



Paul Scherrer Institute

Thierry Strässle

NEW CONCEPTS OF MOBILITY & THEIR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Comment 2 – The view of a research institute

ESF Workshop, 21-23 May 2013, Oslo



Mobility – the view of a national research institute...

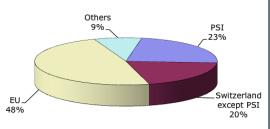




...hosting all major Swiss Research Infrastructures

trans-national outreach

2100 users / year SLS: 48% from EU average overbooking >2





impact in innovation

SLS: **10** % industrial proprietary use (other synchrotrons on average 5%)

Swiss Synchrotron Light Source (SLS), Swiss Neutron Source SINQ, Swiss Muon Source SµS at the Paul Scherrer Institut

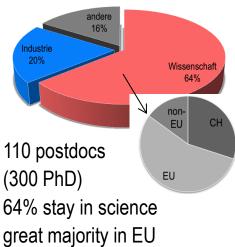
scientific excellence

>600 publications per year 109 publications with impact factor >7.1 (PRL)



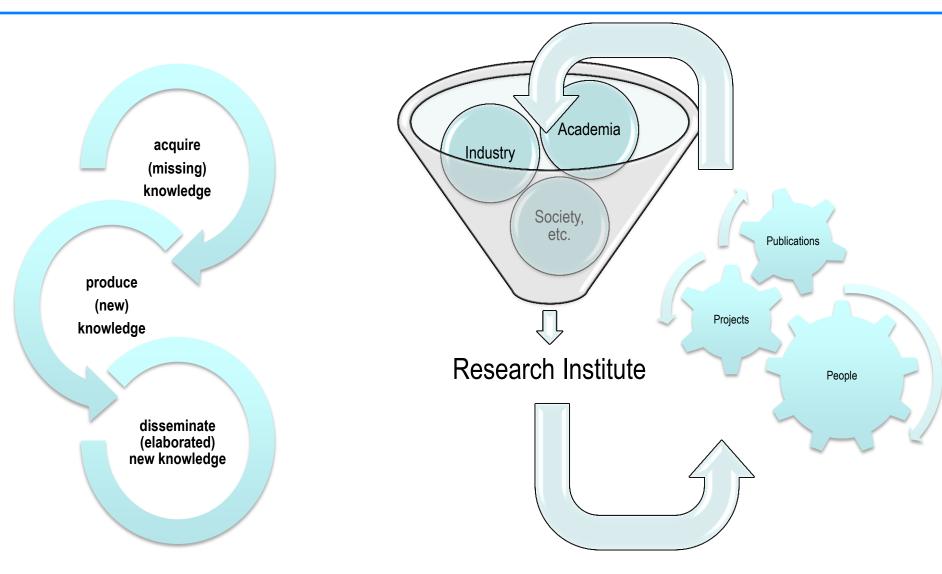


knowledge dissemination





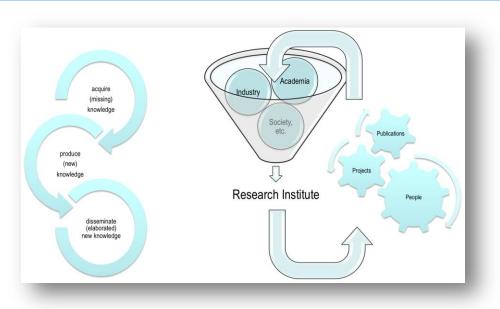
Primary mission of research institutes and role of mobility



arrows = mobility (international, intersectoral, interdisciplinary, virtual) motors of mobility: incentives (require metrics)



Mobility = goal for all participants involved in the mission



Goal: make best use of existing knowledge in efficiently elaborating new knowledge

This primary goal is an inherent interest of

- sponsor governments, ERA, society
- enabler research institutes
- producer individual researcher

however:

The awareness for the global scope is decreasing the more detailed knowledge involved. (which is probably good so: "Schuster bleib bei deinen Leisten!" ["Cobbler stick to your trade!"])

hence:

"How to measure and acknowledge individual researcher's achievements in mobility?"

"How to make mobility more attractive?"



R/C: international mobility

allow for more flexible forms of physical mobility, e.g., by:

- means of short-term stays or split stays over a certain time period;
 sabbaticals have a long tradition, who pays?, who fills the gap?, often based on <u>bilateral</u> initiatives, must be win-win for both sides, global schemes difficult to implement
- offering combined/part-time positions on time bank terms;
 joint-affiliations crossing borders are difficult
 general chances/challenges of such positions (see below)
- acknowledging physical mobility based on documented stays abroad or signs of collaboration and participation.
- very much **the case** (at least in natural sciences) we (at PSI) ask our PhD students to leave PSI, continuation as postdoc not allowed; large institutional and national differences on policies; requires tracking the researchers carrier to get her/him back (by supervisor)
- integrating international mobility in national grants;
 existing and very attractive in Switzerland / wish for better combining national schemes



R/C: international mobility



http://www.snf.ch/

Mobility fellowships

The mobility fellowships from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) enable young researchers to conduct a research stay abroad in order to acquire more indepth scientific knowledge and enhance their scientific profile. The ultimate goal is to support young scientists and academics for their future career in Switzerland. The mobility fellowships comprise three instruments:

- Doc.Mobility: Fellowships for doctoral students who wish to conduct part of their doctoral studies abroad. On 1 January 2013, the Doc.Mobility fellowships replace the "candoc" fellowships for prospective researchers.
- ▶ Early Postdoc.Mobility: Fellowships for postdocs starting their career who have either obtained their doctorate recently or are about to do so soon. On 1 January 2013, the Early Postdoc.Mobility fellowships replace the "postdoc" fellowships for prospective researchers.
- Advanced Postdoc.Mobility: Fellowships for advanced postdocs (with postdoctoral experience) who are aiming for an academic career in Switzerland. On 1 January 2013, the Advanced Postdoc.Mobility fellowships replace the fellowships for advanced researchers.

great program
of Swiss National Science
Foundation

case XY:

postdoc stay of 2 years in Paris – excellent since able to bring own project with own money

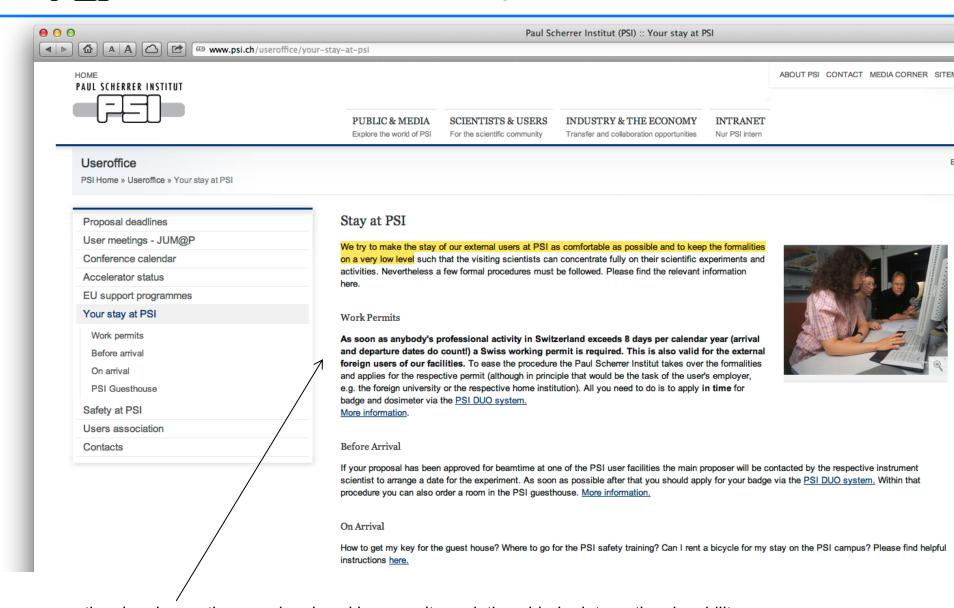
- 12 months paid by "Early Postdoc. Mobility"
- remaining 12 months paid by whom? (idea: host institute)

in reality early postdoc starts right from the beginning writing grants to extend his stay (instead of becoming productive) (in this case 1 CNRS, 1 SNF, 1 Incoming-Marie-Curie, ...)

what is missing: matching of national programs



R/C: international mobility



national and sometimes regional working permit regulations hinder international mobility (although formalities very simple for EU users, but...)



R/C: intersectoral mobility

- researchers in industry should also publish (importance on publications in peer review)
- clear transfer agreements and contractual regulations in joint projects (industry/academia)
- stronger emphasis on non-scientific achievements too

need for full symmetry (about equal mobility to/from industry) ? probably not: but I am looking forward to get a new CIO and strategic controller from industry...

generally too much emphasis on publication records

in addition: publication record often reduced to simple metrics (HI factor, ...)

many ideas, such as the "San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment" (http://am.ascb.org/dora/)

A number of themes run through these recommendations:

- the need to eliminate use of journal-based metrics, such as impact factors, in funding, appointment and promotion considerations.
- the need to assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which the research is published, and
- the need to capitalize on the opportunities provided by online publication (such as relaxing unnecessary limits on the number of words, figures, and references in articles, and exploring new indicators of significance and impact)

However: how do you tell me in 5 min. about the past scientific achievements of Thierry Strässle without using Web-of-Science or a similar product?

Fact: In practice we use this metric to measure ourselves and to get measured by others

Challenge: How to measure impact of science *per se*? for society? for economics? for the big challenges?



R/C: interdisciplinary mobility

- interdisciplinary journals welcomed / adjustments to bibliometric approaches Science, Nature, Physical Review Letters are highly interdisciplinary editor: "We regret but your study is not of sufficient general interest..."

counter-argument:

shouldn't an early carrier researcher learn first physics and chemistry before solving the sustainable energy problem that our society needs to solve?

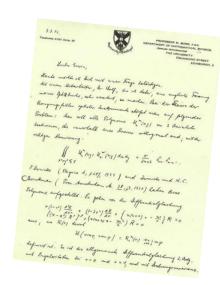
Science has its own inherent interest to remain inter- / multidisciplinary top-down pressure is probably not required

- interdisciplinary / international panel reviewing rather than individual written reviews YES! for both: peer review of individual researchers and projects to large extend already the case (but how do you pre-select? in every pre-selection one should allow for 20% "unconventional" applications)



R/C: virtual mobility

- standardized CVs
- useful, however: how do other professional sectors face this problem?
- recognizing non-academic achievements in peer review to large extends hopefully the case (allow for 20% "unconventional applications")
- normalizing a researcher's achievement by time spent in research (HI-index, ...)
- to large extends hopefully the case

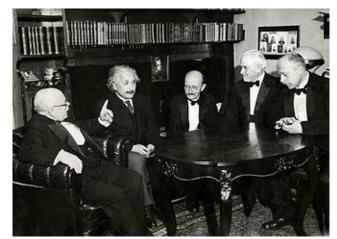


Letter (1952) of Planck to Schrödinger

virtual mobility is probably/hopefully not a recent trend emphasized by modern ways of communication (internet, emails, video-conferencing,...)

it must remain the privilege and duty of researchers to

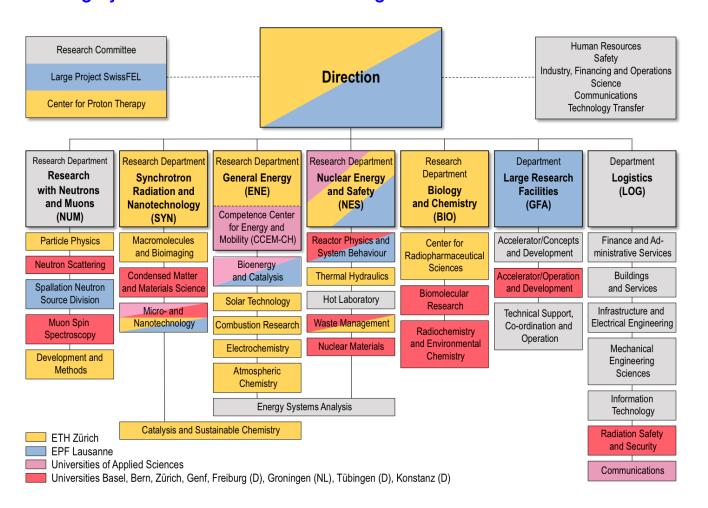
- globally compete
- globally collaborate
- globally exchange information (even if the internet collapsed)





R/C: virtual mobility

combined/part-time researcher positions
 case at PSI – Links to ETH Zürich, EPF Lausanne and other universities
 through joint-affiliations and teaching activities



Benefits

- attractiveness for staff
- PhD students
- common projects
- external users
- support/awareness of our national tasks
- diversification of funding

all this is mobility!

However:

- loyalty ("two-hats")
- time, priorities
 - definitely no part-time job



impeding factors – from a practical point of view

Top-down ordered mobility (well-intentioned but not carefully thought to the end)

institute level, example

"For our new large-scale facility SwissFEL (a free-electron X-Ray laser) we need to reallocate internal resources. Hence scientist A / technician B should work for SwissFEL from tomorrow on."

The carrier and reputation of scientist A is based on his in-depth knowledge on topic XY. Topic XY has nothing to do with SwissFEL / scientific community is well-aware of this.

national level, example

"instead of subsidizing new renewable energy technologies we spend the money in research"

Are there enough excellent researchers available to get the job done worth 300 M€ / year ?



impeding factors – from a practical point of view

Fixed-term appointments vs permanent positions

Scientific tradition =

early carrier → fixed-term (if lucky with tenure-track option) only at later stage → permanent position reason: scientific excellence, selection of the best needs time



Questions:

Thus is the private sector

- not seeking for excellence?
- not selecting the best?

Should employment contracts and dismissal contracts approach those of the private sector?

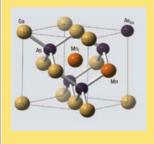
... and what if ? (side-effects on mobility)



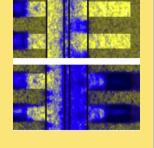


Mission

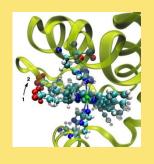
science of matter and materials



energy and environment



life sciences



development construction operation



large scale research facilities





knowledge & expertise



education



technology transfer

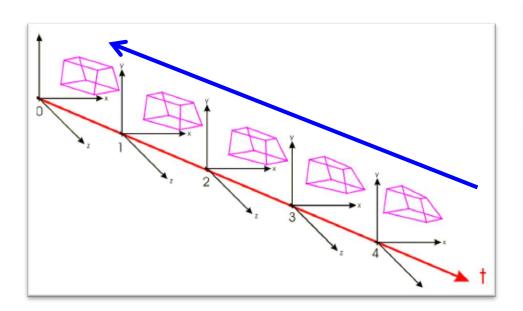


national and international users academia and industry

more than 2700 external users / year (39 beamlines)



"Generationenvertrag"





Wikipedia "Zeitpfeil"

Der psychologische Zeitpfeil beschreibt unsere subjektive Unterscheidung zwischen vergangenen und zukünftigen Ereignissen. Wir können uns an die Vergangenheit erinnern, aber nicht an die Zukunft. Die gängige Sichtweise des Zeitpfeiles betrachtet die Zukunft vorne (also in Sichtrichtung). Siehe dazu auch: Philosophie der Zeit.

Die zeitliche Dimension ist wesentliche Grundvoraussetzung für unser Gewissen ("Schnur der Identität")



Generationenvertrag im ,Mikrokosmos PSI'

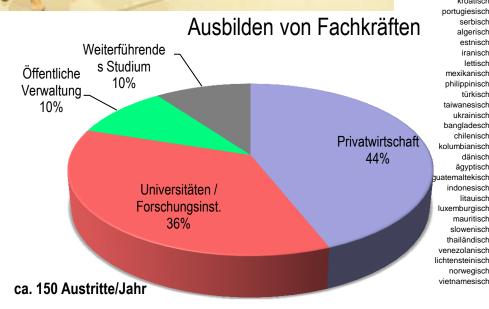
Praktikanten Doktoranden Postdoktoranden Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter Professoren Techniker 14 Lehrberufe Administrative Mitarbeiter Gastwissenschaftler externe Handwerker



- 1500 Mitarbeiter
- 700 Wissenschaftler
- 300 Doktoranden
- 110 Postdoktoranden
- 87 Lernende

breite Diversität in

- Altersstruktur
- Nationalitäten (58)
- Funktionen



schweizerisch deutsch italienisch französisch russisch chinesisch österreichisch indisch niederländisch amerikanisch polnisch spanisch finnisch belgisch schwedisch canadisch japanisch ungarisch griechisch rumänisch slowakisch bulgarisch serbisch tschechisch koranisch australisch brasilianisch georgisch libanesisch kroatisch portugiesisch serbisch algerisch estnisch iranisch lettisch mexikanisch philippinisch türkisch taiwanesisch ukrainisch bangladesch chilenisch kolumbianisch dänisch ägyptisch buatemaltekisch indonesisch luxemburaisch mauritisch slowenisch thailändisch

venezolanisch

norwegisch vietnamesisch



Generationenvertrag im ,Mikrokosmos PSI'

Mobilität

wissenschaftliche Karriere setzt Bereitschaft zur Mobilität voraus wir schicken unsere Doktoranden für ihren Postdoc-Aufenthalt ins Ausland globaler Wettbewerb um die Besten befristete Stellen, Tenure-Track System

→ Herausforderungen an den Generationenvertrag

- gesellschaftliche Verpflichtung der Familienbetreuung
- in der Regel kein Mehrgenerationenhaushalt mehr
- soziale Sicherheit / Pensionskassenbeiträge
- Gesundheitswesen
- unterschiedliche kulturelle Auffassungen zum Generationenvertrag
- sich ändernde Arbeitswelt...



"globale Cloud bester Talente" vs "nationaler Generationenvertrag"

... ins oder vom Ausland für nur wenige Jahre je berufliche Station



deutsch italienisch französisch russisch chinesisch österreichisch indisch niederländisch amerikanisch polnisch spanisch finnisch belgisch schwedisch iapanisch ungarisch griechisch rumänisch slowakisch bulgarisch tschechisch koranisch australisch brasilianisch georgisch libanesisch kroatisch portugiesisch algerisch estnisch lettisch mexikanisch philippinisch türkisch taiwanesisch ukrainisch bangladesch chilenisch kolumbianisch ägyptisch quatemaltekisch indonesisch luxemburgisch mauritisch slowenisch thailändisch venezolanisch lichtensteinisch norwegisch vietnamesisch

schweizerisch



Teasers für den Open Space "Generationenvertrag"

