

## Swiss Citizen Science (CS) Network Meeting on “Regulations of funding agencies”

**Venue:** Haus der Akademien, Laupenstrasse 7, 3011 Bern

**Date and time:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 13.45-16.00h

**Language:** English

### Participants:

Claudia Acklin, WBF  
René Altermatt, Vogelwarte  
Patricia Auberson, Universität Lausanne  
Christoph Bossart, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz  
Philipp Burkard, Science et Cité  
Flavia Castelberg, Botanischer Garten Bern  
Delphine Ducoumlombier, L'Éprouvette  
Jenny Flück, Science et Cité  
Anne Jacob, SCNAT  
Ingrid Kissling-Näf, SNF  
Jonas Nakonz, Foraus  
Timm-Emanuel Riesen, Universität Bern  
Hanna Sathiapal, Raumschiff – Werkstatt für Astronomie  
Magdalena Seebauer, ETH Zürich  
Yasemin Tutav, Science et Cité  
Eric Wyss, GLOBE Schweiz  
Gabriella Zinke, BAFU

**Meeting Minute:** Jenny Flück, Yasemin Tutav, SeC, Berne 24<sup>th</sup> August

### 1. News from the Swiss CS Network office

- New Strategic Group:
  - René Altermatt, Vogelwarte Sempach
  - Sandra Gloor, Verein Stadtnatur
  - Elisa Radosta, Bioscope Genève
  - Stefan Eggenberg, infoflora
  - Gabriella Zinke, Bundesamt für Umwelt

Tasks:

Reviewing and discussing the activities of Science et Cité in the field of the Citizen Science. For example:

- Finding Topics for Swiss CS Network Meeting
  - Evaluation and support for website [schweiz-forscht.ch](http://schweiz-forscht.ch) / [tous-scientifiques.ch](http://tous-scientifiques.ch)
  - Definition of role of the Swiss CS Network at the International ECSA Conference 2018 in Geneva
  - Planning/ideas of general communication of CS in Switzerland
  - further t.b.d.
- New manager for the Swiss CS Network office:  
Tiina Stämpfli, successor of Pia Viviani, will start in September
- The office will be present at the following international conferences:
    - First Italian Citizen Science Conference, 23. – 25. November 2017, Rome
    - Austrian Citizen Science Conference, 1. – 3. February 2018, Salzburg
    - ECSA conference, 3. – 5. June 2018, Geneva
  - **Save the Date:** Second International ECSA conference, **3. – 5. June 2018**, Geneva
    - Organized by Science et Cité with help of the University of Geneva on behalf of European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)
    - Topic of conference “The Citizen”: Empowering citizens, social innovation, scientific literacy
    - Starts with Citizen Science Festival for the public on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> **(CS project market stands welcome!)**
    - Launch of website in September [www.ecsa-conference.eu](http://www.ecsa-conference.eu)
    - Call for participation in November
  - Update [schweiz-forscht.ch](http://schweiz-forscht.ch) / [tous-scientifiques.ch](http://tous-scientifiques.ch)
    - Approximately 30 projects online – goal 50 projects until end of year
    - Flyer for distribution
    - Regular communication on social media with #schweizforscht
    - Discussion: ideas how to spread the word?
      - Contact schools (Anne Jacob has contact details)
      - Contact PHs / Unis (Timm-Emanuel Riesen)
      - Check funding of SNF (Ingrid Kissling-Näf)

## 2. Presentations on “Regulations of funding agencies”

The presentations are attached. The notes on the discussions are briefly documented here.

- Christoph Bossart: Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
- Ingrid Kissling: Schweizerischer Nationalfonds
- Brief input Gabriella Zinke: Bundesamt für Umwelt

### Presentation Christoph Bossart, Mercator

- Budget of Mercator 13 Mio per year
- Funded projects ideally on the higher level of participation – level 3 and 4: involving Citizens in problem definition and collaborating with them
- Long term support 3 to 5 years
- Payment schedule negotiated individually

### Presentation Ingrid Kissling, SNF

- Mandate of SNF to fund research at universities
- Precondition to apply for funding: job at the university – at least 50%
- Possible to include partners being not from universities, openness and strategy to work with partners
- If SNF would change the precondition it would change the whole funding scheme
- In the field of communication restrictions are less – AGORA scheme
- In general, less money for bottom up research – other fundings or infrastructures suitable
- Universities are not interested in long term funding, however make slowly a shift
- Discussion with SWIR on long term funding
- CS projects require more skills to manage than there is at universities

### Brief input Gabriella Zinke, BAFU

- Little research at BAFU but not on Citizen Science
- Pragmatic approach: not all projects are indoors – commissioned to other institutions
- Special contract – mandates rather than grants

Question to all three speakers

If you are a Citizen Scientist and not in an institution – what kind of possibilities do they have to get funded?

- SNF:            You need to find a job or partner at a university
- Mercator:     The foundation is open to NGOs, associations, etc.  
                      Most applications are handed in by Fachhochschulen, initiative  
                      mostly from academic side  
                      Most people know the short cut via universities rather than  
                      foundations

### **3. Feedback round**

Swiss CS Network Meetings are generally a good opportunity for networking and #schweizforscht is an important platform, however strategy of network should be pointed out in the beginning of the meeting

### **4. Further steps**

- ECSA Call will start beginning of November
- Next Swiss Citizen Science Network Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November, more information will follow in September