

The first 29 members of the Swiss Young Academy have been elected

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The Board of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences has elected the first 29 members of the Young Academy. They are characterized by their personal profile, their motivation and their great interest in inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation. For five years, they will represent young scientists in Switzerland and will help to shape the newly-founded Swiss Young Academy.

The newly-established Swiss Young Academy brings together 29 talented scientists with broad interests from 25 different disciplines who work at 15 different universities and colleges. Their fields of research and work range from archaeology, film, computer science, psychology and molecular biotechnology to civil-society projects. Together, they will use the newly-created space for creativity and innovativeness and develop over a five-year period inter- and transdisciplinary projects that are relevant to science and society and particularly relevant to the young generation. In doing so, they will personally help to shape the newly-established Swiss Young Academy. Furthermore, their views on science-policy developments are eagerly awaited. Switzerland is thus joining a global network of more than 40 Young Academies that have close exchanges with, and inspire, each other.

Building bridges between disciplines and society

The Advisory Council of the Swiss Young Academy examined 100 excellent applications for a pre-selection – not an easy task. Apart from the scientific portfolio, an important factor was above all the motivation to achieve something together and the willingness to cooperate inter- and transdisciplinarily. Marcel Tanner, president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, welcomes this orientation of the Young Academy. “Scientists are not only providers of facts for society and politics. They need to work together in order to break new ground and take up societal challenges, such as climate change or the current Covid19 pandemic,” he emphasized. “In science, transdisciplinary cooperation starts early, and the newly-elected members will bring this baggage with them.” Marc Creus, president of the Advisory Council of the Swiss Young Academy, also underscored this aspect: “I see the Young Academy as bridge builders between the generations, disciplines and individual countries.” As a former member of the “Global Young Academy”, he has personally experienced and enjoyed the viability of a network of young scientists with broad interests.

More information about the members

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The **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences** are an association of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) and the Swiss Young Academy (SYA). They further comprise the two centres of excellence TA-SWISS (Foundation for Technology Assessment) and Science et Cité, as well as other scientific networks. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences network the sciences regionally, nationally and internationally. They represent scientific communities on a disciplinary and interdisciplinary basis and independently of institutions and subjects. Their network is geared to the long term and committed to scientific excellence. They advise politics and society on knowledge-based and socially-relevant issues.