

Annual statement 2011

All amounts are stated in Swiss francs.

1. Income statement

1.1 Income

	2011	2010
Federal contributions	896,593,470.93	802,850,613.55
Ordinary federal contributions	745,545,544.08	656,807,613.55
Project-specific federal contributions	65,128,471.00	61,853,000.00
Federal contributions for overhead	82,500,000.00	80,800,000.00
SDC contributions	2,900,000.00	2,950,000.00
Federal contributions for SwissCore	519,455.85	440,000.00
Other contributions	1,584,976.56	1,508,288.85
Contributions from the Principality of Liechtenstein	250,000.00	250,000.00
Other contributions from third parties	1,282,480.85	1,258,288.85
Withdrawal from fund for non-earmarked donations/bequests	52,495.71	0.00
Returns	17,970,183.41	19,098,928.81
Repayments	9,724,452.95	10,884,170.85
Contributions approved but not used	8,245,730.46	8,214,757.96
Income from Foundation assets	54,917.90	63,338.40
Interest income from Foundation capital	16,495.40	23,382.40
Rental income from Foundation property	38,422.50	39,956.00
Accrued income	1,458,579.95	6,703,565.95
Accruals for funding-specific contributions		
SCOPES	1,044,746.95	0.00
Research partnerships with developing countries	254,637.00	1,215,930.54
ERA initiatives	0.00	21,189.41
Liquidation of provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement		
Special Programme University Medicine	0.00	4,765,918.00
Europ. & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership	159,196.00	700,528.00
Extraordinary income	158,328.12	135,627.76
Total	917,820,456.87	830,360,363.32

1.2 Expenditures

	2011	2010
Research funding	758,935,675.28	727,385,276.36
Investigator-driven research	626,374,069.64	599,611,316.65
Project funding	450,415,355.00	432,125,492.02
Funding of individual researchers	162,195,563.00	152,252,551.86
Scientific conferences	1,767,681.00	1,727,712.00
Publication grants	2,142,594.00	1,748,412.00
Other activities	54,709.85	2,154.75
International co-operation	9,798,166.79	11,754,994.02
Multilat. co-operation, short visits, workshops	3,025,720.79	3,922,871.02
SCOPES	4,866,142.00	3,780,618.00
ESTROM	0.00	16,360.00
Research partnerships with developing countries	1,906,304.00	4,035,145.00
Targeted research	83,377,405.64	80,188,959.71
National Research Programmes	18,179,292.64	17,723,469.71
National Centres of Competence in Research	65,198,113.00	62,465,490.00
Third-party programmes	49,184,200.00	47,585,000.00
SystemsX.ch	30,381,400.00	28,285,000.00
nano-tera.ch	18,742,800.00	19,300,000.00
Romanian/Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programmes	60,000.00	0.00
Overhead	82,500,000.00	80,800,000.00
ERA initiatives	82,916.32	33,446.16
Accrued expenditures	36,876,574.05	13,034,959.56
Accruals for funding-specific contributions		
SCOPES	0.00	116,880.07
Romanian/Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programmes	90,000.00	0.00
ERA initiatives	35,878.97	12,054.51
Formation of provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement		
ProDoc doctoral programme	25,065,532.00	4,238,863.00
National Research Programmes	1,263,699.91	3,635,151.98
National Centres of Competence in Research	10,421,463.17	5,032,010.00
Scientific evaluation & governance	8,138,997.78	7,403,986.91
Foundation Council	86,751.95	100,520.10
EUROHORCs presidency	22,253.14	69,720.80
Research Council, evaluation and quality control	6,587,208.93	6,032,431.55
Steering committees and expert groups	1,312,106.56	1,071,314.46
Research Commissions	130,677.20	130,000.00
Public relations work	1,690,655.10	1,830,788.46
Administrative expenditures	25,888,552.49	24,342,636.57
Payroll and personnel expenses	21,544,116.64	19,721,556.40
External mandates	250,615.35	411,758.50
SwissCore	779,183.78	755,177.69
Other administrative expenditures	428,090.04	655,727.52
Information technology expenditures	1,819,485.68	1,713,133.86
Property expenditures	489,001.80	527,850.65
Movable and immovable property depreciation	578,059.20	557,431.95
Extraordinary expenditures	18,786.03	125,548.75
Surplus	3,688,299.82	-24,596,279.45
Total	917,820,456.87	830,360,363.32

2. Balance sheet

2.1 Assets

	2011	2010
Current assets	398,636,609.10	329,612,649.06
Cash and cash equivalents	398,140,312.61	328,974,295.16
Miscellaneous accounts receivable	272,385.65	361,657.65
Accruals	223,910.84	276,696.25
Fixed assets	64,932,064.44	67,051,142.58
Movable property	96,000.00	165,000.00
Immovable property	9,366,000.00	9,810,000.00
Financial assets		
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	404,985.65	400,027.00
Earmarked donations and bequests	53,735,078.79	55,346,115.58
Foundation capital invested with the Federal Finance Administration	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00
Total	463,568,673.54	396,663,791.64

2.2 Liabilities

	2011	2010
Loan capital	375,563,633.08	310,686,477.15
Short-term loan capital	307,323,858.63	279,038,201.78
Liabilities to third parties	1,143,934.72	952,053.68
Liabilities with respect to approved projects and grants	298,938,543.23	270,990,018.39
Deferrals	2,293,839.35	1,195,083.40
Deferral of holiday and flexitime credits	1,500,000.00	1,280,000.00
Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions		
SCOPES	2,328,737.86	3,373,484.81
Romanian/Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programmes	90,000.00	0.00
Research partnerships with developing countries	980,869.99	1,235,506.99
ERA initiatives	47,933.48	12,054.51
Long-term loan capital	68,239,774.45	31,648,275.37
Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement		
ProDoc doctoral programme	29,304,395.00	4,238,863.00
National Research Programmes	20,965,142.28	19,701,442.37
Europ. & Develop. Countries Clinical Trials Partnership	104,276.00	263,472.00
National Centres of Competence in Research	17,865,961.17	7,444,498.00
Earmarked donations and bequests	53,735,078.79	55,400,611.29
Equity capital	34,269,961.67	30,576,703.20
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	404,985.65	400,027.00
Foundation capital	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00
Reserves	28,846,676.20	53,442,955.65
Unappropriated surplus	3,688,299.82	-24,596,279.45
Total	463,568,673.54	396,663,791.64

3. Appendix

3.1 Purpose of the Foundation

As specified in Article 1 of the Statutes, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports scientific research in Switzerland. Its aim is to strengthen the international competitiveness of Swiss scientific research as well as its networking and problem-solving capacity. Particular attention is focused on providing support for young researchers (further information is available at www.snsf.ch).

3.2 Accounting principles

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles of the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations. The annual statement comprises a balance sheet, income statement and appendix to the annual statement and reflects the Foundation's actual financial position.

3.3 Valuation principles

Assets and liabilities are valued individually on the basis of acquisition values or fair market values. The main balance sheet items and deviations from these valuation principles are described briefly below:

3.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand and current account balances with PostFinance and with the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER). Assets are stated in the balance sheet at their nominal value.

3.3.2 Miscellaneous accounts receivable

Miscellaneous accounts receivable are disclosed at nominal value and include contributions for projects and grants invoiced to third parties, services by the administrative offices charged to third parties, advances and recoverable withholding taxes.

3.3.3 Accruals

Prepayments for services that will not be required until the new fiscal year.

3.3.4 Movable property and IT hardware

This refers to equipment, office furniture and IT hardware required for operations. The capitalisation limit is CHF 20,000 per item. Items are depreciated from their acquisition value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life.

3.3.5 Immovable property

Office properties and land serving operational purposes. These are carried in the balance sheet at acquisition value less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated over a useful life of 30 years.

3.3.6 Financial assets

In addition to the Foundation's capital, which is invested in an interest-bearing account with the Federal Finance Administration, the financial assets also include assets originating from donations and

bequests. Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the balance sheet at their nominal value, while market values are used with respect to securities. Fluctuations in value are recorded under accounts for earmarked and non-earmarked donations and bequests, and have no effect on the income statement. Investment guidelines determine how assets are invested.

3.3.7 Liabilities to third parties

These are services provided and invoiced by third parties, which do not fall due for payment until the new fiscal year. They are disclosed at nominal value.

3.3.8 Liabilities related to approved projects and grants

Contributions for projects, grants, publications and international co-operation that are ready for disbursement. These are disclosed at nominal value.

In the funding categories listed below, contributions that extend over several calendar years are divided into tranches, each of which is recorded directly in the fiscal year to which it relates:

- Project funding of investigator-driven and targeted research
- SNSF professorships and EURYI awards
- ProDoc doctoral programme
- Ambizione
- Project and member contributions within the framework of international co-operation

This means that funding in tranches, which will not be paid out until a later accounting year, are disclosed only in the appendix to the annual statement (cf. item 3.6).

3.3.9 Deferrals

Services by third parties, that have been provided, but not yet paid for nor invoiced. These are valued on the basis of orders and quotes.

3.3.10 Deferral of holiday and flexitime credits

Provisions for holiday and flexitime credits for employees at the SNSF's administrative offices that have not yet been taken. The valuation is based on average salary rates inclusive of all social insurance contributions.

3.3.11 Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions

Earmarked funds that third parties, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the SNSF make available for specified programmes and that have not yet fully been used for the intended purpose.

3.3.12 Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement with the Swiss Federal Government

If targets set in the service agreement with the federal government, and measurable using accounting values, are not reached, provisions can be established. Federal contributions that are to be used for specified measures thus retain the purpose for which they were intended.

3.3.13 Earmarked donations and bequests

Donations and bequests earmarked for specific purposes, which have not yet been used fully for funding contributions. These are valued at nominal or market values inclusive of adjustment tax credits.

3.3.14 Non-earmarked donations and bequests

Assets that have been transferred to the SNSF without being earmarked for a specific purpose and that have not yet been used. These assets are invested with the Federal Finance Administration.

3.3.15 Foundation capital

In accordance with Article 4 Paragraph 2 of the Statutes, the Foundation's capital comprises funds invested by the founders and the Federal Government.

3.4 Notes regarding the balance sheet

3.4.1 Miscellaneous accounts receivable

As at 31.12.2011, there were no miscellaneous accounts receivable that had been due for payment for more than twelve months. Therefore, no value adjustments were made.

3.4.2 Financial investments

On the reporting date, total financial investment holdings were as follows:

Donations and bequests	31.12.2011	percentage	31.12.2010	percentage
Cash and cash equivalents, fixed-term deposits and accounts receivable	11,390,594.44	21%	9,479,381.58	17%
Bonds and bond funds	20,530,715.00	38%	20,847,020.50	38%
Shares and equity funds	15,117,764.00	28%	19,680,949.50	35%
Alternative investments	7,100,991.00	13%	5,738,791.00	10%
Total	54,140,064.44	100%	55,746,142.58	100%

To safeguard against part of the exchange-rate risk on foreign currencies, foreign exchange futures contracts to a total value of CHF 4,450,833.00 were held as at 31.12.2011.

3.4.3 Liabilities arising out of holiday and flexitime credits

Included in the calculation of salaries and personnel expenses is an increase in holiday and flexitime credits of CHF 220,000.00 (i.e. from CHF 1,280,000.00 as at 31.12.2010 to CHF 1,500,000.00 as at 31.12.2011).

3.4.4 Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions

These are funds which are not yet committed to research contributions, but are reserved for certain programmes or initiatives. The funds have originated at least in part from third parties and generally have to be repaid to the latter if they have not been used for the intended purpose prior to the date of completion of the activities concerned.

	Total as at 31.12.2010	Third-party contributions	SNSF contributions	Returns	Expenditures ¹	Total as at 31.12.2011
SCOPES	3,373,484.81	SDC 2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	20,797.27	5,065,544.22	2,328,737.86
Co-operation programmes with Bulgaria and Romania	0.00	SDC 450,000.00	0.00	0.00	360,000.00	90,000.00
Research partnerships with developing countries	1,235,506.99	SDC 450,000.00	1,345,667.00	0.00	2,050,304.00	980,869.99
ERA initiatives	12,054.51	Misc. 118,795.29	0.00	0.00	82,916.32	47,933.48

¹ Research funding inclusive of administrative portion

3.4.5 Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement with the Swiss Federal Government

These provisions are used for the subsequent tracking of financially measurable targets, which were stipulated in the service agreement, but which have not yet been achieved or only partially so.

	Status as at 31.12.2010	Performance target 2011	Actual value¹ 2011	Status as at 31.12.2011
ProDoc doctoral programme ²	4,238,863.00	46,678,114.00	21,612,582.00	29,304,395.00
National Research Programmes	19,701,442.37	20,000,000.00	18,736,300.09	20,965,142.28
EDCTP	263,472.00	0.00	159,196.00	104,276.00
National Centres of Competence in Research	7,444,498.00	78,000,000.00	67,578,536.83	17,865,961.17
Balance as at 31.12.2011				68,239,774.45

¹ Expenditures less income from repayments and contributions not claimed

² In accordance with the service level agreement, funds budgeted for ProDoc but not used in the 2008-2011 period have been transferred to the following years as provisions. This enables an organised conclusion of the programme.

3.4.6 Funds statements

Earmarked donations and bequests	2011
Balance as at 31.12.2010	55,400,611.29
Interest and dividend income	881,549.49
Capital gains	-2,582,550.48
Allocations	173,210.00
Withdrawals from the fund for research projects	-52,495.71
Administrative costs	-85,245.80
Balance as at 31.12.2011	53,735,078.79

Non-earmarked donations and bequests	2011
Balance as at 31.12.2010	400,027.00
Interest income	4,958.65
Allocations	0.00
Fund withdrawal	0.00
Balance as at 31.12.2011	404,985.65

3.5 Notes regarding the income statement

3.5.1 Project-specific federal contributions

The following project-specific federal funds have accrued to the SNSF:

	Project, programme, instrument	2011	2010
State Secretariat for Education and Research SER	CH-Intex	5,542,407	5,528,000
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	ProDoc	10,055,244	8,325,000
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	SystemsX.ch	30,523,800	28,500,000
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	nano-tera.ch	18,937,020	19,500,000
ETHZ, EPFL	Co-operative programmes	70,000	0
Total		65,128,471	61,853,000

3.5.2 SDC Contributions

The Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) has made the following contributions to the SNSF for the implementation of special programmes:

	2011	2010
SCOPEs	2,000,000	2,000,000
Research partnerships with developing countries	450,000	950,000
Romanian/Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programmes	450,000	0
Total	2,900,000	2,950,000

3.5.3 Fees paid to the Foundation Council

Based on the regulations governing the remuneration of the SNSF's executive bodies (the Foundation Council, the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council, the National Research Council and the Research Commissions), the following fixed payments and daily allowances were paid to the members of the Foundation Council:

Remuneration to Foundation Council members	2011	2010
Fixed payments	30,000	30,000
Daily allowances	37,750	49,250
Total	67,750	79,250

3.6 Contributions approved for future fiscal years

In the case of the following funding categories, the SNSF records multi-year contributions in tranches, with only the first tranche being charged to the current accounting year. The tranches approved for subsequent years are charged only in the fiscal year to which they relate. As at 31.12.2011, the following liabilities, which were not listed in the balance sheet and which will have to be met in future years, existed:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Investigator-driven project funding	245,936,442	97,626,807	0	0	343,563,249
Funding of individual researchers ¹	81,331,491	48,191,904	13,642,138	0	143,165,533
International co-operation	3,331,515	952,500	0	0	4,284,015
National Research Programmes	10,347,479	3,714,892	747,796	84,240	14,894,407
National Centres of Competence in Research	54,615,000	31,955,000	4,500,000	0	91,070,000
Total	395,561,927	182,441,103	18,889,934	84,240	596,977,204
International contributions in EUR	530,936	292,000	169,000	0	991,936

¹ The amount shown for 2012 and 2013 includes the tranches of the ProDoc doctoral programme of CHF 20,385,815, which, pursuant to item 3.4.5, is reported in the balance sheet as at 31.12.2011 under liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions.

3.7 Fire insurance value of (tangible) fixed assets

	2011	2010
Movable property and IT hardware	4,544,304	3,728,617
Immovable property	25,716,814	25,716,814

3.8 Disbursements to pension funds

	2011	2010
PKG Pensionskasse	1,629.65	3,170.90
Publica	503.40	541.45
PKJ/Comedia	188.30	2,183.40
Total	2,321.35	5,895.75

3.9 Pro bono services for the benefit of the SNSF

The SNSF specifically seeks out experts from Switzerland and abroad to provide expert reviews of the grant applications it receives. The majority of these reviews are drafted free of charge.

3.10 Transactions with related parties

In 2011, the members of the National Research Council and the members of the technical commissions employed by them were awarded funding grants totalling CHF 19.9 million, representing 3.8% of the grants approved (2010: CHF 25.2 million or 4.3%). The ceiling set by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council pursuant to Article 16, Paragraph 2, Letter k of the Statutes was not exceeded.

3.11 Details concerning the performance of a risk assessment

In the fiscal year 2011, the SNSF carried out a comprehensive risk assessment authorised by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council. According to the completed risk assessment and in light of measures put in place for monitoring and mitigating risks, no risks were identified in the past fiscal year that could lead to a lasting or substantial impairment of the financial position of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The assessment found no significant risk for the foreseeable future that would necessitate an adjustment in the book values of the Foundation's assets and liabilities.

3.12 Events after the balance sheet date

To our knowledge, there has been no major event subsequent to the balance sheet date that could affect the financial statements.

4. Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Financial Statements

to the Foundation Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Berne

As statutory auditor, and in close collaboration with BDO Ltd., we have audited the annual statements of the Swiss National Science Foundation, which comprise balance sheet, income statement and appendix for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2011.

Foundation Council's Responsibility

The Foundation Council is responsible for preparation of the annual statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the foundation's statutes. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of an annual statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Foundation Council is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making reasonable accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this annual statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the annual statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosure in the annual statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement in the annual statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the annual statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the annual statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Audit opinion

In our judgement, the annual statements for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2011 comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes.

Report on Other Legal Requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 CO and article 11 AOA) and that there are no facts incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Atandard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of the annual statements according to the instructions of the Foundation Council.

We recommend that this annual statements be approved.

Berne, 12 March 2012

Swiss Federal Audit Office

Signed Eric-Serge Jeannet
Licensed Audit Expert

Signed Martin Köhli
Licensed Audit Expert

The Foundation Council of SNSF approved the annual statements at its meeting on 30 March 2012.