

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Switzerland

Co-Creation Session 1: Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations

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RM ROADMAP

“Creating Framework Conditions for Research Management to Strengthen the European Research Area”

Funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe Programme

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landscape: National Networks and
Associations**

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Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Summary of Co-Creation Session 1	4
3.	Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1	5
4.	Recommendations	8

1. Introduction

This is an important moment for the research management (RM) community in Europe. The European Commission (EC) and countries across Europe want to better understand the current research management landscape to further strengthen the European Research Area (ERA).

Research management includes a broad range of professionals supporting researchers to achieve excellence in research. For the purpose of this co-creation exercise, Research Managers (RMs) are to be considered as broad as possible including: research policy advisers, research managers, financial support staff, data stewards, research infrastructure operators, knowledge transfer officers, business developers, knowledge brokers, innovation managers, etc. For simplicity, we use the term research management but this exercise covers also other terms such as research support, research management and administration, professionals at the interface of science and other terms which are used as the norm in the national landscapes across Europe.

The RM Roadmap Knowledge and Community Platform (KCP) brings research managers together to shape the future of the profession and support the strengthening of an inclusive research management community in Europe. The KCP is a place where research managers share their views and introduce issues for discussion in a solution-focused endeavour. RM Roadmap Ambassadors lead the discussions for each country on the Knowledge and Community Platform, supported by national and regional RM networks.

This co-creation exercise is the biggest collaboration between RM networks ever to take place in Europe. With a focus on learning insights from RMs, the co-creation exercise seeks to establish a robust framework that can support professional growth and collaboration across the EU and associated countries.

By 2023, 40 country communities have been established within the RM Roadmap Ambassador Network. The RM Roadmap project will use the outcomes from this co-creation exercise to make a roadmap for the future of research management in Europe and to build and exchange solid knowledge on career framework opportunities, upskilling and networking for research managers. RM Roadmap will ultimately build a value proposition for policy makers and institutional leaders who want to strengthen and modernise their research support departments.

This **consensus document for Country Community Switzerland** contains the outcomes of the **First Co-Creation Session - Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations**.

A short summary of the main outcomes from the co-creation exercise is included in section 2. More information about the topic of RM National Networks and Associations is detailed in section 3. Recommendations about best practices, challenges and lessons learnt about (formal or informal) national networks, associations, communities are provided in section 4.

For more information about the RM Roadmap initiative, the reader can consult the following website: www.rmroadmap.eu



2. Summary of Co-Creation Session 1

Switzerland doesn't have a national RM association, but has a well structured R+D landscape and many associations and initiatives for RM.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

This consensus document for Country Community Switzerland contains the outcomes of the First Co-Creation Session - Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations.

1. If you have a national network (formal or informal), how did it help you? If you don't, please say how you have built your (internal) network and are using it.

There is no formal RM network covering all RM topics in Switzerland, but there is a sense for strong (sometimes informal) structures that coordinate various aspects of RM at different levels well. We do have several national networks in the domain of research and innovation management (see question no. 3).

The research scenery in Switzerland is clear, with 10 cantonal universities, 7 universities of applied sciences, 2 ETHs, 25 cantonal universities of teacher education, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Swiss Agency for promotion of innovation Innosuisse, the network Euresearch, the Rectors' conference Swissuniversities, the four Academies, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), the Swiss Science Council SWR, and some other players such as TPH, Agroscope, Swisscore in Brussels, and others. These players are well connected. There are many meetings (with short travel distances within small Switzerland) with abundant network opportunities. Moreover all of these players have newsletters and are active on Social Media such as LinkedIn, so the RMs are well informed and connected among each other.

2. What challenges do RM networks and associations encounter in contributing to national and European R&I systems? If there are no networks, please elaborate if there have been networking initiatives and if not, please state why you think that is the case.

The biggest problem that RM networks are facing is Switzerland's exclusion of Horizon Europe. Swiss RM are very well connected to EU players and colleagues in the other European countries (e.g. via NCP networks), but they are often excluded from official initiatives.

Apart this, no challenges were mentioned by these organizations and no need to formalize a more formal stronger network was found. RM subjects might too far apart to be of enough relevance for others (e.g. compare grant to patent adviser) to form a unified organization within a small country like Switzerland. Research Managers yet see potential benefit in a stronger know-how exchange in particular towards European projects.

3. Please list all of the formal and informal networks and associations of research managers in your country and link to their websites or online groups. Skip if there are no networks your knowledge.

In particular, we identified the following initiatives/agencies/associations/networks:

Research:

- [Euresearch](#), a national association to inform and advice on Horizon Europe and other EU initiatives
- [Swisscore](#), the liaison office in Brussels for education, research and innovation, linking together various European and Swiss players
- Grants office meetings organized by the [SNSF](#)
- SNSF mailing list among RM dealing with SNSF funding

Open Science:

- [BiblioSuisse](#) for Libraries (place for Research Data Management)
- National working groups surrounding Open Science, such as the Delegation Open Science ([swissuniversities](#)) or the SteerCo + CoG of the ORD branch
- AKOA (National Open Access expert group - mandated by [SLINER](#))
- Swiss chapter of [CoARA](#) (very recently launched) concerning research evaluation reform and facilitated by the SNSF

Innovation:

- [SWITT](#), Swiss Technology Transfer Association
- [Switzerland Global Enterprise](#) offers also networking opportunities and services

Others:

- The global network of the [Swissnex](#) link the research and innovation communities in Switzerland and their respective countries
- The four [Swiss Academies](#) provide specific networks for RMs e.g. [SATW](#) launched a network for Artificial Intelligence groups (<https://www.sairop.swiss/>)

4. Please list and link to any policy documents and funding which mentions research management or the equivalent national name(s) for research management.

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research leads policy and development for research management, in particular with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), which also plays an active role in facilitating the coordination among the several formal and informal structures.

At some institutions, there are discussions on the development of the staff in the third space. E.g.:

- University of Zurich, Center for Higher Education and Science Studies: [Transformation Processes | CHESS - Center for Higher Education and Science Studies | UZH](#)
- University of teacher education St-Gallen: [Third Space | Pädagogische Hochschule St.Gallen \(phsg.ch\)](#)
- Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities:
 - Bulletin article [Third_Space.pdf \(sagw.ch\)](#)
 - Analysis and Report: [Next Generation und Third Space: neue Karriereprofile im Wissenschaftssystem – Schweizerische Akademie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften \(sagw.ch\)](#)

There are different opportunities for continued education for RM, e.g.

- Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Leadership and Governance at universities, at the University of Zurich: [CAS Leadership und Governance an Hochschulen | UZH](#)
- Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Research Management at the university of Bern: [Forschungsmanagement \(unibe.ch\)](#)



4. Recommendations

Recommendations from the Swiss Ambassadors:

To check if a Swiss research managers' association makes sense or not. As the RM community in Switzerland is well connected and there are many associations, initiatives and networking opportunities, as described above, it could be difficult to motivate RMs to participate in one more association.



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