Information event on innovations in research funding
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The SNSF funding schemes

• **Overview**
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SNSF budget of 2015: CHF 878.6 million

- Humanities and social sciences: 25%
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences: 40%
- Biology and medicine: 35%
- Projects: 50%
- Careers: 23%
- Programmes: 23%
- Infrastructures: 3%
- Science communication: 1%

Research creates knowledge.
Project funding

Core “business” of the SNSF

Funding for projects of high quality in all scientific disciplines

Topics can be chosen freely by scientists

- Covers direct research costs (staff salaries, materials, travel costs, etc.)
- Does not cover the applicants’ salaries
Career funding by scheme 2015

Total: CHF 199.9 million

Doc.CH
Bourses MD-PhD
Doc.Mobility
Early Postdoc.Mobility
Advanced Postdoc.Mobility
Subsides Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV)
Ambizione
Ambizione Energy
Professeurs boursiers FNS

Prov. Numbers
National Research Programmes

- NRPs generate scientific knowledge aimed at solving Switzerland’s most pressing problems
- **Topics are chosen** by the Federal Council
- **Problem-oriented** and interdisciplinary
- New NRPs started every 2-3 years
- Duration: 3-5 years
- CHF 5-20 million for each
- 11 NRPs currently running
NCCRs promote long-term research projects in areas of vital strategic importance for the development of science in Switzerland, for the economy of the country, and for Swiss society.
International programmes

**r4d programme**
Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development

**ERA-NET**
Coordination and cooperation in Europe

**Bilateral programmes**
Promoting and strengthening scientific cooperation with non-European countries with significant research potential:

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Korea, Japan and soon Argentina
Science communication

Funds for communication between researchers and between science and society.

Conferences, publication grants, exploratory Workshops, Agora
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Why change?

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- Young researchers
- Need for change
- Project funding
- MYP 17-20
- New RIPA
- New HFKG
- Sinergia
- Streamlining Regulations
- Client survey

Research creates knowledge.
Core objectives of innovations in research funding

• Respond to researchers' needs (client survey)
• Provide clear and well-coordinated funding options at each stage (of career)
• Help young researchers to achieve early independence
• Create clear responsibilities with regard to scientific merits
• Promote diversity
• Reduce administration work
• Allow more flexible use of funds
• Bring project duration closer into line with the duration of doctoral theses
• Set out clear rules for submitting proposals and using grants
Legal basis for SNSF funding activities

- General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations
- Regulations and call documents of funding schemes
- Funding Regulations
- Federal Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA)
Innovations in research funding

• Core objectives of innovations

• **Eligibility requirements**
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General eligibility requirements I

What will the new provisions mean in practice?

• People who are only loosely linked to higher education institutions and/or people with a low work-time percentage should not be able to submit applications because they are not sufficiently integrated at an institution.
• The institutions where the applicants work must have strong links to Switzerland.
• Being employed at the time of submission is not a requirement, rather it provides proof of employment over the entire project duration - except for some exceptions with regard to young researchers.
General eligibility requirements II

- The research activities, along with any scientific teaching activities, must constitute the equivalent of at least 50% FTE.

- Researchers devoting less than 50% of their time to science are eligible if their scientific research and teaching activities are usually carried out as part of another professional activity.

- Lecturing assignments per se, honorary professorships per se or other titles as well as links within the scope of collaborations or visiting professorships do not entail eligibility to submit applications, unless the above points are met.
Eligibility requirements III

Rules governing the eligibility of institutions abroad made clearer and adapted to the new law (RIPA+)

- Employment for the duration of the research project at a work-time percentage of at least 50% in accordance with Swiss law at a Swiss institution.
- Administration of the research project must be in Switzerland.
- The corresponding applicant must have a Swiss delivery address.
- The funding principles of the SNSF on the eligibility of institutions must be met, particularly with regard to the non-commercial purpose and independence of research.
Eligibility requirements for project funding

What will the new provisions mean in practice?

• Professional researchers with at least 4 years' experience after the doctorate (or an independent research position) who are in employment for the duration of the project* will be able to submit applications.
• Researchers with less research experience will be able to use the Ambizione scheme (implementation scheduled for early 2017); until then they will be eligible to apply for project funding

*Exceptions possible for young researchers
Eligibility requirements for project funding

Four years after doctoral thesis or an independent position, notably:

- Full professors
- Assistant professors
- Chief consultants (OberärztInnen), senior staff physicians (leitende ÄrztInnen), chief physicians (ChefärztInnen)
- Senior Scientists / Researchers
- Group leaders
- Senior assistants (OberassistentInnen / Maître-assistantEs)
- Heads of teaching and research (Maître d’Enseignement et de Recherche)
Eligibility requirements for project funding

Not eligible:

• Postdocs
• Research associates
• Assistant physicians (AssistenzärztInnen)
• Employees in SNSF projects
• Ambizione grantees
• SNSF professors in the first 2 years
Eligibility requirements for project funding

Eligible if research is main source of income (research and teaching position of at least 50% at an eligible institution):

- Honorary professors
- Lecturers
- Senior lecturers (Privatdozent)
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Grant conditions in project funding

- Maximum grant duration increased from three to four years
- Minimum grant duration set to one year
- No fixed maximum amount for grants
- **Excellence grants** (until now only awarded in Div. III für applications with grade A)
  - New by invitation: *(3+3, 4+4)* for applications with the two highest grades
- Thematic continuation of applications is possible
Grant conditions in project funding

- In principle, researchers holding a grant for project funding may not hold another such grant for the duration of the funding period.
- The SNSF may award a second grant if the overlapping research project is thematically clearly different from the ongoing project and if the applicant can show that he/she will make a substantial contribution to the second project as well.
- Two or more applicants are allowed if this is essential for successful completion of the project and if each makes a major contribution
- Lead Agency projects are regarded as applications for project funding
Grantees with a project grant can also ...

- submit a **Sinergia** application
- initiate an **NRP** or a submit a project proposal
- initiate an **NCCR** or submit a project proposal
- apply for an **AP Energy Grants**
- participate in **ERA-NETs**
- participate in **Joint Programme Initiatives (JPIs)**
- participate in **international cooperation programmes** (e.g. bilateral programmes), such as PIRE
- submit an **Agora** application
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Project partners - Subcontracting

What will the new provisions mean in practice?

• **Project partners**: will be able to participate in projects (and can charge corresponding costs) without being co-applicants who are co-responsible for the project

• **Subcontracting**: lower-level work can be bought-in in the form of services

• **Restrictions** were defined to avoid a situation where important work is done by third parties
Project partners - Subcontracting

**Project partner** = makes a scientific contribution; at a public, private or commercial research institution/company in CH or abroad under the condition that the contribution does not result in a direct monetary benefit for the employer

- Usually max. 20%, exceptions are possible
- Employees of project partners cannot be employed as staff members in SNSF projects

**Subcontracting** = buy-in of services, often from companies

- Usually max. 10%, exceptions are possible

**Costs** of project partners and of subcontractors

- Services and costs should be proportionate and economical.
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Eligible costs: cost categories

Human Resources
- Salaries and social security contributions

Conferences and workshops

Collaborations (national & international)

Direct costs for using infrastructures

Costs of scientific open access publications

Research costs
- Material of enduring value, equipment
- Travel
- Third-party expenses
  - Costs for project partner
  - Subcontracting
- Computing time and data

Costs for career measures

Research creates knowledge.
Conferences and workshops

Applicants will be able to charge costs for project-related knowledge sharing events to the project grant and will not have to apply for these costs separately.

- Participation in and organisation of workshops and conferences
- Travel, room & board and organisation costs are charged; the invited people must be of importance for the scientific exchange.
- Larger conferences and annual conferences of specialist associations are excluded
Collaborations

Applicants will be able to link their project to one or more other projects in Switzerland or abroad.

• Only costs for scientific exchanges will be fundable

• Travel and room & board costs and additional research costs (incurred by the SNSF grantee) will be covered
Direct costs for using infrastructures

- Only direct costs are eligible (although it may be difficult to distinguish, the message should still be given)
- Host institutions must be transparent about their infrastructure cost policy (although this may be an illusion, the message should still be given)
- Paid only if it helps researchers to increase the efficiency and quality of their research (relation to project goals)
Research costs (red = new)

- **Material of enduring value, equipment** >100,000 CHF requires co-financing by the institution; usually 50%.

- **Travel**

- **Expenses of third parties**
  - Costs for project partners (<20% of the budget, no salaries)
  - Subcontracting (<10% of the budget, no salaries)

- **Computing time and data** (cloud computing and data access)

- **Operating expenses**
  (Regulations include list of fundable and non-fundable items)
Career measures

120% support grant

- postdoctoral researchers with major child care duties employed in SNSF-funded research projects with at least 80% work-time percentage

Mobility for PhD students

- Promotion of mobility for 6 – 12 months

Gender equality grant

- Aimed at women researchers at doctoral or postdoctoral level
- CHF 1,000 per 12 months project running time for career support measures (mentoring, coaching, career development courses, networking meetings, etc.)

→ can be applied for during the project running-time with relative ease
Pilot project

• Grants will be awarded under a pilot project covering the 1 October 2016 and 1 April 2019 submission deadlines for project funding

• The SNSF will award a grant for exemption from teaching duties in the amount of CHF 6,000 for one semester hour per week up to a maximum of CHF 24,000 for four semester hours per week

Requirements

• The project must have a minimum duration of two years

• The grant for exemption from teaching duties relates solely to the applicant;

• The higher education institution must consent to the application for a grant for exemption from teaching duties
Career measures: 
Research time for clinicians

Pilot project

• The SNSF aims to ensure that active clinicians can devote 30% of their working time (30% of a full-time equivalent) to their research projects → Costs: SNF and employer / 50:50

• The initiative for protected research time for clinicians is currently planned to last till 2020

Requirements

• Clinicians are doing clinical work at an eligible Swiss hospital as defined by the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA)

• It must be a project to be evaluated by the Biology and Medicine division

• The clinician does not already hold a structural position with budget responsibility at a hospital or an academic tenured position
Awards in the form of global budgets

- Global budgets as the rule, PI is responsible
- Grant holders can dispose freely of the budget within the framework of the applicable regulations and the submitted research plan and goals
- In exceptional cases, categories (‘Kostenrubriken’) or budget items are defined by the SNSF
- In any case, changes to the project design which will result in major deviations from the research plan and goals must be submitted to the SNSF
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Employee categories of the SNSF

- Doctoral students
- Postdocs (employees with a doctorate);
- Other employees – these include:
  - Employees with degree, who don't want to do a doctorate;
  - Employees with a doctorate who do not plan to acquire further academic qualification in the context of the employment in question;
  - Technicians;
  - Auxiliary staff
Employment duration in SNF projects

- Doctoral students: A max. of 4 years in a SNF project
- Postdocs: A max. of 5 years in a SNF project
- Academic career:
  - Matriculation
  - Matriculation
  - PhD defense

Reference point

- Further employees: No constraints
- The conditions of the universities must be respected
- The SNSF does not finance permanent positions
Extension of time eligibility window

Eligibility with respect to the reference point can be extended by at most 1 year because of

• Care duties, parental leave and child care duties
• Illness, service to the public
• Continuing education
• Participation in mandatory graduate schools before PhD
Employees

Prolongation of running projects

Project duration can be extended for at most 1 year for reasons related to project staff

- Care duties, parental leave and child care duties
- Illness, service to the public
- Continuing education
- Participation in mandatory graduate schools before PhD

- Needs consent of the grant holder
- Is normally cost-neutral
- Grant holder can apply for a new grant in parallel
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- Eligible costs
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- **Sinergia**
The new Sinergia program

- Promotes **collaborative** and **interdisciplinary** research which has the **potential to shift paradigms** (breakthrough)
- The **new program** is a **merger** of the funding line for **interdisciplinary single projects** and the **old Sinergia program**
- **2-4 applicants** and their groups **collaborate** closely in a **network**
- **Grants** for **4 years** and up to **CHF 3.2 million**
- **Eligibility** and **eligible costs** as in project funding
- Next deadline in **June 2016**
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The new regulations – Entry into force

**Funding regulations**
Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (not yet for project funding)

**Sinergia**
Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (1st Call ‘new’ Sinergia June 2016)

**Projektförderung**
Entry into force on 2 April 2016 (valid for call in Oct. 2016)

**Implementation Regulations**
Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (not yet for project funding)
The following innovations are not being applied yet: transitional provisions

- Applicant's **self-declaration** concerning their own employment (Clause 1.1)
- **Project partner** as a new status (Clause 1.12; specific funding schemes that may already involve project partners excepted)
- **Reporting of any other competitive funding acquired by the applicants** that is not directly linked to the application to be submitted (Clause 1.20)
- **Grants for completing the project** (Clause 4.2, rules applicable till now to supplementary grants in accordance with mySNF texts)
- New **agreement with grant administration offices** and **written agreement** for projects without any official grant administration office (Clause 5.1)
- Changes with regard to requests for the reimbursement of **additional personnel costs** (Clause 6.4)
- Modified **employee categories** (Clause 7.2)
Flexible project funding for different needs in research
Base de données de recherche P3: plus visuelle et interactive

Université della Svizzera Italiana - USI
Institution overview
279 Projects