

English version of our article in the “Bündner Woche”, December 16, 2020

Research in Graubünden

The Academia Raetica pools its resources

The voice of science in Graubünden since 2009

The Academia Raetica is the association of the sciences in the canton of Graubünden. It was founded in 2006 and represents over twenty member organizations, namely research institutes, universities and clinics, some of which have been active in research for over 100 years. The Academia Raetica connects and supports its members in collaboration projects among each other as well as with research institutions outside the canton. It interacts with cantonal offices and promotes dialogue between the various disciplines. It also informs the public and politicians about the social and economic importance of research in the canton. Today, Academia Raetica also supports the government in implementing its university, research and innovation strategies. Since 2009, it has been reporting monthly on research in Graubünden in the Bündner Woche.

The integration of the Graduate School Graubünden, founded in 2014, into Academia Raetica as of January 2021 will sharpen the profile of Academia Raetica and enable it to deploy its resources more effectively. Professor Walter Reinhart, former head physician at the Cantonal Hospital and founding member of Academia Raetica, was instrumental in this consolidation process. In June 2020, Britta Allgöwer, who lives in Davos and holds a doctorate in agronomy from the ETH, was elected as the new President of Academia Raetica. The former director of the Museum of Nature Lucerne, member of the Cultural Commission of the Grisons and president of the Naturforschende Gesellschaft Graubünden (Nature Research Society of the Grisons) replaces Stefan Engler, member of the Council of States, who remains associated with the society as a member of the board.



*Walter Reinhart, Britta Allgöwer, Member of the Government
Jon Domenic Parolini and Council of States Stefan Engler at
the annual meeting of the Academia Raetica.*

Duri Bezzola, Managing Director of the Academia Raetica and the Graduate School Graubünden, will pass on his function on April 1, 2021, to Barbara Haller Rupf, former project manager at the Lucerne School of Tourism HFT. He is going to devote himself to private interests and projects in the future. The former Graubünden Grand Councilor is optimistic about the future: “The 2021-2024 performance mandate already received from the government enables us to continue to develop services for the research location Graubünden. Three specific projects of the canton are

worth mentioning: The new university center in Chur and the two new ‘research beacons’ in Davos, namely the ‘Swiss Center for Immunology (SZIRM) and Regenerative Medicine’, which is in the planning stage, and the

‘Climate Change and Extremes Research Center (CERC)’.” From January 2021 onwards, the CERC, which will be located at the SLF in Davos, will research social and economic questions regarding climate change, extreme events and natural hazards in mountain regions.

However, these initiatives do not extend far enough for Bezzola: “In the future, I would also like to see the cantonal administration in Graubünden succeeding even better in combining the efforts of the two offices responsible for the sciences: the Office for Higher Education and the Office for Economy and Tourism.

Finally, I expect that closer cooperation between the canton and the Academia Raetica network will lead to an effective integrated education, research and innovation strategy for Graubünden (IBFI) in the coming years. My hope as the departing managing director is that the sciences will continue to develop into a major pillar of the economy in this region and that the scientific community in Graubünden will gain greater influence beyond the borders of the canton.”

Article written by Duri Bezzola and Daniela Heinen

Find out more about research in Graubünden: www.academiaaetica.ch.



Duri Bezzola