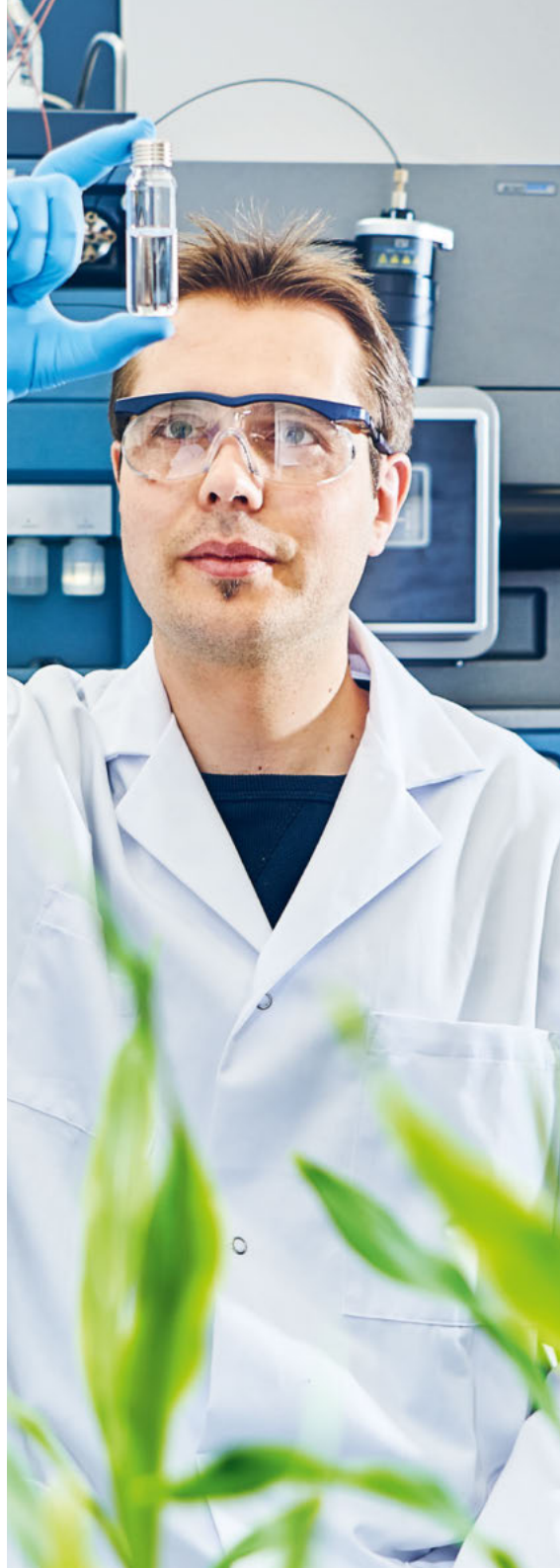


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SNSF in brief



The Swiss National Science Foundation

As Switzerland's foremost research funding organisation, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) finances over 3,200 projects involving around 14,600 researchers each year.

One of its core tasks is the evaluation of research proposals. In 2016, it allocated CHF 937 million to the best applications. By distributing public research money based on a competitive system, the SNSF contributes to the high quality of Swiss research.

Research creates knowledge: new drugs, materials and technologies as well as insights into social questions are the result of basic research. By supporting it, 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 the market-oriented national Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI).

To ensure its independence in research, the SNSF was established as a private foundation in 1952. Mandated by the federal authorities, the SNSF supports **basic science in all academic disciplines**, from history to medicine and the engineering sciences.

In close collaboration 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. The SNSF is paying particular attention to the **support of young scientists**.

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

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

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 topic and the nature of their research endeavour independently. This approach creates an environment where innovative ideas can be pursued.

The various **career funding** schemes lend support to young talents from the doctoral to the professorial level. They include fellowships for research stays abroad and specific measures supporting women in research.

In **programme funding**, some basic parameters are pre-defined. The most important programmes are National Research Programmes (NRPs) and National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs). NCCRs strengthen the competitiveness of Swiss research in strategically important spheres (robotics, molecular basis of diseases, etc.). Topics for NRPs are chosen

by the Federal Council and concern problems of national importance such as the use of wood, soil and energy. Other programmes focus on joint projects, clinical research and international collaborations.

The SNSF also funds **research infrastructures** as well as **communication** between researchers and between science and society.

2016 – research funding in figures

In 2016, the Swiss National Science Foundation awarded grants worth a total of CHF 937.3 million, 6.8 per cent more than in the previous year.

Funding by scheme

Approved amounts in CHF and as share of total funding amount

937.3
million CHF

22%
Programmes
(203.2 million)

9%
Infrastructures
(86.0 million)

1%
Science communication
(6.8 million)

22%
Careers
(206.7 million)

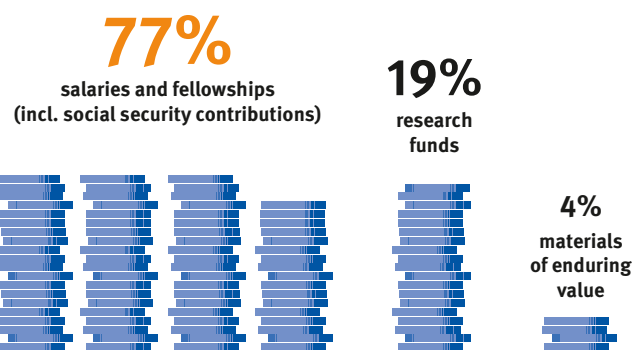
46%
Projects
(434.7 million)

3,244
research projects
were funded in 2016

14,600
researchers
were involved in SNSF-funded projects as at 30 June 2016. This number includes applicants and their staff.

Use of funds

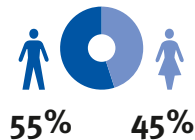
Grants worth CHF 937.3 million were approved, in percentage terms



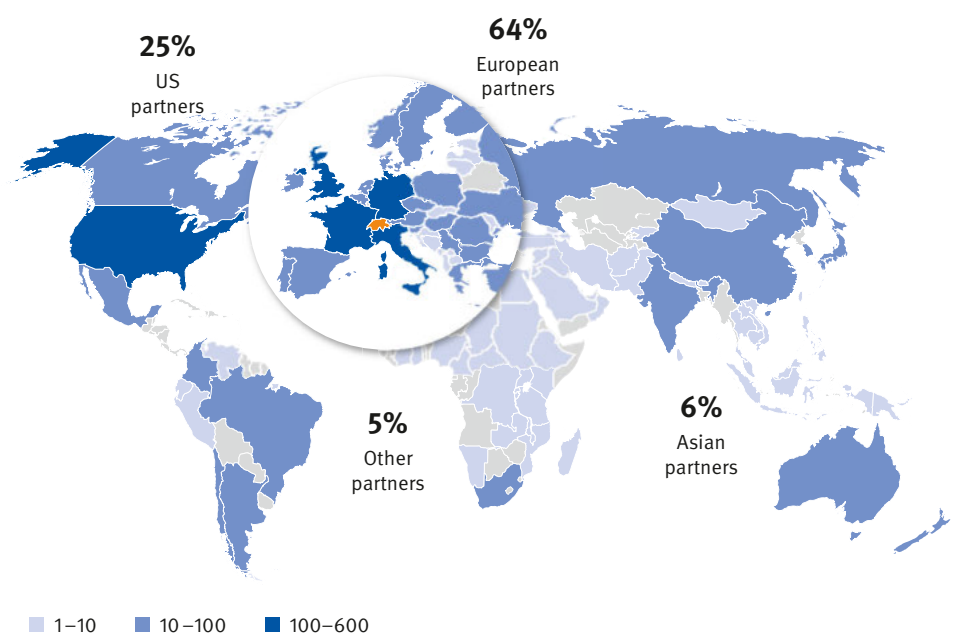
Project employees



76%
are 35 years old or younger

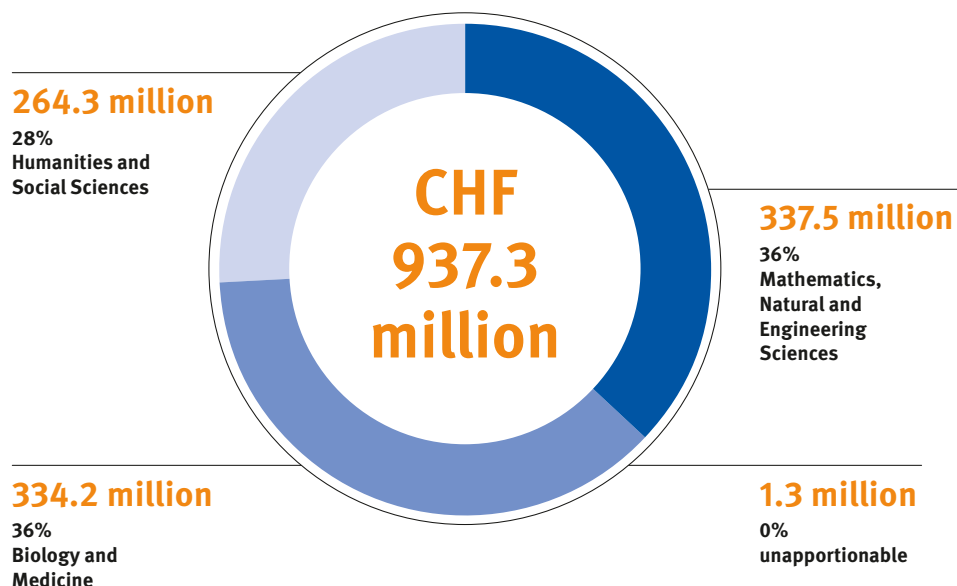


International collaboration



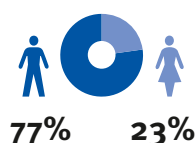
Funding by research area

Approved grants in CHF million and as share of total funding amount (interdisciplinary projects have been distributed across the three science areas)



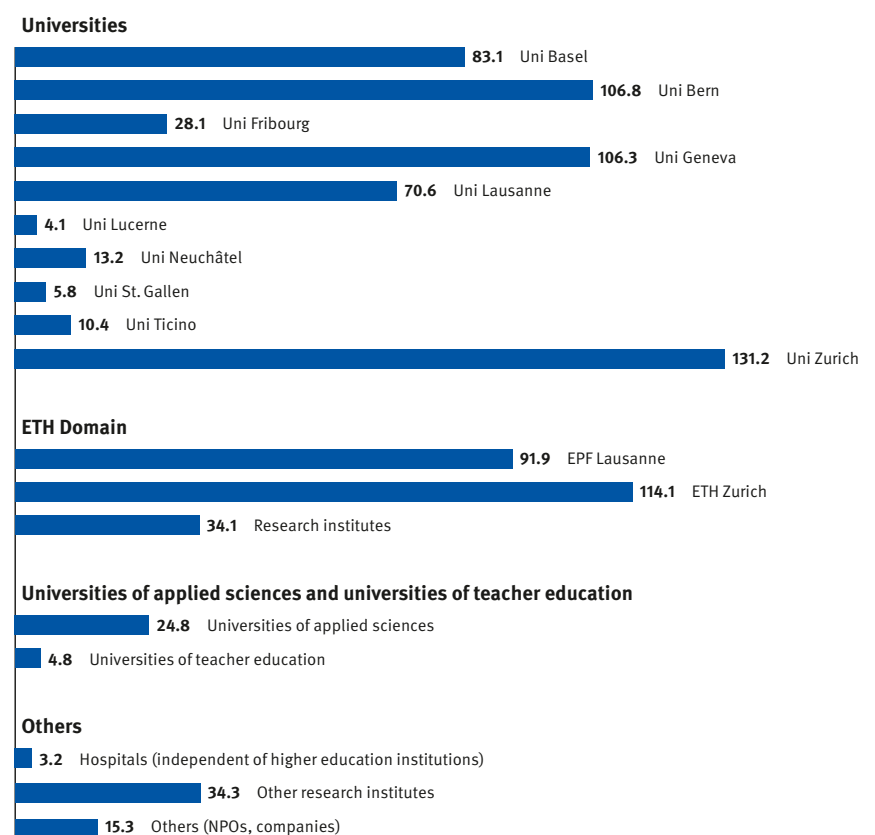
Percentage of approved funding by gender

Women submit far fewer applications than men



Funding awarded to researchers by institution

Approved amounts in CHF million (without fellowships abroad)



In addition, CHF 99.1 million were transferred to higher education institutions as overhead to cover indirect costs.

Some of the total amounts may contain rounding differences. The figures of the research funding statistics are not comparable with the figures of the financial statement 2016.

Further statistics: www.snsf.ch/statistics