



Swiss TPH



Research-implementation organizations –
defining a new SD actor?

**KFPE Annual Conference: Decolonizing
Swiss Research Collaborations**

Jasmina Saric

05.05.2023

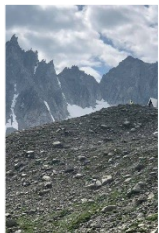
Background and rationale

The role of HEI in SD



Gap Academic/research institutions that have a separate mandate for project implementation services: research-implementation institutions

Study series on RIOs



2020 Swiss institutions



2021 African institutions



2022 Funders' perspective

Output



Article
Synergising Research and Service Activities at Swiss Research Institutions to Accelerate Sustainable Development

Jasmina Saric^{1,2}, Fatma Klayat³, Andrei Lys³, Jürg Utzinger^{1,2} and Thomas Breu^{3,4}

Received: 13 June 2022 | Revised: 26 October 2022 | Accepted: 4 November 2022
DOI: 10.3390/su14169626

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Research—implementation organisations and their role in sustainable development

Jasmina Saric^{1,2} | Thomas Breu^{3,4} | Gilbert Fokou⁵ | Salome-Joelle Gass^{1,2} | Boniface Kiteme⁶ | Honorati Masanja⁷ | Jürg Utzinger^{1,2} | Gete Zeleke⁸ | Feklan Mwa^{1,4}

POLICY BRIEF
Swiss TPH January 2021

POLICY BRIEF
Swiss TPH March 2023

Combining Research and Services at Swiss Research Institutions to Accelerate Sustainable Development

Research–Implementation Organisations and Their Role for Sustainable Development

Participating entities

Research institutions

- **Participants** Director-level representatives and researcher-implementers
- **Switzerland** 23 participants from 18 institutions/centres/groups
- **Africa** 42 participants from 22 institutions and 13 countries

Funders

- 12 representatives from 5 funders



Outcomes: institutions

Description

Type

- Universities or affiliated institutions
- Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts
- National research organizations
- International research organizations

Structure

- Separate R&I by department/division
- Organize R&I activities and staff around themes/projects
- Supporting units for implementation activities
- No formalized structure for implementation

SWOT analysis

STRENGTHS

- 🇨🇭 Research positively impacts development and project implementation
- 🇨🇭 High job satisfaction
- 🇨🇭 Comprehensive teaching and training of multi-skilled SD professionals

OPPORTUNITIES

- 🇨🇭 Excellent and broad career and job opportunities
- 🇨🇭 Model is liked by governments and international donors

WEAKNESSES

- 🇨🇭 Difficult to achieve balance and high-level performance in both areas
- 🇨🇭 Complex institutional/personal management and resource-intense
- 🇨🇭 Lack of clear identity/definition, and therefore, lack of recognition

THREATS






- 🇨🇭 Strong competition from three areas
- 🇨🇭 Lack of hybrid career path and jobs in academia & research
- 🇨🇭 Difficult to get staff with necessary double-competency

Outcomes: funders

Perception

- Low recognition as separate multipurpose actor
- Not generally included in strategic discussions
- Examples of «go-to» actors that are RIOs for certain funders/countries/domains
 - + “*They do everything right.*”
 - + Well-connected with international expert networks/publications
 - Lack of capacity

Projects

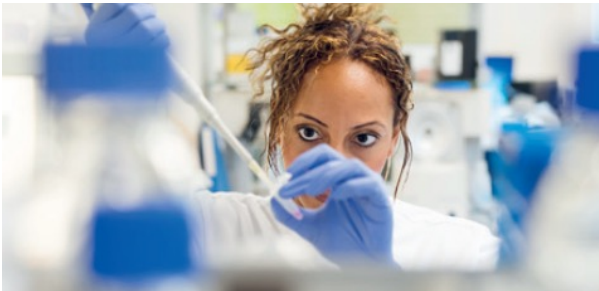
-  Projects with a research component
-  High technical complexity and specialist knowledge
-  Projects with a strong community outreach aspect
-  Projects that demand a high level of trust
-  Niche domain

Research-Implementation Organization (RIO)

Definition

Organizations with mandates for i) research; ii) teaching; and iii) project implementation/ development assistance services

- i. Track record of international publishing; governance framework includes regulations on good research practice & integrity
- ii. Ability to offer degrees and continuing education and training courses
- iii. Institutionalization of implementation activities: explicit mandate and supporting structures & procedures in place to carry out services as PI institution; institutional contracting
- iv. Established work practices across mandates



Suggested way forward

«Institutions and funders are encouraged to use and work with the RIO label to enhance the standing of those institutions, their operations and significance for SD globally»

For institutions

- Communicate your organizations profile and added value for SD
 - Contributions to implementation
 - Teaching and training centres for SD workforce
 - Host mixed-type research careers and jobs
 - National program memory
- Review your processes and operations

For funders

- Include RIOs when mapping national actors
- Consider RIOs for certain types of projects
- Offer long term schemes and instruments that provide sufficient time and resources to
 - cover the whole innovation–implementation cycle
 - fill institutional capacity gaps

Acknowledgement

Study funders and collaborators

- KFPE
- SDC
- Salomé Gass
- WLRC
- CSRS
- IHI
- CETRAD

Participating funders

- SDC
- Fondation Botnar
- USAID
- IFAD

Participating institutions

Africa Rice Center
Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI)
Centre d'Études et de Recherche en Technologies et Innovations Socio-Sanitaires et économiques (CERTIS)
Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Humaine et en Démographie (CERRHUD)
Centre for Development and Cooperation
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD)
Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS)
Competence Center for Regional Economics (IBR)
Cooperation and Development Centre (CODEV)
Department of Environmental Systems Sciences - Transdisciplinary Lab (USYS TDLab)
Department Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development (Sandec)
Division of Tropical and Humanitarian Medicine, University Hospital Geneva
Excellence in Africa Initiative (EXAF)
HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute
Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)
Institut de Recherche en Elevage pour le Développement (IRED)
Institut des Politiques et Initiatives Sociales (IPIS)
Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (INSS)
Institute for Environmental Decisions (IED)
Institute for International Cooperation in Education (IZB)
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
International Research Program 'Entrepreneurship and Appropriate Technologies for Developing and Emerging Countries'
Kula Vyema Center of Food Economics
Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL)
Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH)
Right to Care
School of Public Health, University of Ghana
School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town
Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
Swisspeace
Technology and Society Laboratory (Empa TSL)
Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC)
World Agroforestry (ICRAF)
Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

