

Annual Report 2017/18 of the Board to the Assembly of Delegates

Board activities

By the Co-Presidents of actionuni, Florian Lippke, Audrey Lötscher, Andrea Tamas, and the extended board of actionuni.

Reporting period: 15 April 2017 to 15 May 2018

1 Interna

The 2017 Assembly of Delegates elaborated a **Positon Paper**, which was further edited by the extended board of actionuni and received feedback from a majority of the members. The Position Paper is planned to be communicated through actionuni's website in German, French and English. Through its position paper, actionuni is asking all relevant actors in the higher education sector in Switzerland to:

- allow career diversification inside universities, UAS and UTE and to support alternative career paths
- implement professional HR management within universities, UAS and UTE
- encourage dual profiles mixing research and practice
- favor a culture of transparency within research teams
- strengthen non-professorial academic staff's participation rights within their institutions
- call for a minimal research time threshold
- further family-compatible careers

The **board of actionuni** met for 5 full sessions. As in the previous year, the board decided to invite the representatives of actionuni in the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Accreditation Council, the SHK/CSHE and Eurodoc to join the board meetings. A regular update of the current events in these central political institutions was an integral part of every board meeting and the representatives strongly supported all activities of the board.

Additionally, the **co-presidents** met several times with swissfaculty and VSS, mainly to prepare the meetings with swissuniversities.

Overview of all activities May 2017 – May 2018:

- 26.-29.04.17 Eurodoc conference and General Assembly in Oslo
- 10.05.17 General Assembly actionuni
- 12.05.17 Participation in workshop SAGW on career structures
- 19.05.17 Swiss Conference of Higher Education SHK/CSHE
- 12.06.17 Board meeting
- 16.06.17 Swiss Accreditation Council SAR

- 23.06.17 preparation meeting for the workshop on accreditation with fh-ch
- 23.08.17 participation in swissuniversities working group on Open Science
- 04.09.17 board meeting
- 25.09.17 preparation meeting for the workshop on accreditation with fh-ch
- 29.09.17 Swiss Accreditation Council SAR
- 07.11.17 board meeting, meeting with Simona Isler (SNF)
- 08.11.17 workshop on accreditation with fh-ch
- 23.11.17 Swiss Conference of Higher Education SHK/CSHE
- 27.11.17 meeting with SNF
- 28.11.17 meeting swissuniversities / swissfaculty / VSS
- 15.12.17 Swiss Accreditation Council SAR
- 19.02.18 board meeting
- 23.02.18 Swiss Conference of Higher Education SHK/CSHE
- 08.03.18 meeting with swissfaculty & VSS
- 14.03.18 meeting swissuniversities / swissfaculty / VSS
- 23.03.18 Swiss Accreditation Council SAR
- 18.-21.04.18 Eurodoc conference and General Assembly in Tampere
- 23.04.18 board meeting

2 Representations / Invitations

On 12 May 2017, co-president Florian Lippke (University of Fribourg) represented actionuni in a workshop on [An International Comparison of Career Funding Schemes and Career Structures. Which are suitable for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Switzerland?](#). The workshop was by invitation from the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences SAGW and had participants from many Swiss and some international universities.

On 8 November 2017, co-president Andrea Tamas (ZHAW), board member Andrea Zimmerli (PH Bern) and former co-president Carla Duss (PH Luzern) spoke at a workshop on the [Opportunities of the accreditation process for participation in Swiss UAS and UTE](#). The workshop was jointly organized by fh-ch and actionuni.

Co-president Florian Lippke was invited to the second meeting of a [swissuniversities working group](#) to contribute to the development of an action plan a [Swiss Open Access strategy](#). The meeting took place on 23 August 2018 with representatives of swissuniversities, SBFI, SNF and several universities and led to the Swiss Open Access strategy and action plan that were passed by the SHK in February 2018.

Since roughly 6 months, a [swissuniversities task force on visas and work permits](#) looks into problems international students and doctoral researchers have when studying or researching in Switzerland. Salome Adam from the extended board represents actionuni.

3 Media Coverage

Co-president Andrea Tamas gave an interview to the [La Liberté](#) after some cases of mistreatment and copying doctoral candidates were suspected at the universities of Basel and Zurich.

4 Further Networking

The annual meeting with the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#) (SNSF) took place on 27 November 2017, see section "SNSF" below.

Since 2015, actionuni attends twice a year a joint meeting of [swissfaculty, VSS and swissuniversities](#). This year, actionuni had the chance to discuss topics like the next BFI-Botschaft / message FRI / messaggio ERI.

5 Consultations

In June 2017, actionuni answered a short questionnaire of swissuniversities on admission requirements to undergraduate studies in Switzerland.

In August 2017, actionuni presented to the SNSF its detailed and critical remarks concerning the draft of the *Reglement zur Gewährung von SNFS Eccellenza Professoral Fellowships / SNSF Eccellenza Grants*.

In September 2017, actionuni gave feedback to swissuniversities regarding the national Open Access Strategy which was adopted by the SHK in February 2018. As already pointed out in previous workshops on the Swiss OA strategy, actionuni again stressed the importance of the need to establish alternatives to the current standard of using Journal Impact Factors for evaluating young researchers.

Also in September 2017, actionuni was invited to add to the main topics identified by swissuniversities in preparation of the BFI-Botschaft 2021-24. As one important point, actionuni stressed that funds for projects strengthening participation on local and national level should be established within the next BFI project funding.

In March 2018, actionuni participated in a public consultation on the future use of EU funds in the areas of investment, research and innovation, SMEs and the single market.

Swiss National Science Foundation

By the actionuni representative to the Foundation Council, Nenad Stojanovic

The Foundation Council is the highest body of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and makes strategic decisions. Since May 2015, the official representative of actionuni in the Foundation Council has been Nenad Stojanović, a political scientist of the University of Lucerne. He takes part in the meetings and ensures that the interests of young researchers are being taken into consideration during the discussions.

During the reporting period, the SNSF Foundation Council met on two occasions (29 September 2017 and 23 March 2018). On 31 August 2017, actionuni presented to the SNSF its detailed and critical remarks concerning the draft of the *Reglement zur Gewährung von SNFS Eccellenza Professoral Fellowships / SNSF Eccellenza Grants*. On 7 November 2017, the board of actionuni met with Simona Isler, the new *Gleichstellungsbeauftragte* of the SNSF to discuss, in particular, the reform of the instrument "Entlastungsbeitrag 120%".

The traditional annual meeting of actionuni and the SNSF took place on 27 November 2017. A delegation of the board of actionuni met the SNSF director, Angelika Kalt, and her close collaborators Marcel Kullin (head of the Division Careers) and Dimitri Sudan (head of the Programmes Division). The main topics discussed were:

- A more systematic inclusion of actionuni in consultation procedures and/or reforms that concern the Mittelbau (e.g. the new Eccellenza grants);
- Gender equality (e.g. taking into consideration specific duties related to childcare);
- Evaluation of projects (i.e. the necessity to have clear and transparent criteria for internal evaluation and high quality with regard to external reviewers);
- More flexibility for projects presented by researchers from UAS.

The annual meeting with the SNSF as well as other frequent contacts with SNSF representatives and employees show once again that actionuni is recognized as the main representative of young researchers and non-professorial academic staff in Switzerland and that its inputs are taken into consideration at the highest level of the SNSF.

Swiss Conference of Higher Education SHK/CSHE (Hochschulkonferenz und Hochschulrat)

By the actionuni representatives to the SHK/CSHE, Ruth Lyck and Lena Hehemann

The SHK (www.shk.ch) represents the uppermost political organization of higher education in Switzerland. In accordance to the Swiss federal constitution, the federal councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann and the cantonal governing councillors for education and research develop and determine federal and cantonal mutual decisions on higher education policies. Since the first SHK meeting in 2015, actionuni has one seat in the SHK with advisory vote. Attendance of the SHK offers personal contact with policy-makers and committee organizers.

During the reporting period, the SHK has held three meetings (19 May 2017, 23 November 2017 and 23 February 2018).

Swiss Accreditation Council

By the actionuni representative to the Accreditation Council (SAC/SAR), Florian Lippke

Initiated by the new law of the Higher Education Sector (HEdA / HFKG / LEHE), the Swiss Council of Accreditation (SAC) was constituted in order to surveil and guide the measures taken by the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Insurance (AAQ) and started its work in January 2015.

Florian Lippke, University of Fribourg, was elected by the Swiss University Conference as the representative of actionuni. He is full – hence voting – member and in this function also full-member of the commission evaluating and preparing the statements and votes for the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA considering the accreditation according to MedBG.

During the reporting period, the SAR had four meetings (16 June 2017, 29 September 2017, 15 December 2017 and 23 March 2018). Substantial steps in the process of accreditation were initiated, evaluated and decisions were taken by the SAR as the final decisive board. The main tasks and achievements of the SAR can be categorized by four main focal points: [Organization of the Accreditation Council \(SAC\)](#), [legacy procedures of quality assurance](#), [accreditation according to HEdA](#) and [quality audits mandated by third parties](#)

The Council will continue its work for the second period (2019-2022). Florian Lippke was nominated for the second term by the board of actionuni. Negotiations within the SAR resulted in another seat representing both actionuni and VSS (National Students' Union). This signifies a substantial step ahead in improving our participation. Carla Duss was nominated by the boards of actionuni and VSS. Both, Florian and Carla, are expected to be confirmed by SERI and the SCHE in May 2018.

Eurodoc

By actionuni representatives to Eurodoc, Salome Adam and Mirco Grüter

Salome Adam and Mirco Grüter attended the annual [Eurodoc Conference and Eurodoc Annual Meeting \(AGM\) in Tampere, Finland, 18-21 April 2018](#). Their report of the [Conference](#) and the [AGM](#) can be found on the Website.

Major topics were:

- mental health of young researchers,
- equality with focus on mobility,
- open access and new criteria for measuring excellence,
- funding schemes as well as bilateral university programmes.

The AGM elected a new board. Salome Adam was elected as coordinator of the working group accreditation. Next years' key topics are:

- Open Science,
- Mental Health,
- Research Integrity,
- Next Generation Internet,
- Pension Funds for Early-Career Researchers.

The 2019 Eurodoc Conference and the Eurodoc Annual Meeting will take place in Brussels.

Additionally, Salome Adam and Andrea Tamas participated in behalf of actionuni and [Eurodoc](#) in a [public consultation on the future use of EU funds](#) in the areas of investment, research and innovation, SMEs and the single market.

We highlighted in particular the importance of a full funding of EU research programs and asked the EU to:

1. Increase budget of FP9
2. Support Open Science for researchers
3. Support career development of researchers
4. Fund research into mental health of researchers

You can find [our complete answers here \(PDF\)](#) .

Moreover, Salome Adam and Andrea Zimmerli answered [Eurodoc's survey on the structure of doctorates across Europe](#). Our answers will be published together with Eurodocs' working group Doctoral Training soon on the Eurodoc [webpage](#).

Andrea Tamas answered [Eurodocs' annual questionnaire](#) on details of actionuni and its aims. Unfortunately, in accordance with the provisions of the EU General Data Protection Regulations (which replaces the previous Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC), Eurodoc members have the right to access their own data but results of the Annual Questionnaire cannot be shared externally.