All of these projects underwent a stringent evaluation process, during which they were rated and compared with rival projects. This competitive procedure plays an important role in raising the quality of Swiss research and in maintaining its leading position in the international arena.

New drugs, materials and technologies as well as demographic and societal facts are the result of scientific research. By supporting scientific research, the SNSF creates an environment of innovation, quality of life and social development. In terms of knowledge and technology transfer, the SNSF works closely with market-oriented Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency.

Together with higher education institutions and other partners, the SNSF works towards creating the best possible conditions for the development of research. One of its main goals is providing support for young scientists.

International cooperation is of vital importance for Swiss research. At year-end 2019, the SNSF was funding 2,000 international projects and fellowships abroad. And in many other SNSF projects, researchers are maintaining dialogue with colleagues in other countries.

The SNSF was established as a private foundation in 1952. It promotes scientific research under a government mandate. The Swiss parliament has allocated approximately 4 billion francs to the SNSF for the 2017–2020 period.

In project funding, researchers determine the nature and topic of their research project independently. This allows them to pursue innovative ideas.

The SNSF complements the research promotion activities of the higher education institutions by providing career funding for young researchers. It has funding schemes for all career phases, from doctoral student to assistant professor.

In programme funding, some basic parameters are pre-defined. The most important programmes are the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) and the National Research Programmes (NRPs). NCCRs strengthen the competitiveness of Swiss research in strategically important areas (robotics, molecular basis of diseases, etc.). The NRPs are conducted on behalf of the Federal Council. They address problems of national importance, such as the use of wood, soil and energy. Other programmes focus on joint projects, clinical research and international collaboration.
Research output 2015–2019

Scientific publications

- **39,284**
  - Open access: 20,640
  - Other forms of open access: 3,687
  - Restricted access: 15,087

Knowledge transfer events

- **6,809**
  - Talks: 51.3%
  - Workshops: 13.6%
  - Poster: 2.5%

Research collaborations

- **39,896**
  - Europe: 62.7%
  - Americas: 17.5%
  - Asia: 6.1%
  - Oceania: 1.8%
  - Africa: 1.5%

Use-inspired outputs

- **1,217**
  - Expert/reviewer activity: 46.4%
  - Other: 25.9%
  - Software: 13.7%
  - Patents: 6.6%

Ongoing projects 2019

Researchers in projects by age and gender

- **5,750** Researchers involved
- **39%** Women
- **70%** Men

Ongoing SNSF projects

- **18,900** Researchers involved
- **3,506** Approved funds in CHF million

Funding approved in 2019

By institution and discipline

- **37%** Universities (incl. university hospitals)
- **18%** ETH Domain
- **10%** Universities of applied sciences
- **7%** Science communication

By funding category

- **37%** Science communication
- **26%** Universities of teacher education
- **26%** Universities (incl. university hospitals)

Approved funds

- **1,056** Supplementary grants and measures
- **3,365** Approved applications

Detailed interactive key figures: data.snsf.ch