SNSF «HORIZON EUROPE TRANSITIONAL MEASURES»
CONSOLIDATOR & ADVANCED GRANTS

12. December 2023

Bern
Current situation concerning the association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe

- Association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe remains the goal
  - Switzerland was not associated in 2021/22 → transitional measures
  - Switzerland is still not associated in 2023 → further transitional measures
  - Switzerland is still not associated in 2024 → StG, CoG are foreseen

- Likelihood that Switzerland is associated as of 2024 is unclear (more optimism lately).
Horizon Europe measures at national level

Transitional measures (as of 2021)

Transitional measures have been introduced since 2021 to remedy inaccessible calls and funding. These have already been decided for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 calls (Federal Council decisions Sept. / Oct. 2021 and March / May 2022 and 2023). The transitional measures will continue up to the association with the Horizon package*.

Transitional measures for accessible parts of the programme
- Direct funding by SERI
- Collaborative projects
  - SERI-funded ERC STG 2021
  - SERI-funded ERC CoG 2021
  - SERI-funded ERC Acc 2021

Transitional measures for non-accessible parts of the programme
- SERI
  - High performance computing 2022
  - Quantum Transitional Call 2022
  - Swiss Quantum Call 2024
  - Semiconductor technologies 2023
  - ITER & F4E collaboration
- SNSF
  - Starting Grants 2022, 2023, 2024
  - SNSF Consolidator Grants 2022, 2023, 2024
  - SNSF Advanced Grants 2021, 2022, 2023
  - SNSF Swiss PF 2021, 2022, 2023
  - Ambizione 2021
  - BRIDGE 2021, 2022
- Innosuisse
  - International calls for proposal 2021, 2022
  - Innovation projects 2021
  - Flagship Initiative 2021, 2022
  - Swiss Accelerator 2021, 2023
- ESA
  - Additional funding for selected ESA programmes 2021-2023 (e.g. ARTES, PRODEX, GASP, NAVISP, FLPP)

Complementary measures (as of 2022; for 2025-2028 see ERI message)

- Support for international research cooperation initiatives
- Launch of Swiss Quantum Initiative (SQI)

* Accordingly, there are no replacement measures.
# Transitional Measures for ERC and MSCA calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original scheme</th>
<th>Original deadline</th>
<th>Deadline SNSF</th>
<th>Status in Switzerland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>StG 2021</td>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Evaluated by ERC, funded by SERI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoG 2021</td>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSCA Fellowships 2021</td>
<td>Oct 2021</td>
<td>Dec 2021</td>
<td>SNSF SPF 2021, 750 proposals, 74 projects, 18 mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StG 2022</td>
<td>Jan 2022</td>
<td>Feb 2022</td>
<td>SNSF StG (incl Eccellenza/Prima), 445 proposals, 62 projects, 60 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoG 2022</td>
<td>Mar 2022</td>
<td>Jun 2022</td>
<td>SNSF CoG: 182 proposals, 30 projects, 66 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AdG 2022</td>
<td>Apr 2022</td>
<td>Nov 2022</td>
<td>SNSF AdG 2022, 93 proposals, 18 projects, 41 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCA Fellowships 2022</td>
<td>Sept 2022</td>
<td>Dec 2022</td>
<td>SNSF SPF 2022, 505 proposals, 90 Projects, 22.1 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StG 2023</td>
<td>Oct 2022</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>SNSF StG (incl. Eccellenza/Prima) 2023, 454 proposals, 67 projects, 117 Mio</td>
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Transitional Measures for ERC and MSCA calls

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<tr>
<td>MSCA Fellowships 2023</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>01.12.2023</td>
<td>SNSF SPF 2023, 747 proposals, in evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AdG 2023</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>31.01.2024</td>
<td>Open for submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>StG 2024</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>01.02.2024</td>
<td>Open for submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoG 2024</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>In planning</td>
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Overview

- Advanced Grants Call 2023
  - Aim and Target Group
  - Major changes
  - Budget
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - Relation to other funding
  - Previous Call
  - FAQ
  - Timeline
The SNSF Advanced Grants Call 2023 is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research in Switzerland. Applicants who have a track record of outstanding research over the past ten years and are recognized as leaders in their fields are eligible.

These benchmarks should be complemented by at least one of the following indicators:

- Several significant peer-reviewed publications in a responsible role that had a major impact in the research field(s).
- Major research monographs (for research fields where monographs are the norm).
- A substantial record of invited presentation at well-established international conferences, organisation of international conferences, granted patents, outreach activities, general contributions to science, other artefacts with documented use.
Advanced Grant: new call for proposals

Major changes compared to previous call:

1) Budget reduced from 2.175 Mio to 1.9 Mio

2) Amelioration of the process with external reviews for all proposals and one step process

3) No interview but rebuttal letter

4) Possibility to submit even though rejected in the previous calls

5) No need for the researchers to submit the extended synopsis

6) Use of the new CV format
Advanced Grants: Budget and Duration

SNSF Advanced Grants are awarded up to a maximum of CHF 1.9 million for a period of up to 5 years (in addition, overhead is paid directly to the host institution; for the eligible costs, see Annex, section 8.1).

Applicants may request additional funding of up to CHF 870,000 for

a) eligible installation costs in connection with the move to Switzerland due to the SNSF Advanced Grant

b) for the acquisition or use of scientific infrastructure/major equipment

c) other major experimental and fieldwork costs, excluding personnel costs
Advanced Grants: Evaluation Criteria

Scientific quality of the research project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project
- Scientific Approach

Qualification of the applicant

- Applicant – intellectual capacity and creativity
Advanced Grants: Relation to other Funding

- The applicant may apply for an ERC Advanced Grant. **But cannot be PI** in any ERC frontier project or SNSF Consolidator Grant or SNSF Starting Grant and in an SNSF Advanced Grant in parallel.

- A researcher participating as principal investigator in an ongoing ERC frontier research grant may not submit a proposal to the present SNSF Advanced Grant Call 2023 unless the existing project ends before the end of **December 2025**. An SNSF Advanced Grant can only start once the previous ERC frontier research grant agreement has ended.
Advanced Grants: Previous Call

Applicants whose projects were rejected in the first or second stage of evaluation for the SNSF Advanced Grants 2022 can submit an application in the call for proposals for the SNSF Advanced Grants 2023. However, previously submitted and evaluated proposals will not be regarded as re-submissions but as new applications.

The SNSF awarded 41 million Swiss francs to projects selected under the transitional measure SNSF Advanced Grants 2022. 18 projects out of the 93 could be funded. The total success rate lies at around 20%. As the new call is open to everyone (no restrictions for researchers who were not invited to Step 2 in previous calls), we expect a much higher number of proposals (cf. AdG21: 232 proposals, 24 financed = about 10% success rate) → highly competitive
Can researchers with less than ten years of research experience apply for SNSF AdG 2023?
➢ Yes. Applicants should be active, established researchers and team leaders with an outstanding track record.

Can researchers from abroad also apply for SNSF AdG 2023?
➢ Yes, they must provide a confirmation of employment from their host institution in case of funding.

Can several researchers submit a joint application?
➢ SNSF AdGs 2023 are limited to one applicant.

When can the project be started?
➢ The earliest possible start date is 1 January 2025. The project start date can be postponed for up to 12 months after receipt of the decision.
Can the title and summary be changed after pre-registration?
➢ Yes. Until the proposal is submitted at the call deadline, the title and summary can be amended.

When must the host institution commitment letter be submitted?
➢ The host institution commitment letter must be submitted at the time of the final submission.

Who should sign the host institution commitment letter?
➢ The document must be signed by a person who can legally represent the institution

Do applicants need to submit additional documents (such as degree or birth certificate)?
➢ No, such certificates are not necessary.
Should the applicant include a budget table and justification of resources in a separate document?
- Yes, the requested budget needs to be entered in the data container “Requested budget” in mySNF while the justification of resources must be provided in a separate document.

Can applicants finance their own salary through the SNSF AdG?
- Yes, this is possible.

How are additional costs handled?
- Applicants may request additional funding of up to CHF 870,000 for costs in connection with the move to Switzerland, for the acquisition or use of scientific infrastructure/major equipment, and for other major experimental and fieldwork costs (excluding personnel costs).
If I am awarded an SNSF AdG, will I still be able to apply for other SNSF grants?

➢ Yes, holders of an SNSF AdG 2023 can submit proposals under other SNSF funding schemes, topics, aims and methodologies must be different.

Can applicants hold an SNSF AdG in parallel with an ERC frontier research grant?

➢ No, this is not possible. Applicants can apply for both, but only one will be awarded.
Advanced Grant Timeline

SteCo tasks
- Advice, decide on panel size and composition
- Based on final ranking/budget: SteCo formulates funding proposal for presiding board

Call steps
- 15.12.2023 Pre-registration
- 31.01.2024 Submission Deadline
- Invitation to write rebuttal letter (1 week)
- Meeting
- Send out decisions
- 01.01.2025 Earliest project start
# Advanced Grant: Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening of the call</td>
<td>6 November 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-registration deadline</td>
<td>15 December 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
<td>31 January 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitation to write a rebuttal letter</td>
<td>Mid-end August 2024, detailed information in February 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication of results</td>
<td>December 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earliest project start</td>
<td>1 January 2025</td>
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Advanced Grant: Contact Information

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