

National results: Switzerland

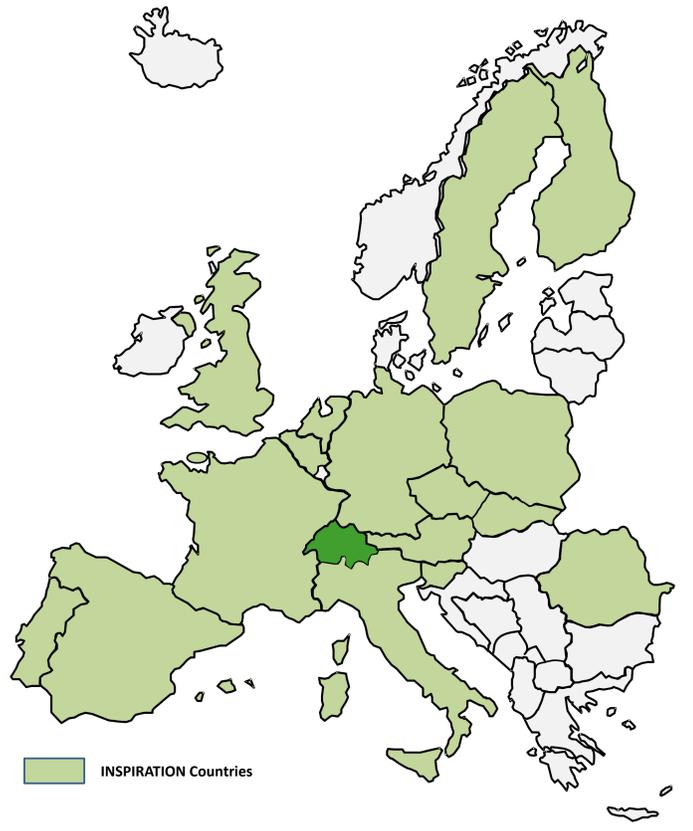
Societal challenges and needs

In the Swiss interviews and workshop, nine topics have been discussed that identify societal challenges in the fields of spatial planning, land use and soil management. However, finding joint solutions and compromises has been singled out as a superordinate challenge, because of the great influence it has on the handling of the other societal challenges.

- Finding joint solutions and compromises
- Finding sites for renewable energy
- Handling the impacts of climate change
- Finding solutions to the impacts of demographic change onto space and bridging gaps between population groups
- Finding ways to foster high-density housing and to prevent urban sprawl
- Protecting and enhancing the quantity and the quality of ecosystems, woods, the agricultural land and soils
- Protecting the landscape and enhancing its quality
- Creating a sustainable overall traffic
- Decoupling prosperity, economic growth and demand for land

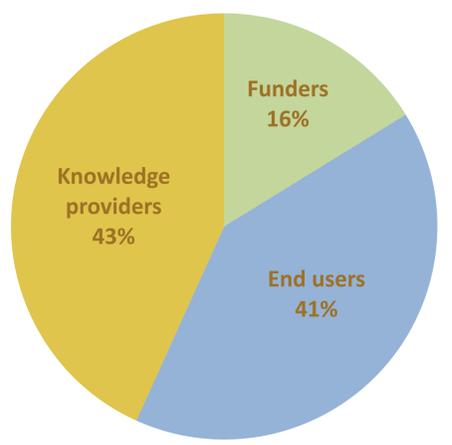
Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- Research field 1: Legal framework**
CH 1.1 – CH 1.3 focus on the revision of legal principles concerning land management.
- Research field 2: Spatial planning and development**
CH 2.1 – CH 2.12 focus on planning issues and on the land as a resource.
- Research field 3: Soil, sediment and water**
CH 3.1 – CH 3.4 focus on processes in the soil and in ecosystems and discuss agricultural land management.
- Research field 4: Data and harmonisation**
CH 4.1 – CH 4.4 focus on missing data and unharmonised data in the fields of soil, sediment and ecosystems.
- Research field 5: Implementation and awareness-raising activities**
CH 5.1 – CH 5.4 focus on project management and on dialogues, knowledge transfer and awareness-raising.



Background of Swiss Key Stakeholders

- In total, 20 expert interviews have been conducted with 23 stakeholders.
- 13 experts participated in the national workshop in Zurich on 13th Nov. 2015.



Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- In several sectors, knowledge exchange between science and policy/practice is working well in Switzerland. However, in the fields of surface water, geological underground and spatial planning knowledge exchange is viewed as insufficient.
- To improve knowledge exchange, the interviewees stressed that scientific knowledge cannot just be disseminated, but has to be processed and brought down to an applicable level and transformed into an easily understandable language.
- A person particularly responsible for communication and knowledge exchange within research projects can help to improve this process.
- Public-private-partnerships as well as transdisciplinary approaches are also viewed as options to improve knowledge exchange.

National and transnational funding schemes

- In Switzerland a multitude of different institutions exist that fund scientific projects in the fields of spatial planning, land use and soil management. In the interviews and the workshop the Swiss National Science Foundation, diverse other foundations, networks, societies, NGOs and commercial companies have been named, but also Federal offices and cantonal administrations.

A key message from Switzerland:

- In the Swiss interviews, knowledge exchange has not only been discussed in the section regarding the connection of science and policy/practice, but also within the formulated research needs.
- Knowledge exchange between science and policy/practice therefore not only has to be stimulated during research, but it has to be also an object of research itself.

