



Transnational Research Partnerships

A workshop organised by COHRED and the r4d programme

27 March 2015, 9:30h-15:00h

Swiss National Science Foundation, Wildhainweg 3, 3001 Berne



Background

Investing in research, science, technology and innovation is key to improving health, stimulating economic growth and driving sustainable development in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). However, there is a major gap between the North and South in knowing how to initiate and manage such partnerships and to establish what constitutes fairness for all involved. Most of the current collaborative partnerships are focused on delivering products and not on building sustainable systems that address the local needs and concerns that population in LMICs face.

The Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) strongly supports this view. The KFPE's "11 Principles of Research in Partnerships" (proposed as guidelines for grant applicants within the r4d programme) is an exemplary effort in fostering balanced research partnerships with LMICs.

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) develops tools aimed at driving fairer outcomes in collaborative research partnerships between high and low income countries. As part of an ongoing process of the Global Action Platform, COHRED aims to provide resources that enhance research partnerships in equitable and mutually beneficial contractual arrangements. The COHRED Fairness Index (CFI) is one such tool to address best practices in international collaborative partnerships. Within the guidelines of code of conduct of the COHRED Fairness Index, the Fair Research Contracting (FRC) Initiative, a component of the CFI, seeks to provide tools and resources for negotiating fairer research contracts.

r4d Skills **Transnational Research Partnerships**

The one-day workshop focuses on how to build effective international collaborative research partnerships. The workshop intends to define the best approach for establishing collaboration mechanisms with partner institutions from LMICs and to provide an induction on how to structure a project agreement with institutions from LMICs using the principles of COHRED's Fair Research Contracting Initiative.

At the end of the workshop the participants will be able to:

- Identify the needs and motivation for engaging in equitable partnerships
- Know how to identify issues that can promote or hinder equitable collaboration
- Recognise the different types of research partnerships
- Recognise the principles underlying fair research contracting

Agenda

- 09.30 – 10.00 Welcome and Introduction
- 10.00 - 10.45 Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden (Executive Director, COHRED):
Introduction to COHRED and The KFPE principles of research partnerships.
- 10.45 - 11.30 Jacintha Toohey (Project Leader, COHRED):
Background and rationale of the Fair Research Contracting (FRC) Initiative.
What is the solution? Towards fair research collaborations: How can COHRED's FRC initiative address the problems/impasses?
Recognising the principles underlying fair research collaborations.
- 11.30 – 12.00 How do we want to make research collaborations fair?
Case study and group work reviewing the key issues, concerns, and building consensus around promoting equitable research collaborations between “North” or “South” settings in research collaborations.
- 12.00 - 12.30 Feedback from groups
- 12.30 - 13.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 13.30 - 14.00 Dr. Najia Musolino (Senior Specialist, COHRED):
COHRED Fairness Index: Case studies based on literature review to show inequity in partnerships – Making the case for the CFI: Equitable research funding, Reputational risk, Post research accountability, group work.
- 14.00 - 14.30 Discussion
- 14.30 – 15.00 Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden: Wrap up

Venue

Swiss National Science
Foundation
Room 3
Wildhainweg 3
3001 Berne

Directions

[Google map](#)

**By train**

Leave Bern main train station upstairs via the “Welle” at the end of the platforms. As soon as you have passed the two flights of stairs, turn left and follow the train tracks along Stadtbachstrasse. After about 300 m Wildhainweg branches off to the right. The first building on the right is Wildhainweg 3. Walking time: approx. 10 minutes.

By car

Leave the A1 Zurich-Lausanne-Geneva motorway at the Bern Forsthaus exit and continue straight until you reach the InselSpital parking, on your left. Immediately after, turn left, cross the bridge, and turn right. Wildhainweg is about 300 m further to your left. A very limited number of parking places is available.

Contact

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