



## Protocol of Info Event “Swiss Research Management Development Initiative” and General Assembly (GA) 2007

8 November 2007, 13.30 – 17.30, WSL Birmensdorf

Participants: Attachment 1

Lead: Hans-Caspar Bodmer

Protocol: Christoph Zehntner

Agenda: 1 Introduction and Information  
2 Break-out sessions  
3 Plenary discussion  
4 SARMA General assembly 2007  
5 Miscellaneous

Attachments: (1) Participants, (2) Summary of Initiative, (3) Result WS Human Resources, (4) Results WS Inter-institutional Management, (5) WS Intern. Relations, (6) SARMA Financial Report 2006

### 1 Introduction and Information

The board members give a brief summary of the SARMA history, the new strategy and the Swiss Research Management Development Initiative. At the kick-off event of 27 September 2007 at the Hotel Bellevue Palace Bern, the initiative was appreciated and constructively supported by the prominent guests. A summary of the kick-off event is presented in attachment 2.

### 2 Break-out sessions

The New SARMA Strategy consists of seven Task Groups of which five were presented. Thereof three break-out sessions with two discussion groups each were built in order to discuss the proceedings for the following Workshops (WS):

- Human Resources, Gerog Spescha
- Inter-institutional Management, Hans-Caspar Bodmer
- International Relations, Ralf Longwitz

In the Human Resources session, mainly two questions were discussed:

- What and who is a research manager? It was recognized that the two functions of research manager and research administrator cannot easily be devised. Regarding scientific background and project management skills there is a big grey area where a lot of research functions can be located.

- How do you recognize potential research manager? Necessary skills are interests in management questions, organisation, strategic thinking and good communication. A broad scientific background or even a formation in complementary fields is considered as a big advantage.
- Results attachment 3.

The Inter-institutional Management session discussed three questions:

- Who are the stakeholders in Swiss research landscape? There were mainly six groups identified: Research institutes (partners, competitors), Universities, Funding agencies, Politics, Public administrators, Industries.
- How do they communicate with each other? The communication should be well established between all groups mentioned. Within the academia itself the communication should be improved, mainly the interdisciplinary exchange.
- Where do you locate a need for action? There is a strong need for further development of technology transfer from academia to industry. That is after all where the big money-flow occurs.
- Results attachment 4.

The International Relations group discussed

- What are the requirements for a research manager regarding his international background?
- Who are the right partners for international exchanges?
- What is the current situation according to your experience?
- How should international exchanges be done? (Where? When? How long?)
- One of the topics elaborated was the practical possibilities and consequences of job rotations.
- Results attachment 5.

### **3 Plenary discussion**

The Results of the break-out sessions have been presented and further discussed.

### **4 SARMA General assembly 2007**

- Annual Report 2006

The Highlights of the year 2006 have been presented:

- o Two days workshop on SARMA's future: Vision, Strategy
- o 12 Newsletters (1000 recipients)
- o Events: Führungsseminar Research Management (EMPA Akademie)  
Marketing for RTD Managers (Uni Bern)  
AC: Research funding in Switzerland

- Annual financial statement

The SARMA Financial Report 2006 has been presented (attachment 6) and was subsequently approved by the General Assembly.

### **5 Miscellaneous**

A big thank you to the WSL who has hosted the assembly and invited the participants to lunch, coffee breaks and apero.

Bäriswil, 19 May 2008  
Christoph Zehntner

Attachment 1: Participants

**SARMA info event and General Assembly - 8 Nov 2007, WSL Birmensdorf**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Bodmer, Hans-Caspar	WSL
Calisesi, Yasmine	BFE
Fischer, Andreas	UNIBE
Hallenbarter, Dionys	WSL
Kälin, Sieglinde	UNIBE
Leufgen, Kirsten	SCIPROM
Longwitz, Ralf	Longwitz Organisation & Consulting
Müller, Jeanette	accelopment
Pita, Antonio	CEMEX
Anne Satir	EMPA
Spescha, Georg	EMPA
Steinmann, Rolf	uniCRIS
Suarez, Mougli	NCCR Frontiers in Genetics
Tognola, Maddalena	Euresearch
Toscani, Dshamila	EPFL
Trachsel, Catherine	IBM Zurich Research Laboratory
Willemse, Saskia	BAFU
Wirth, Katja	Euresearch
Zehntner, Christoph	armasuisse