

Swiss National Science Foundation
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Chemist Dorina Opris and her team at Empa Dübendorf are developing elastic plastics which produce electricity when they are stretched or pressed. As an implant, the rubber could for instance run a battery-less pacemaker.

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 2018.

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 of research. One of its main goals is providing support for young scientists.

International cooperation is of vital importance for Swiss research. At year-end 2018, the SNSF was funding 2,000 international projects and fellowships abroad. And in many other SNSF projects, researchers are maintaining dialogue with colleagues in other countries.

**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 SNSF complements the research promotion activities of the higher education institutions by providing **career funding** for young researchers. It has funding schemes for all career phases, from doctoral student to assistant professor.

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

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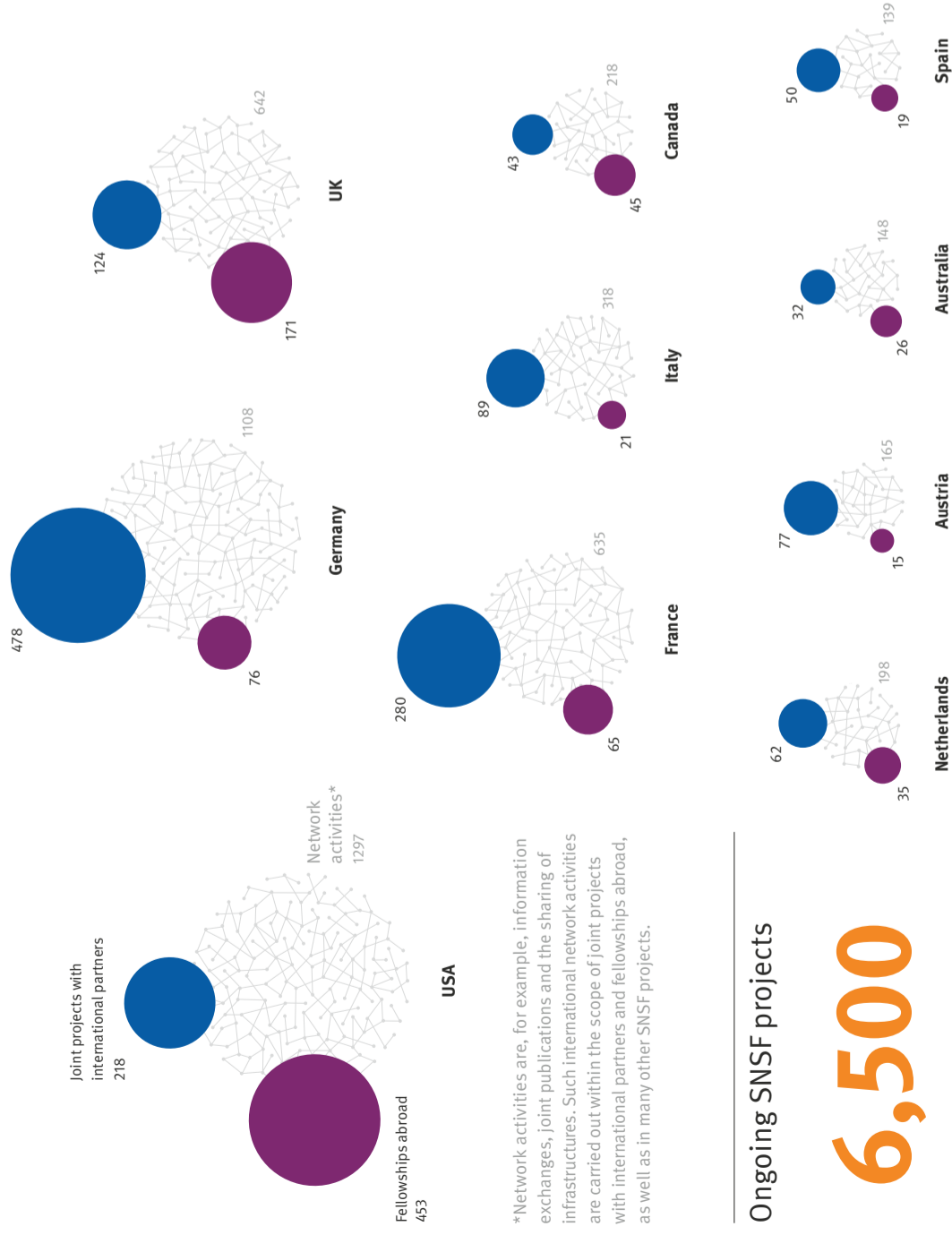


Under a government mandate

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.

Ongoing SNSF projects

International cooperation

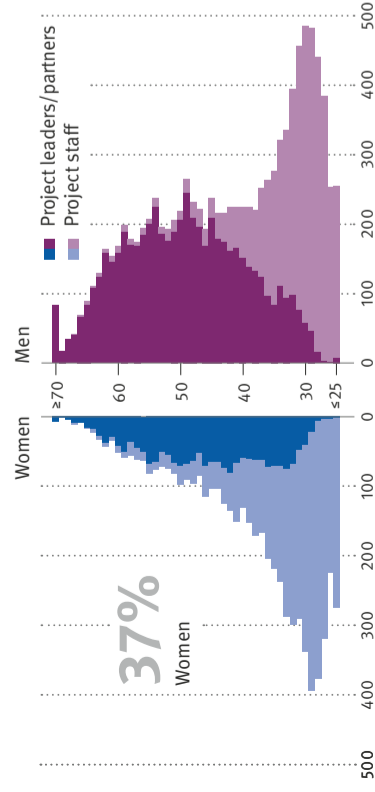


*Network activities are, for example, information exchanges, joint publications and the sharing of infrastructures. Such international network activities are carried out within the scope of joint projects with international partners and fellowships abroad, as well as in many other SNSF projects.

Ongoing SNSF projects

6,500

Researchers in projects by age and gender



As at: 31.12.2018
Network activities: in projects that ended in 2018

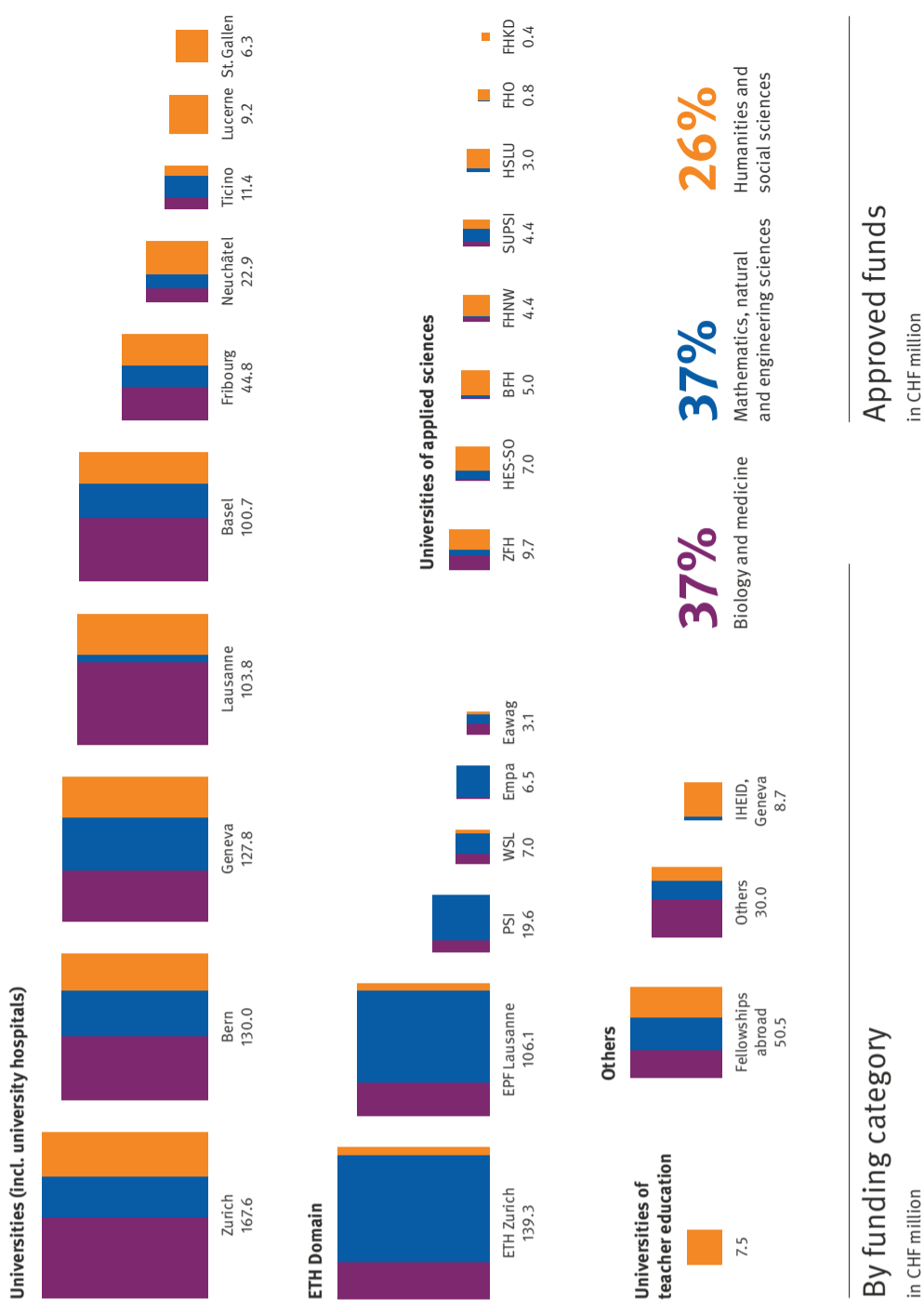
Researchers involved

16,300

Funding approved in 2018

By institution and discipline

in CHF million



Approved funds

in CHF million

1,138

Approved applications

2,958

Submitted applications: 6,073

Detailed figures for 2018: www.snsf.ch/statistics