



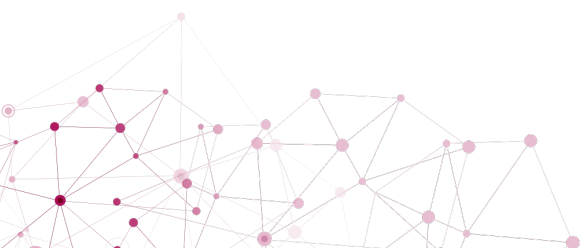
# **2018-2020 operational report**

February 2021



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# Introduction

Since its inception in 2018, the Geneva Science-Policy Interface (GSPI)'s core mission has been to facilitate collaborations between International Geneva's policy actors and the broader scientific community, with the objective to generate impactful solutions to global and complex challenges. Our actions build upon the vision of our founders to strengthen International Geneva as a hub for evidence-based policies and solutions.

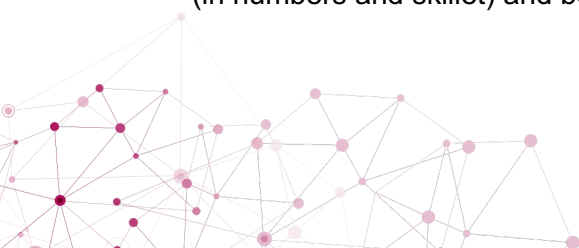
During our first two years of activity, we have led experimental activities to identify where the GSPI could add the most value as a new entity acting at the boundary between science and policy. While there is a great deal of thematic issues, policy processes and research programmes that need policy actors and scientists to work together within the International Geneva ecosystem, very little resources, knowledge and know-how are actually available for policy entrepreneurs and scientists who strive to overcome the barriers that traditionally hamper science-policy collaborations. By building an adaptive programme of work, the GSPI is emerging as a new actor that can help these actors build their own processes and realise their vision.

As we conclude our '*Build Phase*' (2018-2020), we are proud to report significant achievements and strong foundations for the future development of our programme of activities. These include:

- The successful launch of the Impact Collaboration Programme (ICP) our flagship grants and support programme for science-policy-practice collaborations (ICP), already recognized by many as addressing an important gap in this space and providing personalized support and advice.
- The successful launch of our Policy Brief series, which adopts tailored science-policy knowledge co-production and joint dissemination approaches.
- A broad network of academic and International Geneva actors with which we partner and communicate through various channels. This includes other collaboration platforms with whom we partner around specific thematic areas.
- Insider knowledge of International Geneva science-policy collaboration dynamics that we feed back to the community through publications and speaking engagements.
- An agile, focused and complementary operational team, under the guidance of leading scientific institutions. Since 2018, we grew to a team of three core staff.
- An adaptive strategy where we defined core focus areas that anchor the GSPI's action and specificity (collaboration brokering, knowledge brokering, field building), along with the agility to adapt our activities depending on what works and what doesn't in practice as well as windows of opportunity.

Looking forward, we will continue to develop the GSPI's own niche, unique skillsets and services, which effectively complement activities from other actors in the Geneva ecosystem. In our interactions with both scientific and policy actors, we have witnessed a growing recognition and appreciation for the role that a boundary spanner like the GSPI plays by focusing on 'how' policy, science and implementation actors can work together.

As we grow, we will increasingly focus on developing pilot trainings and capacity building programmes for our audience, enhance our collaboration brokering initiatives and support skills, and energise our network through project-based partnerships and community-building. We will also continue to build our capacity, by expanding our financial base, grow as a team (in numbers and skillset) and boost our visibility.



# Activity report

Over the course of the 2018-2020 period, our activities have cemented around three core pillars that define the GSPI’s purpose, identity and range of programmes and deliverables:

- Knowledge brokering
- Collaboration brokering
- Field building

## Knowledge brokering

### Rationale

One of the normative premises guiding the vision and work of the GSPI is that evidence-based policy-making (EBPM) leads to more robust, impactful policy outcomes. EBPM presupposes that policy decisions are based on rigorous information collected through a process of systematic investigation.

This normative premise faces two difficulties: (1) the scientific process focuses on pushing the knowledge frontier and, as such, does not necessarily produce decision-relevant insights; (2) even if science would produce relevant insights, their dissemination and integration into decisions are not straightforward for plenty of reasons. Among many others, they include different languages (scientific language versus policy language), different timings (scientific processes are usually slow and policy processes are sometimes erratic), and a lack of time among policy actors to read scientific papers and synthesize their evidence.

### Approach

In this context, the GSPI has focused its efforts in supporting the production of timely, digestible and actionable scientific knowledge that is relevant and useful for policy and implementation actors in the International Geneva ecosystem.

In the 2018-2020 period, our efforts have mainly taken the form of GSPI Policy Briefs, with the distinct feature of including policy and field actors in the review process, *before* the paper is disseminated. This approach of early policy engagement embodies our belief in the need to go beyond one-way knowledge transfer in order to produce evidence that is useful for policymaking (as explained in our think piece on [‘The art of brokering knowledge or how to align the stars’](#)). The process to identify themes has varied, from Board members’ guidance (addressing the COVID-19 pandemic), to a structured brainstorming process with scientists and a Geneva think tank (climate change and behavioural insights). Figure 1 summarises our publication process.

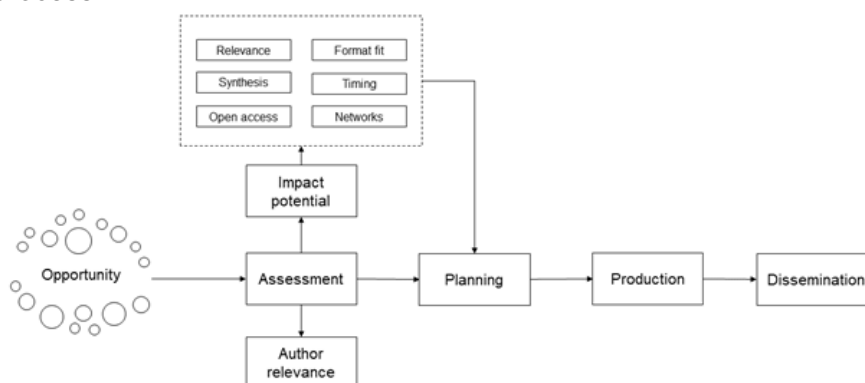


Figure 1: Policy publication process



## Achievements

### **Policy Brief on ‘Behavioral Insights for Climate Action’**

Our first policy brief was the result of a process that started with a full-day brainstorming session organized by the GSPI with the International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD) and featuring a set of researchers working on environment-related issues. This allowed us to identify relevant topics for International Geneva actors and to source experts that could lead the brief’s substance. Over the next several months, we carefully curated the production process, supporting the lead academic author (Prof. Tobias Brosch, Swiss Center of Affective Sciences) with guidance on format, content, as well as coordinating a review process featuring the input of policy practitioners (e.g. ILO, Swiss Mission to the UN, Green Growth Knowledge Platform) and academics.

We partnered with the U.N. SDG Lab for the [launch of the brief in January 2020](#), which gathered more than 80 policy and other actors at the Palais des Nations for an engaging exchange between experts and the audience. More than 10 media references around the launch (including coverage a year later in February 2021 in the Geneva Observer) and more than 2000 downloads of the brief testify to its strong reception. Significantly, the brief and its process triggered collaborations leads for the brief’s author with UN organizations in Geneva and including the development of tailored tools harnessing behavioural sciences to support IOs’ policymaking and programme design processes, to which the GSPI will lend support.

### **Policy Brief on ‘Governing Complexity to Build Resilience to COVID-19 and Future Pandemics’**

Following guidance received at the annual Board meeting in March 2020, we started working on an interdisciplinary policy brief revolving around the then-expanding global pandemic situation. Authored by Dr. Didier Wernli (UNIGE’s Global Studies Institute) along with more than 20 co-authors (incl. leading Swiss and international professors and experts), we steered the process by, among others, organizing a milestone consultation at the Brocher Foundation, which gathered insights from around 20 experts from academia and high-level professionals from WHO, WTO, UNRISD and Médecins Sans Frontières.

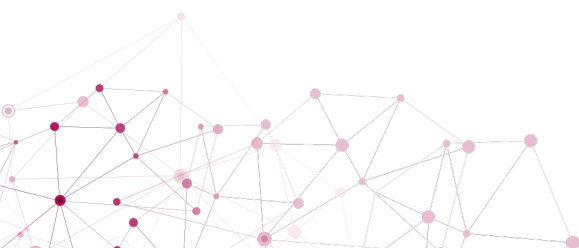
A preview of the brief was given at the 2020 Geneva Health Forum, and a pre-print of the academic background paper [was published in open access](#) in January 2021. We are now gathering further input from policy actors and finalizing the Brief towards a launch in March 2021, again in partnership with the SDG Lab. We are also planning various dissemination opportunities in 2021, including at the World Health Assembly, LERU Rectors’ Assembly (gathering 23 leading research institutions in Europe) and the swissnex network.

### **GSPI Think Piece on ‘The art of brokering knowledge or how to align the stars’**

In 2020 we [published a foundational piece](#) that lays out the GSPI’s rationale and beliefs when it comes to effective knowledge brokering between science and policy actors. We delineate six factors that we expect to work as ‘reminders’ or ‘a checklist’ that support academics, policy actors and platforms in their knowledge brokering activities.

### **Policy Discussion Paper: Leveraging crowdsourced innovation for the SDGs**

During the summer 2020, we initiated a collaborative process with the Citizen Cyberlab, Citizen Science Center Zurich and Concordia University Montreal for a policy discussion paper targeted at providing recommendations to international organizations on how best to leverage online crowdsourcing for the SDGs in the post-pandemic era. The process stalled in Q4 2020 but will resume in March 2021 with a consultation/hackathon at the 2021 Open Geneva Festival. UNITAR and CERN are expected to be close partners in the production process.



## Looking forward

Going forward, we will continue to monitor the impact of our briefs and will explore diversifying formats of knowledge production and brokering, with possibly shorter visual snapshots completed by in-depth processes. In-person briefs could also be envisaged. We plan to streamline the topic and author selection process and optimize to deliver knowledge targeted to the right actors in a timely manner. This will fit with our network development efforts and anticipation of windows of opportunity in global policy processes.

Contributing to knowledge brokering practices, we have also initiated exchanges with a set of actors involved in similar brokerage functions (e.g., Graduate Institute of international Studies and Development, NORRAG, SNIS) and plan on further exchanges with these actors with the goal to advance best practices and approaches in this field.

## Collaboration brokering

### Rationale

Collaborations between scientists, policy and implementation actors in joint projects offer one of the best mechanisms to facilitate the use of evidence, methodologies and other scientific outputs in policy processes and field programmes. Sustained exchanges between scientists and policy actors facilitate trust building and mutual understanding. This in turn increases the efficiency by which scientific research can be tailored for consideration within decision-making and augments the potential for policy actors to take up new evidence and perspectives in decision-making processes.

Building meaningful collaborations however is complex and requires resources, time, and skills. Little incentives and support are currently available for scientists or policy entrepreneurs who want to work together. Building on our early experiences in generating connections and kickstarting collaborative projects, we have elaborated a new instrument, the Impact Collaboration Programme, to harness and promote the best collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing practical science-policy challenges for the benefit of global governance actors.

### Our approach

The [Impact Collaboration Programme](#) (ICP) is an annual call for projects financed by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs with the aim to:

1. Enhance opportunities for collaborations at the interface of science, policy and practice that are relevant to the International Geneva ecosystem;
2. Contribute to nurture a culture of science-policy collaboration and evidence-based policy-making and programming within the International Geneva ecosystem; and
3. Build knowledge and capacity in the field of science-policy collaboration brokering in the context of International Geneva.

One of the distinct characteristics of this call is the provision of seed funding (up to CHF 40'000 per project) as well as tailored support by the GSPI to the project partners, with the goal to strengthen the project's strategic approach and maximise its impact potential.



The support provided is adapted to the specific needs and context of each project. It can include:

- 1) Science-policy engagement and impact strategy,
- 2) Strategic planning and project design,
- 3) Multi-stakeholder engagement, neutral convening and networking,
- 4) Communication and dissemination of results,
- 5) Scaling and long-term sustainability beyond the ICP framework,
- 6) Capacity-building and learning.

## Achievements

The 2020 edition of the ICP, which was articulated around the theme “data-driven decision-making”, elicited some 40 applications from a great variety of academic institutions and Geneva-based actors (UN and other International organisations, NGOs, think tanks, platforms, etc.). Through a selection process conducted by a committee of independent reviewers, [four projects were selected](#):

- Building an online tracker for scientific evidence in international chemicals and waste governance
  - Partners: ETHZ, Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions Secretariat
- MAPMAKER: Marine Plankton diversity bioindicator scenarios for policy-makers
  - Partners: ETHZ, IUCN
- REDEHOPE: Reliable Data for Evidence-Based Housing Policies
  - Partners: UNECE, UNIGE
- A consortium for “Public Good” Data on the Politics of Energy Transition
  - Partners: IISD, ETHZ, John Hopkins University, University of Stellenboch, The Policy Practice, 3 other partners

All four projects started in September 2020 and should conclude around Q3 2021. They complete the GSPI portfolio of collaborative projects which now totals 7 ongoing projects. They are all aiming at producing actionable solutions to concrete science-policy challenges and have designed strategic partnerships to achieve their goals. The quality and fit of the projects selected revealed that the ICP is relevant in targeting a specific type of projects at the interface of science, policy and implementation. Worth noting, selected projects contributed around CHF 100'000 worth of mixed cash and in-kind contributions, demonstrating significant commitment beyond GSPI's financial support. In 2020, we were able to support 4 projects (instead of the planned 3) due to leftover funds in the 2018-2020 period.

The first few months have revealed the added value of the ICP in the following areas:

- **Unique grant scheme to support collaborations at different stages** (kick-starting collaborations, but also sustaining momentum or scaling results): most applicants emphasised that they had no other similar funding opportunities or support to realise their joint vision. Many applicants indicated that responding to the call in itself turned out to be a valuable opportunity to advance their collaboration set-up or project strategic approach.
- **Strategic advice**: in at least two projects, which were initiated by scientists without prior experience in policy engagement, thorough discussion and coaching from the GSPI enabled to strengthen the project's strategic approach in a way that should increase the chance of the project reaching its goals. The other, more experienced project holders, also benefitted from strategic advice from an outsider perspective on specific aspects of their approach.



- **Networking and connections:** some projects had partial knowledge of or access to the community of stakeholders they were aiming to reach to achieve their goals. Others needed to connect with stakeholders outside their sector of activity to test their tools and benefit from outsiders' expertise. The GSPI was or will be instrumental in helping making connections and convening meetings in a timely manner in support of the project objectives.
- **Translation:** the GSPI has proven to be an effective broker between project leaders and outside stakeholders, but also between project partners themselves. By helping to build common ground, mutual understanding, and shared language, we contributed to avoid misunderstanding that could be detrimental to the collaboration dynamic or to the project's results.
- **Neutral facilitation:** the specific status of the GSPI, as both a donor and a neutral partner in the project, makes it possible to create a secure space, whenever useful, to conduct multistakeholder discussions that would otherwise be difficult to organise for the project leads on their own.
- **Sustainability:** all projects expect that the GSPI support will contribute to generate trust from other donors or partners and facilitate further fundraising efforts.

### Looking forward

We will continue to support ICP projects from the first edition of our call for projects. We will also implement the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan embedded in the ICP, by collecting activity reports from the Project holders and organising a learning workshop with all project holders at the end of the grand period (around September 2021). The aim of the MEL is to learn lessons from the grant recipients themselves and adjust and strengthen the ICP service offer accordingly. We also envisage to turn the lessons learned from this first year into a public output.

We launched the second edition of the ICP in November 2020, with the theme 'Bridging science and policy to foster systemic resilience'. By the time of this report, we have completed the pre-proposals phase and received high-quality proposals. Laureates will be announced in May 2021. We will therefore add three new projects into our projects' portfolio and contribute to expand our network, our experience and our capacity in brokering impactful collaborations. This expertise will also be applied to other collaboration opportunities that might arise outside the ICP, from strategic partners or related to urgent issues or processes.

We plan to consolidate the experience, tools and expertise from the ICP programme into a structured programme of workshops and capacity-building activities to support a broader community of boundary spanners from the science and policy sectors in order to advance collaborative practices and mindsets. We hope to design this programme with a set of formal partners from the Governing Board institutions and beyond.





## Testimonies:

Below are a few short testimonies from past or ongoing collaboration projects supported by the GSPI:

“Working at the science policy interface involves many questions, some of which we often take for granted when we’ve worked on them for some time. GSPI was a key partner for us in reflecting upon our policy audience, help craft our own approach and reach out to relevant partners in the Geneva ecosystem.”

**Peter Billie Larsen**, *Senior lecturer and researcher, Environmental Governance and Territorial Development Hub, University of Geneva*

“For a scientist, working at the science-policy interface can sometimes be delicate due to entirely different dynamics in the policy sphere. It has been great to have the Geneva Science-Policy Interface’s support on the project, not only providing financial support but also helping to guide through the complex policy processes and increase stakeholder support for the project.”

**Dr Zhanyun Wang**, *Chair of Ecological Systems Design, ETHZ*

“Since July 2020, the Geneva Science-Policy Interface has been supporting our efforts to build a consortium between practitioners and universities on the politics of energy transition. We've really appreciated the GSPI's supportive and hands-on approach to this initiative: providing substantive comments on the concept note, joining our roundtables and pushing us to better articulate our ideas for a general audience. The GSPI team also helped us think through how to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis, agreeing to extend roundtables over a longer timeline, which was a huge help in a year of "Zoom fatigue". It's been a great experience so far - supportive, while all the time encouraging us to maintain a high level of ambition.”

**Christopher Beaton**, *Lead: Sustainable Energy Consumption, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*

“Thank you for the opportunity to have participated in the grant submission. The grant application processes itself helps promote cooperation across the Geneva ecosystem so in my view the program has already started to have a positive impact.”

*Non-eligible ICP 2021 submitter*



## Field building

### Rationale

As the field of collaborations between science, policy and implementation actors is consolidating and becoming ripe with new ideas and projects, our intent is to support new developments and professionalization efforts by disseminating useful practices and knowledge in Geneva and beyond. The science-policy interface, as a field, is practiced in the International Geneva context but there are opportunities to promote its understanding further and ground practices into more efficient and scalable approaches.

The GSPI can contribute to produce and disseminate existing or new knowledge in this field, as well as practical tools and capacity-building opportunities, which should generate greater trust, collaborative culture and skills between science, policy and implementation actors. Taken together, these activities should create a more enabling environment for impactful science-policy collaborations and position Geneva as a leading hub for evidence-based thinking in the field on global governance.

### Our approach

Our field building activities are structured according to three streams:

1. We advance the knowledge and practice on bridging science and policy by identifying relevant approaches, collecting data, and reporting on our activities.
2. We equip science and policy actors with knowledge and skills on fostering evidence-based policy-making by developing and providing training programs.
3. We channel financial and human resources into science-policy projects by identifying suitable funding schemes and motivating careers at the science-policy interface.

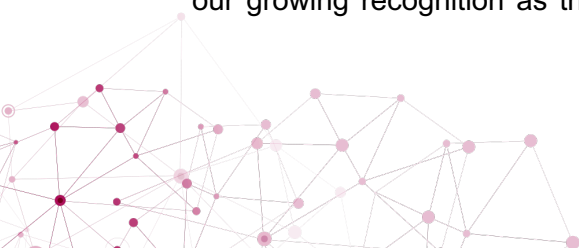
### Achievements

#### **Advancing the knowledge on science and policy**

We have made good progress on advancing the knowledge on science and policy. We [published](#) three think pieces on science-policy dynamics, we created a [dataset](#) of 40 science-policy collaborations described according to 67 variables and published in open access, we mapped 160 science-policy projects in International Geneva, we wrote a publication on science-policy collaborations and the role of interface actors (planned to be published in an academic outlet in 2021), we have published a blog post on the usefulness of [computational simulations for policy-making](#), and we intervened on two [panels](#).

Beyond publications, we have also organized two events as part of the GSPI's *Evidence-Based Thinking in Practice* series in 2019. With the first edition in June and another in October 2019, these pilots gathered a community of professionals across academia, international organisations, think tanks, private sector and civil society to tackle some of the best practices and roadblocks on the way from evidence to policies and practices. These events demonstrated our ability to mobilize key actors around the issue of science-policy and put us on the map as a thought leader in that field.

In addition, we intervened in a number of panels and partnered on a dozen of events in Geneva with a broad range of actors, including UNOG, swissnex, LERU, IHEID, UNIGE, EPFL, ETHZ, ITU, Think Tank Hub, Swiss Mission to the UN in Geneva, WEF and many others. This reflects our growing recognition as thought leaders in the field of boundary spanning between the



science and policy spheres. A list of key events we have organised and/or participated in is available in annex to this report.

A key milestone includes the December 2019 conference *From Science to Practice: Strengthening Research Uptake to Achieve the SDGs*, which brought together key actors in a collaborative format to discuss the barriers to research uptake and identify possible paths to a transformed science-policy interface. The conference led to the [publication of a report](#), and will lead to follow-up events and publications in 2021.

### **Trainings**

We made progress towards equipping both science and policy actors with practical knowledge on science-policy engagement, which will materialise in 2021. We started developing a workshop on policy engagement for academics, which we were supposed to give initially at the Imperial College London but was cancelled because of COVID-19 but should move to 2021. We have initiated collaborations with the Simon Institute for Longterm Governance to develop three training programs that draw from behavioural sciences to strengthen evidence-based decision-making. All three programs will be deployed in 2021, with strong perspectives of partnership, including with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). The services we provided in the framework of the Impact Collaboration Programme enabled us to identify scientists and policy actors' needs for practical skills and tools when working together. We aim at building a toolbox and structured programme of capacity-building activities overtime and make it available to a larger set of actors engaging in science-policy collaborations in the Geneva ecosystem.

### **Channelling resources**

We also worked on channelling resources into science-policy projects. We influenced the design of the UZH-UNIGE joint call for projects (CHF 100K allocated) by reinforcing its science-policy angle. We contacted the Swiss National Science Foundation to explore the creation of a joint funding scheme to fund science-policy collaborations, but we have not progressed on that front since then. Moving forward, we plan to further explore how to channel financial resources into larger science-policy projects, through collaborations with philanthropic foundations, for instance.

All in all, the activities above serve both as ways to solidify our own understanding of our field, share it more widely, and make it more established.

### **Looking forward**

As stated before, part of our focus in the next two years will be on developing pilot trainings to build capacity for both academic and policy actors to engage more effectively with one another. We believe there is great potential for us to grow in this area, with value to add in the field. Following a pilot phase in 2021, we believe there should be potential to scale the most successful programmes by partnering with other platforms and institutions. Beyond training, we will continue to focus on channelling resources to science-policy collaborations projects, along with further growing a knowledge and practice community around our field of work.



## GSPI Capacities

Beyond the above external-facing activities and outputs, we have made significant progress since 2018 in developing our capacity for action. Overall, we have evolved from a new actor in the Geneva ecosystem to an established player, backed by a strong team delivering a growing number of outputs.

## Network

A key added value of the GSPI lies in its ability to connect the dots between international Geneva actors and the academic community around specific challenges. All of our activities both rely on and build the GSPI network. During the 2018-2020 period, we were able to clarify the GSPI's mission as a boundary organisation within international Geneva and establish its working tools and processes.

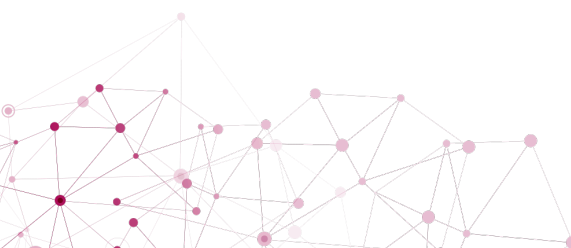
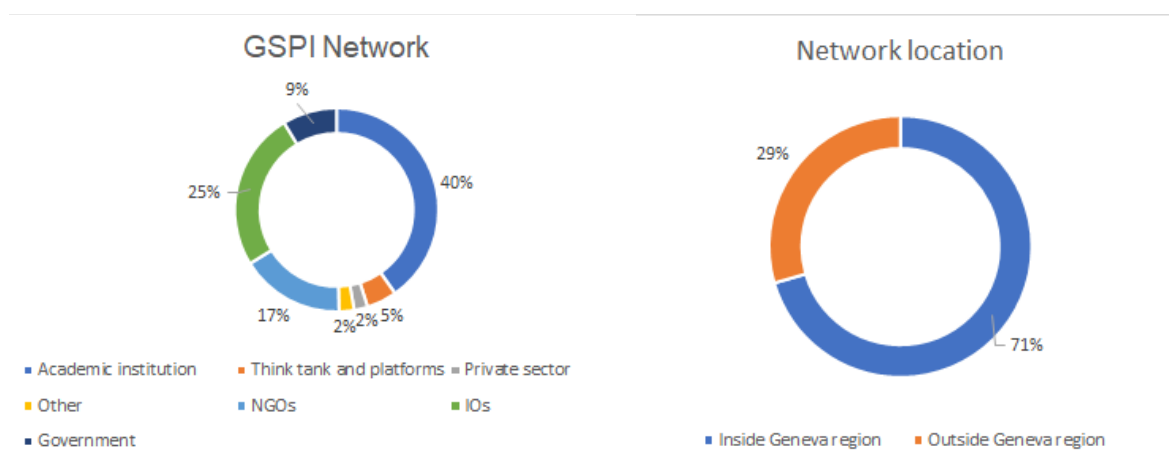
We did so by:

- Consulting a number of stakeholders (governing board members; ad'hoc consultations with a number of individuals and institutions from academia and within the international Geneva ecosystem),
- Experimenting activities (public events, targeted events, collaborative projects, knowledge brokering activities), often in partnership with institutional and individual partners, initially on an ad'hoc or opportunistic basis, then through structured processes,
- Using available internal knowledge, capacity and experience.

The implementation of these activities throughout our build phase has enabled us to build a steadily expanding network of individuals and institutions and get growing visibility within International Geneva and beyond.

In addition, we initiated a number of activities that are relevant for network building and management, including 1) elaboration of fundamental communication tools: a newsletter and its related contact database, a flyer, a website, branding assets and 2) collection of valuable initial information on our stakeholders' identity, capacity and needs (e.g. ICP analysis, initial consultations, introductory meetings).

As of end 2020, our database of more than 430 contacts is distributed as follows (note: it does not account for contacts which may not be integrated in our database):



As we embark on a new 2-year action plan, we will develop a more systematic approach to develop our network to increase our relevance, capacity and therefore sustainability. Details are captured in a network development strategy to be adopted by the end of Q1 2021.

## Communication

Over the 2018-2020 period, we have made significant progress in improving our visibility and 'readability' in the Geneva ecosystem and beyond. We are building our profile as a thought leader and a unique boundary organisation in the Geneva ecosystem, with a distinct mission, skillsets and services complementary to other actors.

We launched a dedicated website with the GSPI's own identity, which acts as a showcase of what we do and what our beliefs and approach are. Although the GSPI is still fairly discrete entity in the public eye, we have benefited from sizeable media exposure around the launch of our first Policy Brief and expect the same to happen for our next publication. We have also established relationships with media actors including Geneva Solutions, which should provide avenues to promote milestones and achievements around the collaborative projects we support.

We launched a quarterly newsletter in 2019, which opens news opportunities to flag some of our key achievements and assert our presence in the Geneva ecosystem, reaching more than 400 contacts from our database. Our expected publication rhythm has slowed down end 2020/early 2021 as we transition communication interns. Our newsletter is complemented by regular features of GSPI activities in the Geneva Brief newsletter, hosted by the Swiss Mission to the UN in Geneva and curated by the Think Tank Hub.

In terms of social media, we have initiated our presence on Twitter and LinkedIn. While we are gathering followers and posting content around key milestones, we have had limited capacity to maintain a regular social media presence due to the lack of permanent staff dedicated to communications.

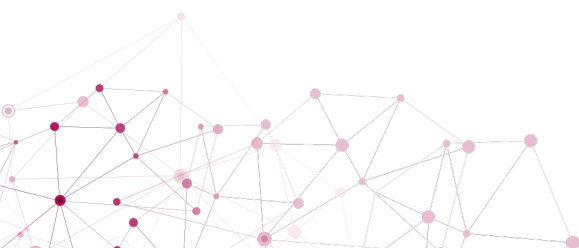
Looking ahead, we will need additional staff support to be able to communicate more regularly and effectively with our audience. In the immediate future this will be supported by interns, followed by the perspective of dedicated communication staff planned for 2022.

## Governance

Since 2018, our efforts have focused on setting up and operationalizing our relationship with our Board members, composed of leaders and other representatives from UNIGE, UZH, the Graduate Institute, EPFL, ETHZ, CERN and LERU. We meet annually both with our Governing Board and Steering committee members, in addition to ad hoc contacts along the year. One of our key objectives going forward is to deepen strategic dialogues with individual Board institutions to identify and implement tailored activities that fit our mission, leverage our Board institutions' strengths and generate impact.

Another development in this period has been the development of an MoU to be adopted among the Board institutions, that aims to formalize the mission and functioning of the GSPI beyond its existence as an entity attached to UNIGE's Rectorate. This will have no impact on the GSPI's legal status but will clarify some of its structures and functioning. The MoU is expected to be signed in 2021, along with the addition of Board observers from the international Geneva ecosystem.

In addition, we also plan on creating a group of independent advisors, experts in science-policy collaboration dynamics, that should be able to further inform the work of the GSPI.

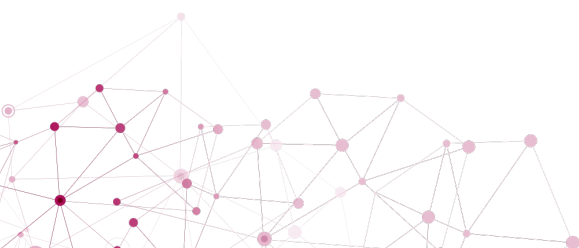


## Operations

Over a little more than two years, we have grown into an efficient and agile team that is able to deliver beyond its weight. Our staff has expanded from two to three permanent collaborators (up to four with temporary staff/interns), unlocking new capacities to deliver on activities and programmes. We have a diverse and complementary team, both in terms of responsibility areas and ways of thinking. We have developed excellent collaborative dynamics and use productivity tools that help us track, plan and implement our work.

We have been able to adapt quickly to the COVID situation and remote work requirements which emerged in 2020, namely by prioritising work streams such as publications and our call for projects. We have continued to develop our network through virtual and in-person means and look forward to ramping up relationship-building once restrictions lighten.

As part of building reallocations, we moved in February 2021 to new offices along with other UNIGE groups active in sustainable development, humanitarian action and innovation. This is an exciting development that will likely generate new collaboration dynamics. We still keep in sight the possibility to move closer to the UN and Campus Biotech area in upcoming years, although such a move might require additional financial commitments.



## Annex: snapshot of events & speaking engagements (2018-2020)

- UNIGE-GSPI-UN Leaders Programme (4.10.2018, Campus Biotech).
- Special event - “Strengthening the Interface between Academia and International Geneva”. In partnership with LERU and UNOG. (Palais des Nations, 11.12.2018).
- Public event - “Drones for Good: Humanitarian Action from the Sky”. In partnership with UNIGE, swissnex Boston, WeRobotics. (Dec 2018)
- GSPI “Evidence-based Thinking in Practice” series:
  - How Are We Navigating Evidence-Based Thinking in International Geneva? (June 2019, Campus Biotech/EPFL Innovation Park)
  - Politics and Power in Evidence-based Policy (Oct 2019, Campus Biotech/EPFL Innovation Park)
- How to automate analysis of aerial data in the context of Aid & Development. WSIS Forum 2019 panel (April 2019, ITU, Geneva).
- Digitisation: What Role for International Geneva? Swiss Digital Day panel. Organized with ICRC, Canton Geneva, UNIGE, Digital Switzerland. (3 sept 2019).
- Migration and Conflict: from Evidence to Solutions (Oct 2019, UNIGE/Graduate Institute, Geneva).
- Panel at Swissuniversities SUDAC conference (Oct. 2019).
- Panel on diplomacy in global cities, World Science Forum (Budapest, Nov 2019)
- From Science to Practice: Strengthening Research Uptake to Achieve the SDGs (Geneva, Dec 2019)
- Participation to Foraus’s PoliTisch “Health Data Governance: Quelles opportunités pour la Suisse?” (June 2020)
- Expert meeting on pandemic resilience with the University of Geneva, the University of Zurich and the World Economic Forum (October 2020)
- #MeetingTomorrow: Digital Geneva 2040. Organized with Swissnex Boston and Geneva Internet Platform (December 2020)
- Two panel participations on governance & AI (2020).





GSPI Board members:

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