

Factsheet

# SUCCESSFULLY CROSSING BORDERS

## **WHY WE NEED THE SWISS GREEN ECONOMY SYMPOSIUM**

States and communities of states cannot anymore solve environmental, economic and social challenges on their own. Dialog and unprejudiced cooperation between all parts of society is needed. Business plays a central part in developing solutions. The Swiss Green Economy Symposium is a neutral and non-ideological platform for discussing and exchanging successful solutions and projects that help mastering those complex challenges.

## **WHAT DOES THE SGES BRING?**

Since 2013, the Swiss Green Economy Symposium has shown by means of practical examples how business, politics, research and civil society can together contribute to more prosperity, protection of environment and a more peaceful community life. Mutual exchange drives reciprocal learning. New innovative possibilities for solutions can be identified and recipes for success shared. The symposium inspires its participants, top executives and opinion leaders to concrete actions.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SGES**

The Swiss Green Economy Symposium has established itself since 2013 as comprehensive and leading conference for sustainable business in Switzerland. Since 2016 the Symposium looks beyond the national horizon and addresses an international audience.

## **CORNERSTONES OF THE SWISS GREEN ECONOMY SYMPOSIUM**

The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 of UNO are the cornerstones of the Swiss Green Economy Symposium. With these goals, the UNO acknowledged «Green Economy» for the first time as a central cornerstone for sustainable development. «Green Economy» aims at creating material prosperity, preserving social peace and enabling an intact environment – thus creating high quality of life in all its aspects.

The UNO-goals comprise a total of 17 main and 169 secondary goals that do not only balance economic, social and environmental aspects. For the first time in history, sustainable development and global fight against poverty are united in an agenda that involves all states as well as enterprises. It is designed to accommodate globalization and overcomes parochial national thinking.

Following the 17th of those UNO-goals – Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development – the Swiss Green Economy Symposium offers a forum and empowering environment for dialog and exchange.

### **WHAT DOES THE SWISS GREEN ECONOMY SYMPOSIUM INTEND?**

- We want to contribute to quality of life by using the driving force of business for sustainable development.
- We want to offer a neutral and open-minded platform. We want to bring up diverging opinions without taboo and allow for constructive discussions.
- We want to bring together the brightest and most innovative top executives and changemakers of business, politics, administration, research and civil society in dialogue – across industry sectors, hierarchies and enterprise size.
- We want to make the good reputation of Switzerland and of its economy useful for the world, as well as its neutral position, its political stability, its knowhow in creating prosperity, in peaceful coexistence and in careful handling of environment.
- We want to enable global reciprocal learning and accordingly boost its competitive strength.

### **WHAT ARE THE CORE VALUES OF THE SWISS GREEN ECONOMY SYMPOSIUM?**

The symposium understands sustainability as a joint learning process aiming at a greater quality of life, as defined by the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 of the UNO. Attaining measurable goals is a requirement and an incentive to assume responsibility together. En route there, sustainable progress can only be created if the expertise of all stakeholders is activated and business fulfills its driving function. The Swiss Green Economy Symposium considers itself as a neutral platform that encourages discussion and crossing existing borders. With a mix of curiosity, openness, courage and carefulness, we can together master the challenges.

### **What is new at the symposium in 2017?**

The theme of the symposium in 2017 reads „Successfully crossing borders“. It shows chances offered by a broad-minded cooperation and that it is worth going that extra mile. In 2017 the social dimension of sustainability will be brought up in-depth. We internationalize discussion with speakers from abroad and from the UNO. Inspiring ideas will be presented by the partnering country The Netherlands.