



SNSF & INNOSUISSE FUNDING SCHEME EVENT

28 November 2025

Please note that these presentations are only summaries. In case of doubt, please refer to the relevant regulations published on our websites.

Programme Presentations

Schedule	Subjects
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome speech
09:10 – 09:35	BRIDGE
09:35 – 10:00	Project funding
10:00 – 10:25	Weave/Lead Agency/International Co-Investigator Scheme

Programme

Q&A sessions

Schedule	Subjects and links for the Q&A sessions
10:30 – 11:15	BRIDGE Project funding Weave/Lead Agency/International Co-Investigator Scheme

Links available on
[SNSF & Innosuisse funding scheme events \(snf.ch\)](#)

Information about the presentations

- Both your microphone and camera are switched off. You see the presentation and video of the person speaking.
- If you're experiencing technical problems, you can contact us using the chat function.
- The presentations are recorded (only the slides and the voice/video of the speakers).
- The slides and recordings of all presentations will be available on our website in the days after each event.
- Immediately after each presentation, we will only be able to take a very limited number of questions. Use the chat!
- For further questions, please use the **Q&A session** for the scheme you are interested in. These sessions will take place after the last presentation. You'll find all the links on our website.

Horizons – The Swiss Research Magazine

Latest developments in
science and research policy

Published by the **SNSF** and
the **Swiss Academies of Arts
and Sciences**

Publication: **Four times** a year
(March, June, September,
December)

Printed version:
German & French

Editors are **independent**

Free magazine

Online version:
German, French &
English

Horizons – Recent topics



What's in nothing



The hunt for knowledge in images



I'm personally affected by my research. So what?

Where can you find Horizons?



Online version (English: <https://www.horizons-mag.ch/>)



Subscription (<https://www.horizons-mag.ch/subscribe/>)



<https://bsky.app/profile/horizons-en.bsky.social>



[@horizons_mag](https://www.instagram.com/horizons_mag)



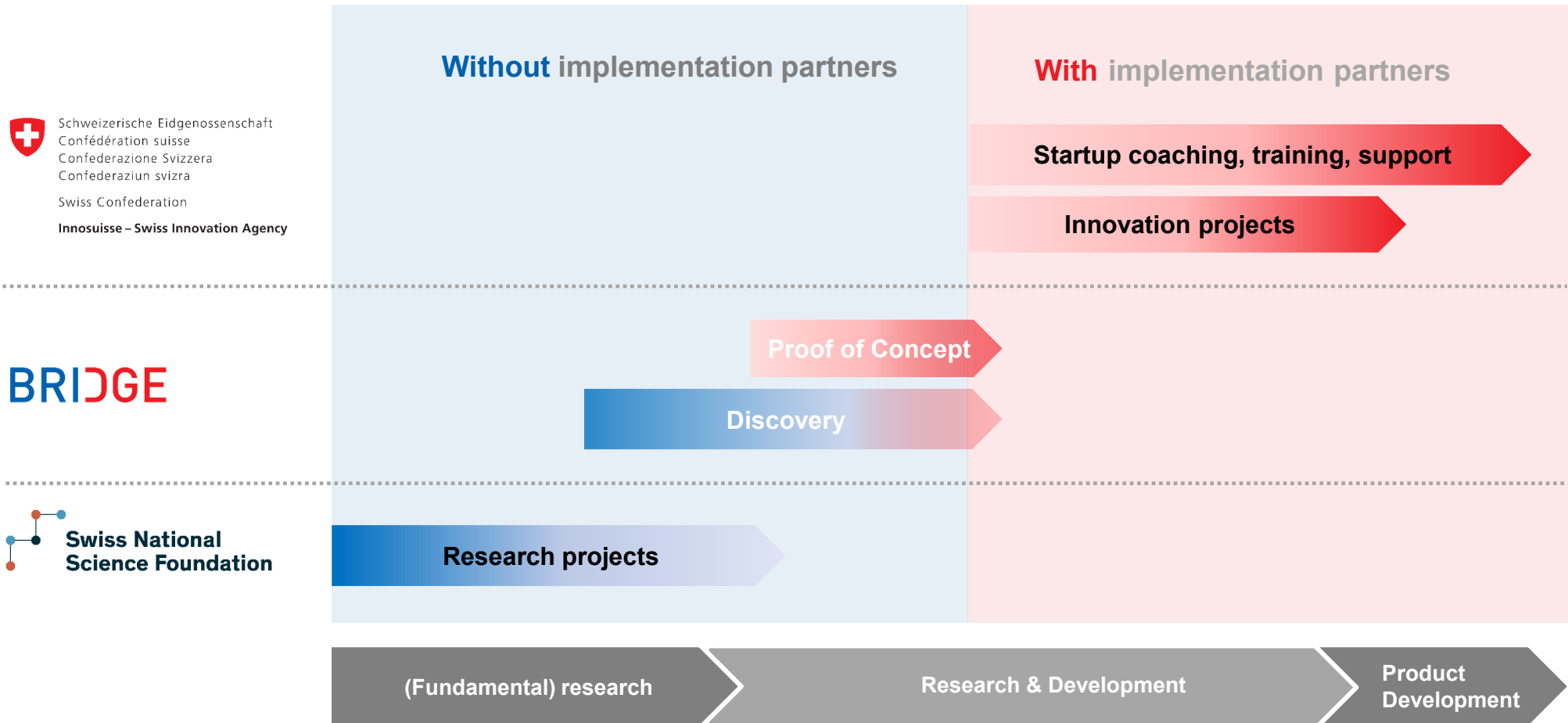
https://x.com/horizons_en

BRIDGE

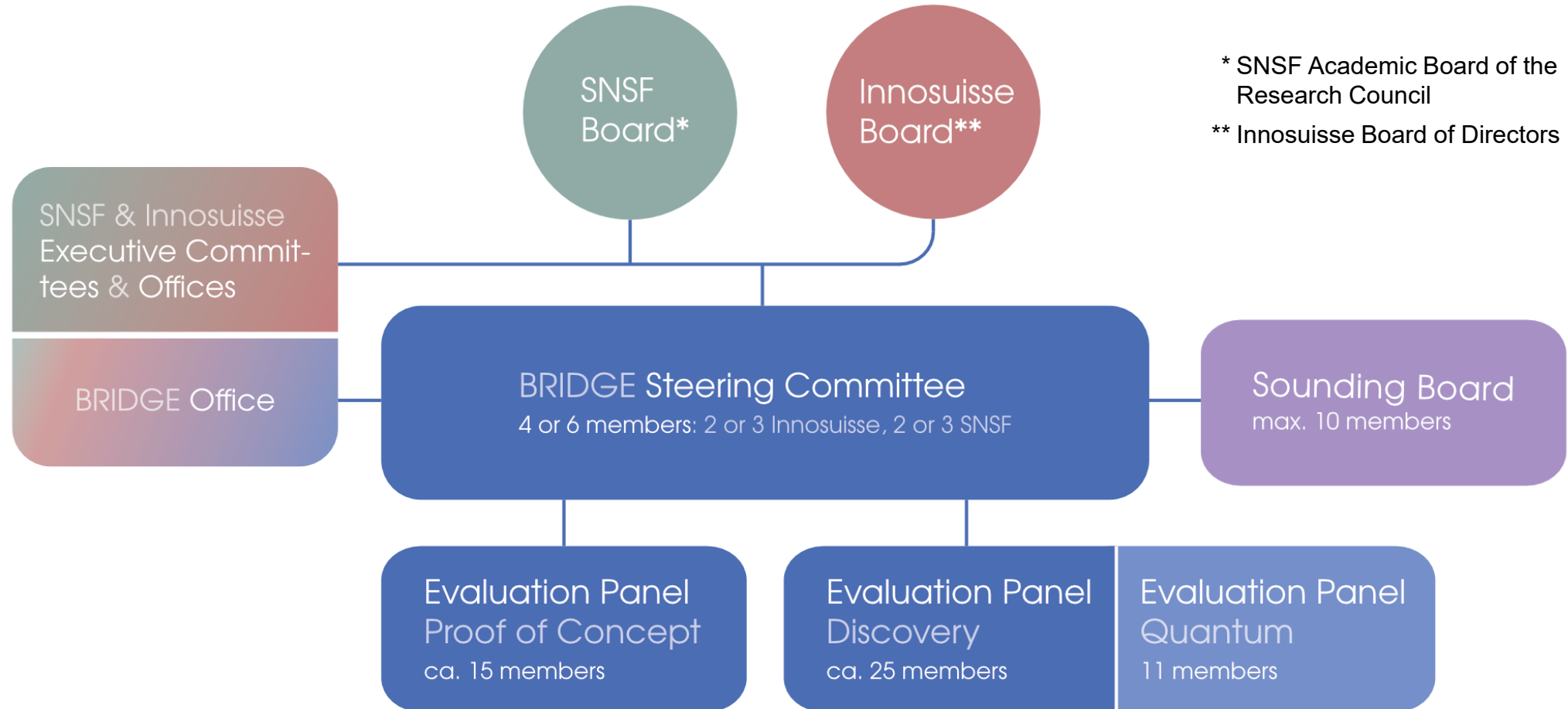


Building Bridges

Complete the funding portfolio



BRIDGE governance



Goal of the **program**

« Turn scientific results into economic or societal innovation »

BRIDGE...

- ... fosters the economic and societal 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 realise 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, PhD degree obtained within the last four years)
- 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, thesis presentation, scientific publication, patent).
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field.

Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

- 4-5 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 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

Evaluation criteria

Quality
of the project

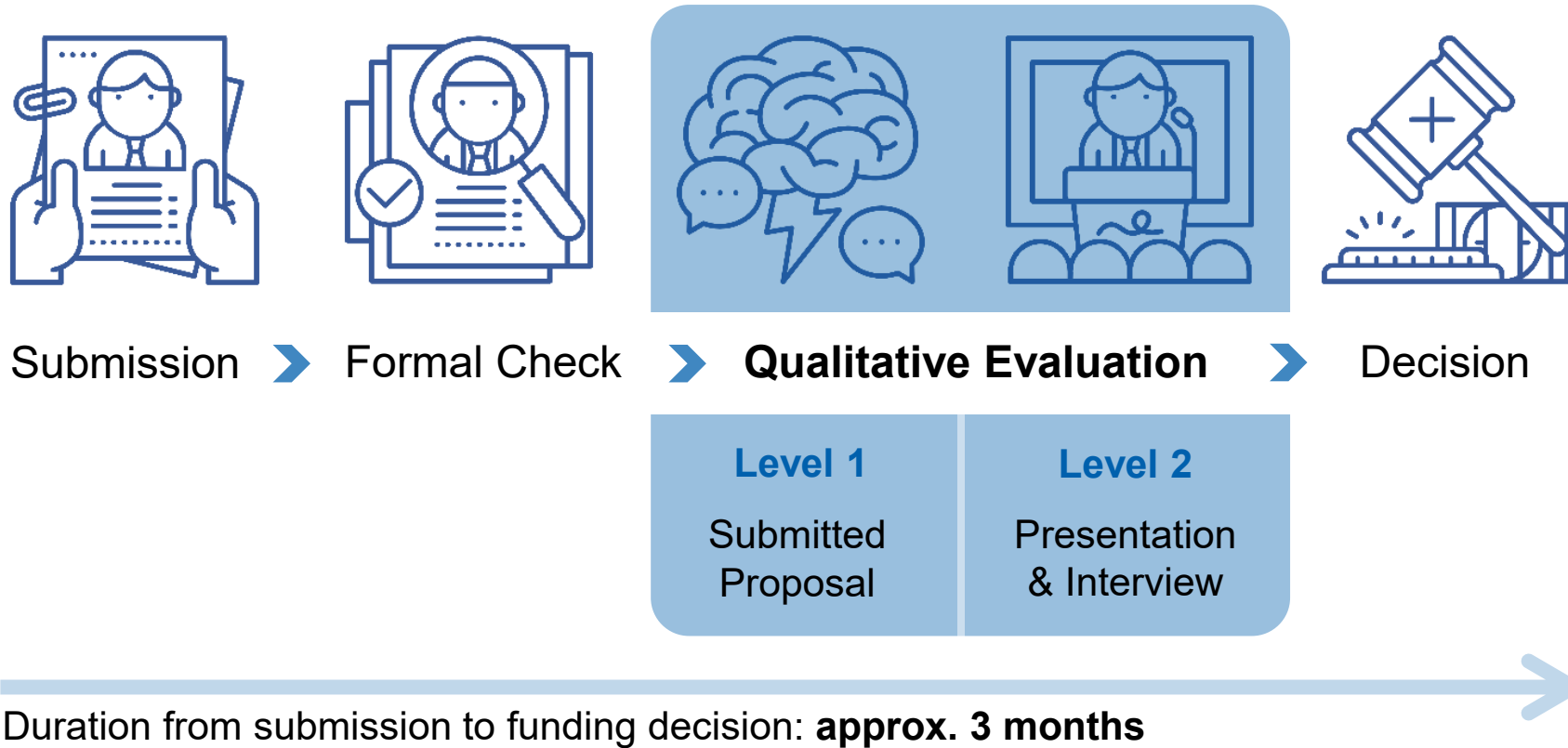
- **Innovative potential:** Expected **economical or societal impact** for the envisioned innovation, product or service
- **Feasibility of project** and the **implementation scenario**

Qualification
of applicant

Appropriate level of innovation-based, entrepreneurial and managerial **competences of the applicant**, and **motivation to implement**

Proof of Concept

Evaluation procedure



Discovery

Discovery

Details of **the funding scheme**

Eligibility criteria for the applicants

Experienced researchers at a Swiss research institution

Requirements for the project

- Integration of excellent science and high-impact innovation
- Research is at a stage where the risk is too large for implementation partners to co-fund
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field
- Up to 3 applicants of independent research groups with a clear vision of innovation

Discovery

Details of the funding scheme

- One call per year
- One project per applicant

Eligible costs

Project budget: max. 850'000 CHF per applicant for 4 years

- Salaries of project personnel, excluding the salary of the applicants (special conditions may apply to UAS, UTE and CSEM researchers)
- Project costs directly related to the project

Duration

Up to 4 years

Overhead

max. 15% overhead paid to the host institution

Discovery

Evaluation criteria

Quality of the project

- **High scientific quality** going beyond state of the art
- **Innovative potential:** The project contains a credible vision of the potential societal, environmental, technological or economical **impact** and benefits of the innovation and its possible **implementation**
- Convincing **roadmap towards implementation**

Qualification of applicant(s)

- Scientific and **innovation-oriented, entrepreneurial** as well as management competence of the applicants
- Added value of the **consortium**

Discovery

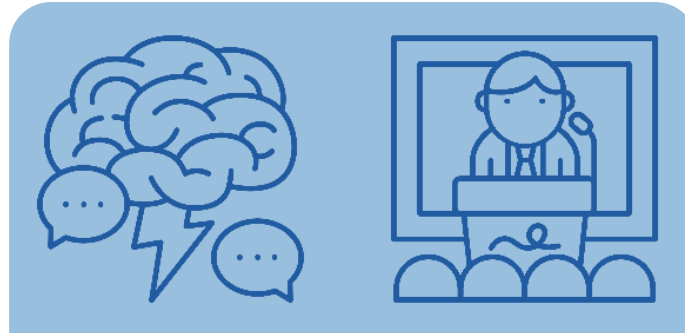
Evaluation procedure



Submission



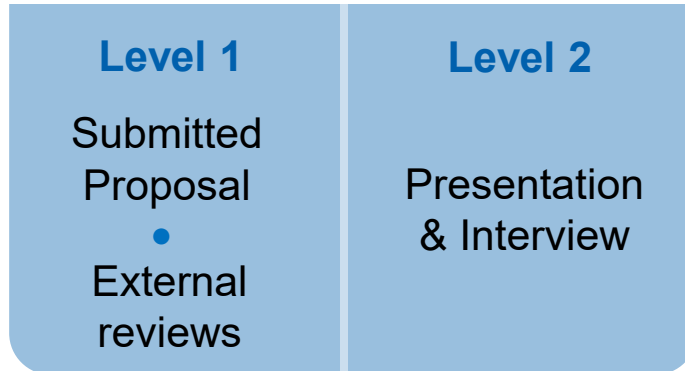
Formal Check



Qualitative Evaluation



Decision



Duration from submission to funding decision: **approx. 6 months**

BRIDGE Impact

BRIDGE Impact

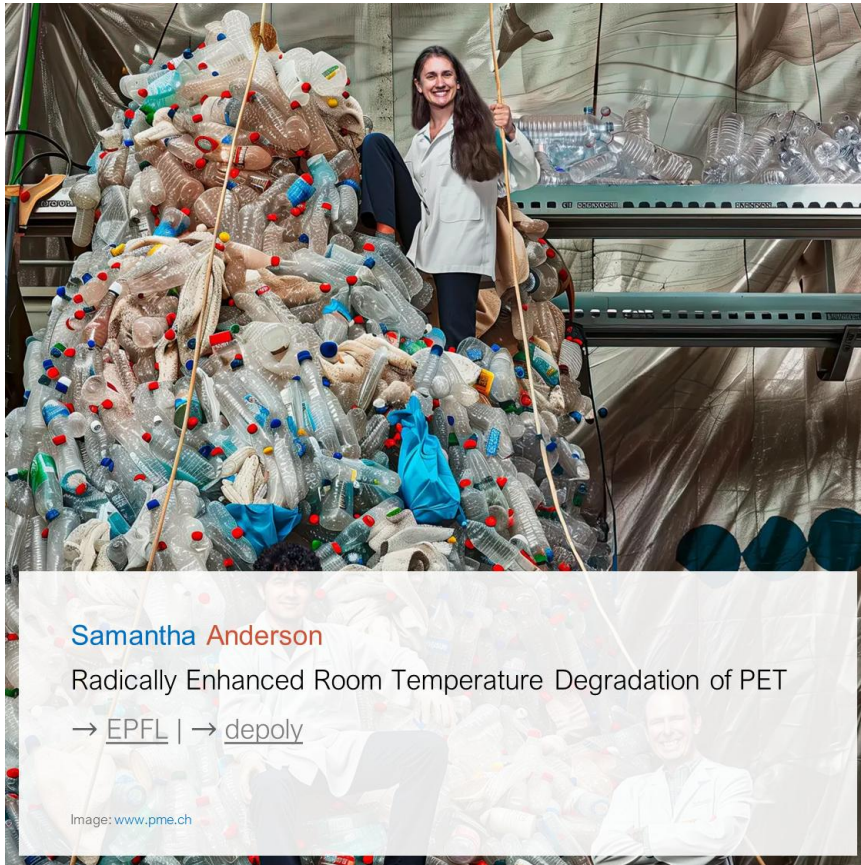
Proof of Concept 2017 – today

- **307** projects accepted (of 1388 submitted)
- Success rate: 22%
- >50 mioCHF invested
- **>170 start-ups** founded



BRIDGE Success stories

Proof of Concept 2017 – today



BRIDGE Impact

Discovery 2017 – today

- **116** projects accepted (of 905 submitted)
 - Success rate: 13%
 - >140 mioCHF invested
 - On average >2 applicants per project (251 grantees)
- External impact analysis (June 2023): «All completed projects [13] successfully developed innovative milestones towards potential applications.»
- 13 founded start-ups, 39 patents

BRIDGE Success stories

Discovery 2017 – today



[Ursula Wolf](#) | [Guido Piai](#) | [Luciano Bösel](#)

Wearable textile sensor to protect against pressure ulcers – ProTex

→ [UniBE](#) ▪ [OST](#) ▪ [EMPA](#) | → [sensawear](#)

Image: www.empa.ch



[Daniel Kübler](#) | [Nenad Stojanovic](#)

Swiss Citizens' Assembly: A Democratic Innovation Involving Sortition, Deliberation and Participatory Democracy

→ [UniZH](#) ▪ [UniGE](#) | → [Citizens' Assembly 2025](#)

Image: www.pnyx25.uzh

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BRIDGE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency



PROJECT FUNDING

28 November 2025

Michael Hutter
Scientific Collaborator
Projects

Information on project funding

Please consult www.snf.ch

- Regulations on project funding
- Funding regulations
- General implementation regulations
- General and personal requirements
- Project Team
- Budget
- FAQs



What's new Research Funding About

[Homepage](#) > [Funding](#) > [Find funding scheme](#) > [Project funding](#)

Open calls

Find funding scheme

Updates

Information for researchers ∨

How to ∨

Project funding



© Constantine Johnny

Individual or collaborative, disciplinary or interdisciplinary – realise your research ideas with the SNSF. We fund your project on the topic of your choosing.

Submission deadline: 01.04.2026 17:00 CEST

Submission deadlines

1 April and 1 October
17.00 Swiss local time

Contacts

Project funding SSH
Email: projects.ssh@snf.ch

Project funding MINT
Email: projects.mint@snf.ch

Project funding Life Sciences
Email: projects.ls@snf.ch

Project funding Interdisciplinary Research
Email: projects.id@snf.ch

Share

Project funding: SNSF's largest funding instrument

- Research projects have **no commercial goals**, distinguished by **research freedom** and **freedom of publication**
- Open to **all disciplines**, **submissions twice a year**, **deadlines usually on 1 April and 1 October at 17:00** Swiss local time (may vary: not on a Friday or Monday).
- **Individuals** or research groups (**collaborative projects** with multiple applicants) can apply
- Project **duration**: min. 1 year, max. 4 years

Evaluation:

- **Criteria:**
 - Scientific quality of proposed research: scientific relevance, topicality and originality, suitability of methods, feasibility
 - Scientific qualification of applicant(s): scientific track record and ability to carry out the research project
- **Procedure:**
 1. Formal verification
 2. Peer review: external and internal
 3. Evaluation and rating by National Research Council in a competitive procedure
 4. Funding decision
 5. Communication of results: about 6 months after submission

Types of project funding grants

Individual projects

- submitted by 1 applicant

Collaborative projects

- submitted by several applicants; no hierarchical dependencies;
- **specialist knowledge** and the scientific **contribution** of two or more applicants is **required**;
- **collaboration is essential** for achieving the research goals and creates an additional benefit; roles need to be clearly defined

Interdisciplinary projects

- research that goes **beyond the limits of existing disciplines**, and fields of research (SSH, MINT, LS).
 - the intended research goals require the **integration of elements** (such as theories, methods, concepts) from **two or more disciplines**;
 - combining these elements is not yet customary in the fields concerned;
 - the various **disciplines contribute** to the proposed research **from different perspectives**.
 - Specific box in SNFPortal to define interdisciplinarity in detail
- Interdisciplinarity is no evaluation criteria

Yes No

i You have selected "yes" for interdisciplinary. Describe the main elements that make your research interdisciplinary.

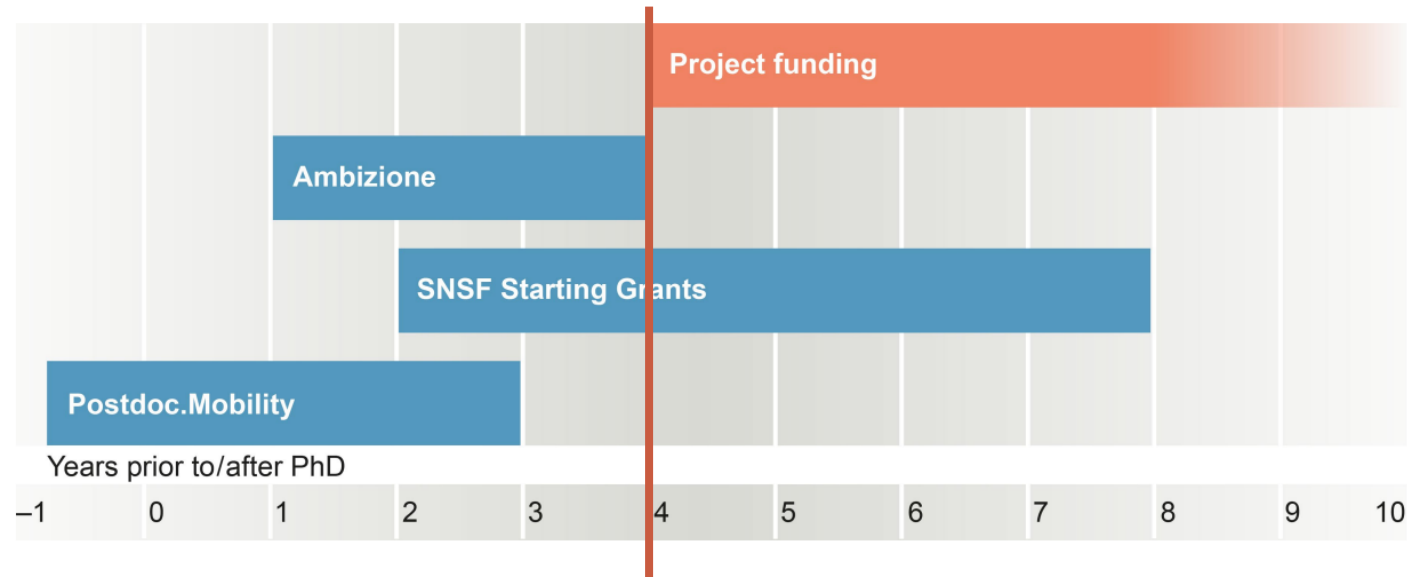
Description
Description

General eligibility requirements

- **Employed at least 50%** at a Swiss research institution in accordance with Swiss law
- Researchers devoting less than 50% of their time to science are eligible if their scientific research and teaching activities are usually carried out as part of another professional activity, e.g., physicians.
- In collaborative projects with at least 3 applicants, one applicant may be employed by a research institute outside Switzerland, provided their expertise is required for the project.

Personal eligibility requirements

- Applicants **with a doctorate**: **at least 4 years' experience** after the doctorate or an **independent research position** with an employment for the entire duration of the project.
- Applicants **without a doctorate**: researchers must have completed **7 years of full-time research work** since obtaining their higher education degree (3 years of research work will be regarded as equivalent to a doctorate).
- Except the case of a qualification position (e.g., *Oberassistent, maître d'enseignement et de recherche (MER), maître-assistants, senior scientists, SNSF professorships, Assistant professorships*): all applicants need to fulfill the eligibility requirements for the entire duration of the project.



* Exceptions possible

Grant conditions in project funding

- Maximum **one proposal submission as applicant per deadline**
 - **Up to three project funding grants in parallel**, if at least one is for an EU consortium project or has been granted within a Lead Agency, Weave or International Co-investigator scheme evaluation.
 - All grants must have **clearly different topics**, aims, objects of study and research questions, and applicants can show that they will make a substantial contribution
- Lead Agency, Weave projects, and ERA-Net grants are part of project funding

Grants in the form of global budgets

- **Global budgets are the rule**, paid out in annual instalments, under **responsibility of the PI**
- Max **250KCHF per year and applicant**, up to 1MCHF per year
- **Grant holders can dispose freely of the budget** within the framework of the applicable regulations, the submitted research plan and goals
- In **exceptional cases**, cost categories or **budget items are defined** by the SNSF
- In any case, **changes to the project design** that will result in **major deviations** from the research plan and goals **must be submitted to the SNSF for approval**

Eligible costs: categories

- **Personnel** (salaries and social security; NOT for the PIs or project partners)
- **Conferences and workshops**
- **Collaboration costs** (national & international)
- **Costs for coordinating the research project** in the case of applications with three or more applicants
- **Material of enduring value, equipment if not standard** (up to 300K CHF, the research institution must contribute at least 50 percent of total costs in excess of 100K CHF).
- **Costs of scientific open research data**
- **Third-party expenses** (project partners, subcontracting)
- Direct costs for using **infrastructures, data acquisition, consumables**
 - e.g., field expenses, computing time, procuring data
- Costs of **career measures**
- **All costs must be related to the project and clearly justified**

Add expense

Designation 0 / 40

Category

Responsible person

Year Amount (CHF)

Justify why the requested expenses in this amount are necessary for the proposed project.

Justification 0 / 1000

Roles of project partners & Subcontracting

Project partners:

- **scientific contribution**, but not substantial responsibility (role of the PI).
- employed at a **public, private or commercial research institution/company** in Switzerland or abroad
 - Condition: contribution does not result in direct monetary benefit for the employer:
no commercial goals
- **salaries** of project partners are **not eligible** for funding
- project partners may employ personnel

Subcontracting (third party mandates):

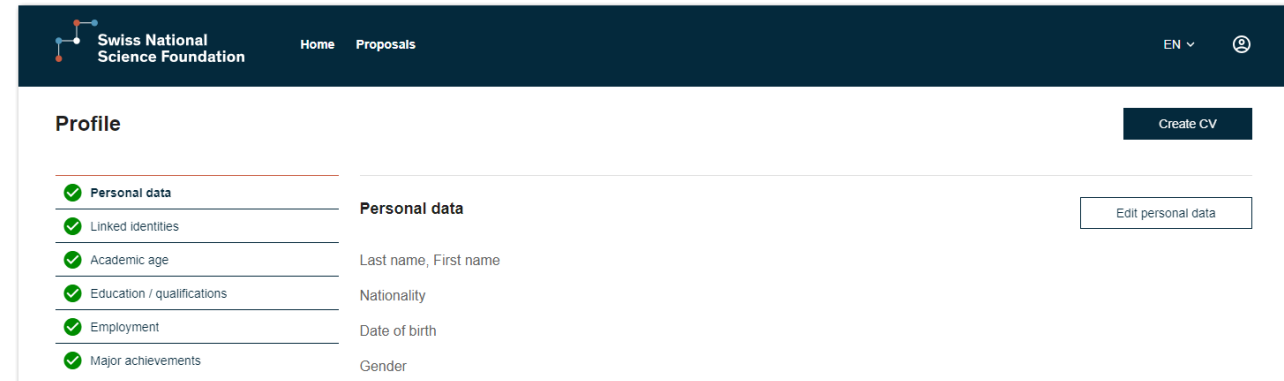
- buy-in of specific services
- often from companies

Costs for project partners and subcontracting: **max. 20% of total requested Swiss funds**

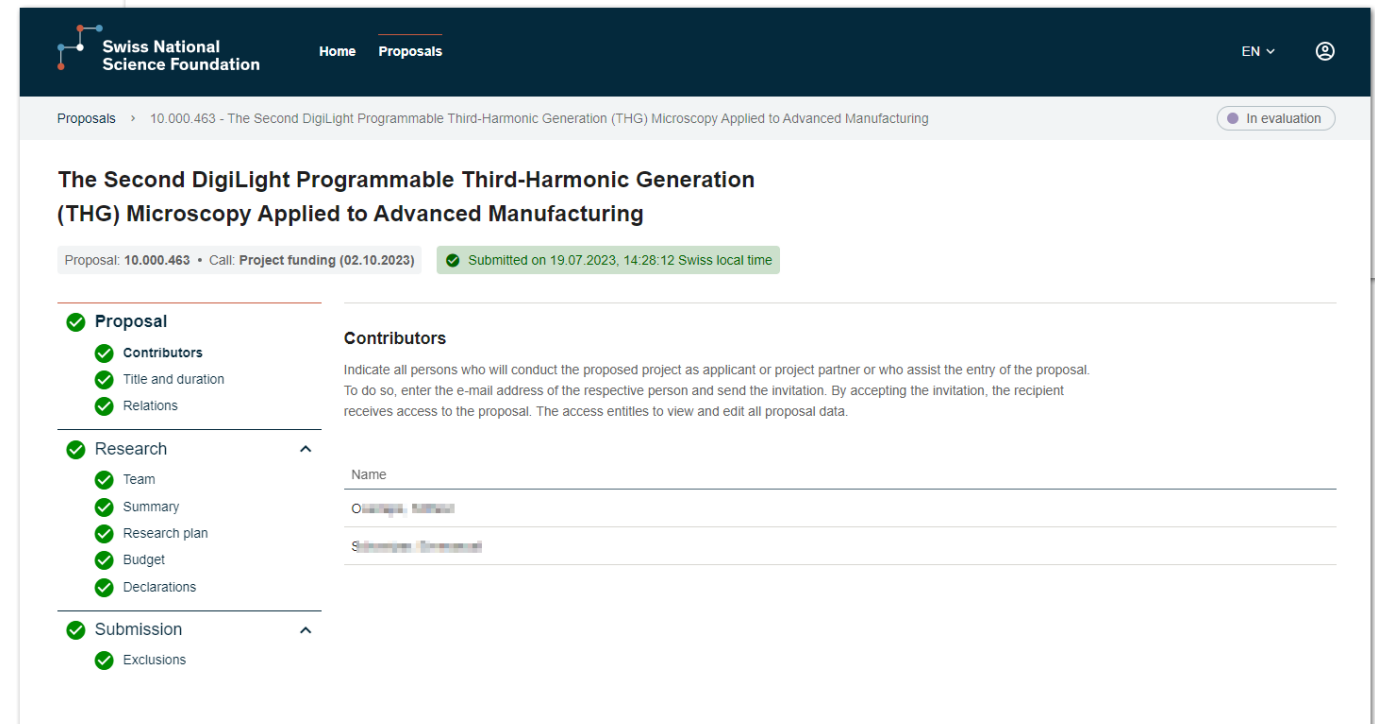
Submitting a project proposal: SNF Portal

Submission on portal.snf.ch

- Applicants and project partners must enter personal data themselves
→ **Request the required logins early:**
SWITCH edu-ID & *mySNF* login
- Follow the order of the data containers
→ technical dependencies

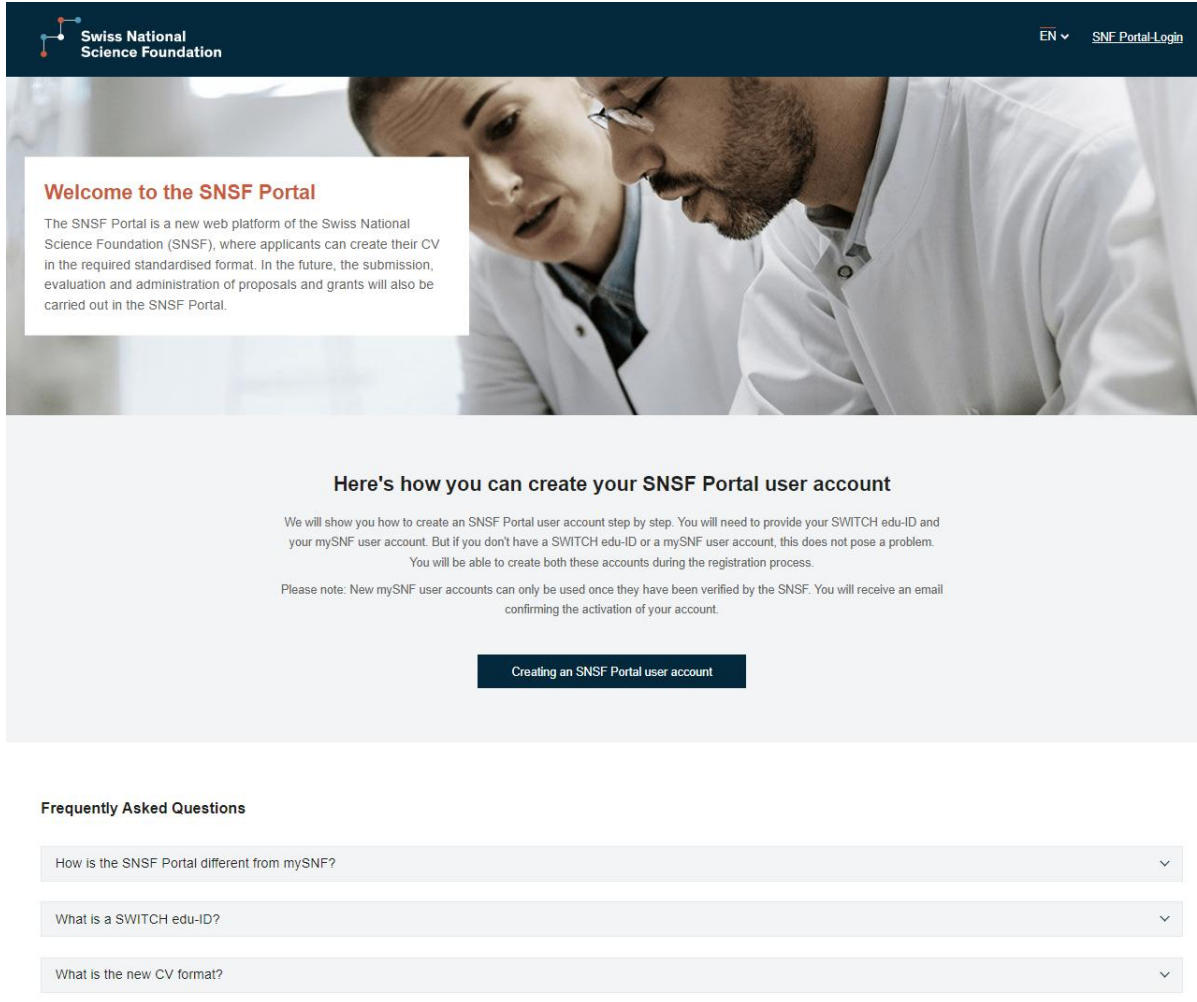


The screenshot shows the 'Profile' page on the SNF Portal. The header includes the SNF logo, 'Home', 'Proposals', and a language dropdown set to 'EN'. A 'Create CV' button is in the top right. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists data containers with green checkmarks: Personal data, Linked identities, Academic age, Education / qualifications, Employment, and Major achievements. The right column, titled 'Personal data', contains input fields for 'Last name, First name', 'Nationality', 'Date of birth', and 'Gender'. An 'Edit personal data' button is located at the bottom right of the right column.



The screenshot shows the 'Proposals' page for a specific proposal. The header is identical to the profile page. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Proposals > 10.000.463 - The Second DigiLight Programmable Third-Harmonic Generation (THG) Microscopy Applied to Advanced Manufacturing'. A status badge indicates 'In evaluation'. The proposal title is 'The Second DigiLight Programmable Third-Harmonic Generation (THG) Microscopy Applied to Advanced Manufacturing'. Below the title, it shows 'Proposal: 10.000.463 • Call: Project funding (02.10.2023)' and a green status badge 'Submitted on 19.07.2023, 14:28:12 Swiss local time'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists data containers with green checkmarks: Proposal, Contributors, Research, and Submission. The right column, titled 'Contributors', contains a text area for 'Name', 'Outgoing Address', and 'Submitting Organization', along with a 'Submit' button.

Preparing a project proposal: SciCV



The screenshot shows the SNSF Portal website. At the top left is the logo for the Swiss National Science Foundation. At the top right, there are links for 'EN' and 'SNF Portal-Login'. The main content area features a large image of two scientists in white lab coats looking at a screen. Below the image is a white box with the heading 'Welcome to the SNSF Portal' and a paragraph explaining the portal's purpose. Below this is a section titled 'Here's how you can create your SNSF Portal user account' with detailed instructions and a button labeled 'Creating an SNSF Portal user account'. At the bottom, there is a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section with three expandable items: 'How is the SNSF Portal different from mySNF?', 'What is a SWITCH edu-ID?', and 'What is the new CV format?'.

- The CV format is submitted on <https://portal.snf.ch>
- The following IDs and credentials are required to Login to SNSF Portal
 - **SWITCH edu-ID:** Your ID to reach the portal, widespread use at Swiss higher education institutions
 - **mySNF Account:** Necessary for correct data processing
 - **ORCID iD:** Required for the new CV, works/publications can be imported from ORCID
- Login: guide available on the [SNSF Website](#)

Preparing a project proposal: SciCV

- **Net academic age**
 - from graduation: PhD, state medical exam, or equivalent qualification (3 yrs full-time research activity)
 - deduction of interruptions (e.g., maternity/paternity leave) and non-scientific work
- **Education and training**
- **Previous and current employment**
- **Major achievements with selected works**
 - Narrative description of up to 3 achievements
 - max. 10 outputs across the 3 achievements
 - only list works described in the narrative element and vice-versa
- **ORCID account**

In order to comply with the DORA principles, the SNSF defined a new structure for the CV and requests a standardised set of information from all applicants. **Specifically, applicants will have to compile their CV according to a new template on the SNSF Portal and subsequently upload a PDF in the data container “CV and major achievements”.**

Preparing a project proposal: General remarks

- Start planning your submission early
 - **Deadlines** are **strict**
- Invest enough in preparing all required documents
 - It is a **competitive process**
- Adhere to the **specified length** for project proposals (excluding bibliography → separate document)
 - **Single PI**: 15 pages, max. 60'000 characters with spaces
 - **Collaborative projects**: 17 pages, max. 68'000 characters with spaces
- Check **language requirements** for your discipline
 - Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences, biology, medicine, psychology, economics and political sciences: **English**. Interdisciplinary: **English**
 - All other research areas: one of the **official Swiss languages**.

Writing a project proposal: Structure

1. Current state of research in the field: contextualization

- Show knowledge of the **state-of-the art**
- Cite relevant, related work in the field

2. Current state of your own research

- Demonstrate your and the research team's **expertise**
- Show **relevance of your work** for the proposed project

3. Detailed research plan

- Specify the **concrete approach** adopted in the proposed project. Include risks, alternatives, management
 - State **hypotheses, research questions, aims** and objectives of the proposed project
 - Describe **contribution and roles** of project team members
- Understandable for experts in the wider discipline

4. Schedule and milestones

5. Relevance and impact

- **Expected impact** for the discipline and for academic learning in general
- **Dissemination form** of research results

Writing a project proposal: Is my project use-inspired?

Typology of aspects indicating that a project is use-inspired:

- **Aim:** the project aims to produce scientific insights and, at the same time, to solve practical problems
- **Cognitive/Conceptual:** although the project is primarily concerned with basic science, it could help to resolve practical problems or issues
- **Source of the research question:** the question was defined by scientists in collaboration with a user/practitioner community
- **Implementation in the near future:** the project has the potential to be implemented in the near future (e.g., by means of technology transfer)
- **Types of output:** the project will produce academic and non-academic publications
- **Target audience:** the results will also be made accessible for a lay public outside academia
- **People involved:** the research team plans to collaborate with practitioners

Is your research project use-inspired?

A project can be considered [use-inspired](#) if it originates from practical needs, has the potential for eventual practical application, and may have a broader impact.

If you are successful...

Conditions for the release of funds:

- The project must start within 12 months after approval letter
- Submit the DMP
- Write a lay summary
- Request for changes to personnel
- Project specific conditions, budget, licenses

During the project:

- Annual financial report
- Output data
- Extensions possible for a maximum of 12 months under specific circumstances

At the end of the project :

- Output data
- Scientific report
- Financial report
- Update of the DMP

If you are not successful...

Read

- the decision letter
- the peer reviews

If you are thinking of resubmitting:

- consider the points criticized by the Research Council and the international experts and revise your proposal based on the feedback. However, the SNSF will treat resubmissions the same as first-time applications (ensuring equal treatment).

If you strongly disagree with the decision:

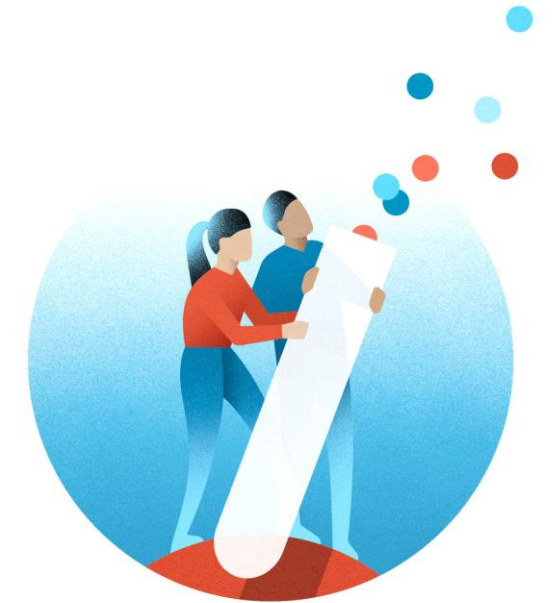
- you can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision
- contact the SNSF administrative office if you have questions

Thank you!

Check out our website: [Project funding](#)

Visit the SNSF Data Portal: data.snf.ch!


You can contact the Project funding team at projects.ssh@snf.ch,
projects.mint@snf.ch, projects.ls@snf.ch, projects.id@snf.ch,



 x.com/snsf_ch

 [Linkedin.com/company/snsf](https://www.linkedin.com/company/snsf)

 SNSF

 [Instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation)

 [Youtube.com/SNSFinfo](https://www.youtube.com/SNSFinfo)



WEAVE – LEAD AGENCY - ICIS

6 November 2025

Elisabeth Schenker

Weave/Lead Agency principles

- Funding for balanced joint research projects with foreign partners
- Integrate international cooperation into national financing schemes so that international applications compete with national applications
- Permanent bottom-up scheme (no thematic priorities) for small international networks
- No additional or separate budget
- Single application process: avoid double applications
- One evaluation → but time for decision can be longer
- Simplifying processes and reducing the pressure on peer review



Weave/Lead Agency/Weave at the SNSF

- Lead Agency/Weave is part of “project funding” and the applications must comply with the project funding regulations
- Lead Agency/Wave projects are evaluated in competition with all submitted projects at the beginning of April / October
- Submission of a copy of the application within seven days to the SNSF (on mySNF) or the partner organization
- Budget table with a summarized budget with the total project budget



Differences Weave/Lead Agency

Weave



- Researchers are free to choose where they submit
- Submission possible at any deadline
- Unified success rate, 20% threshold
- Bi- or trilateral projects
- SNF finances Swiss part of project only

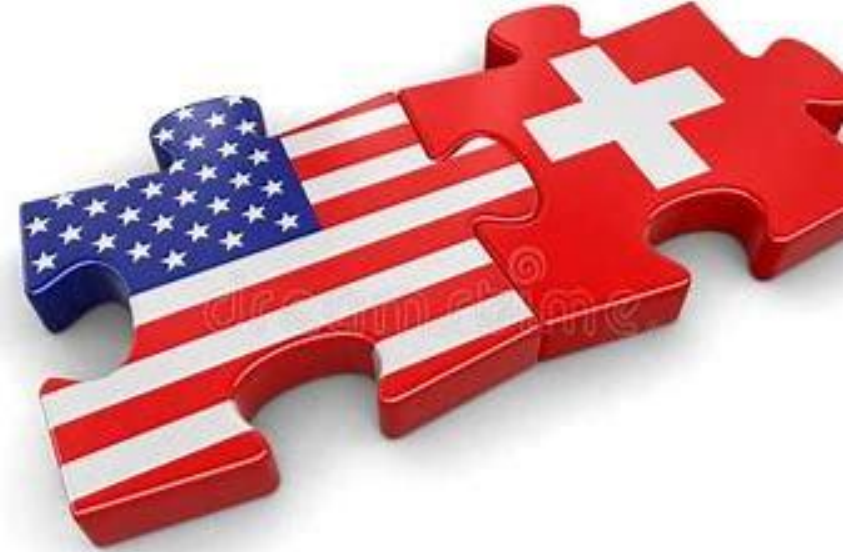
Lead Agency

- Submit at agency that has the lead
- Usually, annual switching of agency that has the lead
- The lower success rate of the partner organisation is applied
- Bilateral projects
- SNF finances Swiss part of project only

Lead Agency procedure with the NSF

Basic principals

- Same principals as for any other Lead Agency agreement
- Yearly switching Lead
 - The NSF will accept proposals from April 2026 onwards
- Covers all Division of the SNSF



Submission procedure

Submit EOI

Submit the EOI to the NSF

- Regardless which agency has the Lead
- At the latest 60 days before the submission deadline
- No need to submit the EOI to the SNSF
- No submission of a proposal without an accepted EOI
- Rejected EOI or NSF confirmation for collaborative projects

Submit proposal

Submission to the SNSF

- Tick the box „use inspired“ for the broader impact
- Administrative submission to the NSF only after acceptance of the proposal

Submission 2026

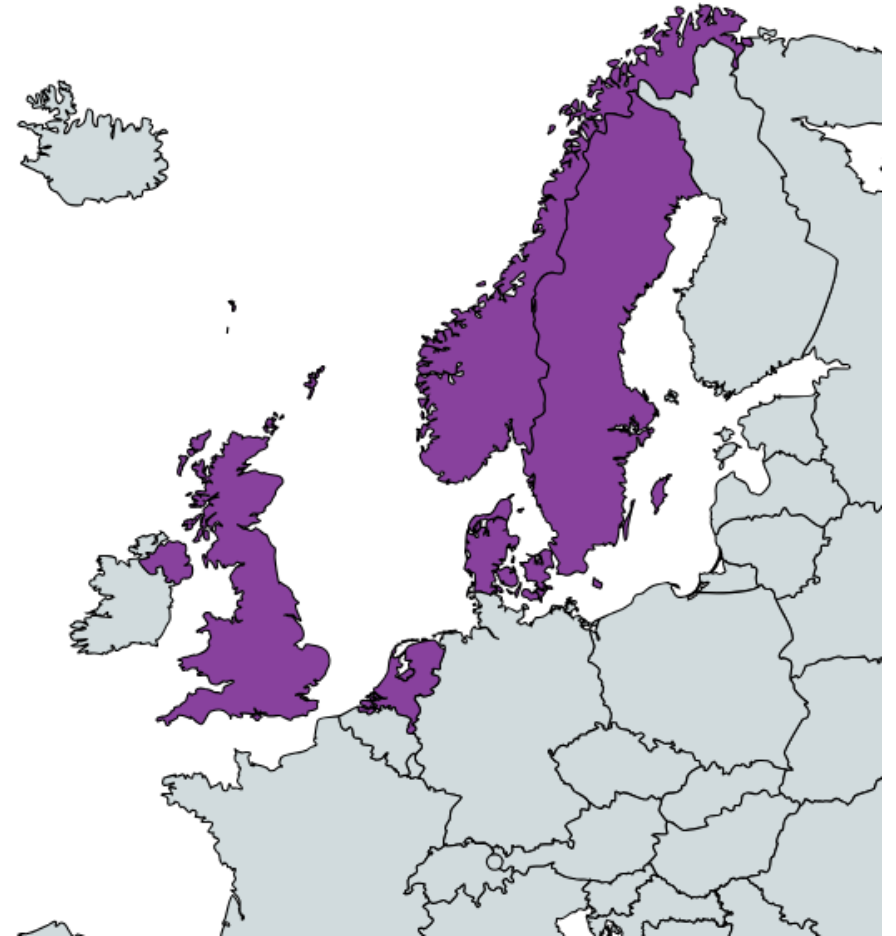
- The SNSF and the NSF will continue the Lead Agency procedure in 2026 and beyond.
- As the NSF has suffered severe budget cuts, not all directorates participated in the last submission to the SNSF (Engineering).
- The directorates and programmes will reconsider participation in the 2026 calls.
- The next few weeks/months will provide more clarity on the next year's calls.
- We will provide updates as soon as more information is available.

International Co-Investigator Scheme

Reciprocal cross-border funding

- Submission either to the SNSF or partner organisation
- If submitted to SNSF rules apply for the foreign applicant
- Up to 50% of the budget can be requested for the foreign applicant
- Agency where application submitted finances the whole project
- UK: only SSH and up to 30% of the budget

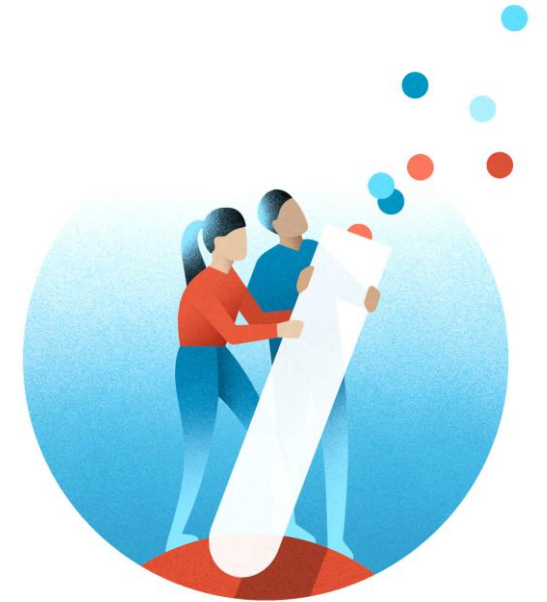
- Participating countries:
- Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK



Thank you!

Check out our website: [Weave/Lead Agency](#)

You can contact the Weave/Lead Agency team at projects.international@snf.ch, leadagency.ssh@snf.ch, leadagency.mint@snf.ch, leadagency.ls@snf.ch, leadagency.id@snf.ch,



 x.com/snsf_ch

 [Linkedin.com/company/snsf](https://www.linkedin.com/company/snsf)

 SNSF

 [Instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation)

 [Youtube.com/SNSFinfo](https://www.youtube.com/SNSFinfo)

Programme

Q&A sessions

Schedule	Subjects and links for the Q&A sessions
10:30 – 11:15	BRIDGE Project funding Weave/Lead Agency/International Co-Investigator Scheme

Links available on
[SNSF & Innosuisse funding scheme events \(snf.ch\)](#)