



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Volkswirtschaft und Statistik
Société suisse d'économie et de statistique
Società svizzera di economia e di statistica
Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics

Annual Report 2024 of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics

The main activities of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES) in the reporting year 2024 were the organization of the 'SSES Annual Congress' in Lucerne, the support of the 'Young Swiss Economists Meeting' in Zurich and the 'End-of-Year Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad' in Lucerne as well as the publication of the society's journal.

SSES Annual Congress 2024

The 2024 Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics took place on June 6–7 at the University of Lucerne. The congress attracted 205 participants from 12 countries. 152 presentations were delivered across 55 parallel sessions.

The thematic focus was 'Economic Populism', featuring keynote speeches by Sergei Guriev (*The recent rise of populism and the future of democracy*, Sciences Po), Gilat Levy (*The dynamics of cohort effects in politics: the inevitability of polarization*, London School of Economics), and Maria Petrova (*Socializing alone: how online homophily has undermined social cohesion in the US*, Universitat Pompeu Fabra).

The 2024 SSES Annual Congress was organized by University of Lucerne's Faculty of Economics and Management. The organizing committee consisting of Simon Lüchinger (Chair), Manuel Oechslin, and Lukas Schmid was supported by the administrative team with Sharlyn Keiser (Chair Lucerne), Lisa Elsasser (Chair SSES), Vanessa Lutz, Sandra Pfammatter, Gabriela Rychener-Durrer, Isabelle Rickli. The SSES would like to thank all the organizers and helpers as well as the members of the program committee. The SSES would also like to thank the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW), the University of Lucerne and the Swiss National Science Foundation for their generous support.

For the 17th time, the SSES awarded a prize for the best conference paper by a young researcher under the age of 33. The prize was awarded for the article "Green spills: Peer effects in pro-environmental behaviors" by Patrick Bigler and Benedikt Janzen both from the University of Bern. Fabio Canetg received the 3rd Economic Journalism Award for his podcast series 'Geldcast', which features well-structured interviews with leading economists from academia as well as from the private sector and from policy making.

Young Swiss Economists Meeting

The Young Swiss Economists Meeting (YSEM) was held for the 18th consecutive time on February 15th and 16th, 2024, at the KOF Swiss Economic Institute at ETH Zurich. Nearly 30 researchers were selected to present their work. Many of them have only recently started working at a Swiss university and were able to use this platform to make their work known in Switzerland. There was lively exchange between presenters and faculty members, both during the conference and in the evening during dinner. The SSES supports this conference both financially and organizationally. The SSES thanks the organizers Jan-Egbert Sturm and Julian Koller, as well as their team.

End-of-Year Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad

The End-of-Year Conference of the Network of Swiss Economists Abroad took place on December 20, 2024, at the University of Luzern. The event provides Swiss researchers at foreign universities with an opportunity to present their work in Switzerland and to connect with fellow Swiss researchers abroad as well as those based in Switzerland.

This year, 28 researchers (among which 4 PhD students) from Germany, Ireland, France, Canada, Norway, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA delivered presentations. The event was organized in collaboration with the University of Luzern. The SSES supports the participation of PhD students by covering parts of their travel expenses.

The meeting was organized by Enrico Berkes (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Aline Bütikofer (Norwegian School of Economics), and Patrick Gaule (University of Bristol), in collaboration with Lukas Schmid from the University of Luzern. The next conference will take place in December 2025.

Publications

The SSES publishes the Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics (SJES). The SSES board selects the editors of the journal and proposes the main responsible editor(s) to the general assembly. Since July 2023, Marius Brülhart has chaired the editorial board. In 2024, the co-editors were Stefan Bühler, Aline Bütikofer, Daniel Kaufmann, Jérémy Lucchetti, and Conny Wunsch. In collaboration with external reviewers, the editors assess the suitability of submitted papers and decide on their publication. Since 2018, articles are published online only on SpringerOpen with 'Gold Open Access'. 2024 marked the 160th anniversary of the journal, which was celebrated with a historical overview article by Marius Brülhart and Kateryna Dashevskya.

In 2024, a record 362 submissions were received (260 submissions the previous year, +39%). 14 articles were published (13 articles the previous year). A large proportion of the submissions are directly rejected by the editors ("desk reject"). Among the reviewed submissions, the acceptance rate is 30%-50%. Highlights of the published papers in 2024 included an introduction to new methods for "Causal Discovery" by Martin Huber, an analysis of the effects of climate policy on stock prices by Brendan Berthold, and a new measurement method for the match between the characteristics of job seekers and job profiles by Mirjam Bächli and co-authors.

In 2024, the first “Best Paper Award,” worth 2,000 Swiss Francs, was presented. At the SSES Annual Meeting at the University of Lucerne, Fabienne Helfer, Volker Grossmann, and Aderonke Osikominu received the award for their paper “*How does immigration affect housing costs in Switzerland?*”.

The SSES thanks everyone for their valuable contributions to the journal.

Administration

From 2001 to the end of 2023, secretariat and bookkeeping of the SSES was managed by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The SSES would like to thank the SNB and the Society's former secretary Lisa Elsasser for this generous support.

In July 2024, Dr. Stefan Meyer started as the Society's secretary general in the Society's new office at the University of Basel. As a first task, the new office launched an ambitious project to find a modern software solution for member management and conference administration. The evaluation was conducted in close collaboration with the consulting firm B'VM. It quickly became evident that two separate software solutions were needed to meet the distinct requirements of these two tasks.

In late autumn, the member database was migrated to the platform Webling. In addition to managing memberships and communication, Webling will also be used for the society's accounting starting with the financial year 2024.

For the administration of the annual conference and smaller workshops, the SSES selected the conference software Converia. As a pilot project, the submission of papers for YSEM 2025 has already been organized via Converia.

General Assembly and Board

The incoming president Kurt Schmidheiny presented the annual report 2023 at the Society's General Assembly held on June 6, 2024 at the University of Lucerne. The members of the Society adopted the financial statement for 2023 and the budget for 2025. The board member Igor Letina (University of Bern) was unanimously confirmed in office for a second term and Anthony Strittmatter was elected as the first board member to represent the FernUni Switzerland. The SSES would like to thank the old and new board members for their commitment to the Society.

The Society's board will be composed as follows from July 1, 2024:

- Prof. Kurt Schmidheiny (president), Universität Basel
- Prof. Dirk Niepelt (past president), Universität Bern
- Prof. Marius Brülhart (editor-in-chief), Université de Lausanne
- Prof. Hans Gersbach, ETH Zürich
- Prof. Martina Viarengo, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Genf
- Nicolas Cuche-Curti, Swiss National Bank
- Dr. Stefan Leist, Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO
- Prof. Sylvia Kaufmann, Studienzentrum Gerzensee
- Prof. Alois Stutzer, Universität Basel
- Prof. Igor Letina, Universität Bern

- Prof. Mark Schelker, Universität Freiburg
- Prof. Salvatore Di Falco, Université de Genève
- Prof. Sébastien Houde, Université de Lausanne
- Prof. Raphael Parchet, Università della Svizzera italiana
- Prof. Simon Lüchinger, Universität Luzern
- Prof. Daniel Kaufmann, Université de Neuchâtel
- Prof. Stefan Bühler, Universität St.Gallen
- Prof. Mathias Hoffmann, Universität Zürich
- Prof. Anthony Strittmatter, FernUni Schweiz

Members

In 2024, the SSES had 486 members up from 359 members in 2023 (324 members in 2022, 388 members in 2021, and 311 members in 2020).

Upcoming Events and Activities

The 2025 Annual Congress will take place on June 26 and 27 at ETH Zurich. It is dedicated to the theme 'New Designs for the Market Economy'. The local organization is chaired by Jan-Egbert Sturm (Chair) and Hans Gersbach. The SSES will once again help organizing the "Young Swiss Economists Meeting" on February 13 and 14, 2025, at the KOF Swiss Economic Institute at ETH Zurich and provide financial support for the End-of-Year Conference of the Network of Swiss Economists Abroad.

In the course of 2025, the SSES will launch a new website www.sses.swiss, integrate the archive of the Society's journal for the years 1940 to 2006 into SpringerOpen and move the journal's archive for the years 1864 to 1939 to E-Periodica, an online platform by the ETH Library.

24 February 2025

Stefan Meyer, Secretary General
Kurt Schmidheiny, President