

Financial statement 2019

Research funding expenditure was substantially higher in 2019. This resulted in a loss of 80 million francs at the end of the year. The reserves fully cover the incurred loss.

In 2019, the SNSF invested more funds in project funding and in the Sinergia programme in particular. For the first time, it spent over a billion francs on research funding and on reimbursing the overhead expenses of higher education institutions. As it is not legally permissible for reserves to exceed a certain limit, the funds allocated by the government had to be cut by approx. 40 million francs. This increased the negative result. The total amount of the already approved grants for the next six years rose significantly to over 1.5 billion francs (see 13a).

With a 6.5 per cent increase, expenditure on the Administrative Offices rose less steeply than the research funding expenditure. Additional costs were mainly incurred by IT systems that facilitate the scientific evaluation processes.

Income statement

in CHF 1,000	Annex	2019	2018	Change in %
Federal contributions	15	1,060,162	964,998	9.9
Deferred federal contributions 2019	16	-39,614	-	-
Further contributions	17	900	986	-8.7
Donations/bequests		1,500	110	-
Research funding expenditure	18	-949,125	-873,031	8.7
Expenditure to cover indirect research costs (overhead)	19	-109,540	-107,556	1.8
Scientific evaluation and governance	25	-11,241	-10,670	5.4
Public relations		-2,153	-2,122	1.5
Administration expenses and depreciation	20	-40,823	-38,317	6.5
Other operating income	21	284	376	-24.5
Other operating expenses	21	-324	-371	-12.7
Operating result		-89,974	-65,597	37.2
Financial income	22	14,839	1,501	888.6
Financial expenditure	22	-256	-6,881	-96.3
Financial result		14,583	-5,380	-
Investments in restricted funds	9	-287,913	-240,355	19.8
Withdrawals from restricted funds	9	282,843	293,920	-3.8
Income from restricted funds		-5,070	53,565	-
Ordinary income		-80,461	-17,412	362.1
Non-operating income		389	40	872.5
Extraordinary income		-	-	-
Annual result		-80,072	-17,372	360.9

All figures stated in this report have been individually rounded.

Balance sheet

in CHF 1,000	Annex	31.12.2019	Share in %	31.12.2018	Share in %
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1	640,017	81	633,587	80
Accounts receivable	2	20,374	3	39,096	5
Other short-term receivables	3	62	0	50	0
Prepaid expenses		835	0	1,416	0
Total current assets		661,288	84	674,149	86
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4	11,975	2	12,220	2
Financial assets	5	116,880	15	100,838	13
Intangible assets	6	318	0	605	0
Total fixed assets		129,173	16	113,663	14
Total assets		790,461	100	787,812	100
Liabilities					
Short-term liabilities					
Liabilities from approved grants	7	338,203	43	299,934	38
Liabilities to SERI due to an excess of reserves	7	39,614	5	-	0
Accounts payable	7	1,767	0	1,155	0
Other short-term liabilities	7	179	0	248	0
Deferred income		2,443	0	2,717	0
Short-term provisions	8	1,000	0	1,500	0
Restricted funds	9	44,313	6	31,335	4
Total short-term liabilities		427,519	54	336,889	43
Long-term liabilities					
Restricted funds		255,364	32	263,273	33
Total long-term liabilities	9	255,364	32	263,273	33
Total liabilities		682,883	86	600,162	76
Equity					
Foundation capital	11	1,330	0	1,330	0
General funds	12	284	0	288	0
General reserves		105,964	13	186,032	24
Total equity		107,578	14	187,650	24
Total liabilities		790,461	100	787,812	100

Statement of changes in equity

	Foundation capital	Free funds	Free reserves	Total in TCHF
Equity as at 31.12.2015	1,330	387	185,004	186,721
Annual result 2016	-	10	35,222	35,232
Equity as at 31.12.2016	1,330	397	220,226	221,953
Annual result 2017	-	-53	-16,878	-16,931
Equity as at 31.12.2017	1,330	344	203,348	205,022
Annual result 2018	-	-56	-17,316	-17,372
Equity as at 31.12.2018	1,330	288	186,032	187,650
Annual result 2019	-	-4	-80,068	-80,072
Equity as at 31.12.2019	1,330	284	105,964	107,578

Cash flow statement prepared according to the indirect method

in CHF 1,000	Annex	2019	2018
Operating activities			
- Annual loss		-80,072	-17,372
+ Depreciation of fixed assets		1,003	1,197
- Reduction in provisions that do not affect funds		-500	-4,500
+ Decrease in accounts receivable		18,722	21,435
+ Decrease in other receivables and prepaid expenses		568	401
-/+ Increase / decrease in financial assets		-16,042	5,350
+ Increase in liabilities from approved grants		38,269	27,246
+ Increase in accounts payable and accounts receivable		612	108
-/+ Decrease / increase in other short-term liabilities and deferred income		39,271	133
+/- Increase / decrease in restricted funds		5,070	-53,692
- Decrease in free funds		-4	-56
+ Non-cash income and expenses		4	56
Cash outflow from operating activities		6,901	-19,694
Investing activities			
- Outflows for investments (acquisition) in tangible assets		-210	-225
- Outflows for investments (acquisition) in intangible assets		-260	-434
Cash outflow from investing activities		-470	-659
Investing activities			
Cash outflow from investing activities		-	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	1	6,431	-20,353
Statement			
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January		633,587	653,940
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December		640,017	633,587
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	1	6,430	-20,353

Notes to the financial statement as at 31.12.2019

Introduction

The SNSF is a private foundation based in Bern with a federal mandate to fund basic research and promote young researchers in Switzerland using public money.

The SNSF has the equivalent of 238 full-time employees (2018: 242).

Valuation principles

General accounting principles

The SNSF financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER (Accounting and Reporting Recommendations) in their entirety and present a true and fair view of the financial position, the cash flows and the results of operations. The financial statements are presented in such a way that they will also be in compliance with the requirements of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

Valuation principles

Valuation is generally based on the principle of cost of acquisition or production, with the sole exception of securities with a quoted price, which are shown at their current values. The principle of the individual valuation of assets and liabilities applies. The carrying amount of long-term assets is reviewed at each balance sheet date. If there is evidence of a sustained decrease in value, the recoverable amount is ascertained (impairment test). If the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount, an unplanned impairment loss is recognised in the income statement.

Currency conversion

The foreign currency transactions and positions contained in these financial statements are converted as follows: Transactions in foreign currencies are converted into the currency of account at the average exchange rate of the month in which the transaction took place. At year-end, monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement at the exchange rate prevailing on the balance sheet date. Further explanations can be found in the detailed notes on the individual balance sheet positions.

Notes on the income statement and the balance sheet

1 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at hand and current account balances with the federal government and Postfinance. They are recognised at their nominal value.

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
Cash at hand	5	3
Current account with Postfinance	30,234	18,438
Current account assets with SERI	609,730	615,091
SwissCore operating assets, incl. bank deposits	47	55
Total	640,016	633,587

2 Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognised at nominal value and include grants for projects and fellowships invoiced to third parties, services provided by the Administrative Offices and charged to third parties, advances and recoverable withholding taxes. Specific provisions are set aside to cover losses from operational risks.

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
From third parties	289	230
From the federal government		
SDC mandates	6,975	14,939
InRoad mandates	-	307
BRIDGE programme mandates	13,110	23,620
Total (gross)	20,374	39,096
Value adjustments	-	-
Total (net)	20,374	39,096
thereof due within 360 days	17,827	19,219
thereof due after 360 days	2,547	19,877

3 Other short-term receivables

Other accounts receivable are recognised at nominal value and include grants for projects and fellowships invoiced to third parties, services provided by the Administrative Offices and charged to third parties, advances and recoverable withholding taxes. Specific provisions are set aside to cover losses from operational risks.

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
From third parties	62	50
From the federal government	-	-
From governing and executive bodies	-	-
Total (gross)	62	50
Value adjustments	-	-
Total (net)	62	50

4 Tangible assets

Tangible assets include movable and immovable property. The capitalisation limit is CHF 25,000 per item. Tangible assets are recognised at acquisition cost less necessary operating depreciation on a straight-line basis over their useful economic life. This was defined as follows:

- Buildings: 30 years
- IT equipment: 3 years
- Movable property: 5 years
- Fixtures and fittings 5 years

	Land and buildings	IT equipment	Movable property	Fixtures and fittings	Total tangible assets
in CHF 1,000					
Cost as at 1.1.2019	23,875	527	-	167	24,569
Additions	-	210	-	-	210
Disposals	-	-217	-	-	-217
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-
Cost as at 31.12.2019	23,875	520	-	167	24,562
Accumulated depreciation as at 1.1.2019	11,834	349	-	167	12,350
Planned depreciation	283	173	-	-	456
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-217	-	-	-217
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation as at 31.12.2019	12,117	305	-	167	12,589
Net carrying amounts as at 31.12.2018	12,041	178	-	-	12,219
Net carrying amounts as at 31.12.2019	11,758	215	-	-	11,973

Fixtures and fittings continue to be used. They concern solely the canteen.

5 Financial assets

Financial assets comprise in particular assets originating from earmarked donations and bequests. The position financial assets also includes securities held as a long-term investment. Asset categories are valued according to the following principles:

- Liquidity: nominal value
- Fixed-interest investments: acquisition cost less necessary operating depreciation
- Securities: securities with a current quoted price are recognised at the market price on the balance sheet date
- Securities without a quoted price, participations, alternative investments and long-term loans: acquisition costs less necessary depreciation.

	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
in CHF 1,000		
Cash, cash equivalents and time deposits	4,630	2,876
Securities	112,250	97,962
Total	116,880	100,838

6 Intangible assets

This position essentially consists of IT software. Acquired intangible assets are capitalised if they yield measurable benefits for the organisation over several years. Intangible assets are recognised at acquisition cost less necessary depreciation and impairment losses. Depreciation is on a straight-line basis over the useful economic life of the asset. The useful economic life of IT software is 3 years. Intangible assets generated internally are not capitalised.

	Software	Other intangible assets	Total intangible assets
in CHF 1,000			
Cost as at 1.1.2019	2,219	-	2,219
Additions	260	-	260
Disposals	-838	-	-838
Reclassifications	-	-	-
Cost as at 31.12.2019	1,641	-	1,641
Accumulated depreciation as at 1.1.2019	1,614	-	1,614
Planned depreciation	547	-	547
Impairment losses	-	-	-
Disposals	-838	-	-838
Reclassifications	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation as at 31.12.2019	1,323	-	1,323
Net carrying amounts as at 31.12.2018	605	-	605
Net carrying amounts as at 31.12.2019	318	-	318

7 Liabilities

This concerns research grants and fellowships that are due for payment but have not yet been requested, unpaid invoices from service providers as well as obligations from settlements with insurance companies and social security funds. They are disclosed at nominal value.

As at 31 December 2019, there was a short-term liability of CHF 39.614 million towards the SERI. This corresponds to the adjustment of the federal contribution 2019 in connection with the provision on reserves in the RIPA (see 16). Based on the current service level agreement, the government expected the SNSF to reduce its reserves to the statutory level by no later than 31 December 2019. The SERI has communicated that it will offset this liability against the federal contribution for 2020.

Short-term liabilities	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
in CHF 1,000		
From third parties	340,149	301,336
From the federal government	39,614	-
From governing and executive bodies	-	-
Short-term liabilities	379,763	301,336

8 Provisions

Provisions are booked to cover a probable obligation that is based on a past event and whose amount and/or due date is uncertain but can be estimated. Valuation of the provision is based on the estimated cash outflow needed to satisfy the obligation.

in CHF 1,000

	Provisions for employee benefit obligations	Restructuring provisions	Other provisions	Total provisions
Carrying amount as at 1.1.2019	-	-	1,500	1,500
Formation	-	-	-	-
Appropriation	-	-	-	-
Release	-	-	-500	-500
Carrying amount as at 31.12.2019	-	-	1,000	1,000
of which short-term provisions			1,000	1,000
of which long-term provisions			-	-

The provisions for doctoral students' salaries were released according to their purpose in the amount of CHF 0.5 million. At the end of 2019, the remaining provisions amounted to CHF 1.0 million.

They were not discounted in view of the fact that the operating funds of the SNSF are not invested.

9 Restricted funds

This position comprises funds designated for a specific purpose, as well as donations and bequests. These are resources allocated to the Swiss National Science Foundation which are still pending appropriation for research grants and fellowships that meets the designated purpose. Designated funds are used for activities which the SNSF carries out mainly in consultation with the SERI, the SDC and Innosuisse. Fund resources originating from donations and bequests are classified as financial assets and recognised accordingly.

in CHF 1,000

	Status				Status
	01.01.2018	Additions	Appropriation	Transfer	31.12.2018
Funds related to research funding	242,496	238,104	-281,645	-4,898	194,057
Funds from restricted donations/bequests	105,802	2,251	-7,503	-	100,550
Total restricted funds	348,298	240,355	-289,148	-4,898	294,607

The table above presents the 2018 figures of the funds that are designated for specific purposes. It only shows the total of funds designated for specific funding and earmarked donations and bequests as well as the overall total.

in CHF 1,000

	Status				Status
	01.01.2019	Additions	Appropriation	Transfer	31.12.2019
Funds for specific funding purposes					
Scopes fund	829	366	-	-	1,196
r4d fund	27,750	4,570	-14,495	-	17,825
FLARE fund	571	8,762	-8,752	-	582
Bilateral programmes fund	27,471	9,118	-6,872	-	29,717
COST fund	4,537	6,031	-2,728	-	7,841
NRP fund	30,692	25,520	-28,365	-	27,848
NCCR fund	16,377	70,022	-61,242	-	25,157
Special biology and medicine programmes fund	15,963	26,459	-20,928	-	21,495
BRIDGE programme fund	33,338	12,123	-13,020	-	32,441
Horizon 2020 supporting measures fund	14,723	-	-10,886	-	3,837
ERC transfer grants fund	5,470	-	-1,233	-	4,237
InRoad fund (H2020 Framework Programme)	369	-	-369	-	-
Croatia fund	2,997	-	-1,211	-	1,786
Energy research fund	12,970	65	-3,914	-	9,121
Overhead fund	-	108,000	-108,000	-	-
Subtotal	194,057	271,036	-282,015	-	183,083

The H2020 Framework Programme InRoad came to an end in 2019.

Funds originating from restricted donations/bequests and arrangements					
M. bequest fund	1,419	181	-5	-	1,595
Dufour bequest fund	7,402	947	-27	-	8,322
Spolti bequest fund	1,473	44	-	-	1,517
Wirth bequest fund	8,821	1,128	-32	-	9,917
Wellansky-Kade bequest fund	663	85	-2	-	746
Harre bequest fund	52,675	8,817	-87	-	61,405
AIDS research donation fund	229	29	-1	-	257
Iselin bequest fund	1,866	239	-7	-	2,098
Blanc bequest fund	19,785	2,531	-72	-	22,244
Blum bequest fund	110	18	-	-	128
Kfourri bequest fund	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Other donations/bequests fund	6,107	781	-22	-	6,866
SwissCore fund	-	575	-575	-	-
Subtotal	100,550	16,875	-830	-	116,595
Total restricted funds	294,607	287,911	-282,845	-	299,678
of which recognised in short-term funds	31,335				44,313
of which recognised in long-term funds	263,273				255,365

The subdivision into short-term and long-term funds is based on the 2020 budget, according to which the short-term funds designated for specific purposes will be used within 12 months. Receipt and use include income from corresponding financial assets.

10 Pension funds

The SNSF has an affiliation contract with the PKG pension fund in Lucerne.

Employees of the SNSF are insured with the PKG against the economic consequences of old age, disability and death using the calculation basis of the defined contribution plan. According to this plan, employees and employer pay defined contributions. The contributions are recognised in the profit and loss account in the period in which they arise.

In 2019, contributions of CHF 3.934 million were paid into pension schemes (2018: CHF 3.956 million). The SNSF does not hold any employer's reserves.

The SNSF has neither economic obligations nor economic benefits vis-à-vis PKG.

With an (unverified) coverage rate of 115% (2018: 106.4%), PKG had neither coverage shortfall nor surplus as at 31 December 2019.

11 Foundation capital

The foundation capital comprises a total amount of CHF 330,000 donated by the founders and a one-time payment of one million Swiss francs from the federal government.

12 Funds in equity

in CHF 1,000

	Status 01.01.2018	Additions	Appropriation	Transfer	Status 31.12.2018
General funds					
Funds of non-restricted donations and bequests	344	6	-62	-	288

in CHF 1,000

	Stand 01.01.2019	Zugang	Verwendung	Transfer	Stand 31.12.2019
General funds					
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	288	37	-41	-	284

These funds comprise resources which the SNSF may use at its own discretion.

13 Off-balance-sheet transactions

a) Approved contributions for future fiscal years as at 31.12.2018

in CHF 1,000

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Total	687,952	468,118	243,780	55,967	15,392	184	1,471,393

Approved contributions for future fiscal years as at 31.12.2019

in CHF 1,000

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Projects	368,153	242,271	113,159	14,949	-	-	738,532
Careers	175,948	111,887	65,989	37,232	12,622	251	403,929
Programmes	180,221	133,272	45,954	15,986	-	-	375,433
Infrastructure	26,325	2,345	1,359	1,153	258	-	31,440
Additional tasks	18,401	7,496	4,313	1,021	-	-	31,231
Scientific communication	2,667	205	-	-	-	-	2,872
Total	771,715	497,476	230,774	70,341	12,880	251	1,583,437

According to the federal budget for 2020, contributions to the SNSF will amount to (without overhead) CHF 999.672 million. The new service level agreement for 2021 and beyond has not been signed yet.

b) Other non-recognisable commitments

The following operational leasing/rental commitments which cannot be terminated within one year were in place as at the balance sheet date.

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
1 to 2 years	312	377
3 to 5 years	190	112
over 5 years	-	-
Total	502	489

14 Open derivative financial instruments

in CHF 1,000

Underlyings	Purpose	Assets	Liabilities
Foreign currency	Currency hedges	12	3

in CHF 1,000

Underlyings	Purpose	Assets	Liabilities
Foreign currency	Currency hedges	58	16

15 Federal contributions

These federal contributions are earmarked for funding research, in particular projects, programmes and fellowships. They also cover the indirect research costs of the research institutions as well as costs of service provision. Service provision includes scientific evaluation and governance, PR work, and running the Administrative Offices in Bern and the representative office in Brussels.

Federal contributions are accounted for via the income statement if they were approved by the government, i.e. there is a ruling or a contract confirming them.

in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Basic contribution	823,340	742,042
National Centres of Competence in Research	70,000	70,000
National Research Programmes	25,000	18,000
Additional tasks / Federal funding mandate	23,000	21,700
Overhead	108,000	104,400
SwissCore	450	533
Various federal contributions	10,373	8,323
Total	1,060,163	964,998

16 Deferred federal contributions 2019

The deferral reduces the federal contribution for 2019 entered in the income statement, thereby ensuring compliance with Article 10 paragraph 6 of the RIPA. According to this provision, the SNSF's reserves may not exceed 10% of the annual federal contribution.

17 Further contributions

in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Contributions from Innosuisse for SwissCore	125	111
Other	775	875
Total	900	986

18 Research funding expenditure

The grants awarded are divided into instalments according to project years, with no further accrual by calendar years. Project years begin on the research grant commencement date planned at the time of its award. Grants are recognised in expenses beginning in the year in which the planned grant commencement date falls. Accordingly, where a project lasts longer than 12 months, grant instalments will be recognised annually in chronological order, beginning from the planned project commencement date.

in CHF 1,000		2019	2018
Projects		489,530	445,696
Careers		200,282	192,761
Programmes	National Centres of Competence in Research	58,742	55,657
	National Research Programmes	27,202	28,658
	Other programmes	108,598	92,431
	International cooperation	15,832	16,552
Total programmes		210,374	193,298
Infrastructure		49,199	44,108
Scientific communication		11,801	11,001
Supplementary tasks		10,771	10,404
Repayments		-18,393	-18,367
Contributions approved but not used		-4,440	-5,870
Total		949,124	873,031

19 Overhead

Based on Art. 10 para. 4 of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation and Art. 33 ff. of the Ordinance on the Promotion of Research and Innovation, the SNSF pays overhead contributions to research institutions. These are intended to cover some of the overhead incurred by the institutions as a result of SNSF-sponsored research projects. The SNSF determines the amount of the overhead contributions on the basis of project grants approved in the previous year. The contributions are paid annually in a lump sum.

20 Administration expenses and depreciation

in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Payroll	31,611	31,191
IT expenses	5,215	3,186
Immovable property expenses	914	821
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	456	458
Depreciation of intangible assets	547	740
Other administration expenses / External mandates / SwissCore	2,080	1,921
Total	40,823	38,317

21 Other operating income/expenses

Other operating income in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Canteen	256	346
Rental income	28	30
Total	284	376

Other operating expenses in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Canteen	324	371
Total	324	371

22 Financial income/financial expenditure

Financial income in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Interest and dividend income	1,406	1,501
Price gains	13,433	-
Total	14,839	1,501

Financial expenditure in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
Interest expenditure	-	-
Price losses	-	6,631
Other financial expenditure	256	250
Total	256	6,881

Total financial result	14,583	-5,380
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23 Transactions with related parties

Related persons and organisations are deemed to be such which, either directly or indirectly, can exert a significant influence on the financial or operational decisions of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The following transactions with related persons occurred:

- Approval of research grants to members of the Foundation Council: CHF 4.269 million (2018: CHF 3.900 million)
- Approval of research grants to members of the National Research Council: CHF 28.278 million (2018: CHF 31.946 million)

The total cost of research grants for members of the evaluation bodies, including the Research Council, amounts to CHF 102.571 million. This analysis was first performed for the year 2019.

24 Remuneration of governing and executive bodies

In the year under review, the members of the Foundation Council and the Research Council (including presidents and vice presidents) received CHF 2.686 million in remuneration and daily allowances (2018: CHF 2.836 million).

In addition, the members of the Research Council received relief payments in the amount of CHF 2.779 million (2018: CHF 2.759 million).

In 2019, the directors received gross salaries of CHF 767,000 (2018: CHF 750,000).

25 Auditing fees

in CHF 1,000	2019	2018
for auditing services	31	28
for other services	-	-
Total	31	28

26 Events after the balance sheet date

No noteworthy events happened after the balance sheet date on 31 December 2019. Events after the balance sheet date were considered until 26 March 2020.

27 Approval of the financial statements

At the recommendation of the Swiss Federal Audit Office, the external auditor that examined the statements, the Foundation Council approved the financial statements 2019 at its meeting of 27 March 2020.



Reg. No. 1.20322.929.00113.002

Report of the statutory auditor

***to the Foundation Council of the
Swiss National Science Foundation, Berne***

Report of the statutory auditors on the financial statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Swiss National Science Foundation, which comprise the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and notes, for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Foundation Council's responsibility

The Foundation Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss GAAP FER, Swiss law and the Foundation's deed and internal regulation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Foundation Council is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's deed and internal regulation. We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Report on other legal requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 83b paragraph 3 Civil Code (CC) in connection with article 728 Code of Obligations (CO) and article 11 AOA) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 83b paragraph 3 CC in connection with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Foundation Council.

Berne, 27 March 2020

SWISS FEDERAL AUDIT OFFICE



Eric-Serge Jeannot
Lead Auditor
Licensed Audit Expert



André Vuilleumier
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosure: Financial statements 2019 (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and notes)