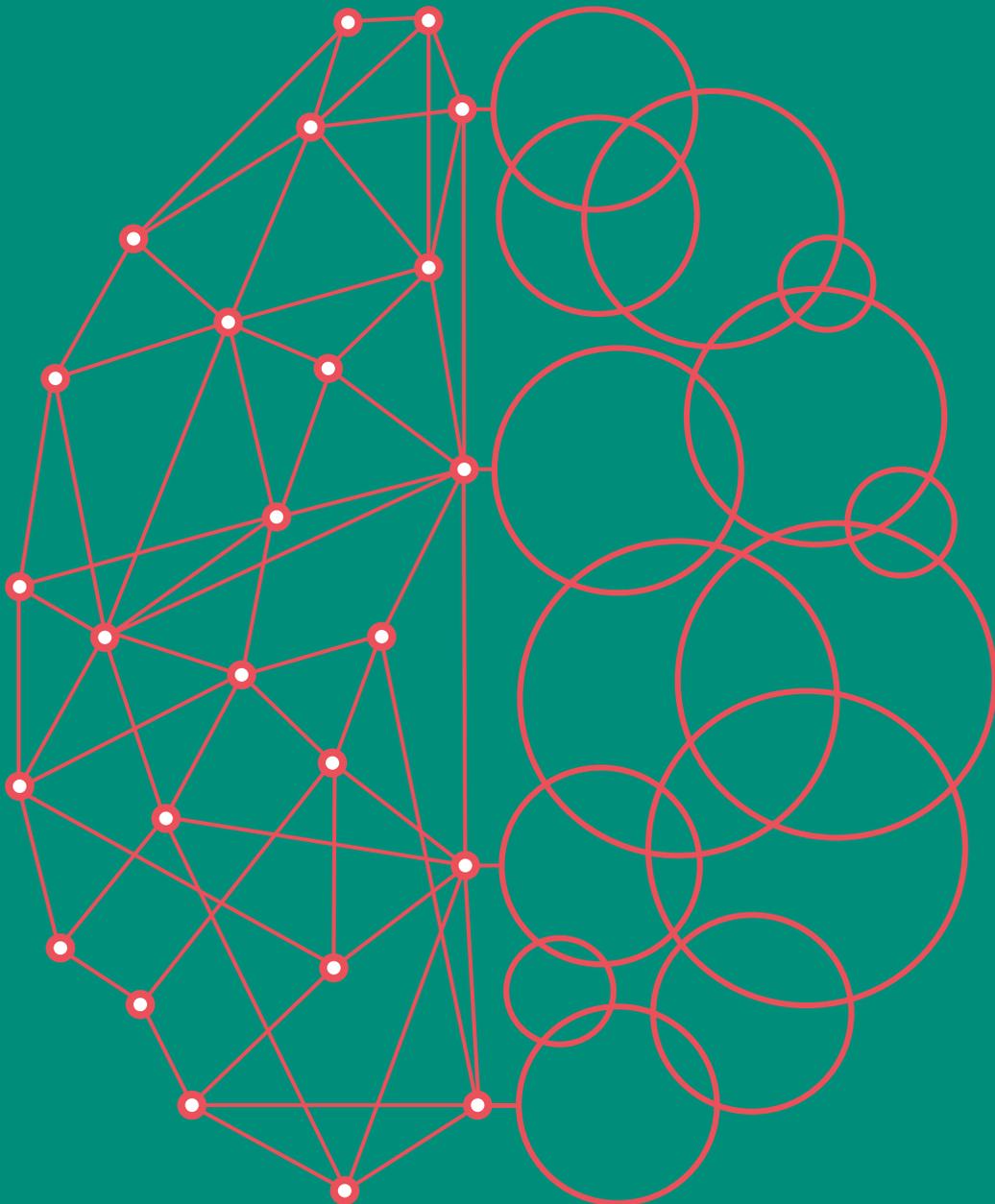


Annual Report 2025

Swiss Young Academy



Objectives and priorities in 2025

European National Young Academies (ENYA) Meeting 2025

A primary objective of the Swiss Young Academy (SYA) in 2025 was the planning and implementation of the European National Young Academies (ENYA) Meeting, which was held in Bern on 5 and 6 June 2025 – organised and hosted by the SYA. The ENYA Meeting is an annual gathering of European Young Academies, with organisational responsibility rotating among member academies each year. Traditionally, the meeting is organised by a newly established Young Academy.

The meeting focused on the theme of Science Diplomacy, exploring its relevance for international scientific collaboration, evidence-informed policymaking, and addressing global challenges. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of early-career researchers in Science Diplomacy and Science for Policy, and on their capacity to contribute to shaping and advancing these evolving fields. Approximately 80 representatives of Young Academies from across Europe participated in the meeting.

Further information on the ENYA Meeting 2025 is available on the → [SYA website](#).

Alumni Measures

In June 2025, the first cohort of SYA members completed their five-year term and transitioned to alumni status. Consequently, a second major objective for the reporting year was the development and implementation of measures to maintain engagement with SYA alumni and to facilitate their continued involvement in the activities of the SYA and the wider Academies network.

In addition to inviting alumni to relevant events, several measures were introduced. These include the establishment of a LinkedIn alumni group, the publication of alumni profiles on the SYA website, and the distribution of dedicated alumni newsletters. Alumni will also be considered for advisory and mentoring capacities, for example as members of the SYA Sounding Board or as mentors to current members. Where appropriate, they are also considered for additional roles within the Academies to ensure sustained exchange and institutional continuity.



European National Young Academies (ENYA) Meeting 2025 in Bern

Composition

Selection Procedure for new members

In 2025, the new members of the SYA were selected by an Election Commission consisting of four SYA members, one member of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Management Board and two members of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Delegates' Assembly. A shortlist of the 8 most favoured candidates was submitted to the Members' Assembly for an electronic resolution. The Board of Directors of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences confirmed the election.

New members

Newly elected as members of the SYA for the period 2025–2030 were:

- **Marion Badi**, R&D Project Lead / Guest lecturer, Helbing Technik Bern / Haute école de paysage, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Genève (HEPIA)
- **Mosè Cometta**, Postdoc, Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies / Accademia di architettura, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)
- **Mélo die Derome**, Postdoctoral fellow, Translational Research Center University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Bern
- **Jiaxin Duan**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Photon Science, Paul Scherrer Institute
- **Johanna Hornung**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Political Studies (IEP), University of Lausanne
- **Celestin Mutuyimana**, Postdoctoral Researcher and Psychotherapist, Department of Psychology, University of Zurich
- **Abishek Narayan**, Scientist, Department of Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste for Development, Eawag
- **Monika Plozza**, Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Bern



From left to right: Mosè Cometta, Johanna Hornung, Jiaxin Duan, Monika Plozza, Marion Badi, Celestin Mutuyimana, Abishek Narayan

Members' Assembly

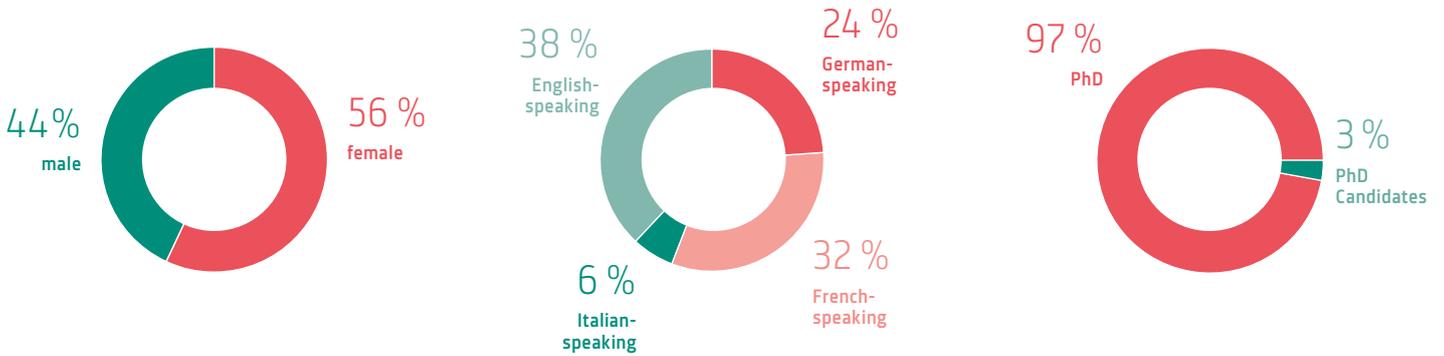
The composition of the members of the SYA was as follows (on 31 December 2025):

34
Active members

27
different scientific disciplines

19
different universities / research institutions

18
Alumni



Portraits of our Members

(published in 2025)

To raise the visibility of the SYA members, the SYA, in collaboration with the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (a+), is creating a portrait of each member (→ [see overview](#)).

- **Charles Gottlieb:** A macroeconomist who's not afraid of the field
- **Servan Grüninger:** "I don't like polite applause"
- **Anna Elsner:** She researches what narratives tell us about dying
- **Jovana V. Milić:** Thinking Beyond Disciplines
- **Marloes Eeftens:** Her advice is: urban planning to combat pollen
- **Clara Zemp:** Clara Zemp doesn't just want to produce knowledge
- **Lerato Posholi:** She explores the idea of global philosophy
- **Julia Venturini:** "Female role models are a big topic in my discipline."

Executive Board

2024 / 2025: Sabrina H. Kessler (Speaker), Nawal Kinany (Vice-Speaker), Jovana V. Milić, Eda Elif Tibet

2025 / 2026: Nawal Kinany (Speaker), Sabrina H. Kessler (Vice-Speaker), Celestin Mutuyimana, Emmanuel Senft, Eda Elif Tibet

Sounding Board

In 2025, the first four members of the newly established Sounding Board, which provides advisory support in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of joint projects, were elected:

- **Prof. Hugues Abriel,** Professor of Molecular Medicine, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation, University of Bern
- **Dr. Mirko Bischofberger,** Owner and employee at Science Studios GmbH, Lecturer at EPFL
- **Prof. Susan Thieme,** Professor of Geography and Critical Sustainability Studies, Co-Director of the Institute of Geography, Co-Director of the mLAB, University of Bern
- **Dr. Marc Zbinden,** Head of Careers Division, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Administrative Office

The SYA Administrative Office consisted of Karin Spycher (Head), Kai Pitre (Project Manager) and Josua Kuonen (Scientific Collaborator).



Sounding Board: From left to right: Hugues Abriel, Mirko Bischofberger, Susan Thieme, Marc Zbinden

Joint Projects

Overview

3

Newly approved joint projects

5

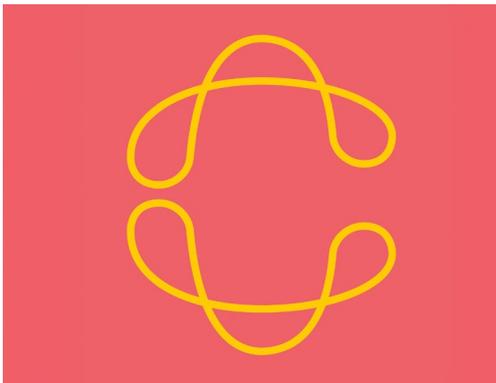
Prolonged / Ongoing joint projects

2

Finalised joint projects

Joint Project activities and results in 2025

CosmoVision Arts – A Creative Inquiry into the Pluriverse



Preparation and launch of a call for authors for an E-book featuring 18 contributions that blend artistic and scientific perspectives, exploring various knowledge systems across the world. Comprising researcher-scientist and artist-practitioner duos, it bridges local and global worldviews.

Planning of a Science-Society Café event to launch the E-book in June 2026 at Cinematte, Bern.

[→ More information](#)

Innovative teaching formats at the science-society interface



Publication of the report → [Innovative Teaching Formats at the Science-Society Interface: Reflections and Future Directions in Swiss Higher Education](#) featuring illustrative examples from Swiss higher education institutions and introducing a new typology of science-society teaching formats, offering educators a structured way to design and analyze courses across six dimensions. In addition, the publication discusses both the opportunities and challenges of implementing such teaching formats. To further advance science-society education, the report identifies three priority areas for action: exchange and network, institutional recognition, and evaluation and use of feedback. After successful completion of the first project cycle, a second cycle will be implemented in 2026.

[→ More information](#)

Swiss Young Network for Science Policy and Diplomacy (SYNESPOD)



Implementation of the workshop “Science-Policy Interface for Scientists: An (Inter)national Perspective” on 16 May 2025, organized in cooperation with → [Reatch](#) and → [Geneva Science Policy Interface \(GSPI\)](#). The workshop equipped participants with practical tools to engage with policy-makers and communicate research findings effectively.

Organization of an interactive session on Science Diplomacy and Emerging Technologies during → [Geneva Science Diplomacy Week \(GESDA\)](#) Week on 6 May, an international forum for science diplomacy, in partnership with the thinktank [foraus](#).

Publication of the report → [On Science for Policy and Diplomacy Education in Switzerland and Beyond: A Brief Overview](#), developed in collaboration with the Franxini Project of Reatch and GSPI, providing a mapping of educational offers in science for policy and diplomacy in Switzerland and internationally.

Convening of a meeting with national and international partners, including → [foraus](#), → [Reatch](#), Global Young Academy (→ [GYA](#)), Young Academy of Finland (→ [YAF](#)), Young Academy of Spain ([YAS](#)), and Geneva Science-Policy Interface ([GSPI](#)), as well as the → [Young Academy of Ireland](#) and the → [UK Young Academy](#), to discuss challenges and opportunities for engaging early- and mid career researchers (EMCRs) at the interface of science, policy, and diplomacy.

Contributions to the European National Young Academies (→ [ENYA](#)) meeting in Bern (e.g., by organizing two workshops), as well participation in the → [inaugural meeting of INGSA-Europe](#) and the → [SAM conference](#).

→ [More information](#)

Compassionate Science – Integrating Empathy and Compassion in Research



Preparation of an online social media campaign addressing empathy and compassion in research. The initiative aims to foster a shift toward empathy-driven, human-centered research practices by showcasing best practices from researchers who integrate compassion into their work, and by developing engaging visual materials that encourage early-career researchers to reflect on the societal impact of their research. As part of this effort, video interviews were conducted with seven researchers, and corresponding campaign videos were produced.

Preparation of an accompanying report to be published alongside the video campaign in 2026.

→ [More information](#)

Unveiling the leaky Pipeline in STEM

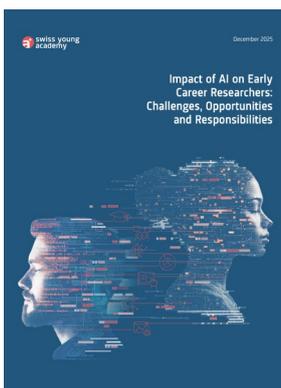


Preparation and launch of an extensive survey together with an Advisory Board, aiming to better understand the reasons behind the leaky pipeline in Switzerland's STEM fields by surveying the researchers who left academia.

The project group's other activities included analysing the survey results and writing of the evaluation report for publication in 2026.

→ [More information](#)

AI in Science and Society



Preparation and release of the publication → [Impact of AI on Early Career Researchers: Challenges, Opportunities, and Responsibilities](#), examining both the opportunities and risks of AI across five key areas – research, teaching, science communication, policymaking, and sustainability – while also addressing critical issues such as research integrity, data privacy, misinformation, governance, and environmental impact. The publication further highlights the responsibilities of Early Career Research-

ers and higher education institutions in promoting AI literacy, transparency, ethical standards, and responsible use of AI in science.

→ [More information](#)

Innovative Policies for Fostering Academic Careers in Switzerland



Invitation by the Swiss Higher Education Conference to contribute to discussions on the future of early-career researchers and the ongoing concern of the precarious employment conditions and structural uncertainties faced by the next generation of scholars. Together with partners from the ERI sector, the group worked on identifying viable approaches to improve framework conditions.

Contributions to joint statements in collaboration with the Academies (a+) and provision of the SYA platform as a space, for example, to develop common standards and coordinated measures.

Participation of project member Emmanuel Senft at the Retreat of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in Thun on 25 and 26 November.

Publication of → [a joint interview](#) with Yves Flückiger, President of the Academies (a+) and Lucas Müller, who served as project speaker. In their intergenerational conversation they addressed uncertain academic career paths, the role of science diplomacy, and the need to better connect and strengthen the European research landscape.

→ [More information](#)

The “Spark” Podcast



Release of 12 episodes of the podcast → [Spark - Stories from Advocates for Global Change](#) for audiences aged 16–23, covering the climate crisis, artificial intelligence, social media and democracy, and human rights. The series features student-led interviews with diverse academic and non-academic experts from Switzerland and beyond. By sharing the stories behind the research, the podcast offers an accessible entry into transdisciplinary science, highlights diverse career paths, and inspires young people to pursue scientific solutions to societal challenges while strengthening public engagement with science.

→ [More information](#)

Navigating the Media as Early Career Academics



Implementation of a two-day media training retreat for early-career scientists on 24 and 25 January 2025 in Bern, with a general focus on systemic issues related to scientists’ media appearances. The retreat offered tailored media training in German and French, followed by group discussions to reflect on the insights gained. In addition, roundtable discussions were held, one with journalists and scientists with extensive media experience and one exclusively among early career academics with media experience. Presentations were also given by SYA members from other relevant projects (Science vs Activism, Spark Podcast).

→ [More information](#)

Activities

Activities within the Academies

• Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (a+):

- SYA member Clara Zemp acted as moderator at the ITD-CH conference of the Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net) on 19 November in Lausanne
- SYA member Sabrina H. Kessler acted as jury member of the Prix Média of the Academies (a+) for the promotion of science journalism
- Participation of SYA member Emmanuel Senft in the working group “AI, Research and Scientific Integrity” of swissuniversities / the Academies (a+)
- Participation of SYA speaker Nawal Kinany at the Academies (a+) Séance de Réflexion in Murten on 16 and 17 October
- Participation of the “Innovative Policies” project group in a joint statement with the Academies (a+) on the topic of further developing the promotion of young scientists for the attention of the Swiss Higher Education Conference (SHK)
- Joint public interview with Yves Flückiger, President of the Academies (a+), and SYA member Lucas Mueller ([-> see here](#))

• Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS):

- SYA members Nawal Kinany, Marion Badi and Celestin Mutuyimana were invited to present the SYA and their respective research at their higher education institutions at the Senate meeting of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS)
- SYA member Lauren Clack represents early career researchers on behalf of the SYA in the National Coordination Platform Clinical Research (CPCR)

• Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT):

- SYA member Clara Zemp is a plenum member of the Swiss Biodiversity Forum
- Collaboration of the SYA “CosmoVision” Project with the Swiss Alliance for Global Research Partnerships (GRP Alliance)
- Invitation of SYA member Lucas Mueller as panelist by the Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology (saguf) at Sustainable University Day on 2 December

- SYA member Benjamin Hofmann gave an invited guest lecture on “Evidence in policymaking and the role of researchers in society” at the meeting of the Platform Science and Policy of SCNAT on 18 November
- SYA alumnus Florian Egli was invited to be a moderator at the Sustainability Science Forum of the Sustainability Research Initiative (SRI) on 26 November

• Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW):

- SYA member Odile Ammann was invited to give a thematic input at the Presidents’ Conference of the SAGW Annual Assembly on 23 May

• Science et Cité:

- SYA member Benjamin Hofmann presented an art-science project on environmental change and society at ScienceComm 25, organized by Science et Cité, on 4 September.
- SYA member Sabrina H. Kessler presented a science communication project on humour in Science Communication at ScienceComm 25, organized by Science et Cité, on 4 September.

Other activities

- **Mentoring programme:** The mentoring programme of the Swiss Young Academy enables the advancement of its members in their academic, professional and personal development by providing advice and support on career-relevant topics, as part of one-to-one mentoring and through networking opportunities. Every spring and autumn, members can sign up for the one-to-one mentoring programme.
- **Personal projects:** Personal projects support the scientific development of the SYA members. Members can submit personal projects - with a budget of 1000 CHF per year - at any time during the year.
- **Annual SYA Retreat:** Every year, the Administrative Office and the Executive Board organise a retreat for SYA members to develop new projects and further develop existing ones. In addition, central topics of interest in academia are discussed. At the Retreat on 29 August, Oliva Denk (Co-Coordinator CoARA Swiss National Chapter), gave a thematic input on the topic of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA).
- **InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) “Young Affiliate” affiliation and participation in IAP Triennial Conference & General Assembly:** Since spring 2025, the SYA has been officially affiliated with the InterAcademy Partnership as a ‘Young Affiliate’. In this context, the SYA members Celestin Mutuyimana and Clément Meier participated in the 2025 IAP Triennial Conference and General Assembly from 8 to 11 December in Cairo.
- **Hosting and participating in Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS) General Assembly:** The SYA hosted this year’s General Assembly of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS), which was held on 5 June in Bern on the occasion of the European National Young Academies (ENYA) Meeting. The SYA was represented at the meeting by delegate Jovana Milić and observer Emmanuel Senft. In addition, SYA member Jovana Milić was elected to the YASAS board.

Swiss Young Academy

The Swiss Young Academy is a network for early career academics and provides an inspiring environment for inter- and transdisciplinary exchange and innovative ideas. The Swiss Young Academy belongs to the network of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

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