

Annual Meeting

Interlaken
27 – 31 May
2024

#grc24

Program Book



Swiss National
Science Foundation





Kursaal
Interlaken, Switzerland

Global Research Council
Interlaken 27 May - 31 May
2024

Words of welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 12th annual meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC), hosted by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) from Côte d'Ivoire.

The GRC annual meeting is the central forum for research funders worldwide. It allows its participants to exchange with their peers on topics that are vital for the future of research and to expand their personal network at the same time.

This year, the GRC Annual Meeting takes place in Interlaken, amidst the beautiful Bernese Oberland. This location provides the perfect setting for the overall theme of this conference: Sustainability of research in all its dimensions. Funding agencies and research councils are key drivers and bear an important responsibility for fostering sustainability in research and addressing related challenges. As a global forum, the GRC 2024 enhances a much-needed global conversation, addressing the multiple dimensions by including high-level speakers such as political decision makers, leading academics and of course, as every year, many heads of research councils from all parts of this world. By developing a common vision and exchanging good practices, the GRC provides an invaluable platform for global collaboration for the sake of our planet and societies.

Be sure to use of the many opportunities for in-depth

discussions and the expansion of international collaboration, which we hope will characterize this global event.

We very much look forward to meeting you this week and would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to Interlaken.

Matthias Egger

President
Swiss National Science
Foundation (SNSF)

Yaya Sangaré

Secretary General
Fonds pour la Science, la
Technologie et l'Innovation
(FONSTI)

Global Research Council
Interlaken 27 May - 31 May
2024

Mots de bienvenue

Chers collègues, chers amis,

Bienvenue à la 12e réunion annuelle du Conseil mondial de la recherche (GRC), organisée par le Fonds pour la science, la technologie et l'innovation (FONSTI) de Côte d'Ivoire et le Fonds national suisse de la recherche scientifique (FNS).

La réunion annuelle du GRC est le forum central pour les agences de la recherche dans le monde entier. Elle permet à ses participants d'échanger avec leurs pairs sur des sujets vitaux pour l'avenir de la recherche et d'élargir en même temps leur réseau personnel.

Cette année, la réunion annuelle du GRC se tiendra à Interlaken, dans le magnifique Oberland bernois. Cet endroit offre un cadre parfait pour le thème général de cette conférence : La durabilité de la recherche dans toutes ses dimensions. Les agences de financement et les conseils de recherche sont des moteurs essentiels et assument une responsabilité importante dans la promotion de la durabilité de la recherche et la résolution des problèmes qui y sont liés. En tant que forum mondial, le GRC 2024 favorise une conversation mondiale indispensable, abordant les multiples dimensions en incluant des intervenants de haut niveau tels que des décideurs politiques, des universitaires de premier plan et bien sûr, comme chaque année, de nombreux responsables de conseils de recherche de toutes les parties du monde. En développant une vision commune et en échangeant des bonnes pratiques, le GRC offre une

plateforme inestimable pour une collaboration mondiale dans l'intérêt de notre planète et de nos sociétés.

Ne manquez pas de profiter des nombreuses opportunités de discussions approfondies et d'expansion de la collaboration internationale qui, nous l'espérons, caractériseront cet événement mondial.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous rencontrer cette semaine et vous souhaitons la bienvenue à Interlaken.

Yaya Sangaré

Secrétaire général
Technologie et l'Innovation
(FONSTI)

Matthias Egger

Président
Fonds national suisse (FNS)

Global Research Council
Interlaken 27 May - 31 May
2024

Words of welcome

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the GRC's Governing Board, it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 12th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council.

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Fonds Ivoirien pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) for co-hosting our meeting as we gather together in beautiful Interlaken, Switzerland.

Over the past 12 months, GRC participating organizations have engaged in a global conversation on research sustainability, and how we may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the 12th Annual Meeting we will continue the discussion, as heads of research funding organizations. We will reflect on research sustainability through the perspectives of research for sustainable development, making research more sustainable, and ensuring that sustainability science matters.

During the Annual Meeting, we will engage with the GRC working groups on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Responsible Research Assessment, and our Multilateral Engagement working group. We will consider perspectives from the Global South, how to strengthen engagement and

communication with all of our publics, and equitable access to knowledge. We will look to the future through our foresight exercise and how the GRC might further evolve to enable international scientific collaboration through shared values.

Our conversations will consider best practices and novel ideas on how we might better share knowledge to improve funding systems. The new GRC statement of principles on sustainable research, that recognizes the importance of all types of research from basic to applied, will be presented for endorsement.

Again, welcome to the GRC's 12th Annual Meeting. May we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie before us and may our work together contribute to a global spirit of trust and peaceful cooperation.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Adem

Chair of the GRC Governing Board

Swiss National Science Foundation



Research and its context are constantly evolving. The SNSF wants to anticipate and help shape these changes. Therefore, we defined four strategic priorities that will guide us in our work until 2028. Its aim is to continue to offer optimal conditions for creative research in the future and, together with the higher education institutions, to promote talented researchers according to their needs. In so doing, the SNSF is enhancing Switzerland's innovative strength and societal well-being. At the same time, it is contributing to the United Nations' Agenda 2030. Its sustainable development goals, aimed at improving the lives of people the world over, are very important to the SNSF.

The SNSF defined four strategic priorities for the 2021-2028 period:

- We promote diversity in research
- We shape the future of research
- We convey the value of research
- We strengthen the competence of the SNSF

The SNSF has been participating actively and regularly in the GRC's activities since its establishment in 2012. It organised, in collaboration with Science Europe, the European regional meeting of GRC in autumn 2016 in Switzerland.

FONSTI



www.fonsti.org

The Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) is a research support fund designed to finance high quality scientific research and technological innovation programmes and projects likely to have a beneficial impact on the socio-economic and cultural development of the Ivory Coast. Placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, FONSTI supports collaborations between public research communities as well as public-private partnerships in order to stimulate knowledge production.

The mission of FONSTI is to:

- Finance national research programmes as well as scientific and technological research projects by allocating resources to researchers;
- Contribute to the scientific, economic and social valorisation of research results;
- Provide support to research structures in terms of rehabilitation of stations and laboratories, acquisition of research equipment and access to scientific information;
- Disseminate scientific and technological information;
- Protecting research achievements through intellectual property;
- Strengthen the capacities of researchers;
- Supporting the mobility of researchers;
- Promote entrepreneurship in higher education and research institutions;
- Conducting studies and surveys in relation to the national scientific and technological research system;
- Encouraging and promoting international cooperation in scientific research.

FONSTI has been a regular and active participant in the GRC since 2016 and the GRC African regional meeting in Abidjan, and FONSTI Secretary General, Dr. Yaya Sangaré has been serving in the GRC Governing Board since 2018. In this same year, FONSTI organised the annual meeting of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI).

Global Research Council



www.globalresearchcouncil.org

Founded in 2012, amidst a conference on Merrit Review at the National Science Foundation in Washington, the Global Research Council, GRC, is a virtual organisation, comprised of the heads of science and engineering funding agencies from around the world. Since its creation, the GRC has enabled heads of science and engineering funding agencies from around the world to come together to discuss common issues and promote the sharing of data and best practices, with the aim of promoting high-quality international research collaboration.

In the last 12 years the science and research ecosystem has changed substantially as have the challenges being faced by societies globally, exemplified by the cases of climate change and pandemics. Among others, these two events did lay out the need for stronger and more effective international collaboration among public research funding agencies.

GRC has strongly increased in legitimacy and reach, as the 273 registered delegates to the 2024 Annual Meeting in Interlaken, Swiss, stemming from 51 countries and 58 agencies bear witness.

The GRC has also responded to societal challenges, addressing the funders perspective, by creating three working groups to engage and produce action on topics such as Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI-WG), the Responsible Research Assessment (RRA-WG) and Multi-lateral Engagement (MLE-WG). It has also brought current discussion topics such as the role of research in sustainability to a series of Regional Meetings worldwide and, finally, to this Annual Meeting, where a Statement of Principles of Research and Sustainability shall be endorsed by participating agencies.

Many opportunities and further challenges lie ahead of the GRC, which include the improvement of the collaboration strategies among its participating agencies as well as the interaction with other stakeholders of the global research ecosystem, aiming to make the funders perspective heard outside the GRC community.

The need to strengthen the legitimacy of science before global societies by involving more diverse actors in the science and research endeavor is constantly pointed out as a necessary step to fulfill the GRC mission and objectives.

I understand the Programme presented at the Annual Meeting 2024 in Interlaken represents a significant step towards fulfilling the GRC Mission and Objectives.

Euclides de Mesquita Neto
GRC – Executive Secretary

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List of Participants Heads of Research Councils

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Executive Director

Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI) Mozambique

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Directrice

Financement de la Recherche et du Développement Technologique
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Timothy Marango

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Julie Shouldice

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National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) Chile

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National Research and Innovation Agency Uruguay (ANII) Uruguay

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General Manager, Future Research System

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National Research Foundation (NRF) Singapore

Kwang-Bok Lee

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Patamawadee Pochanukul

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Christof Gattringer

President

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Austria

Hans Willems

Secretary General

Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) Belgium

Véronique Halloin

Secretary General

Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) Belgium

Petr Baldrian

President

Czech Science Foundation (GACR) Czech Republic

Anu Noorma

Director General

Estonian Research Council (ETAG) Estonia

Signe Ratso

Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation

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Maria Leptin

President

European Research Council (ERC) EU

Paula Eerola

President

Research Council of Finland

Thierry Damerval

Chairman and Managing Director

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Katja Becker

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Rannís - Icelandic Centre for Research Iceland

Daniel Zajfman

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Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Israel

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Domènec Espriu Climent

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Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) Spain

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Director General

Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS)
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Katarina Bjelke

Director General (from 15 sept on)

Swedish Research Council (VR) Sweden

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Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Switzerland

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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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National Research Fund (QNRF) Qatar

Munir Eldesouki

President

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) Saudi
Arabia

GRC Working Groups

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

The EDI Working Group continues the work of the Gender Working Group formed in 2017 to contribute to implementing the Statement of Principles and Actions: Promoting the Equality and Status of Women in Research (endorsed in 2016). As of 2023, to accommodate the increased mandate, the Gender Working Group was renamed EDI Working Group. The group is guided in its deliberations, activities, and strategic planning by the idea that broadening participation and practicing

inclusive analysis contributes to research and innovation. It promotes gender equality from an intersectional perspective, considering the overlapping of gender with other dimensions of inequality, such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, and geographical location. On that basis, the EDIWG is advancing the following initiatives.

- Promoting the integration of an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens into the design of the GRC's vision for the next ten years, strategic planning, road map, and annual themes.
- Striving to integrate relevant EDI considerations in GRC-developed programs, resources, and future work streams.
- Working to build knowledge and provide strategic and transformative analysis and advice to the GRC and the member organizations on an ongoing basis.

MEMBER	ORGANISATION
Stephany Scotto	Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII), Uruguay
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Responsible Research Assessment Working Group

The Global Research Council (GRC) Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) working group, was established in 2021 following the endorsement of a Call to Action calling on participant organisations to embed RRA principles and take concrete action to incentivise and fulfil RRA ambitions. The group has the following key objectives:

- To advocate globally for the importance of RRA and work towards a shared understanding and goal for RRA within GRC participants.
- To share practice and guidance in implementing and embedding RRA in GRC participants.
- To galvanize support and enable coordinated action in GRC participants to implement common RRA principles and frameworks across the global research system.
- To extend the knowledge base where gaps and barriers persist or emerge, building on existing work where possible.

What we have delivered

- Produced an Action Plan which details our objectives and our work strands.
- We have worked towards a shared understanding and goal for RRA within GRC participant organizations with the creation of the Dimensions for RRA.
- We have launched a 2024 survey on RRA of GRC participant organisations in collaboration with the Research on Research Institute. This will help us to understand the current state of play and reflect on changes in RRA from 2020 (when the last survey was conducted). Your organisation will be invited to participate in the survey which will close in August 2024.

What we will do next

- Analyse and produce a working paper on the results of the 2024 GRC RRA survey.
- Share case studies in line with the Dimensions of RRA to:
 - Share how funders have implemented and embedded RRA.
 - To extend the knowledge base where gaps and barriers persist.
- Develop a self-assessment tool and supporting roadmap for funders.

MEMBER	ORGANISATION
Jean-Emmanuel Faure	European Commission, Europe
Dirce Madeira	Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI), Mozambique
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Multilateral Engagement Working Group

One of the primary objectives of the GRC is to actively facilitate and promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration among participant organisations, with the aim of supporting the global science enterprise, fostering the worldwide research community, and effectively addressing global challenges.

The Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE-WG) was officially established on June 1, 2023, during the 11th GRC Annual Meeting held in The Hague in response to the broad interest among GRC participants for stronger multilateral engagement.

The MLE-WG has the following objectives:

1. map the landscape of available multilateral funding mechanisms/programmes globally;
2. scope possible roles for the GRC in facilitating multilateral engagement; and
3. develop options for respective implementation and a roadmap for multilateral collaboration.

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Cephas Adjei Mensah	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
Jacob Kamwaria Njagih	National Research Fund (NRF), Kenya
Prudence Makhura (Co-Chair)	National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa
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Agenda

Annual Meeting

Wednesday 29 May 2024	
Venue: Theater hall	
8:00 – 18:00	Registration desk open
8:30 – 9:25	Opening Ceremony
9:25 – 10:15	Introduction of Heads of Research Councils
10:45 – 12:00	Session1: Sustainable research - what are we talking about? An introduction to the topic and concepts of sustainable research. This session frames the discussion of the following sessions that focus on more specific perspectives.
12:05 – 12:30	Group photo
14:00 – 15:50	Session 2: Research for sustainable development How can research generate diverse basic and user-oriented knowledge to support sustainable development? The session will also discuss how funders can and should support this. The session will present how innovative programmes such as the US Global Centers Program on Climate Change and Clean Energy can be national and international drivers for research on sustainable development. A perspective of African countries will follow to give the audience insights on challenges they might be facing. The session will close with a panel discussion where representatives from the five GRC regions will present and discuss regional initiatives.
16:20 – 18:10	Session 3: Making research more sustainable What are the practices and processes within the research ecosystem? It will discuss the role funders play in providing incentives and creating barriers for sustainable research practices. The session will also contain a presentation on how research funders use their data to reflect on sustainable research (European Research Council) and a testimony on sustainable development by a funding agency (Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)).
Thursday, 30 May 2024	
Venue: Theater hall	
8:30 – 10:00	Session 4: Making sustainability science matter This session focuses on how to connect with stakeholders outside of the research community. This session will showcase how building a dialogue between researchers and the civil society enables the implementation of effective sustainability policies, but also how this connection is necessary for the research process itself. In this session building trust and dialogue through effective communication will be at the center, as well as raising awareness on the equitable access to knowledge. The session will close with a panel discussion where representatives from different types of stakeholders will present their views.
10:30 – 11:55	Session 5: Conclusions on sustainable research Final inputs and conclusions on sustainable research and research for sustainability. The importance of supporting international cooperation and of encouraging long-term perspectives in research and research funding will be discussed. The session will close with a discussion in breakout sessions where GRC participants will discuss the main messages and insights on sustainable research and research funding for sustainable development from the GRC 2024 they take along with them.
11:55 – 12:10	Session 6: Endorsement Statement of Principles (SoP) The session will endorse the Statement of Principles. It invites the GRC regions to provide a short reflection on the Statement of Principles.
13:00 – 14:00	Session 7: Reporting of GRC activities A summary of GRC activities.
14:00 – 15:00	Session 8: Outlook future GRC activities The foresight report will first be presented. Then, each working group will provide an update on their activities.

15:00 – 15:10	Closing remarks
15:10 – 15:20	Final remarks and farewell by the hosts
Friday, 31 May 2024	
8:00 – 17:00	Technical visits <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research• Living Lab of the Wyss Academy for Nature• Research Station on the Jungfrauoch
End of event	

List of all participants

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Ivory Coast

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«Due to Switzerland's new data protection law, participants must register in an identifiable manner in order to obtain Internet access. Specifically, this means participants must either register with a Swiss mobile phone number or a credit card. Internet however is accessible for free.»

