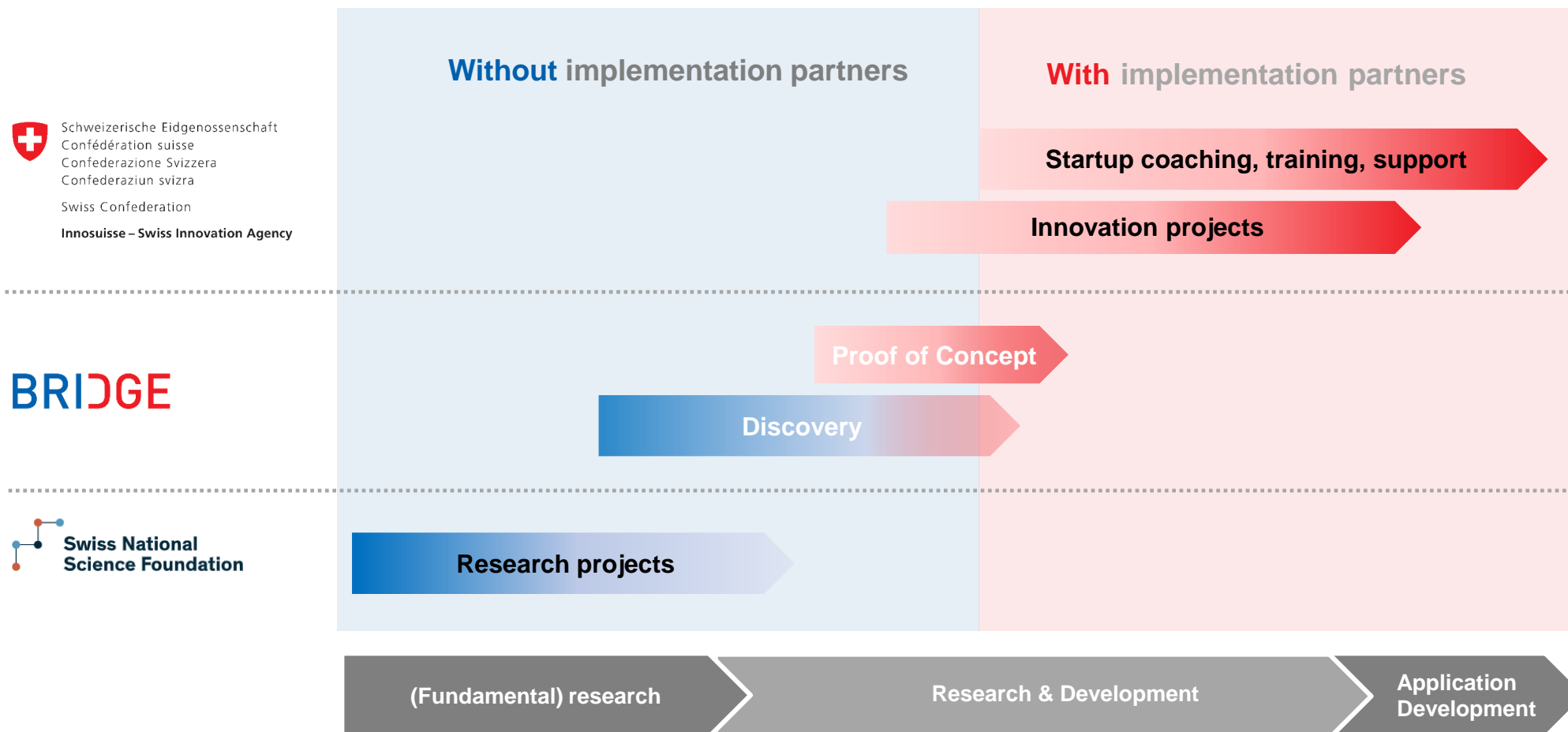


BRIDGE

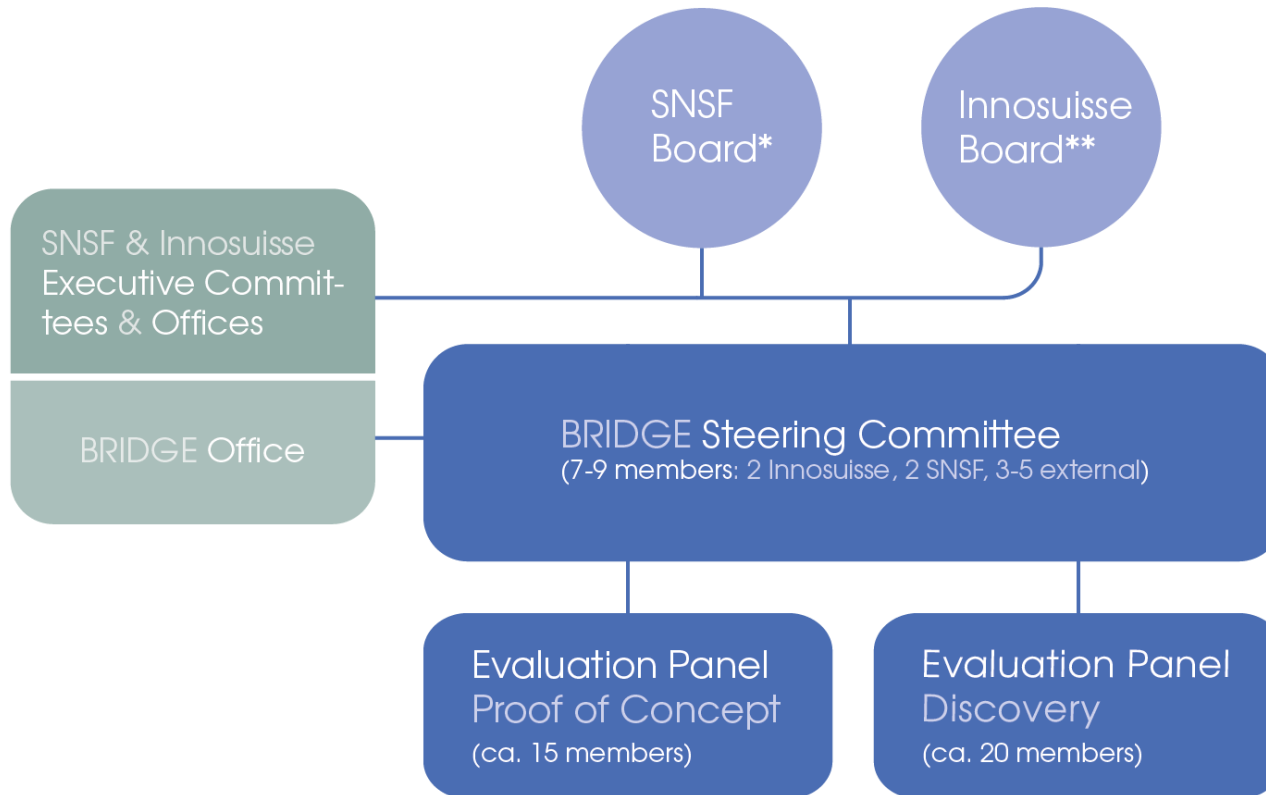


Building Bridges

Complete the funding portfolio



BRIDGE governance



* SNSF Presiding Board of the National Research Council

** Innosuisse Board of Directors

Overall responsibility

SNSF Presiding Board, Innosuisse Board of Directors

Program-specific functions

- Steering Committee
- Evaluation Panels

Advisory function

Stakeholder Group

Administrative support

BRIDGE Office (supported by SNSF & Innosuisse)

Goal of the **program**

« Turn scientific results into economic or societal innovation »

BRIDGE...

- ... fosters the economic and social potential of scientific research,
- ... supports projects in the critical precompetitive phase that have a clear vision of potential application,
- ... facilitates cooperation between Universities, ETHs, research institutes, and Universities of Applied Sciences, Universities of teacher education.

Two lines of funding

Proof of Concept

- Scientific results developed into a product or an application
- Young researchers on their way to entrepreneurship or willing to implement their research findings with an economic or social partner
- Open to all types of innovation

Discovery

- Interaction between basic and applied research to realize the innovation potential of scientific results
- Importance of the societal and economic impact
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field

Proof of Concept

Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

Eligibility criteria for the applicants

- Early stage of career (bachelor's or master's degree, doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers)
- Support by a Swiss research institution
- Applicants dedicate their full time to the project

Requirements for the project

- Based on the applicants' own research results or on research results they have substantially contributed to
- The underlying science has been peer-reviewed or documented by publications or another record of achievement (e.g., bachelor's, master's or doctoral thesis, scientific publication, patent, thesis presentation)
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field

Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

- Up to 4 calls per year
- Projects are submitted by a single applicant

Eligible costs

- Budget of project: max. 130'000 CHF per year
- 100% of applicant's salary (calculated based on the current rates at the host institution)
- Costs directly related to the realisation of the project

Duration

12 months (extension of up to 6 additional months exceptionally possible)

Overhead

max. 15% overhead paid to the host institution

Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

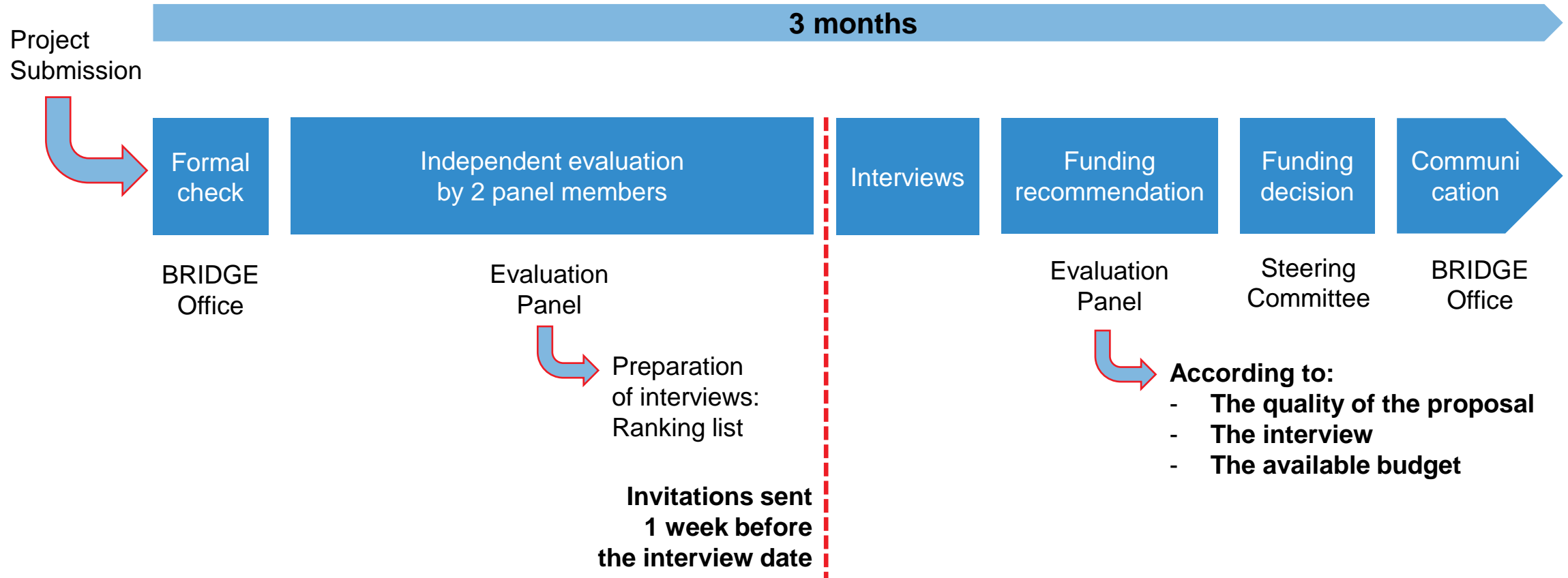
Evaluation criteria

- Expected **economical or societal impact** for the envisioned innovation, product or service
- **Feasibility of project** and the **implementation scenario**
- Appropriate level of innovation-based, entrepreneurial and managerial **competences of the applicant**, and **motivation to implement**

Evaluation procedure

- Evaluated by the Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel
- Two levels:
 - evaluation of submitted documents (project)
 - interview of the applicant
- Decision within 3 months

Proof of Concept Evaluation Process



Proof of Concept Application

A good application is...

Concrete

- Clear base of research/scientific results exists
- Market and/or societal interest exist; product, application or service has been defined
- Access to the market and/or implementation partners has been described

Clear

- Innovative content is clearly indicated
- Project plan is comprehensible
- Tasks are clearly defined and meaningful
- Milestones are reasonably set and goals are quantitatively described

Consistent

- Project planning and financial planning are consistent
- Timetable and resource allocation are realistic

Proof of Concept Application

Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- Provide answer to the problem (start from the end)
- Follow the structure of the template (leave nothing out)
- Know and follow the evaluation criteria (self-evaluation)
- Start early (necessary documents and signatures, proofreading)

Don'ts

- Focus only on the scientific part
- Neglect “impact” and “implementation”
- Hope for exceptions to the rules
- Imply too much

Proof of Concept Application

If you are not successful

Important

- Carefully read the decision letter
- If you have questions, ask the BRIDGE Office to clarify

Can you improve your application?

- If rejected, you can apply a second time for the same project, provided you still meet all the formal requirements
- List and explain the changes made to the former version of the project

Proof of Concept Support

Proof of Concept

Additional support

Assisted patent searches

An [assisted patent search for research and innovation](#) can be requested while you are preparing a BRIDGE application.

Support for women

BRIDGE supports career development and network building for the next generation of female researchers through the SNSF's [Gender Equality Grants](#).

Support for PhDs and postdocs working on the project

BRIDGE provides SNSF's [Flexibility Grants](#) to help researchers better balance their childcare responsibilities with their scientific work and academic careers.

Proof of Concept

Additional support

BRIDGE Coaching

A coaching limited to 10h is offered to all BRIDGE fellows

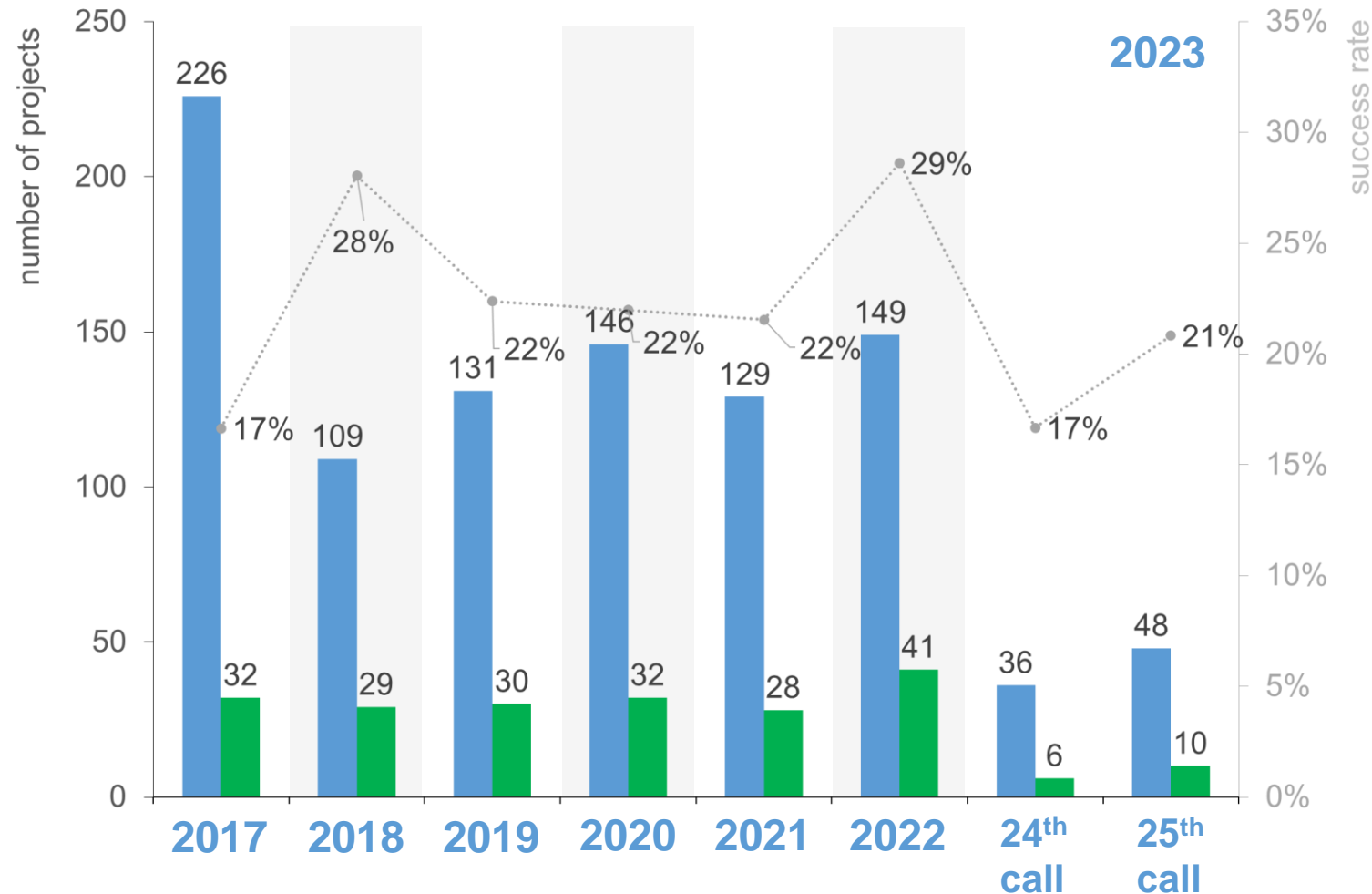
Innosuisse support

- BRIDGE fellows can take part in the Innosuisse [Start-up Training](#) programme, from Module 2 onwards
- Through the Innosuisse [Start-up Coaching](#) programme, start-ups can attend specialist international trade fairs either as visitors or exhibitors

BRIDGE Status 2017-2023

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted and accepted projects



2017-2020 | 4 calls per year

2021 | 3 calls

2022 | 5 calls

Yearly submitted and accepted proposals and average success rates

■ submitted

♀ 246 (25%)

♂ 728 (75%)

■ funded

♀ 53 (25%)

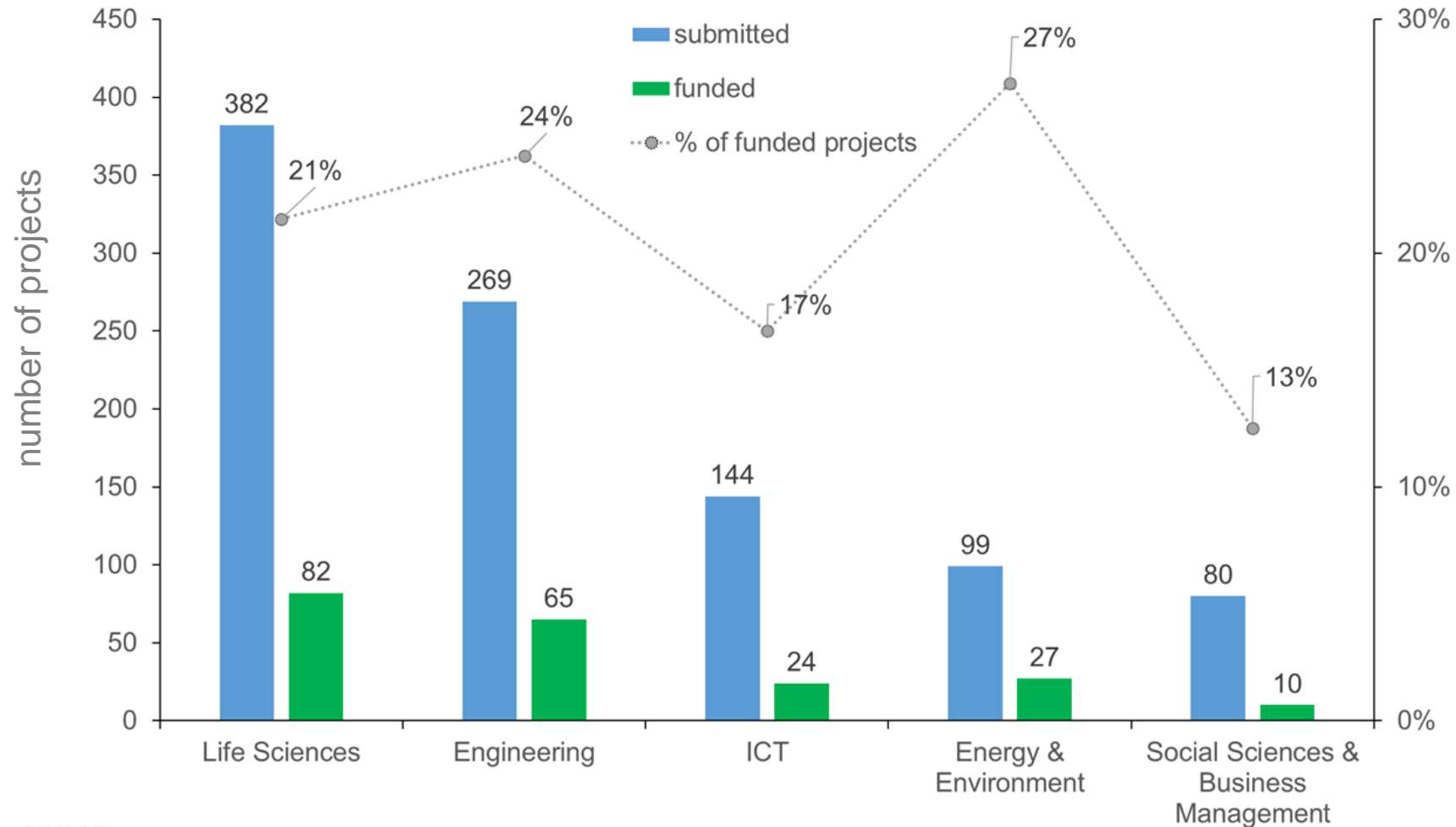
♂ 155 (75%)

··· success rate

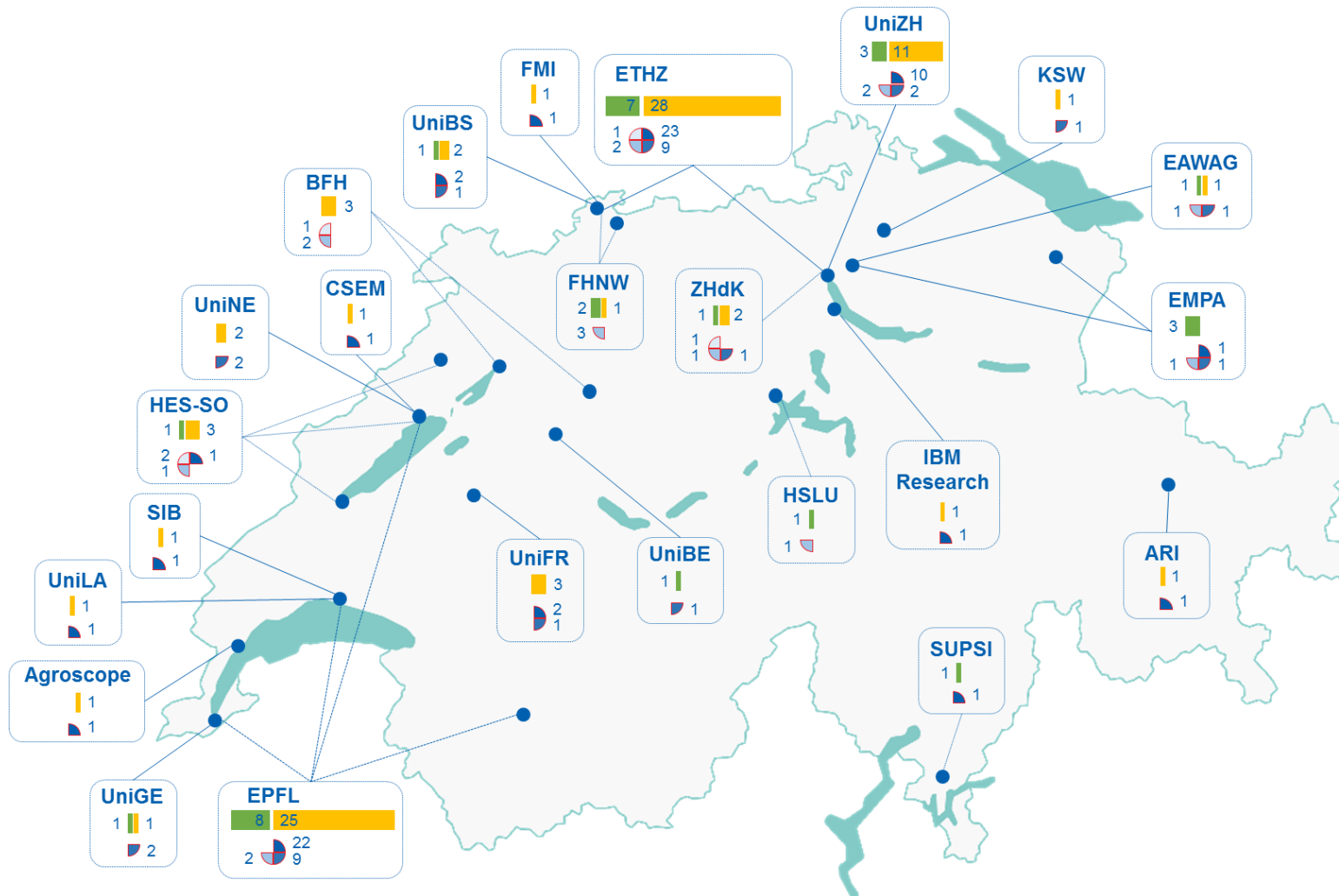
(overall average: 23.1%)

Proof of Concept Current Status

Disciplines (calls 2017-2023)



Proof of Concept **financed projects** 2017-2020



16 calls
612 applications
121 projects approved

Total budget approved: **15.2 mioCHF**
Average grant/project: **126 kCHF**

Host institution

Number of supported ...

... women ... men
... bachelors ... postdocs
... masters ... PhD students

Engineering



ICT



Life Sciences



88 start-ups

out of 121 BRIDGE Proof of Concept projects
(16 calls 2017-2020)

Energy & Environment



Social Sciences

BRIDGE Next Calls

Submission Deadlines

Deadline always 17:00 Swiss local time

Proof of Concept

- **27th call: 4 September 2023**
- **Special call: 4 September 2023**
- **28th call: 4 December 2023**

Interviews

9 or 10 November 2023

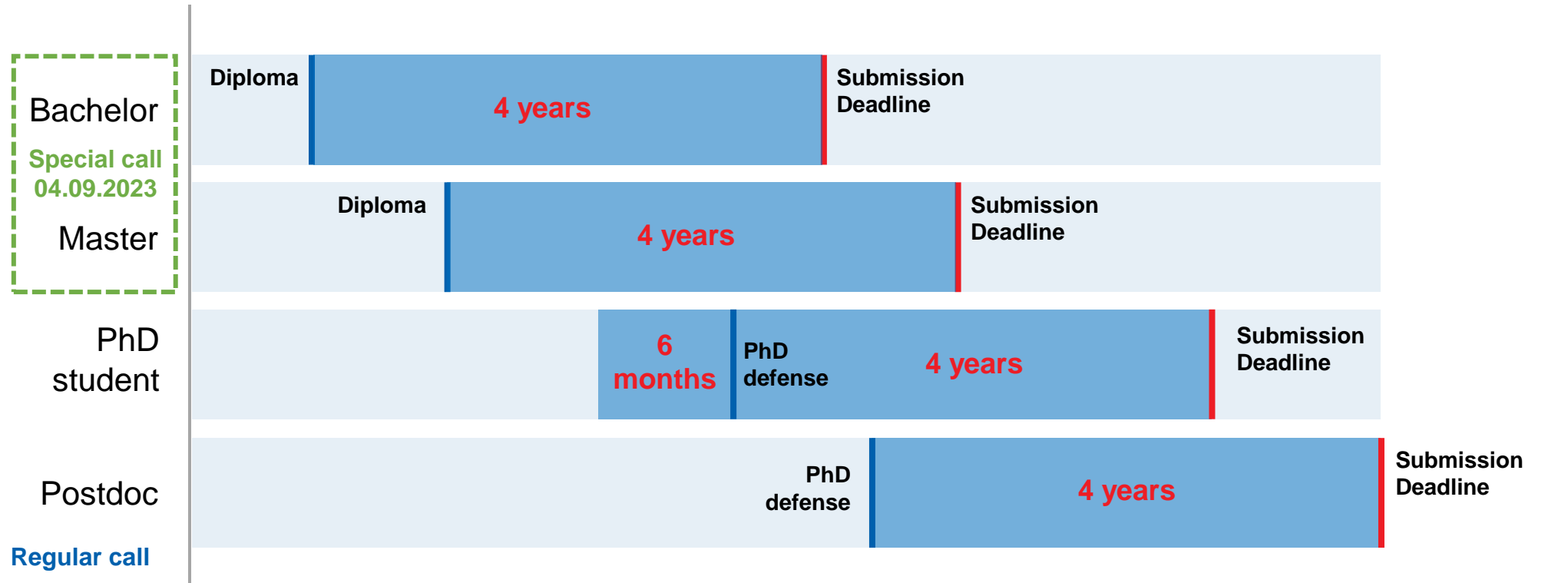
9 or 10 November 2023

February 2024

Check our website: www.bridge.ch

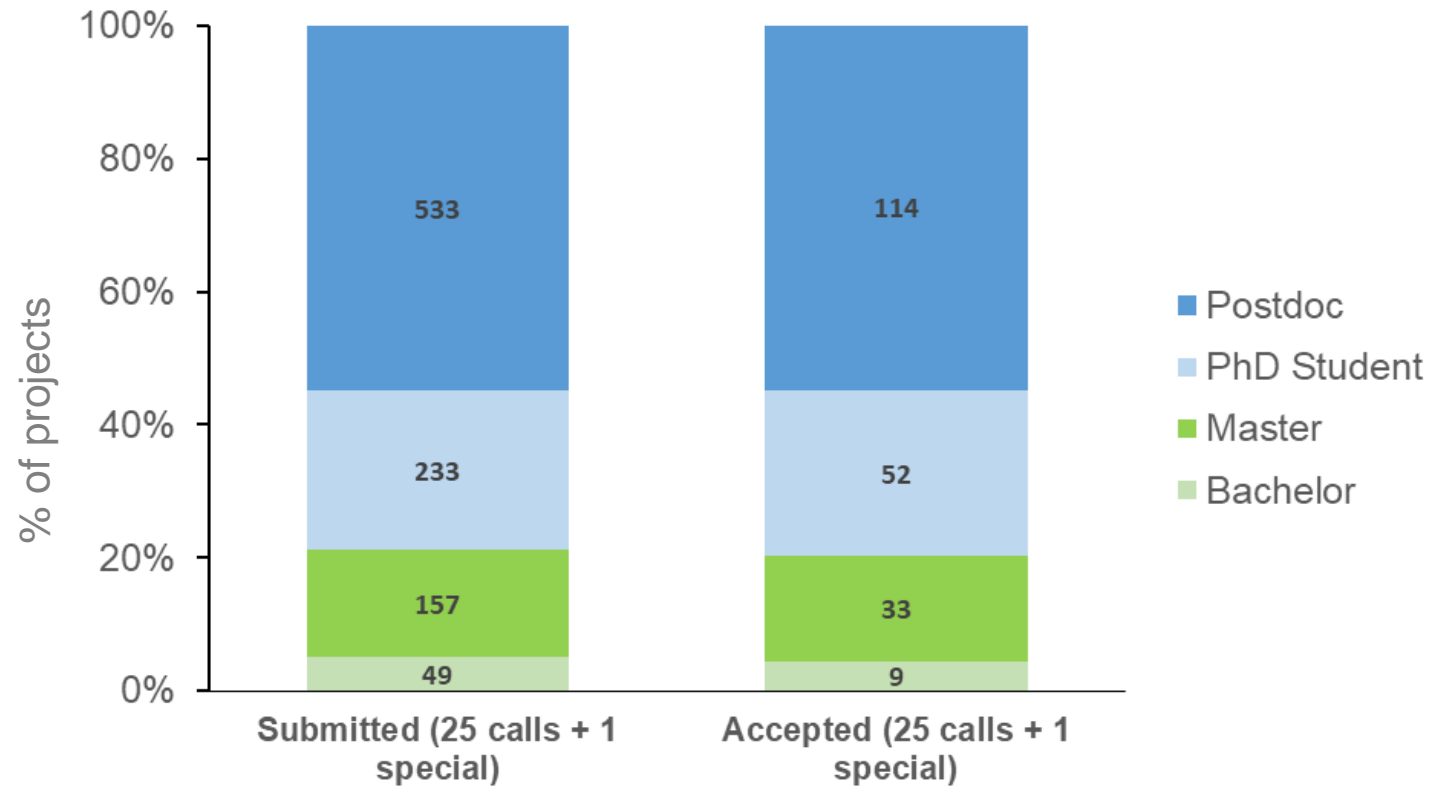
Requirements for applicants

Eligibility windows



Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by career state 2017-2023

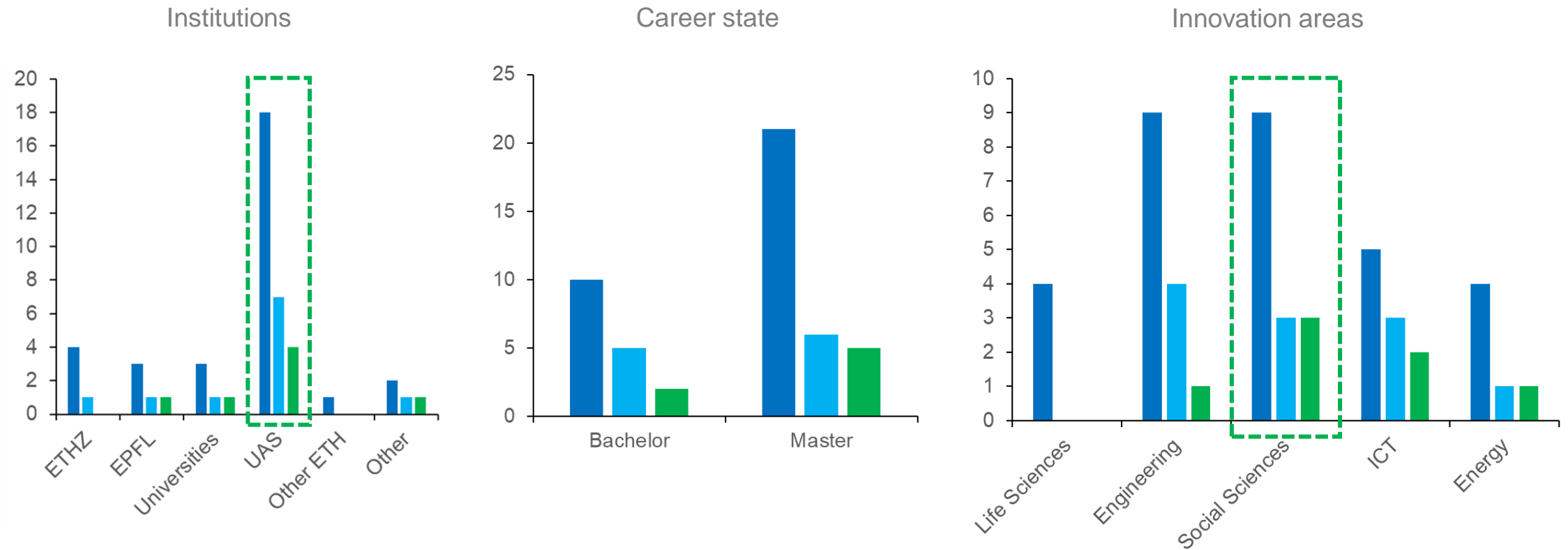


Success rates

- Postdoc: 21%
- PhD Student: 22%
- **Master: 21%**
- **Bachelor: 18%**

Proof of Concept Special call 2022

Submitted (■), invited (■) and accepted (■) projects



Proof of Concept Proposal

Proof of Concept

How to apply?

www.bridge.ch

- **Proof of Concept**
- **Section Documents:**
 - ⇒ Regulations
 - ⇒ Checklist
 - ⇒ Template for project description

<https://www.mysnf.ch/newuser.aspx>

- **Section Registration** if you are a new user

Proof of Concept

How to apply?

- **Creation of the mySNF account at least one week before the deadline**
- **Take the time to prepare all the requested documents and information:**
 - Commitment letter from the future host institute (*template*)
 - Reference Letter
 - Your CV => **SNSF Portal**
 - CV of the Head of the host research group
 - **Project description** (*template*)
 - **IP overview** (*template*)
 - Etc. (cf. checklist and mySNF)

https://www.snf.ch/media/en/DZdallZws1UxpN9N/BRIDGE_PoC_checklist.pdf

Proof of Concept

Intellectual Property (IP)

Overview of the ownership of existing Intellectual Property rights to research results

- Potential for a patent application?
- Patent search already performed?
- Patent already filed?
- Any other IP rights?
- Owner/agreement on the IP?

Assisted patent searches

An [assisted patent search for research and innovation](#) can be requested while you are preparing a BRIDGE application.

Proof of Concept

Project Description

1. Summary

2. Project Description

2.1 Research background

2.2 Innovation potential and market review

2.3 Description of the project and Implementation strategy

2.4 Project plan, milestones and deliverables

2.5 Commitment to a sustainable development

6 pages

Bibliography

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.1 Research background

2.2 Innovation potential and market review

- In what way is your idea innovative?
- What is the expected impact of your idea on the market or society?
- How can your innovation offer the economy a competitive advantage and/or benefit society? What is its potential “unique selling proposition”?
- *If applicable*, what is your strategy in terms of intellectual property?
- What are the possible societal or market outcomes?

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.3 Implementation strategy

- How do you intend to achieve the proof of concept?
- How do you plan to bring your idea to the market and/or society and/or to implementation partners?
- What are the main challenges expected to face regarding implementation strategy and partners?
- If you are planning to found a start-up company, how advanced are your plans in this respect?

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.4 Project plan

- What needs to be done during the project to achieve your goals?
- What challenges are expected? How do you plan to respond to them?
- Milestones and deliverables
- Are the presented measures feasible and realistic within the timeframe of the funding period?
- What will be your future role?

2.5 Commitment to a sustainable development



BRIDGE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

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BRIDGE Steering Committee 2023



Innosuisse

chair Nicoletta Casanova (FEMTOprint | Engineering)
Dave Brown (Angel Investor and Mentor | ICT) (**chair EP PoC**)



SNSF

Bernd Gotsmann (IBM Research | Engineering)
Mirjam Christ-Crain (Uni Basel | Life Sciences)



external

Mariana Christen Jakob (seif | Social Innovation)
Götz Schlotterbeck (FHNW | Chemistry)
Penny Schiffer (Raized.AI | Entrepreneurship)



advisory function

Jakob Rhyner (Uni Bonn | Sustainability / Physics) (**chair EP Discovery**)

Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel 2023

Life Sciences

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Karl-Heinz Krause | University Geneva |
| Anja Harmeyer | Pureos Bioventures |
| Greta Guarda | USI |
| Regine Eibl-Schindler | ZHAW |

Social Sciences

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Urs Bucher | Kalaidos |
| Paola Ghillani | Paola Ghillani & Friends |
| Lesley Spiegel* | DIZH |

* ad hoc member

ICT

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Dave Brown | loganbrown |
| Lisa Falco | Zühlke Group |

Engineering

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| James Miners | Fongit |
| Teodoro Laino | IBM Research |
| Daniele Inaudi | Smartec / Roctest |
| Anna Valente | SUPSI |

Micro-/Nanotechnologies

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Christofer Hierold | ETHZ |
| Alex Dommann | UniBE |
| Samantha Paoletti | CSEM |