

# Summary of Group work

Session B2: Strengthening the next generation of scientists

Workshop leaders: Muaamar Al Gobari and Antoine Flahault

# Background

- Postdoc (not the person) is, by definition, the next step in career development after obtaining a PhD degree. The duration of postdoc positions depends on funding and available opportunities. Ideally, postdoc allows applying for a vacant faculty position as part of a career development plan. Due to limited opportunities, many postdoc holders stagnate at this level and does not become independent researchers for long time. Others shift to work outside the academia, leaving behind their initially planned academic career.
- To get familiar with career development opportunities and understand the elements that contribute to a successful career, we organized a workshop within the SSPH+ faculty meeting 2022 that was held in person in Zürich on 14 June 2022. The workshop was also streamed online. The workshop was attended by SSPH+ dean (Prof. Nino Künzli), SSPH+ co-directeur (Prof. Antoine Flahault) and six other participants. The invited guest speaker (Prof. Marloes Eeftens), who has been involved in promoting teaching opportunities at the postdoc level, delivered a talk during the workshop.

# Points of discussion

- The workshop addressed many aspects of postdoc career and tried to identify and discuss the following points:
- The presence/absence of academic structure for postdocs at Swiss universities.
- Identification of current obstacles that postdocs face in their academic life.
- The role of postdocs in teaching as lecturers in Swiss universities.
- The available opportunities and specific funds/grants to support career development at postdoc level.
- The workshop gave the take-home message that postdoc career obstacles exist and we need to set up a framework to discuss and find possibilities for solutions and suggestions.