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## Regulations on Sinergia grants

20 September 2011

Based on Articles 14 and 46 of the Regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation on research grants of 14 December 2007 (hereinafter the "Funding Regulations"), the Swiss National Science Foundation issues the following Regulations. They comprise provisions specific to the Sinergia funding scheme that promotes research projects conducted by different research groups in close collaboration.

### Article 1 Principle

<sup>1</sup> The Swiss National Science Foundation (hereinafter "SNSF") awards Sinergia grants to researchers for research work carried out collaboratively. In terms of the number of researchers involved and funds required, the networks supported by Sinergia grants should be, on the one hand, significantly larger than the majority of individual projects in project funding and, on the other hand, significantly smaller than the smallest National Research Programmes or National Centres of Competence in Research.

<sup>2</sup> At least three and at the most four research groups are involved in a Sinergia application. The participation of more than four research groups is permissible in exceptional cases. The research groups may be based at different institutions of higher education or research centres in Switzerland. One research group may be based outside Switzerland if their expertise is needed for the project and there is no Swiss-based group with the necessary level of expertise.

<sup>3</sup> Sinergia projects consist of three or, at the most, of four subprojects. A different research group is responsible for each of the subprojects. More than four subprojects are permissible in exceptional cases.

<sup>4</sup> The responsible applicants as well as the other applicants of an ongoing Sinergia project may not be involved as responsible applicant or other applicant in another Sinergia project. If the SNSF receives parallel Sinergia applications from a responsible applicant or another applicant, it

will not consider the applications. Responsible applicants and other applicants of an ongoing Sinergia project may submit a new Sinergia proposal, as responsible applicant or other applicant, if the new project starts after the end of the previous project.<sup>1</sup>

## **Article 2 Grant application**

<sup>1</sup> Applications for a Sinergia grant are submitted by the persons responsible within the individual groups, who are regarded as the applicants. The applicants appoint a responsible applicant, who represents them before the SNSF in accordance with Article 14 of the Funding Regulations, which representation is legally binding.

<sup>2</sup> The applications for Sinergia grants must be submitted in accordance with the relevant directives using the official documents provided by the SNSF. They comprise a joint research plan, specific work plans for each group involved and a description of the collaboration between the groups. The applications must contain all data and documents designated as mandatory.

<sup>3</sup> An institutional declaration is required from each institution at which a subproject is conducted.

<sup>4</sup> A grant may be the subject of a follow-up application. Each follow-up application is evaluated in detail in competition with other Sinergia applications submitted to the SNSF for the same submission deadline.

## **Article 3 Funding duration and budget**

<sup>1</sup> The maximum funding period is 36 months.

<sup>2</sup> Each of the parties involved submits a detailed budget.

<sup>3</sup> The budget may include the joint costs of collaboration between the parties involved.

## **Article 4 Application deadlines**

The deadline for the submission of applications is 15 January.

## **Article 5 Assessment criteria**

<sup>1</sup> Unless their content is manifestly inadequate, applications are forwarded to external experts for a detailed scientific review.

<sup>2</sup> Applications are assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria defined in Article 17 of the Funding Regulations.

<sup>3</sup> The National Research Council additionally applies the following criteria, which are specific to Sinergia applications:

- a. Value added by the joint research approach;
- b. Competence, complementarity and collaboration of the groups involved;
- c. Conceptual and organisational networking of subprojects;
- d. Promotion of young researchers.

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<sup>1</sup> Inserted based on the resolution of 18 September 2012, in force with immediate effect.

**Article 6      Reporting**

Once a year, the applicant responsible for the Sinergia grant submits a scientific and a financial report to the SNSF on behalf of all responsible persons within the individual groups.

**Article 7      Further provisions**

Unless these Regulations provide otherwise, the provisions of the Funding Regulations and the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations apply.

**Article 8      Entry into force**

These Regulations enter into force on 20 September 2011. They replace the Regulations on Sinergia grants of 1 December 2007.