

# Meeting of the Swiss Young Network for Science Policy and Diplomacy

The **Swiss Young Network for Science Policy and Diplomacy (SYNESPOD)** team organized a meeting with the (inter)national partners to discuss the ongoing activities and plans. The event took place at the *House of Academies in Bern* on September 27, 2023, with the objective of exchanging about the activities in the domain of science for policy and diplomacy, identifying opportunities for synergies and future collaborations.

This involved the representatives of several **(inter)national organizations**, including **foraus** (Sereina Capatt) and **Reatch** (Servan Grüninger), who were directly involved in the realization of the SYNESPOD initiative as collaborative partners, providing more insights about the scope of their activities and visions for science for policy and diplomacy. Following the opening by the project speaker at the Swiss Young Academy (**SYA**), Jovana V. Milić, the meeting commenced with an introduction to science diplomacy and science-policy interface practices by Fédérique Guerin from the Geneva Science-Policy Interface (**GSPI**). She highlighted the importance of transdisciplinarity, understanding the actors at the science-policy interface, brokering connections and dialogue, and building capacity. This perspective was complemented by an overview of the science for policy activities of the Young Academy of Sweden (**SUA**), hosts of the latest European Network of Young Academies (**ENYA**) meeting in Stockholm, represented by Ewa Machotka and Shervin Bagheri. They outlined SUA initiatives and programs, including international collaborations, as well as interactions with policy-makers, such as through the networking program enabling early-career researchers to exchange with policy-makers in Sweden. Thereafter, Moniek Tromp, former President of Young Academies Science Advice Structure (**YASAS**), provided insights about the European science advisory mechanism and Science Advice for Policy by the European Academies (**SAPEA**). She emphasized the importance of

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including early-career researchers in science advisory processes and reflected on some of the challenges for engagement, considering institutional and cultural aspects. This was followed by a reflection on science advice and the relationship between science and politics from the perspective of the European Parliament by Markus Prutsch, Executive Board Member of the Global Young Academy (GYA), highlighting the complexity of the science advisory and emphasizing the role of trust in the process. GYA has been invested in building the capacity of early-career researchers to engage in science advice globally, which was detailed by Laura Zimmermann, Co-Lead of the [GYA Science Advice Working Group](#), whose intervention provided more insights about the activities and further emphasized the importance of international networks and capacity building for young professionals.

At the end, the [SYNESPOD](#) speakers (Jovana V. Milić and Clara Zemp) and partners detailed their activities and discussed opportunities for collaboration with all the participants, including members of [SUA](#) (David Karlander and Iva Lučić), [YASAS](#) (Jacek Kolanowski), and the EMERGE project of ETH Zurich [TdLab](#) (Lukas Guyer). Some of their prospective collaborative engagements will involve continuing capacity-building efforts through workshops and training, mapping the science-policy interface, and sharing experiences while actively participating in the international forums on science for policy and diplomacy.



*Impression from the SYNESPOD Meeting in Bern on September 27, 2023*