

Swiss National Science Foundation
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The nature of work in the post-industrial world, prolonged austerity and an aging population pose a threat to the welfare state. Silja Häusermann, political scientist at the University of Zurich, is investigating conflicts over distribution in Switzerland and Europe. The aim is to devise reforms based on solidarity that are capable of winning a majority.

Image: SNSF/BM PHOTOS,
Stéphanie Borcard
and Nicolas Métraux

SNSF in brief

FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Research creates knowledge

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is Switzerland's foremost research funding institution. Around 3,400 new projects were funded in 2019.

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.

We invest in researchers and their ideas. We promote and disseminate research, creating knowledge that is valuable to society, the economy and politics.

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.

The SNSF also funds **research infrastructures** as well as **communication** between researchers and between science and society.

Detailed information
→ www.snsf.ch

Interactive key figures
→ data.snsf.ch

Annual report "Profile 2019–2020"
→ www.snsf.ch/profile

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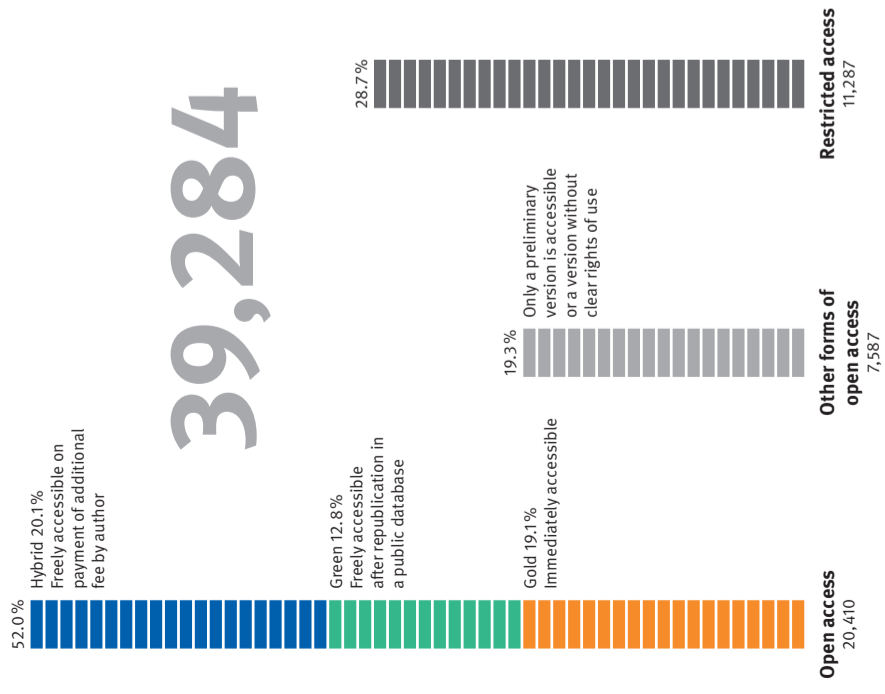


Under a government mandate

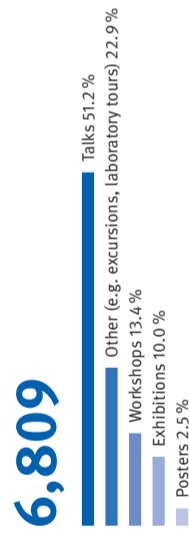
The SNSF was established as a private foundation in 1952. It promotes scientific research under a government mandate. The Swiss parliament has allocated approximately 4 billion francs to the SNSF for the 2017–2020 period.

Research output 2015–2019

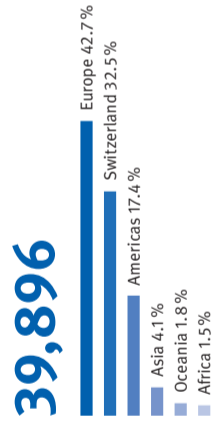
Scientific publications



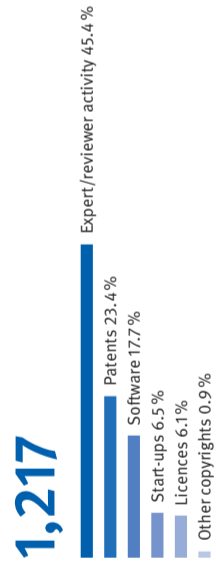
Knowledge transfer events



Research collaborations

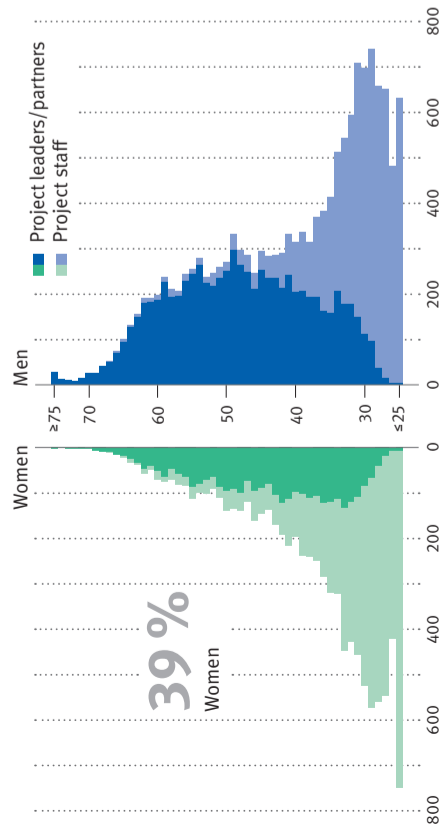


Use-inspired outputs



Ongoing projects 2019

Researchers in projects by age and gender



Ongoing SNSF projects

5,750

Researchers involved

18,900

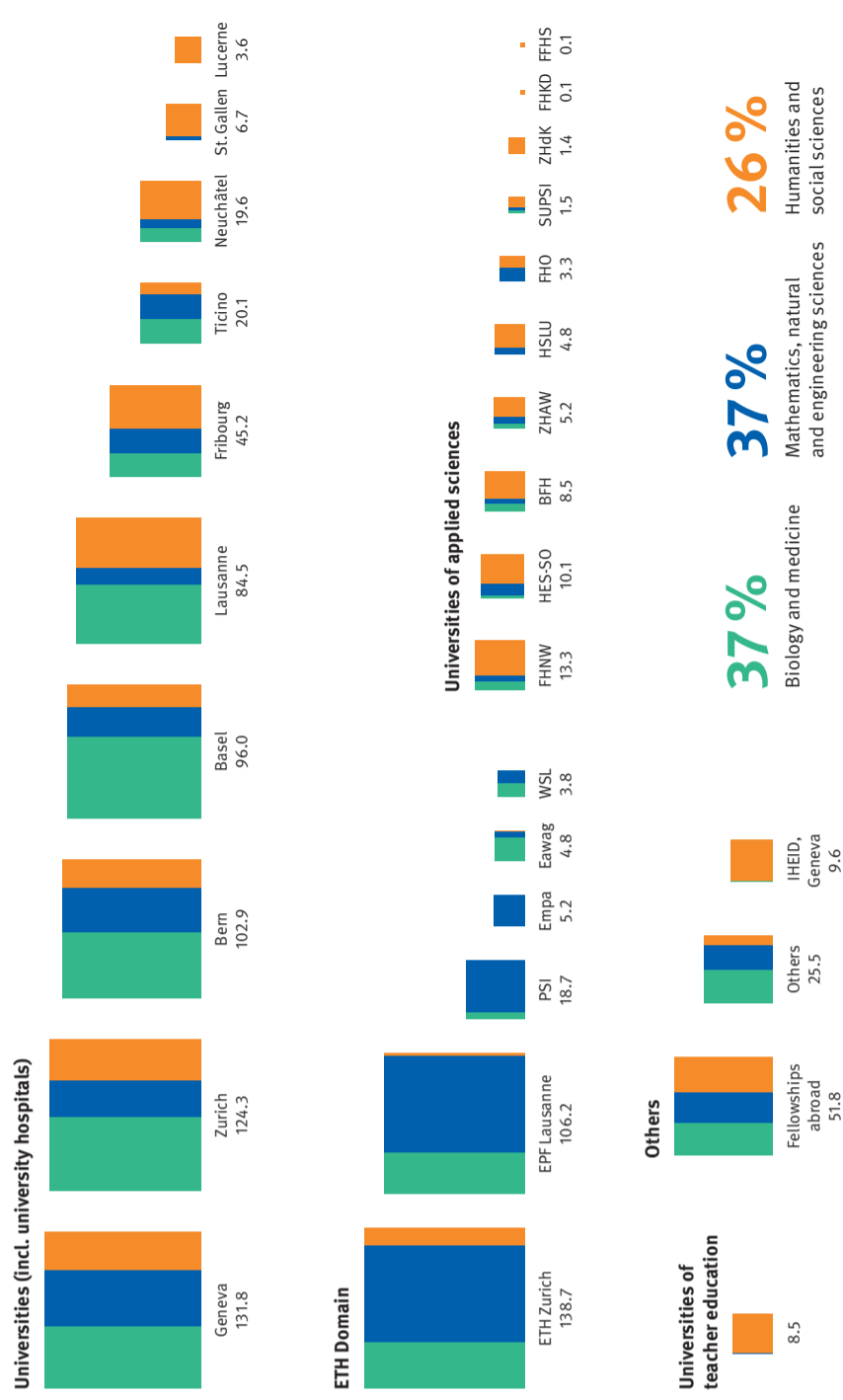
As at: 31.12.2019

Funding approved in 2019

Excluding supplementary grants and measures

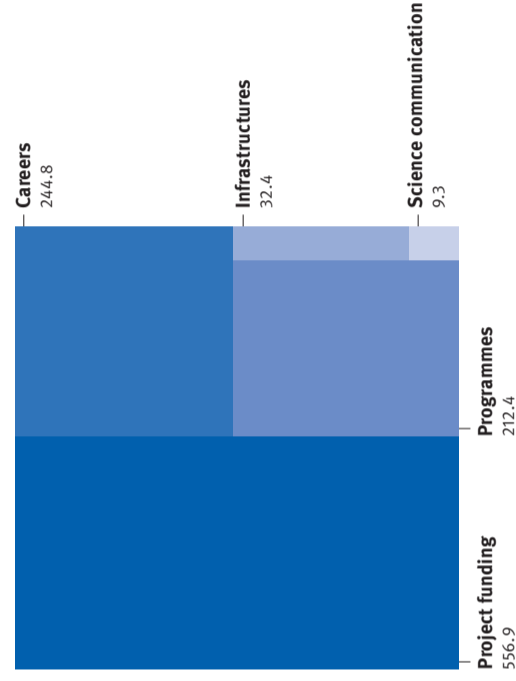
By institution and discipline

in CHF million



By funding category

in CHF million



Approved funds

in CHF million

1,056

Supplementary grants and measures: 81

Approved applications

3,365

Submitted applications: 6,852

Detailed interactive key figures: data.snsf.ch