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**Joint programme of SNSF and CTI: building a “Bridge”**

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) are jointly setting up the new programme “Bridge” to complement the support they already provide for Swiss science and innovation respectively. The programme aims to better exploit the economic and societal potential of scientific research by promoting the transfer from scientific knowledge to innovation.

Bridge relies on an integrative and iterative vision of innovation where there is strong interaction between scientific and innovation-based activities. Research and implementation partners will be encouraged to consult with each other at an early stage in the projects. Bridge will facilitate cooperation between universities, the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, research institutes and universities of applied sciences.

The programme will include two types of activity:

- One activity will involve supporting young researchers who aim to develop an application or service based on their own research findings. These projects may feature any type of innovation or research field.

- In a second funding line, projects will aim to facilitate interactions between basic and applied research in order to realise the innovation potential of the research findings. Submitted projects must be focused on technological innovations but should also demonstrate the societal and economic impact of the innovation to be developed.

Bridge is part of the Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) dispatch for the period 2017-2020 transmitted to parliament by the Federal Council. The final decision concerning the launch of Bridge and the final amount of funding will be taken by the Swiss parliament in autumn 2016. The first call for projects will be opened shortly after the decision by parliament.

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