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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Marco Vencato was born in Liestal, where he also grew up. He studied history and Italian linguistics and literature in Basel, Strasbourg and Zurich, also completing the transdisciplinary study programme «Mensch – Gesellschaft – Umwelt». His doctoral studies took him to Naples and to the Istituto Svizzero in Rome. After obtaining his PhD, he was appointed assistant lecturer under Professor Achatz von Müller at Basel University's Department of History. He also participated on behalf of Basel University in the CLIOHRES Network of Excellence under the 6th EU Research Framework Programme.

From 2009 to 2016, Marco Vencato served as scientific advisor to the Swiss Science and Innovation Council. In this role he was responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of major projects and worked on numerous science policy topics («Encouraging Young Scholars», «The Constellation of Actors in the ERI Sector», «A Broad Understanding of Innovation», etc.). His remit also covered the evaluation of national research bodies such as the technology competence centre inspire AG and the Swiss National Science Foundation as well as overseeing the Science Council's external communications and its publications.

FUNCTION AND CURRENT MAIN PRIORITIES

Marco Vencato works in the operational area of the foundation's activities and supports the Board of Trustees with strategic issues in selected areas. He manages the Foundation's specific funding programmes, advises applicants and supports ongoing funding projects in the Foundation's relevant areas of activity.

Within the strategic funding cluster, he is primarily responsible for managing the programme «[First Ventures](#)» and «[Scientainment](#)». In this role, he supports young start-up founders at universities of applied sciences and supervises innovative projects in the fields of science communication and journalism. His responsibilities include the further development of these funding programmes as well as the launch of new initiatives in accordance with the Foundation Board. He also supports a wide range of innovation projects throughout Switzerland. At a strategic level, he is responsible for positioning the Foundation as a funding agency.