Lightsources Meet Their Responsibility

Multi-disciplinary multi-user facilities such as synchrotron light sources, are intrinsically divers welcoming scientists from around the globe and from a variety of research. However, a look at the worldwide (science and education) landscape reveals a massive imbalance of possibilities. Inequality, poverty, social exclusion and lack of opportunity are strongly interlinked and have one cause in missing opportunities (from primary schools to universities). Research and education and an alignment of opportunities are the godparents of a peaceful future and a way to solve global challenges. However, low-and-medium-income-countries were basically excluded from knowledge circulation; most knowledge exchange takes place in the northern hemisphere, most all largescale facilities are located there, too. I would like to discuss three aspects with you:

1. Overcoming social and economic imbalances by research and higher education

Unfortunately, we still face a lack of equal opportunities around the globe, disintegration, national selfinterest, and in parts a breaking apart of international cooperation. Here I will try to illustrate how international collaboration can build bridges, with the mission of the advancement in science intermixed with a firm societal commitment.

2. Sustainability of cooperation

Personal contact is a key ingredient. A proactive offer to deliver information and the willingness to discuss and listen are only a starting point. Here I describe sustainability measures, like twinning programms, "Country of Honour" activities, internships and more.

3. IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Discrimination

Fighting any kind of discrimination is a prerequisite for successful cooperation. Although science is ruled by objectivity and rationality, discrimination still occurs (though mostly unmindfully). I will briefly discuss a toolbox of best practices addressing all dimensions of diversity.