

Financial statement 2020

The financial statement for 2020 shows an almost balanced result, even though expenditure was again higher.

The increased expenditure incurred in research programmes was particularly striking; however, part of the restricted funds have been set aside for just such cases. The use of these funds helped cover this increase in expenditure.

At the same time, federal funding grew by approximately 50 million francs. The federal government also withdrew part of the reserves, which amounted to 105 million francs in total at the end of 2020; they are intended to be used between 2021 and 2023.

Income statement

in CHF 1,000	2020	2019	Change in %
Federal contributions	1,110,724	1,060,162	4.8
Deferred federal contributions 2019	0	-39,614	-100.0
Further contributions	938	900	4.2
Donations/bequests	2,003	1,500	33.5
Research funding expenditure	-981,819	-949,125	3.4
Expenditure to cover indirect research costs (overhead)	-111,819	-109,540	2.1
Scientific evaluation and governance	-9,852	-11,241	-12.4
Public relations	-2,489	-2,153	15.6
Administration expenses and depreciation	-46,250	-40,823	13.3
Other operating income	84	284	-70.4
Other operating expenses	-105	-324	-67.6
Operating result	-38,585	-89,974	-57.1
Financial income	7,222	14,839	-51.3
Financial expenditure	-256	-256	-
Financial result	6,966	14,583	-52.2
Investments in restricted funds	-266,451	-287,913	-7.5
Withdrawals from restricted funds	297,177	282,843	5.1
Income from restricted funds	30,726	-5,070	-
Ordinary income	-893	-80,461	-98.9
Non-operating income	16	389	-95.9
Extraordinary income	-	-	-
Annual result	-877	-80,072	-98.9

Balance sheet

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2020	Share in %	31.12.2019	Share in %
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	619,462	82	640,017	81
Accounts receivable	2,602	0	20,374	3
Other short-term receivables	48	0	62	0
Prepaid expenses	568	0	835	0
Total current assets	622,680	82	661,288	84
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11,817	2	11,975	2
Financial assets	123,949	16	116,880	15
Intangible assets	198	0	318	0
Total fixed assets	135,964	18	129,173	16
Total assets	758,644	100	790,461	100
Liabilities				
Short-term liabilities				
Liabilities from approved grants	371,988	49	338,203	43
Liabilities to SERI due to an excess of reserves	-	-	39,614	5
Accounts payable	8,037	1	1,767	0
Other short-term liabilities	512	0	179	0
Deferred income	3,148	0	2,443	0
Short-term provisions	-	-	1,000	0
Restricted funds	30,218	4	44,313	6
Total short-term liabilities	413,903	55	427,519	54
Long-term liabilities				
Restricted funds	238,041	31	255,364	32
Total long-term liabilities	238,041	31	255,364	32
Total liabilities	651,944	86	682,883	86
Equity				
Foundation capital	1,330	0	1,330	0
General funds	256	0	284	0
General reserves	105,114	14	105,964	13
Total equity	106,700	14	107,578	14
Total liabilities	758,644	100	790,461	100

Further information on the financial statement

Restricted funds

in CHF 1,000	as at				as at
	1.1.2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer	
SCOPES fund	1,196	-	-831	-365	-
r4d fund	17,825	1,691	-10,045	-	9,471
FLARE fund	582	8,031	-8,000	-	614
Bilateral programmes fund	29,717	8,419	-8,759	-	29,377
Fund for COST programme	7,841	6,003	-3,652	-	10,193
NRP fund	27,848	17,834	-35,209	-	10,474
NCCR fund	25,157	68,023	-78,745	-	14,435
Fund for special programmes in biology and medicine	21,495	20,023	-16,080	-	25,439
Fund for BRIDGE programme	32,441	14,612	-16,925	-	30,128
Fund for Horizon 2020 backup measures	3,837	547	-708	-2,000	1,676
Fund for ERC transfer grants	4,237	-	-795	-	3,442
Croatia fund	1,786	-	-1,190	-	596
Energy research fund	9,121	118	-1,253	-	7,986
Fund for Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative Diseases	-	23	-	-	23
Overhead fund	-	111,916	-111,819	-	97
Funds from earmarked donations/bequests/agreements	116,595	9,775	-2,056	-	124,314
Total restricted funds	299,678	267,015	-296,067	-2,365	268,265

Grants approved for future accounting years as at 31.12.2020

in CHF 1,000	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Total	793,899	478,368	258,201	79,097	12,437	-	1,622,002

According to the federal budget for 2021, federal contributions to the SNSF (without overhead) will amount to CHF 1,008.18 million. The service level agreement for the period 2021 to 2024 provides for federal contributions (without overhead) of CHF 4,156.6 million.

Federal contributions

in CHF 1,000	2020	2019
Basic contribution	878,972	823,340
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)	68,000	70,000
National Research Programmes (NRPs)	17,500	25,000
Supplementary tasks / Federal funding mandate	35,200	23,000
Overhead	110,000	108,000
SwissCore	442	450
Various federal contributions	610	10,373
Total	1,110,724	1,060,163

The deferral of federal contributions in 2019 reduced income in 2019, thus ensuring compliance with Article 10, paragraph 6 RIPA. This states that the SNSF's reserves may not exceed 10% of the annual funding provided by the Confederation. SERI made a cash-effective adjustment in 2020, thus compensating for the deferral.

Research funding expenditure

in CHF 1,000	2020	2019
Projects	482,188	489,530
Careers	211,308	200,282
Programmes	National Centres of Competence in Research	58,742
	National Research Programmes	27,202
	Other programmes	108,598
	International cooperation	15,832
Total programmes	243,852	210,374
Infrastructures	39,106	49,199
Science communication	12,402	11,801
Supplementary tasks	10,711	10,771
Repayments	-13,165	-18,393
Grants approved but unused	-4,584	-4,440
Total	981,818	949,124

Administration expenses and depreciation

in CHF 1,000	2020	2019
Personnel expenses	35,696	31,611
IT expenses	6,707	5,215
Immovable property expenses	1,405	914
Depreciation of tangible assets	563	456
Depreciation of intangible assets	287	547
Other administration expenses / external mandates / SwissCore	1,592	2,080
Total	46,250	40,823

Transactions with related parties

Related persons and organisations comprise those that may, either directly or indirectly, significantly influence the financial or operational decisions of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The following transactions with related parties have taken place:

- Approval of research grants to members of the Foundation Council: CHF 2.503 million (2019: CHF 4.269 million)
- Approval of research grants to members of the Research Council: CHF 22.078 million (2019: CHF 28.278 million)

The total grants awarded to members of all expert committees, including the Research Council, amounted to CHF 77.579 million (2019: CHF 102.571 million).

Performance of risk assessment

In fiscal year 2020, the Swiss National Science Foundation (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 situation of the Swiss National Science Foundation. In the SNSF's assessment, there is moreover no significant risk for the foreseeable future that would necessitate an adjustment in the book values of the Foundation's assets and liabilities.

Approval of financial statements

At the recommendation of the Swiss Federal Audit Office, which is the external auditor that examined the statements, the Foundation Council approved the financial statements 2020 at its meeting of 26 March 2021.

All figures stated in this report have been individually rounded.