is a special one, not only for SwissCore but for the entire Swiss research, innovation and education landscape. Switzerland is expected to re-associate to Horizon Europe, marking a critical moment of renewed participation and partnership. At the same time, research, innovation and education are facing growing pressure, with budget cuts and shifting political priorities increasingly focused on defence, economic competitiveness and productivity. In this context, it is more imperative than ever to highlight the impact and mutual benefit of working together across borders.

The programme is also an occasion to showcase successful Swiss-EU collaboration over the past 30 years. Swiss-EU projects will be featured in panel discussions and through video messages. Together, these stories illustrate how Swiss contributions have supported European excellence and competitiveness, and how collaboration with Europe enhances the reach and relevance of Swiss science, innovation and education.

The benefits of Swiss-EU cooperation are not only mutual, they are essential for the European economies and societies. At a moment of geopolitical uncertainty, this event reaffirms Switzerland's commitment to European collaboration and achieving shared progress. We are pleased to have you with us as we mark this important milestone and look ahead to the future we can shape together.

Event Agenda



From 13:30

Registration

14:00

Arrival and welcome

Laurin Reding

Head of Office, SwissCore

14:00 - 14:15

Opening Speech: Switzerland at the heart of European Research, Innovation and Education

Martina Hirayama

Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation

14:15 - 14:30

Celebratory keynote speech

Marc Lemaître

Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

14:30 - 14:35

Video message from a Swiss researcher

14:35 - 15:20

Panel discussion: How fundamental research contributes to innovation

Marc Lemaître

Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Martina Hirayama

Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation

Torsten Schwede

President of the Scientific Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Ambrogio Fasoli

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Plasma Physics at EPFL

Moderator

Rahel Byland, S&T Counsellor, Swiss Mission to the EU

SwissCore

Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education

Event Agenda



15:20 - 15:50

Break

15:50 - 15:55

Video message from a Swiss innovator

15:55 - 16:40

Panel discussion: Socioeconomic impact of research, education, innovation

Maria Leptin

President of the European Research Council (ERC)

Michael Hengartner

President of the ETH Board

Rudolf Minsch

Chief Economist at economiesuisse

Jean Behaghel de Bueren

Business Developer at Bloom Biorenewables

Moderator

Annalise Eggimann, former CEO Innosuisse

16:40 - 16:55

Break

16:55 - 17:00

Video message from the UNITA European University Alliance and its Swiss member 'University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland' (HES-SO)

17:00 - 17:15

Celebratory keynote speech

Roxana Minzatu

Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, European Commission

Event Agenda



17:15 - 17:55

Panel discussion: Future skills for the academia, the labour market and democracy

Christof Gattringer

President of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Member of the Governing Board of Science Europe

Elisabeth Stark

Vice President Research, University of Zurich

Daniel Kehl

Rector of St. Gallen Vocational and Further Education Centre

Moderator

René Graf, Vice-Rector Education, HES-SO

17:55 - 18:00

Closing remarks

Torsten Schwede

President of the Scientific Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

18:00 - 19:00

Swiss-themed walking dinner

19:00 - 19:30

Official birthday celebration with SwissCore Alumni

Introduction by Laure Ognois, Head of International Cooperation at the Swiss National Science Foundation

Annalise Eggimann

Martina Weiss

Maryline Maillard

David Bohmert

Florence Balthasar & Martin Müller