

Swiss National Science Foundation
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Professor Stefan Kunz with projected Lassa viruses, the pathogens that cause Lassa fever, a common illness in West Africa. Supported by an SNSF grant, the virologist at the University of Lausanne is investigating how the virus infects human cells.

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 3,000 new projects were funded in 2017.

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 and international integration of Swiss research. One of its main goals is providing support for young scientists.

The SNSF uses a wide range of funding schemes. For funding purposes it distinguishes between:

- **Projects**
- **Careers**
- **Programmes**
- **Infrastructures**
- **Science communication**

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.

**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 various **career funding** schemes support talented young researchers between doctoral and professorial level. They include fellowships for research stays abroad and measures in favour of early-career scientists in Switzerland.

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

Further facts and figures

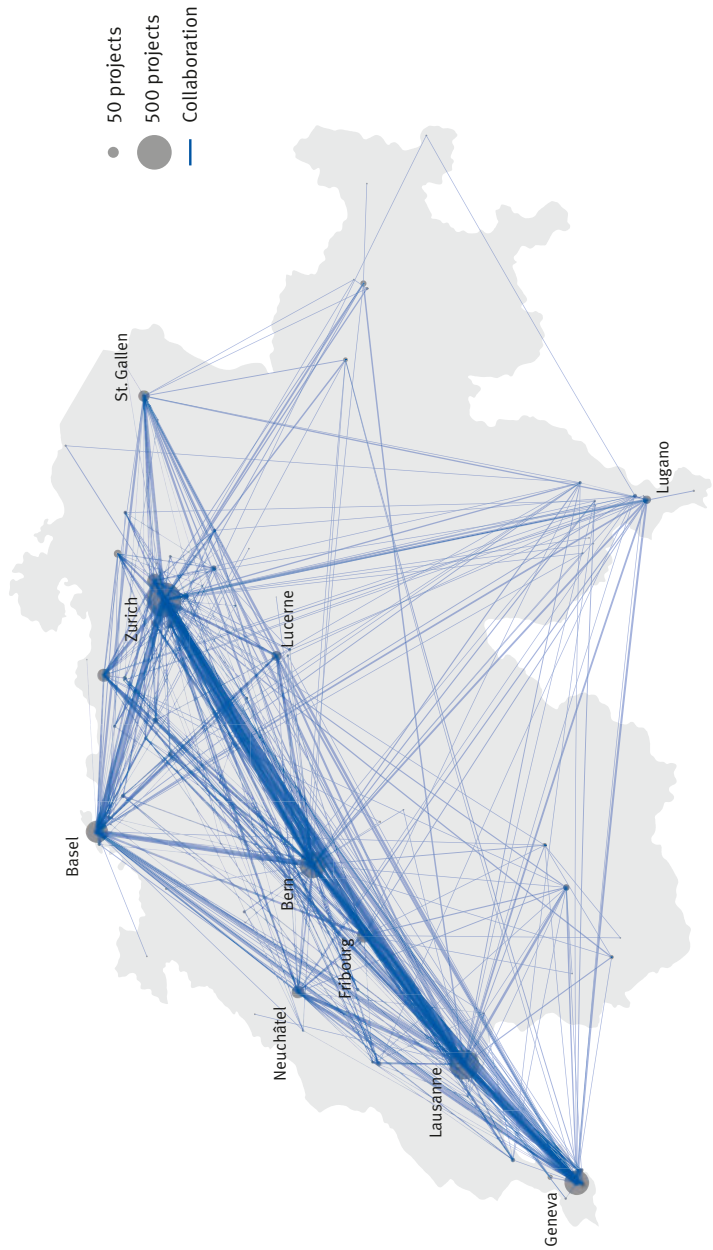
→ www.snsf.ch/statistics

Newsletter

→ www.snsf.ch/newsletter

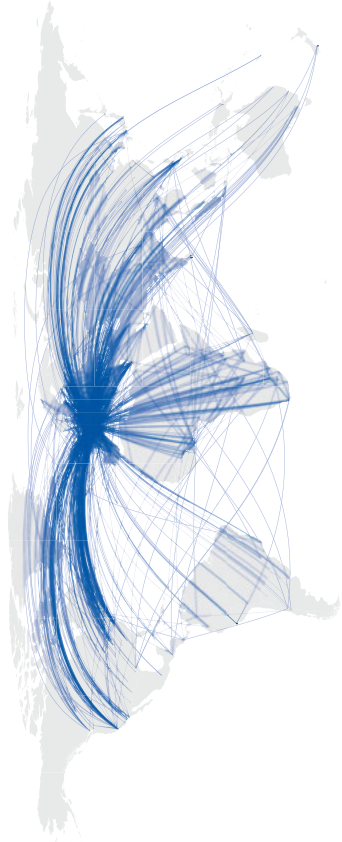
Ongoing SNSF projects

Collaboration at Swiss and international level

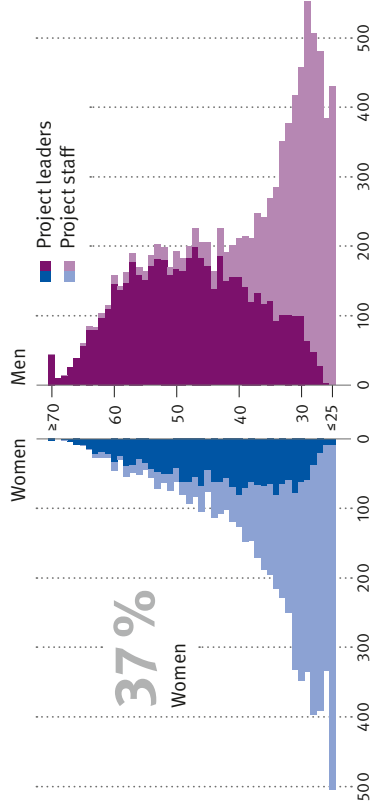


Ongoing SNSF projects

5,800



Researchers in projects according to age and gender



Researchers in projects

16,000

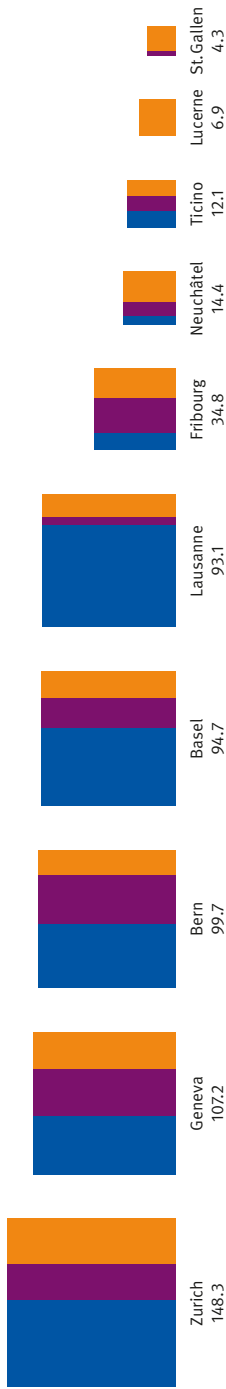
As at: 31 December 2017

Funding approved in 2017

By institution and discipline

in CHF million

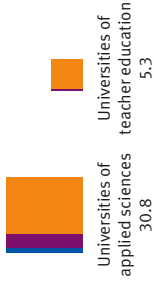
Universities (incl. university hospitals)



ETH Domain



UAS / UTE



39%

Biology and medicine

38%

Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences

23%

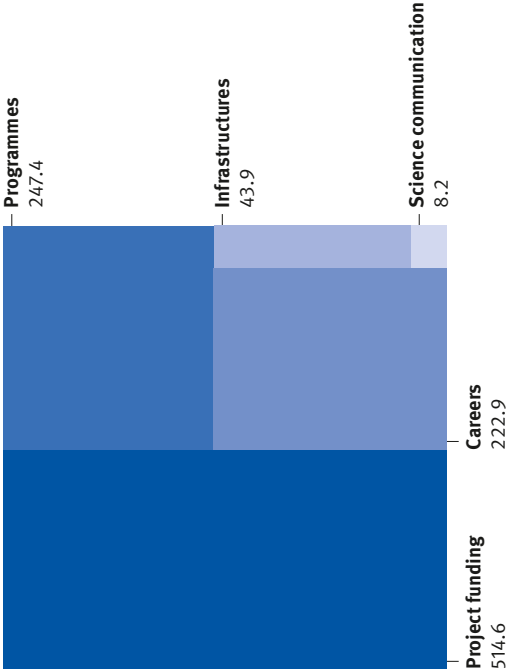
Humanities and social sciences

By funding category

in CHF million

Approved funds

in CHF million



1,037

Approved applications

2,971

Submitted applications: 6,041