



PhD Program in Science & Policy: Building Political Support

Lecturer: Sarah Bütikofer, Global Governance, ETH Zürich; Marcel Falk and Urs Neu, both Swiss Academy of Sciences

Location: Botanical Garden, University of Zurich and Swiss Parliament, Berne

Dates: February 7 and March 8, 2017

Credit Points: 2 ECTS

Course Description

During the last decades different ways of bridging science and policy have been explored. Policy is understood as a principle or guideline for action in a specific context. In this course, the students shall learn what kind of actions are necessary to implement policies in different sectors, such as public agencies, the civil society or the private sector. Who are the main actors and when do they need to be involved?

Decision and policy-makers in Switzerland

This lecture gives an overview on main actors in the policy-making process in Switzerland. Comparison to the situation in Europe is drawn.

Process of policy endorsement

This lecture introduces the essential steps in the process of policy endorsement in Switzerland including examples related to Plant Sciences.

Ways to form alliances with policy-makers

Getting support from policy-makers will depend among others, upon convincing them of the benefits that implementing the actions can provide and upon the timing. With the example of ‘fracking’ those facts, values and procedures which are important for dealing with policymakers and politicians are highlighted in a collaborative workshop.

On the second course day a visit to the Swiss Parliament and to the Swiss Academy of Sciences in Berne is scheduled.

Course Program / Learning Objectives

Participants will

- Identify the relevant policy- and decision-making sectors in Switzerland
- Understand the common procedures for establishing and monitoring measurable national goals and targets
- Identify the different legislative measures existing in Switzerland
- Know different existing policy management and oversight arrangements
- Plan for successful impact

Prior Knowledge: enrolled students will be provided with preparatory literature; apart from this, no prior knowledge is required.

Number of Participants: 16

Individual Performance and Assessment:

Students work in case study groups fulfilling different tasks which have to be accepted by the case study supervisors. Please note: In the weeks between the two workshop days you should plan for available time for group work and individual work of min. 30 hours.