

Financial statement 2016

As projected, the financial statement 2016 shows an income surplus. For the time being, this additional income is to be allocated to the reserves, which will subsequently be used to compensate for the temporary reduction in federal contributions for the 2017–2020 funding period and to guarantee the continuation of research funding.

The growth in federal funding for 2016 strongly influenced the positive results, even though the SNSF was already affected by a credit stop. The lower research funding expenditure compared to 2015 can be attributed to lower costs in programmes and infrastructure, while the reduction in overhead costs is linked to the

overhead payments for projects conducted under the ERC Temporary Backup Schemes in the previous year. The higher costs for scientific evaluation are mainly a result of more expenditure on the Research Council, the NRP steering committees and the NCCR review panels.

Income statement

in CHF 1,000	2016	2015	Change in %
Federal contributions	997,537	956,730	4.3
Further contributions	23,416	22,709	3.1
Donations/bequests	816	3,090	-73.6
Research funding expenditure	-854,708	-871,242	-1.9
Expenditure to cover indirect research costs (overhead)	-96,447	-107,033	-9.9
Scientific evaluation and governance	-11,128	-9,286	19.8
Public relations	-1,592	-1,965	-19.0
Administration expenses and depreciation	-35,203	-33,019	6.6
Other operating income	444	398	11.6
Other operating expenses	-358	-309	15.9
Operating result	22,777	-39,927	›100
Financial income	1,464	1,856	-21.1
Financial expenditure	-155	-516	-70.0
Financial result	1,309	1,340	-2.3
Investments in restricted funds	-291,390	-334,089	-12.8
Withdrawals from restricted funds	302,425	317,254	-4.7
Income from restricted funds	11,035	-16,835	›100
Ordinary income	35,121	-55,422	›100
Non-operating income	111	18	516.7
Annual result	35,232	-55,404	›100

All figures stated in this report have been individually rounded.

Balance sheet

Assets

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2016	Share in %	31.12.2015	Share in %
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	708,223	83	651,005	80
Accounts receivable	38,189	4	46,672	6
Other short-term receivables	48	0	53	0
Prepaid expenses	2,137	0	998	0
Total current assets	748,597	88	698,728	86
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	12,883	2	13,346	2
Financial assets	91,010	11	96,572	12
Intangible assets	946	0	967	0
Total fixed assets	104,839	12	110,885	14
Total assets	853,436	100	809,613	100

Liabilities

in CHF 1,000	31.12.2016	Share in %	31.12.2015	Share in %
Short-term liabilities				
Liabilities from approved grants	266,011	31	246,963	31
Accounts payable	1,191	0	909	0
Other short-term liabilities	664	0	473	0
Deferred income	2,459	0	2,172	0
Short-term provisions	5,000	1	–	–
Restricted funds	68,974	8	39,623	5
Total short-term liabilities	344,299	40	290,140	36
Long-term liabilities				
Long-term provisions	6,000	1	11,000	1
Restricted funds	281,184	33	321,752	40
Total long-term liabilities	287,184	34	332,752	41
Total liabilities	631,483	74	622,892	77
Equity				
Foundation capital	1,330	0	1,330	0
General funds	397	0	387	0
General reserves	220,226	26	185,004	23
Total equity	221,953	26	186,721	23
Total liabilities	853,436	100	809,613	100

Additional information on the financial statement

Restricted funds

in CHF 1,000	as at 1.1.2016	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer	as at 31.12.2016
SCOPES fund	6,101	35	4,708	–	1,428
r4d fund	59,844	5,143	14,755	–	50,232
NRP fund	36,319	28,318	20,240	–	44,397
NCCR fund	365	73,899	74,264	–	–
Fund for special programmes in biology and medicine	24,791	23,388	19,537	–	28,642
Fund for Horizon 2020 backup measures	63,030	–	16,140	–	46,890
Fund for ERC transfer grants	21,900	–	1,971	–	19,929
Energy research fund	27,308	12,000	8,502	–	30,806
Other funds	26,863	145,712	141,536	–180	30,859
Funds from earmarked donations/bequests/agreements	94,857	2,895	772	–	96,980
Total restricted funds	361,378	291,390	302,425	–180	350,163

Grants approved for future accounting years as at 31 December 2016

in CHF 1,000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Total	613,557	287,086	93,845	28,211	341	1,023,040

According to the federal budget for 2017, contributions to the SNSF will amount to CHF 839.4 million.

Federal contributions

in CHF 1,000	2016	2015
Basic contribution	772,885	733,462
National Centres of Competence in Research	72,000	66,000
National Research Programmes	28,000	28,000
SystemsX	12,000	12,775
Nano-Tera	4,156	4,000
Funding mandate from the Confederation	18,500	17,900
SDC contributions	1,258	–
Overhead	88,000	94,000
SwissCore	568	593
Various federal contributions	170	–
Total	997,537	956,730

Research funding expenditure

in CHF 1,000	2016	2015
Projects	423,933	423,809
Careers	180,149	176,785
Programmes		
National Centres of Competence in Research	71,764	74,990
National Research Programmes	18,906	24,715
Other programmes	85,384	87,522
International Co-operation	21,256	20,058
Total programmes	197,310	207,285
Infrastructures	30,281	39,459
Science communication	5,861	5,692
Programmes of third parties	42,909	42,311
Repayments	-17,072	-14,329
Grants approved but unused	-8,664	-9,769
Total	854,707	871,243

Administration expenses and depreciation

in CHF 1,000	2016	2015
Personnel expenses	28,948	27,337
Depreciation of tangible assets	680	611
Depreciation of intangible assets	858	821
Others	4,716	4,249
Total	35,202	33,018

Transactions with related parties

Related persons and organisations comprise whosoever may, either directly or indirectly, significantly influence the financial or operational decisions of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The following transactions with related parties have taken place:

- Approval of research grants for members of the Foundation Council: CHF 2,484,000 (2015: CHF 2,070,000)
- Approval of research grants for members of the Research Council: CHF 22,655,000 (2015: 25,442,000)

Performance of risk assessment

In fiscal year 2016, the Swiss National Science Foundation carried out a comprehensive risk assessment authorised by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council.

According to the completed risk assessment and in light of measures put in place for monitoring and mitigating risks, no risks were identified in the past fiscal year that could lead to a lasting or substantial impairment of the financial situation of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The assessment of the SNSF found no significant risk for the foreseeable future that would necessitate an adjustment in the book values of the Foundation's assets and liabilities.

Approval of financial statements

On the recommendation of the Swiss Federal Audit Office, the external auditor that examined the statements, the Foundation Council approved the financial statement 2016 at its meeting of 31 March 2017.