



Research funding partnership

Cooperation between the SNSF and CTI



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA
Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI
Innovation Promotion Agency

Cooperation between the SNSF and CTI

Public funding of research in Switzerland is mainly conducted by two institutions:

- The *Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)* is Switzerland's leading institution for scientific research funding (see www.snf.ch). Established in 1952 as a foundation under private law, the SNSF has the autonomy it needs to promote independent scientific research. The aim is to select the most promising projects in each discipline by means of a stringent evaluation process. Federal funds amounting to approximately 700 million Swiss francs are available to the SNSF annually for research funding purposes.
- The *Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)* is the federal government's funding agency for research-based innovation. Its aim is to support innovation through financial means and provide advice and networking assistance so that scientific research can be transformed into economic output (see www.kti.admin.ch). For almost 70 years, the CTI has supported projects undertaken collaboratively by public research institutions, companies, public bodies and non-profit organisations. Every year, the CTI receives around CHF 130 million in federal funding.

The two funding institutions have different, complementary *core tasks* and *purposes*:



SNSF core tasks	CTI core tasks
The SNSF funds scientific research focused on the acquisition of scientific knowledge that does not directly serve commercial purposes; it does so primarily by supporting individual projects of basic or use-inspired research.	The CTI funds applied and market-oriented projects. It supports academic researchers who wish to work with companies to develop their research results into marketable products and services.
The SNSF specifically supports young researchers and thus substantially contributes to securing the next generation of academics for universities, industry and society.	The CTI offers training modules and coachings for up-and-coming entrepreneurs to transform promising ideas into successful companies.
The SNSF runs the solution-driven National Research Programmes (NRPs) which focus on topics determined by the Federal Council and the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs), which have a structural orientation.	The CTI offers Swiss entrepreneurs quick and simple access to the know-how of higher education institutions and to international funding opportunities for use-inspired research.
Purpose Strengthening the Swiss research community	Purpose Strengthening Switzerland as an innovation centre

Current fields and forms of cooperation

In overlapping areas, the CTI and the SNSF synchronise their strategies and define joint activities. Examples of current fields and forms of cooperation are:



Bringing attention to the funding opportunities offered by the partner organisation

The SNSF encourages researchers to submit applications with clear industrial exploitation potential to the CTI. Similarly, the CTI refers applicants whose applications focus primarily on expanding scientific knowledge to the funding opportunities offered by the SNSF.

Cooperation in funding use-inspired basic research

As regards use-inspired basic research, the CTI and the SNSF systematically exchange information to guarantee an optimum transition from one funding scheme to the other. In certain fields, the SNSF invites CTI experts to assist in evaluating proposals.

Cooperation in NRPs - CTI projects and start-up companies from NCCRs

The SNSF can organise National Research Programmes (NRPs) with a strong industrial or applied focus as “cooperation programmes” in close collaboration with the CTI. Initially, projects that focus on basic research are funded by the SNSF. At a later stage, research with great application potential is gradually transferred to the CTI, where it receives further funding. Current cooperation programmes are NRP 62 “Intelligent Materials”, NRP 66 “Resource Wood” and NRP 69 “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production”.

Since their launch in 2001, National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) have led to more than 110 CTI projects. In addition, the more than 65 NCCR start-up companies set up so far can all submit proposals to the CTI.





Joint responsibility for knowledge and technology transfer (KTT) from NRPs and NCCRs

Knowledge and technology transfer (KTT) is an integral part of every National Research Programme (NRP) and National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR). The CTI is permanently represented in the respective SNSF divisions responsible for decision-making processes regarding NRPs and NCCRs. This creates the basis for KTT that may ultimately lead to the implementation of new applications, or even to new start-up companies.

International: representation of common interests and regular exchange

Since 2007, the CTI has been working with SwissCore, the SNSF's liaison office in Brussels, which represents Swiss interests in the area of education, research and innovation policy at the EU. In the area of European research cooperations, the SNSF and the CTI are regularly in touch regarding participation in EU schemes.

Joint conferences and public events

The SNSF and the CTI jointly organise KTT conferences for research bodies, universities and industry. In addition, the CTI participates in the SNSF's "Research Day" at Swiss universities.



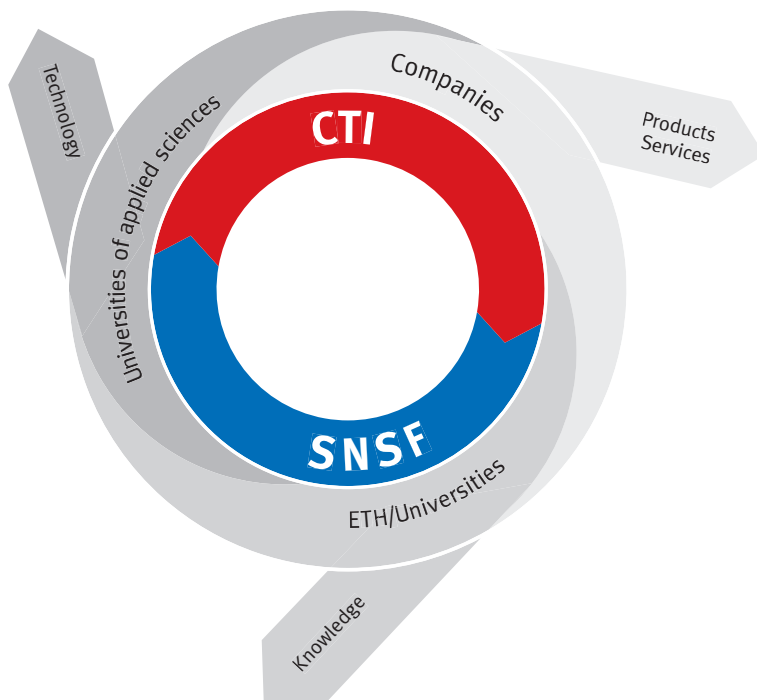
Joint media training for researchers

The SNSF and the CTI jointly offer media training for researchers. The researchers learn how to deal with the (mass) media and present their work effectively to the public.



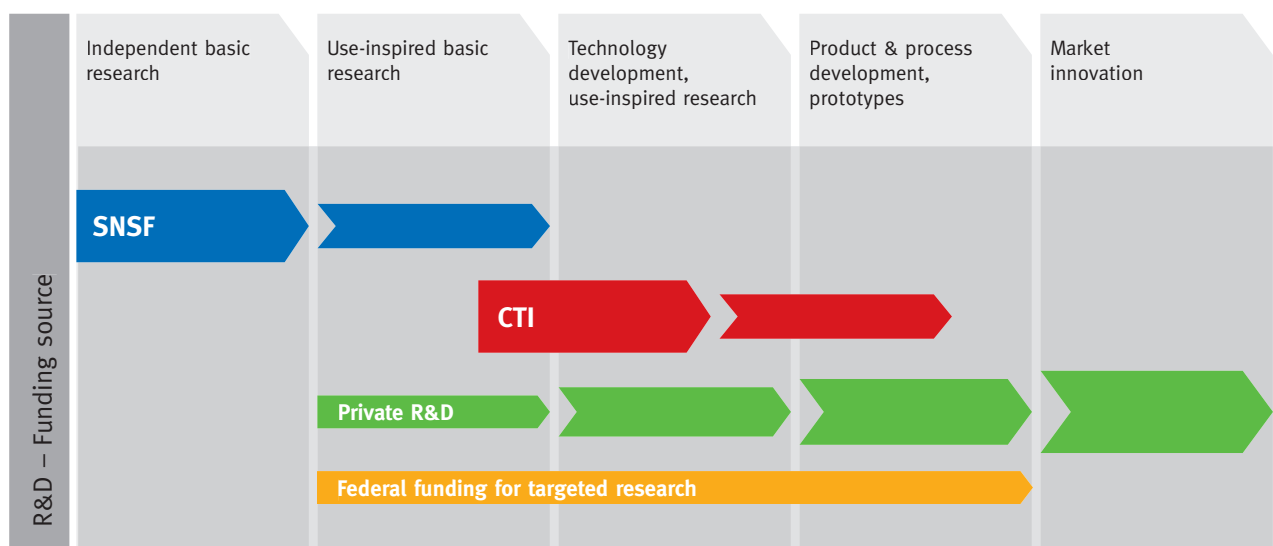
Partners in the innovation process

The SNSF and the CTI are important institutional partners and drivers of the innovation process spawned by research in Switzerland:



Partners in project funding

The SNSF and the CTI dovetail their services in *project funding*:



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