



Topics

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Dear Sir or Madam

Welcome to our December newsflash with the following news:

- Results of the Swiss Skills Shortage Index 2019
- Highly informative web-documentary on occupational dust exposure
- Solutions and new problems on the horizon for the plastic pollution problem
- Nanobionics used to create an unsinkable metal
- Trust in science and research remains high in Switzerland

Enjoy the reading and kind regards,

The Innovation Society, St.Gallen

Shortage of skilled workers in technical professions further exacerbated

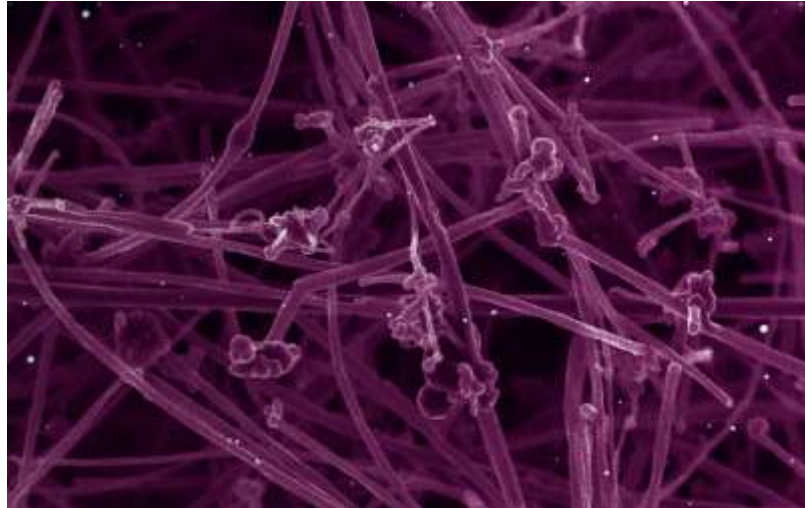


Since the first installment of the Swiss Skills Shortage Index in 2016, this measure has trended in the same direction: upwards. Engineering and technical occupations in particular are most affected by a shortage of skilled workers in Switzerland. Large

differences can be seen between the regions analyzed, with German-speaking Switzerland being more affected than the French-speaking part.

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Occupational dust exposure



The Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) has published three web documentaries on the topic of "Workplaces of the Future" as part of the 2018 Year of Science. One of them deals with the possible dangers that can emanate from emerging materials - an extremely important and highly relevant topic.

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Plastic pollution: useful measures here, new concerns there



Plastics are a highly useful commodity but careless treatment of various products made from it is causing serious concerns for society and the environment. With a ban on plastic bags, the German government wants to drastically reduce their use. Elsewhere, a new topic is emerging - large amounts of fine rubber particles created by tire abrasion are accumulating in the environment.

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Nanobionics used to create unsinkable metal



The water spider *Argyroneta aquatica* weaves a fine web that gives it the ability of buoyancy. Inspired by this marvelous creature, researchers at University of Rochester have created an unsinkable metal.

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Trust in science and research remains high in Switzerland



The Swiss population's trust in science and research is high. The tool for measuring the people's pulse on science for 2019 shows that the population generally views the scientific community in a positive light and wants to be informed about ongoing research. The most important topic according to the survey is research on climate and energy.

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