APECS SWITZERLAND

4 April 2018 @ ETHZ
9h30 - 17h30
The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

- International and interdisciplinary organization for early career researchers working in the Polar Regions and the wider Cryosphere

Members:
- Bachelor and master students
- PhD, PostDoc
- Early faculty members, young professionals
- Educators and others
Overview and challenges of Swiss Polar science

→ viewed form early career scientists

- Survey: 18 participants
- ETH (VAW), WSL, UniZH, SLF, UniFR
- Three blocks of questions:
  1. Polar (and 3rd pole) science in Switzerland: Present and future
  2. Challenges for early careers in the academia
  3. Future visions/wishes
- Summarized with two questions per block
1. Polar science in Switzerland: Present and future

How do you think Switzerland is positioned compared to other countries in polar research?

Polar research:
• Ok positioned for polar research
• Better positioned in Greenland than in Antarctica
• Most of the early careers do not have the overview of what going on in polar research in CH

Alpine research
• Well positioned in alpine research but not a powerhouse anymore.

What kind of science would you like to see in the future?

• Swiss polar research good in very specific topics instead of being averages in many.
• Stronger national collaboration
  ➢ Find collaboration through SEP, APECS or SGM.
• Would like a national communication channel that convey the information
• Increase international collaboration for polar research
  ➢ Enough instruments: conferences, summer schools, visiting scientists.
• A modern = multi-disciplinarity science
• Reproducibility, transparency and no more black box papers.
# 2. Challenges for early careers in academia

**What is the main challenge for you if you are pursuing an academic career?**

- Uncertainties about the career in the long-term perspective
- Low job security due to short working contracts
- Strong competition
- Life partners

**Do you think you have enough opportunities in Switzerland to pursue an academic career?**

**For the start to medium term**

The career opportunities in CH are great with regards to other countries.

- Many early career willing to go abroad
- To: European countries (alpine range countries, Scandinavia, UK), Canada, US,
- For: 2 to 5 years (few up to 10)

**For the long-term**

The career opportunities in CH are small
3. Future visions and wishes

**If there were strong early career groups giving career opportunities, courses, excursions would you join one?**

- Helps for networking
- Find information
- Find potential working partners
- Nice to meet people facing similar problems and dreams

**Further wishes?**

- Want to be better represented/heard in the polar community
- A realistic opportunity to go in the field (i.e. the poles)
- More job security
- Long-term and part time jobs
- Stay in Switzerland and be able to continue in the field of polar research
- Let early careers know what their perspective and chances are at an early stage
Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

sc | nat

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Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Schnee, Eis und Permafrost

Société Suisse de Neige, Glace et Pergelisol

Swiss Snow, Ice and Permafrost Society
APECS INTERNATIONAL

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Membership is free!

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