A forward-looking structure for the SNSF
Welcome / Introduction

01 Goals of the Webinar

02 Speakers

03 Questions
please continue sending questions to go2024@snf.ch, we will answer them as we progress
The project

GO 2024

– Governance & Organisation 2024
– Revision of the Statutes
– Reflection on the statutory bodies, structures, organisation
SNSF at the interface:
On behalf of the Swiss Federal Government…

– Federal Act on the Promotion of Science and Innovation (RIPA)
– Service level agreement 2021-2024 between the SNSF and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
– Federal contributions 2022: CHF 1156 million

… and in academic self-organisation (‘science for science’)

– Foundation under private law
– created on 1 August 1952 by the leading scientific organisations of Switzerland
– Independent
Tasks of the SNSF as a research funder

1. Fund scientific research
2. Promote scientific careers
3. Ensure international networking of research
4. Think ahead in strategic research issues
5. Strengthen the impact of research and explain its value
SNSF: The current structure

Executive Committee of the Foundation Council
15 members
Direct supervision, executive tasks

Foundation Council
42 members
Supervision and overall strategy

Presiding Board
8 members
Coordination of the Research Council, funding policy recommendations

Research Council
96 members (including Presiding Board)
Proposal evaluation and funding decisions

Auditors

Administrative Offices
357 employees, incl. Executive Management (5)

Organisation of evaluation processes and curation of national and international networking activities and communications
GO 2024: Revision of the Statutes

- Initiated in 2020 by the Foundation Council

**GOALS OF THE REFORM**

- Ensure the development capacity of the SNSF
- Gain flexibility
- Make governance state-of-the-art
- Strengthen academic leadership and the principle of ‘science for science’
- Adapt Statutes to current context
## SNSF regulatory framework

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- **Research Funding**: Funding Regulations, Overhead Regulations, Implementation provisions (Regulations, Guidelines)
- **Organisational Rules**: Foundation Regulations, Organisational Regulations Research Council, Implementing provisions (Rules of procedure, Guidelines)
SNSF regulatory framework

Statutes

Research Funding
- Funding Regulations
- Overhead Regulations
- Implementation provisions (Regulations, Guidelines)

Organisational Rules
- Foundation Regulations
- Organisational Regulations Research Council
- Additional Regulations (Compensation, Investment, etc.)
- Implementing provisions (Rules of procedure, Guidelines)

Not impacted by Go 24
- No impact on funding portfolio, evaluation procedure, submissions, etc.

Impacted by Go 24
- ...
Challenges for the current structure
SNSF: The current structure

**Executive Committee of the Foundation Council**
- 15 members
- Direct supervision, executive tasks

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- 42 members
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**Presiding Board**
- 8 members
  - Coordination of the Research Council, funding policy recommendations

**Research Council**
- 96 members (including Presiding Board)
  - Proposal evaluation and funding decisions

**Auditors**

**Administrative Offices**
- 357 employees, incl. Executive Management (5)
  - Organisation of evaluation processes and curation of national and international networking activities and communications
New structure according to the new Statutes

Changes at the statute level
- Smaller Foundation Council, no Executive Committee
- Introduction of the Delegates Assembly
- Smaller Research Council
- Research Council led by Academic Board
- Status of an official body only for the Executive Management for legal reasons
Foundation Council

**Mission & tasks**
- Senior governing body
- Responsible for the foundation, for the fulfilment of the SNSF’s purpose and for the supervision of its bodies
- Highest level strategic planning, budget, accounting and annual report
- Election of members of the statutory bodies

**Structure**
- 7-11 members
- Open election through a commission
- Defined profile with broad experience in science, research, law, finances, politics, administration. ½ of members must be experienced in research

**Reasoning**
- Size appropriate for effective leadership
- Expertise profile tailored to the mission and tasks
- Avoidance of systemic role conflicts (no representation)
The New Foundation Council as of 2024

Jürg Stahl (President)

Nikola Biller-Andorno

Astrid Epiney

Matthias Essenpreis

Urs Frey

Agnes Petit

Didier Queloz

Laetitia Philippe (SERI, ex officio, without voting rights)
# Delegates Assembly

## Mission & tasks
- Represents the interests of scientific organisations
- Important role in the preparation of the multi-year programme, and in major strategic decisions
- May be represented in working groups of the Research Council
- Is represented in election commissions

## Structure
- 40 members (maximum)
- Led by the “office of the DA“ with president, vice president and two further members
- Representatives chosen by their institutions, or elected by the DA
- Will function with considerable autonomy

## Reasoning
- Avoidance of role conflicts of delegated members
- Reinforces the stakeholders’ role
- Transparent contribution aiming at SNSF policies that fit the needs of the stakeholders
Delegates Assembly: composition

Delegates Assembly (max. 40 members)

- Cantononal Universities: 10 members
- ETH: 2 members
- ETH Domain: 1 member
- UAS: 9 members
- UTE: 2 members
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences: 4 members
- Associations of Early Career Researchers: 3 members
- Further scientific organisations: 5 members
- Reserve: 4 members

Delegated by scientific organisations
Elected by Delegates Assembly
Research Council

### Mission & tasks

- “Scientific body” of the SNSF
- Definition of funding strategies and policies (incl. funding schemes)
- Implementation of funding policies (incl. evaluation applications, funding decisions, supervision of panels…)

### Structure

- 30 to 80 members
- Academic Board as Managing body
- Breadth and composition of bodies is flexible (no further sub-structure in Statutes)
- Members elected by a mixed commission
- Emphasis on diversity (research fields, topics, cultures, orientation, age, gender)

### Reasoning

- Strengthening the Research Council’s role in (transversal) policy and strategy
- Clearer separation of responsibilities
- Respect of good-governance principles with clear tasks, competences, responsibilities
- Increase flexibility
## Mission & tasks
- Management of all tasks assigned to the Research Council
- Leadership and supervision of the Research Council
- Exchange with Foundation Council and Delegates Assembly
- Representation of the SNSF

## Structure
- 6-7 members:
  - President
  - 2 vice presidents
  - 2-3 other members
  - Director of the Executive Management (non-voting)
- Election, mostly from within the Research Council. No delegation principle

## Reasoning
- Strengthening leadership
- Providing more resources
- Clarification of roles between leading body and subordinate structures
Current organisation of the Research Council

- **Presiding Board**
  - **Divisions (n=4)**
    - Panels
  - **Specialised Committees (n=3)**
    - Panels

There are currently 77 Panels (across Divisions, Specialised Committees and transitional measures)
New organisation of the Research Council

Academic Board

Programme Committees (n=x)

Policy Committee (n=1)

Evaluation Panel (n=x)

Policy groups (n=x)

Plenum
Current work in progress and next steps

New Foundation Council
- January: takes up its duties

New Delegates Assembly
- March 2024: First meeting

Research Council
- Until spring 2024: Research Council elaborates its future Organisation
- December 2024: Election of new Research Council
- 6 Dec 23: Election of the new President
- Until October 2024: Constitution of Academic Board in cooperation with Presiding Board

Regulations
- 2024: Approval and entry into force of
  - the new Foundation Regulations
  - The new Organisation Regulations of the Research Council
GO 2024 – Key messages

With this reorganisation, the SNSF is …

... reinforcing its ability to respond more quickly to foreseen and unforeseen challenges facing most of you and the world of research

... giving itself the means to develop major strategies for research and its support

... consolidating the quality of the scientific evaluation of submitted projects
Thank you!

You can contact the GO 24 team at Go2024@snf.ch for your questions.

Visit our information page and subscribe to our Newsletter for regular updates on the GO 24 project.

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