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Research projects in law

The SNSF finances research projects in law. Interest in the results of these projects is not limited to the legal community. They are relevant and useful also for wider circles within politics, the economy and society at large. It is therefore all the more important that scientific output from these projects is available to all free of charge and without any restrictions, i.e. in an open access format. In the following, the SNSF answers **questions about the funding requirements for research applications in law**.

General requirements

- The SNSF awards funding for research that addresses a scientifically relevant, topical and original subject. In addition, the project design must include methods that are conducive to answering the research question (**quality of the project**).
- The applicant must be sufficiently experienced and have the expertise needed to carry out the project (**applicant's qualifications**).

Law research projects

- If a research project in the area of law consists of legal commentary, the project can only be deemed **original** if the research question goes beyond a mere representation of the prevailing legal situation. The project must generate **scientific knowledge** - an outcome that can be considered likely if fundamental and legal questions are studied using an approach that is well-founded, critical and complex, and/or if the research involves legal comparison and interdisciplinarity.
- Projects worthy of funding generally offer opportunities for achieving **academic degrees** (dissertations, postdoc qualifications).
- The **research output** from such projects typically consists of scientific **articles and monographs** that are published in accordance with the SNSF's **open access** policy.
- The current open access policy of the SNSF allows for output initially published in open access format to **subsequently be published as part of a commentary**.
- If the output from a project is **directly published in a work of legal commentary**, it can only be funded by the SNSF if the commentary is made available in an **open access** version.