



Prof. Dr. Thomas Zeltner has been Professor of Public Health at the University of Berne and is a Visiting Scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health (Boston) since 1992. He serves as Deputy Chair of the University Council of the Medical University of Vienna (Austria).

Zeltner is currently advising the Swiss Government in the Covid-19 crisis, particularly on providing Covid-19 vaccines to the Swiss population as well as populations in other countries.

He is the founder and first chairman of the WHO Foundation established in Geneva in Mai 2020. The WHO Foundation is a grantmaking organization with the objective of addressing the most pressing global health challenges of tomorrow by raising significant new funding for WHO from non-traditional sources. He is the President of the UNESCO-Commission of Switzerland. From 1991 to 2009 Thomas Zeltner has been the Director-General of the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland, the National Health and Public Health Authority, and Secretary of State for Health of Switzerland.

« Independent scientific advice to policy makers. Before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis»

The Swiss Experience

The challenge for policy makers consists in mastering different processes in parallel:

- Having the needed knowledge at hand and understanding its relevance for the decision making.
- Mastering the political processes needed to build acceptance for the implementation of the respective decision.
- Proving convincing leadership in an environment of conflicting values and distrust.

Because, ...no matter what the evidence base is, the policies that are selected need to be understood and adopted by citizens, which means that those providing the evidence need to be trusted... (OECD, 2020).

This presentation looks from a policy maker's perspective on

- how the interaction of the scientific community with national policy makers was designed in Switzerland before the Covid-19 crisis,
- how and why these structures failed and needed to be replaced in a hurry,
- what (first) lessons can be drawn for the future.

Join the lecture on Thursday, 14 January 2021 at 4:00 pm online on zoom!

Join the lecture on zoom:

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/91894834378?pwd=V2lPVs9mQllaL3hQVXpGbUhc3FMQT09>

(Meeting ID: 918 9483 4378, Passcode: 159752)