



7th Workshop of the Swiss Network on Public Economics (SNoPE)

March 13, 2026
University of Basel

Program Overview

08:45 – 09:00	Welcome (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)
09:00 – 10:15	Parallel Sessions 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1A. Labor Markets (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)• 1B. Taxation and Public Enterprises (HG S13)• 1C. Health Care and Digitalization (HG S14)
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break (WWZ Foyer)
10:45 – 12:00	Parallel Sessions 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2A. Transportation (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)• 2B. Public Finance and Fiscal Policy (HG S13)• 2C. Inequality and Economic Policy (HG S14)
12:00 – 13:15	Lunch (WWZ Foyer)
13:15 – 14:05	Parallel Sessions 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3A. Political Economy and Public Opinion (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)• 3B. Refugee Integration (HG S13)
14:05 – 14:30	Coffee Break (WWZ Foyer)
14:30 – 16:00	Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microdata Center: a secure virtual environment for the secondary use of federal administrative data (WWZ Auditorium)• Staatsunternehmen: Zwischen Service Public und Wettbewerb (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break (WWZ Foyer)
16:30 – 18:00	Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Transport (WWZ Auditorium)
18:00	Farewell (WWZ Auditorium)
18:30 – 21:00	Dinner (Werk 8, self-pay, reservation required)

Detailed Program

08:45 – 09:00

Welcome

09:00 – 10:15 (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)

1A. Labor Markets

- K. Hager, M. Siegenthaler & D. Pomeranz
When Firms Can Opt Out: Minimum Wages in Swiss Collective Bargaining. Evidence from Switzerland's Machinery, Electrical Engineering and Metals Industry
- P. Arni & J. Körtner
Algorithms, Incentives, and Effort Adjustment: A Field Experiment with Caseworkers
- G. Rais
Home sweet home: Does homeownership reduce labor supply? Evidence from Swiss fiscal data using inheritances as an instrument

09:00 – 10:15 (Room HG S13)

1B. Taxation and Public Enterprises

- S. Schroeter
Do corporate tax cuts affect exporters?
- A. Mimmo & M. Weber
Unsupervised Machine Learning in Tax Administration
- M. Salvi, S. Rutz, N. Schnyder, M. Altorfer & Nick Riva
Finanzierungsvorteile von Staatsunternehmen

09:00 – 10:15 (Room HG S14)

1C. Health Care and Digitalization

- T. Bischof, A. Balthasar & M. Ritz
Fair health insurance premiums? Implications of a proposed change to the calculation of premiums
- F. Hug, M. Maréchal & D. Hangartner
Digital Divide in Access to Government Services: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment
- R. Gmür
Broadband Without Infrastructure Competition: Evidence from Liechtenstein's Fiber Rollout

10:15 – 10:45 (WWZ Foyer)

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)

2A. Transportation

- J. Roth, L. Schwab & B. Hintermann
E-Biking in Switzerland
- H. Wallimann, W. von Arx & A. Hesse
Rail infrastructure and road use: Causal evidence from the Gotthard base tunnel
- J. Meli, A. Reiffer & E. Heinen
Quantifying the demand effects in international passenger transport

10:45 – 12:00 (Room S13)

2B. Public Finance and Fiscal Policy

- E. Bolliger & F. Chatagny
Cyclically Adjusted Balance, Structural Balance and Fiscal Impulse for Switzerland
- M. Graff
The Swiss 'debt brake' – a critique
- R. Gurtner
The Role of Managers' Inflation History in Price Expectation Formation

10:45 – 12:00 (Room S14)

2C. Inequality and Economic Policy

- J. Koller, E. Baselgia, R. Gurtner & I. Martinez
Inequality and Redistribution in Switzerland: Evidence from Distributional National Accounts
- M. Häner-Müller, N. Kalbermatter & C. Schaltegger
The Adaptive Middle Class: How Families Adjust to Revolving Transfer Shocks
- E. Baselgia, I. Martinez & M. Rebetz
Privileged Dividend Taxation: Distributional and Fiscal Consequences

12:00 – 13:15 (WWZ Foyer)

Lunch

13:15 – 14:05 (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG 44)

3A. Political Economy and Public Opinion

- C. Brunnschweiler, L. Schmid & S. Lüchinger
Does geographical representation affect voter attitudes and turnout?
- M. Mosler & S. Schmitter
Information Shocks and Attitudes towards Nuclear Power: Empirical Evidence from Iodine Tablets and Swiss Direct Democracy

13:15 – 14:05 (Room S13)

3B. Refugee Integration

- M. Viarengo
The Gender Dimension of Refugees' Integration in the Labor Market
- S. Khelifa, B. Lanz & M. Pecoraro
Refugee Peers in Language-Support and Ability-Tracked Classes: Evidence from Switzerland

14:05 – 14:30 (WWZ Foyer)

Coffee Break

14:30 – 16:00 (WWZ Auditorium)

Workshop “Microdata Center: a secure virtual environment for the secondary use of federal administrative data”

The Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) is currently in the process of setting up a research data center for access to Swiss administrative data with the possibility of linkage to third party data. The FSO is planning to use differential privacy enabling data to be analyzed in compliance with data protection regulations when accessed remotely. This workshop aims to learn about the FSO's plans and to discuss the challenges of differential privacy for economic research and evidence-based policy.

- **Andreas Unterkircher** (Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO)
- **Christine Choirat and Raphaël de Fondeville** (Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO)
- **Stefan Bender** (Leiter Forschungsdaten- und Servicezentrums der Deutschen Bundesbank)

14:30 – 16:00 (Pro Iure Auditorium, EG.44)

Workshop “Staatsunternehmen: Zwischen Service Public und Wettbewerb”

Staatsunternehmen erfüllen öffentliche Aufgaben und sind gleichzeitig in Wettbewerbsmärkten tätig. Daraus ergeben sich Zielkonflikte zwischen Grundversorgung, Effizienz und Wettbewerbsneutralität. Der Workshop bietet eine Tour d'horizon über die politischen Vorstösse und Geschäfte der letzten Jahre, welche dieses Spannungsfeld geprägt haben, und vertieft am Beispiel der Post, welche Anpassungen aus wettbewerbsökonomischer Sicht angezeigt sein könnten.

- **Piotr Lukaszuk** (Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO)
- **Larissa Schwaller** (Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO)
- **Christoph Eisenring** (Avenir Suisse)

16:00 – 16:30 (WWZ Foyer)

Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 (WWZ Auditorium)

Panel “Sustainable Transport”

CO2 Emissions in the transport sector have remained roughly constant for the past 35 years, as improvements in drive technologies have been offset by an increase in the number of cars. At the same time, the transport sector is increasingly brushing up against capacity constraints, which results in congestion on the road and crowding in public transport. It furthermore contributes to health care costs due to accidents, local air pollution and noise. In this panel, future pathways for sustainable transport in Switzerland are discussed, in terms of decarbonization, regulation, and financing.

- **Luca Castiglioni** (Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE)
- **Roman Rosenfellner** (Federal Roads Office ASTRA)
- **Beat Hintermann** (University of Basel)

18:00 (Auditorium)

Farewell

18:30 – 21:00 (Werk 8, Dornacherstrasse 192, Basel)

Dinner

Chatham House Rules and Language

Chatham house rules apply to all discussions in the workshop. Regarding languages, presentations and comments can be made in English, German or French.

Presentation Guidelines for Presenters in Sessions

The SNoPE Workshop is not just another academic conference. We wish to foster the exchange between academia and policy makers. Therefore, we ask every presenter to clearly outline the relevance and implications for Swiss public policy. Each presentation should conclude with a slide about the policy implications of the presented research. Of course, methodological aspects remain important, however, the presentation should strongly emphasize and discuss the link and relevance to Swiss public policy.

- Each paper is allotted 25 minutes. We suggest that presentations are limited to 18 minutes, followed by a discussion. Presentations may be shorter to leave more room for questions and comments from the audience.
- The last presenter in each research session is the session chair. (S)he makes sure that each presentation benefits from the audience's attention for 25 minutes and contacts the organizers in case of technical problems. Session chairs must be strict in enforcing the presentation time of 18 minutes to leave enough time for discussion after each presentation.
- There are no discussion openers. Everybody is welcome to make comments and ask questions: these may range from policy implications to methodological questions.

Workshop Venue

Faculty of Business and Economics, Peter Merian-Weg 6, 4052 Basel.

On foot from SBB station: Leave the station by the main exit (direction "city") and turn right for the covered passageway ("Postpassage"), continue ahead to the Peter Merian Building (green) and further on to the Jacob Burckhardt Building (aluminum), House No. 6. Approx. 7 minutes.

Workshop Organizers

Beat Hintermann (University of Basel), Kurt Schmidheiny (University of Basel), Alois Stutzer (University of Basel), and Conny Wunsch (University of Basel)

The Network

The Swiss Network on Public Economics (SNoPE) connects researchers working on topics related to Swiss public economics and/or an interest in Swiss data. The network aims to strengthen the ties between academics and practitioners at universities, public administration, the Swiss National Bank and private institutions. Actors of the civil society as well as the media are welcome to join our network and its activities.

SNoPE was founded by

