

La Mobilière Lectures Series

Research Project P3: "Policies and corporate strategies strengthening the sustainable economic and social competitiveness of Switzerland"

**October 29th, 2024, 2pm -3.30pm
FSES, Pérolles 90, room E230**

Invited speaker:

Petyo Bonev*

Title of the talk:

**Agricultural subsidies, farmers coordination of conservation efforts,
and biodiversity**

Moderator:

Prof. Dr. Martin Huber

Abstract: We study the effect of an agricultural conservation policy on biodiversity in Switzerland. The policy aims at coordinating farmers conservation efforts and grants them a subsidy if they create spatially contiguous protected areas. We assemble a unique geo-referenced dataset that links information on farms' structure and policy participation to a rich biodiversity dataset that spans over a century and contains more than 100,000 of species observations. The data allows us to observe hundreds of regional coordination games. Using the staggered policy introduction across regions as a source of identifying variation, we find that the policy substantially improved coordination and increased biodiversity up to 55%.

**Dr. Petyo Bonev is Head of the research group "Managerial Economics in Agriculture" at Agroscope, Adjunct Professor of Economics and Econometrics at the University of St. Gallen, and a member of the Economic Council of the Republic of Bulgaria.*