

Review of the networking meeting 16 May 2020

Almost 25 event organisers took part in the Skype-networking-meeting on 16 May and exchanged views on whether there is a will to organise a festival or a series of events throughout Switzerland under a common label.

Given that the Swiss Philosophical Society and most of the philosophical institutes of the universities also support the project, most of the private participants also expressed their positive and motivated opinions. All participants as well as all those organizations that were not present on 16.05.20 are invited to fill out the online survey at <https://www.philosophie.ch/festival> by the end of June at the latest and to discuss their ideas with each other there. On 13 June 2020, a Skype networking meeting will take place again, which will focus on the groups in the French-speaking part of Switzerland and will deal with the same topics as the meeting on 16 May.

At the opening of the meeting, Anja Leser (Philosophie.ch management) as well as Dr. Ilaria Fornacciari (Head of the Italian section) and Emilie Bretton (Event Management) presented the general goals of Philosophie.ch as a platform: „We are driven by the motivation to make philosophy better known in society. As a result of this, we attach great importance to presenting the academic philosophy. As an online portal we serve as a communication channel for people interested in philosophy. The criterion for all entries on the portal is therefore – quite simple: A professional philosopher must be involved. One of our goals is to give equal consideration to all participants. We try to emphasize that such a small community should always be about cooperation than competition. And this brought us to the question - and this is the question we are now asking everyone involved in the meeting today - why not organise a joint event?

Goals of Philosophie.ch

- Networking across switzerland
- Cooperation instead of Competition
- Potential of already built up structures on philosophie.ch.

Benefits of joint activities

From our point of view it makes sense to organise something together and if possible nationwide. In the foreground is that every local actor can present himself. The "nationwide framework" thus serves to draw more attention to the philosophy. All participants should benefit from this framework as an advertising channel. Our idea would be to use the portal as an umbrella organisation. It goes without saying that we can only accomplish this task if the community assigns it to us. And therefore we pursue a **participatory approach**. What does that mean? Neither the format, nor the theme, nor the title, nor the time of the joint event have been determined yet. In order that the event can actually be realized in a way that benefits the participants, the discussion is hereby opened. Since not everyone present at the meeting may be able to give their input on all points today, we have created an online survey. You are cordially invited, as well as all other organizations that are not present today, to make your voice heard. We will send the evaluation together with a basic concept to everyone in two months time. We have sorted the survey by: Aim, Format, Content, Planning and an open discussion.“

Discussion review: General part

The statements given here are not literal, but try to give a picture of the course of the discussion.

If you find that you have not been presented in the correct sense, please forward this to anja.leser@philosophie.ch for correction. Thank you for your understanding.

Zürcher Philosophie Festival, U. Siegfried: From my point of view, a joint action would help and strengthen everyone and not be a competition to the existing offer. However, one would have to be careful to ensure that this does not happen. So from our point of view it would not be welcome if the label "festival" were to be used.

Basler Philosophietage, M. Schibler: The next Philosophy Days are planned for the end of 2021 and are thematically located in the field of political philosophy. For me, it would be relevant to discuss how philosophy should be presented and if different actors work together, yet all of them can do so "with their own touch".

Swiss Association of Teachers of Philosophy in Secondary Schools (VSPM), J. Pfister: Such a round table as is taking place in the context of this meeting is, in my view, most welcome. Teachers are certainly interested in participating and in using the opportunity with the pupils. It is questionable for me how a sense of community can be created when all events take place at different times and places.

Lange Nacht der Philosophie Zürich, M. Hofer: Conceptually, a common roof with events throughout Switzerland would be very similar to the way the Long Night works and takes place on World Philosophy Day. It would be a pity if there were a danger of confusion and the national festival would also take place on World Philosophy Day.

Philopraxis.ch, D. Staude: Maybe there would also be the possibility to organize a festival which would be at a different location every year? Either way, everyone knows from experience that for a festival to take place, there must be highly committed local people.

Doctoral student UZH, A. Schwaninger: Which would also be very welcome if the festival would allow doctoral students to meet and exchange ideas in Switzerland. Unfortunately, this has so far hardly ever happened on a larger scale, which is also open to the public and shows the topics on which the researchers are working.

Philosophische Praxis ZIPPRA, W. Fillinger: If we are aiming for "big publicity", it makes sense in my view to consider whether there are other ways, such as a festival, to achieve this and possibly trigger more lasting effects than a festival can.

Swiss Philosophical Society (SPG), G. Bernegger: That is a very interesting input. So this question certainly arises because of multilingualism: what are the ways of overcoming language barriers? What about a "Tour de Suisse", for example, where the same lectures are held in different places and where people can exchange the same content online? It would be great if we could do "something new" that has never been seen before as a format.

ThiK Theater im Kornhaus, R. Wiederkehr: We start our events in September, which are usually on Sunday. These could easily be integrated under a common roof, which we find very desirable.

Discussion review: Brainstorming

The comments given here are not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to give a picture of the course of the discussion. Thank you for your understanding.

- It would be possible to show what already exists and to strengthen this by a common roof. In this way the thematic breadth of philosophy could also be preserved.
- How can we make more use of our synergies? If everyone is working on one topic at different places, it is not much use. After all, it's all about exchange.
- Do we need common goals to become clearer about what we want to do?
- One of the main goals is to draw attention to the philosophy. In this way local players can benefit and the public is made aware of the other offers in Switzerland. In this way the organisations can also be linked.
- Visibility & Connectedness
- Is there an urgency to work on a specific topic?
- The Challenge is the connecting element between the events. If there is no common theme and no common location: how can a strong cohesion be presented?
- A coordination without (thematic) restriction would be desirable, as a common theme could be limiting.
- What is needed to motivate everyone? The common objective is therefore an important topic.

At the end of the discussion, Anja Leser once again refers readers to the online survey, which is supplemented by the question about the common objective. Before thanking everyone involved for their great interest and motivation, the forthcoming data and further procedure are communicated:



Lookout

First results of the discussion online at the end of may on philosophie.ch/festival

- Meeting Romandie june 13th.
- Online survey until june 30th.
- Decision and basic concept july 15th.
- Onlinediscussion basic concept until august 15th.

- Concept presentation: **Next Meeting** august 30th in Bern from 14.00h – 16.30h.