

Evaluation form outline proposals

This evaluation form presents the questions provided to the external reviewers and referees for the elaboration of their assessment.

1 Scientific quality, innovation potential and interdisciplinary nature

How do you assess the quality of the proposed research and its potential for innovation? How far does the proposed research go beyond existing models, theories, doctrines, research approaches, methods, etc.? How do you assess the interdisciplinarity of the project, where appropriate?

Evaluate specifically:

- Overall vision and ambition of the NCCR
- Excellence of the proposed research, potential to open new lines of research
- Potential for high impact in or beyond academia

2 Critical mass and added value of the NCCR

How do you assess the coherence and potential for scientific added value of the proposed NCCR? Does the network bring together a critical mass of leading researchers that will have a considerable impact on Switzerland's position in the field?

Evaluate specifically:

- Alignment of the research questions of the individual projects with the overarching objectives
- Added value by the collaborative NCCR scheme as compared to the sum of individual projects
- Potential for the development of joint projects and infrastructure to strongly advance Switzerland's position in the field

3 Scientific achievements and suitability of applicants

How do you assess the scientific qualification and the suitability of the applicants (principal investigators)? To what extent are the researchers convincing as a team?

Evaluate specifically:

- Availability of all necessary expertise in the consortium to achieve the proposed objectives of the NCCR
- Inclusion of the leading representatives of the research field(s) in Switzerland in the consortium

4 Management and leadership

How do you assess the suitability of the proposed NCCR director and the other members of the team of directors? How do you assess the appropriateness of the management concept and proposed organisation with regards to the scientific and structural goals?

Evaluate specifically:

- Evidence for leadership experience
- Appropriateness of the leadership and management concept and the proposed organisational structure

5 Plans for structural development

Will the NCCR establish lasting research structures or contribute to the consolidation of existing research structures?

Evaluate specifically:

- Planned structural development at the home institution(s) and beyond
- Potential impact of the structural measures such as positions, infrastructures, programmes, or networks

6 Requested SNSF budget and commitment of the home institution(s)

How do you assess the appropriateness of the requested budget and the commitment of the home institution(s)? For your information: The call was open for NCCRs lasting between 8 and 12 years and requesting SNSF funding between 8 and 20 million Swiss francs for the first four-year phase.

Evaluate specifically:

- Adequacy of the requested budget for phase I
- Appropriateness of the proposed duration to reach the long-term objectives
- Compatibility of the outline proposal with the strategic priorities and planning of the home institution(s)
- Appropriateness of the contributions by the home institution(s)

This evaluation criterion will only be used for the referee recommendations, not for the external peer reviewers.

7 Significance of the topic for research in Switzerland

How do you assess the transformative potential of the NCCR for Swiss research?

Evaluate specifically:

- Potential of the NCCR to form an internationally leading consortium in the field

8 Overall assessment

Summarise the main reasons for your overall rating by detailing the strengths to build on and the points to be improved.