

Call for Mandate

The aim of the National Research Programme “Promoting Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecosystem Services for Switzerland” ([NRP 82](#)) is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing, and opportunities offered by biodiversity and ecosystem services and to develop practical solutions for their conservation and sustainable use.

NRP 82 will run from 2024 to 2032 and is structured in several phases (see also Chapter 5.5 of the call document): During the preparatory phase, the transdisciplinary project teams will finalise their project design. A competitive selection process will be followed by a four-year research phase during which the projects will be implemented.

Programme activities that coordinate the individual projects will run throughout the entire duration of NRP 82. In the second part of the programme, a synthesis phase will be initiated with the aim of acquiring new knowledge and drawing joint conclusions that go beyond the findings of the individual research projects.

The programme is managed by the Steering Committee, and the operational activities are supported by the programme managers from the SNSF office in cooperation with the Head of Knowledge Exchange and Head of Transdisciplinarity.

For the programme-specific transdisciplinary set-up and impact, we are looking for a

Head of Transdisciplinarity

This position will be filled on the basis of an eight-year personal mandate, ideally starting mid-May 2024 but no later than 1 August 2024. The Head of Transdisciplinarity will work closely with the Head of Knowledge Exchange, who will be [recruited in parallel](#). Joint applications are welcomed.

Duties & responsibilities

- Coaching the project teams and the Steering Committee on transdisciplinarity throughout NRP 82.
- Organising training and support for transdisciplinary project teams, e.g. on stakeholder integration, facilitation of joint problem framing; advising on theory of change; catalysing transformation processes.
- Advising the Steering Committee and Head of Knowledge Exchange on stakeholder engagement.
- Engaging in relationship building, networking and active communication with institutions, programmes and stakeholders associated with the NRP and related topics.
- Supporting the programme-specific Engagement Board of stakeholders.
- Developing and implementing the monitoring and evaluation of the programme’s transdisciplinary approach and impact.

The FTE will vary considerably depending on the phase of the programme and will be around 30% on average.

Profile, skills & experience

- Extensive experience of transdisciplinary research processes and methods.
- Experience of designing and managing processes of knowledge co-production and syntheses.
- Experience of processes leading to societal changes and transformation.
- Well regarded in academia and practice in the field relevant to NRP 82.
- Able to establish a network with relevant stakeholders such as authorities, private- and public-sector organisations and the media.
- Strong communication skills (oral and written) and an expert in political communication and networking.
- Very good command of English, French and German.
- Excellent teamwork skills.

For more information about the programme, please consult the [call document](#).

Please send your application, including cover letter, CV, references and details of major achievements (in English) by 15 March 2024 to nrp82@snf.ch. The NRP 82 Programme Managers Anne Jores (tel. 031 308 23 11) and Beatrice Schibler (tel. 031 308 21 01) will be happy to provide you with further information.

Please note that the person recruited for this mandate cannot simultaneously participate in funded projects of this NRP. The interviews are scheduled to take place on 9 and 15 April 2024.

Berne, 26 January 2024