

VITA

Dr. Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach



Born 1944 in Quarten, Switzerland.

Dr. phil I after Studies of Sociology, Economy, and Social Psychology at the University of Zurich.

Dr. Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach is President of the World Society Foundation Zurich (since 2003) and Director of WORLD_DRIVES association (Center of Competence for Practice and Social Research).

Professional activities and research

Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach's professional curriculum can be summarized in four periods and competences that are of essential relevance for the management of projects.

I Sociology of culture, regional and community research. After the studies and a postgraduate grant in Poland he initiated and directed research projects on images of society, symbolic processes and cultural transformations in Switzerland (funded by the SNF). These focused on the change and continuities of images of Switzerland; functions and determinants of regional identities; diversity and similarities in cultural behavior of the Swiss population (linked with the Swiss Microcensus). On this background, and stimulated by international contacts, he developed a sociology of culture that served as a guideline for further projects, which included the socio-economic and structural dimensions of developments. The following research focused on more practical topics, such as community- and

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regional problems, developments and the transformation of both urban areas as well as peripheral regions.

II Research and institution building. In the 1980ies, Meier-Dallach founded the research institute „cultur prospectiv“ in Zurich. In this context, he managed a series of research projects dealing with a broad variety topics, including tourism and leisure traffic, environmental problems, regional and urban development, technology assessment, sociology of risks, social integration and learning, innovations in enterprises.

III Research management of international networks. At the beginning of the 1990ies, the range of projects and management experiences became international. Profiting from his experiences with extensive empirical projects that included different disciplines and institutions in Switzerland, Meier-Dallach initiated and directed international network projects in Western Europe, mainly the COST-project on „New Technologies and Rural Development“ (a research cooperation between Swiss, Danish and Norwegian groups promoted by the Swiss Office for Education and Science). Other international projects include a comparative analysis of social risks (in cooperation with German universities and the German Ministry of Health) and a comparison of tourist developments in peripheral regions in Germany and Switzerland (promoted by the German Ministry for Education and Science).

Immediately after the opening of the borders (1990), Meier-Dallach initiated and managed several international projects with researchers from Eastern Europe. These projects included the „Evaluation of international humanitarian aid in the region of Chernobyl“, a mandate of the Swiss Corps for Help in Catastrophes (SKH), as well as the organization of the first Warsaw Conference on “Global Society and Eastern European Development”(1992) with groups from Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Lithuania, Hungary, and Slovenia (funded by the World Society Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation). They were followed by the second Warsaw Conference on “Post-socialist Transformations and Civic Society”(1996), the conceptual elaboration and management of the “Politics and Media Forum 96 – Civic Journalism” and the organization of the first and second Swiss-Polish Conference (a mandate of the Swiss Foreign Office, EDA).

Later on, Meier-Dallach initiated and coordinated an INTAS-project on “Regions in the Ukraine: Dynamics, Movements and Politics” with the Sociological Institute of the University of Kiev and the Humboldt University in Berlin (funded by INTAS, Brussels) as well as the INTAS-network project “The Role of Regions in Transforming Postcommunist Countries. The Cases of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine Compared” with groups from Belarus, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Germany. A SCOPES project was successfully finalized “How Georgians view Democracy?” carried out with the Georgian partner of the network (2004). Within the framework of these projects he cooperated in two

actions for the SDC in the Change management projects in communities of Serbia. A further INTAS network project (LOCLAB) including six Eastern European countries into cases studies about the role of local labour markets on civil trends will start March 05. Since 2004 the international network has been enlarged by partners from Africa, China, Latin America, Caucasus and states of Central Asia. Currently Meier-Dallach initiated a network project with 16 partners; it is submitted as an integrating and collaborative EU-FP7 project under „looking_upwards: Global economic governance facing labour and poverty in regions of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Africa, China and Latin America“. In the planned case studies the relation between poverty, the local survival economies coping with it, and the development of local economic potentials, for instance tourism, is crucial.

IV Institutionalisation of the international networks by WORLD_DRIVES.

In the last years the initiative of the World Society Foundation to create a Center of Competence with international network partners was prepared and realized by Meier-Dallach together with other partners. The concept focuses practical issues in different places of the global society in order to promote substantially to the role of social sciences as creating practical knowledge and stimulating innovative measures. This perspective can profit from the 25 years long tradition of promoting general research on World Society, a knowledge data bank available as umbrella for all practical projects.

Publications

<http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/php/index.php?Publikationsliste>

Reference projects

<http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/php/index.php?referenceprojects>