

Annual Report 2020



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Editorial

2020 was definitely a year of uncertainties but also one of new beginnings. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic took Euresearch un-awares, like everybody else, and gave our year a primer of improvisation. Looking back, however, I dare say we carried on regardless and managed quite well. I do not think many of our clients noticed much of a difference in the day-to-day business when we all moved to our home offices in early March. Nor did we notice any difference in our clients' interest in the Horizon 2020 calls after the first lockdown. We had as many if not more requests for information, advice and support than ever. Further information on our various activities throughout the year can be found in the chapters "Targets for 2020" and "Services and Products".

More unsettling for us were the continued delays with regard to the new Framework Programme. As long as there was no agreement on the new EU budget, the legal procedures for Horizon Europe were on hold. As long as there was no legal basis for Horizon Europe, the programme details could not be finalised and we could never be quite certain whether our internal preparations needed further adaptations (see Chap. "Preparations for FP9").

Another source of uncertainty was the status of Switzerland and the association conditions to Horizon Europe. Since this is an aspect that is completely out of our hands, all we could do to deal with the issue was to support the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Information (SERI) in informing researchers in Switzerland and abroad that successful Swiss participants in Horizon Europe will be funded one way or another. The third and last factor that kept us on our toes, at least in the second half of the year, was whether or not the Swiss Parliament would agree on time on the EU Dispatch, which provides the legal basis not only for Swiss participation in

Horizon Europe in general, but also for the renewal of the SERI subsidy for the Euresearch Network.

But all is well that ends well. The blurred lines took on a definitive shape by the end of the year. Brussels found a compromise on the EU budget at the last minute and the EU Dispatch was passed on 16 December 2020. Our new contract with SERI for 2021–2023 could thus be signed shortly thereafter and the Cooperation Agreements with the institutions followed post-haste. Only the modalities for the association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe are — as for other Third Countries such as the UK or Israel — still in limbo. But the signals from Brussels are positive and so are we.

Our picture of last year would not be complete without some bold, colourful strokes of the brush. The Board of the Euresearch Association adopted our new "Strategy 2025" in March, and in April the General Assembly elected Edwin Constable and Antonella Santucci Chadha as our new President and Vice-President, respectively (see Chap. "The Network"). We would have liked to say farewell to our outgoing presidential team, Jean-Marc Rapp and Hans Noser, in more style than wishing them all the best at the end of a Zoom meeting but we still hope that we will be able to make up for it in the not-too-distant future.

Even the Euresearch financial year ended on a sufficiently positive note (see Chap. "Financial Report"). With funding secured for the next 3 years, we can thus look back on 2020 with satisfaction and forward to 2021 with optimism. Hopefully you, dear Reader, will join us in doing so too.



Regina Schneider
Director

The Network

The outbreak of COVID-19 marked the work of the Euresearch Network in the past year but fortunately less so than one might have expected or feared. As most of us are used to working remotely — be it because we are visiting clients or travelling to Brussels — it was relatively easy from the point of view of equipment for us to move to working from home in March. At the same time however, many of us had to juggle professional and family responsibilities. The past months showed once again the flexibility of the entire Network, which helped us cope without too many delays for our clients.

After several years of growth, the Euresearch Network remained quite stable in 2020 in terms of numbers. There were some changes of advisors in one office or another but no major fluctuations. By the end of the year, Euresearch comprised 120 members as compared to 117 at the end of 2019. And we are as international as ever, with 17 nationalities among the 80 women and 40 men.

In February, the Management Board met for a two-day retreat in Baden to work on the details of the new Euresearch “Strategy 2025”.

Euresearch Strategy 2025

Euresearch is the Swiss competence centre for any questions regarding EU funding opportunities

Strategic Area for Action 1 „Customer Value Proposition“

We inform, advise and connect anybody in Switzerland interested in the EU Funding Programmes for Research and Innovation. We put our collective experience at your service and are committed to your best interests. We speak your ‘language’ and support you wherever you are located.

Strategic Area for Action 2 „Community“

Anchor Euresearch as an essential partner in the Swiss R&I landscape.

Strategic Area for Action 3 „Communication“

Euresearch is an excellent communicator towards clients and stakeholders. As a result, Euresearch is a key information provider on European funding for the Swiss R&I community.

Organisational Area for Action 4 „Operational Excellence“

The Euresearch Network is managed and organised in a way that clients and stakeholders get added value through the diversity of competence, knowledge and people we have. Our talents can develop through a value-based corporate culture and cooperative working models. Processes are digitalised, efficient and effective.

This was the last purely physical meeting we had in the Network. The Board Meeting in March, when our new strategy was adopted, and the General Assembly in April were already held exclusively online. The switch from physical to virtual meetings went surprisingly well, thanks to the efforts and patience of everybody involved.

The 2021 General Assembly was the last to be presided on by Jean-Marc Rapp, who left office after 8 years, together with Vice-President Hans Noser. Unfortunately, we could not thank them with the farewell party we had planned but we do hope to make up for it at a later stage. In their stead, the General Assembly elected Edwin Constable, a long-standing member of the Euresearch Board, as President and Antonella Santuccioni Chadha, CEO of the Women's Brain Project, as Vice-President. Katharina Fromm, Vice-Rector for Research at the University of Fribourg, was elected to fill the vacant seat on the Board. Last but not least, we were very pleased to welcome a new member to the Euresearch Association. On 1 January 2020, the Fachhochschule Graubünden joined, bringing the total number of member institutions to 22.

Despite Corona, we were still able to hold our traditional 2 Network events like every year. Both events focused on the preparation of the new, 9th EU Framework Programme (FP), "Horizon Europe". They brought us detailed insights from Brussels by our SwissCore colleagues, complemented by results from our internal project "CHEERS" (see Chap. "Preparations for FP9" below). The 2 events differed in their format — the Network Day in May was organised as a purely virtual event, whereas the Network Retreat in September was a hybrid. A good 30 people took advantage of the ease in Corona restrictions at the time of the Retreat and met in Spiez, as is the tradition by now, while those members of the Network who felt more at ease at home joined us online. The hybrid format brought with it its own difficulties, which we had to overcome. With some external professional support we also mastered this trickier format and gained additional expertise.

Thus, these internal events also served as training grounds to help the Network improve its digital skills and to enable us to support our clients with more competence in the virtual world. Given our emphasis on digitalisation in 2020, it did not come as a surprise that our annual Euresearch Network Award went to Markus Weber, member of the Management Board and the Network's head of IT. And he is an excellent Chief Financial Officer, too!

As usual, various Euresearch groups met in a number of other constellations as well. The NCPs organised additional internal training and information events for the Network on various topics of common interest, while the Regional Offices shared information, lessons learned and best practices, in 2 dedicated meetings. Members of the German-speaking regions also took part in the traditional "Dreiländertreffen" with their colleagues from southern Germany and Austria.

While the advisors geared up for the new FP, the Management Board was busy in the second half of the year preparing a new contract with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Once both parties agreed on the outline of the contract covering the period 2021-2023, it was up to Euresearch to define the details of the application based on the new Strategy 2025. The negotiations went very smoothly, as both parties were aware of their common goal and appreciated the good collaboration that had been established. The contract was signed in mid-December after the parliamentary adoption of the EU Dispatch, and the related Cooperation Agreements were sent to the member institutions that host a Euresearch Office before the end of the year. The new subsidy has been granted independent of whether, when and how Switzerland will be associated to Horizon Europe. The security the new contract brings in these times of general uncertainty was thus very much appreciated by the entire Euresearch Network — Santa Claus got stiff competition from Martina Hirayama!

Targets for 2020

Based on our multiannual objectives, the Euresearch Network organised a number of activities specifically earmarked to reach our common goals in the 3 “Focus Areas” (FAs) of our strategy. 2020 was a singular year. Not only because the measures imposed to fight the pandemic forced us to limit ourselves to virtual encounters with our clients, but also because it was a year of transition between 2 FPs. It does not come as a surprise then that the majority of the focus activities were online events that concentrated largely on various aspects of Horizon Europe. The most popular funding instrument was the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), to which a total of 7 out of 39 events were dedicated.

Focus Area 1: Quality Services to Facilitate Excellent Proposals

Our first FA aimed to increase the number of potential applicants as well as the quality of their proposals. In quantitative terms, this meant that we wanted to offer our services to at least 600 new individual clients from academia. Our objective on the qualitative level was to define new support tools and/or processes to facilitate the submission of successful proposals.

Unlike in former years, the emphasis of the focus activities was on presenting certain funding instruments, rather than on reaching a particular group of clients. The instrument that was considered to have the most potential was the MSCA. Applicants training was organised by the regions ZH (2), VD, and BE, with the Network Office concentrating on the re-submitters. General introductions to Horizon Europe — and the novelties compared to Horizon 2020 — were organised in Northwestern

CH, BE, Central CH and ZH (2). Other events were dedicated to ICT and energy (both Eastern CH), the social sciences and humanities (GE, ZH), health and clinical research (BE, Northwestern CH), food and natural resources (FR/VS), as well as the grants of the European Research Council (ERC; BE, VD).

The attraction of the new FP notwithstanding, some regions focused on the last calls of Horizon 2020. In NE/JU, an event was organised to inform researchers about funding opportunities in the field of ICT, while VD informed researchers about the interdisciplinary “Green Deal” call, which represented a kind of big bang at the end of the old FP.

A few members of the Network tried out novel approaches. TI reached out to their clients by organising bilateral online meetings with small groups of people from the one institution. This format allowed them to focus on the specific needs and interests of their interlocutors and to overcome the gap created by the lack of interaction within these institutions. In a similar vein, BE set up a regular online FP “Sprechstunde” to promote EU funding opportunities as well as Euresearch services. This 1.5 hour consultation was open once a month to anybody interested and each session addressed a specific topic. Both formats were very well received by the researchers and will therefore continue in 2021. Lastly, the Network Office used our wonted format of the information event to target a very specific group of prospective FP clients, the municipalities. The public administration on a local, regional or national level has always been a potential stakeholder for the outcome of many FP projects, be it with regard to migration, mobility or museums. Unfortunately, these offices have not yet shown much interest in the EU FPs. To change their perception, 2 webinars in June

and October focussed on the 2020 calls to make energy consumption, mobility and thus the cities themselves more sustainable. These 2 events proved very popular but attracted researchers and innovators rather than the targeted representatives of the municipalities. The Network will not give up though and will try out other approaches to include this specific group of clients among the beneficiaries of Horizon Europe.

All in all, the focus activities advanced the services of the Euresearch Network in different but equally important aspects. On the one hand, most of the online events were recorded and are still available on the Euresearch YouTube channel. We can thus offer our clients ease and flexibility, as they can access the information preserved in our webinars wherever and whenever they choose to. On the other hand, online events enable us to reach a wider community at any one time, which allows the Network to better pool resources and thus to cover a wider variety of topics in any given year.

Overall, our efforts paid off in 2020. By the end of the year, we could count more than 1 479 new clients from academia in our database, i.e. more than double our target. This good result was only clouded by the fact that we had to abandon our planned workshop to reassess the needs of our clients. Given our limited resources, the preparations for FP9 (see p. 18) were deemed more urgent by the Management Board. We therefore decided to postpone the assessment to a later point in time and adapt it to Horizon Europe.

Focus Area 2: Researchers from the Private Sector

The strategic objective of the second FA was to increase the number of RDI-intensive companies in successful Horizon 2020 proposals. The target set for 2020 was to offer our services to

100 new companies. On the qualitative level, our goal was to intensify the collaboration with our strategic partners and evaluate our “Partner Management for Companies” pilot, which was initiated in 2017.

As was the case for FA 1, the activities of the Regional Offices and the National Contact Points (NCPs) at the Network Office focused on promoting the funding opportunities in Horizon Europe. Given that the target audience of FA 2 is the private sector, a number of online events to reach our goal were dedicated to the Accelerator Pilot of the European Innovation Council (EIC). This was the case in Eastern CH, Central CH and BE. The MSCA opportunities for companies were also highlighted by events in VD and on the national level by the Network Office, as well as in targeted mailings to clients in the ZH region. TI highlighted opportunities for companies in the digital and industry sectors in both Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme, while a presentation in Northwestern CH gave an overview of non-dilutive funding opportunities for companies under Horizon Europe more generally. Last but not least, a lunch event in GE introduced its participants to a variety of funding opportunities on the Swiss and EU levels. A similar format was used for an interregional event for SMEs in the arc lémanique (GE, VD).

A number of regions took the opportunity of these targeted activities to try out new ways of approaching the private sector. NE/JU and GE reinforced their collaboration with representatives of the cantonal administration and FR/VS wrote a number of articles on the EIC and Green Deal call for their Development Agency and the Innovation Parks. Last but not least, an “SME Focus Series” of 4 short webinars was produced by the Network Office to explain selected Horizon 2020 rules and regulations that are particularly pertinent for SMEs, such as personnel costs and the involvement of third parties.

Like in previous years, we easily met the target we had set ourselves. Instead of an additional 100 company accounts in our database, we were able to count 317 by the end of the year. Unfortunately, also as in previous years, we had more difficulties in bringing to fruition the collaboration with our strategic partners. The cooperation with Innosuisse blossomed however. This was underlined by 2 productive workshops that aimed to improve our mutual understanding of the funding opportunities for companies on the Swiss and EU levels. Since we did not find the right partners for the other 3 workshops we had planned for 2020, we did not reach the second objective for FA 2. The assessment of the Partner Management for Companies pilot was still pending at the end of the year but there are plans to replace this pilot with another, more flexible tool for collaboration in the future.

Focus Area 3: Promising Fields and Technologies

The strategic objective of the third FA was to anticipate future developments in research and innovation that could have an impact on the resources or structure of the Euresearch Network. In 2019, this FA was integrated in the preparations for Horizon Europe (see Chap. “Preparations for FP9” below).

Nota bene: As mentioned at the beginning, only a part of our Network activities throughout the year were dedicated to these FAs. For an account of the manifold events and other activities of the Network (see Chap. “Services and Products” below).



Untangle

Services and Products

The Euresearch network informs, advises and connects all parties in Switzerland interested in the FPs of the European Union. For the past 20 years, we have ensured this with an array of services and products, offered for free to Swiss companies, institutions and the public. Besides well-established and popular formats, like special training workshops focussing on specific topics or funding instruments of the FPs, Euresearch always strives to offer new tailor-made forms of support and information, in order to keep Swiss participation at a very high level.

The year 2020 was a challenge for most of us. A lot of activities were planned to be live, on-site events or in-person advisory meetings and we had to adapt to the totally new situation during the measures caused by the pandemic. The Regional Offices and the Network Office in Bern are proud to have offered the research community 81 activities in various formats, including seminars and information roadshows, mostly transformed into online meetings or training events. Where the situation allowed, we also explored new territories such as hybrid events, online breakout sessions and digital interactive networking. Our focus was always on providing the best possible service while keeping everyone's safety and well-being in mind.

The new situation also motivated us to arrange joint events between Regional Offices often together with our specialised experts from the Network Office, the NCPs. This resulted in virtual, hybrid, national, inter-cantonal and local, joint and breakout formats on a scale we had never achieved before. This is also why we were able to attract the interest of even more researchers and clients in 2020, as our activities and events were able to easily reach every corner of the country without the need for travel. It also allowed us to offer very detailed and customised events

to specific audiences, such as clinical scientists, social sciences and humanities researchers, and the digital and industry, space, and climate communities.

2020 was of course not only the year of the pandemic but also the year in which the new FP Horizon Europe, was being finalised. We took the opportunity to present and inform our clients about the latest developments and opportunities as soon as information was available. Hence, as regards the content, most of the activities and online information events covered Horizon Europe. However, we also focussed on the last big initiative under Horizon 2020: the Green Deal call. Well above 1 000 interested researchers from academia and industry participated in one of the 23 information events organised throughout Switzerland.

As in the past, we also ran a series of customised information and training sessions around the most popular funding instruments, MSCA and the European Research Council (ERC), for which the level of interest remained very high. Our Regional Offices ran various training sessions for researchers in their regions alone, in order to facilitate intensive and interactive exchange among participants.

Last but not least, our services and products targeted to company clients, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises, were very popular and no doubt contributed to the tremendous success of Swiss companies in Horizon 2020.

Thus, even though we miss the in-person meetings and on-site interactions, these unusual times have brought us even closer together. New connections were formed and networking was pushed to another level. In the new 'normal', we will be able to choose from an even

broader array of possibilities and media in order to adapt and to continue to offer the best services and products to our clients.

Thanks a lot for your interest, commitment and trust — even if it sometimes required a little patience. Let's keep up this inspiring pace during Horizon Europe!

Karl Kerschbaum
Regional Network Coordinator

Events for Members of the Euresearch Association

While the *raison d'être* of the Euresearch Network is to inform, advise and connect the research and innovation community, we could not do so without the continued moral and financial support of the members of the Euresearch Association. Whenever we can, we therefore try to support their needs on an institutional level. In 2020, we had 2 opportunities to do so:

Workshop – European General Data Protection Regulation

The first occasion stemmed from the wish of several universities of applied sciences for more information regarding the revised European General Data Protection Regulation and its impact on their involvement in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects. The Network Office therefore organised a half-day workshop on 6 February with a specialist from KPMG. The topic obviously struck a chord and the event was completely booked out in very little time. The participants appreciated the opportunity to raise and discuss the various questions they had. The vast majority evaluated the event as good to excellent and we will certainly organise follow-up activities should the need arise.

Swiss brokerage event — Green Deal call

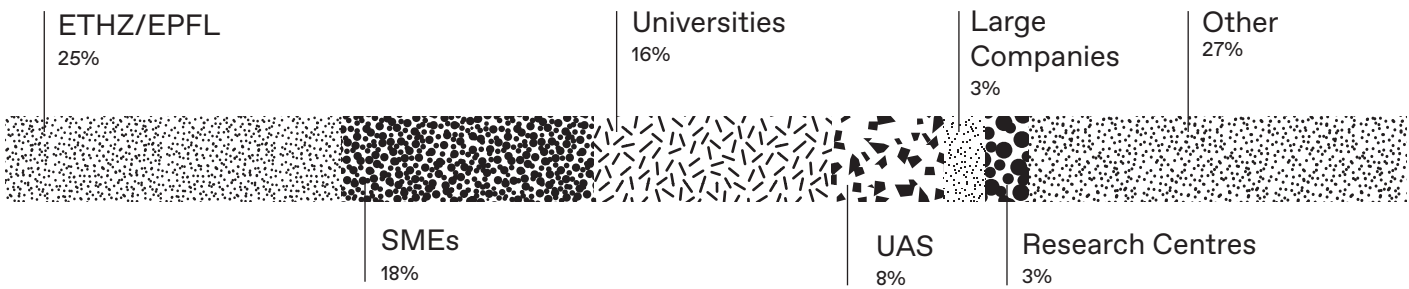
The second occasion arose from the idea of a Board Member to try to better coordinate and pool the expertise of the research community in Switzerland in submitting FP proposals. NCPs Francesco Kienzle and Riccardo Scarinci, our NCPs for ICT and Transport took the topic “Green Airports” of the Green Deal call as an opportunity to test this idea with a purely Swiss brokerage event. This pilot, which took place on 3 July, was also a success in that it stimulated lively discussions during the event and facilitated collaborations thereafter. Subsequently, 2 of the participants even submitted a proposal as coordinators. This is as much as anybody could wish for and demonstrates that the best ideas are still generated in face-to-face meetings, be they physical or virtual.

These events show that Euresearch can definitely provide valuable services not only to researchers but also to institutions. We hope to be able to continue to provide a good return on investment to the members of the Association for the membership fees we gratefully receive every year.

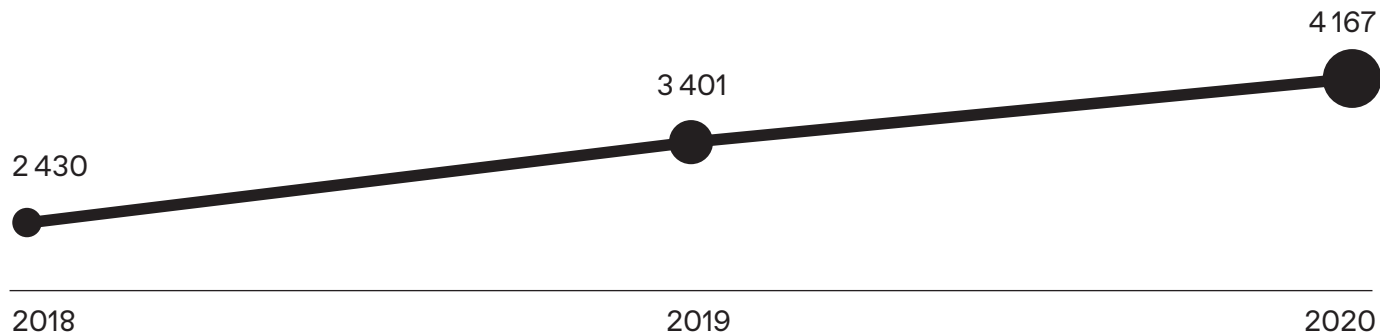


Highlights of 2020

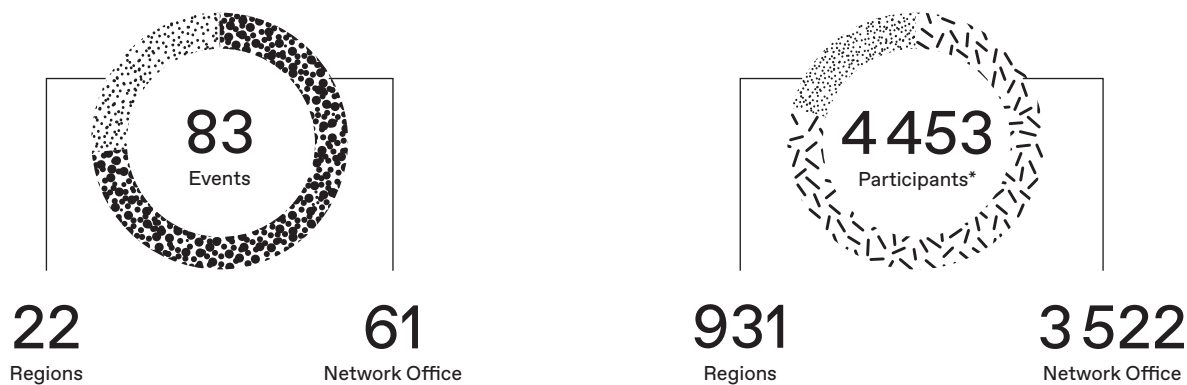
New Contacts per Client Type 2020



New Contacts 2018 – 2020 in Absolute Numbers per Year

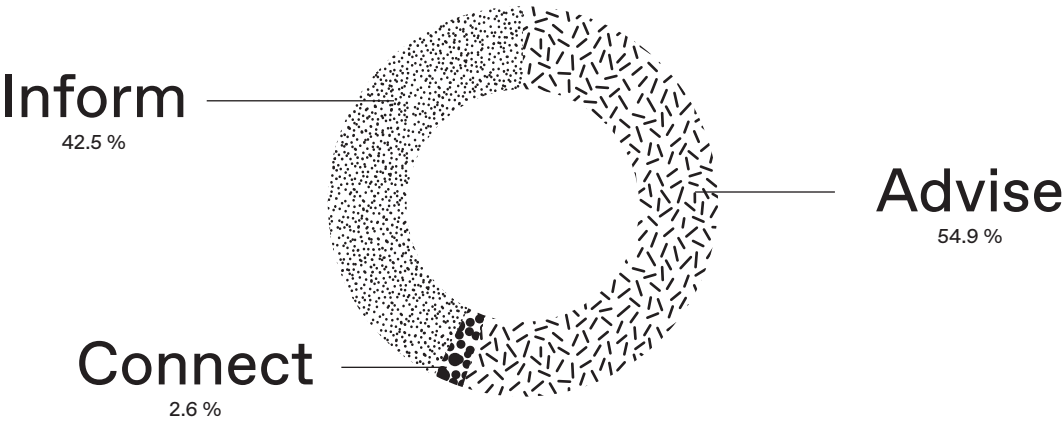


Events Organised by Euresearch



* including events organised in collaboration with other organisations

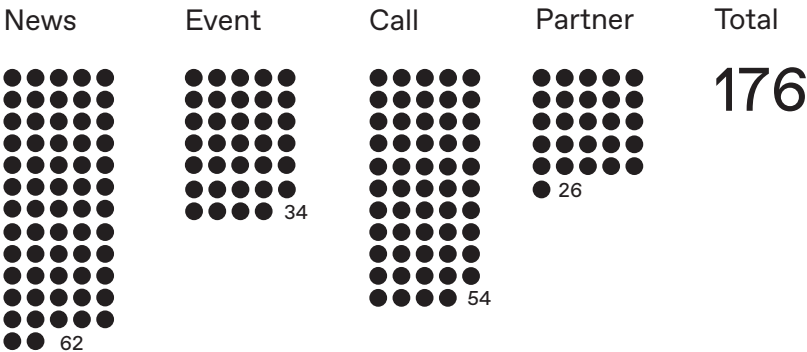
Service Category



E-Alerts



E-Alert Type



Social Media Followers 2020

3533

Twitter
New followers 230

2512

LinkedIn
New followers 514

589

YouTube
New followers 195

Newsletter Subscribers

2018

15 552

Sent on average to clients

2019

18 020

Sent on average to clients

2020

19 246

Sent on average to clients

Network Team

2018

106
collaborators

2019

117
collaborators

2020

120
collaborators

Preparations for FP9

Like in 2019, the Euresearch Network was busy with 2 different FPs in parallel last year. Apart from providing support for Horizon 2020 (2014–2020), we had to prepare for Horizon Europe (2021–2027) on various levels. We did so by means of our Network-internal project “CHEERS” (an acronym standing for “Switzerland in Horizon Europe with Euresearch to Success”), which was set up in 2019. This project allowed us to closely monitor our progress and the resources we invested in these preparations for the benefit of our clients and other stakeholders as well as for the Network as a whole.

This monitoring was all the more important given the substantial delays in the EU legal procedures necessary to launch the new FP. The schedule of various tasks had to be changed time and again and the task leaders often felt like they were aiming at a moving target. We are therefore all the prouder that we could close the project successfully by the end of 2020 with the following results:

1. **Corporate Design:** To clearly convey the start of a new era with Horizon Europe, the Management Board decided to update the look of Euresearch by introducing a new visual identity. The corporate design was entirely revised, all products conceptualised with Horizon Europe in mind and implemented in the new design. This was done successfully — as you can see by the report in your hands — and completed well on time.
2. **Services and Product Portfolio:** The portfolio and the related business processes were checked against the new FP structure. As it turned out, only minor adaptations were needed to bring them all up to date. Our internal “Needs and Opportunity
3. **Structures:** This area covered all the necessary adaptations of our infrastructure such as the website, our client database and adjustments to the resources and responsibilities of the NCPs. This was necessary not only because of the changes in the structure from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe, but also to modernise the backend and, most importantly, to make it more user-friendly, for example by including a more powerful search function. The complete redesign of the website and the update of our database were probably the most complex tasks of the whole CHEERS project. Complexity notwithstanding, this part of the project was also finished on time. The new Euresearch website went live on 28 December 2020, the updated database shortly after.
4. **Events and Training:** This fourth part included all training activities for the members of the Euresearch Network as well as for the clients, including the preparations for a high-level Horizon Europe launch event to take place in 2021. The Knowledge Management Task Force organised 2 major Horizon Europe training activities for the Network, one during the Network Retreat on 16-17 September and the other on 17 December 2020. In view of the

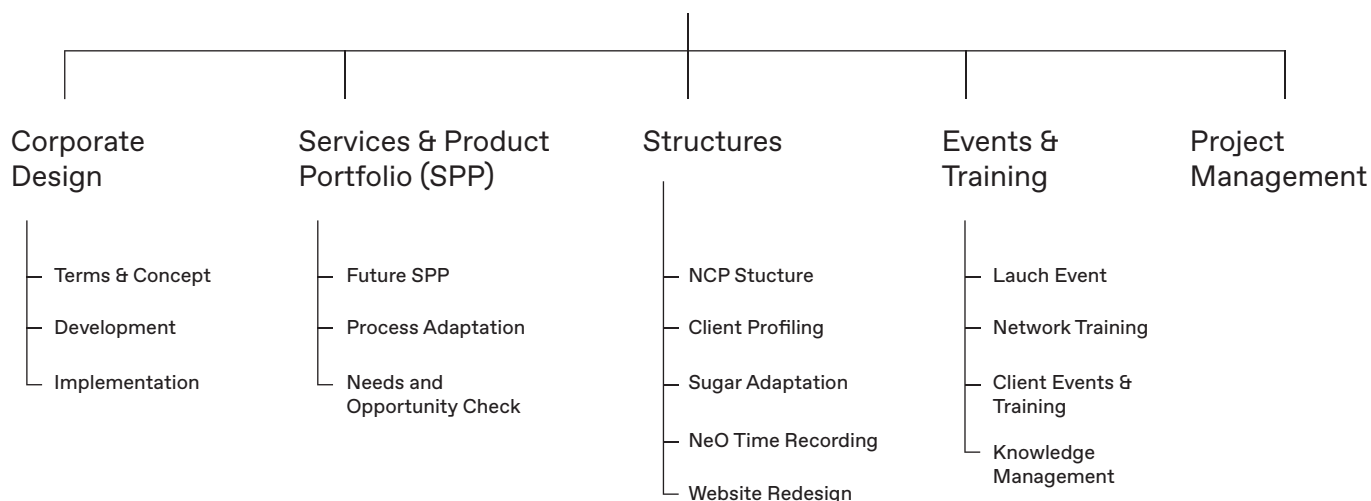
delay regarding Switzerland's association to Horizon Europe, the idea of a high-level launch event together with SERI was abandoned in favour of a national information event to take place in mid-February 2021. Last but not least, clients were informed about Horizon Europe in various smaller events in the second half of the year (see also Chap. "Targets for 2020" above and "Services and Products" below). For this purpose, the "Horizon Europe Building Kit" (HEBUKI) was designed. The modular structure of this toolkit allows any member of the Network to prepare tailor-made PowerPoint presentations on Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme as well as supporting materials for any group of clients. Part of the HEBUKI materials is a set of 5 short videos outlining the most pertinent reasons for participating in Horizon Europe. These videos were professionally produced and even gained Euresearch the praise of members of the European Commission. The effort spent on designing and producing this toolkit

were substantial but definitely worth the investment.

5. **Project Management:** As mentioned, we were able to close the project successfully by the end of the year. Special thanks for meticulous organisation and smooth implementation go to Flurina Schaffer, Process & Project Manager at the Network Office. Moreover, the effort spent on the management of CHEERS stayed well under the time foreseen for this purpose. Lessons learnt in the past 2 years will be collected and submitted to the Management Board as best practices for preparations for the next EU FP in 7 years' time.

To cut a long story short: the Euresearch advisors in the regions and the Network Office are ready to inform and advise any interested parties on the structure and content of the Horizon Europe FP. Now it is up to the diplomats to sort out the participation modalities for Swiss researchers and innovators.

CHEERS Project Structure



Financial Report

Finances — Euresearch Network

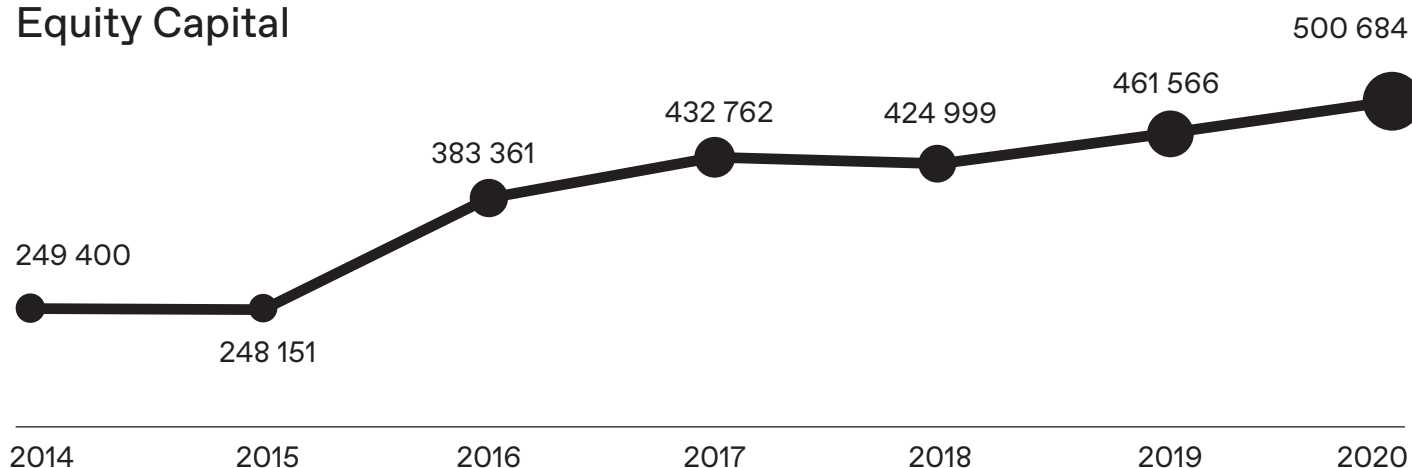
As in 2019, the Euresearch Network could draw financial resources from 4 different lines of income (see p. 22 below). As usual, SERI contributed the lion's share (96%) of the total income of CHF 6 864 433 that we had at our disposal last year. On top of the regular subsidy of CHF 6 120 431 to fulfil our tasks with regard to Horizon 2020, SERI granted us another CHF 469 874 to prepare for Horizon Europe (see also Chap. "Preparations for FP9" above). These additional funds originated from the value added tax (VAT) that Euresearch paid in 2017 and 2018. When the Federal Court ruled in favour of Euresearch in early 2019, declaring that the subsidy from SERI was not subject to VAT, SERI allowed Euresearch to spend the amount that the Federal Tax Administration (FTA) had to return on the preparations for FP9 (see Annual Report 2019, p. 18).

On the whole, we had a successful financial year. On the income side, we were pleasantly surprised when the interest on arrears of the VAT that the FTA still owed us turned out to be higher than foreseen (CHF 27 829 instead of

CHF 20 000). Nevertheless, the overall profit of CHF 39 118 was lower than the expected CHF 49 810. The main reason for this deviation was, once again, a loss on the EU NCP projects (CHF -7 801). These projects allow for a small profit margin as long as our actual indirect costs remain lower than the EU's flat rate of 25%. That is why we had expected a profit of CHF 19 080 for 2020 but as in so many other cases, the work in the NCP projects was delayed by the various COVID-19 restrictions imposed all over Europe. Since 5 of the 7 projects are still ongoing, we should be able to make up for this loss in 2021. These projects are an important source of information and networking for the NCPs and thus for our clients.

Since we stayed under budget in the other 3 funding lines, however, the overall result is still more than satisfactory. The difference between the planned and the actual result is minute (0.2%) in comparison to the total Euresearch revenue. At the end of the year, we had increased the Association's equity capital from CHF 461 566 to CHF 500 684. The goal of CHF 500 000, which we set ourselves in 2018, was thus reached and we can comfortably face the coming year.

Equity Capital



Finances – Network Office

The financial year at the Network Office was marked on the one hand by the investments we made in view of the new FP, and on the other by the impact of the government's measures to fight COVID-19. The extra SERI funds allowed us to finance a number of substantial updates to the way the Euresearch Network presents itself to clients. The complete overhaul of our website and our client database as well as the introduction of a new corporate design were the most significant non-recurrent expenditures, and could not have been carried out with the regular Horizon 2020 budget alone. Due to tight cost management, all 3 projects stayed within budget.

As mentioned before, Euresearch services were provided almost exclusively online from March 2020 onwards. Travel expenses and costs for events thus amounted to only about a third of what we had foreseen. These unused funds were repurposed for additional IT licences, equipment and other support for our online events. The digitalisation of our services has been a topic of discussion in the Management Board for several years now and in 2020 the circumstances forced our hand. We had to move forward with the process and we had the financial means to do so — a privileged position to be in at the end of a business year.

Financial Report

Income Statement

| | Verein | H2020 | FP9 | EU-NCP | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ertrag | | | | | | |
| Bundesbeiträge | 6 605 242 | - | - | - | 6 605 242 | 6 393 921 |
| Umlage Bundesbeiträge | -6 605 242 | 6 120 000 | 485 242 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Underspendings 2020 | - | -7 225 | -15 368 | - | -22 593 | - |
| Total Bundesbeiträge | 0 | 6 112 775 | 469 874 | - | 6 582 649 | 6 393 921 |
| Mitgliederbeiträge | 94 000 | - | - | - | 94 000 | 91 000 |
| Untermiete | - | - | - | - | 0 | 35 015 |
| EU NCP Projektbeiträge inkl. Abgrenzungen | - | - | - | 180 128 | 180 128 | 251 832 |
| Übrige Erträge | - | 8 676 | - | - | 8 676 | 8 676 |
| Ertragsminderungen | - | -1 020 | - | - | -1 020 | - |
| Total übrige Erträge | 94 000 | 7 656 | - | 180 128 | 281 784 | 386 524 |
| Total Ertrag | 94 000 | 6 120 431 | 469 874 | 180 128 | 6 864 433 | 6 780 445 |
| Personalaufwand Geschäftsstelle | | | | | | |
| Personalaufwand | -25 588 | -2 391 609 | -65 320 | -171 452 | -2 653 969 | -2 609 248 |
| Reise-/Verpflegungs-/Unterkunftsspesen | -10 098 | -34 775 | - | -1 332 | -46 204 | -70 329 |
| Kooperationsaufwände | - | -3 231 774 | -300 547 | - | -3 532 321 | -3 310 627 |
| Übriger betrieblicher Aufwand | | | | | | |
| Raumaufwand inkl. Unterhalt / Reparaturen | -1 592 | -103 814 | -8 219 | -4 164 | -117 788 | -207 297 |
| Allgemeiner Verwaltungsaufwand | -14 399 | -45 212 | -3 579 | -1 813 | -65 004 | -90 260 |
| Verein | - | - | - | - | - | -16 497 |
| Informatikaufwand (inkl. Telefonie und Internet) | -1 047 | -180 156 | -77 092 | -2 980 | -261 275 | -220 073 |
| Marketing / Kommunikation | -1 067 | -69 602 | -38 962 | -2 792 | -112 423 | -66 997 |
| Anlässe | -509 | 3 094 | - | - | 2 585 | -42 593 |
| Total Aufwand | -54 301 | -6 053 848 | -493 718 | -184 533 | -6 786 399 | -6 633 921 |
| Total Ertrag | 94 000 | 6 120 431 | 469 874 | 180 128 | 6 864 433 | 6 780 445 |
| Total Aufwand | -54 301 | -6 053 848 | -493 718 | -184 533 | -6 786 399 | -6 633 920 |
| Zwischenergebnis | 39 699 | 66 583 | -23 844 | -4 405 | 78 034 | 146 525 |
| Abschreibungen | | | | | | |
| Abschreibungen | -865 | -56 407 | -4 466 | -2 263 | -64 000 | -130 564 |
| Finanzerfolg | | | | | | |
| Finanzaufwand / Kursverlust | -2 079 | -202 | - | - | -2 281 | -15 107 |
| Finanzertrag / Kursgewinn | 264 | - | - | - | 264 | 6 674 |
| Total a.o., einmal. od. periodenfr. Erfolg | | | | | | |
| Ausserordentlicher Aufwand | - | - | - | -2 009 | -2 009 | 0 |
| Ausserordentlicher Ertrag | 29 | 1 646 | 29 745 | 875 | 32 296 | 29 040 |
| Auflösung Rückstellungen | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Jahresgewinn/-verlust | 37 049 | 11 621 | 1 435 | -7 801 | 42 303 | 36 567 |
| Rückführung Gewinn an SBFI | 0 | -3 185 | 0 | 0 | -3 185 | 0 |
| Jahresgewinn (+) /-verlust (-) | 37 049 | 8 436 | 1 435 | -7 801 | 39 118 | 36 567 |

Financial Report

Balance Sheet

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Aktiven | | |
| Flüssige Mittel | 1 121 145 | 470 442 |
| Forderungen aus L+L | 2 561 | 3 075 942 |
| Übrige kurzfristige Forderungen | 38 | 1 344 |
| Abgrenzung Projekte | 166 545 | 164 600 |
| Aktive Rechnungsabgrenzungen | 68 493 | 53 543 |
| Total Umlaufvermögen | 1 358 782 | 3 765 872 |
| Finanzanlagen | 43 000 | 43 000 |
| Sachanlagen | 128 002 | 192 002 |
| Total Anlagevermögen | 171 002 | 235 002 |
| Total Aktiven | 1 529 784 | 4 000 874 |
| Passiven | | |
| Verbindlichkeiten aus L+L | 808 837 | 83 581 |
| Übrige kurzfristige Verbindlichkeiten | 13 938 | 2 318 |
| Abgrenzung Projekte | 71 455 | 106 135 |
| Passive Rechnungsabgrenzungen | 134 869 | 3 347 275 |
| Total kurzfristiges Fremdkapital | 1 029 100 | 3 539 308 |
| Rückstellung Projekte | 0 | 0 |
| Total langfristiges Fremdkapital | 0 | 0 |
| Total Fremdkapital | 1 029 100 | 3 539 308 |
| Vortrag 01.01. | 461 566 | 424 999 |
| Rückführung Gewinn an SBFI | -3 185 | 0 |
| Jahresergebnis | 42 303 | 36 567 |
| Vereinskapital | 500 684 | 461 566 |
| Total Passiven | 1 529 784 | 4 000 874 |

Explanations

Verein Euresearch, Bern

Anhang der Jahresrechnung

2020

CHF

2019

CHF

Angaben über die in der Jahresrechnung angewandten Grundsätze

Die vorliegende Jahresrechnung wurde gemäss den Vorschriften des Schweizer Gesetzes, insbesondere der Artikel über die kaufmännische Buchführung und Rechnungslegung des Obligationenrechts (Art. 957 bis 962) in Verbindung mit Art. 69a des Zivilgesetzbuches erstellt.

Angaben, Aufschlüsselung und Erläuterungen zu Positionen der Bilanz und Erfolgsrechnung

Abgrenzungen Projekte

Diese Position betrifft durch den Verein Euresearch vorfinanzierte Kosten für EU-NCP-Projekte (aktive Abgrenzungen) bzw. Vorauszahlungen für entsprechende Projekte (passive Abgrenzungen).

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------|
| Personalaufwand | 39'535 | 0 |
| Entlastung des Personalaufwandes durch Auflösung von Arbeitgeberbeitragsreserven | 39'535 | 0 |

Langfristige Mietverpflichtungen

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Belpstrasse 11, 3007 Bern (brutto inkl. MWST) | 320'875 | 382'200 |
|---|---------|---------|

Erläuterungen zu ausserordentlichen, einmaligen oder periodenfremden Positionen der Erfolgsrechnung

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Ausserordentlicher Ertrag | 32'296 | 29'040 |
| - Ausgleichskasse Bern, CO2-Abgabe | 1'153 | 4'050 |
| - Vergütungszins auf Rückerst. MWST 2017 & 2018 | 27'829 | 0 |
| - Restbetrag Rückerst. MWST 2017 & 2018 | 1'766 | 0 |
| - Kellerhals, Rückerst. Gerichtskosten | 0 | 22'763 |
| - EU-NCP-Projekte, Anp. Abgr. an Schlusszlg. | 549 | 2'227 |
| - Diverses | 998 | 0 |
| Ausserordentlicher Aufwand | 2'009 | 0 |
| - EU-NCP-Projekte, Anp. Abgr. an Schlusszlg. | 2'009 | 0 |

Fremdwährungskurse

Bei der Fremdwährungsumrechnung werden für die Bilanz Stichtagskurse eingesetzt, für unterjährige Transaktionen und die Erfolgsrechnung werden Durchschnittskurse herangezogen. Einzig für Projektbeiträge der EU erfolgt die Bewertung in der Erfolgsrechnung per 31.12. ebenfalls zum Stichtagskurs.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| | EUR | EUR |
| - Bilanz per 31.12. | 1.08155 | 1.08700 |

Explanations

Verein Euresearch, Bern

Anhang der Jahresrechnung

2020

2019

CHF

CHF

Verbindlichkeiten gegenüber Vorsorgeeinrichtungen

Helvetia Sammelstiftung für Personalvorsorge (bis 31.12.2019)
AXA Stiftung (ab 1.1.2020)

0
00
0

Anzahl Mitarbeiter Geschäftsstelle

Anzahl Mitarbeiter Geschäftsstelle per 31.12.

25

25

Wesentliche Ereignisse nach dem Bilanzstichtag

Nach dem Bilanzstichtag sind keine wesentlichen Ereignisse eingetreten, welche die Aussagefähigkeit der Jahresrechnung 2020 beeinträchtigen könnten bzw. an dieser Stelle offengelegt werden müssten.

Andere Angaben

Arbeitgeberbeitragsreserve

AXA Stiftung

678'741

718'276

Finanzierungsquellen

- Subventionsvertrag 2018-2020

Der Informations- und Beratungsdienst für die EU Forschungsrahmenprogramme des Vereins Euresearch wird seit dem 1. Januar 2018 mittels eines Subventionsvertrags vom Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation (SBFI) finanziert. Die Laufzeit beträgt drei Jahre.

- Die Mehrkosten, welche als Vorbereitung für das nächste EU Forschungsrahmenprogramm im Jahr 2020 bei Euresearch entstanden sind, dürfen zudem mit der zurückerstatteten Mehrwertsteuer finanziert werden. Der Überschuss dieser Mittel ist an das Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation zurückzuerstatten.

- EU-Projekte

Der Verein Euresearch war per Ende 2020 an 7 EU Projekten beteiligt.

- Mitgliederbeiträge

Die Vereinsaktivitäten werden durch jährliche Mitgliederbeiträge gedeckt.

Direkte Steuern

- Gemäss Schreiben vom 5. Juli 2005 der Steuerverwaltung des Kantons Bern wird der Verein aufgrund von Art. 83 Abs. 1 Bst. g des bernischen Gesetzes über die direkten Staats- und Gemeindesteuern (StG) und Art. 56 Bst. g des Gesetzes über die direkte Bundessteuer (DBG) rückwirkend ab Gründung von der Steuerpflicht befreit.

Mehrwertsteuer

- Der Verein Euresearch ist als mehrwertsteuerpflichtige Institution im MWST-Register eingetragen.

- Gemäss Bundesgerichtsentscheid vom Februar 2019 gelten die Bundesbeiträge der Schweizer Eidgenossenschaft aus mehrwertsteuerlicher Sicht als Subventionen.

- Unabhängig vom Gerichtsverfahren wurden zudem die Beratungsleistungen gegenüber der EU im Jahr 2019 durch die ESTV als steuerbare Beratungsleistung eingestuft. Da die Leistungen gegenüber der EU erbracht werden, handelt es sich jedoch um Leistungen im Ausland, welche nicht der Schweizer Mehrwertsteuer unterliegen.

Bericht Revisionsstelle



LOEPHTIEN MAEDER TREUHAND

An die Mitgliederversammlung des
Vereins Euresearch
Belpstrasse 11
3007 Bern

Ittigen, 19. März 2021

Bericht der Revisionsstelle zur Eingeschränkten Revision

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren


Auftragsgemäss haben wir die Prüfung der Jahresrechnung (Bilanz, Erfolgsrechnung und Anhang) des Vereins Euresearch für das am 31. Dezember 2020 abgeschlossene Geschäftsjahr vorgenommen.

Für die Jahresrechnung ist der Vereinsvorstand verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, diese zu prüfen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die Anforderungen hinsichtlich Zulassung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllen.

Unsere Revision erfolgte nach dem Schweizer Standard zur Eingeschränkten Revision. Danach ist diese Revision so zu planen und durchzuführen, dass wesentliche Fehlaussagen in der Jahresrechnung erkannt werden. Eine Eingeschränkte Revision umfasst hauptsächlich Befragungen und analytische Prüfungshandlungen sowie den Umständen angemessene Detailprüfungen der beim geprüften Unternehmen vorhandenen Unterlagen. Dagegen sind Prüfungen der betrieblichen Abläufe und des internen Kontrollsystems sowie Befragungen und weitere Prüfungshandlungen zur Aufdeckung deliktischer Handlungen oder anderer Gesetzesverstösse nicht Bestandteil dieser Revision.

Bei unserer Revision sind wir nicht auf Sachverhalte gestossen, aus denen wir schliessen müssten, dass die Jahresrechnung nicht Gesetz und Statuten entspricht.

Loeptien Maeder Treuhand AG


Giuseppe Stracquadaini
Leitender Revisor


Adrian Loeptien
Revisionsexperte

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| Bilanzsumme | CHF | 1'529'784 |
| Eigenkapital | CHF | 500'684 |
| Vereinserfolg | CHF | 39'118 |

Loeptien Maeder Treuhand AG Talweg 17, Postfach, 3063 Ittigen
T 031 921 88 22 F 031 921 88 23 W lm-treuhand.ch

Mitglied TREUHAND | SUISSE  Mitglied von EXPERTSuisse

Example of a Success Story

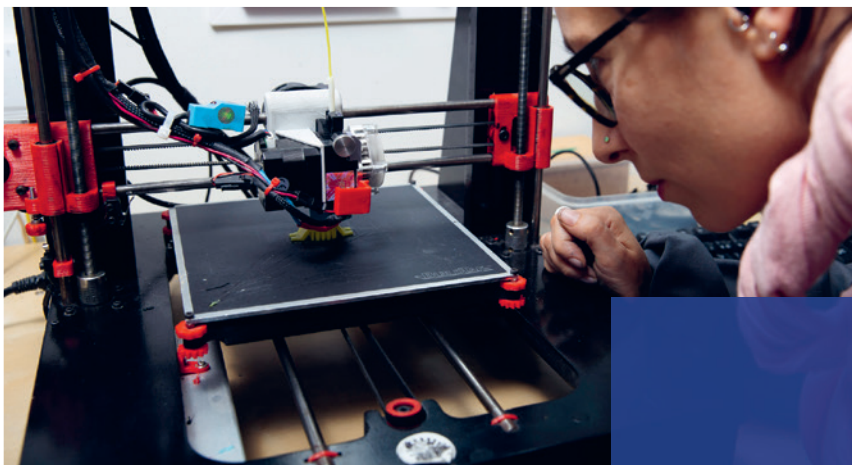
July 2020



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation



EURESEARCH
Swiss guide to European research & innovation



SUCCESS STORY

Rebirth for inner-city industry
Horizon 2020 | Societal Challenge 5

The Horizon 2020 project "CENTRINNO" (New centralities in industrial areas as engines for innovation and urban transformation) aims to revitalise city centres by identifying and supporting urban manufacturers. By turning historic industrial sites into new manufacturing hubs, CENTRINNO will put innovation and local supply at the heart of our future cities. The Geneva FabLab "Onl'Fait" is one of the key participants.

European cities once drew their character and economic power from the manufacturing carried out in their centres. Even after decades of globalisation, high value-added, artisanal craftsmanship often survives as small pockets in inner-city centres. Building on this savoir-faire is the goal of the CENTRINNO project. One of the participants is Geneva's first FabLab, Onl'Fait. Dr Cristina Olivotto, who founded the FabLab with Sébastien Mischler and Mathieu

Jacquesson, says that CENTRINNO "will help new artisans put down roots in these old centres of traditional manufacturing. By regenerating these sites, we can bring manufacturing back to city centres."

'By regenerating old industrial sites, we can bring manufacturing back to city centres'

A history of production

Onl'Fait will focus on Geneva's Charmilles industrial zone. "Charmilles has been an industrial centre for over 100 years and there are still a number of small workshops there," Olivotto says. "We want to develop collaborative manufacturing, whereby artisans share design, manufacturing, marketing and distribution, taking advantage of individual knowledge and building economies of scale. I am convinced that the transfer of new technology to the local community will help it to innovate."

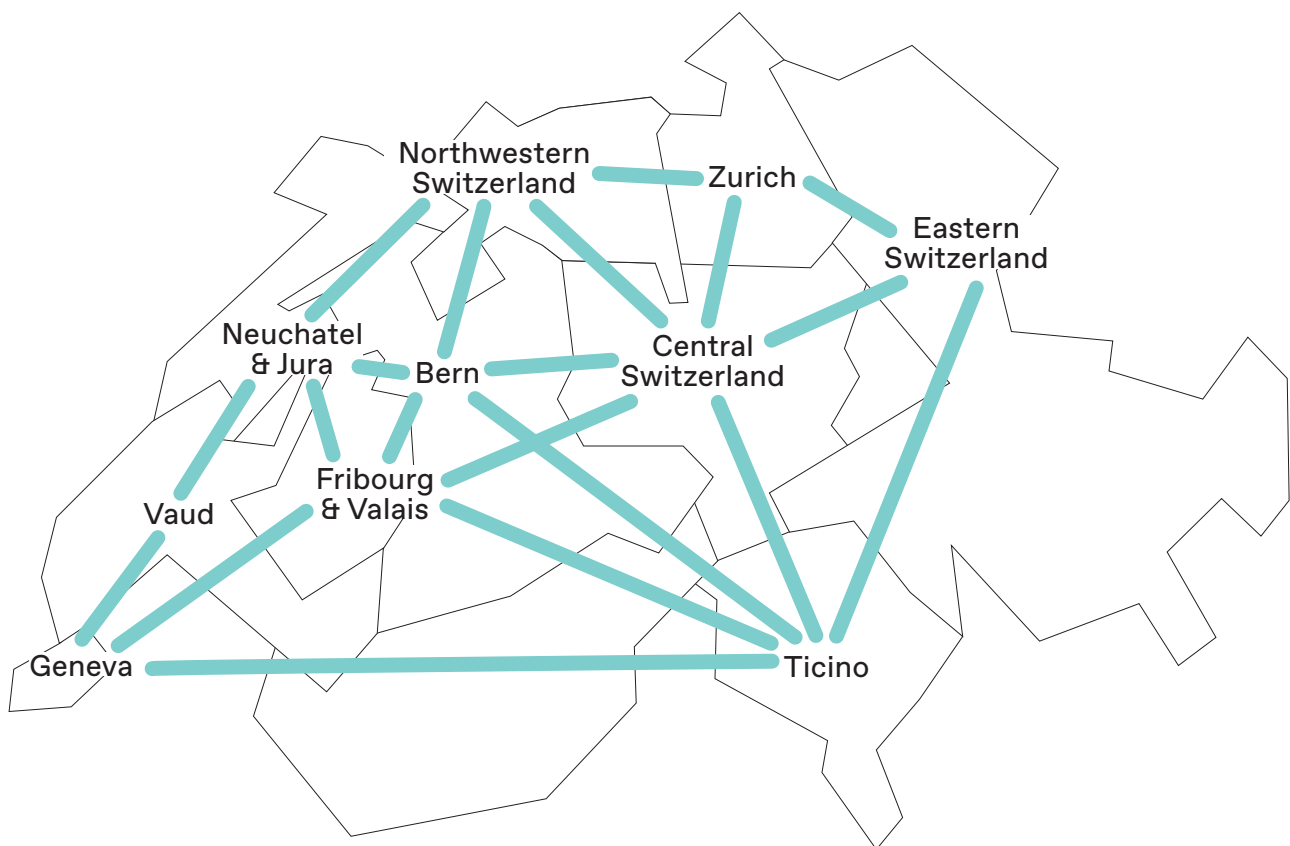
Democratising high-tech

Olivotto trained as a physicist but became an expert in science outreach and education before joining Onl'Fait when she founded "Sterren-Lab", a company that organises science camps for children. So she sees bringing the public on board as critical. "We first want to understand Charmilles' needs so that we can develop a strategy and identify solutions. Our objective is to build bridges with the artisans there and get Geneva's vocational schools involved in using modern tools to develop craftsmanship." For example, by making 3D printers and laser cutters available to all, CENTRINNO will help individuals and small companies maximise speed and scale. "Many artists and designers never realise their ideas because they lack manufacturing knowledge," she explains. "Too many people think they are too small to do this. Now they will be able to get training and build relationships with experts."

The Association

Euresearch is an information and advisory service on the European Union Research and Innovation Framework Programmes. It has offices in all the Swiss regions and a Network Office in Bern.

The Regional Offices are your first point of contact for all your research and innovation questions. The Network Office hosts the National Contact Points and the central Network services. Euresearch is a non-profit organisation funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation.



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| | |
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| Vice-Director | Karl Kerschbaum |
| Member | Petra Hertkorn-Betz |
| Member | Cornelia Spycher |
| Member | Markus Weber |
| Member | Katja Wirth |

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March 2021

