editorial - Is there zoï\(^1\) at the time of the virus?

“Connectivity today looks to be a liability”, say experts in international politics discussing the future of the Belt and Road.\(^2\) Meanwhile the predatory virus may be burying for years not only the dream of a futuristic green investment belt linking Asia and Europe, but the stability and progress of the modern civilisation altogether as we know it. Future is uncertain. Yet for Zoï, which has “network” in its name, connectivity is bread and butter, a key tool and life’s meaning itself. Without being able to connect people to people, countries to countries, environmental problems to effective solutions, our life would become meaningless, and Zoï itself would become worthless.

This is something we certainly do not want and can not allow to happen. And the last year also saw adolescent Europe raising up to the climate challenge. We have seen sweeping success of green politics throughout the continent, including in Switzerland where Greens scored the highest in years. The European Green Deal\(^3\) emerged out of 2019 elections to the European Parliament, full of sunshine and fresh air for renewed Europe and its neighbours. Will we let the pandemic and its gloomy shadow of an economic depression threaten all of this?

Looking back at 2019 as the second warmest year and part of the warmest decade on record, WMO warns us that breaking new temperature records in the next few years is just a matter of time.\(^4\) But disrupting connectivity, the virus also disrupted traffic and industrial production, and – unexpectedly and for the first time in recent history – China and many other countries have seen clear skies. Horrible and lethal as it is, the global epidemics thus also showed that pollution is not an inevitable part of human life. We are confident that the civilisation will prevail, connectivity will be restored and strengthened, and Zoï will go on helping make the Earth greener and bluer.

Inshallah,\(^5\) as our colleagues in Afghanistan and other places like to caution.

Nickolaï Denisov, Deputy Director

---

1. Life, from Greek ζωή
5. If Allah wills it, from Arabic لله ما رزقان.
financial statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>operating revenues</td>
<td>1'097'966</td>
<td>1'441'364</td>
<td>1'392'613</td>
<td>1'405'190</td>
<td>1'564'016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project work in progress</td>
<td>-88'239</td>
<td>7'208</td>
<td>162'165</td>
<td>82'752</td>
<td>-121'518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>operating expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project expenses</td>
<td>460'998</td>
<td>642'670</td>
<td>459'123</td>
<td>564'764</td>
<td>773'927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personnel costs</td>
<td>611'309</td>
<td>678'205</td>
<td>656'537</td>
<td>631'166</td>
<td>728'848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other operating expenses</td>
<td>113'897</td>
<td>113'281</td>
<td>114'788</td>
<td>126'508</td>
<td>182'759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As per Zoï’s environmental policy, an offset contribution was made via MyClimate.

**35 tonnes of CO₂**

Funding sources 2019:

- **World Bank** (UN, UNEP, UNECE, UNDP, BRS) 28%
- **EU/EEA** 23%
- **Switzerland** (SDC, FOEN) 18%
- **Others** (OSCE, CIFF, CAREC) 24%
- **Total 2019** 1'564'016 CHF

CO₂ emissions due to project-related air travel in 2019
alexmackey
innovation, human development and sustainability

beibei.gu
project development and management China

carole.bouverat
social media

carolyne.daniel
graphic design, data visualization and web design

christina.stuhlberger (Brussels)
film-making and creative communication

emmanuelle.bournay (Crest)
cartography, statistical analysis

firuza.illarionova (Riga, Nicosia, Dushanbe)
field and policy support Central Asia

geoff.hughes (Port Townsend)
edition, ghostwriting

julia.denisova (Kathmandu)
webmaster, social media

lesyanikolayeva
green development greater Europe

maria.libert (Stockholm)
illustrations, graphic design

mariannegemin
finance and administration

matthias.beilstein (Schaffhausen)
cartography

nickolaidenisov
deputy director, analysis, field and the EU

ninasaalismaa
global projects and production management

otto.simonett
director, creative thinking and leadership

viktor novikov
project development and management Central Asia

@zoiben
Susan Boos, president (Zürich)
editor, WOZ Die Wochenzeitung

Jörg Balsiger (Geneva)
professor, environmental governance and territorial development, University of Geneva

Yvan Rochat (Geneva)
mayor, municipality of Vernier

@zoiboard

zoï partners
associates

Aaron Wolf
water and conflict, Corvallis

Agnès Stienne
cartography, Le Mans

Aigerim Abdyzhaparova
BRI, climate, ecosystems, Moscow

Aksana Tarasenko
climate change and environmental information, Minsk

Aleh Cherp
sustainability and energy, Lund

Alexander Shekhovtsov
environmental information, Moscow

Alexander Usov
aquatic biology, Kyiv

Alexandra Sternin
graphic design, Konstanz

Altyn Balabayeva
state of the environment reporting, Nur-Sultan

Amangul Ovezberdyjeva
climate change and biodiversity, Ashgabat

Anvar Homidov
climate change, environment and hydrology, Dushanbe

Arevik Hovsepyan
water and climate, Yerevan

Carolyn Drake
photographer, Vallejo, California

Camille Jaillant
fashion designer Olistic the label, Paris

Christiaan Triebert
digital forensics, Amsterdam

Dmytro Averin
environmental information, Kyiv

Doug Weir
conflict and environment, Hebden Bridge

Eric Nanchen
sustainable mountain development, Sion

Ecaterina Meaicencu
climate services, Chisinau

Elena Kreuzberg
ecosystems, Ottawa

Eva Giolo
film and media art, Brussels

Fatima Akbari
environment and cooperation, Kabul

Fritz Kroiss
environmental information, Vienna

Gherman Bejenaru
hydrology and environmental information, Moldova

Gamal Soronkulov
local development, Chatkal

Hanna Hopko
environment and policy, Kyiv

Hansjörg Eberle
deminer, Geneva

Hermine Cooreman
web development, Ghent

Irina Bekmirzaeva
climate change, Almaty

Irina Kolchina
environmental information and reporting, Karaganda

Isacco Chiaf
interactive design, Brussels

Iskander Beglov
water communication, Tashkent

Jalil Abduwaili
geography and ecosystems, Urumqi

John Bennett
environmental journalism, New York

John Cole-Baker
mining, Trient

Joel Rabjins
animations, Ghent

Jonas Kaufmann
project effectiveness, Bad Homburg

Kanybek Isabaev
environmental information, Osh

Laszlo Pinter
environmental assessment and reporting, Budapest

Lidia Grom
agrometeorology, Tashkent

Lidia Treschilo
meteorology and climate change, Chisinau

Liz Losos
Belt and Road analysis, Durham NC

Ljubov Hertman
water and adaptation, Minsk

Lusine Taslakyan
environmental information, Yerevan

Mamuka Gyilava
environmental impact assessment, Tbilisi

Mamuka Khurtsidze
GIS entrepreneur, Tbilisi
Mazin Qumsiyeh
biodiversity and sustainability, Bethlehem

Maria Tarigradean
environmental information, Chisinau

Marina Denisova
copy-editing, Lancy

Mikhail Pencov
water resources and policy, Chisinau

Mikko Halonen
environment and mining, Helsinki

Mila Teshaiieva
photography, Berlin

Mohammad Hassouna
environmental engineer, Marseille

Mohammad Najajrah
entomology, Bethlehem

Monika Egger
effectiveness evaluation, Olten

Myriam Steinemann
climate change, Zürich

Nedal Katbeh-Bader
climate change, Ramallah

Neimatullo Safarov
biodiversity and biosafety, Dushanbe

Oleg Lystopad
media and communication, Kyiv

Oli Brown
Security and environment, Samoëns

Oxana Huliaieva
water ecology and hydropower, Kyiv

Pasi Rinne
innovative solutions for sustainability, Helsinki

Penny Langhammer
key biodiversity areas, Portland

Reena Saeed
molecular biology, Bethlehem

Richard Pearshouse
human rights, Geneva

Robert Bartram
editing, writing, Geneva

Roman Kashkarov
biodiversity, Tashkent

Ruslan Valitov
cartoonist, Bishkek

Sabah Nait
cooperation Middle East and Northern Africa, Vienna

Samual Gardaz
ocean mapping expedition, Geneva

Suzanne Weeks
strategy and coaching, Vevey

Susanna de Panfilis
physics, Geneva

Svein Tveitdal
climate change activist, Arendal-Froland

Talaibek Makeyev
climate change and water, Bishkek

Tamar Bakuradze
environmental information, Tbilisi

Tamara Kotonova
water, chemicals and information, Kyiv

Tamara Mitrofanenko
Intergenerational learning, Vienna

Vadim Vinichenko
sustainability and translation, Moscow – Budapest

Vafadar Ismaiyilov
environmental information, Baku

Vahagn Tonoyan
water management, Yerevan

Vicken Cheterian
research and journalism, Geneva

Vera Mustafina
waste management, Almaty

Vlad Sibagatulim
cartography and GIS, Bishkek

Vladimir Korneev
hydrology and flow modelling, Minsk

Wim Zwijnenburg
environment and peace, Utrecht

Yaroslav Tartykov
design, Bishkek

Yurik Poghosyan
environmental information, Yerevan

Yury Nabivanets
hydrometeorology and climate change, Kyiv

Yusup Kamalov
local development, Nukus

Zhansos Kamenov
information technology, Nur-Sultan

Zurab Jinchadzade
Caucasus environment, Tbilisi
Several years ago Zoï gave birth to a non-profit association with a similar name created in Brussels, Belgium. Zoï EU shares the same values and purpose as its mother organisation, and strives to bring its expertise to partners within the vast economic space of the European Union. Zoï EU has already supported the consortium of the EU Water Initiative Plus project, thus helping EU’s Eastern neighbours efficiently manage their waters through better monitoring, planning and policies. The association will continue looking for opportunities to provide EU clients with innovative analysis, capacity building, creative communication – and not least access to its vast geographical network.