



## **Mission Statement of the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development at the University of Zurich**

### **1. Identity**

The Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development is a research center at the University of Zurich. It is jointly funded by the university and the Jacobs Foundation. Our mission is cutting-edge research on the interplay among biological, psychological, social, and economic factors as they influence children's and adolescents' development.

### **2. Aim**

We are committed to improving the lives of young people on the individual, the institutional, and the societal level so that they become socially engaged, contributing members of society.

### **3. Interdisciplinarity**

We are committed to an interdisciplinary approach involving exchanges among sociologists, psychologists, neuroscientists and economists at the Center, as well among our Research Partners in many disciplines. We foster open dialogue while respecting the unique commitments of each discipline.

### **4. Research Strategy**

We cover the whole life-span from the prenatal phase to adulthood with a strong emphasis on early childhood and adolescence. Large-scale assessments and multi-modal longitudinal studies are used to better understand the possibilities leading to sustainable productive development. We strive to uphold the highest quality in all aspects of our research activities. To maintain professional standards, we regularly monitor and evaluate our performance.

### **5. Signature Project**

In addition to numerous individual research projects, we focus on a signature research project that integrates diverse perspectives and scientists. This project is our joint effort to improve the lives of young people, with a special focus on

- Strengthening “parents as partners” in learning
- Organizing diversity to promote everyone's success
- Managing stress to foster learning
- Helping students become citizens
- Encouraging all students to reach their potential

### **6. Home of Long-term Longitudinal Studies**

Historically, we have hosted two flagship longitudinal studies on childhood and adolescence in Switzerland: COCON: The Swiss Survey on Children and Youth, and the Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso).

### **7. International Research Hub**

To broaden our research horizons and foster the exchange of data, we serve as an international research hub for outstanding scholars from other research centers throughout the world.



### **8. Diversity**

We ensure equal opportunity for women and men and support the principle of non-discrimination in all areas. All staff members are encouraged to act in an ethically responsible manner.

### **9. Governance**

We endeavor to achieve a spirit of shared responsibilities and self-management when pursuing our goals. We foster the intellectual, professional, and personal development of our staff. Our Governance is based on principles of participation, transparency, and balanced interests.

### **10. Training of Young Scholars**

We emphasize the promotion of young scholars through research seminars, summer schools, interdisciplinary workshops, scientific conferences, visiting scholar programs, and interdisciplinary PhD-programs.

### **11. Visibility**

We share our research with the international scholarly community as well as with the broader public and with political decision-makers through publications, public lectures, and workshops open to the public.

### **12. Vision**

We engage in scientific discovery, pushing boundaries in the study of youth, and applying the latest scientific understandings to improving the world of youth and their futures.