

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

We create spaces
for open dialogue,
experimentation and
collaboration to co-
create the Switzerland
we want to live in.





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Dear reader,

collaboratio helvetica has reached the end of its first year – an inspiring, exciting and intense journey of exploration for the organisation. The year started with the appointment of the two project leaders, our ‘co-catalysts’, and the development of a small team of people around them, who started to implement the **vision and mission of collaboratio helvetica**:

All the seeds needed for a better future are already here: many people and organisations are doing outstanding work to shape the future of this country and change our impact on the planet. Still, we often tend to work in silos, or even compete despite sharing a common goal. We know that our biggest societal challenges can only be solved when actors from all sectors come together and yet we struggle to collaborate even at a small scale.

Switzerland’s history is one of working together across religious, cultural and language divides. We believe that Switzerland is in a unique position to build on our cultural heritage of dialogue and collaboration to create the future we want to live in, together. We believe that **Switzerland can make a unique contribution to the global implementation of the Agenda 2030** as a role-model for dialogue-focused, collaborative and experimental approaches towards societal challenges.

That is why we are building a **physical and digital platform for collaboration and innovation around the SDGs in Switzerland**, which will generate sustainable solutions and continued citizen engagement in this process of societal transformation.

Over the last 12 months, collaboratio helvetica has started its first major long-term engagement, a **Social Lab** on Gender Equality (SDG 5), and co-initiated two others (one on money, work and well-being, another on sustainable consumption and production). At a more local level, the **Dialogue Evening** format, designed to bring people from local ecosystems together to engage in meaningful dialogue, has been successfully piloted. Further, our **community** of co-creators grew with the launch of the Explorership and gathered in several retreats and coworkations.

This foundational year of collaboratio helvetica has been one of deep learning and rapid growth. To develop such complex and meaningful forms of engagement in a limited span of time has been challenging and rewarding in equal measure. We are very grateful for the support from our Stewards, our team-members and the community of experts, enthusiasts and passionate change-makers that have co-created with us along the way. We are also very thankful to Engagement Migros - without their support, none of this would have been possible.

With our warm wishes,

Nora and the collaboratio helvetica team



Introduction

Who are we?

We are a **growing community** of people who want to advance societal transformation through collaboration. collaboratio helvetica was founded in December 2016 by dedicated individuals from the Impact Hubs Bern, Geneva & Zurich, foraus, euforia, Coworking Switzerland and GreenBuzz and initiated with the support of Migros Engagement.



Why do we exist?

collaboratio helvetica is at once platform, community, organisation, laboratory and movement. We are a pioneer project, which is dedicated to the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) in Switzerland and to create the conditions for fruitful collaboration. This is often missing between different actors of a system, even when they work towards a shared goal.

Hence **the potential and synergies between different actors working towards the SDGs are not fully activated yet:** Many organisations and individuals are working towards the SDGs on a separate level and sometimes they don't even know each other. We also often fail with traditional approaches to problem-solving because we fight the symptoms rather than the root causes and don't leave enough space for experimentation. Last but not least, in likeminded gatherings there is a lot of energy, which builds up during the event but quickly disappears after it. Often there are no actions or no one takes responsibility after these events.

That is why with collaboratio helvetica we create an open platform for dialogue, experimentation and collaboration, in order to create the Switzerland we want to live in together.



Vision

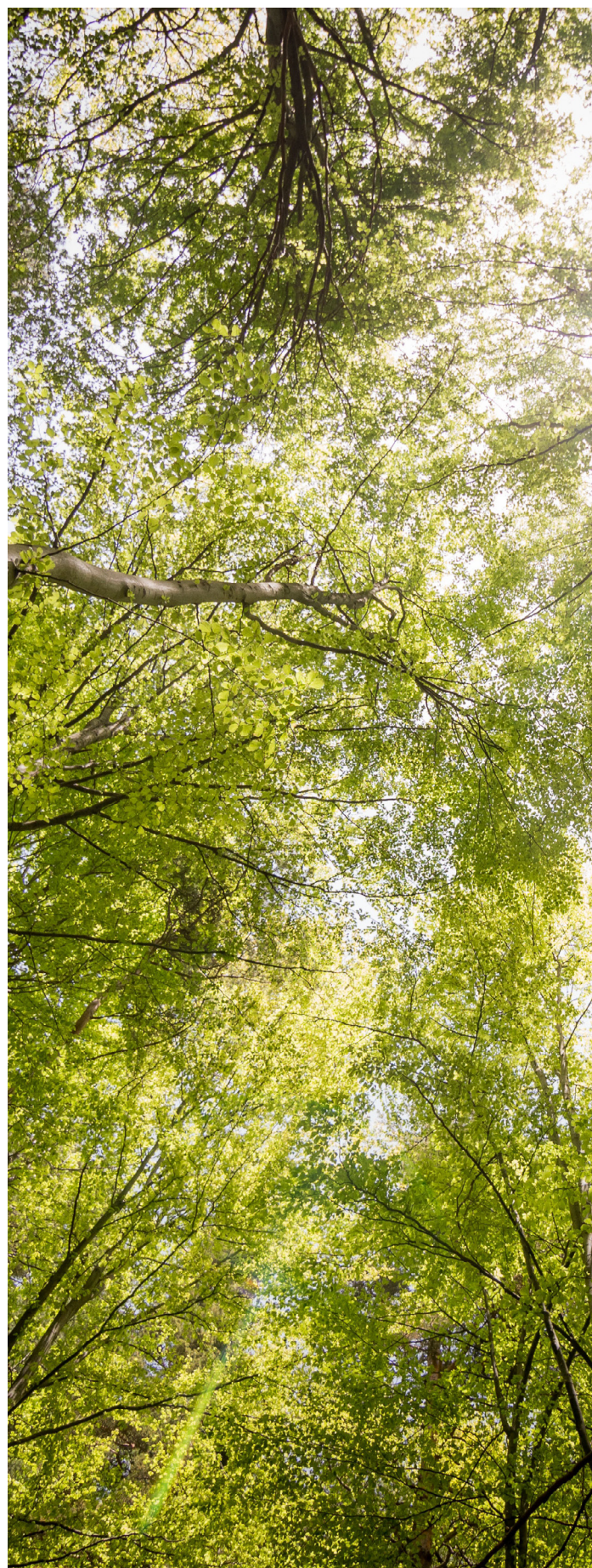
We exist because many individuals and organisations are driving the implementation of the SDGs in Switzerland but the full potential of that ecosystem is not yet activated. We create spaces to serve individual and collective transformation in order to deepen, expand and sustain impact.

Our vision is to create spaces for open dialogue, experimentation and collaboration to create the Switzerland we want to live in. Together. We believe that in order to tackle the roots of today's challenges, collaboration between unlikely allies is key.

To achieve our vision we offer Social Labs, Dialogue Evenings and a platform for the community to connect and exchange. Here we aspire to bring people from different sectors, backgrounds, generations etc. together, believing that this is the only way to develop sustainable solutions. By taking the whole ecosystem into account, we ensure a broader impact through all stakeholders. We strongly believe that sustainable impact can only be reached by involving all the stakeholders of a system and through true collaboration.

“The current challenges we face are too urgent to rush”

Peter Senge (MIT)





Our four approaches

These are our four approaches that shall lead us to our vision:



Community – Ecosystem:

A fruitful cooperation for the realisation of SDGs requires an **active and effective community**. We work collaboratively and transparently to activate the potential of our social ecosystem and promote our collective consciousness. Within this framework, we are building a platform to catalyse innovation with collaborative communication, decision-making and financing methods.



Social Labs – Unlikely Allies:

Working on sustainable solutions requires the cooperation of different actors in a system, who are part of the problem but also of the solution(s). We bring them together in our **Social Labs, which enable the development of prototypes with systemic effect**. In 2017 we started with the topic of gender equality. This year we will also deal with topics concerning regenerative work and sustainable consumption.



Dialogue Evenings – Spaces for collaboration:

We explore the **importance of local spaces and dialogue** in smaller groups to understand collective issues in our **Dialogue Evenings**. These offer the possibility of a three-hour meeting on a previously defined topic (e. g. gender equality). Dialogue and listening skills are developed and new insights gained. By means of Dialogue Evenings, important topics are openly discussed within the Swiss population.



Toolbox – Practice & Knowledge:

Innovative approaches to solutions are created through the exchange between various actors, who contribute their different perspectives and thus enhance their perception and capacity for action as a social ecosystem. Everything we do serves the individual and collective learning processes that are necessary for a future that is significantly different from the past. In order to enable others to benefit from **our results and methods, we publicly share them in an online toolbox**.



Achievements and impact in 2017

Our first year of existence was focused on the set-up of our different activities, formats and to establish our community.

The year 2017 in short facts

Community



300+

People in our database and newsletter

50+

Subscribed members for the Explorership

5+

Co-creations and community events

Social Labs



1

Social Lab on Gender Equality (Gender Lab) underway

2

2.5 days retreats of the Gender Lab

24 - 61

Age range in the Gender Lab Cohort

80+

Gender Lab applicants from different sectors and regions

20

Selected Gender Lab Explorers representing all sectors

2 Labs

in the pipeline

Dialogue Evenings



8

Conducted Dialogue Evenings

5

In different cantons

150+

People reached

Toolbox



3

experiences

2

methods

1

Sociocracy 3.0 training organised



THE WHAT our activities



Community – Ecosystem

A fruitful cooperation for the realisation of SDGs requires an **active and effective community**. We work collaboratively and transparently to activate the potential of our social ecosystem and promote our collective consciousness. Within this framework, we are building a platform to catalyse innovation with collaborative communication, decision-making and financing methods.

On the following pages you will learn about collaboratio helvetica's actions to start building up an active and effective community.

Co-Creations



IN A NUTSHELL

A co-creation indicates a way of working together across different people and organisations, where something is “co-created”. It responds to the increasingly acknowledged need for collective sense-making from the beginning (rather than one stakeholder working out a proposal/project/idea and then trying to get the buy-in of other stakeholders).

It requires a strong and clear purpose that is shared by all stakeholders. Co-creations are powerful because they involve people and differing viewpoints from the beginning and therefore allow a shared ownership of both the process and results.



Caption: The collaboratio helvetica community in co-creative action



WHAT WE DID IN 2017

collaboratio helvetica was founded in December 2016 and a first co-creation brought together dedicated individuals from the Impact Hubs Bern, Geneva & Zurich, foraus, euforia, Coworking Switzerland and GreenBuzz. At a second co-creation in February 2017, over 50 stakeholders from all sectors, including the newly chosen Co-Catalysts, came together to further define collaboratio helvetica. The day included reflections around societal transformation, the requirements for systemic change and the importance of collaboration in order to achieve the Agenda 2030.

For the third co-creation that took place in May 2017 at the Impact Hub Bern, the focus turned from the organisation to its activities. The aim was to collectively decide on which Social Labs to take forward.



Caption: Getting to know one another with a butterfly check-in

KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

The co-creations were the process through which collaboratio helvetica came to have a sense of its potential and to learn more about what it takes to actually be able to activate people, networks and organisations in order to harvest the potential of an ecosystem of unlikely allies.

These experiences and learnings were the basis on which the emergence of our clarified/solidified vision and core activities became possible.



Community & Team Retreats



IN A NUTSHELL

Retreats are short-term getaways for a team where they can work in a different setting and also spend time together. A retreat helps a team to grow closer together and work more intensively. At collaboratio helvetica we normally have a team retreat every half year.

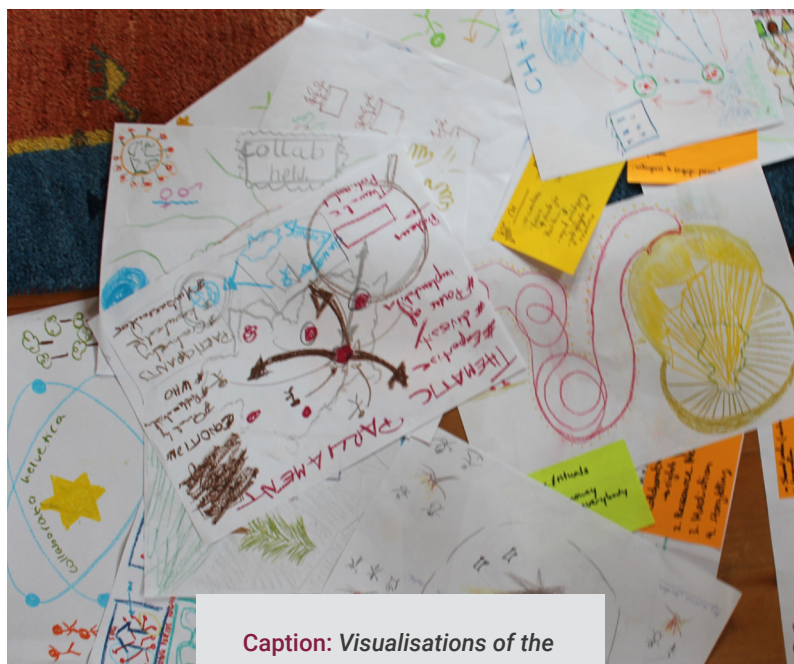
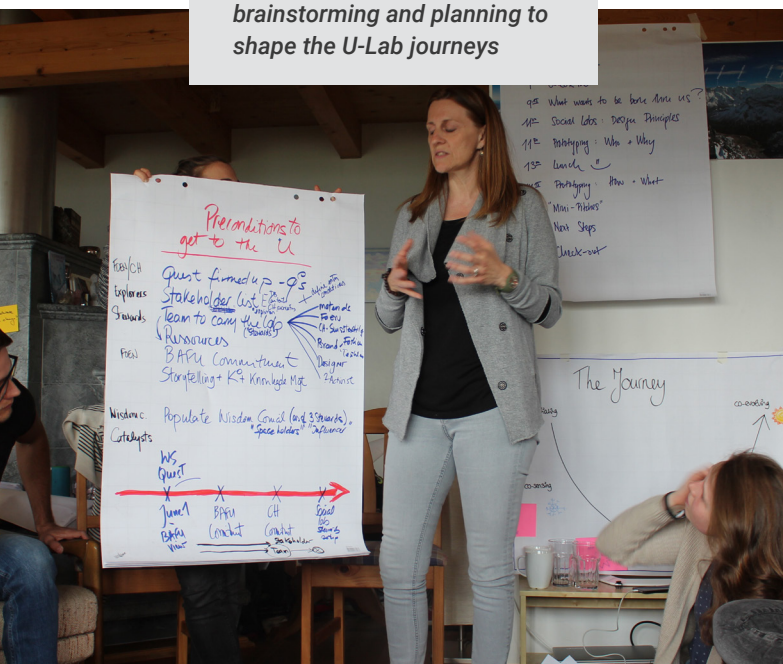
WHAT WE DID IN 2017

In order to develop the potential labs further and to collectively decide which ones to focus on, we organised a two-day mini retreat in Thun in May 2017. Looking back this was another pivotal point in building collaboratio helvetica. There might be a number of challenges in bringing people together for a longer period of time, and the temptation to adapt and compromise is high. However, the value of bringing people together to not only spend working time but also quality time is crucial to the kind of work we want to do with our Social Labs.

KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTION:

After the Mini Retreat it started to become clear that the future of finance and the refugee lab would need more time to develop, so we intensified our work on preparing for the lab on Gender Equality.

Caption: Collective brainstorming and planning to shape the U-Lab journeys



Caption: Visualisations of the future we want to collectively co-create



Coworkations



IN A NUTSHELL

A coworkation is a creative way to get things done in a beautiful space with inspiring people. As the word suggests, it is a combination between collaboration, working and vacation. The time away from our day to day surrounding supports us in moving the things we care about forward - individually as well as collectively. Participants work on their own projects while also having the opportunity to exchange with others, give and find support and inspiration.



Caption: Spending a week in beautiful green surroundings of Bächli (Hemberg,SG)

WHAT WE DID IN 2017

In August 2017 we held our first coworkation at “House Frohheim” in Bächli-Hemberg (SG). It was an intense and enriching time for us as individuals and for collaboratio helvetica. Many things emerged and crystallised during this time, but one thing that was felt most strongly is the importance of community for the work we set out to do in Switzerland and in the world.



collaboratio helvetica strives to be a playground for experimentation and collaboration, an ecosystem where we take care of each other as care-givers and a place where we can find unlikely allies which become allies taking part in shaping an energising vision of the future for Switzerland and the world. In this week, we learned a lot about how we as a newly emerging community can live our values and what conditions we need to create in order to come together and build a solid ground for unleashing our collective potential.



Caption: The stickerboard - a flexible and inclusive way of coordinating our coworkation

KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

The week helped us to clearly understand that there are theories and logical answers available in abundance, but that we are not using them effectively to create sustainable lives. We were reminded that we need a shift in mindsets and paradigms in order to achieve deep change.

Therefore, we can remind ourselves that, as we get concrete and into action-mode, the challenge will be to be both grounded in the deeper cultural space and in the activist-go-getter-entrepreneurs energy, acting from this deeper level of understanding.

More concretely, the coworkation also allowed us to co-create principles for collaboratio helvetica, to do storytelling about the project and to co-create communication tools.



The Explorership – our members

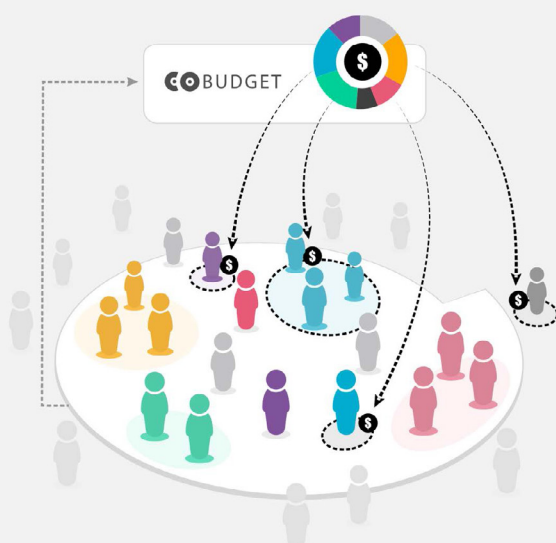


IN A NUTSHELL

Explorers are what is classically called members, but we consciously choose this term to highlight their proactivity in this co-creative exploration towards our vision. As the platform is designed to unlock value flows and be financially self-sustainable in time, we strive to practice collaborative financing within the community.

The model is that each Explorer contributes an annual 250 CHF payment, 20% of which (50 CHF) is their membership fee, and 80% of which (200 CHF) contributes towards a 'co-budget' experiment (due to start in 2018), whereby Explorers can collaborate to propose and fund their own projects as part of the collaboratio helvetica platform. The contribution of the Explorer can be supplemented through funding by collaboratio helvetica and serves as a prioritisation tool, whereby the community chooses what activities and projects will take place by allocating its resources.

Explorers can also become more deeply involved with collaboratio helvetica under two further frameworks, Collaborators (where Explorers temporarily join the collaboratio team to co-create a specific activity) or Pioneers (where Explorers propose their own set of activities/own project to operate as part of the work of collaboratio helvetica, with them taking the lead).



Caption: Co-Budget, an idea on how to operationalise collaborative finance



WHAT WE DID IN 2017

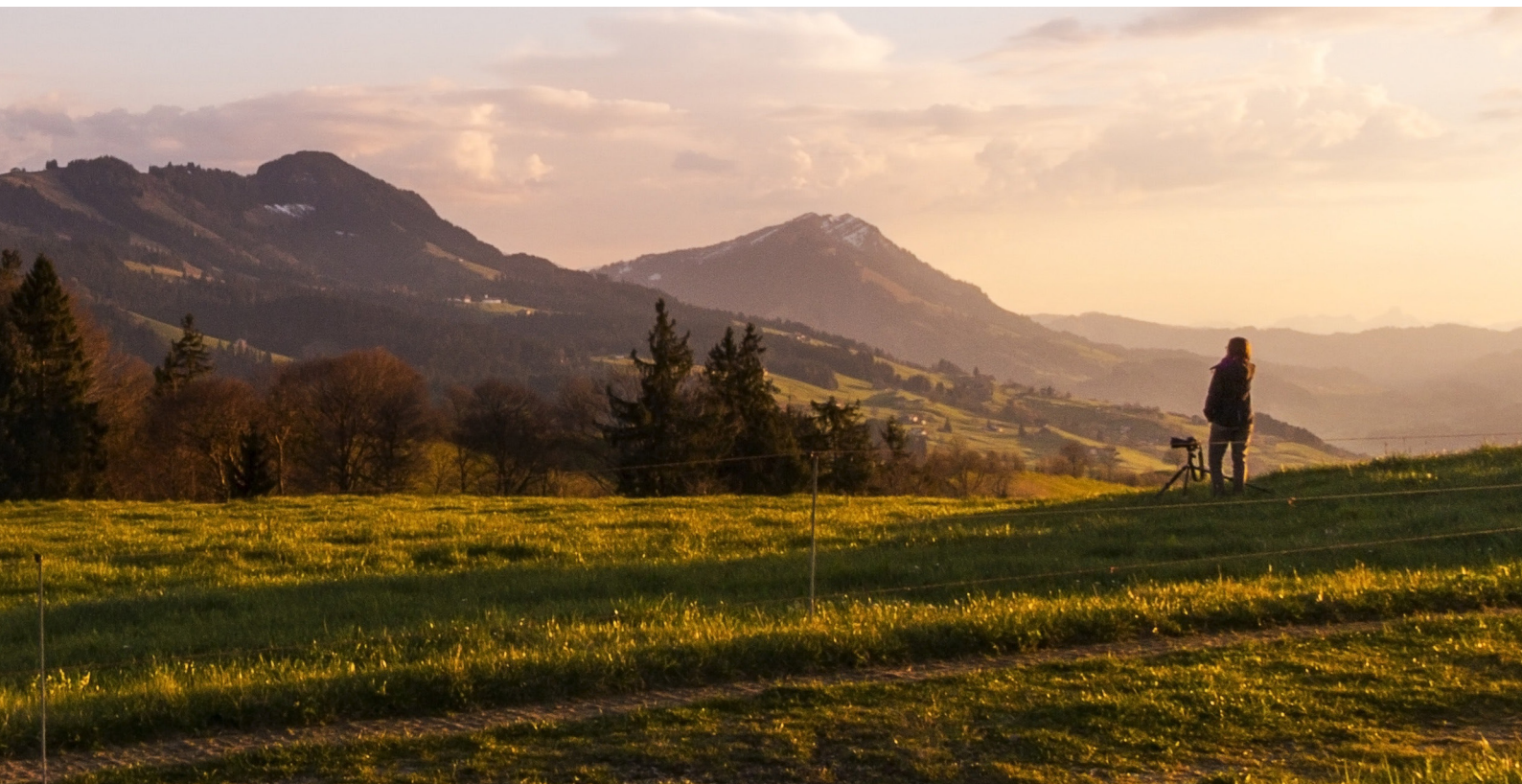
At the coworkation in August 2017 we further developed the membership concept for collaboratio helvetica. One of our key missions is to use our physical and digital platform for collaboration and innovation to offer our Explorers - change-makers from all over the country, different sectors and all age groups - a space to connect, share, support each other, learn and collaborate in new ways, all of which contributes to deepening their impact. By December 2017 we had 50 Explorers subscribed to collaboratio helvetica.

KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

What we have learned is that building such a community is not an easy task to do and needs a lot of care and personal contact. We have learned that what we do is best understood when experienced during events and in the personal contact with team members.

This was not always possible and difficult to tackle with only the capacity of a part time position available for it. We are still experimenting and researching on how a community is actually created and developed - this is subject to continuous iterations in order to shape and let emerge an ever more caring and effective community.

Our guiding questions are: how do we foster a lively and engaged community? What are the basics, that a community needs to act, strive forward and co-create? What does it need to get to the tipping point, where the community acts on itself?





Social Labs – Unlikely Allies

*Working on sustainable solutions requires the cooperation of different actors in a system, which are part of the problem and thus inherently also of the solution(s). We bring them together in our **Social Labs, which enable the development of prototypes with systemic effect**. In 2017 we started with the topic of gender equality. This year we will also deal with topics such as regenerative work and sustainable consumption.*

In collaboratio helvetica, we run different experiments and prototypes to learn and support solving burning challenges. In a nutshell, Social Labs are [a methodology designed to address complex problems](#) like those captured in the Sustainable Development Goals. The approach brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a portfolio of prototype solutions, test those solutions in the real world, use the data to further refine them, and test them again in a process of continuous iteration.

Our first Social Lab design is a 9-month long transformation journey to explore and prototype solutions to complex problems. The process consists of four retreats including activities in between. We continuously strive to adapt the program to the emerging situations and topic related needs..

In 2017, we started two Social Labs, one on Gender Equality (addressing SDG5 on Gender Equality) and one on Work-Money-Wellbeing (addressing SDG8 on decent work).

Gender Lab



IN A NUTSHELL

The first Social Lab in 2017 focused on the topic of Gender Equality with the quest (a “leading question” which aims to capture the essence of the process, guiding our exploration while energising our curiosity): *“How can we, as individuals and organisations committed to transforming society, fully practice and embody Gender Equality?”*

WHAT WE DID IN 2017

The Gender Lab was co-initiated by the community of collaboratio helvetica (70 individuals from different sectors, regions of the country and ages) during two participatory and collaborative co-creation days in February and May 2017 (see section on co-creations above). When the SDGs, a useful framework to focus our collective attention, were explored by the community, Gender Equality (SDG 5) came out as one of the most pressing issues in Switzerland. With the help of this group of people, the Catalyst Team of collaboratio helvetica activated the needed resources and networks to initiate the Lab with Nicole Schwab (co-founder of EDGE and Author).

Over 80 people applied to take part, with 20 being selected to join the Lab. The participants are diverse in terms of gender identification and expression (8 men, one non-binary person, one genderfluid person, and 10 women), sectors (private, public, academia, social entrepreneurship, civic society, IOs), regions of Switzerland (8 cantons represented) and ages (24 to 61 years old). Amongst the organisations represented in the Lab are Google, Impact Hub Zürich, Terre des Hommes, an MSE engineering company, aktivistin.ch, JUSO, WWF, AXA Winterthur, Männer.ch, Raiffeisen Bank and the University of Bern.

The Gender Lab explored all aspects of gender equality on a personal, cultural, societal and organisational level - from the most innovative approaches to the established best practices.

The Lab had its first retreat in November 2017. We explored the topic of Gender Equality by means of theories, concepts and studies, as well as through shared experiences and experience-based learning; connecting theory and experience. At the end of the first retreat, four clusters of people who shared similar interests in specific aspects of gender equality formed around areas the participants wanted to explore further until the second retreat. These were: **inclusive language, power dynamics, entry points/dialogue and parenting/education**. The second retreat took place in December 2017, where we harvested and wove participants' learnings together to gain a deeper level of understanding. The subsequent retreats are planned for February and June 2018.



Caption: Nicole Schwab facilitating the creation of a timeline about Gender Equality - key milestones from the past / what we see in the future

KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

Although the Lab is still at an early stage, it crystallised that there are many different perspectives on this topic, as well as different ways to look at an ideal future. Language is important, and we need to be aware of our own blind spots when falling into the binary man/woman. Furthermore, it is a topic that is inherently systemic yet always personal, which is an important aspect to keep in mind for any approach to it.

QUESTIONS WE HOLD

- What does gender equality even mean?
- Whose voices are we missing?
- How can we transform ourselves and shed our biases?
- How can we avoid repeating patterns in our own efforts to change the system?
- What's our contribution to the system?
- Where do we find power dynamics at play, what is their root cause, and how can we disrupt them?
- Do we need to get rid of the genders and labels completely or can there be a spectrum with a healthy masculine and healthy feminine?
- How do we talk about this with those who are not interested?



Caption: *Our Gender Lab participants get to know each other through a world cafe*



GENDER LAB PARTICIPANT

“ Gender equality is a big issue for our society and it is crucial to achieve more for marginalised and discriminated groups. The gender lab is a great opportunity to raise awareness, create visibility and develop solutions to change the system. With people from very different backgrounds, this project is very intersectional and diverse. Through it, I got in touch with people I would never have worked with otherwise, my boundaries got pushed and my horizon was enlarged. Thank you for these new perspectives, it is helpful and insightful.”

Pascal Pajic,

*Member of the National Board of JUSO Schweiz
and medical student in Fribourg*

GENDER LAB PARTICIPANT

“ The first retreat had a powerful impact on me. Through sharing openly our diverse experiences and perceptions with each other I learned more about gender equality than I ever could have through studying. Being out of our comfort zones and experiencing an unconventional and fresh way of approaching this topic has already given me new energy, curiosity and motivation - I am excited to continue this exploration and to see what solutions we will come up with!”

Anna Krebs,

institutional project coordinator at Tdh

All in all, the personal transformations that the Gender Lab has initiated, combined with the collective power of this nascent community of explorers, is already sending out its ripples into the transformation of the Swiss culture on this topic, making a meaningful contribution to SDG 5.

THANK YOU

Le Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes soutient le Gender Lab au moyen des aides financières prévues par la loi sur l'égalité.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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

Work-Money-Wellbeing Lab



IN A NUTSHELL

The second Social Lab co-initiated in 2017 was exploring the topic of Work, Money & Wellbeing with the general quest: “How can we create healthy relationships with work money and wellbeing?”

WHAT WE DID IN 2017

Since August 2017, the collaboratio helvetica community has been activated to exchange and learn more about the topic of regenerative work during several encounters. In this process, 50 individuals from different sectors, regions of the country and ages exchanged ideas in one coworkation, two Dialogue Evenings and multiple personal meetings.

The topic of regenerative work, connected to SDG 8 (Decent work & Economic Growth) was first addressed at the coworkation in August 2017. Out of this workshop the complexity of the topic and its relevance became even more apparent and these burning questions emerged: “How can work be regenerative? How come that we, who think of ourselves as people working towards a more sustainable future, don’t work in a sustainable way ourselves?”

During 2017, more than 50 people were reached through different formats (i.e. workshop at co-workation, dialogue evening, personal meetings, etc.). The people are diverse in terms of sector (public, academia, private, culture, NGO, education, politics), regions of Switzerland (6 different cantons) and ages (24 to 76 years old). Amongst the professions involved in this first phase of the initiation of the Lab are CEOs, authors, founders, consultants, a doctor, a psychologist, politicians. And several organisations such as euforia, STRIDE, AXA, Centro D’ompio, Zürich Retreat, Happy Bern Lab, GLP Lab, Impact Hub Bern & Zürich and Swisscom.

In autumn of 2017, two Dialogue Evenings (see next Chapter) were organised aimed at diving deeper into the topic of regenerative work. The different role models of work that one has encountered throughout one’s life were explored. And the personal stories around one’s experience of work and wellbeing addressed. These events and numerous conversations shed light on the relationship between money, work and wellbeing.

A core group of 9 people are invited for the co-initiation of the Lab in January 2018, which will be both, highly explorative (without agenda but through dialogues and explorations) and practical (bringing forth a portfolio of concrete social experiments). The first cycle of labs will start in March 2018.



KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

Even though the exploration has just begun, the multiple encounters and dialogues held on the topic revealed several relevant aspects to explore. The Work, Money, Wellbeing Lab aims at exploring the interdependencies between new models of Work and their underlying philosophies (sociocracy, agile, holacracy, lean etc.), Money (our relationship to it, cryptocurrencies or ideas like the basic income) and Wellbeing (the overall health and wealth of the planet, the societies in it and our individual existence).

QUESTIONS WE HOLD

- How can work be regenerative?
- How come that we, who think of ourselves as people working towards a more sustainable future, don't work in a sustainable way ourselves?
- What are the interdependencies between new models of Work (Sociocracy, Agile, holacracy, lean etc.), Money (our relationship to it, cryptocurrencies or ideas like the basic income) and Wellbeing (the overall health and wealth of the planet, the societies in it and our individual existence)?
- What is the new coherent whole we are trying to create together?
- How can we replace fear of the future by trust to create more wellbeing in this world?
- How can we start seeing, sensing, cultivating, exploring, experimenting, experiencing moments beyond the patterns of the past?

FEEDBACK

The participants were invited to envision how they will feel after the completion of this Social Lab. Here are two anonymous feedback quotes from some of the co-creation sessions:

PARTICIPANT

“ I'm deeply touched to look back and see all the change happening in us. How we were empowering each other unconditionally. The empowerment which was taking place in us was reflecting the impact and empowerment outside.”

PARTICIPANT

“ We went past this fear that if we do not compete we won't exist, crazy how ridiculous that seems from the perspective of now. I'm so honored to just have been part of this group of people that found a place of great will and great courage to embark on something that was not clear at the beginning.”



Dialogue Evenings – Spaces for collaboration

We explore the **importance of local spaces and dialogue** in smaller groups to understand collective issues in our **Dialogue Evenings**. These offer the possibility of a three-hour meeting on a previously defined topic (e. g. gender equality). Dialogue and listening skills are developed and new insights gained. By means of Dialogue Evenings, important topics are widely discussed with the Swiss population.

Dialogue Evenings



IN A NUTSHELL

Dialogue Evenings are 3.5-hour events, meant to create a space for conversations that matter to us on a local and personal level. Conversations that invite us to not only widen our perspective and understanding on a specific issue or topic, but that also help us to see how dialogue, and connecting people in the system/community, in itself is part of the solution we are looking for.

Dialogue Evenings are always co-hosted with a local person, who feels the need to bring his or her community together to experience a conversation that is different from the one we usually have. Those are conversations that help us learn more about what the world looks like from other points of view and engage us in developing agency on topics that we too often feel we are unequipped to think about because of their complex and ambiguous nature.

WHAT WE DID IN 2017

Between August and December 2017 we hosted 8 dialogue evenings in 5 different cantons. The initial concept was for Dialogue Evenings to be the equivalent to the Social Labs at a local level, to have a widely-scoped conversation happening at the same time and on the same topic as the Social Lab.

Based on the outstanding feedback we received, we quickly realised that the Dialogue Evenings hold a lot of potential and that the concept on its own is developing and engaging a new field of conversations, people and places independently from the Social Labs.



KEY LEARNINGS // BURNING QUESTIONS

We have been touched and fascinated about the potential and authentic energy for change that seems to emerge when traditional debate and scientific inquiry is replaced with a safe space, human connection, and a non-intellectual attention on the questions we hold as well as the connected personal experiences.

We have learned that many people appreciate the simple practice of being in a dialogue, of listening, speaking and sensing into a conflicted issue or a personal tension. We are learning that the means to successful citizen engagement might emerge through the quality of the connection we are able to create in a conversation between them.

Lastly we learn that all too often, complex issues such as poverty, climate change or gender discrimination are discussed only in the political arena, between “important” actors or only between those who already share the same opinion.

We see how Dialogue Evenings can be a way to address any global or national challenge at the local level, by the people who best know the impact of the problem, and in a way that keep the topic and the issue relevant and relatable to everyone who is in the conversation.

We are being approached by many Swiss citizens and institutions who are eager to create and host such conversations amongst members of their own neighbourhoods, communities, cities or institutions. Hence we also realise the need for support, resources and guidance in order for more local people to do this on their own. Therefore, our burning question at the moment is: “how to co-create a support structure that brings forth the resources and the guidance to equip people as hosts or as facilitators to create their own opportunities for dialogue around the SDGs?”

“ This kind of conversation needs to happen all the time”

Participant,
Dialogue Evening in Lausanne, 27.11.17

“ Thanks, I have not had this sort of safe space for a while”

Participant,
Dialogue Evening in Basel, 23.11.17



Caption: Sidsel Andersen facilitating a Dialog Evening on Sustainable Consumption



Toolbox – Practice & Knowledge

*Innovative approaches to solutions are created through the exchange between various actors, who contribute their different perspectives and thus enhance their perception and capacity for action as a social ecosystem. Everything we do serves the individual and collective learning processes that are necessary for a future that is significantly different from the past. In order to enable others to benefit from **our results and methods**, we publicly share them in an online toolbox.*

To foster collaboration in Switzerland, we try innovative approaches, harvest and then share our findings and learnings with our community and beyond. Our online blog contains experiences of the team and community members as well as proven tools and methods for collaboration. In the following sections we summarise some of these experiences which were also shared as blog articles and introduce you to our toolbox.

Sociocracy 3.0 training

A training in Sociocracy 3.0 (S3) was offered in September 2017 to test one part of our theory of change, namely that building capacity for collaboration in the ecosystem is needed. We believe that sociocracy can function as a language for decision-making and governance in collaboration. We therefore invited 60 people across all sectors to join. The early adopters were mostly young people from the impact hubs, foraus, euforia and one senior change-consultant.

The Sociocracy 3.0 training answered to three needs/questions:

1. How do we as collaboratio helvetica want to organise our work?
2. How can we be artful in letting value flow in cross-organisational, cross-sectoral collaborations?
3. How can collaboratio helvetica help build the necessary capacity for the parts of the Swiss ecosystem engaged in societal transformation?

We chose Sociocracy 3.0 for the fluidity and adaptability that it allows through its theoretical ‘patterns’. A pattern is a tool like a decision-making process, a meeting structure or a way to form creative proposals. Users of Sociocracy 3.0 can “pull” or adapt the pattern to the configuration that best suits a situation.

Collaboratio helvetica has been working with S3 since August 2017 and our experience so far has been great. As we gather more experience around the S3 methodologies, we increasingly feel that it is something of value that we would love to see more broadly adopted within the changemaker community. If you share this intuition and you’re interested in contributing to make that happen don’t hesitate to reach out to us!



U.lab

collaboratio helvetica was instrumental in facilitating the 2017 off-line community part of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Theory U [offered by the Presencing Institute of MIT](#). Since Otto Scharmer published Theory U in 2007 and the first launch of the u.lab in 2015, over 100'000 people worldwide have been involved in its official activities. In Switzerland there are over 1500+ u.lab participants - and many more who have read the books or are otherwise practitioners of this change-framework. As collaboratio helvetica is a platform of collaboration to catalyse large scale change in Switzerland, it made sense to engage with this lively community, and to encourage more people to engage with the theory and practice of Theory U. Also, frameworks and methodologies from Theory U are regularly adopted in all of our formats.


For the participants it consisted of bi-weekly online modules, with 4 live sessions hosted with the support of partners like Impact Hub, Biovision and Stadtgärtnerei Zürich as well as regular coaching circle meetings to deepen the learning journeys. We built a relationship with regular updates with the Presencing Institute and found partners interested in future activities connected to the U.lab, among others Coworking Switzerland and ZHAW Institut für Unternehmensentwicklung. For the vision of 2018 *to broaden and deepen the learning journey*, we've prototyped a first proposal and are building relationships with potential partners.

Toolbox

One of the aims of collaboratio helvetica is to support others to learn and use tools for collaboration, dialogue and facilitation. We strive to share the knowhow of the community with a broader audience via an open source toolbox of blog posts and method descriptions.

Every method description is paired with a personal blogpost describing its implementation in a real-world context to allow potential users to both have a concrete methodology to use, but also to give them insights into the process and implementation from direct experience. In this library, there are different kinds of methods, tools and theories that we or our members work with in our projects and daily work.

The aim is to significantly expand this toolbox as we go into 2018.

A woman with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is shown in a meeting setting. She is looking towards the right of the frame with a focused expression. Her hands are resting on a table in front of her. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'THE WHO' is in a light blue, sans-serif font, while the rest of the text is in white, bold, sans-serif font.

THE WHO
the people
behind
collaboratio
helvetica



The 2017 catalyst team



Nora Wilhelm

Coordination &
Relationships



Oswald H. König

Facilitation &
Program Design



Daphne Bucher

Communication &
Visualization



Amelie Boeing

Community &
Wellbeing



Michela Güttinger

Laboratorium &
Programs



Sidsel Andersen

Dialogue Evenings &
Coworking

The 2017 stewards



Erik Gloerfeld



Leo Caprez



Michel Bachmann



Emilia Pasquier

Other people involved

In addition we would like to thank all those involved in the co-creation of collaboratio helvetica and Engagement Migros for their continued support. A special thought goes to Johanna Seeliger and Nicole Schwab for their contributions in co-initiating the Gender Lab, as well as to the attendees of our events, the Gender Lab Explorers and the people who have joined this adventure as Explorers of collaboratio helvetica.



Looking ahead to 2018

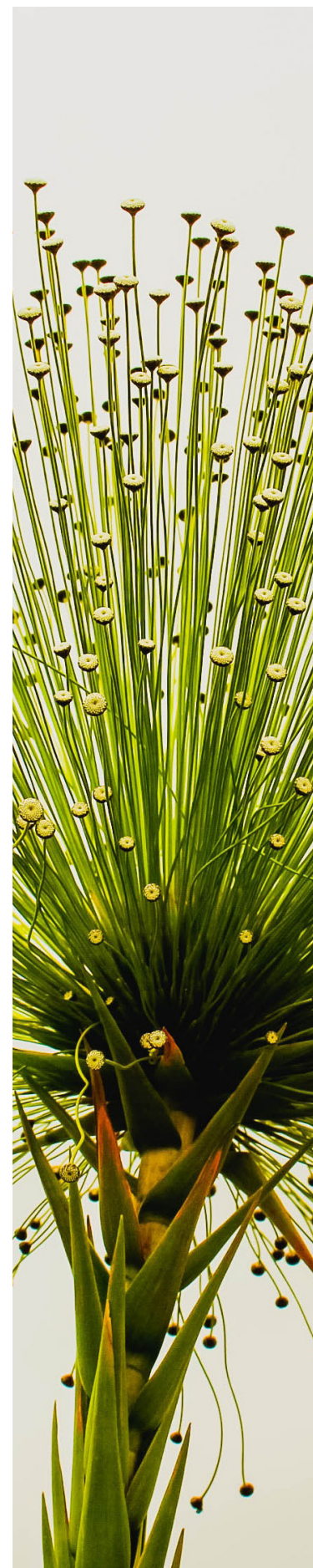
There are so many great people doing outstanding work towards the Agenda 2030 all over the country and so much dormant potential in-between organisations and sectors, waiting to be unlocked. collaboratio helvetica aims to keep supporting the development of this potential as we head into our second year of existence.

2018 will be an exciting year: We are already set up for a year full of dialogue. With a keen focus on developing a support structure around what we have been doing in 2017, we will expand our sharing of the knowledge and skills developed last year. We will also continue to develop our Social Lab concept, learn from first prototypes and launch new ones with different stakeholders. Alongside this, we will continue learning by running experiments in order to build a sustainable and self-organised platform to serve Switzerland.

Whereas 2017 was a year of thousand beginnings, 2018 will be a year of thousand decisions on what to continue and what to let go of. We are holding an incredibly large vision. To us, the more we look at what is happening in the world, the more we feel that the most realistic thing to do is to be deeply idealistic whilst remaining grounded in what is. There is a need for us to fully embrace current reality. Therefore we are asking ourselves: How can we embrace what is without loosening our commitment for the world we can feel is possible?

We are asking this question because we believe that we need to start with ourselves and that our individual reality is a mirror of the whole. How can our microcosmos be an expression of what we want to see in the world? Therefore, dear reader, we want to ask you: "In what ways could it also be time for you to commit to a vision large enough to activate your whole being, whilst simultaneously deeply embrace your reality the way it is? How can the tension between the two inspire you to be curious, compassionate, courageous and ultimately creative in the largest meaning of the word?" This is the beginning of the journey to create our lives and eventually our regions and country the way we wish it could be.

On June 18th 2018, we will celebrate the journeys of all changemakers towards the Agenda 2030 in Switzerland at the collaboratio Festival, our Flagship Event, and collectively ask





ourselves: “What does the Switzerland you want to live in look like?”. This will be our guiding question for 2018. We look forward to bringing together our community to celebrate collaboration and work towards our shared visions.

collaboratio helvetica for all of us is much more than work. It’s our journey into the unknown, our leap of faith after a sense of potential that we are choosing to follow.

Everyday we get challenged, professionally and personally, as working together on this level of societal transformation always requires us to grow. It’s a journey, and there is no failure as long as we are learning - and that we do passionately!

We hope to see you at one or many of our upcoming activities, and to co-create the Switzerland we want to live in together with you!

Warmly,

Nora & the team

“The world as we have created it is a process of thinking. It can not be changed without changing our thinking.”

Albert Einstein



Finances

collaboratio helvetica Association, CH-Bern

Profit and loss account

2016/17

*(November 7th, 2016 -
December 31st, 2017)*

CHF

Income

Contributions from public authorities	30'000
Contributions from others	341'285
Other income	14'017

Total income

385'302

Expenses

General expenses:	CHF	
- HR	286'842	
- Logistics	19'098	
- Communication	4'447	
- Administration	1'756	312'143
Ecosystems		17'894
Social labs		30'813
Coworking spaces		13'950
Practice and knowledge		10'378

Total expenses

385'178

Year-end result

124



Thank you to all of our partners and sponsors, as well as to the many people who have contributed to co-creating collaboratio helvetica!

Supported by:

ENGAGEMENT
A DEVELOPMENT FUND OF THE MIGROS GROUP

The Engagement Migros development fund supports pioneering projects, tackling the challenges of social change. They break new ground and test future-oriented solutions. To ensure the effectivity of this support, Engagement Migros supplements funding with coaching services provided by its Pioneerlab. Engagement Migros is made possible by the companies of the Migros Group through an annual grant of approximately CHF 10 million. It has been supplementing the Migros Culture Percentage since 2012.

For further information: www.engagement-migros.ch





ANNUAL REPORT 2017

