

European Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council

19-20-21 NOVEMBER 2023

Central University Library, Strada Boteanu 1, Bucharest (Romania)



HOST AND CO-HOST

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, and Innovation Funding of Romania (UEFISCDI) and Science Europe.

DATE AND TIME

Monday 20 November (whole day), Tuesday 21 November (whole day). A welcome reception and dinner are scheduled on the evening of Sunday 19 November.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

Representatives of GRC participating organisations: Head of Research Councils (HORCs), programme and international affairs managers.

FORMAT

The meeting will take place in a hybrid format. Participants are warmly invited to join the meeting in Bucharest, but remote participation will also be accommodated.

TOPICS

As announced in the 2023 GRC Annual Meeting, the topics for the 2024 GRC Annual Meeting are:

- Research for sustainable development
- Making research itself sustainable
- Making sure sustainability science matters

Context and Objectives

The 2023 Regional European meeting of the Global Research Council has been jointly organised by the Romanian Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) and Science Europe.

In 2023, each [GRC regional meeting](#), convened across the globe, will contribute to shaping the agenda for the Annual Meeting, occurring in Interlaken, Switzerland, 27-30 May 2024. This significant gathering is a collaborative effort between the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Ivorian Fund for Science, Technology, and Innovation (FONSTI).

The topic for discussion for this edition will be research and sustainability and will be developed in three sub-topics, namely:

- **Research For Sustainable Development**
- **Making Research Itself Sustainable**
- **Making Sure Sustainability Science Matters**

These topics are of increasing importance in the research policy debate in recent years. Research funding organisations share a responsibility to make research more sustainable and to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, a comprehensive framework to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Furthering discussion in these three sub-topics will allow for complementary perspectives and building synergies to address such complex issues.

The discussions taking place during the Regional Meetings are intended to input the development of a Statement of Principles, due to be adopted at the Annual Meeting of the GRC in 2024. Moreover, at the European Regional Meeting we will take stock of the programmes and outcomes of research on sustainability and identify areas for collaboration.

The questions proposed for discussion around the three topics are based on the background paper that SNSF and FONSTI have prepared (attached together with this programme).

Further topics will be taken into consideration by providing updates of the work progress made by the three GRC working groups: 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion', 'Responsible Research Assessment', and 'Multilateral Engagement'.

Programme

All times are displayed in Eastern European Time (GMT +3)

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

18.00–21.00 Welcome Dinner

Grand Hotel Bucharest

4 Nicolae Balcescu Boulevard, 010051 Bucharest

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER

09.00–09.30 Welcome Coffee

09.30–10.30

Opening and presentation of the objectives

- **Adrian Curaj**, Director of the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding of Romania (UEFISCDI), Science Europe Governing Board Member
- **Marc Schiltz**, President of Science Europe, CEO Of the Luxembourg National Research Fund, European Member of the GRC Governing Board
- **Euclides de Mesquita Neto**, Executive Secretary of the Global Research Council, Deputy Chair of Panel for Research collaboration at São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)

Keynote speeches on discussion topics

- **Cristian-Silviu Buşoi**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of ITRE Committee
- **Tiit Jürimäe**, Senior Policy Officer at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Moderator

- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe

Rapporteur

- **Dan Barbulescu**, Director, Văcăreşti Nature Park Association

10.30–11.00

SUB-TOPIC 1: RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Presentation of the topic/discussion paper

- **Angelika Kalt**, Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Vice-President of Science Europe

Keynote Speech

- **Thierry Damerval**, President and CEO of the French National Research Agency (ANR), Science Europe Governing Board Member

11.00–11.15

Coffee Break

11.15–12.00

Panel Discussion and Q&A

- **Daniela Jacob**, Director of the Climate Service Centre of Germany, and Member of the European Commission Board for the Horizon Europe Mission Adaptation to Climate Change (*online*)
- **Zbigniew Kundzewicz**, Professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences

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- **Christiane Joerk**, Programme Director of Humanities and Social Sciences 2: Social and Behavioural Sciences, German Research Foundation (DFG)
 - **László Garamszegi**, Director General of the Hungarian Centre for Ecological Research

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Based on the background paper from SNSF/FONSTI)

- What specific role could basic research play in addressing sustainability challenges?
- What are the obstacles to the development of transdisciplinary approaches to support knowledge coproduction between scientists and non-academic actors on sustainability?
- How can research funders and performers better support the transfer of knowledge into implementation?

Moderator

- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe

Rapporteur

- **Mariana Chioncel**, Researcher at University of Bucharest, Policy Expert with UEFISCDI
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12.00–12.45

Breakout Discussions

Moderators

- **Joël Groeneveld**, Head of Research Mobility, Institutional and International Affairs at the F.R.S.-FNRS
- **Patricia V. Tambourgi**, Science Manager, Human and Social Sciences at FAPESP
- **Michael Ryan**, Divisional Head of International at Science Foundation Ireland

Rapporteurs

- **Sophie Lemahieu**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
 - **Nicola Dotti**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
 - **Adrien Braem**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
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12.45–13.45

Lunch

13.45–14.10

Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions

Rapporteurs/ Moderators

14.10–14.40

Update on the ‘GRC Working Group on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion’

- **Adrien Braem**, Co-Chair of the Working Group and Senior Policy Officer at Science Europe
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14.40–14.55

Coffee Break

14.55–15.25

SUB-TOPIC 2: MAKING RESEARCH ITSELF SUSTAINABLE

Presentation of the topic/discussion paper

- **Angelika Kalt**, Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Vice-President of Science Europe

Keynote Speech

- **Melanie Welham**, Professor at the University of Bath, UK; Former executive at BBRSC, UK; Former Governing Board member at Science Europe
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15.25–16.10

Panel Discussion and Q&A

- **Stephane Berghmans**, Director of Research & Innovation at the European University Association (EUA)

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- **Irena Martinović Klarić**, Senior Strategy Advisor at the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)
 - **Astrid Eichhorn**, Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, and Chair of the ALLEA Working Group on Climate Sustainability in the Academic System (*online*)
 - **Jacopo Cammeo**, Researcher at the European University Institute

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Based on the background paper from SNSF/FONSTI)

- What are the good practices available of research funders and performers encouraging more sustainable research practices and did it show positive results/developments?
- To what extent do research organisations reflect on whether their research evaluation systems support sustainable research practices?
- What challenges have arisen where more sustainable research practices have been tried out?

Moderator

- **Sonja Ochsenfeld**, Head of Division Research Culture, German Research Foundation (DFG)

Rapporteur

- **Simona Stanescu**, Secretary General of the Romanian Sociology Association
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16.10–16.25 **Coffee Break**

16.25–17.10 **Breakout Discussions**

Moderators

- **Joël Groeneveld**, Head of Research Mobility, Institutional and International Affairs at the F.R.S.-FNRS
- **Patricia V. Tambourgi**, Science Manager, Human and Social Sciences at FAPESP
- **Michael Ryan**, Divisional Head of International at Science Foundation Ireland

Rapporteurs

- **Sophie Lemahieu**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
 - **Nicola Dotti**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
 - **Adrien Braem**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
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17.10–17.40 **Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions**

Rapporteurs/Moderators

17.40–18.10 **Update on the 'GRC Working Group on Responsible Research Assessment'**

- **Sean Sapcariu**, Programme Manager, Luxembourg National Research Fund, Co-Chair of the Working Group
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18.10–18.20 **Wrap-up of Day 1**

19.00–21.00 **Reception & Dinner**

Linea Closer to the moon Restaurant (tbc)

Str Lipscani 17, Bucharest 030167

21 NOVEMBER – DAY 2

09.00–09.30 Welcome Coffee

09.30–10.00 SUB-TOPIC 3: MAKING SURE SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE MATTERS

Presentation of the topic/discussion paper

- **Angelika Kalt**, Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Vice-President of Science Europe

Keynote Speech

- **Susanne Tönsmann**, European Citizen Science Association

10.00–11.00 Panel Discussion and Q&A

- **Melanie Welham**, Professor at the University of Bath, UK; Former executive at BBRSC, UK; Former Governing Board member at Science Europe
- **Elisa Omodei**, Assistant Professor at the Central European University (*online*)
- **Victoria Rodinkova**, Professor at the National Pirogov Memorial Medical University
- **Daniel Zajfman**, Chairman of the Board of the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) (*online*)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Based on the background paper from SNSF/FONSTI)

- What are the promising models for building trust and mutual understanding between researchers, policy makers and societal actors?
- How to include members of society in the dialogue between researchers and policy actors?
- What ethical considerations need to be made when involving non-academic stakeholders?

Moderator

- **Anu Noorma**, Director General of the Estonian Research Council (ETAG)

Rapporteur

- **Dan Barbulescu**, Director, Văcărești Nature Park Association

11.00–11.15 Coffee Break

11.15–12.00 Breakout Discussions

Moderators

- **Joël Groeneveld**, Head of Research Mobility, Institutional and International Affairs at the F.R.S.-FNRS
- **Patricia V. Tambourgi**, Science Manager, Human and Social Sciences at FAPESP
- **Michael Ryan**, Divisional Head of International at Science Foundation Ireland

Rapporteurs

- **Sophie Lemahieu**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
- **Nicola Dotti**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe
- **Adrien Braem**, Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe

12.00–12.30 Plenary report on outcomes of breakout discussions

Rapporteurs/Moderators

12.30–13.00 Update on the 'GRC Working Group on Multilateral Engagement'

- **Osamu Kobayashi**, Director of International affairs – Japan Science and Technology Agency – Co-Chair of the Working Group (*online*)

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- **Prudence Makhura**, Director, South Africa National Science Foundation – Co-Chair of the Working Group (*online*)
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13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–14.30 **CONCLUSION AND GRC GENERAL UPDATES**

Conclusions

- **Marc Schiltz**, President of Science Europe, CEO Of The Luxembourg National Research Fund, European Member of the GRC Governing Board
- **Lidia Borrell-Damián**, Secretary General of Science Europe

Rapporteur

- **Mariana Chioncel**, Researcher at University Of Bucharest, Policy Expert with UEFISCDI
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14.30–15.15 **GRC Foresight Report: discussion**

- **Michael Bright**, Associate Director for international policy, UKRI
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15.15–15.30 **Report from GRC Secretariat: Towards the GRC 2024 Annual Meeting**

15.30–15.45 **Closing**

- **Adrian Curaj**, General Director of the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding of Romania (UEFISCDI), Science Europe Governing Board Member
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19.00–21.00 **Dinner**

Teatro Restaurant, Novotel Bucharest City Centre

Calea Victoriei 37B, Bucharest 010061