

EURAXESS Conference

**Integration of Refugee Scholars in Switzerland**

**Wednesday, 17 January, 2018, University of Zurich**

Venue: Room RAA-G-01, Rämistrasse 59, 8006 Zurich



Programme:

13:00-13:30	<b>Registration</b>
13:30-13:35	<b>Welcome</b> Dr. Yasmine Inauen, Director of the International Relations Office, University of Zurich
13:35-13:50	<b>Opening Address</b> Prof. Dr. Michael O. Hengartner, President of the University of Zurich and President of swissuniversities
13:50-14:20	<b>Keynote: Migration, Skills and Labour Market Integration</b> Prof. Dr. Susan Thieme, Unit Leader Geography and Sustainable Development, University of Berne
14:20-15:00	<b>Academic Initiative: Scholars at Risk</b> <i>Presentation of Scholars at Risk Switzerland (SAR-CH)</i> Catrin Scheiber, Co-President SAR-CH, University of Lucerne <i>Experiences of a "Scholar at Risk" in Switzerland</i> Dr. Oula Abu-Amsha, Syrian Scholar
15:10-15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:30-15:55	<b>Non-Academic Initiative: Powercoders</b> <i>Presentation of the Project "Powercoders"</i> Christian Hirsig, Founder and Project Leader, Powercoders
15:55-16:20	<b>Investing in the (Higher) Education and Training of Asylum Seekers and Refugees</b> Claudia Nyffenegger, Head of the Department of Vocational Integration, Asylum Organisation Zurich (AOZ)
16:20-16:45	<b>Science4Refugees and the Potential of the European Open Science Agenda</b> Rinske van den Berg, Policy Officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
16:45-18:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Integration of Highly Qualified Refugees: Opportunities and Challenges</b> Moderation and introduction: Prof. Dr. Walter Leimgruber, Head of Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, University of Basel Panel members: Catrin Scheiber Claudia Nyffenegger Rinske van den Berg Christian Hirsig Dr. des. Katrin Sontag (NCCR On the Move, University of Basel)
18:00-19:00	<b>Apéro Reception</b>

**Topic and Aim:**

Like most European countries, Switzerland faces the challenge of integrating an increasing number of refugees into society and the labour market.

Swiss Higher Education Institutions have developed a number of initiatives aiming at the integration of *refugee researchers*. The recently founded Swiss section of Scholars at Risk (SAR-CH) brings the issue of integrating refugee researchers to the fore. Outside academia, interesting integration projects for refugee scholars such as Powercoders offer complementing pathways for highly qualified refugees. At European level, the EURAXESS initiative Science4Refugees has been launched by the European Commission in order to provide access to a European Research Community.

This EURAXESS conference combines an academic approach with practical examples to consider the effectiveness of specific initiatives and programmes for the integration of refugee researchers in Switzerland and beyond. It will be a unique opportunity to discuss different approaches and challenges amongst practitioners, scientists and representatives from public authorities.

**Target audience:**

EURAXESS Network Switzerland; Swiss section of Scholars at Risk; Research Offices, International Relations Offices and Diversity Units of the Swiss Higher Education Institutions; Swiss Academies; Swiss National Science Foundation; other interested parties of the Swiss Higher Education Institutions

**Language:** English

**Participation fee:** none

**Organisation:**

This conference is organised jointly by the International Relations Division of swissuniversities and the International Relations Office of the University of Zurich in the framework of the European initiative [EURAXESS](#). EURAXESS aims to facilitate the mobility of researchers and to improve their working conditions and career prospects.

**Registration:** [Link](#) to registration

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