GLOBAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

**Annual
Meeting**

Interlaken
27 – 31 May
2024

#grc24

Agenda

Swiss National
Science Foundation

FONSTI
FONDS POUR LA SCIENCE,
LA TECHNOLOGIE ET L'INNOVATION

Day 1 | Monday, 27 May 2024
Internal meetings and side events
Parallel track 1
Venue: Theater hall

Time	Activity
8.30 – 18.00	Registration desk open
9.00 – 9.25	Multilateral Engagement – Introduction
9.00 – 9.05	Introductory Remarks and the Establishment of the Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE-WG) By Alejandro Adem, Chairperson of GRC
9.05 – 9.20	MLE-WG and the Impact of the Day's Sessions on the Work of the Group By Prudence Makhura and Osamu Kobayashi, Co-Chairs of the MLE-WG
9.20 – 12.00	Multilateral Engagement – Session 1 – Harmonizing Transdisciplinary Collaboration and Multilateral Funding for Global Sustainability
9.20 – 9.25	Introduction
9.25 – 9.55	The Global Centers Program: Addressing Global Challenges through Multidisciplinary and international Collaborations to advance use-inspired research Organisers: NSERC/NSF US The new NSF Global Centers funding opportunity jointly developed by NSF, NSERC, SSHRC, UKRI and CSIRO will be used to explore merging research priorities to support multilateral engagement across the GRC to address global challenges. The session will focus on lessons learned to provide insights to facilitate and promote the next steps in bilateral and multilateral collaboration.
9.55 – 10.25	Novel arrangements to foster sustainability research Organisers: IAI/CONFAP/FAPESP This event will discuss institutional innovations to develop, coordinate, and implement collaborative transdisciplinary research funding that address societal and environmental challenges. We will draw on the experience of 2 programs in Brazil – the Amazonia+10 Initiative and the Research Program in South Atlantic and Antarctica - PROASA.
10.25 – 10.40	Q&A
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break in Concert hall
11.00 – 11.30	World Café
11.30 – 12.00	Summary and conclusions Session 1
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Concert hall

13.00 – 15.00	**Multilateral Engagement – Session 2 – Scaling MLE Projects Globally: Best Practices for Synergy and Inclusion**
13.00 – 14.50	Promoting regional networks of research councils: capacity-strengthening and research collaboration as connectors Organisers: NRFSA/FONSTI/IDRC/DFG/NRCT/SENACYT The side event will explore the role of regional networks in enhancing the global reach and impact of research councils in the context of global partnerships and identify key practices and opportunities for capacity-strengthening at a global scale. It will showcase three case studies of regional funding and capacity-strengthening initiatives in Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. A focus on the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa A focus on regional networks or research councils in ASPAC, Americas and MENA
14.50 – 15.00	Summary Session 2
15.00 – 18.30	**Multilateral Engagement – Session 3 – Towards Equity and Solidarity: Fostering Inclusive and Responsible Cooperation in Global Research**
15.00 – 16.00	Strengthening Global Research Collaborations: Bridging the Divide between Large and Small Research Entities and between the North and the South for Sustainable Development and Decolonization of Science Organiser: Science Fund of Serbia / CSRS / Swiss TPH The event explores principles of collaboration between large and small research entities worldwide. Through a panel discussion, we focus on leveraging strengths, addressing disparities, and promoting inclusivity among institutionally diverse partners. Panelists will offer insights from national agencies and international organizations experienced in multilateral collaboration.
16.00 – 16.20	Coffee break concert hall
16.20 – 16.50	Responsible Internationalisation: A funders dialogue towards building reciprocal, impactful, and equitable international research partnerships Organisers: JST/ NSERC/NSF/STINT In an increasingly complex environment, addressing global challenges requires an inclusive dialogue on the conditions required to develop and sustain reciprocal, impactful, and equitable global research collaborations. This side event will initiate a dialogue on responsible internationalization and aims to consider prospects for the potential development of a voluntary global code of conduct.
16.50 – 17.10	Summary of Sessions
17.10 – 17.50	Research Software – Challenges and Funding Organisers: DFG/NWO In the 21st century, research software plays a pivotal role in all scientific fields, accelerating the advancement of science and ensuring the reproducibility of results and the benefits of open science. This side event will address gaps in global funding and policy for research software, and it will suggest concrete actions that research funding organizations can take to address them.

Time	Activity
17.50 – 18.10	Summary Session 3
18.10 – 18.30	Wrap-up of the day and reflections by participating HORCS
18.30 – 20.00	**Executive Support Group Meeting (at Hotel Metropole)**

Parallel track 2
Venue: Brünig 1–2

Time	Activity
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Concert hall
13.00 – 15.00	Working Group Responsible Research Assessment (WG RRA) Meeting
15.00 – 16.00	Working Group Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (WG EDI) Meeting (Part 1)
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break Concert hall
16.30 – 17.30	Working Group Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (WG EDI) Meeting (Part 2)

Day 2 | Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Internal meetings and side events

Parallel track 1
Venue: Theater hall

8.00 – 18.00	Registration desk open
8.30 – 10.00	**Side Event: Promoting Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Integration in Research: The Role of Funding Agencies**
	Organisers: NRCT / IDRC
	This side event aims to promote integration of SSH research into global research, addressing the need for holistic solutions to challenges. The event will convene funding agencies to discuss effective mechanisms, develop recommendations, and explore strategies for strengthening international SSH collaborations, contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future.
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break Concert hall
10.30 – 12.00	**Regional meetings**
	Americas - Room: Brünig 1–2 – in-person
	Asia-pacific - Room: Ballsaal – in-person
	Europe - Room: Theatersaal – hybrid
	MENA - Room: Club Casino – hybrid
	Sub-saharan Africa - Room: Harder 1–2 – in-person
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Concert hall
13.00 – 15.30	**Side event: Research, Development & Innovation in the Era of Artificial Intelligence**
	Organisers: Research council in the MENA region
	The side event will delve into how funding organizations can utilize AI for enhancing their Research, Development, and Innovation processes and activities. It seeks to identify and address the ethical implications and challenges that arise from the utilization of AI and propose guidelines for responsible and conscientious integration of AI technologies into the activities of funding organizations.
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break Concert hall
16.00 – 17.30	**Side event: Leveraging Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plans**
	Organisers: EDI Working Group Side Event
	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness (EDI) remains a critical component of any sustainable research system, fostering a fair and just culture that improves research quality and relevance. Thus, EDI should be considered a vital element of any funding agency's strategy. The session will introduce EDI action plans developed by two GRC Participant Organisations and discuss, with a panel of heads of agencies, how these can contribute towards a thriving, sustainable research system.
18.45 – 22.30	**Welcome Reception on ship Lake Thun**

Parallel track 2
Venue: Ballroom

8.30 – 10.00	**Side event: Responsible Research Assessment: strengthening sustainable research**
	Organisers: Responsible Research Assessment Working Group (RRA) The GRC RRA working group has developed a shared understanding of RRA. We will share this common understanding, discuss case studies, and apply the framework to articulate how RRA shapes a more sustainable research environment. With the Research on Research Institute, we will also launch a survey to assess the scope of RRA practices among GRC participants.
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break Concert hall
10.30 – 12.00	Regional meeting – Asia-pacific
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 15.30	**Side event: Sustainable research infrastructures for a greener future: How can the international scientific community achieve that goal?**
	Organisers: UKRI This interactive event seeks to share best practice and learning on measures that can be taken by GRC participants to make research infrastructures (RIs) and the way they are used more environmentally sustainable. It will also discuss how to measure the impact RIs have on the generation of knowledge and innovations needed to achieve environmental sustainability and reach global net zero targets.
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break in Concert hall
16.00 – 17.30	**Side event: Equity in Open Access Publishing**
	Organisers: FAPESP / NRF Access to science information, especially in developing countries is prone to challenges. The proposed side event will discuss the increasing challenges to equity in academic publishing. This includes: (i) cost of APCs, (ii) composition of editorial boards, (ii) regional distribution of editors, (iv) regional distribution of reviewers, (v) awareness creation and resourcing and others.
16.00 – 17.30	**Governing Board Meeting (Room: Brünig 1–2)**

Day 3 | Wednesday, 29 May 2024
GRC Annual Meeting
Venue: Concert hall

08.00 –18.00	Registration Desk open

08.30 – 09.30	**Welcome and opening ceremony** Chair: Euclides de Mesquita Neto, GRC Executive Secretary

Introduction to session
Euclides de Mesquita Neto, GRC Executive Secretary

Opening of Session by the GRC Governing Board
Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada

Greeting
Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor, Switzerland

Opening words: Switzerland's scientific contribution to sustainable development
Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Research, Education and Innovation, Switzerland

Opening words: Challenges and opportunities for research on sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire.
Adama Diawara, Minister for Higher Education, Scientific Research of Côte d'Ivoire

Welcome President SNSF
Matthias Egger, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Welcome Executive Director FONSTI
Yaya Sangaré, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Ivory Coast

Transition to introduction of Heads of Research Councils
Euclides de Mesquita Neto, GRC Executive Secretary

09.30 – 10.15	**Introduction of Heads of Research Councils** Chair: Munir M. Eldesouki, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Saudi Arabia
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee Break Concert hall
10.45 – 12.05	**Session 1: Sustainable research – what are we talking about?** Chair: Sethuraman Panchanathan, National Science Foundation (NSF), United States

Introduction to session
Sethuraman Panchanathan, National Science Foundation (NSF), United States

What is sustainable research? And what are the responsibilities of science and funding agencies?
Peter Messerli, University of Bern, Switzerland

Perspective from the Global South
Rajesh Tandon, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), India

Panel and Q & A
Moderator: Mari Sundli Tveit, Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway

Panellists:

Angelika Kalt, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Yaya Sangaré, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Ivory Coast

Daniel Salamone, The National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina

Xiankang Dou, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), China

Conclusion session 1
Sethuraman Panchanathan, National Science Foundation (NSF), United States

Introduction to poster session and invitation to view
Alexander Hasgall, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

12.05 – 12.30	Group photo Intro: Alexander Hasgall, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch Concert hall
13.30 – 14.00	Bilateral meetings slot or break
14.00 – 15.50	**Session 2: Research for sustainable development** Chair: Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom

Introduction to session
Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom

How can funders support research on sustainability? What are the challenges and how can they be overcome?
James Arnott, Aspen Global Change Institute, United States

The Global Centers Program in Climate Change and Clean Energy
Sethuraman Panchanathan, National Science Foundation (NSF), United States
Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Sustainable Development – What are the challenges for African Countries?
Cheick Mbow, Centre de suivi écologique, Senegal

Introduction to panel on sustainable research initiatives
Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom

Moderator: Marcel Levi, Dutch Research Council (NWO), Netherlands

Panellists:
Europe: Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom

Americas: Marco Antonio Zago, São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Brazil

Asia-Pacific: Wiparat De-ong, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Thailand

Sub-saharan Africa: Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa

MENA: Saif Al-Hiddabi, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (TRC) / MoHERI, Oman

Conclusion session 2
Ottoline Leyser, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom

15.50 – 16.20	Bilateral meetings or break
16.20 – 18.10	**Session 3: Making research more sustainable** Chair: Thomas Werder, Vice Director and Head of Operations of Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Introduction to session
Thomas Werder, Vice Director and Head of Operations of SNSF, Switzerland

Incentives and barriers to making research more sustainable? How can funders be more sustainable themselves?
Astrid Eichhorn, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark and University of Heidelberg, Germany

ERC studies on contributions to sustainable development
Angela Liberatore, European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)

Decolonizing knowledge (Global North and South)
Ravaka Andriamihaja, University of Berne, Switzerland

Testimony on sustainable research from a funding agency perspective
Hisham M. Sabir, Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI)

Introduction to breakout sessions
Alexander Hasgall, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Breakout sessions on incentives and barriers to sustainable research practices

Rapporteurs:
Group 1: Sadim H. Jawhar, Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI), Qatar

Group 2: Anu Noorma, Estonian Research Council (ETAG), Estonia

Group 3: Agus Haryono, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) / The Indonesian Research and Innovation Fund (IRIF), Indonesia

Group 4: Anicia Peters, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), Namibia

Group 5: Flavio Caiafa, Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII), Uruguay

Group 6: Lidia Borrell-Damian, Science Europe

Rapporteurs' summary
Alexander Hasgall; Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), and Rapporteurs (all)

Conclusion session 3
Thomas Werder, Vice Director and Head of Operations of SNSF, Switzerland

19.15 – 24.00	**Dinner at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau**

Speech on decolonising authorship
Matthias Egger, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Speech
Yaya Sangaré, FONSTI, Ivory Coast

Cultural spotlight Côte d'Ivoire

Day 4 | Thursday, 30 May 2024
GRC Annual Meeting
Venue: Concert hall

8.00 –18.00	Registration desk open
8.30 – 10.00	**Session 4: Making sustainability science matter** Chair: Olga Polotska, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine

Introduction to session
Olga Polotska, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine

Building the dialogue on sustainable science with society
Heide Hackmann, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Public engagement and science communication
Rasigan Maharajh, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Open Science and equitable access to knowledge
Paolo Crosetto, French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), France

Implementation of an effective policy to ensure the sustainability of research
Arona Diedhiou, University Felix Houphouët Boigny, Ivory Coast

Introduction to panel on sustainable research initiatives
Olga Polotska, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine

Panel and Q & A
Moderator: Prue Willliams, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand

Panellists:

Katrien Maes, League of European Research Universities (LERU)

Paula Eerola, Research Council of Finland (AKA), Finland

Priscilla Mante, Co-chair, Global Young Academy

Mona Nemer, Chief Science Advisor, Canada

Conclusion session 4 and invitation to view posters
Olga Polotska, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), Ukraine

10.00 –10.15	**Poster session**
10.15 –10.30	Coffee Break Concert hall
10.30 – 11.55	**Session 5: Conclusions on sustainable research** Chair: Salvatore Aricò, International Science Council (ISC), France

Introduction to session
Salvatore Aricò, International Science Council (ISC), France

International cooperation for sustainable research
Signe Ratso, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission, EU

Inspiring innovations for sustainable research
Ruth Stewart, Future Evidence Foundation, United Kingdom

Introduction breakout session
Alexander Hasgall, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Breakout sessions

Rapporteurs:
Group 1: Ali Bumajdad, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait

Group 2: Hasan Mandal, The Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Turkey

Group 3: Patamawadee Pochanukul, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Thailand

Group 4: Cephas Adjei Mensah, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana

Group 5: (tbc)

Group 6: Laure Ognois, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF, Switzerland

Rapporteurs' summary
Alexander Hasgall; Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), and Rapporteurs (all)

Conclusion session 5
Salvatore Aricò, International Science Council (ISC), France

11.55 – 12.10	**Session 6: Endorsement Statement of Principles (SoP)** Chair: Mari Sundli Tveit, Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway

Reflections from the GRC regions on SoP

Europe: Mari Sundli Tveit, Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway

Americas: Alejandra Pizarro, Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo, (ANID), Chile

Asia-Pacific: Xiangkang Dou, National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka

Sub-saharan Africa: Lesego Thamae, Ministry Communications, Knowledge and Technology (MKCT), Botswana

MENA: Rami Niazy, Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia

Endorsement of SoP
Kazuhito Hashimoto, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan

12.10 – 13.00	Lunch Concert hall

13.00 – 14.00	**Session 7: Reporting of GRC activities** Chair: Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
	Introduction to session Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada Euclides de Mesquita Neto, GRC Executive Secretary
	Foresight report Mike Bright, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom
	Report from Working Group Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Ana Maria de Almeida, Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Brazil Adrien Braem, Science Europe
	Report from the Working Group Responsible Research Assessment Mohammed A. Alshamsi, Co-chair WG RRA, Saudi Arabia
	Report from Working Group Multilateral Engagement Osamu Kobayashi, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan Prudence Makhura, National Research Foundation (NRF-ZA), South Africa
	Conclusion session 7 Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
14.00 – 15.00	**Session 8: Outlook future GRC activities** Chair: Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
	Introduction to session Chair: Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
	Reporting GRC Executive Secretariat Euclides de Mesquita Neto, GRC Executive Secretary, FAPESP, Brazil
	Reporting from GRC Governing Board Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
	Hosts and topic Annual Meeting 2025 (video) Munir El Desouki, KACST, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Saudi Arabia Hasan Mandal, The Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Turkey
	Conclusion session 8 Chair: Alejandro Adem, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada

15.00 – 15.10	**Closing remarks** Laetitia Philippe, State Secretariat for Research, Education and Innovation (SERI), Switzerland
15.10 – 15.20	**Final remarks and farewell by the hosts** Matthias Egger, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland Yaya Sangaré, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Ivory Coast
15.20 – 16.00	Farewell coffee Concert hall
15.30 – 17.00	Working Group Multilateral Engagement (WG MLE)
16.30 – 17.30	Press conference – "Lights for Ukraine"
17.00 – 18.00	International Steering Committee Meeting
18.00 – 18.45	ESG Debrief GRC 2024 (tentative)