

# Annual Report 2025



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Dr. Stefan Meyer (Secretary General)

**Images** Impressions from the SSES Annual Congress 2025 at ETH Zurich. Thomas  
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## SSES Annual Congress 2025

The 2025 Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES) took place on 26-27 June 2025 at ETH Zurich. The congress attracted 151 participants from 10 countries. 121 presentations were delivered across 41 parallel sessions. Researchers from all subdisciplines of economics gathered for a stimulating academic exchange under the thematic focus “New Designs for the Market Economy.”

The congress featured keynote speeches on new trade systems by Gianmarco Ottaviano (Bocconi University), on monetary systems by Evi Pappa (Universidad Carlos III), and on innovation systems by Reinhilde Veugelers (KU Leuven). Each keynote was followed by a dedicated focus session that included contributions addressing pressing and practical policy challenges in the respective field. This structure enabled a productive dialogue between the keynote presentations and the broader set of research papers presented at the congress.

As in previous years, the SSES awarded a prize for the best conference paper by young researchers under the age of 33. The 2025 prize was awarded to Marcel Caesmann (University of Zurich), Janis Goldzycher (University of Zurich), Matteo Grigoletto (University of Bern), and Lorenz Gschwent (University of Duisburg-Essen) for their paper “Censorship in Democracy.” In addition, Mathilde Farine (RTS) was recognized for her extensive coverage of economics, finance, and monetary policy issues in Switzerland.

The 2025 SSES Annual Congress was organized by the KOF Swiss Economic Institute at ETH Zurich. The organizing committee, consisting of Jan-Egbert Sturm and Hans Gersbach, was supported by their PhD students Julian Koller and Johann Fuchs, together with the administrative team of Corinne Schibli (ETH), Stefan Meyer (SSES), Anne Stücker (ETH), and Sabrina Humbel (ETH). The SSES expresses its gratitude to all organizers, helpers, and members of the program committee. The Society also acknowledges the generous support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW), the Department of Management, Technology, and Economics at ETHZ, Siemens, the Canton of Zurich, the City of Zurich, and the Swiss National Science Foundation, whose contributions made the congress possible.



## Young Swiss Economists Meeting

The Young Swiss Economists Meeting (YSEM) was held for the 19th consecutive time on 13 and 14 February 2025 at the KOF Swiss Economic Institute at ETH Zurich. Around 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 20th edition of the End-of-Year Conference of the Network of Swiss Economists Abroad took place on 19 December 2025, at the University of Bern. 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, 35 researchers (among which 4 PhD students) from Germany, Ireland, Canada, Norway, Hong Kong, Sweden, Spain, Australia, the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA delivered presentations. The event was organized in collaboration with the University of Bern. The SSES supports the event by providing the platform for submissions and registrations (Converia), the platform for member administration and mailings (Webling) and by partly covering the travel expenses for participating PhD students.

The meeting was organized by Enrico Berkes (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Patrick Gaule (University of Bristol), and Michele Pelli (Central Bank of Ireland) in collaboration with Michael Gerfin, Maximilian von Ehrlich, and Manuela Soltermann from the University of Bern. The next conference will take place in December 2026.

## 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. Brühlhart has been editor-in-chief of the SJES since July 2023. In 2025, 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 SpringerNature Link with 'Gold Open Access'. 2025 marked the journal's 161st year.

In 2025, a record 636 submissions were received (362 submissions the previous year, +76%). 14 articles were published (14 articles also in 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 2025 included a new high-frequency dataset of fiscal-policy responses to COVID-19 in the cantons by Vera

Eichenauer and coauthors (DOI: 10.1186/s41937-025-00136-7), an investigation of cross-border VAT fraud in Europe by Adrien Bussy and Annalisa Tassi (DOI: 10.1186/s41937-025-00138-5), and a formal normative assessment of carbon taxation in Switzerland by Matthias Leuthard (DOI: 10.1186/s41937-025-00144-7).

In 2025, the Best Paper Award, worth 2,000 Swiss Francs, was presented for the second time. The winner was Brendan Berthold (University of Lausanne) for his paper “The Macro-Financial Effects of Climate Policy Risk: Evidence from Switzerland” (DOI: 10.1186/s41937-024-00122-5).

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

## **Statement on Science Policy**

For years, the Federal Statistical Office expressed the desire to access tax data from the Swiss cantons for research purposes. Access to this data should be made possible by the new Federal Statistics Ordinance which was sent out for consultation in December 2023. However, a parliamentary motion (Regazzi 24.3507) was filed in May 2024, requesting that cantonal tax data be provided only in anonymized form. Such anonymization by the cantons would substantially reduce the value of the cantonal tax data for empirical economic research and thus hinder evidence-based policy in Switzerland. In February 2025, the Society sent a letter to the members of the relevant parliamentary commission (WBK-S), explaining the value of cantonal tax data for research and economic policy and proposing to anonymize the data at a later stage. Subsequently, the commission decided to postpone its decision on the motion and invited Mark Schelker and Kurt Schmidheiny to a hearing to provide further clarification on the matter. The letter and the slides shown at the hearings are available at the Society’s website.

The two chambers of the Swiss parliament have subsequently decided that access to cantonal tax data shall be regulated in a new dedicated federal law, which is currently prepared by the Swiss Federal Council. The Society will monitor further developments and continue to advocate for good access to research data in Switzerland.

## **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 secretaries Nina Hugelshofer and 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. After migrating the member database and the Society’s accounting to the online platform Webling in 2024, the society migrated the administration of its conferences and workshops to the online platform Converia in 2025. The new software tools proved efficient and improved the user experience both for the administration and the users.

## General Assembly

The President, Kurt Schmidheiny, presented the Annual Report 2024 at the Society's General Assembly held on 26 June 2025 at the ETH Zurich. The members unanimously approved the financial statement for the 2024 financial year, granted discharge to the Board of Directors, and approved the budget for the 2026 financial year. Following the end of several board members' terms, five new members were elected unanimously (with one abstention) to the Board en bloc: Marc-Antoine Ramelet (Swiss National Bank), Martin Brown (Gerzensee), Berno Büchel (University of Fribourg), Jérémy Lucchetti (University of Geneva), and Lukas Schmid (University of Lucerne), all serving their first term. The General Assembly also mandated the President to engage a professional auditing firm for future financial audits, and the SSES expresses its sincere thanks to the outgoing and newly elected board members, the auditors, and all contributors for their commitment to the Society.

## Board

The Society's board was composed as follows from July 1, 2025:

Executive Committee:

- Prof. Dr. Kurt Schmidheiny, University of Basel (President)
- Prof. Dr. Dirk Niepelt, University of Bern (Past President)
- Prof. Dr. Marius Brühlhart, University of Lausanne (Editor-in-Chief)

Other Board Members:

- Prof. Dr. Hans Gersbach, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Martina Viarengo, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva
- Dr. Marc-Antoine Ramelet, Swiss National Bank
- Dr. Stefan Leist, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
- Prof. Dr. Martin Brown, Study Center Gerzensee
- Prof. Dr. Alois Stutzer, University of Basel
- Prof. Dr. Igor Letina, University of Bern
- Prof. Dr. Berno Büchel, University of Fribourg
- Prof. Dr. Jérémy Lucchetti, University of Geneva
- Prof. Dr. Sébastien Houde, University of Lausanne
- Prof. Dr. Lukas Schmid, University of Luzern
- Prof. Dr. Daniel Kaufmann, University of Neuchâtel
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Bühler, University of St. Gallen
- Prof. Dr. Mathias Hoffmann, University of Zürich
- Prof. Dr. Raphaël Parchet, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)
- Prof. Dr. Anthony Strittmatter, UniDistance Suisse

## Members

In 2025, the SSES had 398 members up from 391 paying members in 2024 (359 members in 2023, 324 members in 2022, 388 members in 2021, and 311 members in 2020).

## Upcoming Events and Activities

The 2026 Annual Congress will take place on 4 and 5 June at the University of St. Gallen. It is dedicated to the theme 'Industrial Organization and Policy'. The local organization is chaired by Stefan Bühler (Chair), Beatrix Eugster, and Samuel Häfner. The SSES will once again help organizing the Young Swiss Economists Meeting on 12 and 13 February 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 2026, the SSES will implement a new corporate identity with a new logo, launch a new website under the new domain name [www.sses.swiss](http://www.sses.swiss), move the journal's archive for the years 1864 to 1939 to E-Periodica, an online platform by the ETH Library, and find a new home for a permanent secretariat.