

Guide to workbook 6

The aim

Workbook 6 introduces you to the direct democracy and law-making process in Switzerland. You will learn how to engage in the law-making process as a scientist.

Competencies

- You will understand the peculiarities of the Swiss direct democratic system.
- You will recognize the stages, actors and instruments of the Swiss law-making and decision-making process.
- You will recognize when and how scientists can interact with the law-making process.
- You will understand the role of advocates and lobbyists in the Swiss law-making process.

How to read this workbook

THEORY

Decision-making in Switzerland

This introduction gives an overview of the main actors and instruments in the policymaking process.

Instruments for science-policy endorsement

This section introduces the essential steps in the process of policy endorsement in Switzerland. What are the stages where researchers can be involved?

COMMENT

We will introduce you to the idea of advocacy and lobbying by exploring the following questions: Can we define guidelines for responsible advocacy conduct? How is lobbying defined and what is its role in the Swiss policymaking process?

TOOLS

We present two tools that can be used to interact with stakeholders such as parliamentarians at different stages in the decision-making process. While the parliamentary meeting is a formal event set up in the middle of the policymaking process (i.e., during agenda setting, policy formulation and policy development) the world café offers the opportunity to interact with policymakers and parliamentarians early in the problem definition stage. We simulate the parliamentary meeting as a role play.

EXAMPLES

In Switzerland various interface organizations play an important role in building political support. Here we present the work of ProClim, a platform of the *Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT)* facilitating the science-policy dialogue about climate change in Switzerland.

We also take a look into the international practice of building political support by presenting the efforts undertaken for cassava research in South Africa. The objective of these practice examples is to understand the complexity of the science-policy interface and the roles of science and interface organizations in the process.