

Switzerland in times of Crisis

Impact
report
2020

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Why collaboratio helvetica





collaboratio helvetica in 2020

In 2020 life around the globe has dramatically changed. Will we go back to the way things were or are we as a society on our way to a new normal? There has always been uncertainty. We just thought we were in control. But today, with the omnipresent consequences of the Corona crisis, we know better.

Especially in times of crisis, it's essential to know how to navigate in an ever changing environment, how to find new ways of collaboration and co-creation. For collaboratio helvetica, the priority in 2020 was to be aware of how we react as a system. Can we come from a place of care, rather than scarcity and fear? Can we show solidarity, to the individuals within our system, and to those outside of it? We hope this time will remind many of us of what truly matters in our own lives and that it will contribute to bringing about the systemic change that we desperately need for a societal transformation towards more ecological responsibility and common good. Beyond addressing the symptoms (which is much needed!), we urgently have to dedicate time and resources in order to understand the root causes more fully, become collectively more aware of their inter-relatedness and reflect together in order to create wise(r) actions.

As a response to the crisis, collaboratio helvetica launched "[Nova Helvetia](#)", an explorative journey to a healthy post COVID-19 Switzerland. With Migros Pioneer Fund, BKW and private donors as partners we were able to support the working groups not only methodologically, but also financially. The Corona crisis has obviously also affected our community and its activities. While we were forced to cancel most of the in-person gatherings, it was also an opportunity to experiment with online gatherings and hybrid meetings. As we aimed to offer a space for everybody to meet and stay connected in these times of social distancing, we decided to open the online community platform free of charge. The response was amazing.



The restriction for gatherings in 2020 also challenged the second edition of the Catalyst Lab. While we still hoped to meet in person, we started to adapt bit by bit for a partially online version of the lab. The online modules in 2020 were well-received, and even managed to replicate some of the effectiveness of in-person safe and inviting spaces by supporting Catalysts with the inner work that is part of the Catalyst Lab journey. The second and third editions of the Catalyst Lab are only possible thanks to the great support of the Mercator Foundation Switzerland. With their contribution, they enable us to offer this learning journey at a reduced price to the most promising change agents in Switzerland. This is an important pre-requisite as a lack of financial means should not prevent committed individuals from participating in the Catalyst Lab and thus taking their projects to a new level. The concept of the Catalyst Labs has also convinced the Federal Office for Spatial Planning (ARE) to become involved. ARE took over the patronage for this innovative learning format in autumn.

In 2020 again, we were invited to share more about our approaches in different sectors and regions, for example in a keynote for the lecture series on Agenda 2030 at ETH, at the SwissFoundations Stiftungsgespräch and the Université de Neuchâtel. We are as committed as ever to our mission to catalyse the societal transformation of Switzerland by cultivating a cross-sectoral innovation ecosystem, building capacity for systemic change and co-convening stakeholders around key SDGs. As we are exploring new pathways, financial models and partnerships to reach shared goals, we can't wait to see what synergies and new collaborations emerge in 2021.



Who we are

The challenges of our time require new forms of collaboration and a new, holistic way of thinking. Switzerland has a long tradition of collaboration and dialogue across language barriers and religious divides. [Collaboratio helvetica](#) therefore believes in Switzerland's unique potential to leverage participatory approaches and collaboration to contribute to a change towards more ecological responsibility, humanity and the common good. The organisation catalyses the societal transformation of Switzerland by cultivating a cross-sectoral innovation ecosystem, building capacity for systemic change and convening stakeholders around the complex challenges addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collaboratio helvetica empowers committed people and organisations to shift deeply ingrained attitudes and mindsets, to conduct dialogues more effectively, to implement new forms of collaboration and thus collectively imagine and shape the Switzerland of tomorrow.

Testimonial

“Without action, the needed transformation will not take place. (Unfortunately) we cannot expect governments and states to realise this transformation. Therefore, economy, science and civil society have a major role to play. Collaboratio helvetica brings key actors together and together and fosters common engagement to address challenges and, eventually to achieve the SDGs. This commitment deserves all my respect and support.”



Michael Gerber, Member of Steward council collaboratio helvetica, Ambassador and Swiss Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development 2012-2018



What drives us

Many people and organisations work towards more sustainability, the common good and for humanity, yet we are not achieving the results we wish to see. What is needed is a community and platform that fosters connections between different sectors, themes and regions of Switzerland, holds the vision of a sustainable and ethical Switzerland and offers the tools, structures and approaches for successful collaboration towards systemic change and societal transformation.

New approaches

Collaboratio helvetica constantly strives to do things differently to the dominant paradigms from which the challenges we are facing stem. Here are a few examples:

- **Collaboration:** We believe that we need to work together, overcome unnecessary competition and the ego-fuelled retention of power. Together, not against each other, is how we will create a sustainable future.
- **Changing the narrative:** We cultivate talking about potential and inspiring alternatives instead of focusing on the negative.
- **Reinventing the way we work:** We collaborate as an ecosystem using Sociocracy 3.0, and for example discuss and define our salaries together. We share our materials and learnings under the [Creative Commons](#) licence.
- **New ways of financing:** We aim to develop funding schemes that enable organisations and individuals to focus on long term societal change instead of short term deliverables and symptom-fighting.

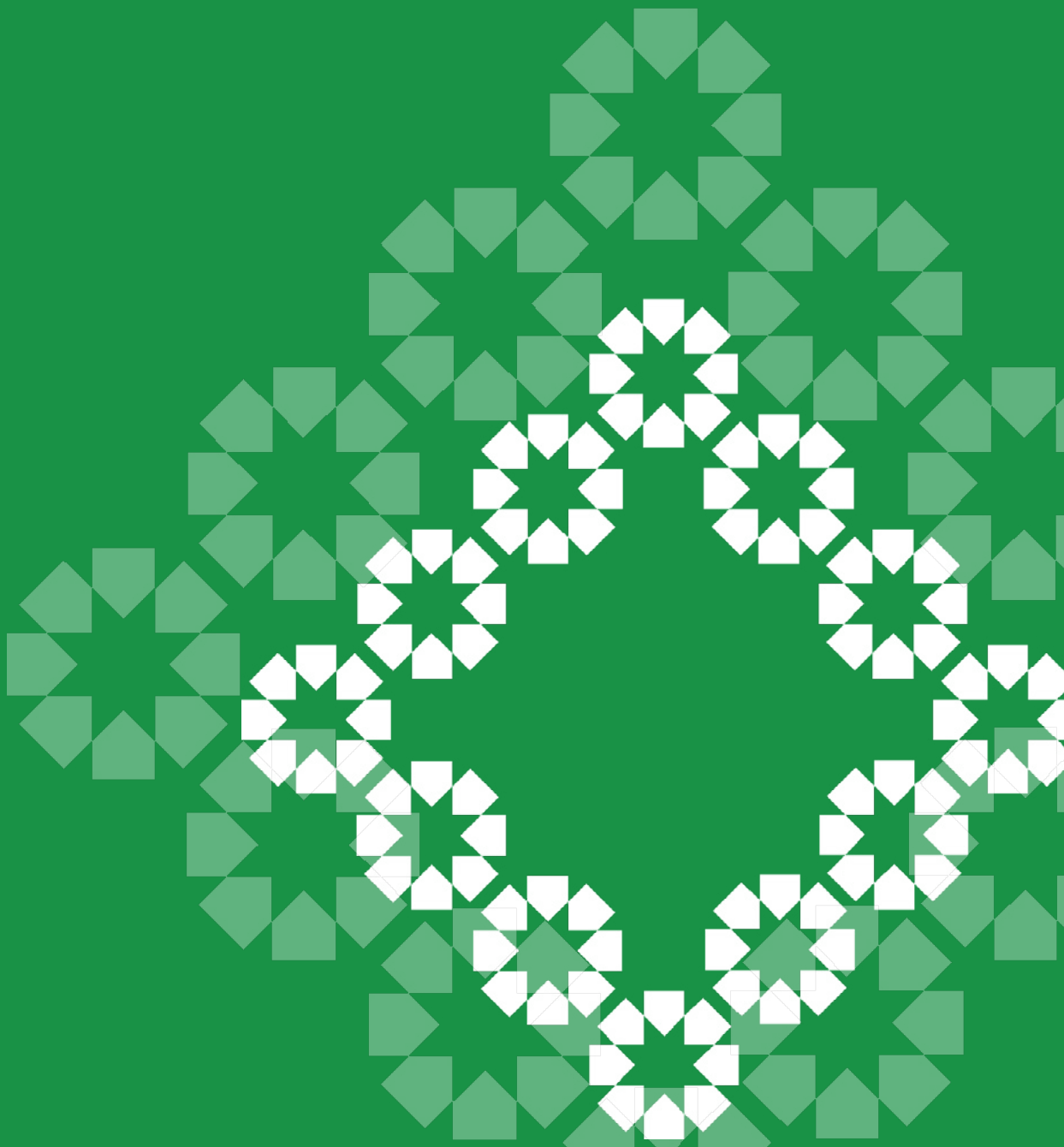
Our principles

What we try to embody in our work and everyday life

- **We respect and care for nature and ourselves**
- **We dare to dive deep - together**
- **We activate and work with the power of collective intelligence**
- **We co-create across boundaries leveraging diversity**
- **We start with ourselves, here and now**
- **We act through iterative processes and share our learnings**
- **We embrace the yet unknown**
- **We are accountable and engaged**



Why in Switzerland?





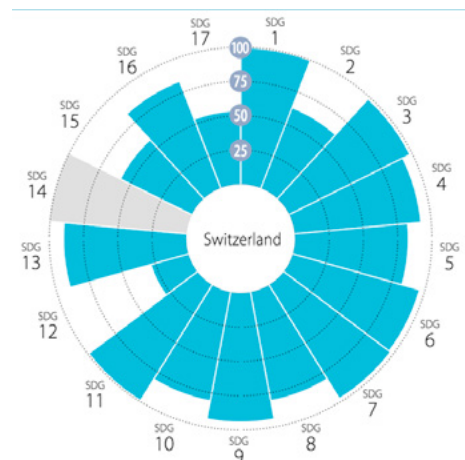
Agenda 2030

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		

Why do we need change in Switzerland?

The [2030 Agenda](#) brought about a paradigm shift in international cooperation. For the first time we have a global vision, common goals that cover many issues and apply to all countries. Too often we still think of the concept of “development” as a linear external link, as if there were a clear, ascending line with the goal of becoming a country like Switzerland, for example. The traffic light in the [SDG Dashboard for Switzerland](#) is green for only 3 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The chances of reaching three of the Goals were actually decreasing in 2020. And yet, there is a lot of potential for Switzerland to implement the SDGs successfully. For this, we will have to reconsider the narrative around what a good life is and how we can best shape our future. What does the Switzerland you want to live in look like?

OVERALL PERFORMANCE



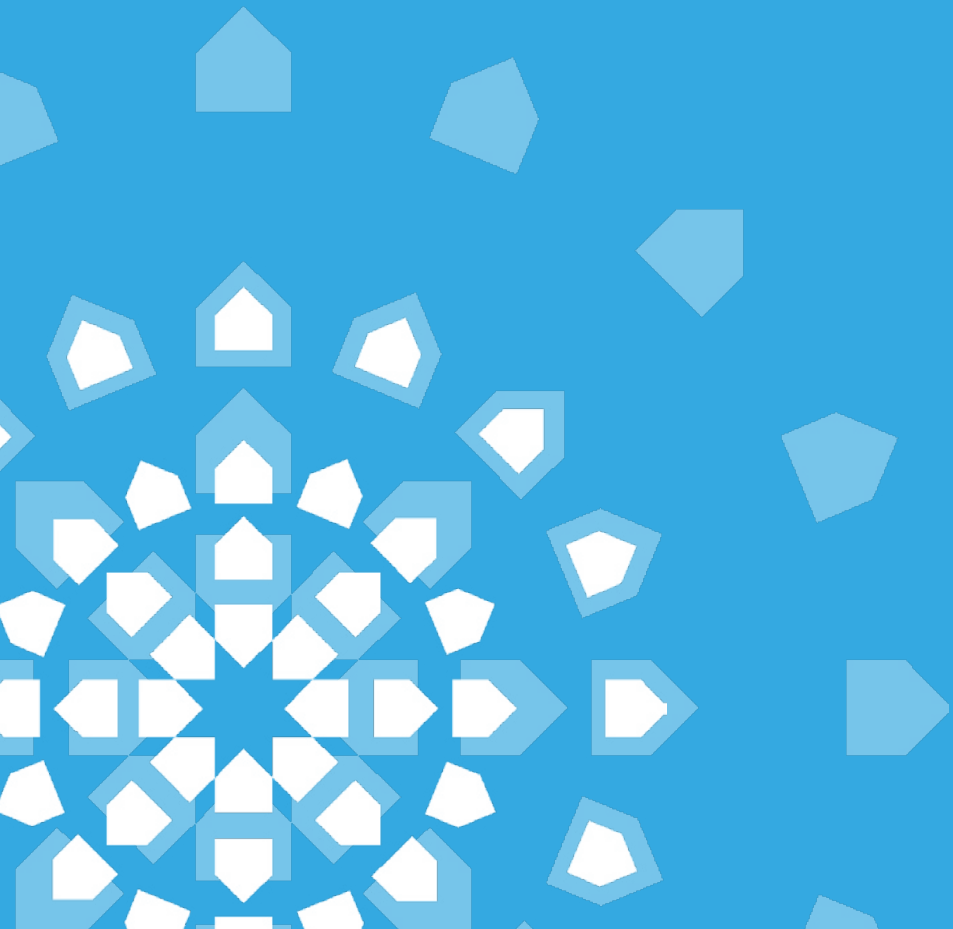
AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

CURRENT ASSESSMENT – SDG DASHBOARD



© Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for European Environmental Policy

Who we are





The Community

Collaboratio helvetica is above all a [community of people and organisations](#) working towards societal transformation towards more ecological responsibility, humanity and the common good. Collaboratio helvetica offers its community members a platform to learn and grow together, support each others' projects, and develop skills and capacities. Community members exchange regularly - on- and offline.

What being part of the community offers

- Moral, personal and practical support for projects and personal development
- A network with many talents and ideas
- Communication and exchange via our online [community platform](#)
- Access to interesting events, projects and people in different regions
- Development of skills and capacities, and opportunities to learn about new forms of and tools for collaboration, facilitation and dialogue
- Opportunities to get involved in existing or new projects.

Testimonial

"collaboratio helvetica invites you to discover and live out your unique talent. It is not about molding or pressing someone into prefabricated roles. Rather, collaboratio helvetica wants to facilitate honest encounters between authentic people and create a new kind of collaboration."

Amelie Böing, explorer, mother and steward of the project "Tilla" (Tiny villa)





The Team

We believe in Switzerland's potential to drive the change towards ecological responsibility, more humanity and the common good. We are deeply convinced that the societal challenges can be solved together. We are committed and contributing to it with our competences, expertise and whole person.



Andrea Bärwalde

Communication & Media Relations



Daniel Gut

Accounting & Finances



Daphne Bucher

Communication & Visualisation



Isabelle Ruckli

Coordination & Partnerships



Katalin Hausel

Participatory Designer & Learning Ecology



Luea Ritter

Catalyst Lab & Learning Cycles



Nora Wilhelm

Co-Founder & Catalyst



Sarah Friederich

Catalyst Lab Design & Facilitation



Severin von Hünerbein

Catalyst Lab Design



Sylvia Garatti

Fundraising

Stewards



Florence Tercier



Pius Leutenegger



Michael Gerber



Nora Wilhelm

Wisdom Council



Véronique Ruppert Schmitt



Alexander Schieffer



Till Berger



Darya Gerasimenko



Solomon Jaya Prakash,



What we offer





Services

Collaboratio helvetica offers a network of facilitators and process stewards for systemic change and social innovation. We design and facilitate spaces and in-depth experiential processes tailor-made to the specific context and issue for organisations from the private, public and non-profit sectors as well as for communities, networks and larger ecosystems.

Social Innovation Labs

We design and facilitate in depth transformational change journeys based on the Social Innovation Lab approach and Theory U. We address and explore social challenges of systemic relevance, bringing together different stakeholders and unlikely allies to co-create solutions that tackle the root causes of today's challenges.

For organisations, administrations, companies and universities

Design and facilitation of workshops & conferences

Based on our guiding principles, diverse experience as well as our community and network of practitioners we offer inspiring and tailor-made process design and facilitation. We focus on touching minds (cognitive connection), hearts (empathetic connection) and hands (embodied connection) to get participants to perceive the topic on diverse levels and thus activate their intrinsic participation, ownership and leadership.

For conference and workshop organisers from all sectors

Dialogue



The Dialogue work within collaboratio helvetica focuses on three kinds of spaces. One is the Dialogue Evenings, a project to activate a widespread conversation and expand Dialogue on a local level as a service for municipalities. The others are Dialogue workshops and Dialogue Facilitator Training organised by Alles ist Dialog and designed for facilitators and space holders who want to expand their toolbox and become Dialogue facilitators.

**For individuals,
communities and
politicians**

Gender Equality Workshops & Consulting



We design and facilitate workshops that allow participants to explore aspects of gender on a personal, societal and organizational level. Through innovative small-group exercises, facilitated dialogue, deep listening and co-creation, we offer participants the opportunity to share perceptions and experiences of individual and collective gender norms in a safe and creative space.

**For organisations,
administrations,
companies and
universities**

New ways of working



We consider our organisation as an embodied prototype of the principles we strive for. This is why we hold extensive knowledge on the topic of new ways of working and have created our own processes and tools for it. We coach, support and hold lectures in the fields of Sociocracy 3.0, human centered approaches and purpose driven organisations.

**For new organisations
and startups, private
sector,
academia**

Thought Leadership & Speeches



We bring inspiration and thought-provoking ideas into your format. From speeches to lectures, podium discussions and written articles, we are happy to share our ideas and expertise.

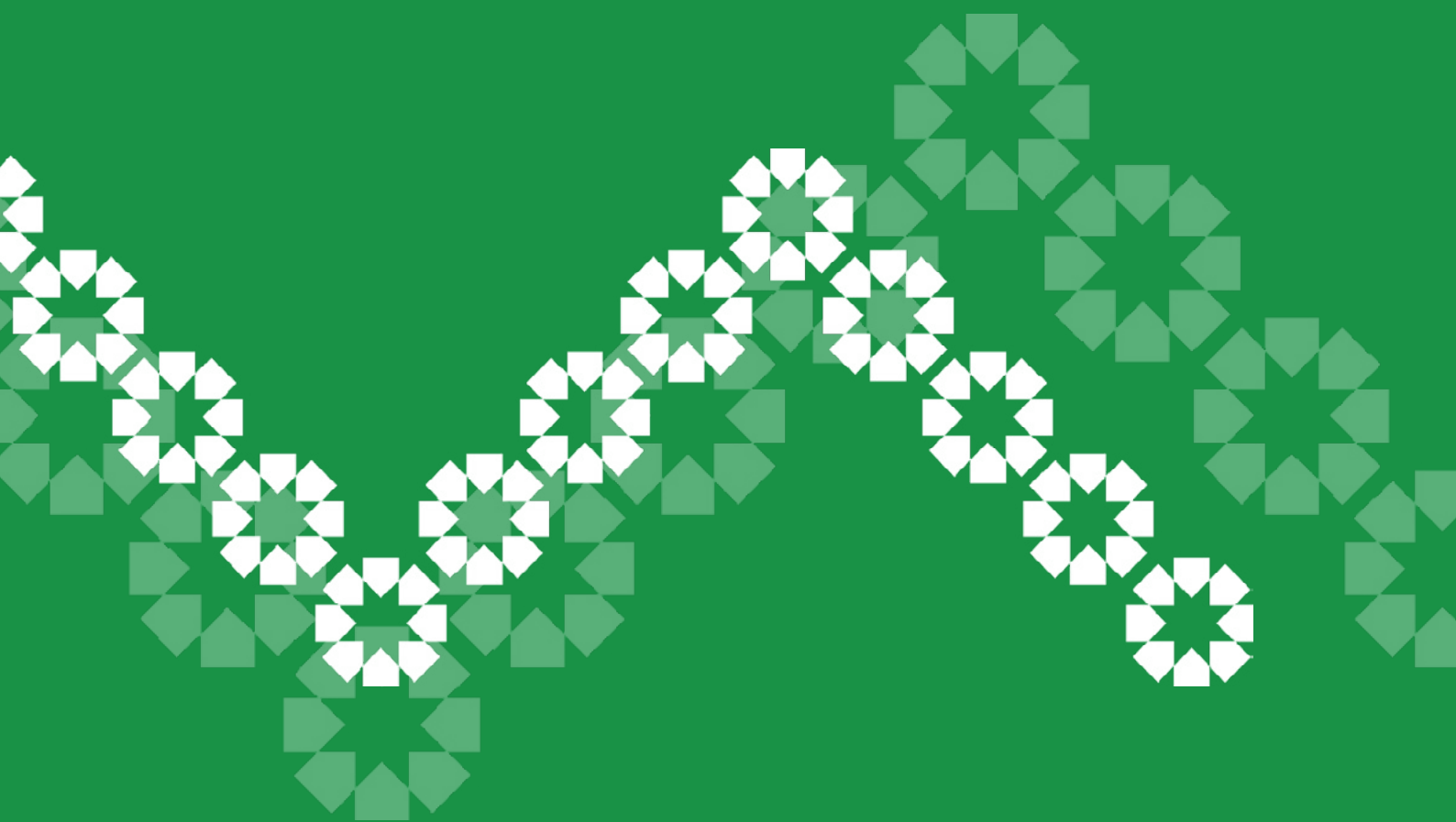
Our main topics:

- 2030 Agenda in Switzerland
- Multi-Stakeholder processes
- Societal transformation
- Participation and co-creation
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Business and sustainability

For conference and event organisers



What we did in 2020





Facts & Figures

Reach



2000+

People reached with our formats

41

Supporters and network partners

12

Public speeches & podia

567

Newsletter subscribers

4198

Social media followers

9

Media clippings

40

Blog posts

Community



+300

People in our community

4

Community fora (on- and offline)

Facilitation



9

Co-designed conferences & workshops

Fundraising



1.2 Mio. CHF

Fundraising for projects advancing the Agenda 2030



Milestones

- February** — Interview series about SDG5
- March** — Blog series [“In dialogue with a virus”](#)
Introduction of weekly calls by the Dialogue group
- April** — Start of the weekly online community check-in
Last module of Catalyst Lab 1
Start of the [Nova Helvetia](#) journey
- May** — Call for Catalyst Lab 2
Collaboratio helvetica starts collaboration with the team Landesausstellung X27
- June** — Online Swiss Forum presenting the reflection papers from the Nova Helvetia working groups
Three public events “Tour de Suisse for systemic change”
Nora Wilhelm selected as Regional Finalist for Europe in the United Nations’ highest environment honor for youth, the #YoungChampions of the Earth prize, UNEP

- 
- August** — Patronage of the Catalyst Lab by [ARE](#)
- Severin von Hünerbein on the podium of the [HSG Alumni](#) conference on the topic Innovation, Digitization, Collaboration
- September** — Presentation of the [Catalyst Lab Cohort 2020/21](#)
- Offline Community Forum
- New sponsoring partnership with [Stiftung Mercator](#)
- Launch of the Intrapreneurship Academy for changemakers within businesses in the Romandie in collaboration with Impact Hub Lausanne and SDSN Switzerland
- October** — Launch of the website in German
- [TEDx talk on the future of education](#) by Catalyst Nils Landolt
- November** — Start of [Catalyst Lab 2](#)
- Launch of Agenda 2030 Dialogues for Swiss SMEs in collaboration with öbu and ARE
- Nora Wilhelm named as one of the [“30 under 30”](#) in Switzerland by Forbes
- December** — Panel about the future of aviation with Catalyst Bea Albermann at University of Geneva
- collaboratio helvetica refines its vision, mission and strategy



Selected Projects

We enable

Catalyst Lab, 1st and 2nd edition

How we act and live as a society today is not sustainable. To change this, we must do much more than fighting symptoms or seeking another quick fix. We have to foster the transformation of our systems towards more ecological responsibility, humanity and the common good. Collaboratio helvetica encourages, supports and connects people and their initiatives who work towards a healthier and regenerative Switzerland by offering the Catalyst Lab, an innovative learning space for high-potential change makers. The first edition ended in May 2020. The second edition started in November 2020. These 'Future Labs' are a profound learning and design process for people who are committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland in diverse sectors by contributing to systemic change in their local environment.

19 Catalysts started their Catalyst Lab journeys in September

12 SDGs of the Agenda 2030 are addressed with the work of these catalysts



Dialogue Spaces

At collaboratio helvetica, one of the key methods is [Dialogue](#). By “Dialogue” we mean the kinds of conversations that change something within and between the people who are involved. The Dialogue Space is a space where people try to learn and understand by seeing another perspective through the eyes and story of someone else, and by getting a new sense of the broader ecosystem that the discussed issue is part of. In 2020 during the lockdown, the dialogue facilitator group initiated a weekly call to come together, exchange and sit in dialogue in these times of change. Anyone was welcome to join and invite friends and family. These weekly calls became small harbours of connection, listening and human warmth. There were participants from Switzerland and beyond, and it was an important experience of community support.

Zoom In

Due to the restrictions on in-person meetings the first module of the second Catalyst Lab took place in a hybrid format. It was a mix of online conference and in-person group gatherings. Friday and Sunday sessions took place online, while Saturday sessions were split into 3 groups, two in person gatherings in Basel and Zurich and one online. This was a challenge considering the aspiration of the second Catalyst Lab to create a safe space for the participants to learn from one another and grow on their journey together. A rhythm was achieved, by following a similar framework that of the in-person gatherings, with time for work alone, in pairs and in small groups, additionally to the large group conference format. The whole content was covered but methodologies had to be chosen and adapted to suit both the virtual and the physical space. The hybrid format turned out to be a success: Participants could join the conversation verbally and also in written format. It was easy to share extra resources and add comments on the chat without much disruption to the main discussion. The breakout rooms invited an equal participation among members of the group. While long distance connectivity might not have been the preferred option, it proved to be possible, surprisingly presenting even some advantages.



We connect

Community platform

In August 2019, collaboratio helvetica launched its online [community platform](#). This interactive platform allows members (called Explorers) to share their projects, events and ideas, find personal and practical support, benefit from a nationwide network and engage in existing or new projects. The platform integrates an interactive map that allows members to find allies in their region as well as a chat function to easily connect with other members.

Zoom In

In view of the disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic, collaboratio helvetica decided to make public all the features of the organisation's online community platform. Everyone was invited to join, explore, connect and even create their own groups with the assistance of collaboratio helvetica. In times of social distancing such online spaces can become precious resources to cope with the crisis and the fact that we were all forced to tremendously restrict our freedom and social contacts.



Manifesto

collaboratio helvetica is cultivating the conditions for collaboration towards systemic change. Building a strong network of organisations working towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a key part of this. We have therefore published a [Manifesto for Switzerland](#) and invited other organisations to join. By signing the manifesto we all underline our commitment to a regenerative Switzerland and the 2030 Agenda. Together with our sponsors and supporters our network grew up to 37 [partners](#).

We inspire

OE Forum Schweiz

Collaboratio helvetica was invited to participate in the anniversary conference of the forum for organisational development (OE Forum) as a guest. Together with the Abbot of Einsiedeln Monastery, the Managing Director of the Special Olympics, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gehrig Group AG and other representatives from business, politics and society, we discussed the importance of a holistic approach to organizational development and social transformation.

Keynote at ETH Zurich

Collaboratio helvetica held a keynote at ETH Zurich, opening their first ever lecture series on the Agenda 2030. We are thrilled to see this important institution offer a trans disciplinary course bridging theory and practice to their students. One of their explicit goals is to support the students in becoming responsible young leaders and capable actors of transformation, which is to us exactly what quality education is all about. The opening speech was all about the necessity of a systemic and holistic approach to sustainable development, embodiment, and the importance of visions and purpose.

Forum ö 2020

Under the title "And now? Forge the future of the Swiss economy together!" öbu, the Swiss Association for Sustainable Business, has held their first online forum. Collaboratio helvetica co-designed and co-facilitated the Forum ö that took place from October to December. The workshops included topics such as the SDGs, transformation of businesses and change of values or sustainable vocational training.

„What we need is a shared vision for the future! Based on compassion, curiosity and the courage for the yet unknown.“

Nora Wilhelm - Co-Founder & Catalyst of collaboratio helvetica



University of Neuchâtel

On the initiative of the Interfaculty Master in Innovation of the University of Neuchâtel, Nora Wilhelm was invited to give a lecture entitled “For a Switzerland of social innovation”. As a part of the university’s week of sustainability she spoke about the importance of innovation and social transformation.



Swiss Foundations’ 2020 Stiftungsgespräch “Foundations for future”

The need for cross-sector collaborations for the challenges of our time was a topic at this year’s SwissFoundations Stiftungsgespräch, where collaboratio helvetica was invited. Nora Wilhelm participated in the panel discussion and explained why systemic change work is challenging, even more so when funding is scarce or its distribution based on old paradigms.

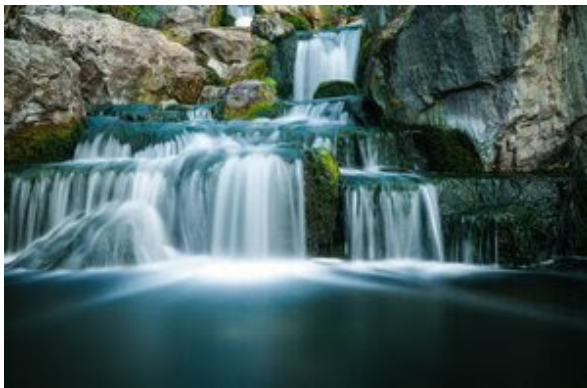
Zoom In

Every year, the German edition of Forbes, one of the world’s most successful business magazines, selects 30 exceptional personalities from Switzerland under the age of 30 who stand out for their entrepreneurial thinking and innovative power. In 2020, the Forbes jury for the 30 under 30 list selected Nora Wilhelm as co-founder of collaboratio helvetica from over 1500 nominations from the DACH region.

We prototype

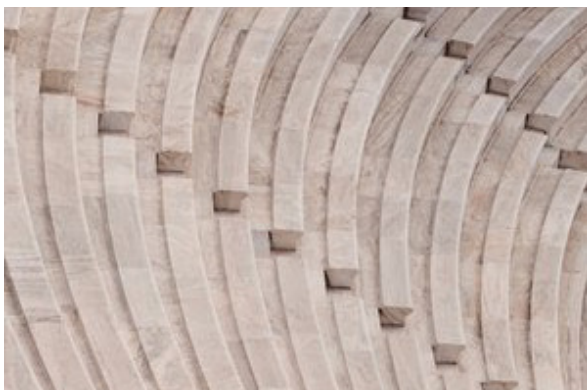
Nova Helvetia

Nova Helvetia is a proposal to address the urgent need to reinvent the human-made systems that are causing and aggravating the current Corona crisis, or being outed as inadequate by it. Based on the [GAIA Journey](#) initiated by the [Presencing Institute](#), we have launched this process of engaging motivated individuals in sense-making, understanding the root causes and sharing reflections and possible solutions that address them. In the reflection phase (March - June 2020) thematic groups have been formed that work together, focussing on a specific topic or question to explore. During the second phase of the Nova Helvetia project (June - October 2020), the working groups developed prototypes and proposed solutions for how they would like to contribute to a more sustainable future and systemic change in their subject area. The implementation of the resulting prototypes is financed by Migros Pioneer Fund. Using a collaborative co-budgeting process, the working groups and collaboratio helvetica team members jointly distributed the available resources to the most promising prototype ideas. The 6 financed prototypes are implemented in a third project phase from October 2020 to April 2021.



[SDG8: Sustainable working experiences in organizations](#)

How can we use examples from sports and nature as new ways of sustainable working experiences in organizations?



[SDG 16: Democracy in transformation](#)

How can we solve the complex problems that require political efficiency by implementing alternative forms of a society-led democracy?



[SDG 11: Sustainable cities and neighbourhoods](#)

How do we live together in the city? What are our dependencies, relationships, blind spots and processes, as well as our stories and mental models that hold our society together?



[SDG 17: Funding systemic change](#)

How can we transform funding allocation through stakeholder dialogue? What roles do foundations play in enabling and guiding action towards a more sustainable and ethical future?



[SDG 5: Gender & inclusion: Creating an inclusive future](#)

What were the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on gender relations, especially on women? What is the distribution and value between productive and reproductive work?



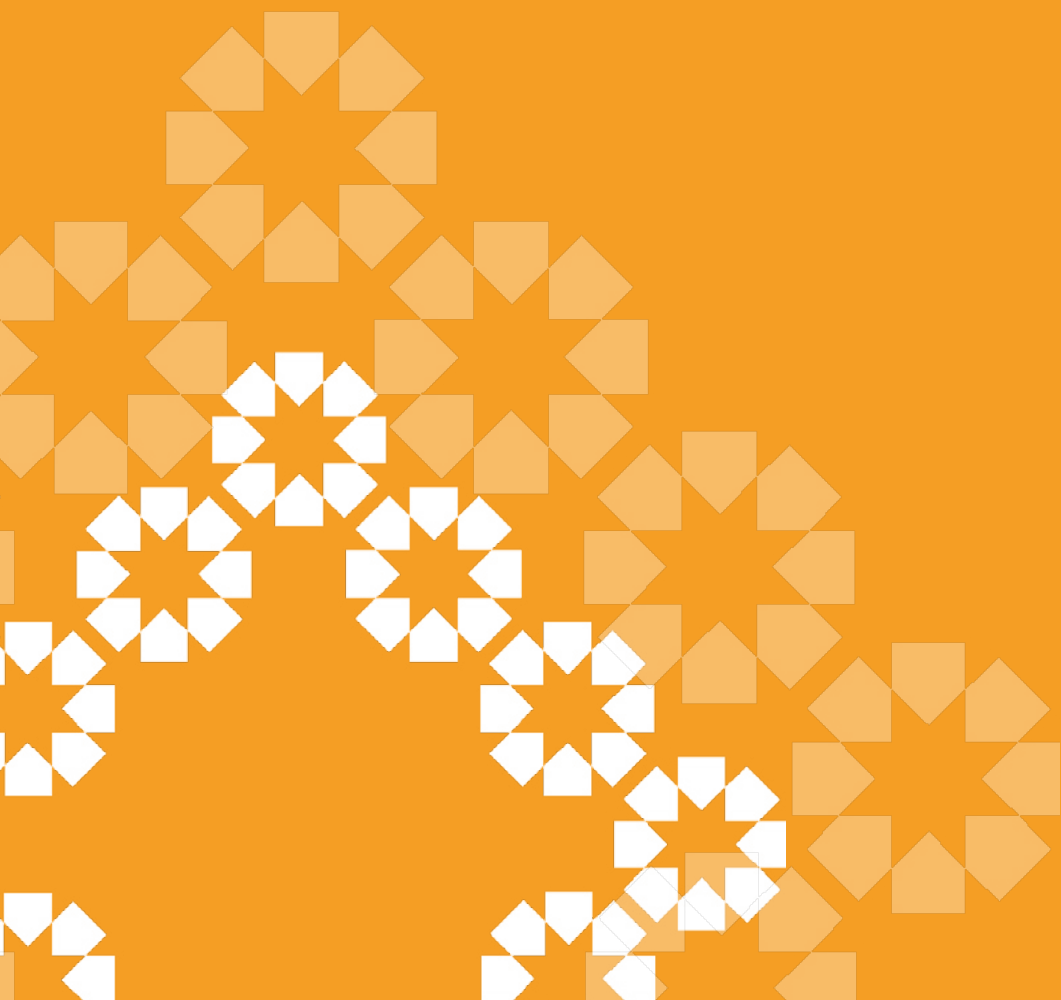
[SDG 4: Renewing education](#)

Is our education system based on functional and knowledge learning still the right one given the current transformation process? How can we change this system to focus on future skills and individualized support?

What the media said



What we have learned





Julia Bodin (VD)



SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption

Julia is an EPFL environmental engineer, a diver and a lover of life under water in all its forms. Convinced that plastic pollution must be stopped at its root cause, she created Let's Talk Waste with that very mission in 2018. Her project won the first jury prize of the Social Impact Award of the Impact Hub Geneva & Lausanne in 2018. Julia Bodin believes in a playful approach to inspiring people to rethink their consumption habits and produce less waste.

Her story

When I finished my studies at EPFL in environment sciences and engineering, I went to Israel to study coral resilience to climate change and ocean acidification. This project got me into diving which gave me a much better understanding of the magic and power of the underwater world but also its vulnerability to manmade, local pollution. Plastic was the one that struck me. I came back convinced that I should work towards cutting plastic pollution at its root cause.

I started [Let's Talk Waste](#) in 2018. In October I won the first jury prize of the Social Impact Award Switzerland with the idea of renting physical sorting solutions to companies with recurring revenues of the rentals, a collection service and punctual revenues with employee engagement workshops. Today I focus on employee engagement and more generally on society engagement through facilitating playful activities and holding spaces for deep generative dialogue.

My vision of the world is a world where our children and grandchildren and all the generations who follow will be able to see, feel and be amazed by life under water. At the rate we are going today - [8 millions ton of plastic per year leaked into the oceans](#) - there will be [more plastic than fish in the sea by 2050](#). That means that even my children will not get to enjoy what I have been so deeply touched by.

This has to change. It is time we address this issue at its root cause. Together.



Maya Cosentino (BE)



SDG 3 – Good health and well-being

Maya Cosentino is a physician currently training to become a child and adolescent psychiatrist in Bern. She grew up as a staff child in a school and community for children with special needs in the USA. In this community Maya developed an interest in the relationships and connections between health and the environment, community development and sustainability. She is a member of Think Tank 30, the young think tank of the Club of Rome in Germany, and is involved in promoting the “One Health” approach, which illuminates the connections and relationships between ecosystems, living organisms and health.

Her story

[Health and sustainable development](#) are intimately connected and major [health benefits of meeting sustainability goals](#) have been established. Experts even believe that significant “gains could be made by placing [health at the very center of climate change](#) and policy development.”

Most of the factors that contribute to health over the lifespan are outside the health care system, which itself can more accurately be described as a sickness care system. Health promotion and sickness prevention have the potential to increase public health, as well as to reduce the significant ecological footprint of the health care sector. However, preventative measures threaten the current health care system’s economic model, which is financially dependent on the existence and treatment of disease.

A regenerative and prevention-oriented world encourages integrated governance and forms of collaboration that enable citizens and organisations to act as health agents and create sustained, as opposed to short lived, impact. I want to address the detrimental effects of our current health care system model, and explore how health promotion and sickness prevention can become health care priorities.

Anna Krebs (VD)



SDG 5 – Gender Equality

Anna Krebs is a professional facilitator and coach with a Masters in Intercultural Encounters from the University of Helsinki. In her professional life the 35-year-old primarily works with projects that build bridges between science and politics and promote inclusion & gender equality in the workplace.

Her story

It all started with the collaboratio helvetica Gender Lab. We were a few people that worked in organisations with the topic of gender and diversity. The experience and methods used in the Gender Lab made such a big impression on us that we wanted to be able to bring those into our organisations to speed change towards more equality.

I see a lot of data and tools existing around the issue of advancing gender equality. However, despite all the knowledge we have about the positive effects that equality would bring, the progress is slow. I wanted to enable people to make a personal connection to it (rather than seeing it as a theoretical issue existing in society).

The possibility of enabling a change in awareness and through that in actions towards more equality in workplaces and all areas of life is a huge motivation for me. The Catalyst Lab propelled me forward, gave me important insights and tools as well as new contacts and visibility. The outcome is the Gender Dialogue Spark. A prototype that is a creative and innovative workshop for organisations and businesses that enables participants to explore aspects of gender at a personal, societal and organisational level.

Olmar Albers (ZH)



SDG 8 – Sustainable economic growth and decent work for all

Olmar Albers has many years of leadership experience in general management, marketing/sales and innovation management in various industries such as chemicals, food, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals. For almost three years now, the native Dutchman has been the CEO of [öbu](#), the Swiss Council for Sustainable Business. With his commitment, Olmar Albers contributes to systemic change in the economy at company level and in general.

His story

As a former manager in the private sector, I see a huge need for transforming business so that it can be part of a planetary solution instead of contributing to the problem. I chose my contribution pragmatically and took the CEO position of öbu, the Swiss Business Council for Sustainable Development. I believe that in this role, I have a bigger leverage than starting something from scratch.

My aim is to change the Swiss economy - from a sustainability 2.0 “Do no harm” perspective to a sustainability 3.0 “How can Swiss business actively contribute to achieving the SDGs?” As a late “convert” to sustainability it took me a while to accept that transformation instead of incremental change is needed. Today, the öbu board shares the idea of having a vision of sustainability 3.0.

I started at öbu three years ago, but this clear transformation focus is a result of the Catalyst Lab. The Catalyst Lab has helped me shape my convictions and gave me the courage to articulate them. It taught me the power and application of dialogue to move forward. And it has put a lot of new tools into my toolkit that will support me in realising my vision.



Learning Fields

When the covid crisis started in March 2020, we dedicated a few days to collective sense-making of the situation, and developed a multi-faceted action plan that was aligned with our [principles](#), and took into consideration our deep commitment to the dual approach of 'inner work' and 'outer work'.

On the 'inner work' side, we collectively supported each other to remain still, remain calm, and resist the temptation of panic or thoughtless action. On the 'outer work' side, we shared our reflections in the blog post series "In dialogue with a virus", connected with the international GAIA journey by MIT's Presencing Institute and launched the Swiss local hub, which developed into the project called Nova Helvetia. As another response to the crisis, we opened up the platform to anyone who wishes to join, for free, and developed new offers, for example the Room of Requirements Zoom account, which can be used by anyone from the community for online organisation, exploration or learning.

2020 was an important year for the learning ecology domain - we have run a full cycle of monitoring of the community and the Catalyst Lab, as well as the Nova Helvetia journey. The insights lead to a significant redesign of the Catalyst Lab for its second iteration, which included the introduction of learning companions for the catalysts, an easier flow of information between the facilitators and the LE team that is working on harvesting the surveys after each module. It also produced an external and several internal reports on the outcomes of the Catalyst Lab.

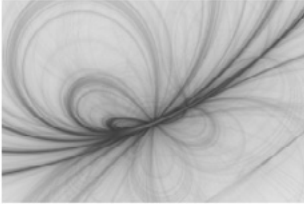
Sharing our experiences and learnings is one of our missions, and this is why currently we are working on two publications based on the Nova Helvetia project. One is a workbook to enable others to launch a learning journey towards collective action (based on the Nova Helvetia framework). The other is focusing on collaborative finance - a workbook to accompany groups to allocate resources in a collective process.



Our Toolbox

We are harvesting the learnings from all we do and share these openly in our [toolbox](#) and in our blog. Anyone who is interested can find the theories, methods and tools we use for our Social Innovation Labs, Dialogue Evenings and community activities online - no paywall or login needed. We aim to describe everything in a way that anyone can easily use it. By the end of 2020, we have more than 70 methods and tools publicly available on our website.

With the toolbox and our blog collaboratio helvetica supports the collective capacity to create, design and hold meaningful spaces and processes for collaboration.



The impact loop of inner & outer change
 Mar 12, 2021 · #outerwork, #transformation, #impactloop, #impact, #innerwork



Social Innovation Lab
 Mar 6, 2021 · #socialinnovationlab



Case Clinic
 Jan 13, 2021 · #catalyslab, #catalyst, #caseclinic



The Hybrid Format - How to successfully implement virtual learning formats
 Jan 8, 2021 · #catalyslab, #catalyst, #dialoguewalk, #caseclinic

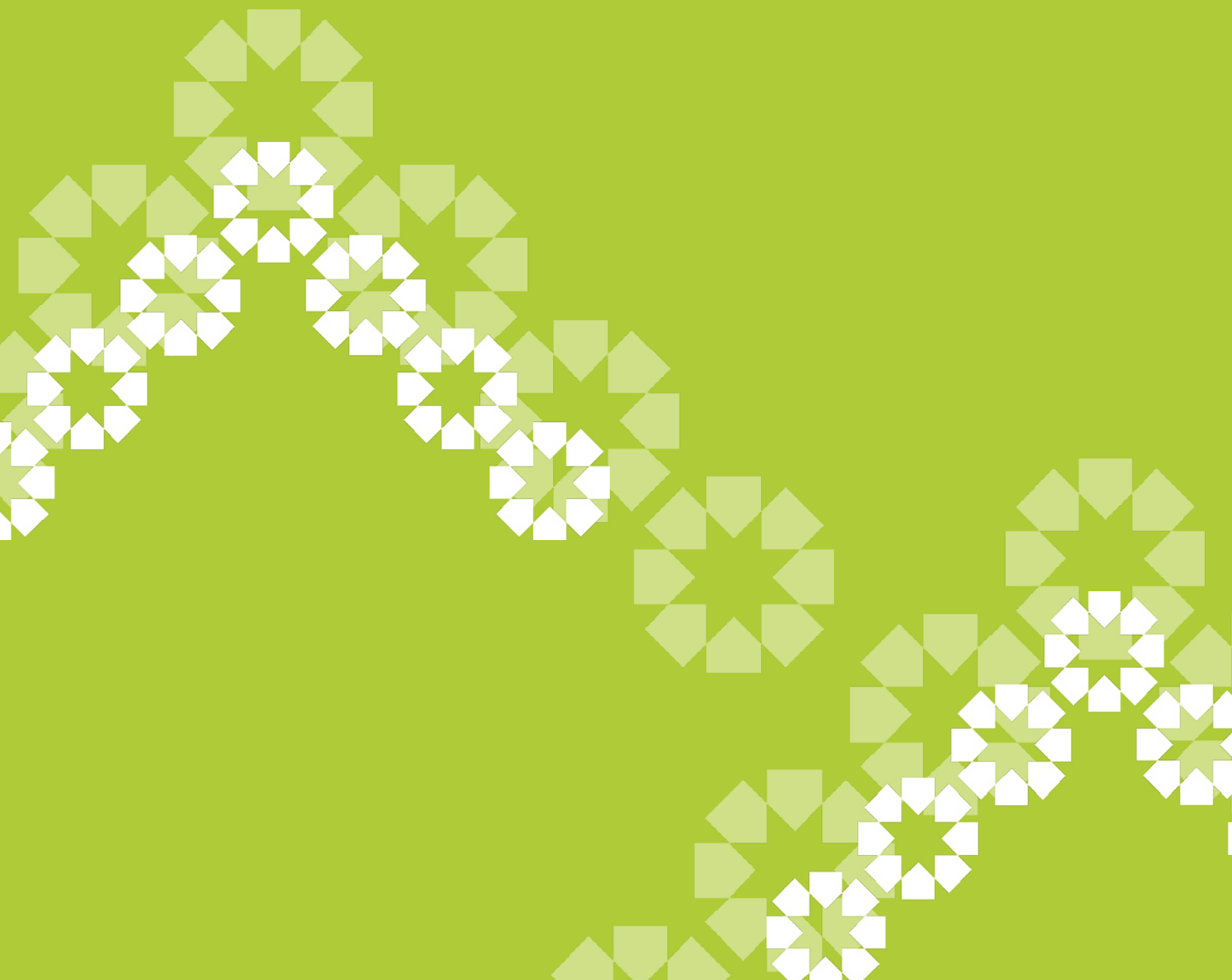


Sensing Journeys for Catalysts
 Dec 7, 2020 · #sensing, #sensingjourneys



Social Innovation Lab Canvas
 Apr 15, 2020 ·

What's next?





Coming soon

Impact of the second Catalyst Lab

18 change agents will complete the second edition of the Catalyst Lab in May 2021. Their journey will continue with the support of the whole collaboratio helvetica community and network

Launch of the third Catalyst Lab

The call for the third edition of the Catalyst Lab is planned for May 2021. Change agents from all over Switzerland will be able to apply for one of the limited places in this outstanding learning journey.

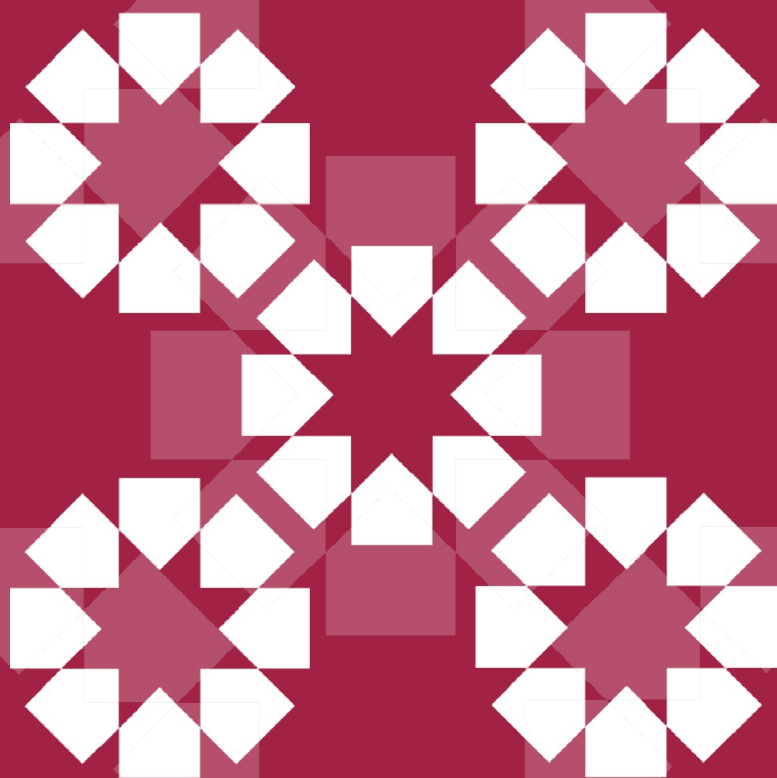
Launch of the Tomorrow Lab

In 2021 we will start to expand the opportunities to learn and grow with the collaboratio helvetica community. As the Catalyst Lab is a long and very intensive journey with only limited space available, we will offer half-day and full-day workshops for anybody interested in innovative and effective learning spaces for social transformation.

Expanding the network

With the many public speeches, collaborations across sectors, our community and the Catalyst Labs our network is constantly growing. To expand it even further, we will increase our ecosystem activation team. A powerful national and international network is key to successfully foster social transformation in the long-term.

Budgets & Finances



Budget & Finances

Profit & Loss 2020

Income

Contributions from Public Authorities		15,000
Contributions from others		435,599
Other income		102,572
Total Income		553,171

Expenses

General expenses:

HR	39,561	
Office Costs	22,832	
Fundraising	66,808	
Communications	55,021	
Administration Costs	16,529	
Financial Costs	322	201,073
Community		48,358
Learning Ecology		23,524
Social Labs		217,392
Practitioner Circle		27,199
collaboratio helvetica as a prototype		2,412
Ecosystem activation		32,791
Total Expenses		552,749

Year-end result

422

Balance sheet on 31.12.2020

Assets

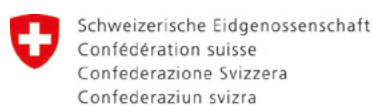
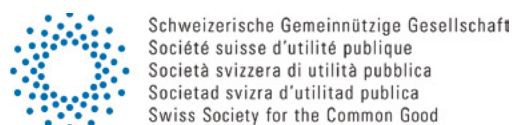
Cash	264,521
Trade receivables	42,500
Other short-term accounts	2,546
Prepaid expenses	–
Total Assets	309,567

Liabilities

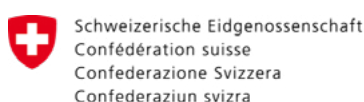
Trade payables	3,648
Other short-term liabilities	5,000
Not yet paid expenses	65,250
Profit/Loss last years	12,247
Fonds capital	223,000
Organisation capital	–
Year-end result	422
Total Liabilities	309,567

Thank You!

We would like to thank all the different persons, organisations and institutions that collaborated with us in 2020 and every single person in Switzerland who is committed to achieving the SDGs. Together we create the Switzerland of tomorrow - built on ecological responsibility, humanity and the common good.



Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung ARE
Office fédéral du développement territorial ARE
Ufficio federale dello sviluppo territoriale ARE
Uffizi federal da svilup dal territori ARE



Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes BFEG
Aides financières prévues par la loi sur l'égalité



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Annual Report 2020

