

Newsletter Spring 2025

Announcements and Updates from the Swiss Global Competence Lab

Dear members,

We are happy to share some exciting updates from the Swiss Global Competence Lab.

Mark your calendars for the “Sustainable Global Competence in Swiss Higher Education” Symposium on 15 & 16 May 2025, in Lugano, where we will conclude our project focused on developing a Sustainable Global Competence Certificate.

We are also thrilled to announce that our Swiss Global Training Days will commence with a new series of workshops in May 2025. The workshops are designed to foster global competence development and internationalization in higher education.

Furthermore, you can read about our current projects and recent events.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Warm regards from the
Swiss Global Competence Lab

If you are interested in collaborating with the Lab or make use of its services, please reach out at: sgcl.linguistik@zhaw.ch If you wish to no longer receive the newsletter or other emails from the SGCL, you can unsubscribe by sending us an email at sgcl.linguistik@zhaw.ch.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

"Sustainable Global Competence in Swiss Higher Education" Symposium May 15 & 16, 2025

Concluding our project "Developing a Sustainable Global Competence Certificate in Switzerland", we are organizing a symposium in Lugano, Switzerland. The symposium will bring together various stakeholders within higher education to explore the following topics related to global competence development. We invite you to join us for an engaging event filled with plenary sessions, roundtable and panel discussions. Your participation will be invaluable as we work together to shape the future of global competence in higher education. For more details on the event and to register, [follow this link!](#)

Swiss Global Training Series: First workshops are starting in May 2025

Designed around the results of a needs analysis conducted in four Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences, the Swiss Global Competence Lab offered its inaugural Swiss Global Training Days in 2023-24. Due to the success of the pilot program, we are excited to announce an updated compilation of workshops for higher education employees wishing to advance innovation in various topics pertaining to the internationalization in higher education. Visit [this website](#) for more information about the training opportunities and to register for a workshop.

Project Updates

Developing a Sustainable Global Competence Certificate in Switzerland

The project is nearing its completion. By the end of 2024, we released a leaflet on the role of Virtual Exchange in building students' global competences, available for [download on our website](#). Furthermore, we are going to release a framework for institutions interested in implementing a global competence certificate. The framework is going to provide the basis for the project-final symposium "Sustainable Global Competence in Swiss Higher Education", which will take place on 15-16 May, 2025, on SUPSI's Campus EST in Lugano-Viganello (cf. information above).

ConnectEurasia

The "ConnectEurasia: Designing Collaborative Online Learning for Sustainability" project is led by HES-SO/HEG Arc, partnering with universities in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and China. This initiative focuses on developing global competences and sustainability knowledge through innovative, project-based learning. The Swiss Global Competence Lab has been supporting this project by conducting and analyzing focus group interviews preceding the development of a COIL course (Collaborative Online International Learning) among the four international partners. Furthermore, SGCL has led the design week of the latter and contributed to the development of the evaluation of the COIL. The COIL is going to be implemented between March and May 2025.

Foreign Language Medium of Instruction (FLMI) E-Units

The University of Freiburg commissioned the SGCL to develop six e-units for the training of university teaching employees in foreign language medium of instruction, notably instruction through English as a foreign language, French as a foreign language and German as a second language. As part of this project, Paul Kelly and Patrick Studer are currently in the process of developing first drafts of the units, which will form the basis for further didactic development by MA students in education science at the University of Freiburg. Paul and Patrick have further secured a contract with de Gruyter Mouton for the publication of a book on Integrating Content and Language in Higher Education in Europe, which is expected to appear in 2026. Get a sneak preview of the book blurb:

"The increasing linguistic diversity of university students and staff requires innovative pedagogical solutions to maintain the quality of higher education. This book answers the call of university educators and administrators for guidance in internationalising university higher education through English and other languages. It bridges theory and practice, offering a training framework that empowers stakeholders to develop inclusive, multilingual and student-centred learning environments that prepare graduates for a globalised world."

Appearances and Events

Hub for Sustainability and Internationalization – German Society for Sustainability at Higher Education

Institutions (Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Nachhaltigkeit an Hochschulen, DG HochN)
On 4 Feb. 2025, Susanne Walheim and
Sandra McGury were invited to introduce the
Swiss Global Competence Lab and its vision
and projects to the DG HochN. The
discussion among the 29 participants was
insightful, touching on the importance of
sustainability and the role of democracy as a
European value a spart of a Global
Competence Certificate.