Swiss Research Funding

Researcher Survey for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Liv Langfeldt
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Report 5/2014

NIFU

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Preface

This report was commissioned by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and presents the results from a survey of researchers in Switzerland conducted in October 2013. The purpose of the project is to provide background information to the SNSF for the development of their funding instruments.

The survey was conducted by NIFU, with a project team consisting of Liv Langfeldt (project leader), Inge Ramberg and Hebe Gunnes.

We are indebted to the many researchers who took the time and effort to participate in the survey and share their experiences, and to all the Swiss research institutions and the SNSF which helped us to compile the contact database for the survey. Without their cooperation this survey would not have been possible.

Oslo, February 2014

Sveinung Skule
Director

Espen Solberg
Head of Research

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Executive summary

In this survey, researchers in Switzerland share their experiences and views concerning research funding. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is considering fundamental changes to its principal funding scheme, and the purpose of the survey is to explore the needs and preferences of researchers in Switzerland, and the potential advantages and disadvantages of the planned changes.

The survey was performed by NIFU in October 2013. A stratified random sample of researchers eligible for funding from SNSF were invited to participate in the survey, of which 3,478 replied (50 per cent overall response rate). The survey specifically addressed two funding schemes: SNSF Project funding, and Sinergia grants. These are open-mode funding schemes, providing funding to researcher-initiated projects within all disciplines and topics. Project funding is SNSF's principal funding scheme accounting for more than half of all its allowances, whereas Sinergia provides funding for collaboration projects consisting of groups based at different research institutions.

The SNSF target group and non-applicants

The target group of SNSF Projects and Sinergia grants is researchers employed at research institutions in Switzerland, holding a PhD or several years' research experience, and who are in a position to perform research independently. The large proportion of these are professors at the cantonal universities and the ETH-domain. In general, those who have received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia grants hold higher academic positions, are older, more often hold a permanent position, and are more active researchers with PhDs and postdocs playing a more important role in their research projects, than the researchers in the target group who have not received funding.

Other groups that potentially could apply for SNSF funding sometimes do not perceive themselves as part of the SNSF target group – either because they are too junior/do not have the needed track record or necessary staff or infrastructure to perform large projects, or because they do not think the SNSF would fund their kind of research, e.g. applied research, and perceive the rejection rate for their kind of research or research institution to be too high. Moreover, some of the non-applicants do not need third party funding, as they have their position/salary and institutional funding sufficient for their projects.

Researchers' institutional and third party resources

The researchers seem moderately satisfied with their local facilities for research. When assessing their local research resources, funds for research projects and PhD/postdoc positions are the resources most often rated as poor by the researchers. In general, researchers in the ETH domain are more satisfied than researchers at other institutions, and give higher rates both on local funding, services

and infrastructure. The researchers often need to compete to receive local research funding, and as would be expected, the higher amounts of funding are more often allocated on a competitive basis.[1]

Compared with the institutional funding available to the researchers, third party funding is both more common and the amounts are larger. At the same time, the correlation between institutional and third party funding is generally high; those who have little third party funding also have little institutional funding, whereas those with much third party funding also have much institutional funding. This may indicate that obtaining third party funding gives easier access to institutional funding. In this context of possible cumulative advantages, it should be noted that male researchers far more often than women have high amounts of institutional and third party funding, even when holding a position at the same academic level. Moreover, according to the researchers, obtaining third party funding is important for the researchers' career advancement, regardless of the kind of research institution where they are employed.

Satisfaction with the SNSF

Compared with their other relevant funding sources, the applicants are in general satisfied with the opportunities offered by SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants. Project funding comes out quite well on opportunities for doing unique/original research, and on impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Sinergia comes out very well on opportunities for building new national scientific networks, opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research, and opportunities offered for broadening one's field of expertise. For both schemes, the results are less positive when it comes to support for new projects without requiring preliminary research – on this item there are more than twice as many who rate the SNSF schemes poorer than alternative funding sources, than who rate SNSF better.

When benchmarking against similar data from surveys concerning other funding agencies/schemes, SNSF Project funding obtains the best scores on the amount of funding, support for young scientists, as well as impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. However, on some issues both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia score below most of the other surveyed schemes/agencies: in general the applicants do not seem satisfied with these SNSF schemes when it comes to opportunities for addressing high-risk topics, funding for new projects without preliminary research, and flexibility of use of funds.

Gaps and overlap in research funding

A key concern of the survey was to map the typical format of research projects and lines of research – across disciplinary and institutional settings – in order to provide information on the various needs for research funding. The data show that the researchers' typical time spent on one research topic or line of research varies considerably, from less than a year to more than ten years. The research lines are typically longer within fields such as biological sciences and basic medicine, and shorter within more applied fields of research, but still the number of years per line of research varies much both within and between fields of research. Moreover, as much as 91 per cent of the researchers often or always work on different research lines in parallel. In this context the match between researchers' grants and their lines of research/projects is limited. In total, 37 per cent of the researchers indicate that they often or always hold multiple grants for the same lines of research. Both parallel research lines and multiple grants for the same research lines go along with holding a position in charge of more research staff. Organising multiple PhD and postdoc projects, may imply pursuing multiple research lines at the same time and also needing multiple (subsequent) grants for the same research lines.

In this context, the budgets and budget cuts for Project funding and Sinergia projects were examined. The present survey indicates that SNSF Project funding does not cover all project years, nor the whole project teams. SNSF Project funding is provided for a maximum of three years with a possibility of a 3-year follow-up project, whereas a majority of the target group spend more than 3 years on one

[1] Overall, 39 per cent report that they obtained part of their institutional funding in 2012 on a competitive basis, and 89 per cent in the group with institutional funding above 1 mill CHF.

topic/line of research and 28 per cent spend more than 6 years. Moreover, the budgets in Project funding and Sinergia applications are often cut by the SNSF. The researchers' most common way of handling these budget cuts is to cut parts of project content and/or reduce project staff. Substituting budget cuts by funding from own institution, or other external sources, is also common practice. Hence, the budget cuts both reduce project size and imply multiple funding sources for the projects. On average there are 1.5 researchers on each project not benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. The difference is highest in clinical medicine and physics. In these fields we also find the largest project groups and the highest proportion of project costs covered by other external funding (on average 18 per cent covered by external funding other than SNSF).

Planned changes to SNSF Project funding

One aim of SNSF Project funding is to provide reliable funding options for the researchers. Reliable funding options may imply caution in implementing substantial changes. Project funding seems highly appreciated by many of the researchers and many of the respondents are concerned that there should be no large changes to the scheme. At the same time, several of the change options are welcomed by the researchers, especially those implying more flexibility, such as extending the project running time to four years and allowing more openness in the work plan of the projects. The possibility to submit applications with more open work plans, milestones and outcomes would increase flexibility in research activities, reduce the time needed for preparing applications, possibly reduce administrative project management, and have no obvious disadvantages for the applicants.

The respondents point to a number of expected advantages from increasing the possible running time of project grants, including better match between grants and research topics and lines of research, and with the actual time required for PhDs. More substantial grants would imply more flexibility in project size, less need to reduce project teams or project content, and would be particularly welcomed in fields with large projects/research teams. All these alternatives would reduce the need for multiple grants for the same projects and hence reduce the required time for preparing applications and the workload in administrating grants. Likewise, an option to include activities such as workshops, international short visits, science communication, and publications, in Project funding would increase the flexibility in designing projects and reduce administrative costs and the need for multiple grants for one project.

The possibility to obtain smaller grants with reduced application requirements would also increase flexibility. According to the survey replies smaller grants with reduced application requirements would better fit the needs of some of the younger researchers and those in lower academic positions; researchers with shorter research lines; researchers in the humanities and social sciences; and researchers at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education. There is still a substantial proportion of respondents who perceive a smaller grant option to be to their disadvantage. In particular, those holding multiple grants for the same project and researchers within engineering/technology and the natural sciences, often indicate that including a smaller grant option would make the scheme less attractive to them. They are concerned that more small grants would imply fewer large grants and increase their time and costs for administering grants.

When asked whether the SNSF should put more weight on past performance or on the project idea when evaluating proposals, there is a divide between the less and more established researchers. Younger applicants and those in lower academic positions, as well those at universities of applied sciences or universities of teacher education, are more in favour of putting weight on the project idea, whereas older applicants and professors are less in favour of this. Postdocs and scholars outside the universities and ETH domain are concerned that assessments of past performance should not impede the funding of young researchers or interdisciplinary or applied research; whereas more established researchers engaged in fundamental sciences may more often question the possibility of predicting the success of projects mainly based on the idea and project description. These different opinions may be seen as a result of researchers with different needs and qualifications competing within one scheme. Notably, some respondents emphasise that for young applicants the weight should be put on

the project idea, whereas for more established applicants there should be more weight on past performance.

Other suggested changes concern the responsibility for grants and number of (co)applicants per proposal. As the co-applicants serve a variety of purposes and fill different roles, this is a complex issue with conflicting concerns. Some respondents are concerned that restrictions on the number of applicants may reduce the possibilities to perform research requiring different kinds of expertise, or the possibilities of young investigators to get credit as 'applicants' of their own projects. On the other hand, about half of the respondents are indifferent to the questions concerning the number of (co)applicants to be allowed, indicating that co-applicants are not relevant for their projects or that they find the issue too complex for clear-cut views. The only option obtaining more positive than negative replies is that co-applicants should be allowed, but that scientific responsibility should be clearly attributed to the main applicant. Notably, this option does not limit the number of co-applicants, only specifies the responsibility of the main applicant, and seems the alternative most often perceived to retain the various roles co-applicants currently may have in SNSF Project funding.

Concerning possible gaps in Swiss research funding, the survey indicates that a substantial proportion of the researchers find that none of their funding alternatives is adequate for facilitating blue sky or interdisciplinary research, international collaboration or projects without preliminary research. Moreover, many respondents are concerned that it is difficult or impossible to get project funding for researchers in short-term/fixed-term positions, and that it is a disadvantage – for young researchers in particular – that SNSF Project funding cannot cover salary for the applicants. Other needs often noted are funding for smaller projects and for applied research. Here views are conflicting. Both larger and smaller projects obtain more positive than negative votes, and some are very concerned that the SNSF should *not* fund applied research, whereas others are very concerned that it should.

Hence, developing a grant scheme which meets the different funding needs in the SNSF target group is challenging. Some trade-offs between different needs and interests can hardly be avoided. E.g. a likely implication of changing the terms of Project funding in order to better meet needs such as covering the salary of the applicant, funding for larger/long-term projects or more funding for applied research, would be an increase in the number of (large) applications, followed by a an increase in the rejection rate. Moreover, an increase in the rejection rate may in particular affect funding for blue sky/high-risk research.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Researchers' needs and preferences concerning research funding may differ by field of research and the phase in their career. There are different needs in, for example, laboratory sciences and biomedicine and computer sciences, mathematics, or in the humanities. And researchers at the beginning of their career have different needs of support from well-established senior researchers. Moreover, local facilities and support vary, and researchers at a major university, a smaller higher education institution, or a national research laboratory may have different needs for third party funding. For agencies funding research, this implies that the attractiveness of their funding schemes will vary, as will researchers' reasons for applying/not applying for third party funding.

Against this background the present survey maps the needs and preferences for research funding among researchers eligible for funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)[2]. The SNSF is considering fundamental changes to one of its major funding schemes (Project funding, see below), and this survey is designed to provide background information to further develop this funding scheme. Hence, the purpose of the survey is to explore the needs and preferences of researchers in Switzerland, and the potential advantages and disadvantages of the planned changes.

The survey addresses researchers from postdoc level onwards working in research institutions in Switzerland. Holders of SNSF grants were specifically targeted (Project funding and Sinergia grants, see below). At the same time, non-applicants' reasons for not applying were addressed. Main topics of the survey include:

- researchers' local resources and third party funding;
- characteristics of research projects/lines of research;
- experience of and satisfaction with SNSF funding and policies; and
- views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding.

As for the Swiss context, it should be added that Switzerland is recognised as one of the world's most successful countries when it comes to science. It scores high on key indicators such as citations and patents, hosts two top-ranked universities, and attracts a fair amount of ERC grants. Moreover, the universities attract scientists from around the world and have a relatively high proportion of researchers from abroad. The distribution of research funding is segmented. The two federal universities (ETHZ and EPFL) and the 10 cantonal universities account for a large part of the research funding, whereas the 9 universities of applied sciences have low core funding for research, and the 11 universities of teacher education are marginal when it comes to research funding (SNSF 2013; Öquist and Benner 2012; Lepori et al. 2012). Overall, 76 per cent of all government funding of R&D in higher education is institution-based

[2] Abbreviations vary by language: SNF (Schweizerische Nationalfonds); FNS (Fonds national suisse / Fondo nazionale svizzero).

(institutional core funding), whereas 24 per cent is project-based (SNSF and other funding agencies, OECD 2013).

1.1.1 The SNSF and the funding schemes addressed

The SNSF is Switzerland's principal research funding agency, and allocates a large part of the project based-funding.[3] It funds research for non-commercial purposes in all academic disciplines, each year reviewing about 5,000 applications and allocating a total of CHF 750 million.[4] The agency was established as an independent foundation in 1952 and mandated by the federal government.

A core objective for SNSF is to provide appropriate and reliable funding options for researchers at all Swiss research institutions and in all disciplines and topics. The two funding schemes especially addressed in this survey, SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants, are important instruments for providing such support, covering different project formats and targets groups:

- *Project funding* is SNSF's principal funding scheme, accounting for more than half of all SNSF grants/allowances. The scheme is open to all disciplines and topics, covering fundamental and use-inspired research, but not research pursuing commercial goals. Funding (typically CHF 50,000 – 300,000 per year) is provided for up to 3 years with the possibility of one follow-up project (in total maximum 6 years). Project funding covers direct research costs (staff salaries, materials, travel and other expenses), but not the salary of the applicant(s). Moreover, an overhead of about 15 per cent is provided to the host institution to cover indirect costs. Applicants (both responsible applicant and co-applicants) are required to be capable of performing independent research, managing their own staff, and having the necessary infrastructure available. A minimum of two years postdoctoral experience or similar and affiliation to a Swiss research institution are required. There are two application deadlines and review procedures per year. In 2012 SNSF received 2,221 applications for project funding, of which 54 per cent were funded.

- *Sinergia grants* aim to enable researchers to do pioneering research, pursuing new research topics/entering new fields of research and tackling complex research questions. Sinergia provides funding for networks/collaboration projects, normally consisting of 3-4 subprojects/research groups, based at different universities/research institutions. One of the groups may be based outside Switzerland. Terms of grant duration, typical yearly funding per group, coverage and overhead are the same as for Project funding, except that the grant also covers salary for scientific coordination and meetings. Sinergia targets established researchers, and the eligibility criteria are more demanding than for Project funding: 'scientists who hold a permanent or long-term position at a Swiss research institution, who have one or more research groups of their own, who have already received third-party funding through a competitive procedure, who educate the next generation of scientists and who know how to organise and manage scientific projects.'[5] There is a fixed annual application deadline (15th January). Since 2008, SNSF has received 458 applications for Sinergia grants, of which 43 per cent have been funded.

It should be noted that these two funding schemes are truly 'open-mode' funding in the sense that they do not have defined overall aims concerning the projects to be funded (except that Sinergia funds networks/collaboration projects). The schemes aim at 'excellence trough competition'[6] and at the same time to provide funding for a broad and diverse target group: They fund researchers across different fields of research and research institutions, and fund both basic research and use-inspired (but non-commercial) projects. At the same time all selection criteria address scientific quality (scientific track record; scientific relevance, originality and topicality; suitability of methods and feasibility), with 'broader

[3] As noted above, 24 per cent of the government funding of R&D in higher education is project-based. In total, the SNSF accounted for 76 per cent of government project-based funding of R&D in Switzerland in 2010 (Federal Statistical Office, 2012, page 16).
[4] http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/por_fac_sta_fopl_ch_jb12_e.pdf. This is about a quarter of all federal R&D funding.
[5] http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/programmes/sinergia/Pages/default.aspx.
[6] http://www.snf.ch/en/theSNSF/evaluation-procedures/project-funding/Pages/default.aspx

impact' as an additional criterion for use-inspired projects.[7] Hence, the format is open competition based on scientific quality.

1.2 The scope and methods of the survey

1.2.1 Sample

The survey was sent to a random stratified sample of 8,001 researchers in Switzerland, drawn from a database compiled from data provided by the SNSF and Swiss research/higher education institutions:

- SNSF provided a list of all applicants from 2008 onwards. The file consisted of 26,915 records. Of these, there were 9,256 unique applicants;
- SNSF contacted HEIs/ research institutions in Switzerland with employees who were eligible for application for research grants, and asked them to provide lists with e-mail addresses for these employees and information about gender, title/level of employment and field of science. NIFU received 60 files from 44 different institutions. The information given in the files varied, from only e-mail-addresses and names of the researchers to complete fill-ins of the form provided. Altogether, there were 16,474 records from the institutions.

Merging the data in one database generated a list of 20 008 researchers.

The aim for compiling the database was to include *all researchers from postdoc level onwards working at public research institutions in Switzerland*, and as far as possible also include other researchers eligible for SNSF funding, e.g. researchers at private laboratories/institutes and hospitals. The data from the SNSF were quite comprehensive, including all applicants for SNSF funding in a six year period – both responsible applicants and co-applicants. Hence, the database fully covers researchers who have obtained or tried to obtain funding from the SNSF in recent years, regardless of institutional affiliation. The coverage of non-applicants is far less complete. Four hospitals, five universities of teacher education and two of the private labs/institutes invited to participate, delivered no data. Moreover, for some of the (44) institutions which delivered data, data were incomplete. One of the universities delivered a small sample (only researchers who had actively confirmed that they allowed the university to forward their contact information to NIFU)[8], and for eight universities of applied sciences/teacher education, the data did not include all departments/faculties. Nonetheless, the compiled list of 20,008 researchers is likely to cover a large part of the Swiss researcher population (see Section 1.2.3).

From the compiled database, a stratified random sample was drawn according to the gender distribution of researchers in Switzerland (national figures), and according to type of institution and field of science based on the entries/distribution in the database. Due to the low number of entries from hospitals and Universities of Teacher Education, all listed researchers from these institutions were included in the sample. Moreover, all main applicants that received SNSF project funding or Sinergia were included – as these grant holders comprise an important target group for the survey. In this way, 3,814 people were preselected. The total sample for the survey comprised 8001 researchers. The database and the criteria for drawing the sample are described in Appendix 3.

1.2.2 Survey and response rates

The 8,001 researchers selected for the sample were invited to participate in the survey (7 October 2013).[9] The main questionnaire topics were respondents' research projects and funding, the resources and facilities provided by their local research environments, and their experiences and views regarding

[7] Criteria are listed at: http://www.snf.ch/en/theSNSF/evaluation-procedures/project-funding/Pages/default.aspx. Additional criteria for Sinergia grants include the value added by the joint research approach, promotion of young researchers and the competence, complementarity, collaboration and networking of the groups and subgroups involved (http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/programmes/sinergia/Pages/default.aspx).

[8] Other institutions passed on data for all who did not actively reject.

[9] Emails with unique web-survey link for each respondent. The email invitations did not reach the full sample of 8,001 researchers. Excluding 107 invitees with invalid addresses, 8 duplicate invitations, and 2 people we were informed were deceased, the adjusted survey sample included 7,884 potential respondents. The overall response rate is calculated from the net survey sample of 7,884 researchers who did receive the survey invitation to take part in the researcher survey (not accounting for the possibility that email servers and spam filters may have blocked the invitations).

the funding instruments of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The questionnaire is found in Appendix 4.

Respondents were directed to different sets of questions depending on their prior interactions with SNSF. Respondents could skip questions they did not want to answer (apart for a few questions for survey routing). In addition, two introductory questions tested if the invitees met the inclusion criteria or not.

Survey response rates
A total of three *reminders* were issued for the respondents not answering prior invitations. The data collection ended on 5 November 2013. 4195 respondents (53 per cent) opened their survey link. Of these, 233 did not answer any questions. Excluding these from the calculation, *the overall response rate is 50 per cent*. 484 respondents answered the two introductory questions on the first page of the questionnaire, but did not meet the inclusion criteria (holding a PhD or substantial researcher experience, and being affiliated with a Swiss research institution). The dataset remaining for analysis includes 3478 researchers (44 per cent of the invited sample, Table 1.1.). These comprise both respondents completing the questionnaire and respondents partly completing. Hence, the response rate varies between the survey questions.

In general, we find the overall survey response rate to be satisfactory, taking into consideration the long questionnaire format with a number of retrospective questions. However, the response rate among researchers who have not applied for research funding from the SNSF is low. Whereas the response rate among those who had obtained SNSF project funding or Sinergia grants is good (69 per cent of the holders of Sinergia and 62 per cent of the holders project funding completed or partly completed the questionnaire), only 26 per cent of those who had not applied for SNSF funding did so (Table 1.2).[10] However, 26 per cent replies in this group is not low compared with what could be expected/the response in similar studies.

Table 1.1 Respondents accessing the survey, filtered out, partial and full replies

Group	Count	% of the 7884 invited
a) Accessed the questionnaire	4195	53.2
b) Filtered out the entry questions (outside target group)	484	6.1
c) Accessed without answering any questions	233	3.0
d) Replied to(some) questions	338	4.3
e) Completed the questionnaire*	3140	39.8
f) Included in the analysis (d+e)	3478	44.1

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
*These clicked complete at the last page, but many of them did not answer all questions. Hence response rates vary between questions.

Table 1.2 Survey response by target groups. Per cent.

Survey group/ Applied SNSF	No questions answered	Outside target group (filtered out)	Replied (some) questions	Completed	Not accessed	N
01 Sinergia received	0.0	3.4	4.1	64.4	28.1	146
02 Project Funding received	2.3	2.5	3.2	58.9	33.1	3392
03 Other received	1.4	6.0	4.8	37.7	50.1	517
04 Applied, no grant	2.8	6.0	3.4	28.8	58.9	711
05 Not applied	4.0	9.9	5.4	20.1	60.6	3225
Total	**2.9**	**6.1**	**4.2**	**39.3**	**47.5**	***7991**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
*Calculated from the sample of 7991 from which detailed response rates may be calculated (including 107 invitations to invalid email address, see Section 1.2.1).

Evaluating the obtained survey sample of respondents, we present a short description of the distributions within the various target groups, starting with 'non-applicants'. A large proportion of the 'non-applicants'

[10] *Reported reasons for not replying:* We received a total of 71 emails from respondents reporting that they did not want to answer the questionnaire for various reasons: finding that they didn't have the right qualifications for answering (had little knowledge of the SNSF and/or did not perform much research), being retired, being on leave, residing abroad, travelling, or just not being able to allocate time to answer.

who accessed the questionnaire were filtered out by the entry questions. Of 1,141 non-applicants who replied to the entry/filter questions, 319 were filtered out (28 per cent). This indicates that a substantial part of the non-applicants in the database were outside the SNSF target group. Most likely, non-applicants who were not eligible for applying for SNSF funding less frequently took the time to respond, than those who were eligible for applying for SNSF funding. Hence, a substantial part of those who did not reply are probably outside the SNSF target group.

Moreover, a substantial proportion of those defined as 'non-applicants' in the database, replied that they had obtained or tried to obtain SNSF funding (in the period 2008-2013). Only 44 per cent of the defined 'non-applicants' confirmed their status as non-applicants in their survey replies (308 of the 696 non-applicants replying, Table A 1 in Appendix 1). This implies that the number of respondents filling in the questionnaire as non-applicants – replying to the questions about why they have not applied for SNSF funding – is small. The large mismatch between the information in the database and applicants' replies may indicate: (1) The database did not comprise all SNSF applicants. Fellowships and other instruments targeting other groups than project funding and Sinergia were not included, and many of the presumed non-applicants had applied for other types of grants; (2) a large proportion of the researchers are involved in SNSF applications in some way, and have obtained/tried to obtain SNSF funding (even if not registered as responsible or co-applicant in the database); (3) some of those defined non-applicants in the database applied for SNSF funding after the database was compiled in 2013; (4) the researchers have limited memory of what funding they have applied for in which periods.

Response by field of research: The proportion which answered the survey was somewhat lower within the humanities and social sciences (41 per cent) than within the other fields (46-47 per cent, Table 1.3).[11]

Table 1.3 Survey response by field of research. Per cent.

Reply status	Hum &Soc.S	Nat.S & Tech	Biomed	Unknown	Total
No questions answered	3.5	2.6	1.9	4.8	2.9
Outside target group (filtered out)	6.7	5.3	5.8	7.2	6.1
Replied (some) questions	**5.0**	**4.3**	**2.8**	**5.8**	**4.2**
Completed	**36.2**	**41.7**	**44.6**	**25.6**	**39.3**
Not accessed	48.5	46.0	44.9	56.6	47.5
N	**2432**	**2567**	**2218**	**774**	**7991**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
Field categories: Hum & Soc.S: humanities and social sciences; Nat.S & Tech: natural sciences, engineering and technology, agricultural sciences; Biomed: Medicine and health sciences and biology.

Response by institutional affiliation: Split by respondents' institutional affiliation, the universities have the highest response rate (45 per cent), whereas at the universities of teacher education and the hospitals the response rate is considerably lower (34 and 27 per cent respectively, Table 1.4). As the number of invited respondents from the universities of teacher education and the hospitals is small, the low response rates here imply very small samples for analysis. The sample obtained for the hospitals is still larger than appearing from Table 1.4, as part of the researchers in the files from the universities are affiliated with a hospital: the table is based on the institutional categories in the sample database, whereas the analyses in the following chapters are based on respondents' replies, showing a total of 184 replies from hospitals.

[11] Figures including those who replied some or all question; not including those who were filtered out.

Table 1.4 Survey response by type of institution. Per cent.

Reply status	University	*ETH-domain	University of Applied Sciences	University of Teacher Education	Hospital	Other	Total
No questions answered	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.6	1.0	3.2	2.9
Outside target group (filtered out)	5.7	5.8	6.4	13.7	14.4	4.4	6.1
Replied (some) questions	3.9	5.1	3.9	4.1	2.9	1.3	4.2
Completed	41.3	36.9	34.7	29.9	24.0	58.2	39.3
Not accessed	46.2	49.2	51.8	48.7	57.7	32.9	47.5
N	**4483**	**2412**	**637**	**197**	**104**	**158**	**7991**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

*The ETH domain includes the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology : ETHZ (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) and EPFL (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne), as well as four research institutes: PSI (Paul Scherrer Institute), WSL (Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research), Empa (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology), and Eawag (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology).

Response by academic position: The highest response rate was obtained among professors, the lowest among postdocs/researchers and medical doctors. In the latter categories, substantial numbers of the respondents were filtered out by the entry questions (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5 Survey response by position. Per cent.

Reply status	A Full/Assoc. Professor	B Assistant professor	C Postdoc /researcher	*Other	Physician (Arzt)	*Unknown	Total
No questions answered	2.4	2.0	3.6	3.0	2.0	3.9	2.9
Outside target group (filtered out)	3.4	2.1	9.7	6.1	15.7	9.7	6.1
Replied (some) questions	3.0	5.2	5.1	4.0	2.0	5.9	4.2
Completed	50.5	47.8	26.3	41.0	21.6	21.3	39.3
Not accessed	40.8	43.0	55.3	45.8	58.8	59.2	47.5
N	**2875**	**716**	**1828**	**1612**	**51**	**909**	**7991**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Note: Gross position categories based on the limited information provided in the database. The institutions were asked to provide information on academic position as follows: A Full professor, associate professor or similar; B Assistant professor or similar; C Postdoc., researcher, 'Oberassistant', 'Maître de conférence', 'Maitre d'enseignement et de recherche' or similar.

*'Other' comprises cases where information on position is provided, but not according to categories, 'Unknown' comprises cases where no information on position is provided.

Response by gender: Overall, the response rate is lower among women (37 per cent) than men (48 per cent, Table 1.6). This reflects both that women were more frequently filtered out by the entry questions, and that a larger proportion of the women held positions with lower response rates. Within the group of full professors at the universities, the response rate is about the same for men and women (55.6 per cent of men and 56.3 per cent of women in this group have completed or partly completed the questionnaire).

Table 1.6 Survey response by gender. Per cent.

Reply status	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
No questions answered	3.0	2.9	8.7	2.9
Outside target group (filtered out)	8.1	4.9	8.7	6.1
Replied (some) questions	**5.0**	**3.8**	**0.0**	**4.2**
Completed	**31.8**	**43.7**	**0.0**	**39.3**
Not accessed	52.1	44.7	82.6	47.5
N	**2881**	**5087**	**23**	**7991**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Note: Data combine information on gender in database and survey replies (explains the reduced number of unknown).

In sum: the response rate is, as could be expected, lower outside the universities and among researchers in lower academic positions – groups where applying for SNSF funding may appear less relevant.

1.2.3 Representativeness and confidence intervals

To calculate exact confidence intervals in statistical analyses, data on the addressed population and response rates are needed. The population for the present survey is the target group of SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants, that is, researchers at Swiss research institutions, who hold a PhD or several years' research experience, and are in a position to perform research independently.

As for the SNSF applicants, we have full data on the population, and for holders of Project funding and Sineriga grants (during the period 2008-2013), the full population was invited to participate in the survey. Hence for SNSF applicants, calculating exact confidence intervals is possible. However, for the remaining part of the target group, the non-applicants, data are missing; there are no exact figures on this population. As explained above, a database of 20,000 researchers expected to be in the target group were compiled. We expect the database to have a good coverage of the target group (at least 80 per cent), as well as including some researchers outside the target group. According to official Swiss statistics there were 13,743 professors and 'Übrige Dozierende' at the cantonal universities and EPFL/ETHZ[12] in 2012[13], whereas the compiled database comprises 15,322 researchers at these institutions. Overall, we expect the compiled database to be representative of the target group, except for universities of teacher education, hospitals and private labs/institutes where we have low coverage and no information for assessing representativeness.

Hence, confidence intervals are calculated on different basis, taking available information on the population and response rates into account. Since we have incomplete information on the population of non-applicants we cannot calculate exact confidence intervals for this group. In the analysis, the calculation of confidence intervals for the non-applicants is based on the assumption that the database from which the stratified random sample was drawn is representative of the population of non-applicants, but not adjusted for the proportion the 'population' included in the survey sample. For the holders of Project funding or Sineriga grant, exact confidence intervals are calculated by adjusting for the high response rate/high proportion of the population included in the survey. Due to the mismatch between the information in the database and applicants' replies concerning grants received, regular confidence intervals are used for the group of SNSF applicants who have not received Project funding or Sineriga grant, i.e. confidence intervals are not adjusted for the proportion of the population included in the survey sample.[14] Moreover, regular confidence intervals are also used when analysing mixed groups/the overall sample including grant holders, applicants and non-applicants.

Confidence intervals for different respondent groups, response distributions, and number of replies in subgroups

62 per cent of the holders of Project funding and Sineriga grants and 26 per cent of the non-applicants completed, or partly completed, the questionnaire. This means that the data give a much better basis for analysing the experiences and opinions of the grant holders than of the non-applicants, and larger confidence intervals for results in the group of non-applicants: Whereas the confidence interval on a reply distribution of 40/60 per cent in the group of holders of Project funding or Sineriga grant would be ±2.8 pp[15], it would be ±7.5 pp[16] in the group of non-applicants. In both cases the difference between 40 and 60 per cent is statistically significant, but this is not the case when analysing subgroups of respondents within these groups. With replies from a subgroup of 80 holders of Project funding/Sineriga grant a difference of 40 vs. 60 per cent is significant, whereas in a subgroup of 80 non-applicants[17] it is not (2-sided t-test, 95 per cent confidence level: confidence interval for group of grant holders is ±14.7 pp; for non-applicants ±24.0 pp).

[12] Abbreviations are explained in note to Table 1.4.
[13] Source: BFS / SHIS, Personal der schweizerischen Hochschulen, Statistisches Lexikon der Schweiz.
[14] Hence, confidence intervals are similar in all groups of respondents who have not received SNSF project or Sineriga grants, as far as the number of respondents and the response distribution is the same.
[15] The regular confidence interval of ±4.6 pp (n=2206) is multiplied by 0.61 (√N-n/N-1) to correct for including 62 per cent of the population. 2-sided t-test, 95 per cent confidence level.
[16] n=822 and no adjustment for sample/population. 2-sided t-test, 95 per cent confidence level.
[17] Or SNSF applicants who have not received Project funding or Sineriga grant or mixed groups of respondents.

The differences noted in the report are statistically significant at a 95 per cent confidence level (2-sided t-test). Information on confidence levels and/or insignificant results is sometimes added to emphasise that there are no differences between groups.

Note that respondents were free to skip any individual questions; hence the number of replies varies between questions. This option was given to increase the response rate and the reliability of the results by avoiding respondents exiting the survey when encountering a difficult question, or selecting a random answer to be able to proceed. Confidence intervals are calculated based on the number of replies to the individual questions and thus take varying numbers into account.

2 Target groups for SNSF Projects and Sinergia grants

2.1 Target group profile

The survey addressed the *target groups of key SNSF funding schemes*, i.e. researchers eligible to apply for funding.[18] To ensure that invited respondents belonged to the target group, a two-stage screening was employed. At the first stage, the sampling aimed at only including researchers eligible for SNSF project funding and Sinergia grant (see Section 1.2.1). At the second stage, before entering the survey the respondents had to confirm that they fulfilled the eligibility criteria: engaged in scientific research in Switzerland and employed by an institution domiciled in Switzerland, hold a PhD or several years' research experience, and in a position to perform research independently.

In this section we examine the SNSF target group based on the total respondent sample, looking at the researchers' institutional affiliation, professional situation, fields of research, age and gender. Furthermore, we examine the characteristics of the subset of researchers who have received SNSF project funding or Sinergia grant compared with those who have not.

The low response rate among researchers with little connection with the SNSF should be kept in mind when interpreting the results. Both the group of grant holders and the group of non-applicants are presumed to be individually representative for the SNSF target group – but non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the survey sample (see Section 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). Hence, 80 per cent of the respondents report having obtained SNSF funding at least once during the past 6 years, but this result is most likely not representative for the SNSF target group as such. And as we do not have information on the overall proportion of eligible researchers who have not applied for SNSF funding, the underrepresentation of non-applicants cannot be solved by weighting the results.

2.1.1 Target group overview by position, gender, field of research and institution

The respondent group reflects a general gender imbalance found in scientific research. 30 per cent of the respondents are women, 70 per cent are men, and women more often than men hold lower positions. 46 per cent of the men and 33 per cent of the women are full professors, while 5 per cent of the men and 15 per cent of the women are postdocs. Overall, 42 per cent of the respondents are full professors, 26 per cent hold position at senior researcher level and 8 per cent are postdocs (table below).

[18] Researchers at Swiss research institutions, who hold a PhD or several years' research experience and are in a position to perform research independently.

Table 2.1 Respondents by position and gender. Per cent.

(Q34) What is your current (main) position?	Female	Male	Total
Full professor or similar	33.1	46.1	42.1
Associate professor or similar	8.7	12.9	11.6
Assistant professor or similar	8.8	6.6	7.3
Senior researcher*	28.8	25.2	26.3
Postdoc	14.6	5.2	8.1
Professor emeritus	0.4	1.0	0.8
Other	5.7	3.0	3.8
N	1061	2417	3478
% by gender	30.5	69.5	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

* Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

The large majority of respondents are affiliated to cantonal universities (54 per cent) or the ETH domain[19] (27 per cent). 7 per cent are affiliated to universities of applied sciences and 5 per cent to hospitals, while very few are at universities of teacher education (2 per cent) or private sector research labs or institutes (2 per cent). The natural sciences account for 46 per cent of the respondents, the social sciences 18 per cent, the medical sciences 16 per cent, and humanities an engineering/technology 10 per cent each. Within the natural sciences, biological sciences alone account for 18 per cent (table below).

Table 2.2 Respondents by field of research and type of institution. Per cent.

Research area	Cantonal university	ETH domain	*UAS/ UTE	*Other	Total
Computer and information sciences	3.5	5.9	8.2	2.0	4.4
Physical sciences	6.4	17.6	2.7	3.0	8.8
Chemical sciences	3.5	9.3	2.0	1.0	4.7
Earth/related environmental sciences	5.1	9.8	1.0	3.0	5.8
Biological sciences	22.5	14.8	1.4	21.5	18.3
Other natural sciences	3.3	5.5	2.7	1.7	3.7
Total natural sciences	44.1	62.8	18.2	32.1	45.6
Engineering and technology	1.8	26.9	13.0	4.7	10.0
Basic medicine	6.2	0.2	0.0	13.5	4.7
Clinical medicine	3.7	0.0	0.3	22.2	4.2
Health sciences	4.7	1.4	9.2	13.1	5.0
(Other) medical sciences	2.3	0.8	0.7	4.4	2.0
Total Medical sciences	17.0	2.5	10.3	52.8	15.8
Psychology	5.5	0.2	2.0	2.7	3.5
Economics and business	4.9	1.8	4.8	0.0	3.6
(Other) social sciences	11.7	2.3	34.4	2.7	10.4
Total social sciences	22.1	4.3	41.1	5.7	17.5
Languages and literature	5.7	0.1	2.0	0.3	3.3
(Other) humanities	9.0	2.2	13.9	3.4	7.1
Total humanities	14.7	2.3	15.8	4.0	10.4
Other	0.2	1.2	1.7	0.7	0.7
N	**1681**	**854**	**292**	**299**	**3126**
% by type of institution	53.8	27.3	9.3	9.6	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q45: Please select your field of research from the dropdown list below.
Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.
*Figures split between University of Applied Sciences (UAS), University of Teacher Education (UTE), Hospital and Private sector research lab/institute are available in Appendix 1.

[19] The ETH domain consists of the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology and four research institutes, see note to Table 1.4.

2.1.2 Characteristics of SNSF grant holders compared with other researchers in the target group

80 per cent of the respondents report having obtained SNSF funding at least once during the past 6 years. A larger proportion of the male than female respondents has received SNSF funding (84 per cent of male researchers and 71 per cent for female researchers). Similarly, a larger proportion of the men has obtained funding from CTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation), other Swiss sources, ERC and other funding sources reported in the survey (Table 2.3). These differences relate to the characteristics of the target group noted in Section 2.1.1: A higher proportion of the men than the women are full/associate professors, whereas a larger proportion of the women hold postdoc and other lower positions.

Table 2.3 Respondents' funding sources and success by gender. Per cent.

(Q8)Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained, or tried to obtain, research funding from in the period 2008-2013.	Gender	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)	Female	71.2	11.7	14.4	2.6	984
	Male	84.3	5.9	8.3	1.5	2303
	Total	80.4	7.6	10.2	1.8	3287
Commission for Technology and Innovation, CTI	Female	9.8	4.3	83.1	2.8	984
	Male	18.1	6.0	73.5	2.4	2302
Total	Total	15.6	5.5	76.4	2.5	3286
Other Swiss Federal authorities	Female	23.5	5.9	66.4	4.3	984
	Male	31.8	5.0	60.1	3.1	2302
	Total	29.3	5.3	62.0	3.4	3286
Cantons	Female	15.8	2.9	77.5	3.8	984
	Male	20.5	2.0	73.8	3.7	2301
	Total	19.1	2.3	74.9	3.7	3285
Private industry (Swiss)	Female	18.3	6.2	72.7	2.8	984
	Male	29.7	4.8	62.7	2.9	2302
	Total	26.3	5.2	65.6	2.9	3286
Private foundations (Swiss)	Female	37.8	10.2	49.5	2.5	984
	Male	38.4	9.0	49.8	2.8	2301
	Total	38.2	9.3	49.7	2.7	3285
Other Swiss sources	Female	18.6	6.1	69.1	6.2	984
	Male	20.9	3.0	68.3	7.8	2301
	Total	20.2	3.9	68.6	7.3	3285
The European Research Council (ERC)	Female	10.2	12.2	75.0	2.6	984
	Male	17.1	16.6	63.4	3.0	2302
	Total	15.0	15.3	66.9	2.9	3286
Foreign/international sources (other than ERC)	Female	26.3	6.6	63.5	3.6	984
	Male	35.0	7.0	54.7	3.4	2301
	Total	32.4	6.8	57.3	3.4	3285

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

Notably, a majority of the respondents have not applied for funding from other sources such as CTI, cantons, industry or international sources. 76 per cent have not applied for CTI funding, 75 per cent have not applied for funding from cantons, and 67 per cent have not applied for ERC grants[20] (Table 2.3). Hence, the SNSF seems perceived as the most relevant source for third party funding in their target group.

Split by respondents' position, we find as would be expected, that a far higher proportion of the professors than the postdocs have received SNSF funding (full professors 89 per cent; postdocs 33 per cent). Moreover, postdocs are the group which most often has not tried to obtain SNSF funding (44 per cent) and most often unsuccessfully has tried to obtain SNFS grants (13 per cent). It should be noted that the proportion of associate and assistant professors who have received SNSF funding is not significantly different from that for full professors, and also a large proportion of respondents at senior researcher level have received SNSF funding (79 per cent, table below).

[20] These who have not applied for ERC grants are further analysed in Section 3.4.

Table 2.4 SNSF applicant status by position. Per cent.

	SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)				
Position	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
Full professor	88.6	4.5	6.2	0.7	1274
Associate professor	90.3	5.4	3.2	1.0	404
Assistant professor	85.0	5.5	7.9	1.6	253
Senior researcher*	78.7	11.0	8.7	1.5	915
Postdoc	33.1	12.8	44.1	10.0	281
Professor emeritus	96.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	28
Other	71.2	14.4	13.6	0.8	132
Total	80.4	7.6	10.2	1.8	3287

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q8: Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained, or tried to obtain, research funding from in the period 2008-2013.
Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.
*Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

Split by field of research, economics and business, engineering and technology and computer and information sciences, turn up as fields with a somewhat higher proportion of researchers who have not tried to obtain SNSF funds. Medical sciences, apart from basic medicine, come up as the research area with the highest proportion of non-successful applicants (table below).

Table 2.5 SNSF applicant status by field of research. Per cent.

	SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)				
Field of research	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
Computer and information sciences	71.7	10.1	15.2	2.9	138
Physical sciences	77.7	3.6	14.6	4.0	274
Chemical sciences	88.4	3.4	6.2	2.1	146
Earth and related environmental sciences	89.0	5.0	5.5	0.6	181
Biological sciences	86.6	3.1	8.4	1.9	573
Other natural sciences	80.9	4.3	11.3	3.5	115
Engineering and technology	70.9	9.6	17.9	1.6	313
Basic medicine	88.4	8.2	3.4	0.0	146
Clinical medicine	76.2	14.6	8.5	0.8	130
Health sciences	76.4	15.9	7.0	0.6	157
(Other) medical sciences	62.3	14.8	14.8	8.2	61
Psychology	87.2	5.5	7.3	0.0	109
Economics and business	67.9	9.8	20.5	1.8	112
(Other) social sciences	80.0	10.8	8.0	1.2	325
Languages and literature	86.4	6.8	5.8	1.0	103
(Other) humanities	88.7	5.4	5.0	0.9	222
Other	52.4	23.8	19.0	4.8	21
Total	80.8	7.4	9.9	1.8	3126

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q8: Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained, or tried to obtain, research funding from in the period 2008-2013.
Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

As noted above, non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the survey and the proportion of respondents who have not applied for SNSF funding, or applied without success, is most likely not representative for the SNSF target group as such. The analyses below are therefore split by those who have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia and those who have not.

As expected, there is a clear difference in SNSF's 'coverage' of different institutions. Whereas most of the respondents at the cantonal universities (72 per cent, Table 2.6) have obtained SNSF Project funding or Sinergia during the past six years, and also most of those at ETHZ and EPFL (65 per cent), a lower share of those affiliated with universities of applied sciences (46 per cent), universities of teacher education (51 per cent) and ETH Research institutes (52 per cent) have received such funding. Note that the low response rates at universities of teacher education, might imply that the coverage of the SNSF target group at these institutions is lower than indicated in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6 SNSF grant and respondents' institutional affiliation. Per cent.

Type of institution	*Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	N
Cantonal university	72.4	27.6	1863
ETHZ/EPFL	64.7	35.3	717
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	52.3	47.7	266
University of Applied Sciences	46.1	53.9	254
University of Teacher Education	50.7	49.3	73
Hospital	69.0	31.0	187
Private sector research lab/institute	71.2	28.8	52
Other	68.2	31.8	66
Total per cent	66.6	33.4	
Total count	2316	1162	3478

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.
*In the period 2008-2013, according to SNSF data.

Table 2.7 shows the average age of the researchers, split by academic position, gender and whether or not they have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia grants. Those who have received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia are somewhat older than those who have not, even when holding the same kind of position. Full professors who have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia are on average 52 years old; those who have not, 50 years. Postdocs who have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia are on average 37 years of age; those who have not are 34 years old. Senior researchers who have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia are on average 47 years old; those who have not, 43 years. Similarly, the academic age – years after PhD – of those who have received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia is higher than for those who have not (figures by academic age and position in Table A 69 in Appendix 1). There is no significant age difference between those who have received Project funding and those who have received Sinergia (average for Project funding is 49.2, for Sinergia it is 50.2).

Table 2.7 Respondents' average age by position, gender and SNSF grant. Means.

	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia*			Other respondents			
Position	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Total
Full professor or similar	51.7	52.0	52.0	49.5	50.7	50.4	51.7
Associate professor or similar	48.5	49.1	49.0	50.7	48.2	49.1	49.0
Assistant professor or similar	41.0	40.6	40.7	40.7	41.0	40.9	40.8
Senior researcher	45.8	47.5	47.0	42.8	43.8	43.3	45.8
Postdoc	37.4	37.0	37.2	34.6	33.6	34.1	34.4
Professor emeritus**	-	68.6	68.4	-	-	-	69.3
Other	50.9	51.0	51.0	41.8	44.2	42.8	47.1
Total	47.7	49.7	49.2	41.0	43.6	42.4	47.3
N	513	1667	2180	384	496	880	3060

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q46: Please indicate your year of birth (four digits needed) and your gender. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.
*In the period 2008-2013, according to SNSF data.
**There are only 4 female professors emeritus in the sample, and in total 4 professors emeritus who have not obtained Project Funding or Sinergia, and average age is not shown separately for these groups.

The higher academic position and research activity of those who have obtained SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia is also reflected in the integration of PhDs and postdocs in their projects. For these researchers, PhDs and postdocs seem to play a more important role in the research projects: they more often need PhDs and/or postdocs in their projects; more often supervise PhDs (alone or with other senior project staff); their PhDs are more often integrated in doctoral schools; their postdocs more often work fairly independently; and they less often agree that part-time postdoc positions are more adequate for their projects than full-time postdoc positions. Those who have not received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia less often answer affirmative and more often answer 'not relevant' to these questions (table below).

Table 2.8 Integration of junior staff in respondents' research projects, by SNSF funding. Per cent.

(Q6) How are junior scientific staff normally integrated in your research projects?	SNSF funding	Yes	No	Not relevant	N
There is normally no need for PhDs and/or postdocs in my projects	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	5.5	89.1	5.4	2200
	Other respondents	16.1	64.4	19.5	947
	Total	8.6	81.7	9.7	3147
I or another senior in the project will normally be the supervisor of the PhDs	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	92.5	3.8	3.7	2290
	Other respondents	68.6	9.7	21.7	965
	Total	85.4	5.6	9.0	3255
The PhDs will normally be integrated in doctoral schools	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	69.0	22.4	8.6	2259
	Other respondents	53.4	19.2	27.4	942
	Total	64.4	21.5	14.1	3201
Postdocs in my projects may work fairly independently	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	73.1	12.2	14.7	2275
	Other respondents	55.2	9.5	35.4	941
	Total	67.8	11.4	20.7	3216
Part-time postdoc positions are more adequate for my kind of projects than full-time postdoc positions	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	12.3	69.4	18.3	2250
	Other respondents	17.1	45.9	37.0	940
	Total	13.7	62.4	23.8	3190

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posed to all respondents. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

Moreover, the differences in SNSF's coverage of institutions and academic positions links to characteristics associated with the eligibility criteria: the researchers in the SNSF target group who have not received Project Funding or Sinergia during the past 6 years, less often hold a permanent or full-time position (table below and Table A 58 in Appendix 1), and more often have little time for research (Table A 59 in Appendix 1).

Table 2.9 SNSF grant and respondents' employment terms. Per cent.

(Q36) What are the terms of your current employment contract?*	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	N
Permanently employed (tenured)	81.6	18.4	2057
Continuously employed (no pre-set term, but no guarantee of permanence)	62.2	37.8	270
Fixed-term employment with permanent/continuous employment prospects (tenure-track)	67.2	32.8	204
Fixed-term employment without permanent/continuous employment prospects	36.6	63.4	566
Other	73.5	26.5	49
Total per cent	70.8	29.2	
Total count	2226	920	3146

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

* If you are affiliated with multiple research/higher education institutions, please answer for your principal/most important employment.

It should also be noted that researchers who have not received Project Funding or Sinergia grants during the past 6 years less often had a research stay abroad after their doctoral studies. As much as 76 per cent of those who have received such funding had a research stay abroad during their postdoc research, whereas only 53 per cent of other respondents had a research stay abroad during their postdoc research. (Table 2.10). On the other hand, there are no significant differences between those who have and those who have not received Project Funding/Sinergia grants when it comes to whether they received their (first) doctorate in Switzerland or in another country (Table 2.11).

Table 2.10 SNSF grant and respondents' doctorate country. Per cent answering 'Yes'.

(Q49) International mobility: Please indicate if you have had any research stays abroad/performed research outside Switzerland for at least one semester during your career.	Abroad	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	Total
during doctoral studies	%Yes	56.0	55.4	55.8
	N	1960	792	2752
during postdoc research	%Yes	75.5	52.7	69.1
	N	2092	812	2904
as a senior researcher/at other times than postdoc/doctoral studies	%Yes	56.4	34.5	50.4
	N	1981	747	2728
stay(s) abroad funded by the SNSF	%Yes	26.5	15.9	23.6
	N	1921	719	2640

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

Table 2.11 SNSF grant and respondents' doctorate country. Per cent.

(Q48) Where did you receive your (first) doctorate?	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	Total
In Switzerland	52.2	48.6	51.1
In another country	47.8	51.4	48.9
N	2209	875	3084

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Note that non-applicants and unsuccessful applicants are underrepresented in the sample, see introduction to Section 2.1.

2.2 Local resources, policies and needs

A key purpose of the survey was to map researchers' various local resources and facilities for research, and needs not covered by local funding. In this section the amount of local funding and number of staff available, the researchers' assessments of their local resources and facilities, and the conditions for access to the resources, are analysed. Note that results concerning local funding are further elaborated in the Section 2.3 along with data on third party funding.

2.2.1 Assessments of local resources and conditions for access

The researchers were asked to rate their local resources and facilities for research on a scale from 1-poor to 5-excellent. The results are shown in Table 2.12. Library and computer facilities obtain the highest scores: 37 per cent rated library facilities and services excellent and 34 per cent rated computer facilities excellent. On the other side, funds for research projects and PhD/postdoc positions obtain the lowest scores. On these items,16 to 21 per cent of the researchers rated their local situation as poor.

Table 2.12 Local resources and facilities for research: Scores on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor). Per cent.

(Q2) At your current institution, how would you evaluate each of the following resources and facilities you need to support your research?	5 Excellent	4	3	2	1 Poor	Not applicable	N
Local funding for research projects	12.2	26.7	27.1	15.7	15.6	2.8	3446
Local funding for PhDs and/or postdoc positions	10.0	23.9	25.0	18.1	18.1	4.9	3449
Local funding for international project collaboration	5.8	17.4	26.3	23.8	20.6	6.1	3434
Local funding for interdisciplinary project collaboration	6.7	20.4	27.3	21.3	16.9	7.3	3419
Laboratory space	17.8	26.9	18.5	8.5	5.0	23.2	3425
Laboratory services	17.1	29.0	16.5	7.8	4.4	25.2	3413
Research infrastructures	30.8	37.5	17.9	7.4	2.4	4.0	3427
Research equipment and instruments	29.7	35.9	15.0	5.8	1.8	11.7	3422
Computer facilities	34.4	39.3	16.5	5.9	2.6	1.3	3438
Research support staff/technicians	15.8	30.5	25.2	13.8	8.5	6.1	3421
Library facilities and services	36.7	37.0	16.1	5.9	2.6	1.8	3434
Time available for research	12.6	29.6	33.0	16.1	8.5	0.3	3433
Other	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.8	4.9	87.1	947

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Measured by average scores, local funding for interdisciplinary and international project collaboration obtained the lowest scores (2.6-2.8 on the scale from 1-poor to 5-excellent). In comparison, the average score given to local research equipment, instruments, computer facilities and library facilities and services is considerably higher (4.0). In particular the universities of applied sciences and hospitals obtained low scores on local funding for interdisciplinary and international project collaboration. The universities of applied sciences also score low on local funding for PhDs/postdoc positions (1.9), whereas ETHZ/EPFL score highest on this question (3.6). Also, when calculating the overall scores for the 12 items rated, the universities of applied sciences come out with the lowest overall average (2.8) and ETHZ/EPFL with the highest (3.9, table below).

Table 2.13 Local resources and facilities for research: Average scores on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor). Averages by type of institution.

(Q2) At your current institution, how would you evaluate each of the following resources and facilities you need to support your research?	University	ETHZ/ EPFL	ETH institutes	University of Applied Sciences	University of Teacher Education	Hospital	Private*	Other	Total	N
a. Local funding for research projects	2.8	3.8	3.4	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.0	3.0	3348
b. Local funding for PhDs and/or postdoc positions	2.8	3.6	3.1	1.9	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.9	3281
c. Local funding for international project collaboration	2.5	3.2	3.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.6	3226
d. Local funding for interdisciplinary project collaboration	2.6	3.3	3.3	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	3168
e. Laboratory space	3.5	4.0	3.9	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.6	2629
f. Laboratory services	3.5	4.1	3.9	2.9	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.6	2553
g. Research infrastructures	3.8	4.4	4.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.9	3291
h. Research equipment and instruments	3.9	4.4	4.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	4.0	3021
i. Computer facilities	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.0	3392
j. Research support staff/technicians	3.2	3.8	3.7	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.6	3.2	3.3	3211
k. Library facilities and services	4.0	4.4	4.2	3.5	3.3	3.9	3.5	3.6	4.0	3372
l. Time available for research	3.2	3.6	3.6	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.1	3.2	3422
Overall average a-l	**3.3**	**3.9**	**3.7**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.4**	
N	1288-1831	583-705	243-262	163-252	26-72	160-185	44-52	46-65	2553-3422	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
* Private sector research lab/institute.

The pattern for the various resources/facilities is much the same across different fields of research. Still, the humanities and medical sciences come out with lower overall scores than the other fields. The researchers within the humanities rate their local resources lower on time for research, and the medical sciences came out particularly low on local funding for both international and interdisciplinary project collaboration (table below).

Table 2.14 Local resources and facilities for research: Average scores on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor). Averages by field of research.

(Q2) At your current institution, how would you evaluate each of the following resources and facilities you need to support your research?	Natural sciences	Engineering and technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities	Other	Total	N
a. Local funding for research projects	3.2	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.0	3028
b. Local funding for PhDs and/or postdoc positions	3.1	3.1	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.9	2.9	2974
c. Local funding for international project collaboration	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.6	2928
d. Local funding for interdisciplinary project collaboration	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.8	2874
e. Laboratory space	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.6	2400
f. Laboratory services	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.6	2336
g. Research infrastructures	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.9	2984
h. Research equipment and instruments	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	2747
i. Computer facilities	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	3070
j. Research support staff/technicians	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.3	2916
k. Library facilities and services	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	3056
l. Time available for research	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.2	3093
Overall average a-l	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.1**	**3.2**	**3.1**	**3.4**	**3.4**	
N	1254-1416	294-311	414-491	236-535	123-319	15-21	2336-3093	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

The comments added by the respondents indicate that local resources vary, as well as the needs of the researchers. Some comment on unmet needs for laboratories, equipment and facilities, others needs space, access to literature or assistance with administrative project management:

> *I work in Linguistics, in a Humanities faculty. We need laboratories, research equipment, and extensive computer facilities, but are funded as if we don't have these basic needs. Financing of necessary research equipment and facilities comes from the budget others can devote solely to library purchases. (Professor, Cantonal university)*
>
> *No support for managing the financial side, neither from SNF nor from university, I am my own secretary. (Professor, Cantonal university)*
>
> *Lack of space for any research (as a clinical researcher I do not need laboratory space) is a tremendous problem despite the fact that space for research is part of the contract with the Hospital. (Professor, hospital)*
>
> *Access to relevant literature is very poor in our Univ. of Appl. sciences, we have virtually no access to relevant journals, neither in paper nor in electronic form, I obtain all of it via friends from EPFL or through three day order and delivery (Professor, university of applied sciences)*
>
> *We have a fixed number of rooms (quite tiny for all what we do), but can't ask for more as there is currently no available space .... Most services (PCB manufacturing, mechanical workshops, etc.) are now available at a charge (PCBs were free until last year for example, and that makes quite a big change for people doing that all the time...) (Postdoc ETH domain)*

Concerning time for research, there are obvious differences between academic positions. The full professors often consider time available for research rather poor (34 per cent rated this 2 or 1), whereas all the other groups – and in particular the postdocs – seem more satisfied (table below).

Table 2.15 Time available for research (Local resources and facilities for research): Per cent by position.

What is your current (main) position?	5 Excellent	4	3	2	1 Poor	Not applicable	N
Full professor or similar	6.4	24.1	35.8	21.9	11.6	0.3	1134
Associate professor or similar	12.2	26.5	35.8	17.0	8.5	0.0	400
Assistant professor or similar	17.8	32.8	33.2	12.3	3.2	0.8	253
Senior researcher*	14.1	33.7	32.7	12.2	7.4	0.0	911
Postdoc	28.3	40.6	21.0	7.6	2.2	0.4	276
Professor emeritus	15.4	23.1	34.6	15.4	7.7	3.8	26
Other (please specify)	9.9	23.7	33.6	18.3	12.2	2.3	131
Total	**12.5**	**29.3**	**33.3**	**16.2**	**8.4**	**0.3**	**3131**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q2: At your current institution, how would you evaluate each of the following resources and facilities you need to support your research? : I.Time available for research.

*Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

Research equipment and instruments, computer facilities and laboratory space is most often available free of charge at the institutions, whereas the researchers often need to pay for services such as laboratory analysis (free for 25 per cent of respondents, available against charge for 39 per cent). At hospitals as much as 71 per cent of the researchers report that they need to pay for services such as laboratory analyses, while at the ETH research institutes, 55 per cent answer that this is available free of charge. 7 per cent of the researchers at the cantonal universities and 8 per cent of the researchers at the universities of applied sciences report that services are not available.

Moreover, 42 per cent of the researchers at the hospitals, 35 per cent at ETHZ/EPFL and 23 per cent at the cantonal universities need to pay for research equipment and instruments, whereas at ETH research institutes and universities of applied sciences, this is more often free of charge. Concerning laboratory space, it should be noted that this more often seems inadequate at universities of applied sciences and hospitals than at the other kinds of institutions (9 to 10 per cent report that laboratory space is not available, table below).

Table 2.16 Conditions for access to services and facilities at respondent's institution, by institution. Per cent.

Type of services/facilities	Type of institution	Available free of charge	Available against charge	Not available	Not relevant	N
Research equipment and instruments	Cantonal university	57.8	22.8	2.4	17.1	1681
	ETHZ/EPFL	47.4	34.8	1.1	16.6	626
	ETH Research institutes	85.5	7.9	0.0	6.6	242
	University of Applied Sciences	61.6	17.9	3.1	17.5	229
	University of Teacher Education	67.7	13.8	3.1	15.4	65
	Hospital	48.9	41.8	4.3	4.9	184
	Private sector research lab/institute	74.5	17.6	0.0	7.8	51
	Other	68.3	9.5	1.6	20.6	63
	Total	58.3	24.3	2.1	15.4	3141
Services (e.g. laboratory analysis)	Cantonal university	20.8	37.5	6.5	35.3	1679
	ETHZ/EPFL	25.2	46.6	0.6	27.5	622
	ETH Research institutes	55.0	32.2	0.8	12.0	242
	University of Applied Sciences	23.9	26.5	8.4	41.2	226
	University of Teacher Education	21.9	9.4	3.1	65.6	64
	Hospital	13.6	70.7	4.3	11.4	184
	Private sector research lab/institute	35.3	35.3	7.8	21.6	51
	Other	39.7	27.0	1.6	31.7	63
	Total	24.8	39.2	4.8	31.3	3131
Computer facilities	Cantonal university	79.3	12.9	2.9	4.8	1685
	ETHZ/EPFL	63.2	29.8	0.5	6.6	625
	ETH Research institutes	86.4	9.1	1.2	3.3	242
	University of Applied Sciences	81.1	13.7	0.9	4.4	227
	University of Teacher Education	90.8	9.2	0.0	0.0	65
	Hospital	71.7	22.3	4.3	1.6	184
	Private sector research lab/institute	86.0	12.0	0.0	2.0	50
	Other	90.6	4.7	1.6	3.1	64
	Total	76.9	16.3	2.1	4.6	3142
Laboratory space	Cantonal university	60.7	3.5	3.7	32.1	1671
	ETHZ/EPFL	74.4	4.8	1.4	19.4	625
	ETH Research institutes	81.2	4.2	2.5	12.1	240
	University of Applied Sciences	42.7	10.1	9.3	37.9	227
	University of Teacher Education	17.2	1.6	7.8	73.4	64
	Hospital	60.1	13.7	9.8	16.4	183
	Private sector research lab/institute	74.0	8.0	2.0	16.0	50
	Other	56.2	4.7	6.2	32.8	64
	Total	62.9	5.0	4.0	28.1	3124

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q39: At your current institution, which are the conditions for access to the following services/facilities?

The differences between the institutions are also reflected in the free text comments: more fundamental complaints come from researchers at hospitals, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education. Moreover, the comments elaborate overhead charges and what is free of charge (typically inside services, smaller equipment) and what is not (typically external services and larger/extensive equipment analysis). Some examples are given below.

> *Significant research equipment is bought using SNF or cantonal funding for use by the group. (Professor, Cantonal university)*

> *It really depends on the specific item, what is available free of charge and what needs to be paid for (we have both systems at the same time). (Professor, Cantonal university)*

> *Some equipment requires to contribute to cost of maintenance. Mainframe computer facilities are free of charge, but smaller computers have to be purchased by the researchers on their own research money (Professor, Cantonal university)*

> *Services inside our institute and usually free of charge. Other facilities are charged. (Professor, ETH domain)*

> *The Institutions are killing research, everything is against charge, even from other researchers with SNF grants. This is a shame of our time. (Professor, Cantonal university)*

Local computing is free of charge (but we have to buy it), but larger computing has to be paid for. (Professor, ETH domain)

The question is not appropriate to an ETH lab/group, which normally has to fund/organise computing and labs itself. (Professor, ETH domain)

I am the head of a large-scale research facility … which has 'open access' policy: free access granted for national and international researchers, based on scientific merit of a proposal for beamtime. (Professor, ETH domain)

Normally it is free to do analysis of all kinds but if you [do] a lot of samples you pay from your grant (Senior researcher, ETH domain)

Access fees vary with the Abteilung and the nature of the work within [the institute]. (Postdoc ETH domain)

Cost models are in motion and depend on the service, the hosting groups' management and more. Generally there is a constant trend to charge more and more and get more and more bureaucratic even with small issues. (Honorary Professor/Research Group Leader, ETH domain)

All these services are 'free' but of course I pay for some of them through the budget of my unit/institute (Professor, hospital)

I have to pay an overhead for work conditions. I have to cover my research time salary. (Professor, university of applied sciences)

All projects have an overhead added to their cost calculation at the start and these cover everything from photocopying to IT services (Professor, university of applied sciences)

The institute has to pay for all equipment, software and also support from the ICT, HR-Department, administrative functions through overhead. (Professor, university of teacher education)

At our university of teacher education, we had several internal reforms/restructurings resulting in a deterioration of conditions. Our research department and also projects are calculated as "profit centres" and we have overhead costs higher than 70% (sometimes over 80%) meaning that for each 1'000.- SFR of external funding the respective research institute must invest over SFR 700.- to actually conduct the research. These are neck-breaking conditions. My research assignment was cut because of one big SNSF project in our research institute which brought the institute into the red. (Senior researcher, university of teacher education)

2.2.2 Local funding available to the researchers

The researchers were asked about their local funding and research staff. Table 2.17 shows that 22 per cent have no locally-funded research staff working for them, whereas 56 per cent have locally-funded staff equalling 2 to 5 full time equivalents. These figures are further analysed by institution and field of research in Section 2.3.

Note that the question concerning research staff seems the most frequently misinterpreted question in the survey. Respondents were asked to indicate the funding available to them from their institution in 2012 in terms of number of their staff funded by their institution, specified as: "e.g. PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents". Some entered quite high numbers (up to 1000) and probably have included their whole department or institution in the figures, and not the number of PhDs, postdocs and assistants etc. they supervise and organise. Still, the majority seems to have understood the questions correctly and 93 per cent entered numbers between 0 and 10.[21]

[21] To avoid incorrect replies to bias the analyses, all answers above 20, alternatively 200, staff members are excluded from the analyses including average number of staff members (Section 2.3). We expect 40 (e.g. 20 internally and 20 externally funded) to be the maximum number of research staff an ordinary professor/researcher organise and supervise, and 400 (200+200) the maximum number for those in charge of for example a research centre/multiple large research groups.

Table 2.17 Number of your staff funded by your institution. By age, academic age and gender.

(Q40) Number of your staff funded by your institution (e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents)	Per cent	Average age	Average academic age*	% female
0	22.1	44.7	14.2	35.4
0.1-1	6.3	47.6	17.1	29.8
2-5	55.9	48.7	18.5	25.2
5.1-10	8.6	50.8	20.7	18.7
11-20	1.7	47.9	17.4	20.0
21-50	1.2	49.0	17.5	22.9
51-100	1.2	46.3	15.5	35.3
101-200	1.3	50.5	19.6	40.5
Above 200	1.7	48.1	15.6	33.3
Total	2865	**47.9	17.5	***27.5

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Outliers: Q40: Institutional funding: Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012. a) Number of your staff funded by your institution (e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents).
*Present age minus age at first doctorate. N=2756. **N=2799. ***N=2865.
8 reply above 1000, and 110 reply above 100 (respondents may be head of department/institution or misinterpreted the question).Erroneous/insignificant results.

Table 2.17 also shows the average age, academic age (years since doctorate) and proportion of women by number of locally-funded research staff. Not surprisingly, average age and academic age is highest and the proportion of women lowest, among those who have as many as 5 to 10 locally-funded research staff. Note that figures for those with more than 10 locally-funded research staff are unreliable, both because of few cases in each category and because some respondents may have misinterpreted the question.

It is somewhat more common to receive local research funds, than to have locally-funded research staff at one's disposal. Whereas 22 per cent indicated that they have no locally-funded staff, 18 per cent indicated that they have no local funding (indicated in CHF). A majority of the researchers (53 per cent) received above 10 000 CHF local funding in 2012. Researchers at ETHZ/EPFL most frequently have high local funding: 36 per cent had more than 100 000 CHF in 2012 (Table 2.18). The proportion without local funding is at highest the hospitals, and lowest in the ETH domain (when disregarding results for the universities of teacher education with few cases).

Table 2.18 Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012: Research funds in CHF. Per cent by type of institution.

Institutional affiliation	No institutional funding	Below 10 000	10 000 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	200 000 - 500 000	500 000 – 1 000 000	Above 1 000 000	Cannot say	N
Cantonal University	20.1	21.5	33.5	7.4	5.3	1.3	1.6	9.2	1655
ETHZ/EPFL	12.0	6.5	27.5	17.0	10.7	4.8	3.5	18.0	600
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	10.8	12.1	36.2	10.8	4.7	1.3	1.3	22.8	232
University of Applied Sciences	17.0	8.5	32.6	11.6	8.0	2.7	3.1	16.5	224
University of Teacher Education	9.5	17.5	27.0	7.9	9.5	1.6	3.2	23.8	63
Hospital	27.1	14.4	33.1	8.3	8.3	1.7	0.0	7.2	181
Private sector research lab/institute	17.3	3.8	26.9	9.6	7.7	11.5	5.8	17.3	52
Other:	23.0	6.6	37.7	4.9	4.9	1.6	3.3	18.0	61
Total	17.8	15.8	32.3	9.9	6.8	2.3	2.1	13.0	3068

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
(Q41): Institutional funding: Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012. b) Research funds in CHF (not including staff/salary).

The researchers often need to compete for local research funding: 39 per cent reply that their local research funding was obtained on a competitive basis, whereas 32 per cent obtained their local funding without a competitive procedure (the remainder reply 'not applicable'). The researchers at the universities of applied sciences, more often than those at the other higher education institutions, have competitive local funding (55 per cent, compared with 36 to 37 per cent at the cantonal universities and ETHZ/EPFL). This may reflect that universities of applied sciences have a more selective distribution of resources for

research, whereas at cantonal universities and ETHZ/EPFL resources are somewhat more evenly distributed and enable most staff to engage in research activities.

Table 2.19 Funding available to you from your own institution 2012: Was some of that funding obtained on a competitive basis? Per cent by type of institution.

Institutional affiliation	Yes	No	Not applicable	N
Cantonal University	36.8	34.1	29.1	1630
ETHZ/EPFL	36.3	35.1	28.7	593
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	41.7	24.1	34.2	228
University of Applied Sciences	55.0	18.6	26.4	220
University of Teacher Education	38.1	39.7	22.2	63
Hospital	43.6	23.2	33.1	181
Private sector research lab/institute	59.6	19.2	21.2	52
Other	27.9	31.1	41.0	61
Total	**39.0**	**31.6**	**29.4**	**3028**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. (Q42.

As would be expected, the higher amounts of funding are more often allocated on a competitive basis. Of those with local funding below 10 000 CHF, 30 per cent received it based on competition; of those with local funding between 200 000 and 500 000 CHF, 68 per cent competed for it; and for those with even more local funding the proportion with competitive funding is even higher (table below).

Table 2.20 Obtained institutional funding on a competitive/non-competitive basis by amount of institutional funding (research funds 2012 in CHF). Per cent.

Institutional funding: Research funds in CHF (not including staff/salary)	Was some of that funding obtained on a competitive basis?*			
	Yes	No	Not applicable	N
No institutional funding*	6.8	7.9	85.4	533
Below 10 000 CHF	29.9	53.8	16.2	481
10 000 - 100 000 CHF	45.4	45.9	8.6	984
100 000 - 200 000 CHF	57.9	32.1	9.9	302
200 000 - 500 000 CHF	68.4	23.3	8.3	206
500 000 - 1 000 000 CHF	72.5	20.3	7.2	69
Above 1 000 000 CHF	89.1	7.8	3.1	64
Cannot say	34.1	9.9	55.9	372
Total	39.1	31.7	29.2	3011

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41: Institutional funding: Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012. b) Research funds in CHF (not including staff/salary).
*Replies also relate to question about research staff funded by institution.

2.3 Third party funding

Compared with the institutional funding available to the researchers, third party funding is both more common[22] and the amounts are larger[23]. At the same time the correlation between institutional and third party funding is generally high; those who have little third party funding also have little institutional funding, whereas those with much third party funding also have much institutional funding (table below).

[22] In 2012, 18 per cent of the researchers had no institutional funding and 10 per cent had no third party funding.
[23] For 2012: 42 per cent of the respondents indicated institutional funds for research between CHF 10,000 and 200,000, and 11 per cent indicated above CHF 200,000. Similar figures for third party funding were: 46 per cent CHF 10,000-200,000 and 25 per cent above CHF 200,000.

Table 2.21 Institutional funding and third party/external funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF). Per cent.

Institutional funding	No external funding	Below 10 000	10 000 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	200 000 - 500 000	500 000 – 1 000 000	Above 1 000 000	Cannot say	N
No institutional funding	22.5	8.3	25.3	17.7	16.0	3.6	1.5	5.1	530
Below 10 000 CHF	17.1	17.5	35.6	14.9	8.8	2.1	0.0	4.0	475
10 000 - 100 000 CHF	6.0	6.1	39.6	20.9	17.5	4.8	1.8	3.4	973
100 000 - 200 000 CHF	4.4	2.7	23.6	27.4	25.7	5.7	4.4	6.1	296
200 000 - 500 000 CHF	6.4	0.5	15.3	23.2	35.5	10.8	3.4	4.9	203
500 000 - 1 000 000 CHF	4.2	1.4	2.8	7.0	28.2	33.8	15.5	7.0	71
Above 1 000 000 CHF	3.2	0.0	1.6	12.7	19.0	15.9	44.4	3.2	63
Cannot say	3.5	2.2	8.2	7.6	6.0	1.6	1.1	69.8	367
Total	10.1	6.9	27.6	18.0	16.8	5.2	3.0	12.4	2978

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41 by Q44.

The same pattern emerges when analysing by institutional affiliation: the institutions with the highest level of third party funding also those identified in Section 2.2.2 with the highest level of institutional funding (ETHZ/EPFL and private labs/research institutes). An explanation of correlation at the institutional level may be that the strongest/ 'wealthiest' institutions are most able to attract external funding; an explanation of the correlation at the individual level may be that obtaining third party funding gives easier access to institutional funding. Still, there are also cases where third party funding may compensate for the lack of institutional funding. As mentioned, a higher proportion of the researchers have third party funding than institutional funding. Moreover, at the institutional level there is no clear correlation between no institutional and no third party funding. Whereas overall there are 8 percentage points more researchers who have third party funding than institutional funding, at the hospitals where institutional funding is low, there are 20 percentage points more researchers who have third party funding than institutional funding. It should also be noted that the universities of teacher education deviate from the general pattern. Here there are no more researchers who have third party funding than institutional funding.[24] Figures for third party funding by institution are shown in Table 2.22; figures for institutional funding in Table 2.18. There are also some notable differences in funding by field of research. Researchers within engineering and technology, and several fields within the natural sciences, most often have high levels both of third party and institutional funding, whereas researchers within the social sciences and humanities more often have no third party or institutional funding (Table A 62 and Table A 63.).

Table 2.22 Please give an estimate of third party/external funding available to you in 2012 (Research funds in CHF). Per cent by type of institution.

Institutional affiliation	No external funding	Below 10 000	10 000 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	200 000 - 500 000	500 000 – 1 000 000	Above 1 000 000	Cannot say	N
Cantonal University	12.2	8.1	28.8	19.0	16.0	4.4	2.1	9.4	1612
ETHZ/EPFL	6.8	5.4	24.5	13.8	18.4	9.4	5.6	16.2	588
ETH Research institutes	7.5	3.5	31.3	15.4	13.7	2.6	2.2	23.8	227
University of Applied Sciences	8.4	6.0	21.9	18.1	18.6	4.7	4.7	17.7	215
University of Teacher Education	20.3	6.8	27.1	16.9	10.2	3.4	0.0	15.3	59
Hospital	8.4	5.6	32.4	22.9	19.0	4.5	1.1	6.1	179
Private sector research lab/institute	5.8	3.8	7.7	26.9	28.8	7.7	3.8	15.4	52
Other	5.0	8.3	33.3	20.0	13.3	0.0	5.0	15.0	60
Total	10.2	6.9	27.5	18.0	16.7	5.2	3.0	12.5	2992

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q 44 b) Research funds in CHF (not including staff/salary): If you hold multi-year grants and do not have exact sums for 2012, please make a rough estimate by dividing total amount by number of funding years. Similar figures for institutional funding in Table 2.18. Figures by field of research are in Appendix 1, Table A 62 and Table A 63.

Furthermore, the researchers were asked to indicate their staff (their PhDs, postdocs, assistants etc.) funded from institutional and external sources. The table below shows average number of full time equivalents (FTEs) indicated by respondents, split by field of research. On average, the researchers have more staff funded by external sources than by institutional sources – 2.4 FTEs by institutional sources and 3.1 FTEs by third party funding. The difference is highest in the ETH domain (table below). As explained in Section 2.2.2, the question about research staff was difficult to answer and some

[24] When excluding those who reply 'cannot say' from the calculations, there are 2 percentage points fewer researchers who have third party funding than institutional funding at the universities of applied sciences. Note that the sample of researchers and response rates at these institutions are low and the figures are not significant.

respondents seem to have included more than 'their own' staff when replying. The calculated overall difference – and the differences within the largest institutional categories – between staff paid by institutional and third party funding should still be reliable (outliers are excluded from the calculations, see notes to the table).

Table 2.23 Number of your staff* funded from institutional and external sources. Average FTE by institution.

	Number of your staff funded					
	by your institution			from external sources		
Institution	mean	Std.dev.	N	mean	Std.dev.	N
Cantonal university	2.2	2.660	1490	2.8	3.162	1457
ETHZ/EPFL	3.4	3.299	530	4.5	4.149	523
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	2.1	2.834	193	3.2	3.556	184
University of Applied Sciences	2.6	4.088	183	3.1	3.957	177
University of Teacher Education	1.9	2.035	52	1.4	1.572	49
Hospital	1.1	1.917	165	1.9	2.173	165
Private sector research lab/institute	3.7	4.452	45	3.8	3.276	44
Other	2.6	4.341	53	2.6	2.963	47
Total	2.4	3.007	2711	3.1	3.474	2646

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q40 and Q43.

*e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents. Only replies ≤ 20 FTE are included in the calculations. Figures including replies up to 200 FTE are provided in Table A 66 in Appendix 1.

Clear differences by position and gender

Male researchers, far more often than women, have high amounts of institutional and/or third party funding, even when holding the same level of academic position. The clearest difference is found among the full professors: 27 per cent of female full professors, and 39 per cent of men in this category, had external funding above 200 000 CHF in 2012. For postdoc positions research funding seem more equally distributed (or even in the favour of female postdocs), but figures here are unsure as a large proportion of the postdocs answered 'cannot say' regarding their amount of institutional and third party funding (Table 2.24 below; similar figures for institutional funding in Table A 61 in Appendix 1).

Table 2.24 Third party/external funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by position and gender. Per cent.

Position	Gender	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
Full professor or similar	Female	20.4	43.1	26.5	10.0	211
	Male	12.0	43.8	38.7	5.6	900
	Total	13.6	43.7	36.4	6.4	1111
Associate professor or similar	Female	17.4	48.8	24.4	9.3	86
	Male	13.5	56.4	25.4	4.6	303
	Total	14.4	54.8	25.2	5.7	389
Assistant professor or similar	Female	23.6	38.2	27.0	11.2	89
	Male	16.4	45.4	30.9	7.2	152
	Total	19.1	42.7	29.5	8.7	241
Senior researcher*	Female	20.8	48.7	13.3	17.2	279
	Male	17.8	54.8	15.6	11.8	591
	Total	18.7	52.9	14.8	13.6	870
Postdoc	Female	23.2	19.2	4.8	52.8	125
	Male	30.5	15.2	5.7	48.6	105
	Total	26.5	17.4	5.2	50.9	230
Professor emeritus	Total	18.5	48.1	25.9	7.4	27
Other	Female	21.1	42.1	10.5	26.3	57
	Male	22.4	37.3	26.9	13.4	67
	Total	21.8	39.5	19.4	19.4	124
Total	Female	21.2	41.5	17.6	19.7	851
	Male	15.4	47.2	27.8	9.7	2141
	Total	17.0	45.6	24.9	12.5	2992

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q44. Figures for third party funding by institution are shown in in Appendix 1.

*Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

Those who have had research stay(s) abroad – which includes the large majority of the respondents – also more often have higher amounts of institutional, and in particular third party funding (tables below).

Table 2.25 Institutional funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by international research stay. Per cent.

Research stay(s) abroad*	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
No	37.3	30.5	8.6	23.6	407
Yes	33.0	44.1	11.7	11.1	2628
Total	33.6	42.3	11.3	12.8	3035

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41.
*'Yes' to at least one of the alternatives in Q49: International mobility: Please indicate if you have had any research stays abroad/performed research outside Switzerland for at least one semester during your career: during doctoral studies; during postdoc research; as a senior researcher/at other times than postdoc/doctoral studies; stay(s) abroad funded by the SNSF.

Table 2.26 Third party/external funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by international research stay. Per cent.

Research stay(s) abroad*	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
No	21.7	38.8	17.1	22.4	392
Yes	16.2	46.9	26.1	10.8	2570
Total	16.9	45.8	24.9	12.3	2962

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q44.
*'Yes' to at least one of the alternatives in Q49: International mobility: Please indicate if you have had any research stays abroad/performed research outside Switzerland for at least one semester during your career: during doctoral studies; during postdoc research; as a senior researcher/at other times than postdoc/doctoral studies; stay(s) abroad funded by the SNSF.

Policies for third party funding

In general third party funding seems important for researchers' career advancement, and the institutions facilitate such funding. 82 per cent of the researchers state that obtaining third party funding is important for career advancement at their institution, and this seems equally important at all kinds of institutions (figure is above 80 per cent across institutional categories, table below).

Institutions facilitate third party funding by communicating information about SNSF schemes and calls (according to 74 per cent of the researchers). Such information seems more common at the cantonal universities (80 per cent), than at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education (63 per cent) and ETH domain (69 per cent). On the other hand, institutional support services for writing SNSF applications seem more common at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education (41 per cent) than at the other institutions (26 per cent in the ETH domain and 34 per cent at the universities).

In most cases there are no restrictions on applying for third party funds, but the institutions require to be informed about the applications. 70 per cent report that their institutions require to be informed about applications for grants, 74 per cent report that their institution has no restrictions on applying for third party funds, whereas 20 per cent normally/often have a pre-screening of third party funding and may not allow all applications. The cantonal universities seem less strict on these issues than the ETH institutions: the universities less often require to be informed (66 per cent at universities, 76 per cent in the ETH domain), less often has pre-screening (12 per cent at universities, 33 per cent in the ETH domain), and more often has no restrictions (80 per cent at universities, 65 per cent in the ETH domain, table below).

Concerning overhead charges, replies vary and a substantial proportion of the researchers answer 'Don't know'. 47 per cent reply that grant holders are required to pass on a part of third party funds to the institution to cover indirect costs, 31 per cent answer that this is not the case, and 22 per cent do not know. 33 per cent answer that part of the overhead payment their institution receives from the SNSF regarding their project flows back to the grant holder/research group, whereas 34 per cent answer that this is not the case, and 33 per cent do not know (Appendix 1,Table A 20).

Table 2.27 Institutions' policies concerning third party funds, by type of institution. Per cent replying 'Yes'.

(Q7) What are your institution's policies concerning third party funds/external funding for research?	Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
My institution communicates information about SNSF funding schemes and calls to the researchers	80.2	68.7	62.5	62.7	73.8
My institution provides support services for writing research applications to the SNSF	33.5	25.6	41.4	24.4	31.2
Obtaining third-party funds is important for personal career advancement at my institution	81.9	82.9	84.0	80.0	82.2
My institution requires to be informed about applications for third-party funds	65.9	75.9	79.5	69.4	70.2
My institution has no restrictions on applying for third party funds (researchers may normally apply for the kind of grants they wish)	79.7	64.6	69.7	74.4	74.1
My institution normally/often has a prescreening of third party funds and may not allow all applications	11.5	33.2	29.3	19.6	19.9
Grant holders are required to pass a part of third party funds on to my institution to cover indirect costs	44.9	54.7	39.9	37.4	46.5
Part of the overhead payment my institution receives from the SNSF in relation with my project flows back to the grant holder/research group	35.3	30.7	32.8	26.0	32.9
N (number of replies varies between the questions)	1752-1768	907-914	290-293	312-316	3265-3285

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. See Appendix 1, Table A 20 for overview of replies (yes; no; don't know).
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

External sources and combination of grants

In general those who have obtained funding from external sources other than the SNSF have higher amounts of third party funding. The table below shows the researchers' amount of third party funding in 2012 by the sources they have obtained funding from in the period 2008 to 2013. The SNSF comes out with the lowest proportion above 200 000 CHF and the highest proportion with no funding or below 10 000 CFH. The highest proportion of grants above 200 000 CHF are found among those who have received funding from CTI or ERC.

Table 2.28 Third party/external funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by funding source*. Per cent.

	External funding available in 2012				
Obtained funding from* (Q8):	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
SNSF	15.1	48.7	27.7	8.5	2447
CTI	5.4	39.5	45.8	9.2	478
Other Swiss Federal authorities	8.5	44.8	37.2	9.4	892
Cantons	12.0	46.0	33.4	8.5	574
Private industry (Swiss)	6.2	45.9	40.2	7.8	809
Private foundations (Swiss)	10.5	50.8	31.3	7.5	1176
Other Swiss sources	12.5	48.2	30.6	8.7	608
ERC	5.0	41.4	44.8	8.8	464
Foreign sources (other than ERC)	8.4	45.0	38.5	8.1	994

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q44.
*Respondents are included under all funding sources they report to have obtained during the period 2008-2013. Similar figures split by available institutional funding are found in Table A 67 in Appendix 1.

Part of the explanation for the higher proportion of large amounts of third party funding among those who have funding from other sources than the SNSF, is that a large proportion of these researchers have grants from multiple sources, that is, they have funding both from SNSF and other sources. As illustrated in the table below, the researchers often report funding from multiple sources. Delimiting the analyses to those who have received SNSF funding (which is 80 per cent of the respondents), we find that a large proportion also have funding from one or more other sources: 42 per cent have also obtained funding from private Swiss foundations, 35 per cent from foreign/international sources (other than ERC) and 31 per cent from Swiss Federal authorities other than SNSF and CTI. Less common combinations are both SNFS funding and ERC grants (16 per cent) or both SNFS funding and CTI funding (16 per cent).

Table 2.29 SNSF grant holders' applications/funds from other sources. Per cent.

Q8: Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained, or tried to obtain, research funding from in the period 2008-2013.	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
Private foundations (Swiss)	41.5	9.6	47.3	1.6	2641
Foreign/international sources (other than ERC)	34.7	7.3	55.9	2.1	2641
Other Swiss Federal authorities	30.6	5.3	61.7	2.4	2642
Private industry (Swiss)	26.9	5.4	65.7	2.0	2642
Other Swiss sources	21.0	4.2	68.5	6.3	2641
Cantons	19.6	2.3	75.4	2.7	2641
The European Research Council (ERC)	*16.3	16.7	65.3	1.7	2642
Commission for Technology and Innovation, CTI	15.6	5.5	77.2	1.7	2642

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The analyses only include respondents who replied that they had obtained SNSF funding in the period.
* Conversely, 11 per cent of those who had *not* applied for SNSF funding had obtained ERC grant.

2.4 Concluding remarks – SNSF target groups, their local situation and third party funding

The eligibility criteria of SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia grants imply that these schemes address established researchers. In general, when comparing those who have received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia grants with researchers in target groups for these schemes who have not received funding, we find that they hold higher academic positions, are older, are more active researchers, and PhDs and postdocs play a more important role in their research projects. Those who have not received Project Funding or Sinergia grants less often hold a permanent or full-time position and more often have little time for research.

The researchers seem moderately satisfied with their local facilities for research. When assessing their local research resources, funds for PhD/postdoc positions and research projects (especially interdisciplinary and international project collaboration) are the resources most often rated as poor by the researchers, whereas the situation seems better concerning facilities and infrastructures. In general, researchers in the ETH domain are more satisfied than researchers at other institutions, and give higher rates both on local funding, services and infrastructures.

The researchers often need to compete for local research funding, and as would be expected, the higher amounts of funding are more often allocated on a competitive basis. The researchers at the universities of applied sciences, more often than those at the other higher education institutions, have competitive local funding. This may reflect that universities of applied sciences have a more selective distribution of resources for research, whereas at cantonal universities and ETHZ/EPFL resources are somewhat more evenly distributed and enable most staff to engage in research activities.

Compared with the institutional funding available to the researchers, third party funding is both more common and the amounts are larger. At the same time, the correlation between institutional and third party funding is generally high; those who have little third party funding also have little institutional funding, whereas those with much third party funding also have much institutional funding. This may indicate that obtaining third party funding gives easier access to institutional funding. In this context of possible cumulative advantages, it should be noted that male researchers far more often than women have high amounts of institutional and third party funding, even when holding a position at the same academic level. Moreover, according to the researchers, obtaining third party funding is important for the researchers' career advancement at all kinds of research institutions.

In most cases there are no restrictions on applying for third party funds, but the institutions require to be informed about the applications. In general, those who have obtained funding from other external sources

than the SNSF have higher amounts of third party funding; part of the explanation being that these have grants from multiple sources, other sources in addition to SNSF funding.

3 Funding situation and options in Switzerland: Gaps and overlaps

3.1 Projects, research lines and funding

In order to design funding schemes fitting the needs of the researchers, there is a need to know the typical format of research projects and lines of research across disciplinary and institutional settings. In this section we examine researchers' answers to questions about typical time devoted to one research topic/line of research; to what extent they work on multiple lines of research in parallel; and whether they hold multiple grants for the same lines of research. The terms 'line of research' and 'research topic' were not defined[25] in the survey, so that each respondents could interpret the terms according to their own situation. The term 'research project', which may more easily be understood as research linked to a specific research grant, was avoided in these questions as the purpose was to get information on the match of the researchers' topics/lines of research and their research funding. The complexity of the issue was underlined by a few respondents who used the free text reply option[26] to specify that they worked on 'various research projects within an overall research topic', a 'single research project, but several aspects to it', or 'one field with different aspects'.

Project length: Large variation in how much time researchers spend on a research topic

53 per cent of the researchers indicated that they typically spend five years or more on one research line. 39 per cent indicate that they typically spend four years or less. Within both these groups, the indicated typical time varies substantially, from less than a year to more than ten years (table below). Notably, researchers who hold SNSF Project funding or Sinergia grants generally have longer-term research lines than other respondents. In this group, 64 per cent indicated that they typically spend five years or more on one research line, whereas only 30 per cent of those without these grants indicated similar length (5 years or more, table below).

[25] The two terms ('line of research' and 'research topic') were used synonymously.
[26] To Q3: 'Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?'

Table 3.1 Typical time on one topic/research line, by SNSF grant. Per cent.

(Q5) How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	Total
Less than a year	0.2	2.0	0,8
1-2 years	4.8	22.4	10,1
3-4 years	24.7	36.7	28,3
5-6 years	28.1	18.1	25,1
7-8 years	11.7	4.6	9,5
9-10 years	7.7	2.4	6,1
More than 10 years	16.2	4.7	12,7
Cannot say	5.9	6.9	6,2
Not applicable	0.7	2.2	1,1
N	2309	1011	3320

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

The typical time on one line of research varies by field of research. Within the biological sciences and basic medicine 22-23 per cent of the respondents indicate research lines of more than 10 years, and very few indicate less than 3 years. At the other end of the scale we find economics and business, where 21 per cent indicate a typical research line of less than 3 years (table below). Moreover, researchers at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education more often have short research lines. As much as 28 per cent of the respondents at these institutions replied that their typical research lines were 1-2 years, and few (13 per cent) indicated research lines above 6 years (Table A 18 in Appendix 1).

Table 3.2 Typical time on one topic/research line, by field of research. Per cent

Field of research	Less than a year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	More than 10 years	Cannot say/Not applicable	N
Computer/information sciences	0.0	13.8	21.0	36.2	9.4	11.6	5.8	2.2	138
Physical sciences	2.6	9.9	23.2	27.9	9.6	5.9	13.6	7.4	272
Chemical sciences	0.7	6.8	18.5	24.7	10.3	13.7	15.1	10.3	146
Earth/environmental sciences	1.1	7.7	18.2	32.0	13.3	3.9	14.9	8.8	181
Biological sciences	0.2	4.7	23.0	23.9	11.2	7.9	22.2	7.0	573
Other natural sciences	1.7	7.8	33.0	17.4	7.0	5.2	12.2	15.7	115
Engineering and technology	0.3	11.8	26.2	24.9	11.8	7.3	10.9	6.7	313
Basic medicine	0.0	2.1	19.3	30.3	12.4	7.6	22.8	5.5	145
Clinical medicine	0.8	7.7	33.8	21.5	6.9	5.4	16.9	6.9	130
Health sciences	0.6	11.5	37.6	17.8	10.2	1.9	14.0	6.4	157
(Other) medical sciences	0.0	11.5	26.2	21.3	8.2	8.2	16.4	8.2	61
Psychology	0.0	5.5	28.4	30.3	6.4	7.3	13.8	8.3	109
Economics and business	1.8	18.8	33.9	28.6	8.0	1.8	3.6	3.6	112
(Other) social sciences	0.6	17.9	40.7	21.6	7.4	2.2	4.3	5.2	324
Languages and literature	2.0	5.9	32.7	26.7	9.9	6.9	6.9	8.9	101
(Other) humanities	0.9	13.5	37.4	23.9	5.9	4.1	6.3	8.1	222
Other	0.0	4.8	38.1	23.8	9.5	4.8	4.8	14.3	21
Total	0.8	9.7	28.1	25.3	9.6	6.2	13.2	7.2	3120

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. (Q5)

91 per cent often or always work on different research lines in parallel

In addition to their longer research lines, researchers who hold SNSF Project funding or Sinergia grants more often work on different research topics or research lines in parallel. 60 per cent of these grant holders, and 45 per cent of other respondents, reply that they *always* work on different research topics/lines in parallel. In total, 91 per cent of the respondents reply that they *always* or *often* work on different research topics/lines in parallel (table below). Differences between research areas are relatively small.[27]

[27] Researchers within engineering and technology somewhat more often indicate that they always work on different lines/topics in parallel, whereas researchers within the medical sciences more often than others indicate that they seldom work on different lines/topics in parallel, Table A 5 Appendix 1.

Table 3.3 Parallel work on different research topics/lines. Per cent by SNSF grant.

(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	Total
Yes, always	60.4	44.5	55.5
Yes, often	32.2	42.0	35.2
No, seldom	6.6	12.2	8.3
No, never	0.6	1.0	0.7
Other, please specify	0.2	0.3	0.2
N	2308	1014	3322

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

37 per cent of respondents always or often hold multiple grants for the same research lines

The holders of SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants also more often have multiple grants for the same research topic/line of research. In this group, 43 per cent indicate that they always or often hold multiple grants for the same research lines, whereas only 24 per cent of other respondents selected these options. In total, 37 per cent of the researchers always or often hold multiple grants for the same research lines (table below).

Table 3.4 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines. Per cent by SNSF grant.

(Q4) To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?*	**Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia**	**Other respondents**	**Total**
I always/nearly always have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	10.0	3.2	7.9
I often have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	32.6	20.5	28.9
I seldom/never have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	53.9	50.9	53.0
Not applicable	3.5	25.4	10.2
N	**2307**	**1010**	**3317**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
*Please consider all kinds of research grants when replying - competitive grants from your own institution as well as external funding sources.

As would be expected, both parallel research lines and multiple grants for the same research lines are linked to group size and academic position: researchers with fewer staff less often work on different research lines in parallel or hold multiple grants for the same lines.[28] And professors more often than postdocs work on different research lines in parallel or hold multiple grants for the same lines (Table A 7 and Table A 14 in Appendix 1). Hence, parallel research lines and multiple grants go along with holding a position in charge of more research staff. Furthermore, multiple grants for the same research topics/lines are most common within the medical sciences (12 per cent reply always/almost always) and least common within the social sciences and humanities where research is often more individual (60 to 63 per cent reply seldom/never, Table A 15 in Appendix 1).

Obviously those with long-term research lines more often need multiple grants for the same research lines; the table below shows that an increase in time per research line increases the likelihood for multiple grants per research line. Still, even among researchers with a typical research line of more than ten years, as much as 43 per cent seldom or never have multiple grants for the same research lines.

[28] Figures including staff funded by own institution or external sources. See Table A 10, Table A 11, Table A 12 and Table A 13 in Appendix 1.

Table 3.5 Typical time on one topic/research line, by multiple grants profile. Per cent.

(Q5) How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research? Always/ nearly always	Often	Seldom/ never	Not applicable	N
Less than a year	0.0	20.0	36.0	44.0	25
1-2 years	4.8	16.5	55.4	23.4	334
3-4 years	6.2	23.9	58.2	11.7	941
5-6 years	8.2	32.5	53.1	6.3	831
7-8 years	8.6	34.3	54.9	2.2	315
9-10 years	8.4	36.1	51.5	4.0	202
More than 10 years	14.7	38.2	43.1	4.0	422
Cannot say	6.3	27.2	46.6	19.9	206
Not applicable	5.3	13.2	47.4	34.2	38
Total	7.9	28.9	53.0	10.2	3314

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

According to the survey data, both long and parallel research lines increase the likelihood of multiple grants for the same research lines. One explanation may be that long and parallel research lines go together: a professor organising multiple PhD and postdoc projects, for example, may pursue multiple research lines at the same time and also need multiple (subsequent) grants for the same research lines. Of those who indicate short research lines (1-2 years), 47 per cent indicate that they always work on different research lines in parallel, whereas of those with more than 7 year research lines, 61 to 63 per cent indicate that they always work on different research lines in parallel (Table A 9 in Appendix 1). Moreover, of those who reply that they always/nearly always have multiple grants for the same research line, 70 per cent also indicate that they always work on different research lines in parallel (Table A 8 in Appendix 1).

3.2 Reasons for not applying for SNSF funding

One aim of the survey was to learn about the situation and needs of those who do not apply for SNSF funding. Hence, this group was addressed specifically.[29] The survey indicates three main reasons for not applying for SNSF grants:

- Some are not yet in a position to be (main) applicant: 34 per cent of the non-applicants state that their reason for not applying is that even if they are involved in research activities, they have not yet had a leading role in any research project;
- Some have no need for SNSF grants: 31 per cent of the non-applicants reply that they/their unit have sufficient funding from other sources;
- Some think their chances of obtaining SNSF grants are small: 25 per cent of the non-applicants reply that they do not think SNSF would fund their kind of research, and 15 per cent that the rejection rate is too high to warrant an application.[30]

[29] As noted in Section 1.2, the response rate is low, and the confidence intervals are larger, in the group of non-applicants.
[30] A large proportion of the non-applicants indicated several reasons for not applying for SNSF grants. 169 of the 334 non-applicants indicated more than one reason (there was no limit to the number of reasons respondents could indicate). Patterns in the combination of replies include (no table): of those who replied that they do not think SNSF would fund their kind of research, 29 per cent also indicated that the rejection rate is too high; 25 per cent that there has been no SNSF scheme fitting their needs; 22 per cent that their unit had sufficient funding from other sources; 20 per cent that they do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for their research; 20 per cent that their institution does not encourage them to apply; and 17 per cent that they have no/very little research time. Of those who replied that they were not eligible for any of the relevant funding schemes, 45 per cent also indicated that they had not yet had a leading role in any research project, and 30 per cent that they do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for their research. (Vice versa: of those who replied that they not yet had a leading role in any research project, 17 per cent also indicated that they are not eligible for any of the relevant funding schemes.) Of those who replied that do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for their research, 35 per cent also indicated that their institution does not encourage them to apply for SNSF grants. Of those who replied that their unit had sufficient funding from other sources, 27 per cent also indicated that they had not yet had a leading role in any research project.

Compared with the results of a similar survey done among researchers in Norway, a much lower proportion of researchers in Switzerland find that the principal national research funding agency has a discouraging high rejection rate or that no scheme fits their needs. In the Swiss survey 15 per cent of the non-applicants replied that the high rejection rate was among their reasons for not applying. In the Norwegian survey 38 per cent of non-applicants replied that the high rejection rate was an important reason for not applying, and another 29 per cent answered that it was a somewhat important reason. Moreover, 13 per cent of the non-applicants in the Swiss survey replied that there was no funding scheme that fitted their needs, whereas in the Norwegian survey as much as 33 per cent of non-applicants replied that this was an important reason for not applying, and another 31 per cent answered that it was a somewhat important reason. In both surveys sufficient funding from other sources is a major reason for not applying.[31] Also compared with ERC grants, the SNSF comes out well concerning rejection rate and adequate funding schemes. Of the Swiss respondents who have not applied for ERC grants, 29 per cent explain it by the rejection rate and 20 per cent by ERC not offering grants relevant to their situation (see Section 3.4). Compared with the figures in a previous survey for the SNSF, it seems that 'no need for SNSF grants' remains a main reason for not applying, whereas low success rate is a somewhat less pronounced reason than 10 years ago.[32]

There are some differences between respondent groups in the reasons indicated for not applying for SNSF funds. Table 3.6 shows non-applicants' replies by institutional affiliation. Low chance of obtaining SNSF grants is a more frequent reason for non-applicants at universities of applied sciences/universities of teacher education: 60 per cent of respondents at universities of applied sciences/teacher education (compared with 12-14 per cent at the universities/ETH domain) indicate that they do not think SNSF would fund their kind of research, and 35 per cent think the rejection rate is too high (compared with 11 per cent at the universities and 6 per cent in the ETH domain). Respondents in the ETH domain and at the universities more often indicated that they had sufficient funding from other sources (37/34 per cent compared with 19 per cent at universities of applied sciences/teacher education).

Table 3.6 Reasons for not applying for SNSF grants, by type of institution. Per cent.

(Q15) What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?	Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	33.9	37.3	18.5	24.0	31,4
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	11.0	6.3	35.4	24.0	15,0
The spending level/project size is too low	7.6	4.8	10.8	12.0	7,5
I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research	11.9	14.3	60.0	56.0	25,4
I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research	17.8	12.7	7.7	20.0	14,1
I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research	7.6	18.3	21.5	24.0	15,6
Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time (i.e. employed in a teaching position or mainly administrative obligations)	7.6	6.3	16.9	28.0	10,5
I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project	34.7	44.4	15.4	24.0	33,8
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants	8.5	11.9	29.2	24.0	15,0
There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding	12.7	6.3	23.1	28.0	13,5
N	118	126	65	25	334

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). (Q15: In a previous question you have indicated that you have not applied for research grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the period 2008-2013. What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?) Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the (334) non-applicants who selected the various options.
** Universities of applied sciences/ universities of teacher education.

As would be expected, postdocs more often answer that they have not yet had a leading role in any research project (54 per cent selected this option, compared with 9 per cent of the full professors). Moreover, postdocs more often indicate that they are not eligible for any funding scheme relevant to their research, and less often that they do not think SNSF would fund their kind of research. Full professors who do not apply for SNSF funding, on the other hand, seem more often to have a need for funding, but do not think they could get it from the SNSF: They less often indicate that they have sufficient funding

[31] Norwegian figures are available in Langfeldt et al. 2012, page 11. Reference list with web-links to publications is available in the back of this report.
[32] Figures are not directly comparable as questions and reply categories are differently. In 2002, 37 per cent of the non-applicants indicated that 'Der Aufwand eines Antrags steht in keinem Verhältnis zu den Erfolgschancen' and 40 per cent indicated that 'Ich habe andere/bessere Finanzierungsquellen' (Hoffman et al. 2002, page 18).

from other sources (22 per cent) and more often think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research (43 per cent; figures split by position are in Table A 35 in Appendix 1).

Split by research areas, we find that non-applicants within engineering/technology more often indicate that they do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for their research, and also more often that their institution does not encourage them to apply for SNSF grants. Moreover, non-applicants within the medical sciences more often think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research (figures split by research areas are in Table A 34 in appendix; note that figures are based on a limited number of respondents).

The 45 non-applicants who replied that 'There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding', were asked to specify which funding needs they considered not covered by any SNSF scheme. The replies indicate a variety of needs among the non-applicants. A large proportion of them reply funding for small projects (47 per cent), and at the same time funding for long-term projects is a frequent reply (31 per cent). Other needs frequently indicated include funding for international collaboration (27 per cent), and that the SNSF does not cover their institution's needs for overhead costs (24 per cent, Table A 37 Appendix 1).

A large proportion of the non-applicants elaborated their situation/views in the free text field.[33] Funding for applied research was a frequent concern: respondents stated e.g. that SNSF does not fund applied research in their 'normal' funding schemes, that at present CTI is more adequate for the applied research, and that the chance of obtaining SNSF funding for applied research is low, or they are unsure whether universities of applied sciences can apply as main applicant/without a university partner:

> *I am rather doing applied research and I am afraid that my topic is not fundamental enough for being positively evaluated by SNSF referees. (Senior researcher, ETH Research institute)*

> *To my knowledge the Fachhochschulen … have no right to apply directly to SNF, but need a partner from EPFL or EPFZ or EMPA or others. I do have contacts to these partners but they are not sufficiently motivated to go forward. (Professor, university of applied sciences)*

Other reasons elaborated in the free text include that their research topic/kind of research is not given priority by SNSF (clinical research and medical informatics are among the examples given), that they do confidential research for industrial partners, that they perform small-scale research with no need for external funding, that they have sufficient funding from other external sources, that all applications from their unit are under the name of the professors/head of department, or that writing applications is time-consuming and that they have had no time for it. Moreover, some point out that they are not eligible for SNSF funding because they hold a short-term position or have a limited-term stay in Switzerland. There are also some who emphasise that SNSF funding is not adequate for their situation because the grant does not cover the salary/position of the applicant, or because overhead coverage is insufficient. Some examples:

> *We have repeatedly submitted grant applications but have given up. SNSF is well known for notoriously rejecting grant applications for clinical … research. (Professor, Hospital)*

> *Until now, I haven't felt the need to apply. Because (a) I have a regular teaching & research position that allows me to conduct research without running after grants, (b) I have no "manager mindset", which is required, more than scientific talent, in order to apply, (c) SNSF procedures look tediously bureaucratic to me. As a consequence, I'm envisioning to apply only if I have no other choice left. (Senior researcher, university)*

> *In our unit research topics are typically very long term and decided by Professors. I, as their collaborator (payed by them), work on these projects (often in a leading positions) but funding applications (also to SNSF) is under the name(s) of the Professors. (Senior researcher, ETHZ/EPFL)*

> *I have not found any means to finance myself or further research and unless I am successful in obtaining an SNF Förderungsprofessur, I will leave Switzerland again. The system here is extremely conservative and very discouraging for young researchers. (Postdoc, university)*

[33] In total 207 of the 334 non-applicants entered free text to reply questions 16 and 17.

Internal costs are higher than covered by SNSF funds. Gap is not covered. (Permanent full time position with 25-50% research, University of Applied Sciences)

67 per cent of non-applicants say they will probably apply for SNSF funding the coming 2-3 years. Non-applicants at the universities and ETH domain more often plan to apply (76 per cent at the universities and 71 per cent in the ETH domain), than the non-applicants at the Universities of applied sciences/ universities of teacher education (57 per cent, Table 3.7). This is linked to the different reasons for not applying at the different kinds of institutions: Those who think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research somewhat less often state that they will apply in future years (45 per cent), whereas those who have not yet had a leading role in any project more often state that they will apply (77 per cent, Table 3.8).[34]

Table 3.7 Non-applicants' plans for applying for SNSF grants. Per cent.

(Q18) Is it likely that you will submit an application to the SNSF in the coming 2-3-years?	University	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
Yes, most likely	75.9	71.2	56,9	40,0	67.2
No, most likely not	24.1	28.8	43,1	60,0	32.8
N	108	118	65	25	317

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to 334 respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). Percentages in the table are based on the number of respondents who replied the question.
*Universities of applied sciences/ universities of teacher education.

Table 3.8 Non-applicants' plans for applying for SNSF grants, by reason not applying. Per cent.

	(Q18) Is it likely that you will submit an application to the SNSF in the coming 2-3-years?		
(Q15) What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?	Yes, most likely	No, most likely not	N
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	64.4	35.6	104
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	57.1	42.9	49
The spending level/project size is too low	68.0	32.0	25
I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research	45.2	54.8	84
I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research	68.9	31.1	45
I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research	62.0	38.0	50
Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time	48.6	51.4	35
I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project	76.6	23.4	111
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants	54.0	46.0	50
There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding	70.5	29.5	44

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
This question was only posed to 334 respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). Percentages in the table are based on the number of respondents who replied the question.

The non-applicants' institutional affiliation, research area and academic position and time for research provide further understanding of the group of non-applicants. Compared with the overall survey sample, researchers at ETH-institutions and universities of applied sciences/teacher education, and researchers within engineering and technology, are somewhat less inclined to apply for SNSF grants (Table A 3, Appendix 1, compared with Table 2.2 in Section 2.1). Moreover, women and postdocs are less inclined to apply for SNSF grants than men and scholars with more senior positions.[35]

Not surprisingly, there is a larger proportion of non-applicants among respondents who spend little time on research (25 per cent of those who normally spend less than 10 per cent of their work time on research, have not applied for SNSF grants, table below). However, there is also a substantial number of respondents who spend much time on research who have not applied for SNSF grants. This is due to the

[34] Note that the difference among those who think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research – between the 45 per cent who state that they will apply in future years and the 55 per cent who will not – is not statistically significant. The difference between those who will apply –77 per cent of those who have not yet had a leading role in any research project and 45 per cent of those who think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research – is statistically significant (2-sided t-test, 95 per cent confidence level).
[35] In the overall sample, 8 per cent are postdocs and 31 per cent are women, in the subsample of non-applicants there are 37 per cent postdocs and 43 per cent women (Table A 4 in Appendix 1, compared with Table 2.1 in Section 2.1).

large proportion of postdocs in the group of non-applicants. 17 per cent of those who normally spend more than 75 per cent of their work time on research, have not applied for SNSF grants. In this subgroup the large majority (78 per cent) are postdocs.

Table 3.9 SNSF funding by time on research. Per cent.

	SNSF funding				
Time on research activities*	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
Less than 10	59.6	13.5	24.7	2.2	89
10-25	81.5	8.0	9.1	1.4	584
25-50	85.6	7.1	6.2	1.2	921
50-75	83.7	6.6	8.8	0.9	959
More than 75	69.9	8.1	**17.2	4.8	604
Total	80.5	7.5	10.1	1.9	3157

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. *Q38: "Considering all your professional work during a typical working month, how large is the part that you normally spend on research activities?"
**This subgroup consists of 78 per cent postdocs.

3.3 Reasons for applying as co-applicant

Those who had not applied as responsible applicants – but only as co-applicants – were asked for the reason for this choice. The most frequent reasons for being co-applicant were that they did not initiate the proposal (38 per cent) and that they had fewer formal qualifications than the responsible applicant (31 per cent). Women more often indicate limited scientific authorship/track record as a reason for being co-applicant, whereas men more often indicate that they had expertise only in part of the research fields needed (table below). Moreover, a higher proportion of women and postdocs have only been co-applicant, not main applicant.[36]

Table 3.10 Reasons for applying (only) as co-applicant, by gender. Per cent.

(Q11) Please indicate why you have applied for SNSF funding as co-applicant and not as responsible applicant	**Female**	**Male**	**Total**
The research proposal(s) was not initiated by me	37.0	39.8	38.4
I did not want to have the administrative tasks of a responsible applicant for the SNSF grant(s)	7.4	18.1	12.8
I had less formal qualifications for the project(s) than the chosen responsible applicant	30.9	31.3	31.1
I had too limited scientific authorship/track record to be the responsible applicant	30.9	19.3	25.0
I had too limited project leader experiences to be the responsible applicant	18.5	9.6	14.0
I had scientific expertise only in part of the research fields needed for the project(s) applied to	14.8	22.9	18.9
My previous application(s) for SNSF funding was rejected	6.2	7.2	6.7
Other	22.2	21.7	22.0
N	**81**	**83**	**164**

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to the 164 respondents who had replied 'Yes, I have applied as co-applicant' in the previous questions. The table displays percentages of the 164 respondents who selected the various options.
Overlap in replies: Respondents could select as many options they wanted. 61 per cent of those who selected 'I had too limited scientific authorship/track record to be the responsible applicant' also selected 'I had less formal qualifications for the project(s) than the chosen responsible applicant'. 61 per cent of those who selected 'I had scientific expertise only in part of the research fields needed for the project(s)' also selected 'The research proposal(s) was not initiated by me'.

[36] 10 per cent of the female respondents and 4 per cent of the male respondents reply that they have only been co-applicants; similar figures for postdocs 18 per cent, for full professors 3 per cent (Table A 24 and Table A 25 in Appendix 1).

Reasons elaborated in the free text replies included that the respondent did not have a permanent position or was not employed at a Swiss institution at the time; that the 'institute leader' insisted on being the responsible applicant/they were not allowed by superiors to be responsible applicant; that responsible applicants cannot apply for funds/salary for themselves; and that the collaborating university/those doing the fundamental research normally had the role as responsible applicant, whereas the applied university was co-applicant.

These replies, as well as the profile of the group of respondents who have been co-applicants (but not main applicants), indicate that 'co-applicant' is a junior role. At the same time, as pointed out in Chapter 4, co-applicants may also be distinguished seniors presented in the application in order to increase the chances to obtain funding, and one co-applicant stated that he let the role of 'responsible applicant' to younger researchers (free text reply). Hence, there may be very different reasons for co-applicants: it can be a researcher with fewer formal qualifications than the main applicant, it can be a colleague invited into the project by the main applicant to provide complementary/needed expertise to the project, or it can be a distinguished senior. The co-applicant role is further discussed in Section 4.2 and Chapter 5.

3.4 Reasons for not applying for ERC grants

As much as 67 per cent of the respondents had not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC).[37] To further examine researchers' preferences and concerns regarding funding options, these researchers were asked to indicate their reasons for not applying.

As explained in Section 3.2, a high rejection rate and lack of grants relevant to the researcher's situation is more often a reason for those who have not applied for ERC grants, than for those who have not applied for SNSF grants. The table below shows reasons for not applying for ERC grants by institutional affiliation. Overall, sufficient funding from other sources is the most common reason for not applying for ERC grants. In the ETH domain, as many as 35 per cent of those who have not applied for ERC grants indicate this as a reason. At the universities of applied sciences/universities of teacher education the non-applicants more often reply that they do not think ERC would fund their kind of research (42 per cent), that they do not have information about ERC grants (27 per cent) and that their institution does not encourage them to apply (25 per cent, compared with 8 per cent at the universities).

Expecting that ERC would not fund their kind of research is also among the most common reasons at all kinds of institutions, in line with a high rejection rate (both these reasons are indicated by 29 per cent of the non-applicants, table below). Researchers within the humanities more often indicate these two reasons than researchers in other fields, and they also more often think that ERC does not offer grants relevant to their situation. Concerning sufficient funding from other sources, it is the medical sciences which deviate from the general pattern; researchers within the medical sciences far less often indicate sufficient funding from other sources as a reason for not applying for ERC grant (19 per cent, compared with 32 to 38 per cent in other research areas: see figures split by research area in Table A 22 in Appendix 1). Split by academic position, postdocs more often indicate sufficient funding from other sources as a reason for not applying for ERC grant, and less often a high rejection rate, or that they do not think ERC would fund their kind of research (figures split by position in Table A 23 in Appendix 1).

[37] Of the remaining, 15 per cent had received ERC-grants and 15 per cent had applied without success (Table 2.3, Chapter 2).

Table 3.11 Reasons for not applying for ERC grants, by institution. Per cent.

(Q9) You have indicated that you have not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC). What are your reasons for not applying for these grants?	University	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	32.3	35.4	22.3	23.2	31.1
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	31.6	21.8	31.3	26.4	28.8
I do not think the ERC would fund my kind of research	28.8	20.4	42.2	36.8	28.9
The ERC does not offer grants relevant to my situation/to fund my research	20.8	17.9	20.9	20.9	20.2
I do not have information about ERC grants	12.1	13.4	26.5	22.3	14.8
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for ERC grants	7.7	6.4	24.6	13.6	9.6
Other	24.0	25.1	22.7	22.7	24.0
N	1252	514	211	220	2197

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
This question was posed to the 2197 respondents who had replied that they had not applied for ERC grants. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the 2197 respondents who selected the various options.
*Universities of applied sciences/universities of teacher education.

As would be expected, those who have received SNSF grants, more often than the rejected applicants, indicate that they have sufficient funding from other sources. Moreover, those who have not applied for SNSF grant less often indicate that the ERC rejection rate is too high (table below).

Table 3.12 Reasons for not applying for ERC grants, by SNSF grant/application. Per cent.

	SNSF grants (Q8)				
(Q9) You have indicated that you have not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC). What are your reasons for not applying for these grants?	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	Total
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	32.4	18.5	30.7	38.5	31.1
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	30.9	29.2	16.9	7.7	28.8
I do not think the ERC would fund my kind of research	29.3	36.0	22.8	19.2	28.9
The ERC does not offer grants relevant to my situation/to fund my research	21.1	19.7	12.7	34.6	20.2
I do not have information about ERC grants	12.6	18.5	25.5	30.8	14.8
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for ERC grants	9.0	14.0	11.2	3.8	9.6
N	1726	178	267	26	2197

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
This question was posed to the 2197 respondents who had replied that they had not applied for ERC grants. Respondents could select as many options as they wanted. The table displays percentages of the 2197 respondents who selected the various options.

In the free text replies, complex and time-consuming application procedures, a high administrative burden in running projects, an insufficiently strong track record and low chances of obtaining ERC grants, are frequently mentioned reasons for not applying for ERC grants. Some typical comments include:

> *These funding schemes are horrendously bureaucratic. They are killing critical thinking. I do not want to work in a factory. (Associate professor, private institution)*

> *The effort is too high for an application and the projects need to be developed far too much in my mind. It is almost necessary to know the results already. (Professor, Cantonal university)*

> *Applying to the ERC is **extremely** time consuming. I normally need more modest grants for my research than the one of the ERC, so in the past I hesitated to apply. Perhaps I will apply in the future. (Professor, ETH domain)*

> *With limited time resources available, I had the choice to either write an ERC grant or an SNF Sinergia. I decided for the latter and was successful. (Associate professor, Cantonal university)*

The refereeing in EU is abominable and you get the funding IF you know or get nice referees, and that's after lot of paperwork. The Swiss NSF is in that respect better, but the funding is small. (Senior researcher, ETH domain)

The amount of "bureaucracy" stands in no relation to the chances of receiving funding in my research field (Postdoc, Cantonal university)

Various reasons why ERC grants had not been needed or adequate to their situation were also mentioned:

It was a timing issue. I was preparing an ERC application but I received two SNF grants at the same time, and I could not say that I would be able to commit sufficient time to the ERC grant (if I received it) so I dropped the ERC application I was preparing. I will apply next year for ERC because much of the work on the two SNF grants is progressing well and I can commit more time to ERC (if received). (Assistant professor, ETH domain)

In many institutions I know in Switzerland and in Europe, part of the content of a ERC proposal is co-written with postdocs. At [my institution we] have almost no postdoc positions. (Professor, cantonal university)

My activities are quite applied, and the H factor not so high. Hence might be difficult to get an ERC. In parallel the institution seems to privilege application by Tenure track professor. (Professor, ETH domain)

Due to multiple confidential collaborations with industrial partners [it] was difficult to find a topic to apply for grants (Postdoc, ETH domain)

I will start to apply for grants from the ERC in a couple of years, I need more publications first. (Postdoc, ETH domain)

3.5 Concluding remarks – gaps and overlaps?

Whereas Chapter 2 focused on the local resources and third party funding of the SNSF target group, this chapter has explored the format and organisation of research lines in different fields of research and institutional settings and the needs of non-applicants, in order to find potential gaps and overlap in Swiss research funding. The underlying question addressed is how funding schemes should be designed in order to fill the needs of the researchers. The variety in format and organisation of research and in the needs presented, implies extensive challenges in designing funding schemes that fit all.

A diverse picture emerges from researchers' replies to questions about typical time on one research topic/line of research, to what extent they work on multiple lines of research in parallel, and whether they hold multiple grants for the same lines of research. How many years researchers typically spend on one topic or line of research varies considerably, both within and between fields of research. Overall 53 per cent of the researchers indicated that they typically spend five years or more on one research line, whereas 39 per cent indicate that they typically spend four years or less. Within these groups the typical time varies from less than a year to more than ten years. The research lines are typically longer within fields such as biological sciences and basic medicine, and shorter within more applied fields of research.

Researchers who hold SNSF Project funding or Sinergia grants often have longer research lines than other respondents, and they also more often work on different research lines in parallel. 60 per cent of these grant holders, and 45 per cent of other respondents, reply that they always work on different research topics/lines in parallel. As would be expected, both parallel research lines and multiple grants for the same research lines go along with holding a position in charge of more research staff. Researchers with fewer staff more seldom work on different research lines in parallel or hold multiple grants for the same lines. Furthermore, multiple grants for the same research lines are most common within the medical sciences and least common within the social sciences and humanities, where research is often more individual. Moreover, both long and parallel research lines increases the likelihood of multiple grants for the same research lines. Long and parallel research lines seems to go together, for example, a professor

who organises multiple PhD and postdoc projects, may pursue multiple research lines at the same time and also need multiple (subsequent) grants for the same research lines.

The potential target group of SNSF funding extends those who have applied for it. The survey indicates three main reasons for not applying for SNSF grants:

- Some perceive that they are not yet in a position to apply: 34 per cent of the non-applicants stated that their reason for not applying was that even if they were involved in research activities, they had not yet had a leading role in any project;
- Some think their chances of obtaining SNSF grants are small: 25 per cent of the non-applicants replied that they did not think SNSF would fund their kind of research, and 15 per cent that the rejection rate was too high to warrant an application;
- Some have no need for SNSF grants: 31 per cent of the non-applicants replied that they/their unit had sufficient funding from other sources. Moreover, there is a larger proportion of non-applicants among those who have little time for research.

Low chance of obtaining SNSF grants was a more frequent reason for non-applicants at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, whereas non-applicants in the ETH-domain and at the universities more often indicated that they had sufficient funding from other sources. As would be expected, postdocs more often answer that they have not yet had a leading role in any research project or that they are not eligible for any funding scheme relevant to their research. Moreover, non-applicants within the medical sciences more often think that SNSF would not fund their kind of research, and those within engineering/technology more often indicate that they do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for their research, and also more often that their institution does not encourage them to apply for SNSF grants. Funding for applied research was also a frequent concern among non-applicants and some stated that SNSF does not fund applied research in their 'normal' funding schemes, or that the chance of obtaining SNSF funding for applied research is low. Notably, a large part of non-applicants at the universities and ETH domain plan to apply for SNSF funding the coming 2-3 years (76 and 71 per cent respectively), whereas non-applicants at the universities of applied sciences/ universities of teacher education less often think the SNSF would fund their research and less often plan to submit a proposal. Still, a majority of them (57 per cent), plan to do so.

Turning to those who had applied for SNSF funding, but only as co-applicant and not as the responsible applicant, one of the most frequent reasons for this choice relates to their formal qualifications, and hence resemble one of the top three reasons of non-applicants. Approximately one third of those who had only been co-applicant explained this by fewer formal qualifications than the responsible applicant. Moreover 38 per cent indicated that they were co-applicant because they did not initiate the proposal(s). A variety of other reasons were specified in free text. Many of these related to the eligibility criteria for SNSF funding – which in principle are the same for responsible applicants and co-applicants, but apparently are not always understood to be the same. Among the specified reasons for being a co-applicant were not having a permanent position or being employed at a Swiss institution at the time; that responsible applicants cannot apply for funds/salary for themselves; or that they performed more applied research (whereas the responsible applicant did fundamental research).

4 Applicants' and awardees' experience of, and views on, the SNSF

In this chapter experience of, and satisfaction with, the SNSF are examined. Applicants' views on information sources and administrative requirements are analysed in Section 4.1. Project teams, budgets and leader tasks in SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants are examined in sections 4.2 and 4.3. Section 4. 4 presents applicants' comparisons of SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grant with their other relevant funding sources, whereas Section 4.5 presents their views on planned adjustments to SNSF Project funding.

4.1 Applicants' information sources and administrative requirements

Information on the SNSF funding schemes

In general, applicants are well satisfied with the information on the SNSF funding schemes. When asked to rate their satisfaction with access to relevant information, and easy-to-understand information about funding SNSF schemes and options, a large proportion give the top score 5, indicating that they are 'to a great extent' satisfied. Summarising those who are positive (rating 4 or 5), as many as 85 per cent are satisfied with access to relevant information about funding schemes, and 77 per cent find the information about funding schemes and options easy to understand. Very few give negative scores (1 or 2) on these items (table below).[38]

Table 4.1 Respondents' views on SNSF information. Per cent.

(Q13) Considering your experience with the SNSF, to what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory?	5 To a great extent	4	3	2	1 Not at all	Cannot say/ Not relevant	N
Access to relevant information about funding schemes	43.1	42.0	9.8	2.8	0.7	1.6	2849
Easy to understand information about funding schemes and options	35.6	41.4	15.7	4.7	1.1	1.6	2831

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posed only to SNSF applicants. Average scores by type of institution, academic position and field of research are provided in Table A 27, Table A 28 and Table A 29 in Appendix 1.

[38] Whereas the applicants seem generally satisfied with the information on the SNSF funding schemes, free text comments indicate that satisfaction with transparency in the review process is more mixed. Demand for more transparency was a key issue in the 2012 evaluation of the SNSF review procedures (Coryn et al. 2012). An anonymous version all the free text comments will be made available to the SNSF, covering the concerns for transparency, other issues outside the scope of this report, as well as the many comments on the planned changes to project funding.

The SNSF website is the main information source on SNSF funding options for 78 per cent of the applicants. The SNSF newsletter is somewhat more important in the higher age groups, whereas information from colleagues is rather more often the main information source for the youngest applicants. The SNSF website is still the most important information source in all age groups (table below). The SNSF website is also the most important information source regardless of the researchers' institutional affiliation (Table A 30).

Table 4.2 Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options. Per cent.

What is your main information source on SNSF funding options?	Age 26-35	Age 36-45	Age 46-55	Age 56-65	Above 65	Total
The SNSF website	77.1	81.8	79.3	71.4	65.1	78.2
The SNSF newsletter	3.2	5.6	7.9	12.8	11.6	7.9
Information distributed by your institution	5.1	3.1	3.8	5.5	9.3	4.1
Information from colleagues/informal information	11.5	8.8	7.7	7.5	9.3	8.3
No information source	1.9	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.6
Other (please specify)	1.3	0.2	0.8	2.2	4.7	1.0
N	157	925	1028	546	43	2699

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Only applicants were posed this question. Only one alternative could be selected. Figures by type of institution, academic position and field of research are provided in Table A 30, Table A 31Table A 32 and Table A 33 in Appendix 1.

A few researchers indicated 'other' sources as their main information source on SNSF funding options, and specified these as direct contact/phone calls with the SNSF programme officers, SNSF information days, or information from the local SNSF commission at their institution or (former) SNSF panel or council members. Moreover, some commented that they had information from many sources and found it difficult to indicate the main source.

Time to write applications and administering grants

When grant holders compare the time required to write applications and administering project grants, SNSF comes out on the positive side compared with the EU Framework Programme and ERC, but on the negative side compared with local competitive funding and private foundations. 44 per cent rate SNSF better than the EU Framework Programme and 34 per cent rate SNSF better than ERC, whereas the remaining mostly answer 'not relevant' (7-9 per cent answer 'about the same' and very few rate the EU Framework Programme or ERC better than SNSF, Table 4.3). Compared with local competitive funding on the other hand, a substantial part (41 per cent) rate SNSF 'about the same', 21 per cent rate SNSF poorer and 15 rate SNSF better than their local competitive funding. This could be considered reasonably positive for the SNSF: the difference between those who rate poorer and better is only 6 percentage points (in favour of local competitive funding), and one might expect local competitive funding to be less time consuming than a national funding agency when it comes to writing applications and administering grants. Compared with private foundations, the difference between those who rate SNSF poorer and better is 12 percentage points in favour of private foundations.

When asked to compare SNSF and CTI on this issue, the majority (70 per cent) answer 'Not relevant'. Of those who do give a score – apart from answering 'about the same' – the difference between those who rate SNSF as the best and those who CTI as the best is not statistically significant.[39] Hence, among SNSF grant holders, the two principal Swiss federal agencies supporting R&D projects[40] obtain similar scores on the time required for writing applications and to administer grants.

The researchers' assessments follow the same pattern across different types of institutions and research areas: both at cantonal universities, in the ETH domain and at other institutions, and in the different research areas, SNSF is rated better than ERC and the EU Framework Programme, about the same as CTI, poorer than private foundations, and also a bit poorer than local competitive funding (Table A 45 and Table A 46 in Appendix 1). The exception is that SNSF obtains statistically significantly better scores than

[39] 2-sided t-test: confidence interval ±1.6 pp at 95 per cent confidence level.
[40] SNSF supports scientific/non-market oriented research, while CTI supports market-oriented R&D projects, entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

the CTI among researchers within the natural sciences (8 per cent rate SNSF better, 5 per cent rate SNSF poorer[41]; within other research areas differences are not significant).

Table 4.3 Respondents' views on the time required to write SNSF applications and administer project grants – compared with alternative funding sources. Per cent.

(Q31) When comparing SNSF funding with your alternative funding sources, is the SNSF funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning the required time to write applications and administer project grants?	Better	About the same	Poorer	Not relevant	N
Local competitive funding	14.8	41.0	21.1	23.1	2225
Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)	7.6	16.0	6.1	70.3	2160
The European Research Council (ERC)	34.2	8.8	3.7	53.3	2167
EU Framework Programme (other than ERC)	44.2	7.2	3.0	45.6	2167
Private Foundations	7.7	31.4	27.4	33.6	2178

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had received SNSF Project funding and/or Sinergia grant.

4.2 SNSF Project funding – budgets, project teams and leader tasks

Project budgets and budget cuts

The survey indicates that SNSF Project funding on average covers 66 per cent of the total project costs. The remaining costs are covered by institutional funding (22 per cent), other external funding (11 per cent) and other SNSF funding (2 per cent, average figures, Table 4.4). The proportion covered by the SNSF Project funding is lowest within physical, chemical and biological sciences and biomedicine (57 to 60 per cent), and highest within the social sciences and humanities (70 to 81 per cent, Table 4.5).

Table 4.4 Proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding. Average percentages.

	SNSF project funding	Other SNSF funding	Other external funding	Internal/ Institutional funding
Mean	65.6	1.7	10.5	21.9
Minimum	0	0	0	0
Maximum	100	80	100	100
Std. Deviation	23.804	6.651	16.811	19.175
N	1866	1866	1866	1866
n > 0	1863	(10%) 179	(41%) 772	(78%) 1450

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant. (Q19: Please answer with reference to your most recent project funding grant (as responsible applicant). If you hold several project grants, please refer to the most recent grant for which you are able to answer. If you are unable to reply, leave blank or select the 'cannot say' option. 19. Considering this SNSF project funding grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding.)

[41] The difference is statistically significant at 95 per cent confidence level (2-sided t-test: confidence interval ±1.35 pp).

Table 4.5 Proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding. Average percentages by field of research.

Field of research	SNSF project funding	Other SNSF funding	Other external funding	Internal/institutional funding	N
Computer and information sciences	61.6	1.4	7.5	26.9	61
Physical sciences	58.4	3.9	8.9	28.0	138
Chemical sciences	56.7	2.1	9.7	32.8	99
Earth/related environmental sciences	72.8	1.3	7.1	18.3	129
Biological sciences	59.7	2.2	14.4	23.4	350
Other natural sciences	68.8	1.7	6.6	26.2	75
Engineering and technology	60.7	1.2	10.4	27.5	159
Basic medicine	59.7	2.7	17.5	19.5	105
Clinical medicine	64.4	0.6	18.2	16.7	77
Health sciences	62.2	2.1	17.0	17.6	91
(Other) medical sciences	66.7	0.0	15.5	17.8	30
Psychology	77.2	0.5	4.7	17.5	67
Economics and business	69.9	0.4	4.4	22.5	54
(Other) social sciences	71.8	1.0	5.9	21.8	177
Languages and literature	81.4	0.3	6.6	11.0	60
(Other) humanities	79.6	0.7	5.7	13.9	132
Other	74.7	1.4	11.7	13.6	7
Total	65.7	1.6	10.4	22.1	1811

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q19. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.

A large proportion of respondents indicated that their original project budget was cut by the SNSF (41 per cent 'minor cut', 31 per cent 'substantial cut' and 26 per cent 'no cut', Table A 38 in Appendix 1). Those indicating budget cuts (minor or substantial) were posed a follow up question about the impacts of the budget cut. The most frequent reply was that the project was reduced / some parts dropped (43 per cent of the budget cut cases). Other frequently indicated impacts are reduction of the project group/the number of persons involved (36 per cent), and that the budget was substituted by funding from own institution (34 per cent, table below).[42] There are substantial differences between those who experienced minor and substantial budget cuts. Not surprisingly, those with substantial budget cuts far more often indicated impact on the content and timing of the project (delay and/or reduction of project staff and project content), whereas those with minor cuts more often were able to substitute the cuts with funding from own institution (table below).

Table 4.6 How SNSF's budget cut affected the project, by type of institution. Per cent.

(Q21) How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?	Minor cut in original budget	Substantial cut in original budget	Total
The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed	10.1	30.8	19.1
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)	3.0	2.7	2.8
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources	22.0	21.9	22.0
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution	40.8	25.8	34.3
The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project	19.5	58.7	36.4
The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped	31.2	58.5	43.0
N	840	639	1479

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF project funding grants who had replied that their budget had been cut. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the relevant respondents who selected the various options.

Consequences of budget cuts seem much the same across different institutions and research areas. However, substituting budget cuts by funding from own institution seems somewhat more common in the ETH domain and at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education than at the cantonal universities (45-49 per cent in ETH domain/UAS/UTE, compared with 29 per cent at the

[42] Respondents could indicate multiple impacts.

universities, table below). This difference is also reflected in differences between research areas: grant holders within engineering and technology somewhat more often substitute budget cuts by funding from own institution. Grant holders within medical sciences, on the other hand more often substitute budget cuts with funding from other external sources (36 per cent within the medical sciences compared with 11-16 per cent with in the social sciences and humanities). These researchers also more often report that the budget cut delayed the project (24 per cent within the medical sciences compared with 13-18 per cent with in the humanities and social sciences[43], figures by research area in Table A 39 in Appendix 1). Similar analyses by academic position show little differences; postdocs deviate a bit from the main pattern, but as the respondent group only contains 18 postdocs with a budget cut in their SNSF project funding these results are not significant.

Table 4.7 How SNSF's budget cut affected the project, by type of institution. Per cent.

(Q21) How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?	University	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed	20.3	17.9	13.3	19.0	19.1
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)	2.8	1.5	4.1	5.6	2.8
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources	23.2	19.4	14.3	26.8	22.0
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution	29.4	44.5	49.0	26.1	34.3
The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project	38.6	31.5	27.6	43.7	36.4
The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped	44.1	43.5	38.8	38.0	43.0
Other	5.3	2.0	4.1	2.8	4.1
N	848	391	98	142	1479

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF project funding grants who had replied that their budget had been cut. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the relevant respondents who selected the various options.
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Project teams and task division

The data also display some differences between the institutions in the composition of the project teams. At the universities, 61 per cent of the holders of Project funding grants report that they have no co-applicants in the project, whereas at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education (and also in the ETH domain) the researchers less often have projects without co-applicants (table below).

Table 4.8 Co-applicants in SNSF project funding, by type of institution. Per cent.

	(Q22) Did/do you have any co-applicants in this project (your most recent SNSF project funding)?			
Institution	One or more co-applicants	No co-applicants	Cannot say	N
Cantonal university	38.6	60.8	0.6	1173
ETH domain	49.0	50.2	0.8	518
UAS/UTE*	62.2	35.0	2.8	143
Other	70.9	29.1	0.0	196
Total	46.1	53.2	0.7	2030

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table 4.9 shows how project tasks are allocated among responsible applicants, co-applicants, and other project staff – based on the replies of the responsible applicants. The majority of responsible applicants for Project funding perform the core leader tasks, such as initiating the project, formulating the project

[43] The difference between 23.8% in medical sciences and 17.7% in the social sciences is statistically significant at 95 per cent confidence level (2-sided t-test: confidence interval ±4.6 pp).

idea and being the scientific project leader. A somewhat higher percentage of male than female responsible applicants took the initiative to cooperate, indicating that women are somewhat more often than men invited to be the responsible applicant for project groups initiated by others. On the other hand, female responsible applicants more often than men conduct the project themselves.[44] When it comes to the scientific project leader tasks there are no gender differences: these are performed by the responsible applicant in 68 per cent of the cases, and split between project staff in 19 per cent of the cases, regardless of the gender of the responsible applicant (table below). Moreover, there is a correlation between the various leader tasks: when the responsible applicant took the initiative to cooperate, the responsible applicant also more often formulated the project idea, did the main work of writing the project description, performed the scientific and administrative project leader tasks, and performed most the research (Table A 40 in Appendix 1).

Table 4.9 SNSF project funding: task division between the applicants, by gender of responsible applicant. Per cent.

(Q23) What is/was the task division between the applicants?	Gender	Myself (responsible applicant)	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups	Cannot say	N
The initiative to cooperate was taken by	Female	72.4	10.9	1.7	12.1	2.9	239
	Male	80.2	6.9	0.6	10.7	1.6	693
	Total	78.2	7.9	0.9	11.1	1.9	932
The project idea was formulated by	Female	65.5	7.1	1.3	24.8	1.3	238
	Male	70.1	6.1	0.7	22.0	1.2	692
	Total	68.9	6.3	0.9	22.7	1.2	930
The main work with writing the project description was done by	Female	71.0	6.7	0.8	20.6	0.8	238
	Male	63.0	9.7	4.3	21.9	1.0	690
	Total	65.1	8.9	3.4	21.6	1.0	928
The scientific project leader tasks were/are performed by	Female	68.6	7.9	2.1	18.8	2.5	239
	Male	68.3	9.0	1.9	19.7	1.2	690
	Total	68.4	8.7	1.9	19.5	1.5	929
The administrative project leader tasks were/are performed by	Female	67.6	9.7	12.6	8.8	1.3	238
	Male	66.0	9.1	13.7	9.3	1.9	691
	Total	66.4	9.3	13.5	9.1	1.7	929
Most of the research was/is performed by	Female	29.4	7.1	18.9	42.0	2.5	238
	Male	22.6	7.6	24.7	44.0	1.2	687
	Total	24.3	7.5	23.2	43.5	1.5	925

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.

Grant holders were asked to indicate the number of researchers involved in the project and the number of researchers benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. Aggregating the replies we find that on average there are 4.2 researchers involved in the projects, of whom 2.7 researchers benefit from the SNSF Project funding. This gives an average of 1.5 researchers on each project not benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. The difference is highest in clinical medicine (2.8 researchers not benefiting) and physics (3.0 researchers not benefiting). In these fields we also find the largest project groups (on average 6.4 researchers in physics projects and 5.9 in clinical medicine).

[44] The difference between women (29.4%) and men (22.6%) is statistically significant at 95 per cent confidence level (2-sided t-test: confidence interval ±4.1 pp).

Table 4.10 SNSF project funding: Number of researchers in the project and the number of researchers benefiting from the SNSF project funding. Averages by field of research.

	Total number of researchers working on the project		Number of researchers benefiting from the SNSF project funding		Difference between number of researchers working on the project and number benefiting from the SNSF project funding		
Field of research	Mean	Std.dev.	Mean	Std.dev.	Mean	Std.dev.	N
Computer and information sciences	3.1	2.088	1.7	1.296	1.4	1.614	67
Physical sciences	6.4	9.845	3.4	4.189	3.0	8.789	149
Chemical sciences	4.4	3.794	2.6	1.753	1.8	3.295	109
Earth/related environmental sciences	3.8	2.289	2.7	2.534	1.1	2.428	136
Biological sciences	4.1	2.408	2.8	2.266	1.3	2.687	371
Other natural sciences	3.5	2.068	2.9	2.662	0.7	2.716	88
Engineering and technology	3.5	2.241	2.1	1.998	1.4	1.966	167
Basic medicine	4.1	2.119	2.3	2.071	1.8	2.519	110
Clinical medicine	5.9	5.050	3.1	2.305	2.8	4.489	77
Health sciences	4.3	2.788	2.8	2.191	1.6	2.608	99
(Other) medical sciences	4.1	1.722	2.3	1.437	1.8	2.055	32
Psychology	3.8	2.239	2.3	1.718	1.5	1.741	73
Economics and business	3.9	3.875	2.4	2.421	1.5	2.631	58
(Other) social sciences	4.2	3.489	2.9	2.138	1.3	2.851	197
Languages and literature	3.6	2.452	2.6	2.630	1.0	3.053	69
(Other) humanities	3.8	3.425	2.6	2.788	1.2	2.551	149
Other	3.9	1.864	2.0	1.414	1.9	1.773	7
Total	4.2	3.951	2.7	2.460	1.5	3.575	1958

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q24: Please indicate the total number of researchers in the project and the number of researchers directly benefiting from the SNSF project funding. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.

As would be expected, the difference between the number of researchers working on the project and those benefiting from the SNSF project funding, corresponds negatively with the proportion of total project costs covered by SNSF project funding. The lower proportion of total project costs covered by SNSF, the larger the difference between the number of researchers working on the project and the number benefiting from the SNSF project funding (table below). Hence, part of the gap between the number of researchers working on the project and those benefiting from the SNSF project funding, is due to large project groups and additional funding from other sources. Still, even when SNSF covers 75-100 per cent of project cost, and for smaller project groups, there are on average more researchers working on the projects than those benefiting from the SNSF grant.

Table 4.11 Difference between number of researchers working on the project and number benefiting from the SNSF project funding (means), by proportion of total project costs covered by SNSF project funding (per cent).

(Q19) SNSF project funding	(Q24) Difference between number of researchers working on the project and number benefiting from the SNSF project funding				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	N
0-25%	2.59	8.324	-16	80	130
26-50%	2.11	3.713	-28	36	498
51-75%	1.49	3.196	-19	39	513
75-100%	1.07	2.269	-13	30	713
Total	1.58	3.684	-28	80	1854

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The questions were posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant. Q19: Considering this SNSF project funding grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding.

4.3 SNSF Sinergia grants – budgets and leader tasks

Similar questions as for those for SNSF Project funding, were posed concerning SNSF Sinergia grants. Below the replies for Sinergia are presented and differences between Project funding and Sinergia are commented upon.

Project budgets and budget cuts

Table 4.12 shows the average of respondents' estimates of how the costs of their Sinergia projects were covered. The average proportion of total project costs covered by Sinergia grants is somewhat lower than the similar figure for SNSF Project funding, whereas the proportion of Sinergia projects costs covered by other SNSF grants is higher: on average 57 per cent for Sinergia projects and 66 per cent for SNSF Project funding projects are covered by their SNSF grant. And whereas only 2 per cent for SNSF Project funding is covered by, as much as 10 per cent of Sinergia projects costs are on average covered by other SNSF grants (significant difference). The proportion covered by other external funding and by institutional funding are about the same for Sinergia and Project funding. Hence, the main difference in how project costs are covered is that Sinergia project costs are covered to a larger extent by other SNSF funding.

Table 4.12 Proportion of the total project costs covered by Sinergia grant, other SNSF funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional. Average percentages.

	SNSF Sinergia grant	Other SNSF funding	Other external funding	Internal/ Institutional funding
Mean	56.9	10.0	12.1	20.7
Minimum	0	0	0	0
Maximum	100	80	75	80
Std. Deviation	29.072	17.590	16.153	17.520
N	225	225	225	225

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF Sinergia grants. Q26: Considering this SNSF Sinergia grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by the Sinergia grant, by other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding. Please answer with reference to your most recent Sinergia grant (as responsible applicant). If you hold several Sinergia grants, please refer to the most recent grant for which you are able to answer. If you are unable to reply, leave blank or select the 'cannot say' option.

A large proportion of respondents indicated that their original project budget was cut by the SNSF (40 per cent minor cut, 34 per cent substantial cut and 21 per cent no cut, Table A 44 Table A 38 in Appendix 1). Those indicating budget cuts (minor or substantial) were posed a follow up question about the impacts of the budget cut. The frequent consequences were the same as for Project funding: the project was reduced / some parts dropped (50 per cent for Sinergia; 43 per cent for Project funding); reduction of project group/the number of persons involved (34 per cent for Sinergia, 36 per cent Project funding); and that the budget was substituted by funding from own institution (35 per cent for Sinergia; 34 per cent Project funding).

Whereas substituting budget cuts by in SNSF *Project funding* with funding from own institution was found to be more common in the ETH domain than at the cantonal universities, this difference between institutional settings is not found for Sinergia. There is a slightly higher proportion of researchers in the ETH domain than at the cantonal universities who indicate that cuts in their Sinergia grants were substituted by funding from own institution (37 per cent in the ETH domain and 33 per cent at universities), but this difference is not statistically significant. Figures for Sinergia are shown in the table below, figures for Project funding in Section 4.2

Table 4.13 How SNSF's budget cut affected the project, by type of institution. Per cent.

(Q28) How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?	University	ETH domain	*Other (incl. UAS/UTE)	Total
The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed	18.5	19.3	25.0	19.3
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)	4.0	0.0	6.2	3.0
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources	25.8	24.6	31.2	25.9
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution	33.1	36.8	43.8	35.0
The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project	32.3	38.6	31.2	34.0
The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped	51.6	50.9	37.5	50.3
Other	5.6	5.3	0.0	5.1
N	124	57	16	197

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF Sinergia grants who had replied that their budget had been cut. Respondents could select as many options as they wanted. The table displays percentages of the relevant respondents who selected the various options.

*There are only 2 respondents from the universities of applied sciences (UAS) and 2 from the universities of teacher education (UTE). Hence, separate figures are not included for UAS/UTE. The remaining respondents in this group are from private sector labs/institutes (5), hospitals (4) and other kinds of institutions/unspecified (3).

Task division in Sinergia projects

Whereas there are no large differences between Project funding and Sinergia grants when it comes to funding sources and impacts of budget cuts, there are greater differences in how project tasks are allocated. Whereas the majority of responsible applicants for Project funding perform the core leader tasks, division of leader roles in Sinergia projects are more diverse: in Sinergia projects leader tasks are often performed by co-applicants or spit between applicants (responsible applicants 29 per cent; co-applicants 30 per cent; split between responsible applicant/co-applicants/other project staff 38 per cent, table below).

Table 4.14 SNSF Sinergia grants: Task division between the applicants, responsible applicants' replies. Per cent.

(Q29) What is/was the task division between the applicants in your (most recent) Sinergia grant?	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups	Cannot say	N
The initiative to cooperation was taken by	39.3	33.9	1.2	24.1	1.6	257
The project idea was formulated by	22.8	19.3	0.4	56.3	1.2	254
The scientific project leader tasks were/are performed by	28.5	30.4	2.8	37.5	0.8	253
The administrative project leader tasks were/are performed by	32.9	35.7	17.1	13.1	1.2	252
Most of the research was/is performed by	4.0	12.7	8.3	72.6	2.4	252

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

4.4 SNSF project funding and Sinergia grants compared with other funding schemes

When applicants compare the opportunities offed by SNSF Project funding and Sinergia with their other relevant funding sources, Project funding comes out quite well on opportunities for doing unique/original research and on impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators (Table 4.15). Sinergia comes out very well on opportunities for building new national scientific networks, opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research, and opportunities offered for broadening one's field of expertise (Table 4.16). For both schemes, the results are less positive when it comes to support for new projects without requiring preliminary research – on this item there are more than twice as many who rate the SNSF

schemes poorer than alternative funding sources, than who rate SNSF better. Moreover, Project funding does not score highly on opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research (16 per cent 'better', 10 per cent 'poorer', the remaining 'about the same' or 'cannot say').

Table 4.15 SNSF project funding compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources. Per cent.

(Q25) When comparing SNSF project funding with your other relevant funding sources, is SNSF project funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning	Better	About the same	Poorer	Cannot say	N
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	18.3	42.0	17.7	22.0	2178
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	29.3	43.6	5.7	21.3	2170
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	46.2	33.9	8.3	11.5	2171
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	20.5	26.2	21.8	31.4	2166
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	13.2	32.9	30.2	23.7	2167
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	15.9	47.6	10.3	26.3	2170
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	19.5	39.9	16.6	24.0	2168
Amount of funding	35.4	35.0	19.7	9.9	2176
Flexibility of use of funds	27.5	37.2	22.1	13.1	2170
Support for young scientists?	32.4	41.7	9.5	16.5	2173
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	41.1	34.9	6.2	17.8	2174
Other (please specify below)	4.7	3.0	7.2	85.1	663

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had applied or received SNSF project funding as main applicant.

Table 4.16 SNSF Sinergia grants compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources. Per cent.

(Q30) When comparing Sinergia grants with your other relevant funding sources, is Sinergia poorer, about the same or better, concerning:	Better	About the same	Poorer	Cannot say	N
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	25.6	35.5	16.5	22.4	437
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	63.8	16.6	2.7	16.9	439
The number of groups allowed in the project	38.1	30.0	8.9	22.9	436
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	31.3	39.3	9.8	19.6	438
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	18.4	35.5	16.8	29.3	434
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	11.3	38.7	20.7	29.3	434
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	50.0	24.0	5.3	20.8	438
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	45.0	28.8	6.2	20.1	438
Amount of funding	22.4	41.0	17.2	19.5	437
Flexibility of use of funds	16.2	48.7	8.4	26.7	439
Support for young scientists?	11.6	54.6	8.2	25.6	438
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	19.2	41.1	7.1	32.6	438
Other (please specify below)	2.2	5.2	3.7	88.8	134

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Analysing the replies concerning SNSF Project funding by field of research, institutional affiliation and academic position, we find that researchers within engineering/technology (and the ETH domain) more often rate SNSF Project funding poorer on opportunities for building new international scientific networks and on the amount of funding, but better on opportunities for doing unique/original research and addressing high-risk topics. Researchers within the medical sciences more often rate SNSF Project funding poorer on support for new projects without requiring preliminary research, and at the same time better on impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Researchers within the humanities and social sciences more often rate SNSF Project funding better regarding amount of funding and support for young scientists. Splitting the replies for SNSF Project funding by institutional affiliation, we find that at the cantonal universities researchers are more positive regarding the amount of funding, whereas at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education they are more positive regarding the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Analysed by academic position, there are no large differences in replies, with the exception that postdocs (and senior researchers) more often select the 'cannot say' option. Figures by Research area, institution and position are in Appendix 1, Table A 41, Table A 42 and Table A 43.

The questions concerning the comparative advantages/disadvantages of funding schemes have been posed in previous surveys for other research funding agencies and funding schemes. Hence, there are similar data indicating how applicants to other agencies and schemes assess the issues discussed above. Table 4.17 shows how the assessments obtained for SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants compare with those obtained for other schemes, indicated by the difference (percentage points) between applicants indicating better and 'poorer'. In this benchmarking both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants score high on opportunities for doing unique/original research (only surpassed by the HFSP), and Sinergia obtains the best scores on opportunities for doing interdisciplinary research, as well as broadening one's field of expertise. Moreover, SNSF Project funding obtains the best scores on the amount of funding, support for young scientists, as well as impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Hence, on most of the issues SNSF comes very well out of the comparison. There are still issues where both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia score below most of the other surveyed schemes/agencies: in general the applicants do not seem satisfied with these SNSF schemes when it comes to opportunities for addressing high-risk topics, funding for new projects without preliminary research and the flexibility of use of funds.

Table 4.17 Funding schemes and agencies compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources. Comparative data from multiple surveys.

	Percentage points 'Better' (Percentage of applicants indicating better minus percentage indicating 'poorer')					
When comparing [..] with your other relevant [national/international] funding sources, is [..] poorer, about the same or better, concerning:	SNSF Project funding	Sinergia grants	HFSP (international comp.)	Swedish RJ OMF (national comp.)	The Research Council of Norway (RCN) (international comp.)	RCN/FRIPRO OMF (national comp.)
Opportunities offered for						
..building new international networks	1	9	34	8	-24	9
..doing unique/original research	38	22	31	17	2	20
..addressing high-risk topics	-1	2	29	5	-7	5
..new projects without preliminary research	-17	-9	24	5	-1	-13
..doing interdisciplinary research	6	45	30	13	-6	-6
..broadening your field of expertise	3	39	24	5	-6	-2
Amount of funding	16	5	14	6	-6	-4
Flexibility of use of funds	5	8	34	3	14	13
Support for young scientists	23	3	21	-1	4	-4
Impact on the prestige and career of the…	35	12	32	9	-22	24

Sources: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013, (Q25 and Q 30); Survey for the review of the Human Frontier Science Program's Initiatives (Langfeldt 2006); Survey on independent project support by RJ/Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Vabø et al. 2012); Survey for the evaluation of RCN/The Research Council of Norway (Langfeldt et al 2012a); Survey for the evaluation of FRIPRO/the Norwegian scheme for independent research projects (Langfeldt et al 2012b). OMF=Open mode funding. For SNSF project funding and Sinergia grants, respondents were asked to compare with their other relevant funding sources, in the other surveys respondents were posed separate questions concerning comparisons with their other relevant *national* and *international* funding sources. Apart from this, questions were similarly formulated and reply alternatives were the same in all surveys. From each survey, the table display the most relevant figures when comparing with SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants: national comparison for national funding schemes and international comparisons for funding agencies and international schemes. Column headings in the table indicate whether the figures from national or international comparison are displayed.

4.5 Planned adjustments to SNSF project funding

Applicants were presented a number of options for changes to Project funding, and asked to indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to them. On some alternatives the survey indicates clear opinions, whereas on other alternatives views are more divided. The applicants are clearly in favour of increasing the grant running time from 3 to 4 years (81 per cent more attractive, 4 per cent less attractive, item b. in table below), and in favour of more openness in the proposals' work plan, milestones and outcomes (68 per cent more attractive, 7 per cent less attractive, item j. in table below). Conversely, they oppose requirements for more detailed research plan and extension of the number of pages for the research plan (items k. and m. in table below).

Views are split on options such as smaller grants with reduced application requirements, limitation of the number of applicants, and putting greater weight on project aims than on feasibility and preliminary results when reviewing applications (items d, f, g, h and p, table below).

Table 4.18 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive	*Difference more - less attractive (pp)	N
NUMBER OF GRANTS, GRANT SIZE AND RUNNING TIME					
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	40.0	41.1	18.9	21.1	2354
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	81.3	14.9	3.8	77.5	2395
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	50.1	28.7	21.1	29.0	2380
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	50.5	18.1	31.4	19.1	2386
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications, etc.)	56.6	35.4	7.9	48.7	2380
RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANTS					
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	19.1	49.1	31.8	-12.7	2377
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	12.5	53.3	34.2	-21.7	2381
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	34.9	47.7	17.4	17.5	2373
PROPOSALS					
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	58.6	27.2	14.2	44.4	2389
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	67.6	25.8	6.6	61.0	2382
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	2.8	15.6	81.7	-78.9	2387
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	41.4	34.5	24.1	17.3	2388
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	5.8	22.8	71.4	-65.6	2375
SNSF's EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS					
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	54.7	30.9	14.5	40.2	2386
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	14.5	37.1	48.4	-33.9	2382
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	38.5	38.4	23.1	15.4	2386

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant. (Q32: The SNSF plans changes to its project funding scheme to better meet researchers' needs, clarify the roles and responsibilities of researchers involved in projects and to facilitate the evaluation process. We would like your views on the suggestions below. Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you.)
*All the differences between 'more attractive' and 'less attractive' in are significant at a 99 per cent confidence level.

Below we examine the first section of questions in Table 4.18 – number of grants, grant size and running time – by the format of respondents' projects, in terms of the typical length of their research lines, whether they work on different lines in parallel, have multiple grants for the same lines of research, and the extent to which SNST Project funding covers their total project costs.

As one would expect, the possibility to obtain more substantial project grants (with additional restrictions on parallel grants within Project funding) is especially attractive for grant holders for which the SNSF grant covers a smaller part of the total project costs. The group of grant holders with Project funding covering more (75-100 per cent) of their total project costs is more split on this issue, but in sum still in favour of more substantial project grants conditioned by restrictions on parallel grants. In the group of

grant holders for whom SNSF Project funding covers 25 per cent or less of total project costs, as much as 52 per cent are in favour of more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants, whereas among those who have SNSF project funding covering 75 per cent or more of total project costs, 35 per cent are in favour of this (table below, difference 52/35 per cent is stat. sign.).

Table 4.19 SNSF project funding: Grant holders' views on possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding, by their percentage of total project costs covered by SNSF project funding. Per cent.

a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	% of total project costs covered by SNSF Project funding				
	0-25	26-50	51-75	75-100	Total
More attractive	52.1	47.3	40.1	35.3	41.0
Indifferent	33.6	35.9	42.3	44.4	40.8
Less attractive	14.3	16.8	17.5	20.2	18.2
N	119	482	496	682	1779

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q32 a (Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you) by Q19 (Considering this SNSF project funding grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding.) Q19 was posed to those who had received SNSF Project funding as responsible applicant, and figures in this table are limited to this group.

Somewhat surprisingly, preferences concerning number of grants, grant size and running time seem much the same regardless of how much time the researchers typically spend on one topic/line of research. The most notable exception from the general pattern is that there is a higher preference for smaller grants with reduced application requirements (item d) among researchers with shorter research lines. In all groups, also those with the longest research lines, the proportion of 'more attractive' is larger than the proportion of 'less attractive'. However, in the groups with shorter research lines the difference is large (33 pp in the group with 3-4 long research lines, and 58 pp in the group with research lines 2 year or less), whereas in the groups with longer research lines the difference is small and not statistically significant (table below).

Table 4.20 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding: Smaller grants by applicants' typical time on one topic/research line. Per cent.

d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?					
	2 years or less	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	More than 10 years
More attractive	71.2	57.2	50.2	43.1	44.4	41.9
Indifferent	15.9	18.4	16.7	19.7	12.8	20.5
Less attractive	12.9	24.4	33.0	37.2	42.8	37.6
N	132	610	651	274	180	375

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q32d. For all items of Q32 by typical time on one topic/line of research, see Table A 47 in Appendix 1.

Also when analysed by the extent to which the applicants work on different research topics in parallel, the same pattern appears: there are few significant differences in preferences in number of grants, grant size and running time between these groups. Notably, the large majority of the applicants often or always work on different topics in parallel. The group who seldom or never work on different research topics in parallel is small, and their preferences do not seem to diverge substantially from those with parallel research lines (Table A 48 in Appendix 1).

On the other hand, differences appear when split by the extent to which applicants hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research. For those who always or nearly always hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research, the possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants, is more attractive than for those who often, seldom or never hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research (47 per cent of those with multiple grants for the same lines, and 39 per cent of the other applicants hold this option as 'more attractive', table below). Moreover, the possibility to obtain smaller grants with reduced application requirements is, as would be expected, less attractive in this group than among those who more seldom have multiple

grants for the same lines of research. Differently from the other groups, there are not more 'votes' for than against small grants, but a draw: among those who always or nearly always hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research 41 per cent indicate that the smaller grant option would make Project funding less attractive to them, and 41 per cent indicate that it would make the scheme more attractive (table below).

Table 4.21 Researchers' views on number of grants, grant size and running time. By 'To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?' Per cent.

		Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research				
(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Always/ nearly always	Often	Seldom/ never	Not applicable	Total
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	47.3	38.8	39.8	36.1	40.0
	Indifferent	30.6	38.2	44.0	49.5	41.1
	Less attractive	22.1	23.0	16.2	14.4	18.9
	N	222	748	1281	97	2348
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	81.9	81.6	80.7	85.6	81.3
	Indifferent	12.8	15.0	15.4	12.4	14.9
	Less attractive	5.3	3.4	3.9	2.1	3.8
	N	227	766	1299	97	2389
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	52.4	51.1	49.0	53.2	50.1
	Indifferent	32.4	28.0	28.9	23.4	28.8
	Less attractive	15.1	20.9	22.1	23.4	21.1
	N	225	760	1296	94	2375
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	41.4	46.4	53.6	63.5	50.5
	Indifferent	17.2	19.4	17.7	14.6	18.1
	Less attractive	41.4	34.2	28.7	21.9	31.4
	N	227	763	1294	96	2380
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	53.3	53.4	58.2	69.8	56.7
	Indifferent	37.8	38.6	34.2	20.8	35.4
	Less attractive	8.9	8.0	7.7	9.4	8.0
	N	225	762	1291	96	2374

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant. For all items of Q32 by multiple grants for the same topic/line of research, see Table A 49 in Appendix 1.

Tables in Appendix 1 examine differences in views between target groups, split by institutional affiliation (Table A 50), research areas (Table A 52), fields of research (Table A 54, Table A 55, Table A 56 and Table A 57), academic position (Table A 51) and age (Table A 53). Some major results from these analyses are summarised below.

Differences between fields of research are found in particular regarding the possibility to obtain smaller grants (item d); researchers within the social sciences and humanities are more in favour of this option than the researchers in other fields. Within physical sciences, chemical sciences, computer and information sciences, biological sciences, basic medicine, and engineering and technology there is a substantial number of respondents indicating that this option would make Project funding less attractive to them (37 to 43 per cent). Within fields such as economics and business and languages and literature, on the other hand, 69 to 84 per cent indicate that this option would make Project funding more attractive to them (Table A 54). The same divide between fields of research is also found concerning the option to include funding for activities such as workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking and publications in Project funding (item e): 79 per cent within the humanities and 69 per cent within the social sciences, compared with 44 per cent within engineering and technology and 50 per cent within the natural sciences, indicate that this option would make Project funding more attractive to them. However, differently from the question about grant size, when it comes to including funding for more types of activities there are few – also in the natural sciences – who state that this option would make Project funding *less* attractive to them (Table A 52).

Another difference between fields of research is found concerning views on grant responsibility. Here researchers within the medical sciences are more in favour of clearly attributing scientific responsibility to the main applicant when allowing co-applicants (item h, Table A 52 and Table A 55).

Split by institutional affiliation we find that replies from universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education (UAS/UTE) differ on some issues from the general reply pattern of the universities and ETH domain. Applicants at UAS/UTE are more often in favour of the possibility of smaller grants and the possibility to include funding for more types of activities. This group also differs a bit in their views on what SNSF should put weight on in their assessments of applications – they are even more in favour of putting more weight on the project idea, and more against putting more weight on past performance, than the researchers at the universities and ETH domain. 73 per cent at UAS/UTE and 52 per cent at universities and ETH domain are in favour of more weight on the project idea, and 66 per cent at UAS/UTE and 45-47 per cent at universities and ETH domain are against more weight on past performance (Table A 50).

We find the same pattern in replies regardless of respondents' age and academic position, in terms of whether there are more respondents in favour or against the various options. The balance between 'more attractive' and 'less attractive' still varies – especially regarding number, size and running time of grants, and whether to put more weight on project idea or past performance in the evaluation of proposals. The younger applicants and those in lower academic positions are more in favour of the possibility of obtaining smaller grants, and to including funding for more types of activities, than older applicants and professors. Moreover, the younger applicants and those in lower academic positions are more in favour of putting weight on project idea, whereas older applicants and professors are less in favour of this. It should be underlined that while professors/older applicants overall are also in favour of more weight on the project idea and smaller grants, there are still significant differences in replies depending on age and position (Table A 51 by position, Table A 53 by age).

Below we summarise the survey results concerning adjustments in the project funding and illustrate with some of the many free text replies on this issue[45].

Number of grants, grant size and running time

The more possibilities, options and flexibility in grant size, running time and activities that can be included in the funding, the more attractive a funding scheme is likely to be to applicants. Hence, on this topic all options come out more positive than negative: taken together the applicants are in favour of 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years, the possibility to have a single long-running grant (e.g. 6-years), the possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants, the possibility to include workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications, etc. in their project funding, as well as the possibility to obtain smaller grants with reduced application requirements.

There is still a substantial proportion which is indifferent or finds that some of the options would make SNSF project funding less attractive to them. In particular, those who often/always hold multiple grants for the same project, and researchers within engineering/technology and the natural sciences often indicate that including a smaller grant option would make the scheme less attractive to them. On the other hand, younger researchers, and researchers with the humanities and social sciences, and researchers at UAS/UTE are clearly more in favour of smaller grants.

When describing their views on grant size and length, some respondents underline the need for flexibility and the needs of young researchers, others are concerned that more small grants imply fewer 'full project grants' and increased administrative workload in administering grants:

> *Obtaining a longer running grant should not preclude the possibility to obtain a smaller, shorter grant. Altogether, I think that granting should be more flexible. (Professor, cantonal university)*
>
> *It would contribute tremendously to the development of postdoctoral researchers if they could independently apply for small project grants. (Postdoc, cantonal university)*
>
> *I would feel that ability to obtain smaller grants would particularly help young researchers trying to establish a track record in research, esp if there is no higher professor at the institution to apply on their behalf. …*

[45] Q33: Please feel free to comment on the above suggestions in the light of your overall views and experience regarding SNSF's funding schemes. Bear in mind that the terms of funding schemes imply trade-offs, e.g. between the size and number of grants.

Integrating such tools as international short visits and workshops into project grants would help make sure that the dissemination part of the project was carried out effectively. (Postdoc, university of applied sciences)

I am quite convinced that diluting the research money in small grants might negatively impact the number of full project grants and this would ultimately affect the overall quality of scientific research. (Professor, cantonal university)

All solutions that reduce the administrative load, such as longer running grants, are welcome. (Professor, cantonal university)

One should be allowed to apply and obtain two grants from the SNSF (independent projects but time overlap). (Senior researcher, cantonal university)

Four-year grant period would be much better than the current three-year grant period. If grant budgets are arbitrarily cut, then the investigator should be permitted to seek additional external funding to make up the shortfall. Grants worth less than CHF 100,000 per year are inefficient and the proliferation of small grants at the expense of larger grants would increase everyone's administrative workload unproductively. (Professor, ETH domain)

It is difficult to plan the resources needed over periods of 6 years, yet it is essential to get a clear support for project on this kind of time scale. The ideal solution would be to grant support for a project with a precise estimate of needs for the first year and a projection for 6 years, and have the applicant submit an updated request for funds on a yearly basis. (Professor, cantonal university)

For most SNF projects, I have been quite appreciative of SNF strategy so far. In particular, I do not think that it is a good idea to give very large grants to individual (except possibly for some very focused funding programs). I have been in a place where this is currently happening (the Netherlands) and the research environment suffered from this. Research money is used better with somewhat smaller grants and a higher acceptance rate for sufficiently high-quality proposals. (Professor, cantonal university)

Larger grants with less details (e.g. on feasibility) sounds like a bad idea; this would not increase the quality of science! (Professor, ETH domain)

'Indifferent' replies are explained by satisfaction with current terms, or that trade-offs between different concerns may imply unfavourable consequences if terms are changed:

Current system works well in my view, thus the many "indifferent" responses. Extending project duration to 4 or 6 years is an interesting idea. (Professor, cantonal university)

Questions in the first group are hard to answer. What would be the consequences, e.g. more 6-year grants meaning less 3-years, meaning more for the well-established Professors and less for those with limited positions? (Senior researcher, cantonal university)

Proposal requirements and SNSF's evaluation of proposals

Also concerning proposal requirements, some clear and expected patterns appear in the replies: overall the researchers are in favour of more openness and fewer requirements for details in the proposal, in particular they would not like requirements for a more detailed research plan, nor an extension of the number of pages for the research plan. Views are more split when it comes to what SNSF should put weight on in the evaluation of proposals: concerning 'greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results' replies are split by 39 per cent in favour, 23 per cent against, and 38 per cent indifferent. A majority do not want more weight on past performance (48 per cent), but rather more weight on project idea (55 per cent). Still, 15 per cent would like more weight on past performance and the remainder are indifferent. As explained above, older applicants and professors are less in favour of more weight on the project idea than the younger applicants and those in lower academic positions.

Below are some quotes from free text replies elaborating the different views. Postdocs and scholars outside the universities and ETH domain are concerned that assessments of past performance should not impede the funding of young researchers, interdisciplinarity and applied research:

…it is very difficult to get your first grant for a PhD thesis funded. This is extremely frustrating because young researchers need it urgently for their career and have often much more innovative ideas (and then see elder professors doing the same research since ages and getting lots of money for it). I find, you should at least once get the chance to prove that you have good ideas and are a good supervisor. As it is regulated now this remains reserved to the professors or senior scientists which sometimes not even have an idea of current methods and statistical approaches. (Postdoc, cantonal university)

SNSF's evaluation of proposals: especially in case of a change in the career path (in my case: change after PhD --> I want to enter in the interdisciplinary research), past performances IN THE NEW FIELD are difficult to show. It would be better to give greater weight to the project idea itself. (Postdoc, cantonal university)

In the evaluation of the SNSF's grants it seems that often one of the evaluation criteria is whether the applicant has already worked before on the very precise subject that he or she is proposing. I find that quite limiting since it promotes a mono-culture of research directions, discouraging applicants from exploring new ones. It would be more relevant to evaluate whether the applicant will be able to carry out the proposed research given his/her track record. (Professor, University of Applied Sciences)

SNF has opened the possibility of "applied research". In order to be attractive for Universities of Applied Sciences the requirements on prior work must be reduced compared to Universities. (Professor, University of Applied Sciences)

Too much weight on past performance (publication list) is a handicap for young researchers. The criterion "feasibility" can be a "killer argument" if the reviewer is of a different / competing opinion. (Permanent full time position, Private sector research lab/institute)

SNSF's evaluation of proposals: especially in case of a change in the career path (in my case: change after PhD --> I want to enter in the interdisciplinary research), past performances IN THE NEW FIELD are difficult to show. It would be better to give greater weight to the project idea itself. Postdoc, cantonal university)

Moreover, some detail the importance of a proper balance between various criteria, how past performance should be assessed, to weight criteria differently for established and young investigators, and possible consequences in terms of cumulative (dis)advantages of emphasising past performance:

Regarding SNSF's evaluation of proposals, n - o - p are all valid points and should all be weighted equally, rather than imply that one aspect is more important than the other. Thus, the project idea should be essential, and the ability of the applicant to follow that idea (applicant's performance) as well. However, the weight should be considered differently for young investigators as the past performance is shorter. (Senior researcher, hospital)

SNSF should encourage investigators to take their research in new directions because scientists are most creative when we operate at the edge of our "comfort zones". Originality and creativity should be emphasized and "me-too" derivative science should be discouraged. The originality and significance of papers published should be more important than the sheer number of papers published. (Professor, ETH domain)

To support younger research[ers], it would be better to put more weight on the research idea/proposal than on the scientific achievement. Especially as the achievements are often from the chair holder and not the young researchers. Hence, if we only invest in researchers from chair holders with a terrific scientific background, others most likely will never succeed, even with an exceptional idea. (Senior researcher, University of Applied Sciences)

The current SNSF schemes with (1) emphasis on previous achievements and (2) inability to use grants for own salary supports the well-known 'Matthew effect' (Merton Science 1968). Mid-career researchers need to go through their department heads to apply for SNSF grants. The latter submit in their own name and, if successful, sustain the researcher's salary and position for another term. This needs to be fixed - urgently. (Senior researcher, hospital)

Responsibility for grants / number of applicants

The responsibility for grants, and the number of (co)applicants allowed, appear to be a complex issue with conflicting concerns. As commented in Section 3.3, there may be different reasons for co-applicants: the co-applicant may be a researcher with fewer formal qualifications than the main applicant, it can be a

colleague invited into the project by the main applicant to provide complementary/needed expertise to the project, or it can be a distinguished professor invited to participate to increase the chances of funding.

In this way the questions about responsibility for grants, and the number of (co)applicants is linked to the question about weight on past performance. Several respondents commented that multiple applicants are needed to increase the chance to obtain grants, especially for younger investigators and universities of applied sciences/teacher education, which perceive that they cannot or could not apply by themselves. At the same time some are concerned that the current emphasis on the status of co-applicants means that high-profile scholars may be included in the application without having a proper role in the project.

> *Role of co-applicant in senior scientist/professorship relation has to be evaluated. Often, the prof is co-applicant to increase the chance to get funded. (Senior researcher, ETH domain)*
>
> *I am a relatively young researcher ... and one thing that is frustrating is that I always need a prof to be principal or co-applicant: I myself am not allowed to submit grants by myself. I understand why this is the case (as only professors have lab and work space + infrastructure). Nonetheless it can be discouraging for young researchers to write the proposal to then have it submitted/co-submitted by a Prof. with much less input on the writing of the grant. (Senior researcher, ETH domain)*
>
> *Currently, the weight on well-performing co-applicants is high. This makes it difficult for junior scientists with still low impact but great experience and potential to profile their CV. (Senior researcher, ETH domain)*
>
> *I would welcome a more equal co-leadership possibility in the application rather than main and co-applicant. Also applicants should have the opportunities to put their salaries on as well. Less emphasis on status of applicant, as it lead to puppet-applicants and others doing the work.(Professor, university of teacher education)*

From the comments it seems that current practice may both deter and facilitate the career advancement of younger scholars; sometimes they do work for which they are not recognised (because they are not responsible or co-applicant), at the same time including multiple (senior) applicants may increase their chances of obtaining funding for their projects. Moreover, as illustrated by the comments below, the co-applicant role helps to ensure commitment to the project, and participation from scholars in other fields of research.

> *Limiting the number of applicants would restrict younger researchers in the amount of experience they could gain from co-applicants in other fields. (Postdoc, university of applied sciences)*
>
> *Important to allow co-applicants. It is difficult to get people to collaborate properly if they are not a co-applicant. In addition, if one person was the applicant, other co-investigators feel like they are being treated as sub-contractors and not as equals. (Professor, cantonal university)*
>
> *I liked [to] have several co-applicants. It increases admin, but also increases the sense of (co)-ownership and insures that all are committed to the project. (Professor, cantonal university)*

This complexity should be taken into account when interpreting the response to the three options presented to respondents concerning responsibility for grants and the number of (co)applicants. On all the options, about half of the respondents (48-53 per cent, Table 4.18) indicate that they are 'indifferent'. The only option obtaining more positive than negative replies is that co-applicants should be allowed, but that scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant (item h, Table 4.18). This option does not limit the number of co-applicants, only specifies that the responsibility of the responsible applicants. For the two other options, 34 per cent are against only allowing two applicants per proposal (item g), and 32 per cent are against only allowing one (responsible) applicants, while other team members can be as 'co-investigators' and benefit from the project funding (item f). Allowing co-applicants, while scientific responsibility is clearly attributed to the main applicant (item h) is presumably the only of the three alternatives perceived to enable the researchers to retain the various roles co-applicants currently have in SNSF Project funding. Being recognised as a grant holder (which may be important for career advancement), increases chances of funding for younger researchers (by applying along with established/highly profiled researchers), and ensures commitment to the project among the collaborating partners.

4.6 Concluding remarks – satisfaction with the SNSF

In this chapter, applicants' satisfaction with the SNSF and the opportunities offered by key funding schemes has been explored, and the match between SNSF funding and the total size of the projects funded by SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants has been examined, as well as how project tasks are allocated in these projects. Moreover, applicants' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding were presented.

Project size, budgets and leader roles

For both Project funding and Sinergia grants additional funding sources for the projects and impacts of SNSF's budget cuts seem much the same. The proportion of total project costs covered by Sinergia grants is on average 9 pp lower than the similar figure for SNSF Project funding, whereas the proportion of projects cost covered by other SNSF grants is correspondingly higher for Sinergia grants. A large proportion (72-74 per cent) of the grant holders indicate that their budgets were cut by the SNSF. The most frequent impact of budget cuts are that some parts of project are dropped, that the number of people involved is reduced, and/or the budget is substituted by funding from own institution. Consequences of budget cuts seem much the same across different institutions and research areas. However, substituting budget cuts by funding from own institution seems somewhat more common in the ETH domain and at the universities of applied sciences than at the cantonal universities. On average there are 4.2 researchers involved in the SNSF Project funding projects, of whom 2.7 researchers benefit from the SNSF Project funding. Hence, on average there are 1.5 researchers on each project not benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. The difference is highest in clinical medicine and physics. In these fields we also find the largest project groups.

There are great differences between SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants in how project tasks are allocated. Whereas the majority of responsible applicants for Project funding perform the core leader tasks, such as initiating the project and formulating the project idea and being the scientific project leader, the division of leader roles in Sinergia projects is more diverse. In Sinergia projects leader tasks are often performed by co-applicants or split between applicants. Hence, co-applicants have a far more central role in these projects.

Satisfaction and opportunities

In general, the applicants are well satisfied with the information on the SNSF funding schemes. When asked to rate their satisfaction with access to relevant information, and easy-to-understand information about funding SNSF schemes and options, a large proportion state that they are 'to a great extent' satisfied. The SNSF website is the most important information source on SNSF funding schemes regardless of the researchers' institutional affiliation. The SNSF also come out relatively well when the grant holders compare the time required to write applications and administering project grants, and assessments follow the same pattern across different types of institutions. Both at cantonal universities, in the ETH domain and at other institutions, SNSF is rated better than ERC and EU Framework Programme, about the same as CTI, poorer than private foundations, and also a bit poorer than local competitive funding, regarding administration costs/time requirements. In the free text replies there are many positive remarks on the low administrative burden related to SNSF applications, and the researchers are concerned that SNSF should take care to keep it low.

In general, the applicants are also satisfied with the opportunities offered by SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants compared with other relevant funding sources. Project funding comes out quite well on opportunities for doing unique/original research and on impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Sinergia comes out very well on opportunities for building new national scientific networks, opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research, and opportunities offered for broadening one's field of expertise. For both schemes, the results are less positive when it comes to support for new projects without requiring preliminary research – on this item there are more than twice as many who rate the SNSF schemes poorer than alternative funding sources, than who rate SNSF better. Moreover, Project funding does not score high on opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research.

When benchmarking against similar data from surveys concerning other funding agencies/schemes, both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants score high on opportunities for doing unique/original research, and Sinergia obtains the best scores on opportunities for doing interdisciplinary research, as well as broadening one's field of expertise. Moreover, SNSF Project funding obtains the best scores on the amount of funding, support for young scientists, as well as impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. However, on some issues both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia score below most of the other surveyed schemes/agencies: in general the applicants do not seem satisfied with these SNSF schemes when it comes to opportunities for addressing high-risk topics, funding for new projects without preliminary research and the flexibility of use of funds.

Planned adjustments to SNSF project funding

Applicants were presented a number of options for changes to Project funding, and asked to indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to them. The more possibilities, options and flexibility in grant size, running time and activities that can be included in the funding, the more attractive a funding scheme is likely to be to applicants. Hence, on this topic all options come out more positive than negative in the survey. The applicants are in favour of more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding, increasing the running time of project grants from 3 to 4years, the option of having one single long-running grant instead of several subsequent project grants, the possibility to obtain smaller grants with reduced application requirements, as well as the option to include activities such as workshops, international short visits, science communication, and publications in Project funding.

There is still a substantial proportion of respondents who are indifferent or find that some of the options would make SNSF Project funding less attractive to them. In particular, those who often/always hold multiple grants for the same project, and researchers within engineering/technology and the natural sciences, often indicate that including a smaller grant option would make the scheme less attractive to them. For example, they are concerned that more small grants imply fewer large grants and increase the workload in administrating grants. Conversely, there is a higher preference for smaller grants with reduced application requirements among the researchers with shorter research lines, younger researchers and those in lower academic positions, researchers in the humanities and social sciences, and researchers at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education. These groups are also often more in favour of including funding for more types of activities in the Project funding.

Concerning proposal requirements, some clear and expected patterns appear in the replies: overall the researchers are in favour of more openness and fewer requirements for details in the proposal; in particular they would avoid requirements for more detailed research plan or an extension of the number of pages for the research plan. Views are more split when it comes to what SNSF should put weight on in the evaluation of proposals. Especially postdocs and scholars outside the universities and ETH domain are concerned that assessments of past performance should not impede the funding of young researchers or interdisciplinarity or applied research. Applicants at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education are more in favour of putting more weight on the project idea, and more against putting more weight on past performance, than the researchers at the universities and ETH domain. Likewise, younger applicants and those in lower academic positions are more in favour of putting weight on the project idea, whereas older applicants and professors are less in favour of this.

The responsibility for grants and the number of (co)applicants to be allowed appear to be a complex issue with conflicting concerns – co-applicants serve a variety of purposes and fill different roles. This complexity should be taken into account when interpreting the response to the three options presented to respondents concerning responsibility for grants and the number of (co)applicants allowed. On all the options, about half of the respondents indicated that they are 'indifferent'. The only option obtaining more positive than negative replies was that co-applicants should be allowed, but that scientific responsibility should be clearly attributed to the main applicant. Notably, this option does not limit the number of co-applicants, only specifies that the responsibility of the responsible applicant, and seems the alternative most often perceived to retain the various roles co-applicants currently have in SNSF Project funding:

being recognised as a grant holder, increased chances of funding for younger researchers, and ensuring commitment to the project among the collaborating partners.

5 Conclusions and implications

5.1 What is the status of potential applicants for SNSF Projects and Sinergia grants?

The target group of SNSF Projects and Sinergia grants are scholars and scientists engaged in scientific research, employed by an institution domiciled in Switzerland, and holding a PhD or several years' research experience, and who are in a position to perform research independently. The large proportion of these are professors at the cantonal universities and the ETH-domain. In general, those who have received SNSF Project Funding or Sinergia grants hold higher academic positions, are older, more often hold a permanent position, and are more active researchers with PhDs and postdocs playing a more important role in their research projects, than the researchers in the target group who have not received funding.

Other groups that potentially could apply for SNSF funding sometimes do not perceive themselves as part of the SNSF target group – either because they are too junior/do not have the needed track record or dispose the necessary staff or infrastructure to perform large projects, or because they do not think the SNSF would fund their kind of research, e.g. applied research, and perceive the rejection rate for their kind of research or research institution to be high. Moreover, some of the non-applicants do not need third party funding, as they have their position/salary and institutional funding sufficient for their projects.

Research lines/organisation of research

Researchers' typical time on one research topic or line of research varies from less than a year to more than ten years. The research lines are typically longer within fields such as biological sciences and basic medicine, and shorter within more applied fields of research, but still the number of years per line of research varies considerably both within and between fields of research. Moreover, as much as 91 per cent of the researchers often or always work on different research lines in parallel. In this context the match between researchers' grants and their lines of research/projects is limited. In total, 37 per cent of the researchers indicate that they often or always hold multiple grants for the same lines of research.

Researchers who hold SNSF Project funding or Sinergia grants often have longer research lines than other respondents, and they also more often work on different research lines in parallel, and more often have multiple grants for the same research lines. This is most probably linked to the responsibilities and seniority of these grant holders: both parallel research lines and multiple grants for the same research lines go along with holding a position in charge of more research staff. Organising multiple PhD and postdoc projects, may imply pursuing multiple research lines at the same time and also needing multiple (subsequent) grants for the same research lines. According to the data both long and parallel research lines increase the likelihood of multiple grants for the same research lines.

Institutional resources

The researchers seem moderately satisfied with their local facilities for research. When assessing their local research resources, funds for research projects and PhD/postdoc positions are the resources most often rated as poor by the researchers. In general, researchers in the ETH domain are more satisfied than researchers at other institutions, and give higher rates both on local funding, services and infrastructures.

The researchers often need to compete for local research funding, and as would be expected, the higher amounts of funding are more often allocated on a competitive basis. The researchers at the universities of applied sciences, more often than those at the other higher education institutions, have competitive local funding (55 per cent, compared with 36 to 37 per cent at the cantonal universities and ETHZ/EPFL). This may reflect that universities of applied sciences have a more selective distribution of resources for research, whereas at cantonal universities and ETHZ/EPFL resources are somewhat more evenly distributed and enable more staff to engage in research activities.

External funding sources

Compared with the institutional funding available to the researchers, third party funding is both more common and the amounts are larger. At the same time, the correlation between institutional and third party funding is generally high; those who have little third party funding also have little institutional funding, whereas those with much third party funding also have much institutional funding. This may indicate that obtaining third party funding gives easier access to institutional funding. In this context of possible cumulative advantages, it should be noted that male researchers far more often than women have high amounts of institutional and third party funding, even when holding a position at the same academic level. Moreover, according to the researchers, obtaining third party funding is important for the researchers' career advancement, regardless of the kind of research institution they are employed at.

In most cases there are no restrictions on applying for third party funds, but the institutions require to be informed about applications. In general, those who have obtained funding from other external sources than the SNSF have higher amounts of third party funding; part of the explanation being that these have grants from multiple sources, i.e. other sources in addition to SNSF funding.

5.2 To what extent does project funding meet the basic needs of target groups?

In general, applicants are well satisfied with the information on the SNSF funding schemes. When asked to rate their satisfaction with access to relevant information, and easy-to-understand information about funding SNSF schemes and options, a large proportion state that they are 'to a great extent' satisfied. The SNSF website is the most important information source on SNSF funding schemes regardless of the researchers' institutional affiliation. The SNSF also come out relatively well when the grant holders compare the time required to write applications and administering project grants, and assessments follow the same pattern across different types of institutions. Both at cantonal universities, in the ETH domain and at other institutions, SNSF is rated better than ERC and EU Framework Programme, about the same as CTI, poorer than private foundations, and also a bit poorer than local competitive funding, regarding administration costs/time requirements.

In general, applicants are also satisfied with the opportunities offered by SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants compared with other relevant funding sources. Project funding comes out quite well on opportunities for doing unique/original research and on impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. Sinergia comes out very well on opportunities for building new national scientific networks, opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research, and opportunities offered for broadening one's field of expertise. For both schemes, the results are less positive when it comes to support for new projects without requiring preliminary research – on this item there are more than twice as many who rate the SNSF schemes poorer than alternative funding sources, than who rate SNSF better. Moreover, Project funding does not score highly on opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research.

When benchmarking against similar data from surveys concerning other funding agencies/schemes, both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grants score highly on opportunities for doing unique/original research, and Sinergia obtains the best scores on opportunities for doing interdisciplinary research, as well as broadening one's field of expertise. Moreover, SNSF Project funding obtains the best scores on the amount of funding, support for young scientists, as well as impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators. However, on some issues both SNSF Project funding and Sinergia score below most of the other surveyed schemes/agencies: in general the applicants do not seem satisfied with these SNSF schemes when it comes to opportunities for addressing high-risk topics, funding for new projects without preliminary research and the flexibility of use of funds.

Even with good scores on the amount of funding, limitation in budgets for Project funding and Sinergia grants appear from the data. The budgets in Project funding and Sinergia applications are often cut by the SNSF. On average the Project funding covers 66 per cent of total project costs.[46] From the survey we also learn that the most common way of handling the budgets cuts is to cut parts of project content and/or reducing project staff. Substituting budget cuts by funding from own institution, or other external sources, is also common practise. Hence, the budget cuts both reduce project size and imply multiple funding sources for the projects. On average there are 1.5 researchers on each project not benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. The difference is highest in clinical medicine and physics. In these fields we also find the largest project groups.

Other limitations in the funding schemes relate to reaching what could be perceived as the peripheries of the targeted groups. As explained above, groups that potentially could apply for SNSF funding sometimes do not perceive themselves as part of the SNSF target group. They do not think they have either the necessary track record to obtain funding or that the SNSF would fund their kind of research.

5.3 Gaps and overlaps in research funding

Research activities and researchers' funding needs vary considerably, and planning and coordinating a research funding system without any gaps or overlaps is hardly possible. Researchers relatively often combine various funding sources for the same projects or lines of research. A study of funding body acknowledgements in published papers found that a large proportion of publications had funding from multiple sources (Rigby 2011). Overlap on the project level may be due to different scopes and aims of funding schemes – e.g. some provide funding for pilot studies, networks, international visits or infrastructures, others fund PhDs, postdocs or other research staff – and multiple sources for the same projects are needed because projects comprise different kinds of activities. In other cases overlap is needed because funding schemes have restrictions regarding the amounts granted, the project running time, or the coverage of overhead costs. In the present survey we find that SNSF Project funding does not cover all project years, nor the whole project teams. SNSF Project funding is provided for a maximum of three years with a possibility of a 3-year follow-up project, whereas a majority of the target group spend more than 3 years on one topic/line of research and 28 per cent spend more than 6 years. As noted above, the SNSF often cut the project budgets, and there are on average 1.5 researchers on the projects not benefiting from the SNSF Project funding. These gaps result in multiple funding sources for the same projects or lines of research, and hence gaps in research funding to some extent create the need for overlapping funding.

Even with such gaps, 'overlap funding' from multiple SNSF schemes seems limited. Only 10 per cent of those holding SNSF Project funding report that part of their project costs are covered by other SNSF funding.[47] Combinations of SNSF grants with institutional funding and other third party funding are far more common.[48] Hence, the possibilities to combine different funding sources in order to fill particular funding needs seems relatively good.

[46] Similar figure for Sinergia grants: cover 57 per cent of total project costs.
[47] On average, holders of SNSF Project funding report that only 2 per cent of their total project costs are covered by other SNSF funding.
[48] The data indicate that 78 per cent of the SNSF Project funding project receives institutional funding and 41 per cent other third party funding. Moreover, looking at the various funding the researchers have obtained during the past 6 years, a large part has funding from multiple sources. Of those who have obtained funding from the SNSF, 42 also had received funding

In conclusion, some overlap on the project level is needed in order to cover different kinds of research activities and different kinds of projects, and such overlap may be considered an integral part of a research funding system. It still implies some disadvantages in terms of higher administrative costs for the researchers, as well as for the funding agencies. Hence, reducing overlap in terms of multiple funding sources for the same projects/research, could reduce costs in research administration and handling of research grants.

Gaps in available funding – in between the scope of funding schemes

At a more fundamental level, gaps in research funding is not a question of mismatch of researchers' needs and the terms of funding schemes resulting in projects needing funding from multiple sources in order to cover all costs, but rather a question of kinds of research for which it is difficult to obtain funding – research which is not targeted by any funding scheme.

Ideally, researchers should have a set of clear and comprehensible alternative funding schemes to choose between, alternatives which together would cover all different needs – alone or in combination. To conclude on gaps between different Swiss funding sources/schemes is beyond the scope of this survey. Still, there are indications of gaps in research funding in the survey replies. Lack of funding for *risky/blue sky and interdisciplinary research, international project collaboration* and projects *without preliminary research* are frequently commented upon in the free text replies. It should be added that these are issues where the SNSF Project funding is rated relatively low compared to the researchers' alternative funding sources, while a large proportion of respondents reply 'about the same' when asked to compare their funding alternatives. Based on the free text comments, this result may be interpreted as that a substantial proportion of the researchers think that all their funding alternatives are equally inadequate when it comes to facilitating blue sky and interdisciplinary research, international collaboration or projects without preliminary research.

Moreover, many respondents comment that it is difficult or impossible to get project funding for researchers in short-term/fixed-term positions, and that it is a disadvantage for them that SNSF Project funding cannot cover salary for the applicants. This is perceived as a disadvantage for young researchers in particular, and to inhibit their research career.

Other needs often commented upon are funding for long-term projects and applied research. These issues are however more complex and views are conflicting. There are also many comments that there is a need for more funding for small projects, and some are very concerned that the SNSF should *not* fund applied research. Such conflicting views and needs are further discussed below.

5.4 Policy challenges and implications

A core objective for SNSF Project funding is to meet the basic needs of the researchers and provide appropriate and reliable funding options for researchers at all Swiss research institutions and in all disciplines and topics. What adjustments to Project funding may help achieve these objectives? This survey provides some insights concerning advantages and disadvantages expected from the planned adjustments in Project funding.

Firstly, reliable funding options may imply caution with substantial changes in funding instruments. Project funding could be considered a flagship for SNSF and is highly appreciated by many of the respondents. Among the respondents we find many who are very satisfied with the scheme as it is. A considerable number of the comment fields include concerns that there should be no major changes in Project funding. As noted above, the changes welcomed by most of the researchers are those implying more flexibility, such as extending the project running time to four years and allowing more openness in the work plan of the projects.

from private Swiss foundations; 16 per cent from ERC, 35 per cent from foreign/international sources, 16 per cent from CTI and 31 per cent from other Swiss federal authorities.

Number of grants, grant size and running time

The respondents point to a number of expected advantages from increasing the possible running time of project grants from three to four years, the option of having a six-year grant instead of several subsequent project grants, or obtaining more substantial grants (with additional restrictions on parallel grants). These options imply more flexibility and allow a better match between grants and research topics and lines of research. Many emphasise that four-year grants would be better matched to the actual time required for PhDs. Six-year grants would better match the average time of a research line in many fields of research. More substantial grants (and fewer cuts in project budgets) would imply more flexibility in project size, less need to reduce project teams or project content, and would be particularly welcomed in fields with large projects/research teams. All these alternatives would reduce the need for multiple grants for the same projects and hence reduce the required time for preparing applications and the workload in administrating grants. Likewise, an option to include activities such as workshops, international short visits, science communication, and publications in Project funding would increase the flexibility in designing projects and reduce administrative costs.

It should be added that larger and/or more long-term grants would cover more of project costs and time for many of the researchers, and the need for multiple grants for the same lines of research may be reduced, but taking into consideration the large variations in project size and project running time demonstrated in the survey, the need for multiple grants for the same lines can hardly be completely avoided.

The possibility of obtaining smaller grants with reduced application requirements would also increase flexibility, and according to the survey replies, smaller grants with reduced application requirements would better fit the needs of some of the younger researchers and those in lower academic positions, researchers with shorter research lines, researchers in the humanities and social sciences, as well as researchers at the universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education. There is still a substantial proportion of respondents who perceive a smaller grant option to be to their disadvantage. In particular, those holding multiple grants for the same project and researchers within engineering/technology and the natural sciences, often indicate that including a smaller grant option would make the scheme less attractive to them. They are concerned that more small grants would imply fewer large grants and increase their time and costs for administrating grants.

There are moreover trade-offs when it comes to restrictions on number of grants per PI (principal investigator). Several respondents are concerned that such restrictions may imply difficulties in running a research group with multiple projects, as well as allowing the needed time overlap between consecutive projects. On the other hand, restrictions on number of grants per PI may give a less skewed allocation of resources, and better chances for young investigators to be in charge of their own projects and pursuing a career as an independent researcher.

Proposal requirements and SNSF's evaluation of proposals

As mentioned, the researchers are in favour of more openness and fewer requirements for details in the proposals and would like to have the possibility to submit applications with more open work plans, milestones and outcomes. This would increase flexibility in research activities, reduce the time needed for preparing applications, possibly reduce administrative project management, and have no obvious disadvantages for the applicants. In their comments many respondents are concerned that ‘bureaucracy’ should be kept low when it comes to applications and budgeting requirements, as well as the requirements for reporting on the awarded grants.

When it comes to what SNSF should put weight on in the evaluation of proposals, there are clearly different views among the researchers. Concerning more weight on past performance or on the project idea, we find a similar divide between the less and more established researchers as noted above for the question about restrictions on the number of grants per PI. Younger applicants and those in lower academic positions, as well those at universities of applied sciences or universities of teacher education, are more in favour of putting weight on the project idea, whereas older applicants and professors are less in favour of this. Postdocs and scholars outside the universities and ETH domain are concerned that assessments of past performance should not impede the funding of young researchers or interdisciplinary

or applied research; whereas more established researchers engaged in fundamental sciences may more often question the possibility of predicting the success of projects mainly based on the idea and project description.

Hence, the different opinions may be seen as a result of researchers with different needs and qualifications competing within one scheme. More weight on past performance is perceived to be to the advantage of the more established researchers, whereas more weight on the project idea is perceived to be to the advantage of the younger and less established researchers. In their comments some respondents emphasise that for young applicants the weight should be put on the project idea, whereas for more established applicants there should be more weight on past performance. Some also link this question to the possibility of getting funding for blue sky/high-risk research, but it is not obvious whether more or less weight on the project idea would increase the chances of funding for such research. A high success rate for grant applications, however, is a main factor facilitating high-risk research and scientific renewal (Langfeldt 2001). Hence, retaining the relatively high success rate for Project funding and possibly including high-risk research as a particular concern in the review process, may be a better way of ensuring funding for blue sky/high-risk research.[49]

Responsibility for grants and number of applicants per proposal

The co-applicants serve a variety of purposes and fill different roles, and the responsibility for grants and the number of (co)applicants to be allowed is a complex issue with conflicting concerns. Currently, being a co-applicant may be important in terms of being recognised as a grant holder, especially for young investigators, and the co-applicant role is perceived as important for ensuring commitment to the project among the collaborating partners. Moreover, involving distinguished researchers as co-applicants are in some cases perceived important for increasing the chances of funding for younger researchers, and/or to ensure the necessary expertise for the project. Hence, some respondents are concerned that restrictions on the number of applicants may reduce the possibilities to perform research requiring different kinds of expertise, or the possibilities of young investigators to get credit as 'applicants' of their own projects. Regarding the latter concern it should be added that receiving third party funding is perceived as important for career advancement.

It is not obvious what impact a restriction on the number of applicants would have for young investigators. In some cases it may imply that young investigators apply for grants on their own (without their professor/group leaders as main or co-applicant), in other cases it might imply that the group leaders/head of units are the sole applicants for more projects for which a junior staff member is the actual project leader – and if two applicants are allowed, maybe including a partner/other group leader as co-applicant.

It should be added that the eligibility criteria for co-applicants are not fully perceived among all respondents. Whereas the eligibility criteria in principle are the same for the responsible applicant and the co-applicant(s), some replies indicate that the respondent think the eligibility criteria are less strict for co-applicants, e.g. that the co-applicant(s) do not need to have an employment contract for the project period or that Project funding may cover salary for co-applicants. Moreover, about half of the respondents are indifferent to the questions concerning the number of (co)applicants to be allowed, indicating that co-applicants are not relevant for their projects or that they find the issue rather complex and have no clear-cut views. The only option obtaining more positive than negative replies among the researchers is that co-applicants should be allowed, but that scientific responsibility should be clearly attributed to the main applicant. Notably, this option does not limit the number of co-applicants, only specifies the responsibility of the main applicant, and seems the alternative most often perceived to retain the various roles co-applicants currently may have in SNSF Project funding.

Other issues to improve

In addition to the specific questions dealing with options for the planned changes, the survey indicates several other issues where parts of the SNSF target group would like improvements. These include concerns noted above (Section 5.3), such as facilitating blue sky and interdisciplinary research,

[49] One respondent put it this way: 'Fantastic funding agency. Please, keep the highly rigorous scientific selection, but with high success rate to insure original, but risky, science to be funded.'

international collaboration and or projects without preliminary research. Moreover, some require better opportunities for funding for young investigators and researchers in short term/fixed-term positions, including the possibility to cover salary for the applicants and buy release from other duties to have time for research. Funding for applied research is also commented. Some are very concerned that the SNSF should not fund applied research, whereas others are very concerned that it should.

As noted in Section 1.1.1, Project funding aims both at ‘excellence trough competition’ and at to meet the needs of a broad and diverse target group. To cover all different kinds of research and different needs for support in the research community when selecting projects solely based on scientific quality may be difficult. Moreover, budget constraints needs to be considered, as well as trade-offs between the kind of needs and research to be given priority: A likely implication of changing the terms of Project funding in order to better meet needs such as covering the salary of the applicant, funding for larger/long-term projects or more funding for applied research, would be an increase in the number of (larger) applications, followed by a an increase in the rejection rate. As noted above, a high success rate is considered important to ensure funding for blue sky/high-risk research.

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Appendix 1 Tables

Table A 1 SNSF applicants and non-applicants: database information vs respondent replies. Counts.

Respondent group (sample)	Survey reply: have obtained funding from SNSF: Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	Total
01SinergiaRecieved	96	0	0	0	96
02ProjectReceived	2051	11	4	2	2068
03OtherReceived	191	14	6	1	212
04ApplNoGrant	79	121	16	1	217
05NotApplied	*226	*104	308	58	696
Total	2643	250	334	62	3289

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
Mismatch between database information vs respondent replies.
* In the subsequent questions, only 115 of the defined non-applicants (according to the database) reply that they have not applied as responsible or co-applicant (including 9 who cannot remember). The rest (212) reply that they have applied as responsible and/or co-applicant. Moreover, when analysing replies concerning SNSF project funding and Sinergia grants, the mismatch is somewhat lower (only responsible applicants were asked whether they had applied for/received these specific grant categories): 80 'non-applicants' reply that they have received Project funding as main applicant, 40 that they have applied but not received. Two 'non-applicants' reply that they have received Sinergia as main applicant, and 8 that they have applied but not received.

Table A 2 Respondents by field of research and type of institution. Per cent.

Type of institution	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	Total
Cantonal university	58.2	44.3	53.6
ETHZ/EPFL	20.0	21.8	20.6
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	6.0	10.9	7.6
University of Applied Sciences	5.1	11.8	7.3
University of Teacher Education	1.6	3.1	2.1
Hospital	5.6	5.0	5.4
Private sector research lab/institute	1.6	1.3	1.5
Other	1.9	1.8	1.9
N	2316	1162	3478

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 3 Non-SNSF-applicants by field of research and type of institution. Per cent.

Research area	Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/UTE*	Other	Total
Natural sciences	42.5	59.0	34.4	20.8	45.3
Engineering and technology	1.9	29.1	25.0	16.7	18.0
Medical sciences	15.1	2.6	3.1	62.5	11.6
Social sciences	29.2	4.3	32.8		18.3
Humanities	11.3	2.6	3.1		5.5
Other		2.6	1.6		1.3
N	106	117	64	24	311
% by type of institution	34.1	37.6	20.6	7.7	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The table include the respondents who replied that they have not applied for SNSF grants in the period 2008-2013.
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table A 4 Non-SNSF-applicants by position and gender. Per cent.

Position	Female	Male	Total
Full professor or similar	17.6	28.1	23.7
Associate professor or similar	3.5	4.2	3.9
Assistant professor or similar	5.6	6.2	6.0
Senior researcher*	21.8	25.5	24.0
Postdoc	43.7	32.3	37.1
Other	7.7	3.6	5.4
N	142	192	334
% by gender	42.5	57.5	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The table include the respondents who replied that they have not applied for SNSF grants in the period 2008-2013.

Table A 5 Parallel work on different research topics/lines by research area. Per cent.

	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?					
Research area	Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
Natural sciences	57.7	33.6	7.9	0.6	0.2	1425
Engineering and technology	64.2	28.4	6.7	0.3	0.3	313
Medical sciences	50.9	36.9	11.0	0.8	0.4	493
Social sciences	54.6	36.8	7.7	0.9	0.0	546
Humanities	47.8	45.0	5.9	0.6	0.6	322
Other	47.6	42.9	9.5	0.0	0.0	21
Total	55.6	35.4	8.0	0.7	0.3	3120
Total	55.6	35.4	8.0	0.7	0.3	3120

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 6 Parallel work on different research topics/lines by field of research. Per cent.

	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?					
Field of research	Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
Computer and information sciences	52.2	41.3	6.5	0.0	0.0	138
Physical sciences	55.3	34.1	9.2	1.1	0.4	273
Chemical sciences	56.2	36.3	6.2	1.4	0.0	146
Earth and related environmental sciences	66.7	28.3	4.4	0.6	0.0	180
Biological sciences	58.8	31.4	8.9	0.5	0.3	573
Other natural sciences	52.2	39.1	8.7	0.0	0.0	115
Engineering and technology	64.2	28.4	6.7	0.3	0.3	313
Basic medicine	45.9	42.5	9.6	0.7	1.4	146
Clinical medicine	53.8	30.8	13.8	1.5	0.0	130
Health sciences	58.3	31.4	9.6	0.6	0.0	156
(Other) medical sciences	37.7	50.8	11.5	0.0	0.0	61
Psychology	58.7	34.9	5.5	0.9	0.0	109
Economics and business	64.3	30.4	4.5	0.9	0.0	112
(Other) social sciences	49.8	39.7	9.5	0.9	0.0	325
Languages and literature	44.6	48.5	5.9	0.0	1.0	101
(Other) humanities	49.3	43.4	5.9	0.9	0.5	221
Other	47.6	42.9	9.5	0.0	0.0	21
Total	55.6	35.4	8.0	0.7	0.3	3120

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 7 Parallel work on different research topics/lines by academic position. Per cent.

Position	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?					
	Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
Full professor or similar	61.8	30.8	6.3	0.8	0.2	1313
Associate professor or similar	59.6	33.0	6.7	0.2	0.5	403
Assistant professor or similar	61.3	33.2	5.1	0.0	0.4	253
Senior researcher*	53.1	37.3	9.0	0.7	0.0	914
Postdoc	32.5	47.5	18.6	1.1	0.4	280
Professor emeritus	44.4	48.1	7.4	0.0	0.0	27
Other	37.9	46.2	12.9	2.3	0.8	132
Total	55.5	35.2	8.3	0.7	0.2	3322

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 8 Combination of parallel work on different research topics/lines and multiple grants for the same research topics/lines. Per cent.

(Q4) To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel? Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
I always/nearly always have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	70.3	22.4	4.9	2.3	0.0	263
I often have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	60.4	34.1	5.2	0.2	0.1	957
I seldom/never have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research	54.0	36.0	9.2	0.5	0.2	1757
Not applicable	38.6	43.3	15.1	2.1	0.9	337
Total	55.6	35.1	8.3	0.7	0.2	3314

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 9 Typical time on one topic/research line, by parallel research lines. Per cent.

(Q5) How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?	(Q3)Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel? Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
Less than a year	32.0	56.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	25
1-2 years	46.9	41.8	10.7	0.3	0.3	335
3-4 years	51.2	38.2	9.7	0.6	0.3	940
5-6 years	59.1	33.5	6.5	0.8	0.1	831
7-8 years	62.7	32.0	5.1	0.3	0.0	316
9-10 years	61.9	32.2	5.0	0.5	0.5	202
More than 10 years	61.0	27.7	9.7	1.2	0.5	423
Cannot say	49.3	40.1	9.2	1.4	0.0	207
Not applicable	52.6	31.6	15.8	0.0	0.0	38
Total	55.5	35.2	8.3	0.7	0.2	3317

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 10 Parallel work on different research topics/lines by research staff funded by own institution. Per cent.

Number of your staff funded by your institution	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel? Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
0	49.9	38.2	10.6	1.3		631
0,1-1	55.8	33.7	8.8	1.7		181
2-5	57.5	35.8	6.1	.4	.2	1597
5,1-10	73.6	22.4	3.7		.4	246
11-20	58.0	28.0	14.0			50
21-50	60.0	25.7	14.3			35
51-100	52.9	32.4	14.7			34
101-200	64.9	32.4	2.7			37
Above 200	68.8	27.1	4.2			48
Total	57.4	34.6	7.3	.6	.1	2859

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 11 Parallel work on different research topics/lines by research staff funded by external sources. Per cent.

Number of your staff funded from external sources	(Q3) Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?					
	Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	N
0	45.6	40.3	12.4	1.8		509
0,1-1	52.5	37.3	9.3	.8		118
2-5	56.2	36.0	7.1	.5	.1	1554
5,1-10	72.1	24.2	2.8	.3	.6	359
11-20	83.2	13.9	3.0			101
21-50	79.1	16.3	4.7			43
51-100	43.8	40.6	15.6			32
101-200	59.3	37.0	3.7			27
Above 200	64.9	33.3	1.8			57
Total	57.6	34.3	7.4	.7	.1	2800

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 12 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research by staff funded by own institution. Per cent.

Number of your staff funded by your institution	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?				
	Always/nearly always	Often	Seldom/never	Not applicable	N
0	7.5	23.8	55.2	13.6	627
0,1-1	8.3	26.5	60.2	5.0	181
2-5	7.8	32.4	54.5	5.3	1599
5,1-10	15.0	35.0	44.7	5.3	246
11-20	18.0	24.0	50.0	8.0	50
21-50	0.0	29.4	64.7	5.9	34
51-100	2.9	32.4	61.8	2.9	34
101-200	16.2	27.0	54.1	2.7	37
Above 200	12.5	35.4	43.8	8.3	48
Total	8.6	30.1	54.1	7.1	2856

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 13 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research by staff funded by external sources. Per cent.

Number of your staff funded from external sources	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?				
	Always/nearly always	Often	Seldom/never	Not applicable	N
0	3.9	13.8	61.2	21.1	508
0,1-1	7.6	22.9	66.9	2.5	118
2-5	7.9	31.9	55.9	4.4	1554
5,1-10	12.3	46.8	39.0	1.9	359
11-20	25.7	45.5	24.8	4.0	101
21-50	21.4	31.0	45.2	2.4	42
51-100	6.3	28.1	65.6	0.0	32
101-200	3.7	29.6	63.0	3.7	27
Above 200	17.5	35.1	42.1	5.3	57
Total	8.7	30.6	53.8	7.0	2798

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 14 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research by academic position. Per cent.

	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?				
Position	Always/nearly always	Often	Seldom/never	Not applicable	N
Full professor or similar	9.9	30.8	53.1	6.2	1310
Associate professor or similar	9.7	32.3	54.7	3.2	402
Assistant professor or similar	5.1	32.0	54.5	8.3	253
Senior researcher*	6.5	29.6	54.0	9.8	914
Postdoc	2.9	12.2	45.5	39.4	279
Professor emeritus	11.1	25.9	63.0	0.0	27
Other	8.3	25.0	50.0	16.7	132
Total	7.9	28.9	53.0	10.2	3317

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 15 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research by research area. Per cent.

	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?				
Research area	Always/nearly always	Often	Seldom/never	Not applicable	N
Natural sciences	8.4	29.5	51.4	10.7	1422
Engineering and technology	6.7	37.1	47.3	8.9	313
Medical sciences	11.5	35.8	47.0	5.7	494
Social sciences	6.4	22.4	63.1	8.1	544
Humanities	5.3	20.7	59.8	14.2	323
Other	4.8	33.3	52.4	9.5	21
Total	8.0	29.2	53.2	9.6	3117

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 16 Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines by field of research. Per cent.

	(Q4)To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?				
Field of research	Always/nearly always	Often	Seldom/never	Not applicable	N
Computer and information sciences	2.9	39.7	50.0	7.4	136
Physical sciences	6.2	25.7	53.7	14.3	272
Chemical sciences	8.9	22.6	59.6	8.9	146
Earth and related environmental sciences	11.0	32.0	47.5	9.4	181
Biological sciences	9.8	32.7	47.7	9.8	572
Other natural sciences	7.8	15.7	61.7	14.8	115
Engineering and technology	6.7	37.1	47.3	8.9	313
Basic medicine	9.6	40.4	45.9	4.1	146
Clinical medicine	16.2	33.1	46.2	4.6	130
Health sciences	10.2	35.7	49.7	4.5	157
(Other) medical sciences	9.8	31.1	44.3	14.8	61
Psychology	4.6	26.6	62.4	6.4	109
Economics and business	1.8	13.4	77.7	7.1	112
(Other) social sciences	8.7	24.1	58.2	9.0	323
Languages and literature	4.0	16.8	60.4	18.8	101
(Other) humanities	5.9	22.5	59.5	12.2	222
Other	4.8	33.3	52.4	9.5	21
Total	8.0	29.2	53.2	9.6	3117

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 17 Typical time on one topic/research line, by research area. Per cent.

Research area	Less than a year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	More than 10 years	Cannot say/Not applicable	N
Natural sciences	0.9	7.4	22.6	26.5	10.5	7.7	16.5	7.9	1425
Engineering/technology	0.3	11.8	26.2	24.9	11.8	7.3	10.9	6.7	313
Medical sciences	0.4	7.7	29.8	22.9	9.7	5.3	17.6	6.5	493
Social sciences	0.7	15.6	36.9	24.8	7.3	3.1	6.1	5.5	545
Humanities	1.2	11.1	35.9	24.8	7.1	5.0	6.5	8.4	323
Other	0.0	4.8	38.1	23.8	9.5	4.8	4.8	14.3	21
Total	0.8	9.7	28.1	25.3	9.6	6.2	13.2	7.2	3120

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. (Q5) How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?

Table A 18 Typical time on one topic/research line, by institutional affiliation. Per cent.

(Q5) How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?	Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
Less than a year	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.8
1-2 years	7.8	8.9	27.8	9.3	10.1
3-4 years	27.8	26.1	34.3	32.5	28.3
5-6 years	25.5	26.5	17.5	25.8	25.1
7-8 years	9.5	10.6	6.8	8.9	9.5
9-10 years	6.9	6.6	2.3	3.3	6.1
More than 10 years	14.4	12.1	3.9	13.9	12.7
Cannot say/Not applicable	7.2	8.4	6.5	6.0	7.4
N	1785	924	309	302	3320

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

** Universities of applied sciences/ universities of teacher education.

Table A 19 Integration of junior staff in respondents' research projects. Per cent.

(Q6) How are junior scientific staff normally integrated in your research projects?	Yes	No	Not relevant	N
There is normally no need for PhDs and/or postdocs in my projects	8.6	81.7	9.7	3147
I or another senior in the project will normally be the supervisor of the PhDs	85.4	5.6	9.0	3255
The PhDs will normally be integrated in doctoral schools	64.4	21.5	14.1	3201
Postdocs in my projects may work fairly independently	67.8	11.4	20.7	3216

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posed to all respondents.

Table A 20 Institutions' policies concerning third party funds. Per cent.

(Q7) What are your institution's policies concerning third party funds/external funding for research?	Yes	No	Don't know	N
My institution communicates information about SNSF funding schemes and calls to the researchers	73.8	18.3	7.9	3284
My institution provides support services for writing research applications to the SNSF	31.2	51.5	17.3	3280
Obtaining third-party funds is important for personal career advancement at my institution	82.2	9.1	8.7	3285
My institution requires to be informed about applications for third-party funds	70.2	17.0	12.7	3282
My institution has no restrictions on applying for third party funds (researchers may normally apply for the kind of grants they wish)	74.1	12.9	13.0	3279
My institution normally/often has a prescreening of third party funds and may not allow all applications	19.9	58.3	21.8	3265
Grant holders are required to pass a part of third party funds on to my institution to cover indirect costs	46.5	31.4	22.2	3265
Part of the overhead payment my institution receives from the SNSF in relation with my project flows back to the grant holder/research group	32.9	33.7	33.4	3271

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 21 Respondents' funding sources and success by position. Per cent.

(Q8)Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained…	Position	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say	N
SNSF	Full professor	88.6	4.5	6.2	0.7	1274
	Associate professor	90.3	5.4	3.2	1.0	404
	Assistant professor	85.0	5.5	7.9	1.6	253
	Senior researcher*	78.7	11.0	8.7	1.5	915
	Postdoc	33.1	12.8	44.1	10.0	281
	Professor emeritus	96.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	28
	Other	71.2	14.4	13.6	0.8	132
	Total	80.4	7.6	10.2	1.8	3287
CTI	Full professor	20.4	6.2	71.6	1.8	1273
	Associate professor	14.4	5.7	79.7	0.2	404
	Assistant professor	9.5	6.3	82.2	2.0	253
	Senior researcher*	14.4	5.1	77.6	2.8	915
	Postdoc	6.0	1.1	84.0	8.9	281
	Professor emeritus	7.1	0.0	89.3	3.6	28
	Other	14.4	9.8	74.2	1.5	132
	Total	15.6	5.5	76.4	2.5	3286
Other Swiss Federal authorities	Full professor	35.8	4.4	57.3	2.4	1273
	Associate professor	27.7	6.4	65.1	0.7	404
	Assistant professor	23.3	7.9	66.8	2.0	253
	Senior researcher*	27.2	6.3	62.4	4.0	915
	Postdoc	14.2	2.5	72.6	10.7	281
	Professor emeritus	32.1	0.0	64.3	3.6	28
	Other	28.8	5.3	61.4	4.5	132
	Total	29.3	5.3	62.0	3.4	3286
Cantons	Full professor	23.5	2.0	71.5	3.1	1272
	Associate professor	20.3	3.0	74.0	2.7	404
	Assistant professor	16.2	2.0	80.6	1.2	253
	Senior researcher*	14.9	2.8	77.8	4.5	915
	Postdoc	9.3	1.1	81.1	8.5	281
	Professor emeritus	28.6	0.0	71.4	0.0	28
	Other	26.5	3.0	67.4	3.0	132
Total	Total	19.1	2.3	74.9	3.7	3285
Private industry (Swiss)	Full professor	31.7	4.3	61.8	2.1	1273
	Associate professor	28.0	7.4	63.9	0.7	404
	Assistant professor	22.5	5.5	70.0	2.0	253
	Senior researcher*	24.2	6.3	66.6	3.0	915
	Postdoc	9.3	2.5	78.6	9.6	281
	Professor emeritus	14.3	7.1	78.6	0.0	28
	Other	28.8	4.5	62.9	3.8	132
	Total	26.3	5.2	65.6	2.9	3286
Private foundations (Swiss)	Full professor	43.0	8.3	47.5	1.3	1272
	Associate professor	52.0	8.4	38.4	1.2	404
	Assistant professor	36.0	11.5	51.8	0.8	253
	Senior researcher*	33.9	10.8	51.7	3.6	915
	Postdoc	13.9	5.7	70.8	9.6	281
	Professor emeritus	39.3	14.3	46.4	0.0	28
	Other	36.4	15.2	43.9	4.5	132
	Total	38.2	9.3	49.7	2.7	3285
Other Swiss sources	Full professor	24.4	3.2	65.8	6.6	1272
	Associate professor	21.5	5.2	65.6	7.7	404
	Assistant professor	12.3	4.0	78.7	5.1	253
	Senior researcher*	18.8	4.5	68.7	8.0	915
	Postdoc	8.9	2.8	76.9	11.4	281
	Professor emeritus	32.1	7.1	60.7	0.0	28
	Other	22.7	3.8	67.4	6.1	132
	Total	20.2	3.9	68.6	7.3	3285
(ERC)	Full professor	17.1	15.6	65.7	1.6	1273
	Associate professor	19.1	16.6	62.9	1.5	404
	Assistant professor	18.6	22.9	56.9	1.6	253
	Senior researcher*	11.9	15.5	68.7	3.8	915
	Postdoc	8.2	6.8	76.5	8.5	281
	Professor emeritus	10.7	3.6	85.7	0.0	28
	Other	12.1	12.1	72.0	3.8	132
	Total	15.0	15.3	66.9	2.9	3286
Foreign/international sources (other than ERC)	Full professor	41.5	5.3	51.2	2.0	1272
	Associate professor	32.7	10.4	55.0	2.0	404
	Assistant professor	33.6	11.1	52.2	3.2	253
	Senior researcher*	25.4	7.0	63.4	4.3	915
	Postdoc	19.6	5.7	65.1	9.6	281
	Professor emeritus	35.7	0.0	64.3	0.0	28
	Other	16.7	5.3	73.5	4.5	132
	Total	32.4	6.8	57.3	3.4	3285

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. * Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

Table A 22 Reasons for not applying for ERC grants, by research area. Per cent.

(Q9) You have indicated that you have not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC). What are your reasons for not applying for these grants?	Natural sciences	Engineering and technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	32.4	33.1	19.1	38.3	32.1
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	28.7	27.8	29.6	27.3	33.2
I do not think the ERC would fund my kind of research	21.8	21.2	36.4	32.8	42.2
The ERC does not offer grants relevant to my situation/to fund my research	20.1	16.6	19.1	19.2	26.0
I do not have information about ERC grants	10.8	15.2	17.6	20.9	13.0
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for ERC grants	6.5	9.9	10.6	14.8	10.5
N	850	151	341	454	277

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posed to the respondents who had replied that they had not applied for ERC grants. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the respondents within each research area who selected the options.

Table A 23 Reasons for not applying for ERC grants, by position. Per cent.

(Q9) You have indicated that you have not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC). What are your reasons for not applying for these grants?	Full professor or similar	Associate professor or similar	Assistant professor or similar	Senior researcher*	Postdoc
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	34.7	28.3	26.4	27.0	37.2
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	29.8	31.5	34.7	28.1	19.1
I do not think the ERC would fund my kind of research	30.3	32.7	22.2	28.8	16.7
The ERC does not offer grants relevant to my situation/to fund my research	18.4	18.1	15.3	23.8	19.5
I do not have information about ERC grants	11.0	15.7	20.1	16.5	19.1
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for ERC grants	5.9	8.7	10.4	12.7	11.6
N	836	254	144	629	215

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.
This question was posed to the respondents who had replied that they had not applied for ERC grants. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the respondents within each position category who selected the options.

Table A 24 SNSF responsible applicant or co-applicant, by gender. Per cent.

(Q10) Have you been a responsible applicant and/or co-applicant for SNSF funding in the period 2008-2013?	Female	Male	Total
Yes, I have applied as responsible applicant	60.4	70.3	67.5
Yes, I have applied as co-applicant	10.0	4.0	5.7
Yes, I have applied both as responsible applicant and co-applicant	21.6	21.7	21.7
No, I have not applied for SNSF funding as responsible applicant or co-applicant	7.6	3.4	4.6
Cannot remember	0.4	0.5	0.5
N	814	2065	2879

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 25 SNSF responsible applicant or co-applicant, by position. Per cent.

(Q10) Have you been a responsible applicant and/or co-applicant for SNSF funding in the period 2008-2013?	Full professor or similar	Associate professor or similar	Assistant professor or similar	Senior researcher*	Postdoc	Professor emeritus	Other	Total
Yes, I have applied as responsible applicant	74.7	73.4	68.6	61.3	35.7	60.7	60.2	67.5
Yes, I have applied as co-applicant	2.7	2.8	3.5	8.5	17.8	10.7	12.4	5.7
Yes, I have applied both as responsible applicant and co-applicant	21.7	22.5	22.7	24.2	7.0	25.0	14.2	21.7
No, I have not applied for SNSF funding as responsible applicant or co-applicant	0.7	1.0	4.8	5.5	36.4	3.6	11.5	4.6
Cannot remember	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.0	1.8	0.5
N	1071	387	229	821	129	28	113	2778

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 26 Respondents' interfaces with SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grant. Per cent.

SNSF funding instrument	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot remember	*N
SNSF Project funding 2008-2013	89.6	7.3	3.0	0.1	2566
SNSF Sinergia grant 2008-2013	10.4	7.8	80.8	1.0	2565

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. (Q12) Full question: In a previous question you replied that you have applied for SNSF funding in the period 2008-2013. In order to direct you to the correct follow-up questions, please indicate below whether you have tried to obtain/obtained SNSF Project funding or SNSF Sinergia grants as main/responsible applicant.
*Only includes respondents who - in the previous questions - confirmed having tried to apply for SNSF research funding.

Table A 27 Respondents' views on SNSF information, by type of institution. Average scores on a scale from 5 (To a great extent) to 1 (Not at all).

	Access to relevant information about funding schemes			Easy to understand information about funding schemes and options		
Institution	Mean	Std.dev.	N	Mean	Std.dev.	N
Cantonal university	4.3	0.787	1588	4.1	0.892	1580
ETHZ/EPFL	4.3	0.760	541	4.2	0.874	534
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	4.3	0.733	178	4.1	0.783	178
University of Applied Sciences	4.0	0.973	173	3.7	1.008	173
University of Teacher Education	4.1	0.795	57	4.0	0.855	57
Hospital	4.0	0.847	168	3.8	0.917	165
Private sector research lab/institute	4.3	0.626	45	4.0	0.759	46
Other	4.0	0.868	54	3.9	0.984	54
Total	4.3	0.802	2804	4.1	0.898	2787

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q13: Considering your experience with the SNSF, to what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory? (This question was posted only to SNSF applicants.)

Table A 28 Respondents' views on SNSF information, by academic position. Average scores on a scale from 5 (To a great extent) to 1 (Not at all).

	Access to relevant information about funding schemes			Easy to understand information about funding schemes and options		
Position	Mean	Std.dev.	N	Mean	Std.dev.	N
Full professor or similar	4.3	0.770	1142	4.14	0.899	1133
Associate professor or similar	4.3	0.791	379	4.17	0.847	376
Assistant professor or similar	4.4	0.739	228	4.19	0.808	227
Senior researcher*	4.2	0.816	799	3.98	0.909	797
Postdoc	3.8	0.900	121	3.61	0.931	119
Professor emeritus	4.4	0.879	28	4.25	1.005	28
Other	4.2	0.833	107	3.93	0.861	107
Total	4.3	0.802	2804	4.07	0.898	2787

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q13: Considering your experience with the SNSF, to what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory? (This question was posted only to SNSF applicants.)

Table A 29 Respondents' views on SNSF information, by research area. Average scores on a scale from 5 (To a great extent) to 1 (Not at all).

	Access to relevant information about funding schemes			Easy to understand information about funding schemes and options		
Research area	Mean	Std.dev.	N	Mean	Std.dev.	N
Natural sciences	4.4	0.749	1222	4.2	0.849	1214
Engineering and technology	4.3	0.813	241	4.1	0.894	240
Medical sciences	4.1	0.849	445	3.9	0.927	443
Social sciences	4.2	0.833	478	4.0	0.922	476
Humanities	4.3	0.812	300	4.1	0.947	301
Other	4.1	0.619	16	4.0	0.730	16
Total	4.3	0.798	2702	4.1	0.894	2690

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q13: Considering your experience with the SNSF, to what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory? (This question was posted only to SNSF applicants.)

Table A 30 Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options, by institutional category. Per cent.

(Q14) What is your main information source on SNSF funding options?	University	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE	Other	Total
The SNSF website	79.1	76.9	73.9	78.1	78.0
The SNSF newsletter	8.1	5.9	11.3	8.0	7.8
Information distributed by your institution	3.7	5.2	5.9	2.2	4.1
Information from colleagues/informal information	7.8	9.9	8.0	9.5	8.5
No information source	0.4	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.6
Other	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.0
N	1601	748	238	274	2861

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Only applicants were posed this question. Only one alternative could be selected.
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table A 31 Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options, by type of institution. Per cent.

Type of institution	The SNSF website	The SNSF newsletter	Information distributed by your institution	Information from colleagues/informal information	No information source	Other	N
Cantonal university	79.1	8.1	3.7	7.8	0.4	0.9	1601
ETHZ/EPFL	75.9	6.6	5.1	9.9	1.4	1.1	564
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	79.9	3.8	5.4	9.8	0.5	0.5	184
University of Applied Sciences	72.4	10.5	6.6	9.4	0.0	1.1	181
University of Teacher Education	78.9	14.0	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	57
Hospital	78.1	7.7	2.4	9.5	1.2	1.2	169
Private sector research lab/institute	83.3	8.3	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	48
Other	73.7	8.8	0.0	14.0	0.0	3.5	57
Total	78.0	7.8	4.1	8.5	0.6	1.0	2861

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q14. Only applicants were posed this question. Only one alternative could be selected.

Table A 32 Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options, by field of research. Per cent.

Field of research	The SNSF website	The SNSF newsletter	Information distributed by your institution	Information from colleagues/informal information	No information source	Other	N
Computer and information sciences	77.0	7.1	2.7	12.4	0.9	0.0	113
Physical sciences	76.1	2.3	4.5	15.8	0.5	0.9	222
Chemical sciences	81.3	5.2	4.5	8.2	0.7	0.0	134
Eart/related environmental sciences	80.0	7.6	2.9	8.8	0.0	0.6	170
Biological sciences	79.6	9.1	2.1	7.4	0.6	1.2	514
Other natural sciences	75.5	7.1	2.0	11.2	3.1	1.0	98
Engineering and technology	78.2	7.9	5.6	6.0	1.2	1.2	252
Basic medicine	80.1	9.2	2.8	7.1	0.0	0.7	141
Clinical medicine	76.3	7.6	3.4	9.3	1.7	1.7	118
Health sciences	74.5	13.1	5.5	6.9	0.0	0.0	145
(Other) medical sciences	83.0	6.4	2.1	6.4	0.0	2.1	47
Psychology	89.1	5.9	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	101
Economics and business	66.7	11.5	10.3	11.5	0.0	0.0	87
(Other) social sciences	72.8	11.2	5.8	8.8	0.0	1.4	294
Languages and literature	79.2	6.2	5.2	5.2	1.0	3.1	96
(Other) humanities	80.4	5.3	7.2	5.3	1.0	1.0	209
Other	81.2	6.2	0.0	6.2	0.0	6.2	16
Total	78.0	7.9	4.1	8.4	0.6	1.0	2757

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q14. Only applicants were posed this question. Only one alternative could be selected.

Table A 33 Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options, by academic position. Per cent.

Position	The SNSF website	The SNSF newsletter	Information distributed by your institution	Information from colleagues/informal information	No information source	Other	N
Full professor or similar	76.0	8.5	5.1	8.3	0.7	1.4	1156
Associate professor or similar	76.7	8.8	3.4	10.1	0.0	1.0	387
Assistant professor or similar	80.3	4.8	6.1	7.9	0.4	0.4	228
Senior researcher*	81.7	7.6	2.4	7.4	0.5	0.4	821
Postdoc	78.3	4.7	3.9	10.9	1.6	0.8	129
Professor emeritus	63.0	11.1	3.7	14.8	0.0	7.4	27
Other	73.5	7.1	5.3	10.6	2.7	0.9	113
Total	78.0	7.8	4.1	8.5	0.6	1.0	2861

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q14. Only applicants were posed this question. Only one alternative could be selected.

Table A 34 Reasons for not applying for SNSF grants, by field of research. Per cent.

(Q15) What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?	Natural sciences	Engineering /technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities	Total
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	29.8	30.4	36.1	40.4	23.5	32.2
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	9.2	16.1	19.4	26.3	11.8	15.1
The spending level/project size is too low	2.8	14.3	11.1	12.3	5.9	7.7
I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research	16.3	33.9	52.8	26.3	11.8	25.4
I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research	23.4	5.4	13.9	7.0	0.0	14.8
I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research	16.3	23.2	11.1	15.8	5.9	16.4
Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time (i.e. employed in a teaching position or mainly administrative obligations)	6.4	7.1	16.7	14.0	29.4	10.6
I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project	44.7	33.9	33.3	15.8	41.2	36.0
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants	16.3	25.0	16.7	10.5	5.9	16.1
There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding	12.1	14.3	22.2	14.0	5.9	13.5
N	141	56	36	57	17	*311

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). (Q15: In a previous question you have indicated that you have not applied for research grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the period 2008-2013. What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?) Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the non-applicants who selected the various options.
*Includes 4 non-applicants indication their field of research as 'other'. 23 non-applicants for which we lack information about field of research are not included in the table.

Table A 35 Reasons for not applying for SNSF grants, by position. Per cent.

(Q15) What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?	Full professor or similar	Associate professor or similar	Assistant professor or similar	Senior researcher*	Postdoc	Total
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	21.5	30.8	50.0	33.8	33.9	31.4
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	25.3	46.2	30.0	17.5	2.4	15.0
The spending level/project size is too low	11.4	7.7	20.0	8.8	1.6	7.5
I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research	43.0	38.5	45.0	31.2	4.0	25.4
I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research	5.1	0.0	15.0	15.0	21.8	14.1
I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research	11.4	15.4	25.0	15.0	15.3	15.6
Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time (i.e. employed in a teaching position or mainly administrative obligations)	10.1	30.8	15.0	12.5	4.0	10.5
I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project	8.9	15.4	25.0	32.5	54.0	33.8
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants	19.0	15.4	30.0	12.5	11.3	15.0
There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding	19.0	23.1	15.0	13.8	8.9	13.5
N	79	13	20	80	124	334

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). (Q15: In a previous question you have indicated that you have not applied for research grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the period 2008-2013. What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?) Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the non-applicants who selected the various options.
*Includes 18 non-applicants in other positions.

Table A 36 Reasons for not applying for SNSF grants, by Age. Per cent.

(Q15) What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?	Age 26-35	Age 36-45	Age 46-55	Age 56-65	Total%	Average age*
I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources	35.0	37.9	25.5	17.1	32.1	38.9
The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application	6.7	9.5	34.5	28.6	15.1	47.3
The spending level/project size is too low	2.5	6.3	14.5	14.3	7.2	47.5
I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research	9.2	34.7	34.5	45.7	25.9	45.7
I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research	19.2	15.8	10.9	5.7	15.1	37.6
I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research	16.7	18.9	12.7	17.1	16.7	40.1
Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time (i.e. employed in a teaching position or mainly administrative obligations)	5.0	13.7	12.7	20.0	10.8	44.7
I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project	55.0	37.9	12.7	5.7	36.4	35.8
My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants	13.3	17.9	23.6	5.7	15.7	41.0
There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding	7.5	16.8	16.4	20.0	13.4	44.0
N	120	95	55	35	305	

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to respondents who had replied that they had not applied for SNSF grants (in the period 2008-2013). (Q15: In a previous question you have indicated that you have not applied for research grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the period 2008-2013. What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?) Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the non-applicants who selected the various options.
*Average age of the respondents who selected the option, N varies from 22 to 111.

Table A 37 When lack of SNSF scheme fitting respondents needs for funding: specification of needs. Per cent

(Q16) Please specify your funding needs that you consider not covered by any SNSF scheme.	Yes	N
funding for research networks	17.8	45
my/my institution's needs for overhead costs	24.4	45
funding for large projects	15.6	45
funding for long-term projects	31.1	45
funding for small projects	46.7	45
funding for international collaboration	26.7	45
funding for mobility	17.8	45
other	31.1	45

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to the 45 respondents who had replied "There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding" in the previous questions. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the 45 respondents who selected the various options.

Table A 38 Budget cuts in SNSF project funding, percent of projects.

(Q20) Was the original budget for this (most recent) SNSF project funding grant cut by SNSF?	Percent
No cut in original budget	25.7
Minor cut in original budget	41.3
Substantial cut in original budget	31.4
Cannot say	1.5
N	2032

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.

Table A 39 How SNSF's budget cut affected the project, by field of research. Per cent.

(Q21) How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?	Natural sciences	Engineering and technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities
The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed	19.7	15.6	23.8	17.7	12.6
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)	2.9	1.6	2.6	3.2	3.0
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources	21.9	24.2	36.4	10.5	15.6
The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution	35.7	47.7	26.0	38.2	28.1
The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project	39.6	30.5	41.6	32.3	25.2
The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped	44.2	45.3	41.6	43.6	37.0
N	717	128	231	220	135

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF project funding grants who had replied that their budget had been cut. Respondents could select as many options they wanted. The table displays percentages of the relevant respondents who selected the various options.

Table A 40 SNSF project funding: task division between the applicants, combination of replies. Per cent.

The initiative to cooperate was taken by	**The project idea was formulated by**			
	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups
Myself	90.5	55.9	50.0	51.7
Co-applicant(s)	5.0	40.7	12.5	7.6
Other project staff	0.5	0.0	37.5	0.9
Several of these groups	2.8	1.7	0.0	39.8
Cannot say	1.2	1.7	0.0	0.0
N	640	59	8	211
	The main work with writing the project description was done by			
	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups
Myself	86.4	67.5	71.9	61.5
Co-applicant(s)	5.8	22.9	12.5	7.0
Other project staff	0.5	1.2	9.4	0.5
Several of these groups	6.0	6.0	6.2	30.0
Cannot say	1.3	2.4	0.0	1.0
N	603	83	32	200
	The scientific project leader tasks were/are performed by			
	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups
Myself	84.5	70.4	72.2	64.4
Co-applicant(s)	6.9	14.8	5.6	8.3
Other project staff	0.5	0.0	16.7	0.6
Several of these groups	6.9	13.6	5.6	25.6
Cannot say	1.1	1.2	0.0	1.1
N	634	81	18	180
	The administrative project leader tasks were/are performed by			
	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups
Myself	80.7	76.7	80.8	67.9
Co-applicant(s)	7.3	14.0	6.4	8.3
Other project staff	0.3	0.0	4.0	0.0
Several of these groups	10.0	9.3	8.8	22.6
Cannot say	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.2
N	617	86	125	84
	Most of the research was/is performed by			
	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups
Myself	90.2	75.4	82.8	71.3
Co-applicant(s)	6.2	17.4	7.0	7.7
Other project staff	0.4	1.4	1.9	0.2
Several of these groups	1.3	4.3	6.0	20.4
Cannot say	1.8	1.4	2.3	0.2
N	225	69	215	401

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q23: What is/was the task division between the applicants? The question was posed to those who had received SNSF project funding as responsible applicant.

Table A 41 SNSF project funding compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources, by field of research. Per cent.

(Q25) When comparing SNSF project funding with your other relevant funding sources, is SNSF project funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning		Natural sciences	Engineering/ technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	Better	14.7	11.9	18.8	21.5	31.5
	About the same	45.7	40.5	44.5	38.0	34.0
	Poorer	18.8	31.9	18.0	12.9	7.6
	Cannot say	20.8	15.7	18.8	27.5	26.9
	N	965	185	373	363	238
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	Better	27.4	23.2	34.9	29.6	33.9
	About the same	45.8	50.8	42.5	40.9	35.6
	Poorer	5.4	12.4	5.4	4.4	3.4
	Cannot say	21.4	13.5	17.2	25.1	27.1
	N	961	185	372	362	236
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	Better	47.9	58.4	41.6	42.8	44.7
	About the same	37.6	30.3	35.1	30.7	25.7
	Poorer	6.4	6.5	13.4	9.1	8.0
	Cannot say	8.1	4.9	9.9	17.4	21.5
	N	960	185	373	362	237
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	Better	24.9	40.2	14.3	12.4	10.6
	About the same	29.1	31.5	28.0	23.4	12.3
	Poorer	23.6	16.8	32.1	18.5	8.9
	Cannot say	22.4	11.4	25.6	45.7	68.1
	N	959	184	371	363	235
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	Better	15.9	18.6	5.4	10.2	16.5
	About the same	37.3	33.3	30.0	28.1	28.4
	Poorer	24.5	34.4	47.8	33.6	18.2
	Cannot say	22.3	13.7	16.8	28.1	36.9
	N	963	183	370	363	236
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	Better	12.7	15.8	19.1	14.3	28.0
	About the same	50.3	56.3	51.1	41.8	33.9
	Poorer	9.5	9.8	11.6	12.1	8.1
	Cannot say	27.6	18.0	18.3	31.9	30.1
	N	961	183	372	364	236
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	Better	17.7	21.7	16.9	22.2	27.7
	About the same	42.2	38.0	43.7	35.7	33.2
	Poorer	16.4	26.6	18.5	12.5	10.6
	Cannot say	23.6	13.6	20.9	29.6	28.5
	N	961	184	373	361	235
Amount of funding	Better	34.8	10.3	35.4	40.5	50.2
	About the same	37.7	38.4	37.8	30.6	25.5
	Poorer	20.7	45.4	19.6	14.0	4.6
	Cannot say	6.9	5.9	7.2	14.9	19.7
	N	963	185	373	363	239
Flexibility of use of funds	Better	33.9	22.3	17.9	25.1	27.5
	About the same	36.3	44.0	41.2	35.9	30.9
	Poorer	20.5	29.3	29.9	18.2	16.9
	Cannot say	9.3	4.3	11.0	20.7	24.6
	N	961	184	374	362	236
Support for young scientists?	Better	32.3	33.5	23.1	36.2	41.6
	About the same	47.7	40.0	44.5	35.1	27.3
	Poorer	7.3	14.1	16.9	5.8	7.1
	Cannot say	12.7	12.4	15.5	22.9	23.9
	N	962	185	373	362	238
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	Better	28.9	42.7	66.2	46.6	43.0
	About the same	44.0	36.2	22.5	28.1	26.6
	Poorer	8.9	8.1	3.5	3.0	3.4
	Cannot say	18.2	13.0	7.8	22.3	27.0
	N	964	185	373	363	237

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had applied or received SNSF project funding as main applicant.

Table A 42 SNSF Project funding compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources, by institutional affiliation. Per cent.

(Q25) When comparing SNSF project funding with your other relevant funding sources, is SNSF project funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning		Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/UTE	Other	Total
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	Better	18.9	13.5	26.3	20.5	18.3
	About the same	42.9	43.6	31.6	40.9	42.0
	Poorer	16.2	24.0	12.9	14.4	17.7
	Cannot say	22.0	18.9	29.2	24.2	22.0
	N	1251	541	171	215	2178
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	Better	30.6	25.6	30.6	30.4	29.3
	About the same	42.0	48.7	38.2	44.9	43.6
	Poorer	5.4	7.8	5.9	2.3	5.7
	Cannot say	22.1	17.9	25.3	22.4	21.3
	N	1250	536	170	214	2170
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	Better	45.7	50.2	46.5	39.3	46.2
	About the same	32.6	38.3	22.9	39.3	33.9
	Poorer	8.9	5.4	11.8	9.8	8.3
	Cannot say	12.8	6.1	18.8	11.7	11.5
	N	1249	538	170	214	2171
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	Better	17.8	30.5	17.6	13.7	20.5
	About the same	25.7	32.9	15.9	20.8	26.2
	Poorer	22.7	20.1	9.4	30.7	21.8
	Cannot say	33.8	16.5	57.1	34.9	31.4
	N	1246	538	170	212	2166
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	Better	13.4	17.6	8.2	4.7	13.2
	About the same	32.3	37.4	21.8	34.6	32.9
	Poorer	29.2	25.0	44.1	37.9	30.2
	Cannot say	25.2	20.0	25.9	22.9	23.7
	N	1248	535	170	214	2167
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	Better	17.9	11.9	14.8	14.6	15.9
	About the same	44.5	53.9	42.6	53.5	47.6
	Poorer	9.9	11.5	11.2	8.9	10.3
	Cannot say	27.7	22.7	31.4	23.0	26.3
	N	1250	538	169	213	2170
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	Better	20.6	18.2	24.1	13.1	19.5
	About the same	39.2	41.2	32.9	46.7	39.9
	Poorer	15.2	19.1	19.4	15.9	16.6
	Cannot say	25.1	21.5	23.5	24.3	24.0
	N	1245	539	170	214	2168
Amount of funding	Better	41.1	23.0	33.9	34.6	35.4
	About the same	33.4	42.0	29.2	31.3	35.0
	Poorer	15.0	28.9	21.4	22.4	19.7
	Cannot say	10.5	6.1	15.5	11.7	9.9
	N	1254	540	168	214	2176
Flexibility of use of funds	Better	30.5	29.3	17.1	14.0	27.5
	About the same	34.4	41.4	40.0	40.9	37.2
	Poorer	21.1	22.0	20.6	29.3	22.1
	Cannot say	13.9	7.3	22.4	15.8	13.1
	N	1249	536	170	215	2170
Support for young scientists?	Better	33.1	32.3	37.1	24.7	32.4
	About the same	40.8	47.1	31.2	41.9	41.7
	Poorer	9.4	8.7	7.1	14.0	9.5
	Cannot say	16.8	11.9	24.7	19.5	16.5
	N	1249	539	170	215	2173
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	Better	40.6	28.3	67.1	55.3	41.1
	About the same	34.8	45.4	11.8	27.0	34.9
	Poorer	5.8	8.9	4.1	3.7	6.2
	Cannot say	18.8	17.4	17.1	14.0	17.8
	N	1249	540	170	215	2174

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had applied or received SNSF project funding as main applicant.
*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table A 43 SNSF project funding compared with respondents' other relevant funding sources, by position. Per cent.

(Q25) When comparing SNSF project funding with your other relevant funding sources, is SNSF project funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning		Full professor or similar	Associate professor or similar	Assistant professor or similar	Senior researcher*	Postdoc
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	Better	17.3	20.9	17.0	17.8	23.4
	About the same	45.8	39.9	40.3	39.5	38.3
	Poorer	17.4	18.7	19.9	18.0	10.6
	Cannot say	19.5	20.6	22.7	24.8	27.7
	N	897	316	176	646	47
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	Better	29.7	31.0	29.0	28.8	23.4
	About the same	43.8	44.0	47.2	42.6	40.4
	Poorer	6.5	6.6	4.5	4.8	2.1
	Cannot say	20.0	18.4	19.3	23.7	34.0
	N	891	316	176	645	47
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	Better	47.5	49.4	45.2	44.2	39.1
	About the same	33.1	32.6	37.9	35.8	23.9
	Poorer	8.5	8.9	9.0	7.6	13.0
	Cannot say	10.9	9.2	7.9	12.3	23.9
	N	895	316	177	642	46
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	Better	21.5	19.7	18.3	21.1	10.6
	About the same	26.1	29.2	32.0	25.0	14.9
	Poorer	20.5	26.0	25.1	21.4	19.1
	Cannot say	31.9	25.1	24.6	32.5	55.3
	N	893	315	175	640	47
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	Better	15.9	12.0	15.3	9.5	8.5
	About the same	32.3	37.0	35.0	31.8	17.0
	Poorer	30.5	28.5	33.3	32.6	21.3
	Cannot say	21.2	22.5	16.4	26.1	53.2
	N	891	316	177	641	47
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	Better	16.0	18.8	18.1	13.8	10.6
	About the same	45.9	50.3	49.7	50.2	36.2
	Poorer	12.9	7.6	7.3	9.0	4.3
	Cannot say	25.2	23.2	24.9	26.9	48.9
	N	893	314	177	643	47
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	Better	20.6	21.3	21.5	16.1	25.5
	About the same	41.4	39.7	41.2	39.9	17.0
	Poorer	15.7	17.1	16.4	17.5	21.3
	Cannot say	22.3	21.9	20.9	26.4	36.2
	N	892	315	177	644	47
Amount of funding	Better	34.5	34.4	43.5	34.4	44.7
	About the same	35.9	34.1	32.8	36.4	29.8
	Poorer	21.3	22.4	16.4	18.6	4.3
	Cannot say	8.4	9.1	7.3	10.7	21.3
	N	894	317	177	646	47
Flexibility of use of funds	Better	30.6	26.6	33.0	22.4	17.0
	About the same	36.8	41.1	38.1	37.4	25.5
	Poorer	21.5	21.8	20.5	25.0	14.9
	Cannot say	11.1	10.4	8.5	15.2	42.6
	N	892	316	176	644	47
Support for young scientists?	Better	34.2	34.8	30.9	28.6	30.4
	About the same	43.4	43.7	44.6	40.7	21.7
	Poorer	8.0	8.2	10.9	12.0	17.4
	Cannot say	14.4	13.3	13.7	18.8	30.4
	N	896	316	175	644	46
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	Better	37.8	39.6	40.7	46.4	40.4
	About the same	39.1	39.9	36.7	28.7	21.3
	Poorer	6.5	6.0	12.4	4.7	2.1
	Cannot say	16.6	14.6	10.2	20.3	36.2
	N	893	316	177	645	47

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had applied or received SNSF project funding as main applicant.

Table A 44 Budget cuts in SNSF Sinergia grants, per cent of projects.

(Q27) Was the original budget for your (most recent) Sinergia grant cut by SNSF?	Percent
No cut in original budget	20.7
Minor cut in original budget	39.8
Substantial cut in original budget	34.2
Cannot say	5.3
N	266

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was only posed to recipients of SNSF Sinergia grants.

Table A 45 Respondents' views on the required time to write SNSF applications and administer project grants – compared with alternative funding sources, by respondent's institutional affiliation. Per cent.

(Q31) When comparing SNSF funding with your alternative funding sources, is the SNSF funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning the required time to write applications and administer project grants?		Respondent's institutional affiliation				
		Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE	Other	Total
Local competitive funding	Better	15.9	12.3	20.0	11.1	14.8
	About the same	39.4	47.8	29.0	40.9	41.0
	Poorer	19.7	19.5	28.3	29.3	21.1
	Not relevant	25.0	20.4	22.8	18.8	23.1
	N	1293	579	145	208	2225
CTI	Better	5.8	11.8	11.2	4.4	7.6
	About the same	11.7	24.8	23.8	13.3	16.0
	Poorer	4.0	10.0	9.8	5.4	6.1
	Not relevant	78.5	53.5	55.2	76.8	70.3
	N	1253	561	143	203	2160
ERC	Better	34.8	39.4	21.8	24.6	34.2
	About the same	8.1	10.2	9.9	8.9	8.8
	Poorer	2.9	5.4	2.1	4.9	3.7
	Not relevant	54.3	45.0	66.2	61.6	53.3
	N	1251	571	142	203	2167
EU Framework Programme (other than ERC)	Better	42.3	55.5	29.6	35.0	44.2
	About the same	6.3	8.6	8.5	7.9	7.2
	Poorer	2.2	3.9	3.5	4.4	3.0
	Not relevant	49.2	32.0	58.5	52.7	45.6
	N	1254	568	142	203	2167
Private foundations	Better	7.1	7.5	9.3	10.6	7.7
	About the same	34.1	26.2	22.1	34.8	31.4
	Poorer	28.5	20.2	30.7	38.2	27.4
	Not relevant	30.4	46.1	37.9	16.4	33.6
	N	1271	560	140	207	2178

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had received SNSF Project funding and/or Sinergia grant.

*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table A 46 Respondents' views on the required time to write SNSF applications and administer project grants – compared with alternative funding sources, by field of research. Per cent.

(Q31) When comparing SNSF funding with your alternative funding sources, is the SNSF funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning the required time to write applications and administer project grants?		Natural sciences	Engineering and technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities
Local competitive funding	Better	14.2	16.3	12.1	14.9	21.3
	About the same	43.2	42.9	42.4	38.9	30.6
	Poorer	18.3	19.6	30.6	20.2	21.7
	Not relevant	24.3	21.2	15.0	26.0	26.4
	N	1081	184	340	342	235
CTI	Better	8.0	17.9	4.6	5.8	4.0
	About the same	15.3	41.3	12.8	11.5	9.4
	Poorer	5.3	18.5	6.7	3.9	2.2
	Not relevant	71.5	22.3	75.8	78.8	84.3
	N	1055	184	327	330	223
ERC	Better	37.7	43.2	26.9	29.1	29.8
	About the same	9.8	12.6	8.0	6.4	4.4
	Poorer	4.3	6.6	4.0	1.5	0.9
	Not relevant	48.2	37.7	61.2	62.9	64.9
	N	1064	183	327	326	225
EU Framework Programme (other than ERC)	Better	50.8	58.7	37.5	36.9	24.7
	About the same	7.3	10.3	5.9	6.4	4.5
	Poorer	3.1	7.1	4.0	0.6	0.4
	Not relevant	38.8	23.9	52.6	56.1	70.4
	N	1067	184	323	328	223
Private foundations	Better	7.0	7.8	8.1	6.6	12.3
	About the same	32.6	26.8	35.5	28.6	28.6
	Poorer	22.9	24.0	43.4	26.2	26.9
	Not relevant	37.5	41.3	13.0	38.6	32.2
	N	1066	179	332	332	227

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. These questions were only asked those who had received SNSF Project funding and/or Sinergia grant.

Table A 47 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By typical time on one research line. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?					
		2 years or less	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	More than 10 years
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	34.6	39.0	39.3	47.1	42.9	39.6
	Indifferent	46.2	45.7	40.9	37.9	38.9	34.2
	Less attractive	19.2	15.4	19.8	15.1	18.3	26.1
	N	130	598	646	272	175	371
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	68.2	74.9	84.3	86.2	84.5	85.2
	Indifferent	25.8	19.2	13.3	10.5	11.6	11.1
	Less attractive	6.1	5.9	2.4	3.3	3.9	3.7
	N	132	609	654	275	181	379
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	45.5	45.0	50.8	50.5	53.6	57.7
	Indifferent	34.8	30.0	29.3	30.5	22.3	22.3
	Less attractive	19.7	24.9	19.9	18.9	24.0	19.9
	N	132	606	648	275	179	376
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	71.2	57.2	50.2	43.1	44.4	41.9
	Indifferent	15.9	18.4	16.7	19.7	12.8	20.5
	Less attractive	12.9	24.4	33.0	37.2	42.8	37.6
	N	132	610	651	274	180	375
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	68.5	65.6	57.9	50.5	51.1	44.7
	Indifferent	29.2	29.2	32.7	39.9	39.4	44.9
	Less attractive	2.3	5.3	9.4	9.5	9.4	10.4
	N	130	607	651	273	180	376
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	17.7	21.0	19.1	19.4	21.7	18.4
	Indifferent	56.9	48.1	47.0	47.6	48.9	50.8
	Less attractive	25.4	30.9	33.9	33.0	29.4	30.9
	N	130	605	649	273	180	376
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	9.2	11.4	14.3	11.7	16.2	13.2
	Indifferent	56.2	54.0	50.2	56.6	56.4	51.9
	Less attractive	34.6	34.6	35.6	31.8	27.4	34.9
	N	130	604	652	274	179	378
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	31.5	35.8	33.1	34.7	37.2	39.4
	Indifferent	54.3	46.8	46.4	46.0	46.7	46.5
	Less attractive	14.2	17.4	20.5	19.3	16.1	14.1
	N	127	603	649	274	180	376
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	61.1	58.4	58.7	54.4	61.3	61.7
	Indifferent	29.8	26.2	27.3	31.8	26.5	23.2
	Less attractive	9.2	15.5	14.1	13.9	12.2	15.0
	N	131	608	653	274	181	379
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	67.7	66.0	67.5	64.0	75.7	70.4
	Indifferent	25.4	25.9	26.0	31.2	19.9	22.2
	Less attractive	6.9	8.1	6.4	4.8	4.4	7.4
	N	130	606	653	272	181	378
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	5.4	2.5	2.9	1.5	1.7	4.2
	Indifferent	22.3	19.9	14.4	14.7	9.9	11.9
	Less attractive	72.3	77.6	82.7	83.9	88.4	83.9
	N	130	607	654	273	181	378
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	46.6	39.7	41.5	41.8	42.2	42.1
	Indifferent	35.9	33.3	35.0	30.8	31.7	36.5
	Less attractive	17.6	27.0	23.5	27.5	26.1	21.4
	N	131	607	655	273	180	378
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	6.9	7.6	5.2	5.9	7.8	4.5
	Indifferent	31.5	25.1	18.8	22.9	21.7	22.0
	Less attractive	61.5	67.3	75.9	71.2	70.6	73.5
	N	130	605	648	271	180	377
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	63.6	61.0	54.9	47.8	58.0	45.1
	Indifferent	25.0	27.3	30.2	35.7	29.3	35.4
	Less attractive	11.4	11.7	14.9	16.5	12.7	19.5
	N	132	608	652	272	181	379
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	12.1	11.9	15.1	15.8	12.2	19.0
	Indifferent	33.3	35.1	35.6	40.8	37.0	43.4
	Less attractive	54.5	53.0	49.3	43.4	50.8	37.6
	N	132	606	651	272	181	378
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	44.7	39.1	39.0	37.7	41.4	33.8
	Indifferent	39.4	38.7	39.0	35.2	33.1	40.4
	Less attractive	15.9	22.2	22.1	27.1	25.4	25.9
	N	132	608	652	273	181	379

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 48 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By 'Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?'. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Different research topics/lines in parallel					Total
		Yes, always	Yes, often	No, seldom	No, never	Other	
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	41.4	36.5	44.9	50.0	40.0	40.1
	Indifferent	38.8	45.4	40.8	42.9	60.0	41.1
	Less attractive	19.8	18.2	14.3	7.1	0.0	18.8
	N	1418	765	147	14	5	2349
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	81.2	82.1	78.9	78.6	80.0	81.3
	Indifferent	15.0	14.4	15.8	14.3	20.0	14.9
	Less attractive	3.8	3.5	5.3	7.1	0.0	3.8
	N	1443	776	152	14	5	2390
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	50.6	48.3	53.6	61.5	40.0	50.1
	Indifferent	27.4	31.9	25.2	23.1	40.0	28.7
	Less attractive	22.0	19.7	21.2	15.4	20.0	21.2
	N	1436	770	151	13	5	2375
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	48.6	54.1	50.3	50.0	40.0	50.5
	Indifferent	18.0	17.7	19.9	21.4	40.0	18.1
	Less attractive	33.3	28.2	29.8	28.6	20.0	31.4
	N	1435	776	151	14	5	2381
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	54.6	61.0	50.7	71.4	80.0	56.6
	Indifferent	36.5	32.7	42.7	14.3	20.0	35.5
	Less attractive	8.9	6.3	6.7	14.3	0.0	8.0
	N	1432	774	150	14	5	2375
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	17.8	20.1	24.0	42.9	20.0	19.1
	Indifferent	48.6	48.6	57.3	42.9	60.0	49.1
	Less attractive	33.6	31.3	18.7	14.3	20.0	31.8
	N	1433	772	150	14	5	2374
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	11.6	13.2	16.1	28.6	0.0	12.5
	Indifferent	52.1	53.9	61.7	50.0	60.0	53.3
	Less attractive	36.3	32.9	22.1	21.4	40.0	34.2
	N	1435	774	149	14	5	2377
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	34.7	34.5	38.0	42.9	40.0	34.9
	Indifferent	46.8	48.6	54.0	35.7	40.0	47.7
	Less attractive	18.5	16.9	8.0	21.4	20.0	17.3
	N	1431	770	150	14	5	2370
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	58.5	58.3	58.9	71.4	80.0	58.6
	Indifferent	27.1	28.0	25.2	14.3	20.0	27.2
	Less attractive	14.4	13.7	15.9	14.3	0.0	14.2
	N	1440	774	151	14	5	2384
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	67.9	67.3	63.2	78.6	80.0	67.5
	Indifferent	25.4	26.3	27.6	21.4	20.0	25.8
	Less attractive	6.6	6.4	9.2	0.0	0.0	6.6
	N	1435	771	152	14	5	2377
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	2.8	2.1	5.9	7.1	0.0	2.8
	Indifferent	14.7	16.5	20.4	7.1	0.0	15.6
	Less attractive	82.5	81.4	73.7	85.7	100.0	81.7
	N	1436	775	152	14	5	2382
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	43.3	39.4	34.7	50.0	0.0	41.4
	Indifferent	33.4	35.9	38.7	14.3	80.0	34.5
	Less attractive	23.3	24.7	26.7	35.7	20.0	24.0
	N	1440	774	150	14	5	2383
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	5.8	5.6	5.9	21.4	0.0	5.8
	Indifferent	21.7	24.0	26.3	21.4	20.0	22.7
	Less attractive	72.5	70.5	67.8	57.1	80.0	71.4
	N	1427	772	152	14	5	2370
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	53.9	55.3	55.6	71.4	50.0	54.6
	Indifferent	30.5	32.4	29.1	21.4	25.0	31.0
	Less attractive	15.6	12.3	15.2	7.1	25.0	14.5
	N	1440	772	151	14	4	2381
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	16.0	12.1	12.6	14.3	40.0	14.6
	Indifferent	37.1	37.7	36.4	28.6	20.0	37.1
	Less attractive	46.9	50.2	51.0	57.1	40.0	48.3
	N	1438	769	151	14	5	2377
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	39.2	38.6	33.8	21.4	40.0	38.6
	Indifferent	38.4	37.6	39.1	64.3	60.0	38.4
	Less attractive	22.4	23.8	27.2	14.3	0.0	23.1
	N	1437	774	151	14	5	2381

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 49 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By 'To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?'. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research: Always/ nearly always	Often	Seldom/ never	Not applicable	Total
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	47.3	38.8	39.8	36.1	40.0
	Indifferent	30.6	38.2	44.0	49.5	41.1
	Less attractive	22.1	23.0	16.2	14.4	18.9
	N	222	748	1281	97	2348
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	81.9	81.6	80.7	85.6	81.3
	Indifferent	12.8	15.0	15.4	12.4	14.9
	Less attractive	5.3	3.4	3.9	2.1	3.8
	N	227	766	1299	97	2389
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	52.4	51.1	49.0	53.2	50.1
	Indifferent	32.4	28.0	28.9	23.4	28.8
	Less attractive	15.1	20.9	22.1	23.4	21.1
	N	225	760	1296	94	2375
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	41.4	46.4	53.6	63.5	50.5
	Indifferent	17.2	19.4	17.7	14.6	18.1
	Less attractive	41.4	34.2	28.7	21.9	31.4
	N	227	763	1294	96	2380
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	53.3	53.4	58.2	69.8	56.7
	Indifferent	37.8	38.6	34.2	20.8	35.4
	Less attractive	8.9	8.0	7.7	9.4	8.0
	N	225	762	1291	96	2374
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	20.5	17.9	19.4	21.1	19.1
	Indifferent	48.2	47.5	50.3	47.4	49.1
	Less attractive	31.2	34.6	30.3	31.6	31.8
	N	224	760	1292	95	2371
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	9.7	10.9	13.8	12.6	12.5
	Indifferent	50.4	52.3	54.4	53.7	53.3
	Less attractive	39.8	36.8	31.7	33.7	34.2
	N	226	761	1293	95	2375
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	38.7	36.6	33.0	37.9	34.9
	Indifferent	44.4	46.1	49.5	45.3	47.7
	Less attractive	16.9	17.4	17.5	16.8	17.4
	N	225	760	1287	95	2367
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	56.4	57.4	59.4	60.0	58.5
	Indifferent	30.8	29.0	25.9	23.2	27.3
	Less attractive	12.8	13.6	14.7	16.8	14.2
	N	227	766	1296	95	2384
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	65.9	66.0	68.9	66.7	67.6
	Indifferent	27.4	27.4	24.3	30.2	25.8
	Less attractive	6.6	6.7	6.8	3.1	6.6
	N	226	764	1291	96	2377
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	5.3	2.1	2.6	4.2	2.8
	Indifferent	16.3	13.7	15.9	25.0	15.6
	Less attractive	78.4	84.2	81.5	70.8	81.6
	N	227	764	1294	96	2381
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	45.1	41.9	40.2	43.8	41.4
	Indifferent	27.9	35.5	35.5	30.2	34.6
	Less attractive	27.0	22.6	24.3	26.0	24.1
	N	226	766	1294	96	2382
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	4.9	5.0	6.1	11.6	5.8
	Indifferent	19.0	22.2	23.6	25.3	22.8
	Less attractive	76.1	72.8	70.3	63.2	71.4
	N	226	762	1286	95	2369
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	47.6	51.2	56.8	67.0	54.6
	Indifferent	35.2	33.7	28.9	26.8	31.0
	Less attractive	17.2	15.1	14.3	6.2	14.5
	N	227	762	1295	97	2381
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	18.2	15.6	13.8	7.3	14.6
	Indifferent	32.0	40.2	36.5	34.4	37.2
	Less attractive	49.8	44.2	49.7	58.3	48.3
	N	225	761	1295	96	2377
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	35.8	37.3	39.6	40.2	38.5
	Indifferent	39.8	38.7	37.6	45.4	38.5
	Less attractive	24.3	24.0	22.8	14.4	23.0
	N	226	762	1296	97	2381

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 50 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By institutional affiliation. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Cantonal university	ETH domain	UAS/ UTE*	Other	Total
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	38.9	42.7	35.9	42.8	40.0
	Indifferent	40.5	40.2	45.9	43.2	41.1
	Less attractive	20.6	17.1	18.2	14.0	18.9
	N	1367	595	170	222	2354
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	80.9	85.8	67.4	82.2	81.3
	Indifferent	15.2	9.9	27.3	16.9	14.9
	Less attractive	3.9	4.3	5.2	0.9	3.8
	N	1392	606	172	225	2395
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	50.7	49.2	44.1	54.0	50.1
	Indifferent	27.1	30.2	32.4	32.1	28.7
	Less attractive	22.3	20.6	23.5	13.8	21.1
	N	1384	602	170	224	2380
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	52.1	38.0	71.2	59.1	50.5
	Indifferent	18.4	18.9	14.1	16.9	18.1
	Less attractive	29.5	43.1	14.7	24.0	31.4
	N	1388	603	170	225	2386
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications, etc.)	More attractive	57.6	47.8	75.3	60.3	56.6
	Indifferent	34.1	42.1	21.2	36.6	35.4
	Less attractive	8.3	10.1	3.5	3.1	7.9
	N	1382	604	170	224	2380
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	19.9	15.6	22.2	21.1	19.1
	Indifferent	48.5	51.4	45.5	49.8	49.1
	Less attractive	31.6	32.9	32.3	29.1	31.8
	N	1386	601	167	223	2377
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	13.0	12.3	6.6	14.7	12.5
	Indifferent	53.0	54.3	59.6	47.6	53.3
	Less attractive	34.0	33.4	33.7	37.8	34.2
	N	1388	602	166	225	2381
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	34.6	33.5	31.7	43.0	34.9
	Indifferent	48.3	49.3	46.1	40.8	47.7
	Less attractive	17.0	17.2	22.2	16.1	17.4
	N	1380	603	167	223	2373
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	58.3	60.1	54.1	60.0	58.6
	Indifferent	27.1	27.2	31.2	25.3	27.2
	Less attractive	14.7	12.7	14.7	14.7	14.2
	N	1390	604	170	225	2389
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	66.7	72.5	60.9	64.6	67.6
	Indifferent	25.8	23.5	29.0	29.1	25.8
	Less attractive	7.4	4.0	10.1	6.3	6.6
	N	1386	604	169	223	2382
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	2.6	1.8	4.7	4.9	2.8
	Indifferent	16.0	13.1	23.5	13.8	15.6
	Less attractive	81.4	85.1	71.8	81.3	81.7
	N	1388	604	170	225	2387
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	41.3	45.0	32.9	38.7	41.4
	Indifferent	34.0	36.2	30.0	36.9	34.5
	Less attractive	24.7	18.8	37.1	24.4	24.1
	N	1391	602	170	225	2388
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	5.9	3.8	12.4	5.8	5.8
	Indifferent	23.0	19.2	31.4	24.9	22.8
	Less attractive	71.2	77.0	56.2	69.3	71.4
	N	1381	600	169	225	2375
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	52.0	51.8	73.4	64.4	54.7
	Indifferent	31.3	32.9	22.5	29.3	30.9
	Less attractive	16.7	15.3	4.1	6.2	14.5
	N	1390	602	169	225	2386
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	15.4	16.6	7.7	9.0	14.5
	Indifferent	37.7	38.2	26.6	38.3	37.1
	Less attractive	46.9	45.2	65.7	52.7	48.4
	N	1387	604	169	222	2382
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	38.3	40.0	39.3	35.6	38.5
	Indifferent	37.5	38.6	42.9	40.4	38.4
	Less attractive	24.2	21.4	17.9	24.0	23.1
	N	1390	603	168	225	2386

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

*Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education.

Table A 51 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By position. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Full professor or similar	Associate professor or similar	Assistant professor or similar	Senior researcher*	Postdoc
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	39.7	42.1	47.4	39.7	31.1
	Indifferent	41.6	37.4	35.3	41.4	57.8
	Less attractive	18.6	20.5	17.4	18.9	11.1
	N	1004	356	190	665	45
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	78.1	83.5	87.1	85.2	77.1
	Indifferent	16.8	14.0	12.9	11.2	20.8
	Less attractive	5.1	2.5	0.0	3.6	2.1
	N	1019	363	194	676	48
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	50.9	53.2	48.4	48.6	46.8
	Indifferent	27.5	30.6	31.1	29.4	27.7
	Less attractive	21.6	16.3	20.5	22.0	25.5
	N	1012	363	190	673	47
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	45.9	44.0	52.6	56.9	75.0
	Indifferent	19.4	20.2	15.1	16.7	10.4
	Less attractive	34.7	35.7	32.3	26.4	14.6
	N	1016	361	192	675	48
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	54.6	52.2	61.7	58.6	66.7
	Indifferent	36.3	38.0	33.2	35.0	31.2
	Less attractive	9.1	9.8	5.2	6.4	2.1
	N	1014	358	193	672	48
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	19.6	20.7	13.4	18.7	16.7
	Indifferent	48.7	49.6	54.1	49.3	47.9
	Less attractive	31.7	29.7	32.5	32.0	35.4
	N	1010	357	194	675	48
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	12.7	15.3	10.3	11.3	8.3
	Indifferent	53.3	51.3	55.7	55.4	50.0
	Less attractive	34.0	33.4	34.0	33.3	41.7
	N	1012	359	194	675	48
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	31.6	38.1	29.0	38.9	25.0
	Indifferent	50.0	46.5	51.8	44.8	60.4
	Less attractive	18.4	15.4	19.2	16.3	14.6
	N	1008	357	193	674	48
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	58.8	64.4	52.3	57.2	58.3
	Indifferent	26.4	25.1	31.1	29.5	22.9
	Less attractive	14.8	10.5	16.6	13.3	18.8
	N	1017	362	193	675	48
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	68.2	73.1	63.2	65.4	62.5
	Indifferent	25.0	22.8	28.0	28.3	20.8
	Less attractive	6.8	4.2	8.8	6.3	16.7
	N	1016	360	193	671	48
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	8.3
	Indifferent	15.7	12.4	18.7	15.6	27.1
	Less attractive	81.8	85.1	78.8	81.7	64.6
	N	1017	362	193	673	48
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	42.1	44.0	44.6	38.0	36.2
	Indifferent	31.9	32.1	39.4	38.6	46.8
	Less attractive	26.1	23.9	16.1	23.3	17.0
	N	1017	364	193	673	47
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.5	10.4
	Indifferent	21.1	22.2	22.8	25.3	29.2
	Less attractive	73.0	72.0	72.0	69.2	60.4
	N	1011	361	193	668	48
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	45.7	48.1	57.3	68.0	79.2
	Indifferent	35.9	36.7	27.6	23.1	10.4
	Less attractive	18.4	15.3	15.1	8.9	10.4
	N	1017	360	192	676	48
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	18.9	14.5	13.5	8.9	12.5
	Indifferent	40.5	40.1	38.0	31.9	25.0
	Less attractive	40.5	45.4	48.4	59.3	62.5
	N	1014	359	192	675	48
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	34.8	39.6	42.0	42.1	41.7
	Indifferent	40.9	38.0	37.3	36.0	35.4
	Less attractive	24.3	22.4	20.7	21.9	22.9
	N	1015	361	193	675	48

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 52 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By field of research. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Natural sciences	Engineering and technology	Medical sciences	Social sciences	Humanities
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	42.5	49.3	42.6	32.0	28.8
	Indifferent	37.5	34.8	39.8	48.7	52.0
	Less attractive	19.9	15.9	17.6	19.3	19.2
	N	1114	201	387	378	250
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	80.6	89.2	83.6	78.6	78.5
	Indifferent	15.3	6.9	13.6	17.7	17.2
	Less attractive	4.1	3.9	2.8	3.6	4.3
	N	1135	204	390	384	256
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	49.6	47.8	56.3	46.1	50.4
	Indifferent	27.7	29.9	28.7	33.4	25.6
	Less attractive	22.7	22.4	15.0	20.5	24.0
	N	1132	201	387	380	254
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	42.0	36.9	54.1	67.5	66.8
	Indifferent	20.2	21.7	15.4	14.9	14.6
	Less attractive	37.8	41.4	30.5	17.5	18.6
	N	1133	203	390	382	253
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	50.1	44.1	55.6	68.8	78.6
	Indifferent	40.1	41.2	37.5	28.3	17.9
	Less attractive	9.8	14.7	7.0	2.9	3.6
	N	1134	204	387	378	252
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	18.6	14.3	25.8	16.6	18.1
	Indifferent	54.0	42.9	44.8	43.3	48.0
	Less attractive	27.4	42.9	29.4	40.1	33.9
	N	1128	203	388	379	254
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	13.7	13.7	12.9	8.7	11.4
	Indifferent	56.8	42.2	47.8	52.5	56.7
	Less attractive	29.5	44.1	39.3	38.8	31.9
	N	1130	204	389	379	254
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	35.3	29.6	46.6	26.7	32.3
	Indifferent	48.4	51.2	41.2	52.8	43.3
	Less attractive	16.4	19.2	12.2	20.5	24.4
	N	1131	203	386	375	254
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	58.2	65.7	60.3	52.8	61.2
	Indifferent	29.5	26.5	24.1	26.0	23.9
	Less attractive	12.3	7.8	15.6	21.3	14.9
	N	1134	204	390	381	255
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	68.1	71.3	69.6	60.4	70.1
	Indifferent	26.9	25.2	22.9	26.8	24.0
	Less attractive	5.0	3.5	7.5	12.9	5.9
	N	1132	202	388	381	254
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	2.6	3.9	3.6	3.1	1.2
	Indifferent	11.3	13.3	19.8	21.2	20.0
	Less attractive	86.2	82.8	76.5	75.7	78.8
	N	1134	203	388	382	255
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	45.2	42.2	37.8	32.6	41.3
	Indifferent	33.2	37.3	35.5	37.6	32.7
	Less attractive	21.6	20.6	26.7	29.8	26.0
	N	1133	204	389	383	254
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	4.4	5.9	6.7	8.9	6.7
	Indifferent	19.7	20.2	27.1	27.0	24.3
	Less attractive	76.0	73.9	66.1	64.0	69.0
	N	1124	203	387	381	255
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	46.2	59.6	64.3	63.8	57.9
	Indifferent	34.0	29.1	25.2	25.0	36.6
	Less attractive	19.7	11.3	10.5	11.2	5.5
	N	1131	203	389	384	254
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	18.7	13.2	10.9	11.0	8.7
	Indifferent	40.2	35.8	35.0	28.8	40.2
	Less attractive	41.0	51.0	54.1	60.2	51.2
	N	1131	204	386	382	254
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	37.6	47.0	35.4	38.2	40.8
	Indifferent	37.5	32.7	37.2	43.2	41.2
	Less attractive	24.9	20.3	27.4	18.6	18.0
	N	1132	202	390	382	255

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 53 Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By age. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you		Age 26-35	Age 36-45	Age 46-55	Age 56-65	Above 65
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	More attractive	38.3	44.7	37.9	37.8	26.3
	Indifferent	46.9	37.9	40.7	45.5	50.0
	Less attractive	14.8	17.4	21.5	16.7	23.7
	N	81	763	922	490	38
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	More attractive	82.9	82.6	82.0	78.6	64.1
	Indifferent	14.6	14.8	14.1	16.7	25.6
	Less attractive	2.4	2.6	3.9	4.8	10.3
	N	82	770	937	504	39
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	More attractive	43.2	48.4	52.5	49.2	46.2
	Indifferent	29.6	31.3	26.4	29.8	25.6
	Less attractive	27.2	20.3	21.1	21.0	28.2
	N	81	764	934	500	39
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	More attractive	63.4	54.2	49.3	46.4	41.0
	Indifferent	7.3	17.6	17.2	21.1	28.2
	Less attractive	29.3	28.2	33.5	32.5	30.8
	N	82	766	934	502	39
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications	More attractive	69.5	58.7	56.8	51.4	61.5
	Indifferent	29.3	34.4	34.4	39.8	28.2
	Less attractive	1.2	6.9	8.8	8.8	10.3
	N	82	765	933	500	39
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	More attractive	15.9	17.4	19.2	21.8	32.4
	Indifferent	54.9	51.4	47.9	48.1	45.9
	Less attractive	29.3	31.2	32.9	30.1	21.6
	N	82	765	933	499	37
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	More attractive	9.8	10.8	12.5	14.3	26.3
	Indifferent	62.2	54.8	50.7	55.8	42.1
	Less attractive	28.0	34.4	36.8	29.9	31.6
	N	82	765	933	502	38
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	More attractive	31.7	32.3	35.8	37.0	54.1
	Indifferent	56.1	49.2	46.1	48.2	27.0
	Less attractive	12.2	18.6	18.1	14.8	18.9
	N	82	765	928	500	37
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	More attractive	61.7	54.7	60.1	60.6	61.5
	Indifferent	28.4	30.9	25.9	25.2	20.5
	Less attractive	9.9	14.3	14.0	14.1	17.9
	N	81	769	935	503	39
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	More attractive	70.4	64.5	68.4	69.6	74.4
	Indifferent	23.5	28.5	25.0	24.5	23.1
	Less attractive	6.2	7.0	6.7	6.0	2.6
	N	81	768	929	503	39
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	More attractive	3.7	3.4	2.8	1.4	5.1
	Indifferent	21.0	17.4	13.2	16.9	15.4
	Less attractive	75.3	79.2	84.0	81.7	79.5
	N	81	770	932	503	39
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	More attractive	43.2	42.7	40.6	39.8	48.7
	Indifferent	32.1	36.0	34.0	34.0	25.6
	Less attractive	24.7	21.3	25.4	26.2	25.6
	N	81	769	933	503	39
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	More attractive	8.6	5.0	6.1	6.6	5.3
	Indifferent	27.2	22.8	21.8	23.2	18.4
	Less attractive	64.2	72.2	72.1	70.3	76.3
	N	81	767	925	501	38
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	More attractive	68.8	58.3	54.2	49.3	55.3
	Indifferent	17.5	29.0	30.8	35.0	34.2
	Less attractive	13.8	12.7	14.9	15.7	10.5
	N	80	765	937	503	38
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	More attractive	10.0	12.6	14.2	17.8	20.5
	Indifferent	28.8	36.3	36.1	41.7	28.2
	Less attractive	61.2	51.2	49.6	40.5	51.3
	N	80	764	935	501	39
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	More attractive	41.2	39.3	37.9	37.6	48.7
	Indifferent	40.0	38.4	38.2	39.4	25.6
	Less attractive	18.8	22.2	23.9	22.9	25.6
	N	80	765	937	502	39

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 54 NUMBER OF GRANTS, GRANT SIZE AND RUNNING TIME. Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By field of research. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you	Field of research	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive	N
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	Computer and information sciences	44.2	34.7	21.1	95
	Physical sciences	41.9	39.3	18.8	191
	Chemical sciences	45.0	34.2	20.8	120
	Earth/related environmental sciences	34.7	38.0	27.3	150
	Biological sciences	47.4	35.6	17.0	466
	Other natural sciences	27.2	50.0	22.8	92
	Engineering and technology	49.3	34.8	15.9	201
	Basic medicine	50.8	32.6	16.7	132
	Clinical medicine	40.2	45.7	14.1	92
	Health sciences	36.6	43.1	20.3	123
	(Other) medical sciences	40.0	40.0	20.0	40
	Psychology	33.7	41.9	24.4	86
	Economics and business	38.8	43.3	17.9	67
	(Other) social sciences	29.3	52.9	17.8	225
	Languages and literature	20.7	61.0	18.3	82
	(Other) humanities	32.7	47.6	19.6	168
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	Computer and information sciences	85.6	10.3	4.1	97
	Physical sciences	69.8	22.4	7.8	192
	Chemical sciences	76.0	20.7	3.3	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	74.2	18.7	7.1	155
	Biological sciences	87.8	10.9	1.3	477
	Other natural sciences	77.4	16.1	6.5	93
	Engineering and technology	89.2	6.9	3.9	204
	Basic medicine	85.6	12.1	2.3	132
	Clinical medicine	80.4	16.3	3.3	92
	Health sciences	84.0	12.0	4.0	125
	(Other) medical sciences	82.9	17.1	0.0	41
	Psychology	84.1	14.8	1.1	88
	Economics and business	71.2	19.7	9.1	66
	(Other) social sciences	78.7	18.3	3.0	230
	Languages and literature	81.9	13.3	4.8	83
	(Other) humanities	76.9	19.1	4.0	173
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	Computer and information sciences	51.5	23.7	24.7	97
	Physical sciences	50.5	24.5	25.0	192
	Chemical sciences	51.7	26.7	21.7	120
	Earth/related environmental sciences	40.0	32.9	27.1	155
	Biological sciences	51.6	27.6	20.8	475
	Other natural sciences	49.5	31.2	19.4	93
	Engineering and technology	47.8	29.9	22.4	201
	Basic medicine	62.6	24.4	13.0	131
	Clinical medicine	48.4	34.1	17.6	91
	Health sciences	56.5	29.8	13.7	124
	(Other) medical sciences	53.7	26.8	19.5	41
	Psychology	59.1	26.1	14.8	88
	Economics and business	45.5	22.7	31.8	66
	(Other) social sciences	41.2	39.4	19.5	226
	Languages and literature	51.8	22.9	25.3	83
	(Other) humanities	49.7	26.9	23.4	171
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	Computer and information sciences	41.2	19.6	39.2	97
	Physical sciences	35.8	25.9	38.3	193
	Chemical sciences	41.7	15.8	42.5	120
	Earth/related environmental sciences	51.6	21.3	27.1	155
	Biological sciences	40.3	17.2	42.4	476
	Other natural sciences	48.9	28.3	22.8	92
	Engineering and technology	36.9	21.7	41.4	203
	Basic medicine	45.5	17.4	37.1	132
	Clinical medicine	59.8	12.0	28.3	92
	Health sciences	52.0	20.0	28.0	125
	(Other) medical sciences	75.6	2.4	22.0	41
	Psychology	73.6	9.2	17.2	87
	Economics and business	83.6	6.0	10.4	67
	(Other) social sciences	60.5	19.7	19.7	228
	Languages and literature	68.7	15.7	15.7	83
	(Other) humanities	65.9	14.1	20.0	170
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications, etc.)	Computer and information sciences	43.3	44.3	12.4	97
	Physical sciences	54.6	36.6	8.8	194
	Chemical sciences	38.8	52.9	8.3	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	60.0	29.7	10.3	155
	Biological sciences	46.6	42.4	11.0	474
	Other natural sciences	63.4	32.3	4.3	93
	Engineering and technology	44.1	41.2	14.7	204
	Basic medicine	47.0	42.4	10.6	132
	Clinical medicine	59.6	38.2	2.2	89
	Health sciences	63.2	28.8	8.0	125
	(Other) medical sciences	51.2	46.3	2.4	41
	Psychology	59.3	37.2	3.5	86
	Economics and business	69.7	27.3	3.0	66
	(Other) social sciences	72.1	25.2	2.7	226
	Languages and literature	80.7	16.9	2.4	83
	(Other) humanities	77.5	18.3	4.1	169

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 55 RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANTS. Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By field of research. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you	Field of research	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive	N
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	Computer and information sciences	16.5	45.4	38.1	97
	Physical sciences	14.1	56.2	29.7	192
	Chemical sciences	22.3	57.0	20.7	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	12.3	48.1	39.6	154
	Biological sciences	23.5	54.7	21.8	472
	Other natural sciences	10.9	60.9	28.3	92
	Engineering and technology	14.3	42.9	42.9	203
	Basic medicine	29.8	49.6	20.6	131
	Clinical medicine	16.3	40.2	43.5	92
	Health sciences	30.6	43.5	25.8	124
	(Other) medical sciences	19.5	43.9	36.6	41
	Psychology	11.5	42.5	46.0	87
	Economics and business	16.7	48.5	34.8	66
	(Other) social sciences	18.6	42.0	39.4	226
	Languages and literature	22.9	44.6	32.5	83
	(Other) humanities	15.8	49.7	34.5	171
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	Computer and information sciences	15.5	52.6	32.0	97
	Physical sciences	12.4	59.6	28.0	193
	Chemical sciences	15.8	60.0	24.2	120
	Earth/related environmental sciences	7.7	44.5	47.7	155
	Biological sciences	15.9	60.0	24.2	472
	Other natural sciences	10.8	55.9	33.3	93
	Engineering and technology	13.7	42.2	44.1	204
	Basic medicine	15.9	54.5	29.5	132
	Clinical medicine	8.7	39.1	52.2	92
	Health sciences	14.5	46.8	38.7	124
	(Other) medical sciences	7.3	48.8	43.9	41
	Psychology	5.7	49.4	44.8	87
	Economics and business	12.1	51.5	36.4	66
	(Other) social sciences	8.8	54.0	37.2	226
	Languages and literature	13.3	54.2	32.5	83
	(Other) humanities	10.5	57.9	31.6	171
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	Computer and information sciences	25.8	46.4	27.8	97
	Physical sciences	23.7	62.4	13.9	194
	Chemical sciences	35.5	48.8	15.7	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	37.9	43.1	19.0	153
	Biological sciences	42.7	44.8	12.5	473
	Other natural sciences	26.9	47.3	25.8	93
	Engineering and technology	29.6	51.2	19.2	203
	Basic medicine	54.6	39.2	6.2	130
	Clinical medicine	40.7	40.7	18.7	91
	Health sciences	46.0	40.3	13.7	124
	(Other) medical sciences	36.6	51.2	12.2	41
	Psychology	31.0	52.9	16.1	87
	Economics and business	31.2	46.9	21.9	64
	(Other) social sciences	23.7	54.5	21.9	224
	Languages and literature	28.9	47.0	24.1	83
	(Other) humanities	33.9	41.5	24.6	171

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 56 PROPOSALS. Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By field of research. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you	Field of research	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive	N
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	Computer and information sciences	66.0	21.6	12.4	97
	Physical sciences	60.6	29.5	9.8	193
	Chemical sciences	61.2	27.3	11.6	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	47.1	35.5	17.4	155
	Biological sciences	56.1	30.9	13.0	476
	Other natural sciences	70.7	23.9	5.4	92
	Engineering and technology	65.7	26.5	7.8	204
	Basic medicine	65.9	24.2	9.8	132
	Clinical medicine	55.4	26.1	18.5	92
	Health sciences	54.4	24.8	20.8	125
	(Other) medical sciences	70.7	17.1	12.2	41
	Psychology	43.2	26.1	30.7	88
	Economics and business	57.6	28.8	13.6	66
	(Other) social sciences	55.1	25.1	19.8	227
	Languages and literature	56.6	26.5	16.9	83
	(Other) humanities	63.4	22.7	14.0	172
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	Computer and information sciences	76.0	17.7	6.2	96
	Physical sciences	71.0	24.4	4.7	193
	Chemical sciences	66.9	28.9	4.1	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	61.9	31.6	6.5	155
	Biological sciences	65.4	29.1	5.5	474
	Other natural sciences	79.6	19.4	1.1	93
	Engineering and technology	71.3	25.2	3.5	202
	Basic medicine	77.3	18.2	4.5	132
	Clinical medicine	60.9	27.2	12.0	92
	Health sciences	65.0	27.6	7.3	123
	(Other) medical sciences	78.0	14.6	7.3	41
	Psychology	54.5	27.3	18.2	88
	Economics and business	65.2	28.8	6.1	66
	(Other) social sciences	61.2	26.0	12.8	227
	Languages and literature	66.3	25.3	8.4	83
	(Other) humanities	71.9	23.4	4.7	171
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	Computer and information sciences	2.1	12.4	85.6	97
	Physical sciences	4.1	8.3	87.6	193
	Chemical sciences	0.8	14.0	85.1	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	0.6	11.6	87.7	155
	Biological sciences	3.6	11.2	85.3	475
	Other natural sciences	0.0	12.9	87.1	93
	Engineering and technology	3.9	13.3	82.8	203
	Basic medicine	0.8	16.8	82.4	131
	Clinical medicine	5.5	23.1	71.4	91
	Health sciences	4.0	23.2	72.8	125
	(Other) medical sciences	7.3	12.2	80.5	41
	Psychology	5.7	19.3	75.0	88
	Economics and business	4.5	15.2	80.3	66
	(Other) social sciences	1.8	23.7	74.6	228
	Languages and literature	1.2	20.5	78.3	83
	(Other) humanities	1.2	19.8	79.1	172
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	Computer and information sciences	41.7	39.6	18.8	96
	Physical sciences	47.2	34.7	18.1	193
	Chemical sciences	47.1	31.4	21.5	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	43.9	39.4	16.8	155
	Biological sciences	45.1	29.3	25.7	475
	Other natural sciences	45.2	35.5	19.4	93
	Engineering and technology	42.2	37.3	20.6	204
	Basic medicine	38.6	36.4	25.0	132
	Clinical medicine	39.1	30.4	30.4	92
	Health sciences	35.5	34.7	29.8	124
	(Other) medical sciences	39.0	46.3	14.6	41
	Psychology	30.7	42.0	27.3	88
	Economics and business	56.1	30.3	13.6	66
	(Other) social sciences	26.6	38.0	35.4	229
	Languages and literature	30.1	41.0	28.9	83
	(Other) humanities	46.8	28.7	24.6	171
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	Computer and information sciences	4.1	27.8	68.0	97
	Physical sciences	7.4	17.9	74.7	190
	Chemical sciences	4.2	15.0	80.8	120
	Earth/related environmental sciences	2.6	16.9	80.5	154
	Biological sciences	3.6	19.6	76.8	470
	Other natural sciences	5.4	25.8	68.8	93
	Engineering and technology	5.9	20.2	73.9	203
	Basic medicine	6.9	27.7	65.4	130
	Clinical medicine	4.4	23.1	72.5	91
	Health sciences	8.0	28.8	63.2	125
	(Other) medical sciences	7.3	29.3	63.4	41
	Psychology	9.1	23.9	67.0	88
	Economics and business	1.5	22.7	75.8	66
	(Other) social sciences	11.0	29.5	59.5	227
	Languages and literature	6.0	32.5	61.4	83
	(Other) humanities	7.0	20.3	72.7	172

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 57 SNSF's EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. By field of research. Per cent.

(Q32) Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you	Field of research	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive	N
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	Computer and information sciences	54.6	21.6	23.7	97
	Physical sciences	40.6	41.7	17.7	192
	Chemical sciences	45.5	33.9	20.7	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	56.1	31.6	12.3	155
	Biological sciences	45.3	32.4	22.3	475
	Other natural sciences	38.5	44.0	17.6	91
	Engineering and technology	59.6	29.1	11.3	203
	Basic medicine	58.0	28.2	13.7	131
	Clinical medicine	65.2	29.3	5.4	92
	Health sciences	68.0	21.6	10.4	125
	(Other) medical sciences	70.7	17.1	12.2	41
	Psychology	60.2	29.5	10.2	88
	Economics and business	65.7	13.4	20.9	67
	(Other) social sciences	64.6	26.6	8.7	229
	Languages and literature	64.6	32.9	2.4	82
	(Other) humanities	54.7	38.4	7.0	172
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	Computer and information sciences	22.7	33.0	44.3	97
	Physical sciences	23.4	43.8	32.8	192
	Chemical sciences	17.4	45.5	37.2	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	8.4	38.7	52.9	155
	Biological sciences	19.8	38.2	42.0	474
	Other natural sciences	18.5	46.7	34.8	92
	Engineering and technology	13.2	35.8	51.0	204
	Basic medicine	14.6	34.6	50.8	130
	Clinical medicine	7.6	37.0	55.4	92
	Health sciences	9.6	37.6	52.8	125
	(Other) medical sciences	10.3	23.1	66.7	39
	Psychology	10.3	28.7	60.9	87
	Economics and business	11.9	34.3	53.7	67
	(Other) social sciences	11.0	27.2	61.8	228
	Languages and literature	3.6	42.2	54.2	83
	(Other) humanities	11.1	39.2	49.7	171
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	Computer and information sciences	51.5	29.9	18.6	97
	Physical sciences	35.8	40.4	23.8	193
	Chemical sciences	43.0	33.9	23.1	121
	Earth/related environmental sciences	38.7	39.4	21.9	155
	Biological sciences	36.3	36.1	27.6	474
	Other natural sciences	25.0	47.8	27.2	92
	Engineering and technology	47.0	32.7	20.3	202
	Basic medicine	38.6	34.1	27.3	132
	Clinical medicine	27.2	38.0	34.8	92
	Health sciences	37.6	37.6	24.8	125
	(Other) medical sciences	36.6	43.9	19.5	41
	Psychology	29.5	43.2	27.3	88
	Economics and business	45.5	31.8	22.7	66
	(Other) social sciences	39.5	46.5	14.0	228
	Languages and literature	44.6	41.0	14.5	83
	(Other) humanities	39.0	41.3	19.8	172

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. This question was posted only to respondents who had applied SNSF project funding and/or Sinergia as main applicant.

Table A 58 SNSF grant and respondents' employment terms, part-time/full-time. Per cent.

(Q37) Are you full-time or part-time employed?*	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	N
Full-time employed	74.1	25.9	2615
Part-time employed, as % of full-time	52.8	47.2	479
Part-time with payment according to work tasks	47.1	52.9	17
Other (please specify)	80.0	20.0	25
Total per cent	70.7	29.3	
Total count	2218	918	3136

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

* If you are affiliated with multiple research/higher education institutions, please answer for your principal/most important employment.

Table A 59 SNSF grant and respondents' time for research. Per cent.

(Q38) Considering all your professional work during a typical working month, how large is the part that you normally spend on research activities?	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia	Other respondents	N
Less than 10%	44.9	55.1	89
10-25%	71.9	28.1	584
25-50%	77.9	22.1	921
50-75 %	75.0	25.0	959
More than 75%	56.3	43.7	604
Total per cent	70.8	29.2	
N	2236	921	3157

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 60 Conditions for access to services and facilities at respondent's institution. Per cent.

(Q39) At your current institution, which are the conditions for access to the following services/facilities?	Available free of charge	Available against charge	Not available	Not relevant	N
Research equipment and instruments	58.3	24.3	2.1	15.4	3141
Services (e.g. laboratory analysis)	24.8	39.2	4.8	31.3	3131
Computer facilities	76.9	16.3	2.1	4.6	3142
Laboratory space	62.9	5.0	4.0	28.1	3124
Other, please specify	9.7	5.8	3.8	80.7	1033

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013.

Table A 61 Institutional funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by position and gender. Per cent.

Position	Gender	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
Full professor or similar	Female	39.8	38.0	12.7	9.5	221
	Male	24.6	51.6	18.7	5.1	921
	Total	27.6	48.9	17.5	6.0	1142
Associate professor or similar	Female	50.0	39.8	8.0	2.3	88
	Male	29.0	56.0	9.4	5.5	307
	Total	33.7	52.4	9.1	4.8	395
Assistant professor or similar	Female	44.0	35.2	9.9	11.0	91
	Male	28.4	48.4	12.9	10.3	155
	Total	34.1	43.5	11.8	10.6	246
Senior researcher*	Female	44.8	33.3	4.5	17.4	288
	Male	39.9	40.9	6.9	12.4	597
	Total	41.5	38.4	6.1	14.0	885
Postdoc	Female	31.1	11.4	3.8	53.8	132
	Male	31.6	12.3	4.4	51.8	114
	Total	31.3	11.8	4.1	52.8	246
Professor emeritus	Total	55.6	33.3	7.4	3.7	27
Other	Female	32.2	30.5	10.2	27.1	59
	Male	30.9	36.8	10.3	22.1	68
	Total	31.5	33.9	10.2	24.4	127
Total	Female	41.2	31.8	7.7	19.3	883
	Male	30.5	46.4	12.6	10.5	2185
	Total	33.6	42.2	11.2	13.0	3068

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41.

*Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

Table A 62 Please give an estimate of third party/external funding available to you in 2012: (Research funds in CHF). Per cent by field of research.

Field of research	No external funding	Below 10 000	10 000 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	200 000 - 500 000	500 000 – 1 000 000	Above 1 000 000	Cannot say	N
Computer and information sciences	8.9	11.9	23.7	14.8	18.5	3.0	3.7	15.6	135
Physical sciences	14.4	6.4	26.1	11.4	17.0	3.4	5.7	15.5	264
Chemical sciences	7.2	5.0	33.1	18.0	20.1	2.9	3.6	10.1	139
Earth and related environmental sciences	6.8	2.3	35.8	20.5	15.3	5.1	4.0	10.2	176
Biological sciences	4.7	4.0	27.0	23.4	21.5	7.7	2.6	9.1	548
Other natural sciences	17.4	11.9	30.3	16.5	9.2	1.8	1.8	11.0	109
Engineering and technology	3.0	5.7	23.1	13.0	19.1	11.7	7.4	17.1	299
Basic medicine	5.6	2.8	34.0	27.8	17.4	6.2	2.8	3.5	144
Clinical medicine	8.7	5.6	33.3	15.1	22.2	7.1	1.6	6.3	126
Health sciences	5.3	3.9	30.9	21.1	19.7	7.2	0.7	11.2	152
(Other) medical sciences	6.7	5.0	25.0	31.7	10.0	3.3	1.7	16.7	60
Psychology	20.4	11.7	28.2	15.5	11.7	1.9	1.0	9.7	103
Economics and business	12.6	8.7	32.0	17.5	13.6	1.9	1.9	11.7	103
(Other) social sciences	17.9	9.9	23.2	15.9	11.6	3.6	2.0	15.9	302
Languages and literature	19.4	8.6	28.0	12.9	8.6	2.2	0.0	20.4	93
(Other) humanities	16.9	14.5	22.7	17.4	12.1	1.0	0.5	15.0	207
Other	20.0	0.0	25.0	10.0	15.0	0.0	5.0	25.0	20
Total	10.1	6.9	27.6	18.1	16.6	5.2	3.0	12.5	2980

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q44.

Table A 63 Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012: Research funds in CHF). Per cent by field of research.

Field of research	No institutional funding	Below 10 000	10 000 - 100 000	100 000 - 200 000	200 000 - 500 000	500 000 – 1 000 000	Above 1 000 000	Cannot say	N
Computer and information sciences	18.1	13.0	31.2	9.4	4.3	0.7	5.1	18.1	138
Physical sciences	8.6	14.2	31.1	14.2	9.7	1.5	3.4	17.2	267
Chemical sciences	7.0	10.6	45.8	19.7	4.2	3.5	0.7	8.5	142
Earth and related environmental sciences	15.6	16.2	39.3	10.4	5.2	1.7	1.7	9.8	173
Biological sciences	11.5	14.9	39.9	12.9	7.2	2.5	1.3	9.9	557
Other natural sciences	23.0	15.0	36.3	5.3	3.5	0.0	2.7	14.2	113
Engineering and technology	16.2	7.5	30.2	11.0	9.1	5.2	3.2	17.5	308
Basic medicine	18.5	17.8	42.5	8.9	7.5	0.0	0.0	4.8	146
Clinical medicine	30.2	14.0	27.9	7.0	10.1	3.9	1.6	5.4	129
Health sciences	29.6	7.9	32.9	9.9	4.6	3.9	0.0	11.2	152
(Other) medical sciences	13.3	11.7	36.7	15.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	15.0	60
Psychology	22.9	41.0	18.1	1.0	3.8	1.0	1.9	10.5	105
Economics and business	17.6	20.4	32.4	9.3	6.5	0.0	2.8	11.1	108
(Other) social sciences	23.9	19.4	23.2	4.1	7.0	1.9	2.9	17.5	314
Languages and literature	32.4	23.5	17.6	5.9	2.0	0.0	2.9	15.7	102
(Other) humanities	21.1	21.6	25.2	6.9	6.4	4.6	1.8	12.4	218
Other	10.0	10.0	25.0	10.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	35.0	20
Total	17.8	15.9	32.4	9.9	6.7	2.3	2.1	12.9	3052

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41.

Table A 64 Number of your staff funded from external sources. By age, academic age and gender.

(Q43) Number of your staff from external sources*	Per cent	Average age	Average academic age**	% female
0	18.2	45.2	14.0	34.5
0,1-1	4.2	48.9	18.3	35.6
2-5	55.5	48.2	17.9	26.8
5,1-10	12.8	49.1	19.6	16.4
11-20	3.6	50.5	20.9	12.9
21-50	1.5	50.5	19.8	27.9
51-100	1.1	48.8	16.2	62.5
101-200	1.0	48.4	18.3	25.9
Above 200	2.0	48.8	18.3	36.8
Total	2805	***47.9	17.6	****27.3

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Outliers: 27 reply above 1000 (respondents may be head of institution or misinterpreted the question).

*e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents. (Q43: Third party funding: Please give an estimate of third party/external funding available to you in 2012. a) Number of your staff funded from external sources, e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents.)

**Present age minus age at first doctorate. N=2706. ***N=2746. ****N=2805.

Table A 65 Number of your staff* funded from institutional and external sources. Average FTE by field of research.

		Number of your staff funded	
Field of research		**by your institution**	**from external sources**
Computer and information sciences	Mean	3.5	5.6
	N	126	125
Physical sciences	Mean	4.4	4.2
	N	241	232
Chemical sciences	Mean	4.3	5.4
	N	135	136
Earth and related environmental sciences	Mean	3.6	5.0
	N	161	162
Biological sciences	Mean	4.0	5.4
	N	524	512
Other natural sciences	Mean	2.4	2.2
	N	103	103
Engineering and technology	Mean	4.2	6.4
	N	273	268
Basic medicine	Mean	3.3	4.1
	N	140	140
Clinical medicine	Mean	4.0	4.6
	N	122	117
Health sciences	Mean	4.2	6.1
	N	139	139
(Other) medical sciences	Mean	5.7	5.7
	N	56	55
Psychology	Mean	9.9	7.8
	N	92	87
Economics and business	Mean	5.7	5.8
	N	100	93
(Other) social sciences	Mean	9.2	7.5
	N	271	270
Languages and literature	Mean	6.4	5.1
	N	93	87
(Other) humanities	Mean	5.5	5.3
	N	193	185
Other	Mean	5.5	9.9
	N	17	16
Total	Mean	4.9	5.5
	N	2786	2727

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q40 and Q43.

*e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents. Only replies below 200 FTE are included in the calculations.

Table A 66 Number of your staff* funded from institutional and external sources. Average FTE by institution.

	Number of your staff funded			
	by your institution		from external sources	
Institution	mean	N	mean	N
Cantonal university	5.3	1541	5.3	1502
ETHZ/EPFL	5.0	545	6.0	538
ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)	2.8	195	5.2	191
University of Applied Sciences	5.2	193	6.0	188
University of Teacher Education	5.2	55	6.1	52
Hospital	2.6	169	3.7	168
Private sector research lab/institute	7.3	47	9.5	47
Other	5.2	54	8.1	52
Total	4.9	2799	5.5	2738

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q40 and Q43.

*e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents. Replies ≤ 200 FTE are included in the calculations.

Table A 67 Institutional funding available in 2012 (Research funds in CHF) by external funding source*. Per cent.

	Available institutional funding 2012				
Obtained external funding from* (Q8):	No or below 10 000	10 000 - 200 000	Above 200 000	Cannot say	N
SNSF	32.8	46.3	12.2	8.7	2501
CTI	21.4	48.0	21.4	9.2	490
Other Swiss Federal authorities	26.1	50.2	14.4	9.3	908
Cantons	26.7	48.5	15.3	9.5	588
Private industry (Swiss)	25.2	49.6	17.1	8.0	824
Private foundations (Swiss)	33.3	46.3	12.4	8.0	1202
Other Swiss sources	30.4	45.3	14.6	9.6	622
ERC	21.2	52.2	17.6	8.9	471
Foreign sources (other than ERC)	28.3	48.8	14.9	8.1	1005

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q41.

*Respondents are included under all funding sources they report to have obtained during the period 2008-2013.

Table A 68 SNSF grant and respondents' average age when (first) receiving first doctorate. Means.

	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia		Other respondents		Total	
Research area	Age doctorate	Academic age	Age doctorate	Academic age	Age doctorate	Academic age
Natural sciences	29.3	19.7	30.1	9.3	29.5	17.3
Engineering and technology	30.5	18.4	30.8	9.9	30.6	15.1
Medical sciences	29.0	20.3	30.6	14.8	29.5	18.6
Social sciences	32.3	16.3	33.5	10.7	32.7	14.4
Humanities	31.5	19.9	32.1	14.2	31.7	18.4
Other	30.9	11.3	32.2	9.9	31.6	10.5
Total means	30.1	19.1	31.2	11.1	30.4	16.8
N*	2152	2152	849	849	3001	3001

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q47: Which year did you receive your first doctorate?
*Only respondents stating both year of birth and year of receiving doctorate, as well as their field of research are included in the calculations.

Table A 69 Respondents' average age by position, gender and SNSF grant. Means.

	Obtained Project Funding or Sinergia*		Other respondents		Total	
Position	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
Full professor or similar	22.2	937	18.6	153	21.7	1090
Associate professor or similar	19.2	340	17.7	54	19.0	394
Assistant professor or similar	11.3	176	10.4	64	11.0	240
Senior researcher	16.4	587	11.7	289	14.9	876
Postdoc	6.0	29	3.6	235	3.9	264
Professor emeritus*	39.0	23	-	4	39.5	27
Other	19.1	62	11.2	52	15.5	114
Total	19.1	2154	11.1	851	16.8	3005

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q47: Which year did you receive your (first) doctorate?
*In the period 2008-2013, according to SNSF data.
**There are only 4 professors emeritus who have not obtained Project Funding or Sinergia, and average age is not shown separately for these groups.

Table A 70 Respondents' use of the final comment field, by type of institution. Per cent.

	Use of final comment field		
Institution	Yes	No	N
Cantonal university	46.1	53.9	1863
ETH domain	37.9	62.1	983
UAS/UTE	48.0	52.0	327
Other	46.6	53.4	305
Total	44.0	56.0	3478

Source: NIFU researcher survey for SNSF 2013. Q47: Before completing the survey, please take the time to comment on aspects of SNSF funding you find important. Of particular interest are your funding needs and ideas for improvement of the SNSF.

Appendix 2 Figures

The figures below present replies on selected parts of the survey (presented at an SNSF meeting in Bern 22 January 2014). 'Q5' etc. refers to the question numbers in the questionnaire Appendix 4.

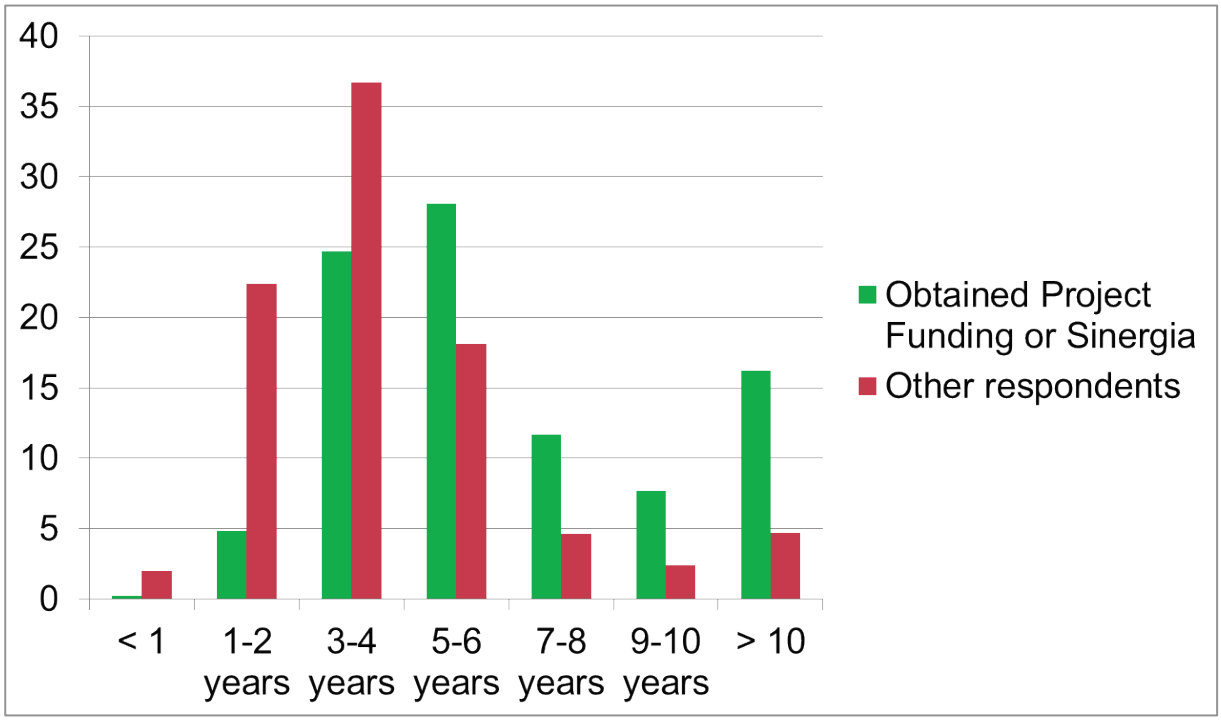

Figure 1 **Typical time on one topic/research line (Q5). By funding. Per cent.**

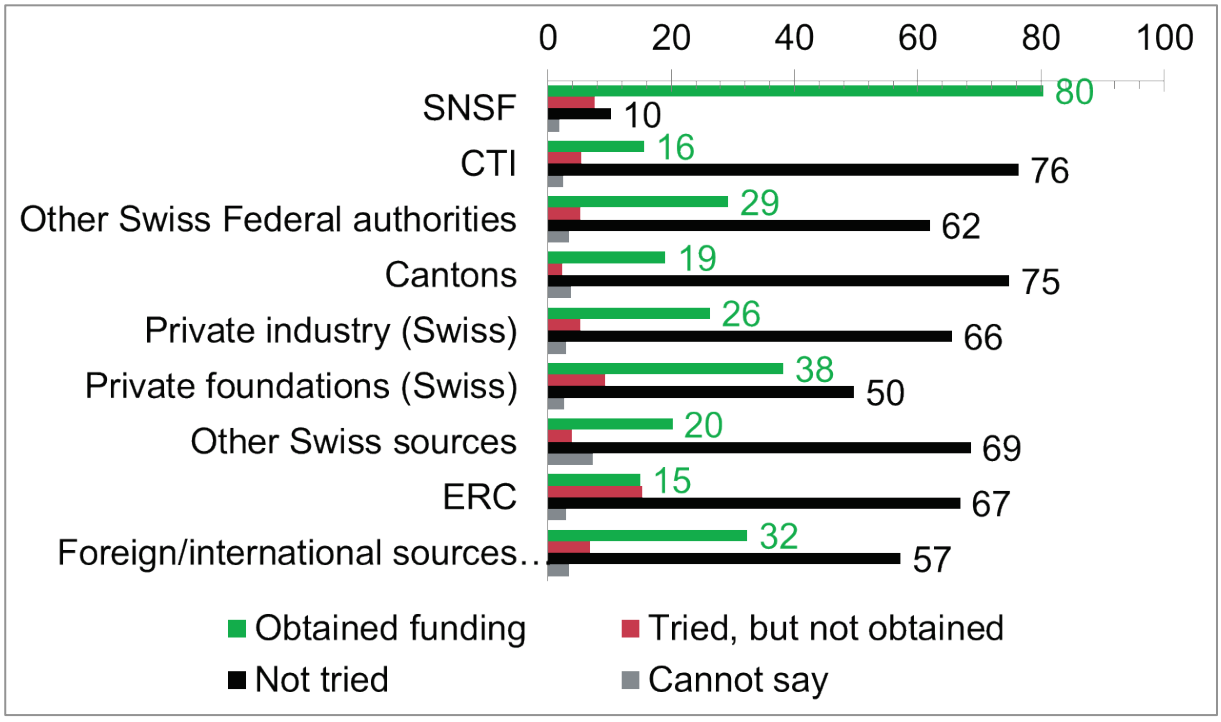

Figure 2 **Respondent overview: Applied/received third party funding (Q8). Per cent.**

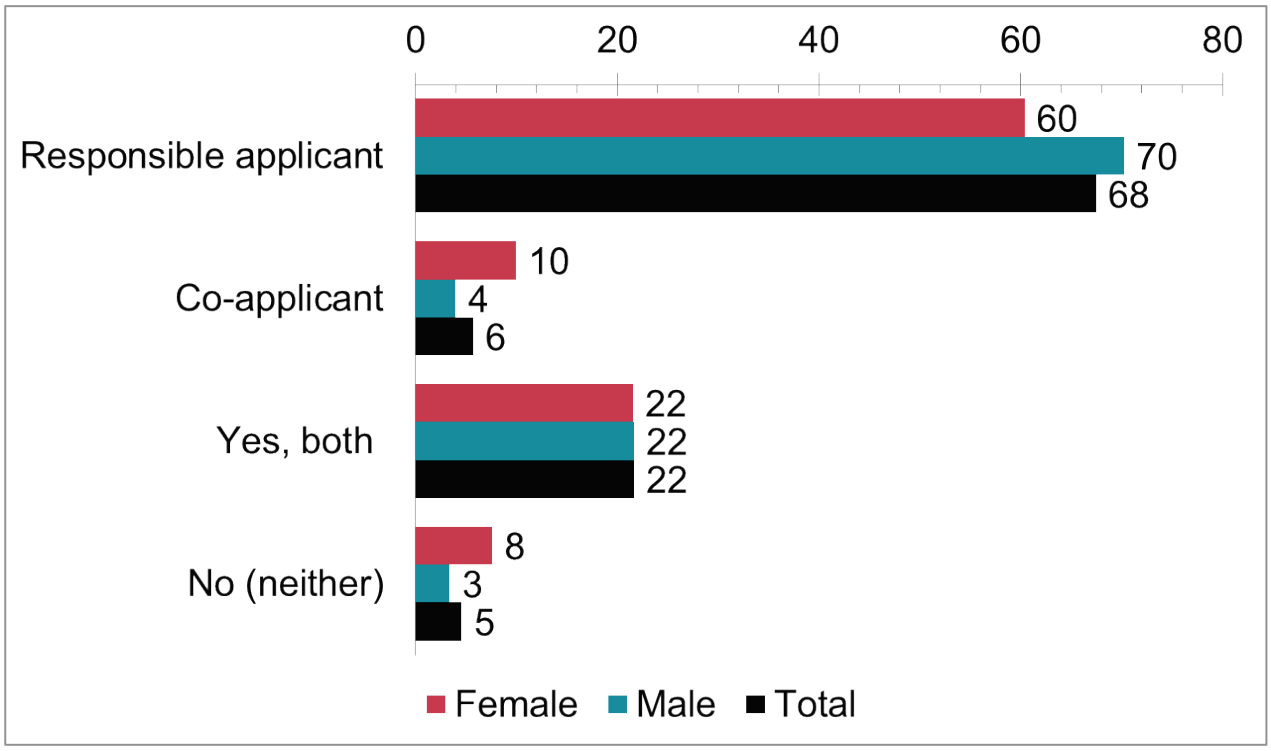

Figure 3 **Responsible applicant or co-applicant (Q10). By gender. Per cent.**

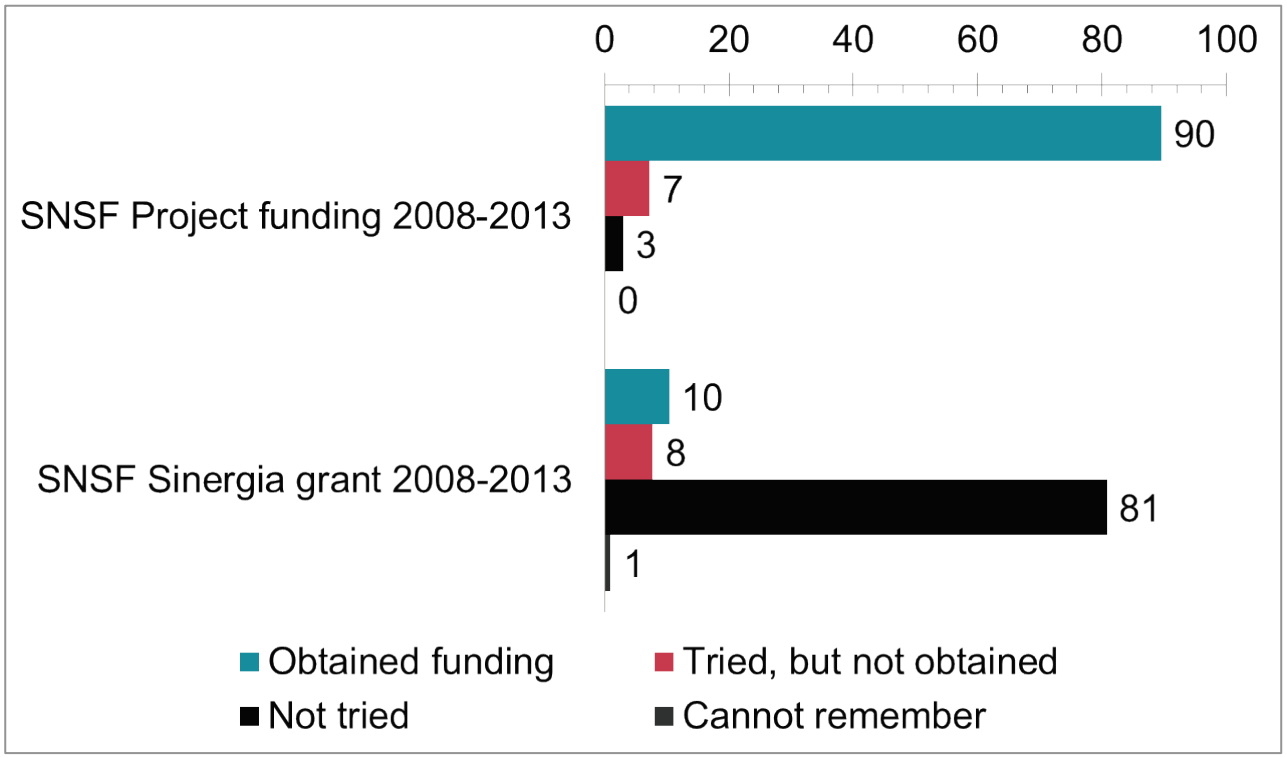

Figure 4 **Respondent overview: SNSF Project funding and Sinergia grant (Q12). Per cent.**

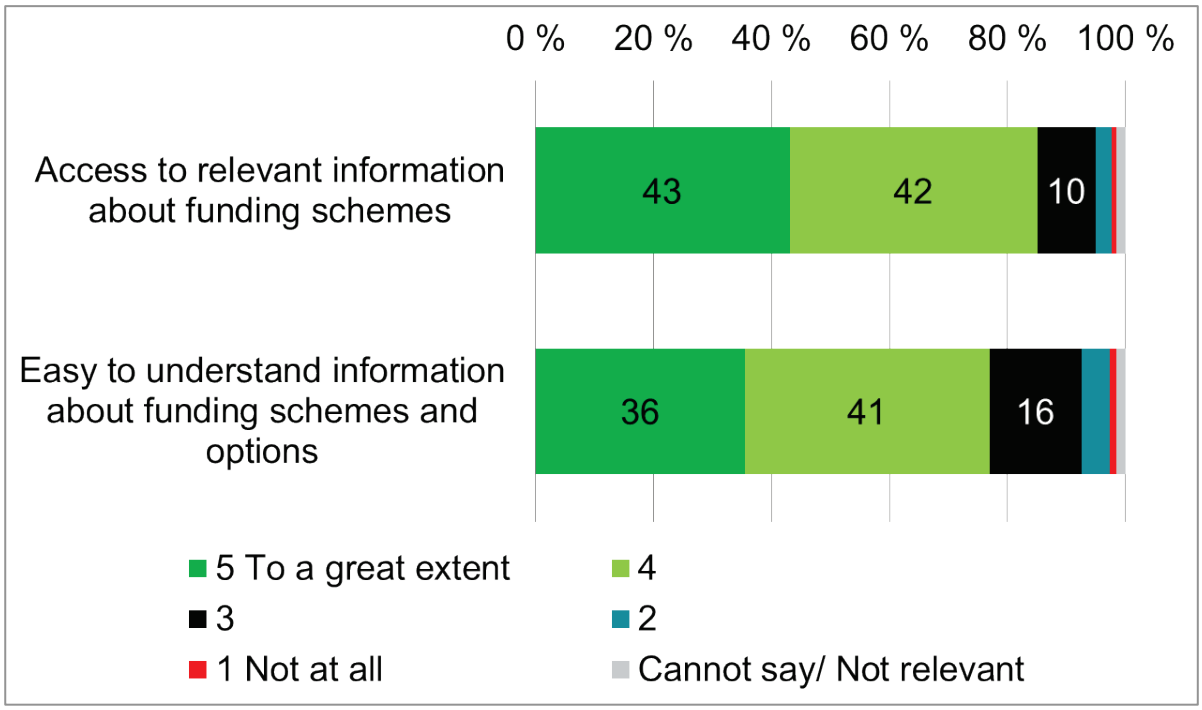

Figure 5 **To what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory? (Q13). Per Cent.**

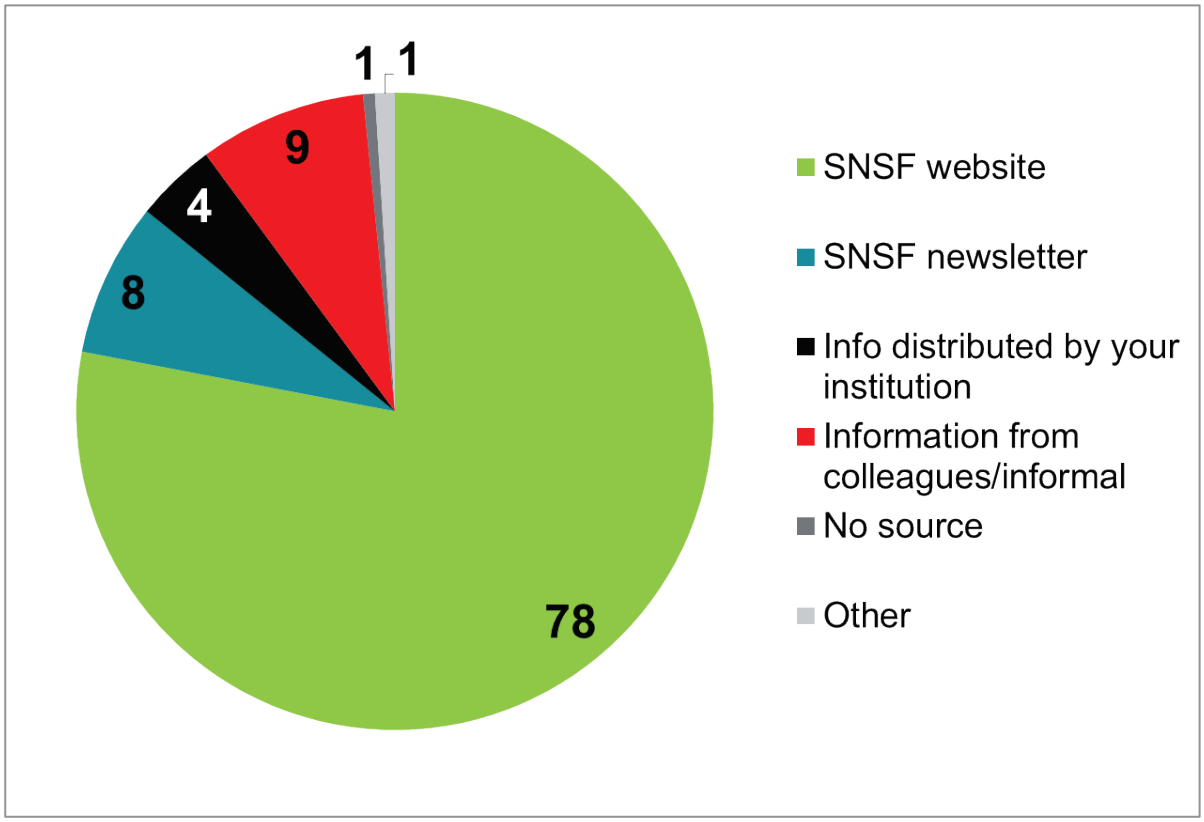

Figure 6 **Respondents' main information source on SNSF funding options (Q14). Per cent.**

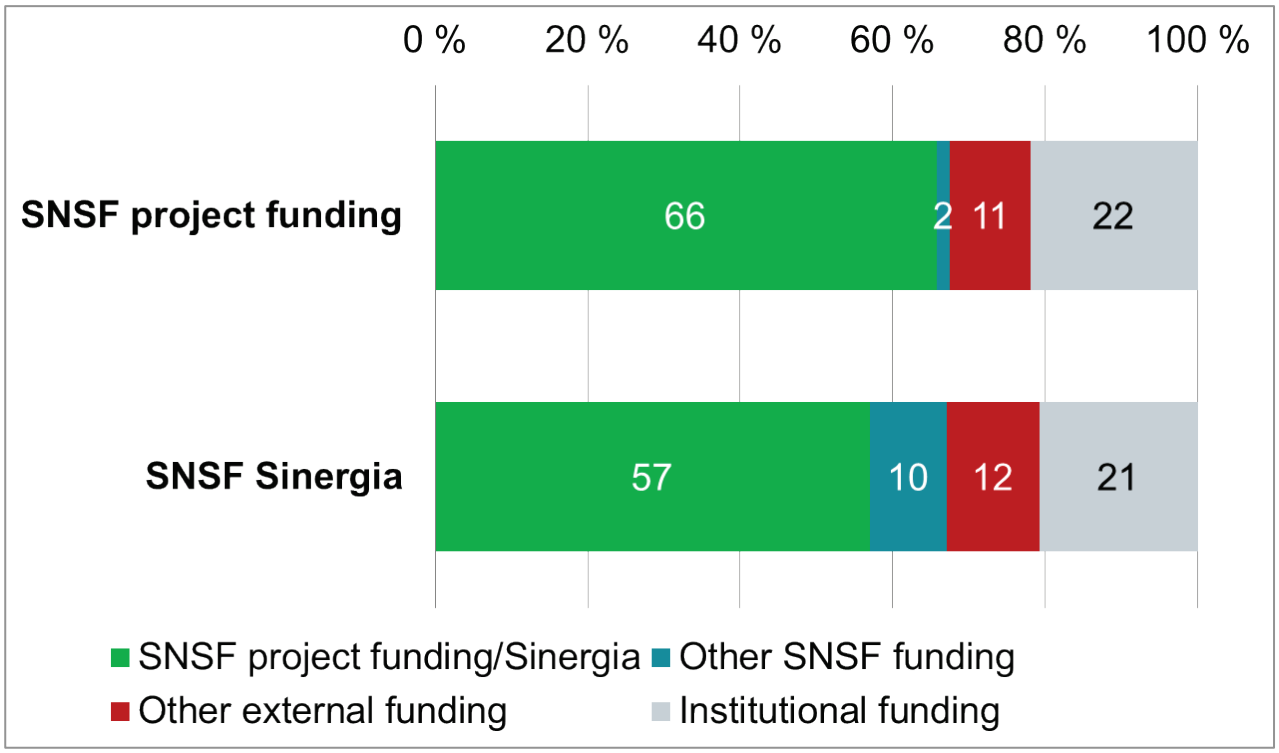

Figure 7 **Funding sources' proportion of the total project costs (Q19 and Q26). Per cent.**

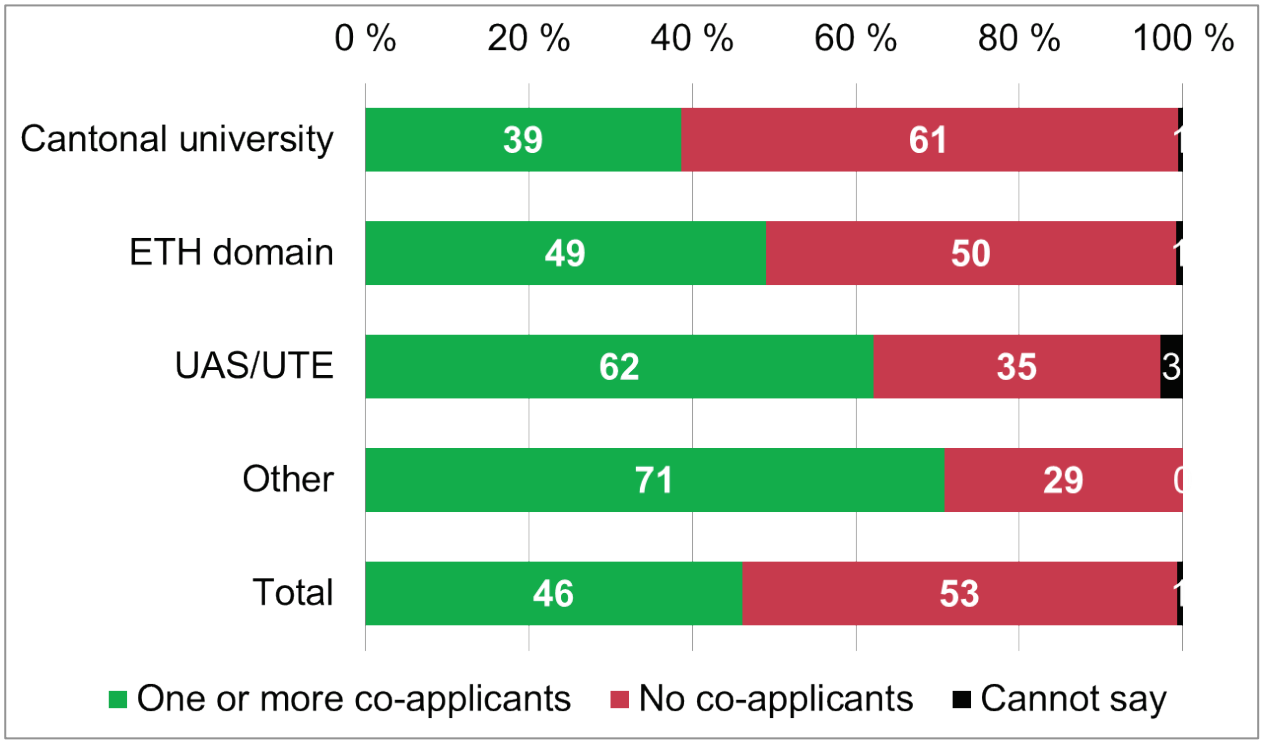

Figure 8 **Co-applicants in SNSF project funding. By institutional affiliation of main applicant. (Q22). Per cent.**

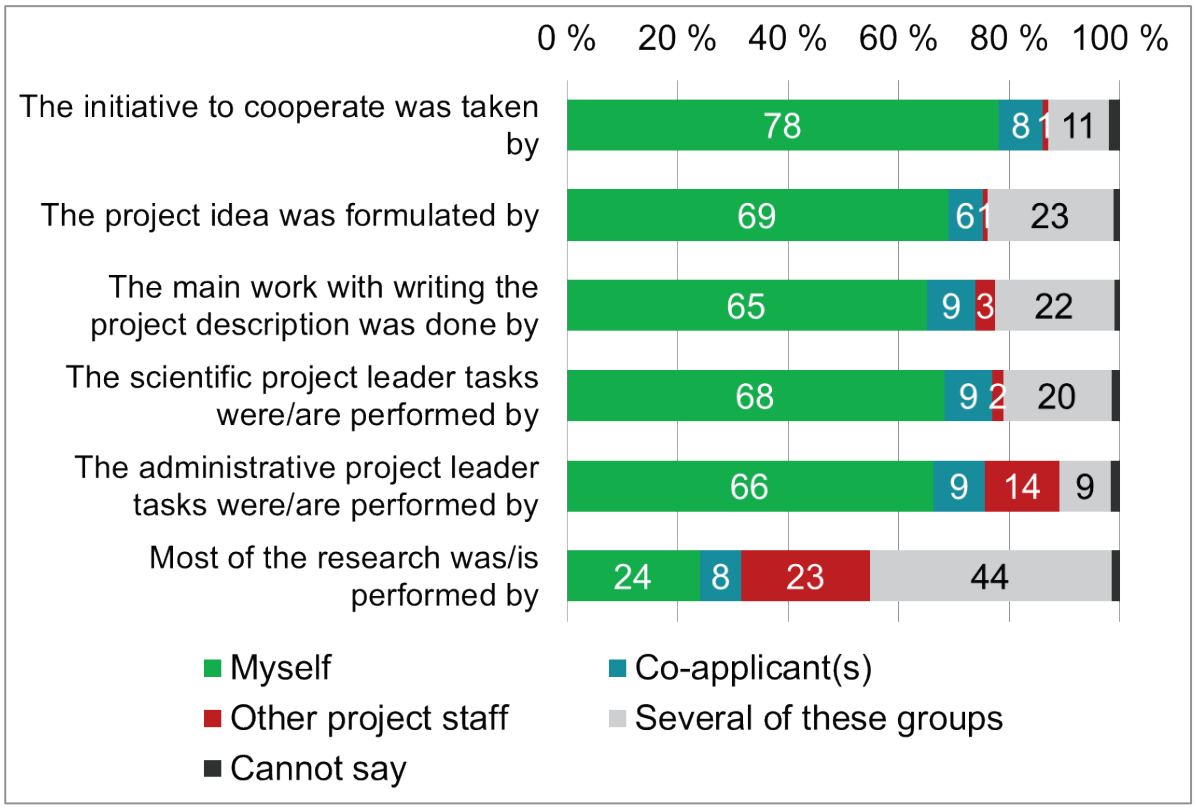

Figure 9 **SNSF Project funding: task division between the applicants (Q23). Per cent.**

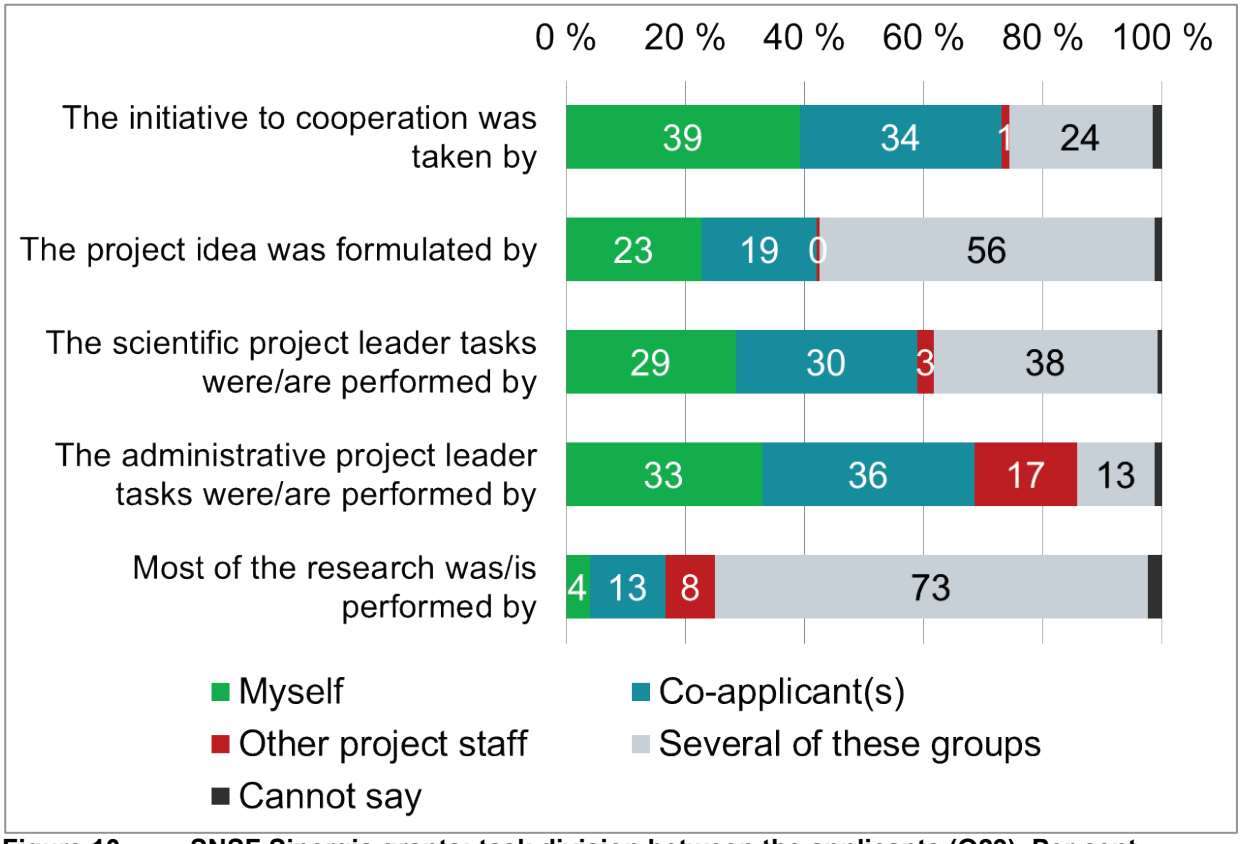

Figure 10 **SNSF Sinergia grants: task division between the applicants (Q29). Per cent.**

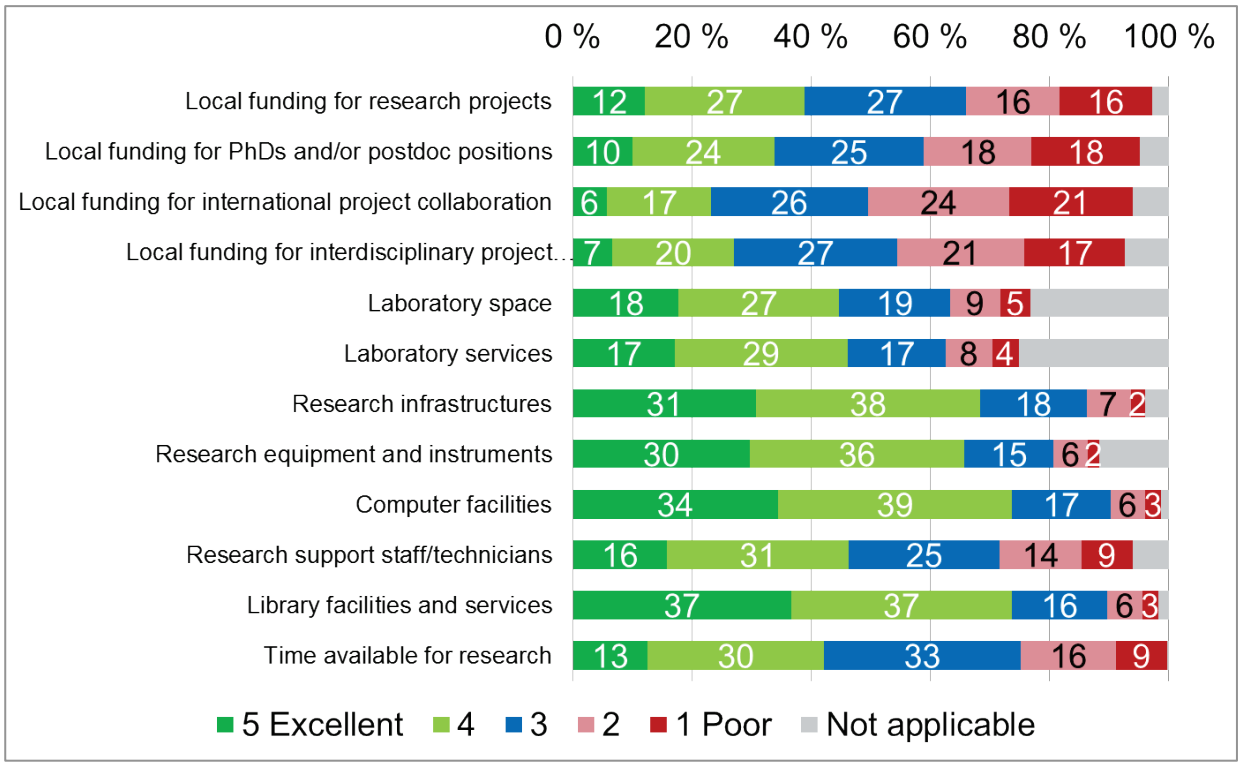

Figure 11 **Local resources and facilities for research (Q25). Per cent.**

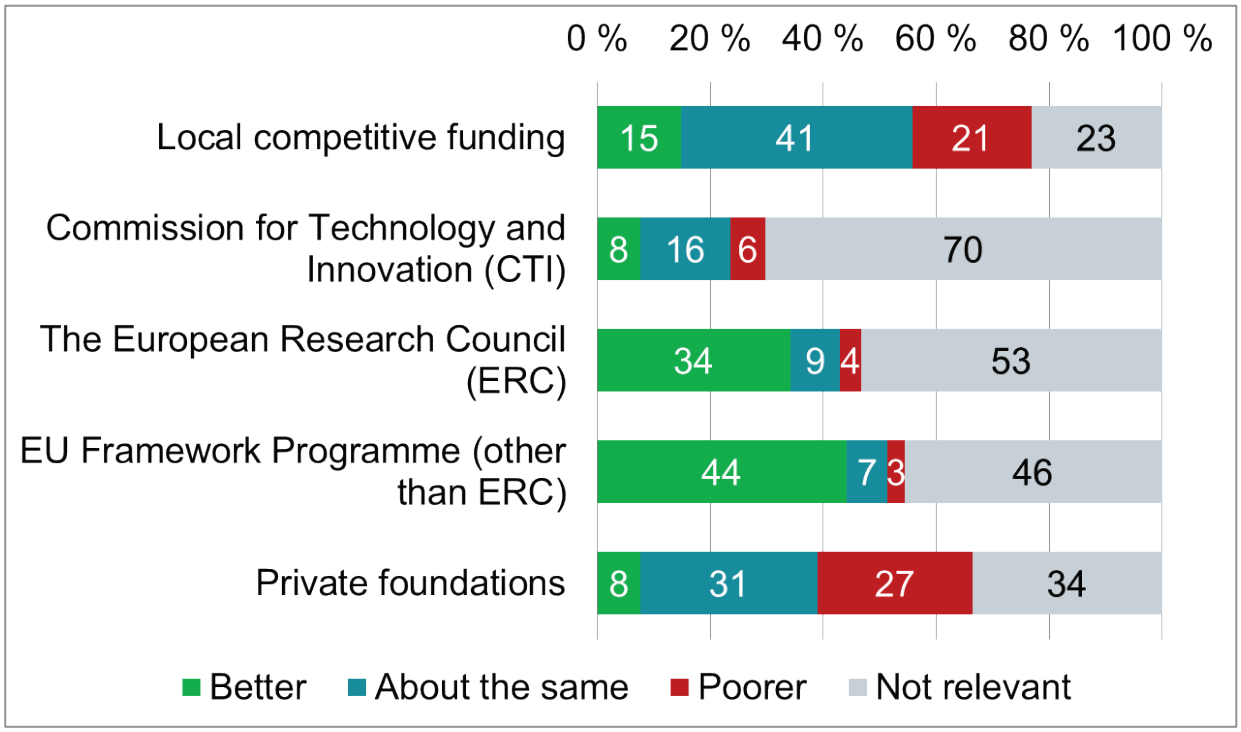

Figure 12 **SNSF grant holders' administration cost (Q31): 'When comparing SNSF funding with your alternative funding sources, is the SNSF funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning the required time to write applications and administer project grants?' Per cent.**

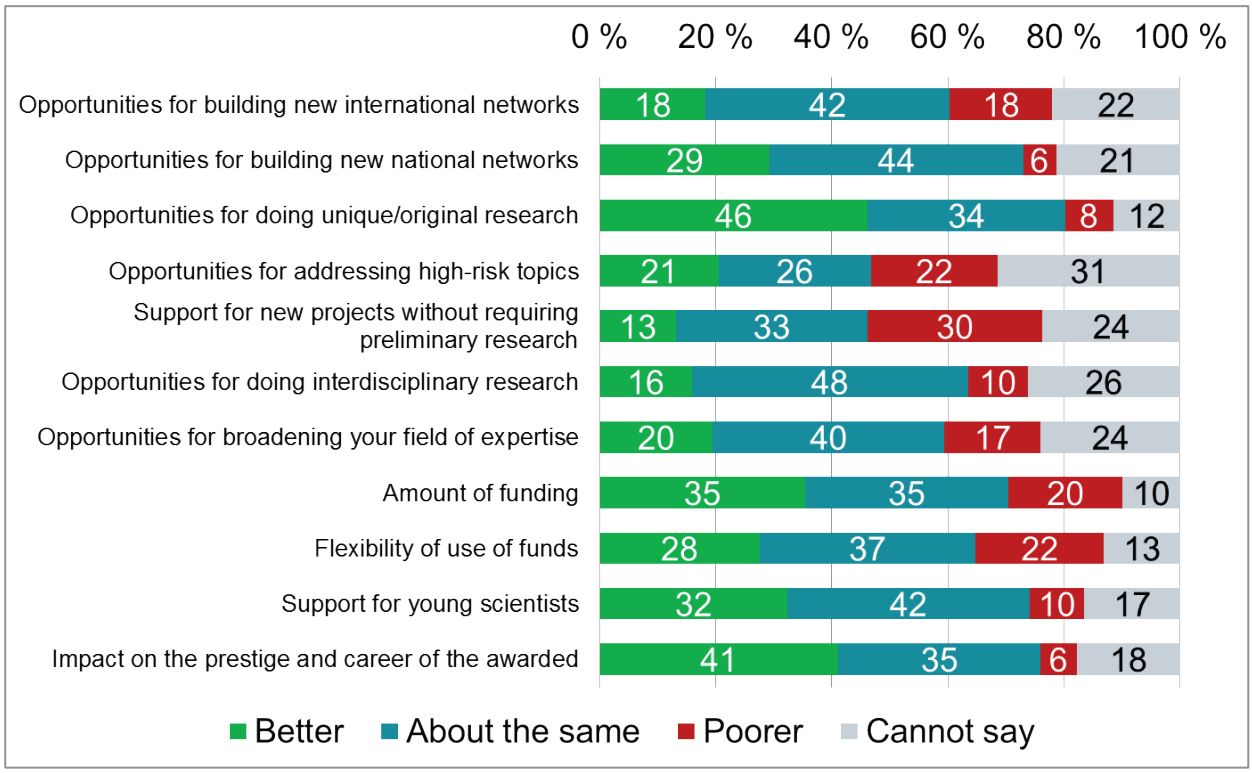

Figure 13 **SNSF Project funding compared to respondents' other relevant funding sources (Q25). Per cent.**

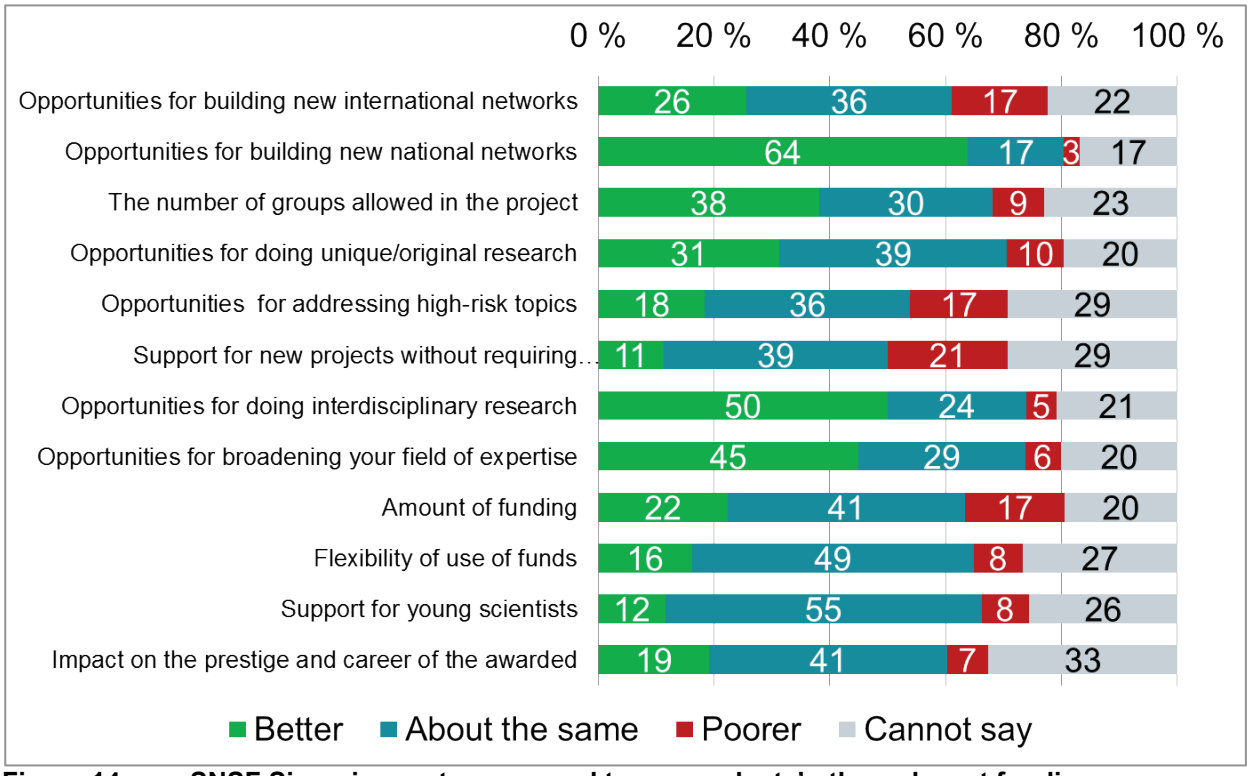

Figure 14 **SNSF Sinergia grants compared to respondents' other relevant funding sources. (Q30). Per cent.**

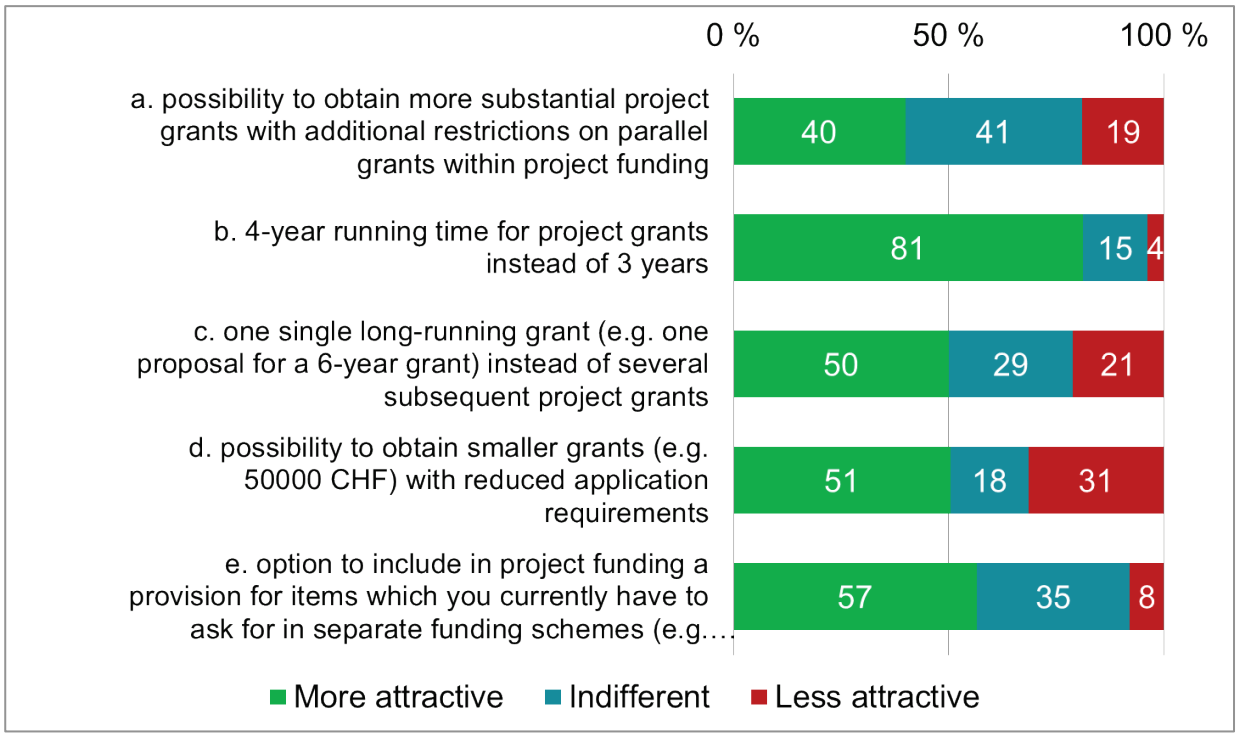

Figure 15 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding (Q32). NUMBER OF GRANTS. GRANT SIZE AND RUNNING TIME. Per cent.**

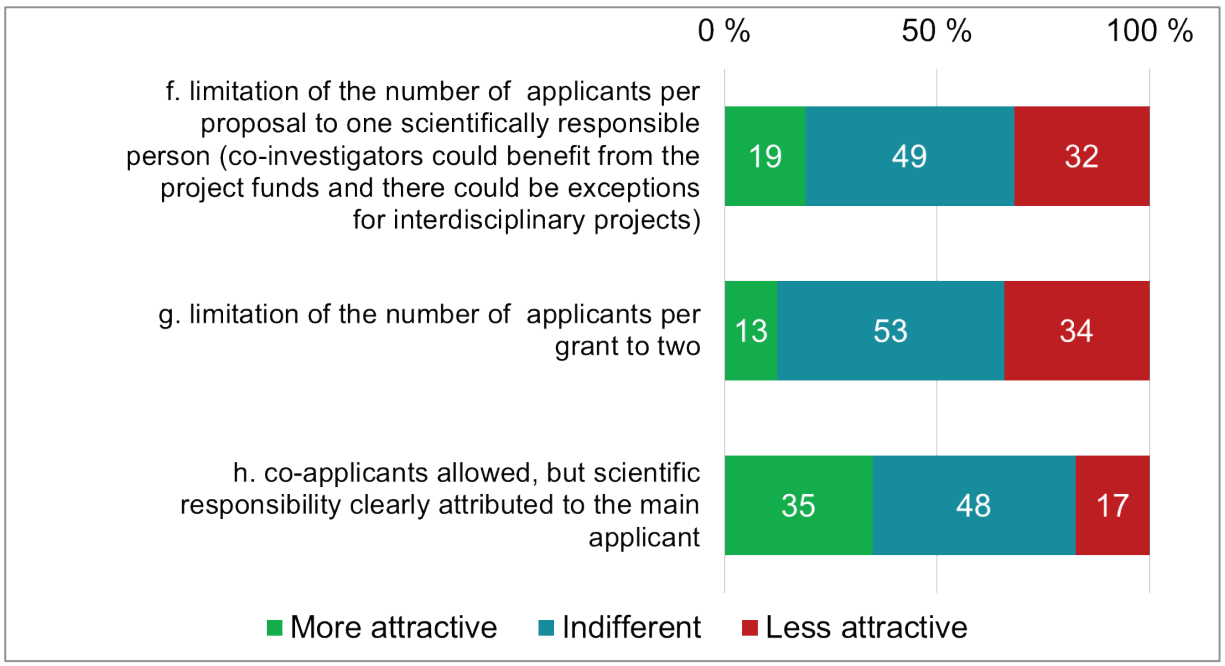

Figure 16 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding (Q32). RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANTS. Per cent.**

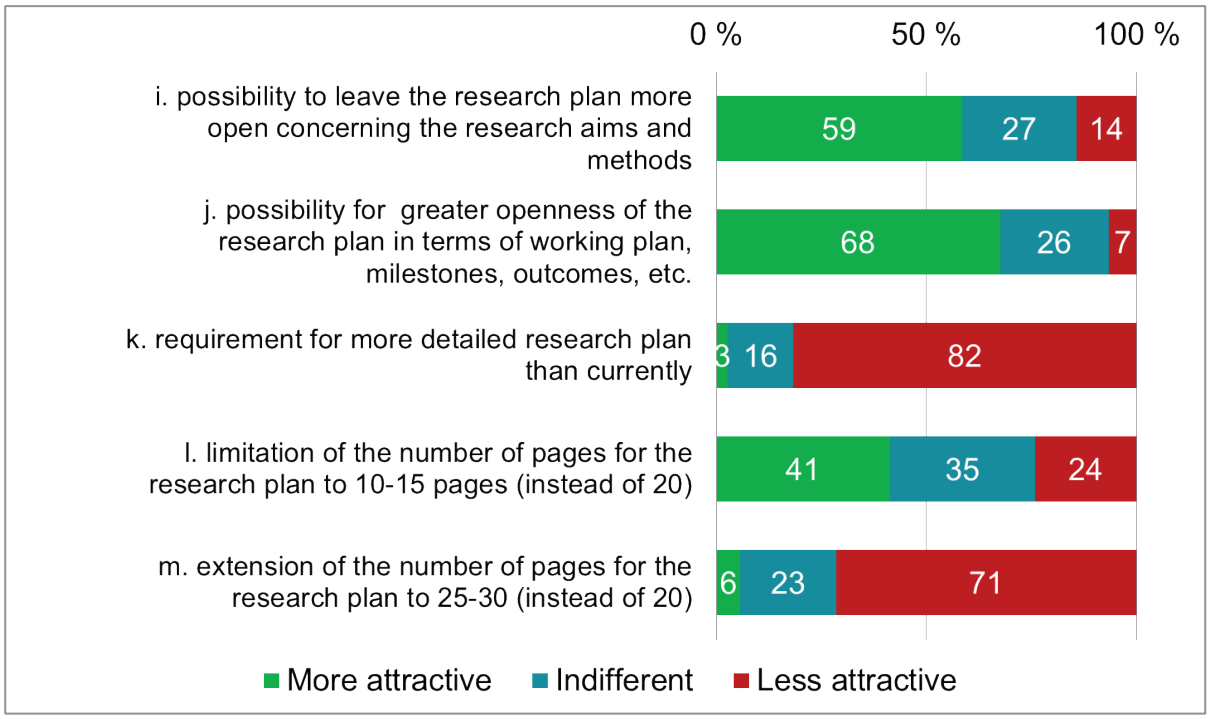

Figure 17 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding (Q32). PROPOSALS. Per cent.**

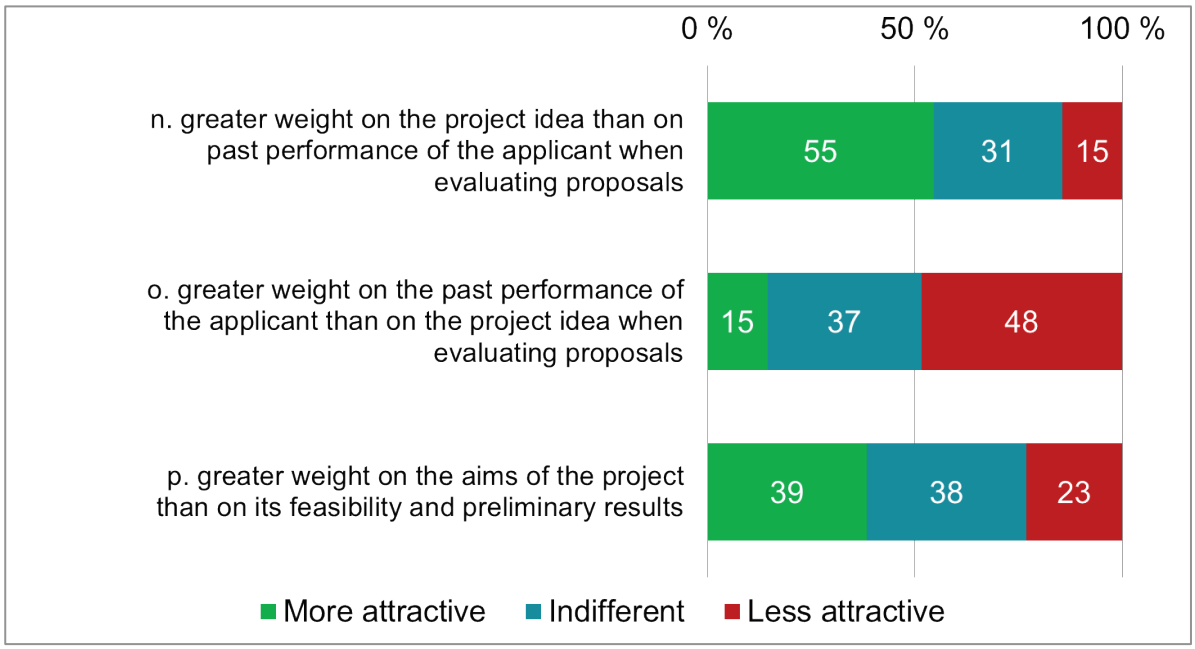

Figure 18 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding (Q32). SNSF's EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. Per cent.**

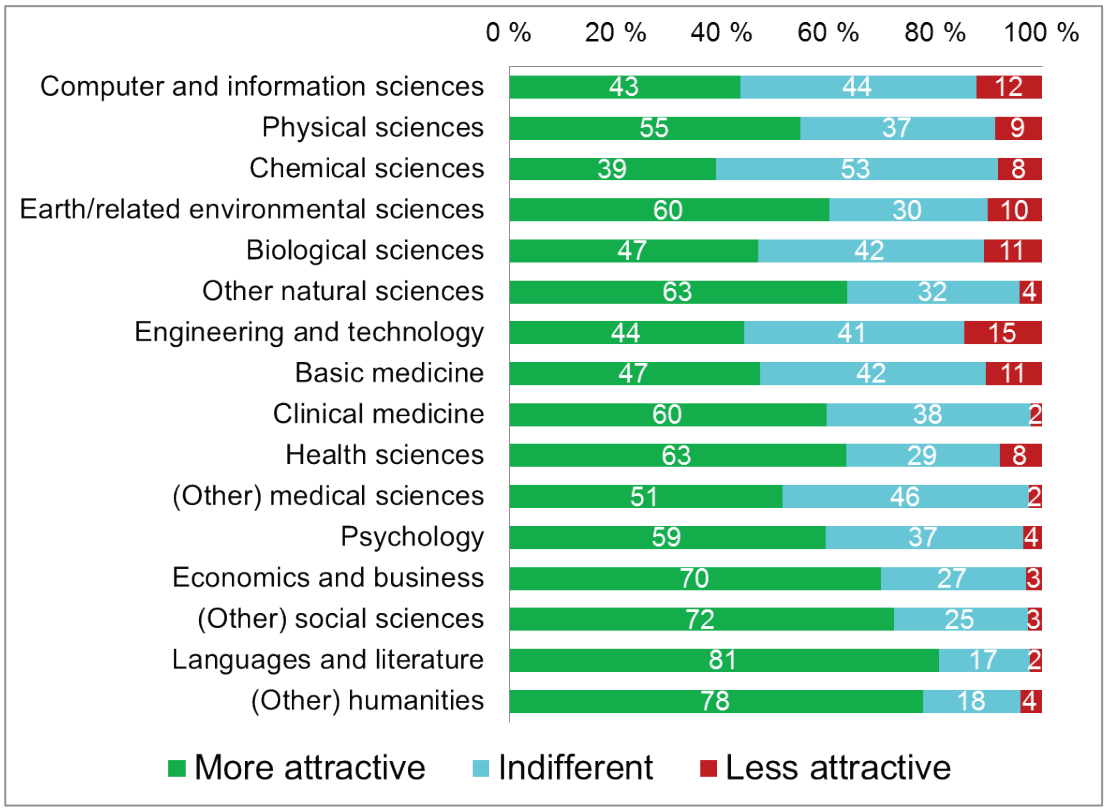

Figure 19 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. Q32e: 'Option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently' By field of research. Per cent.**

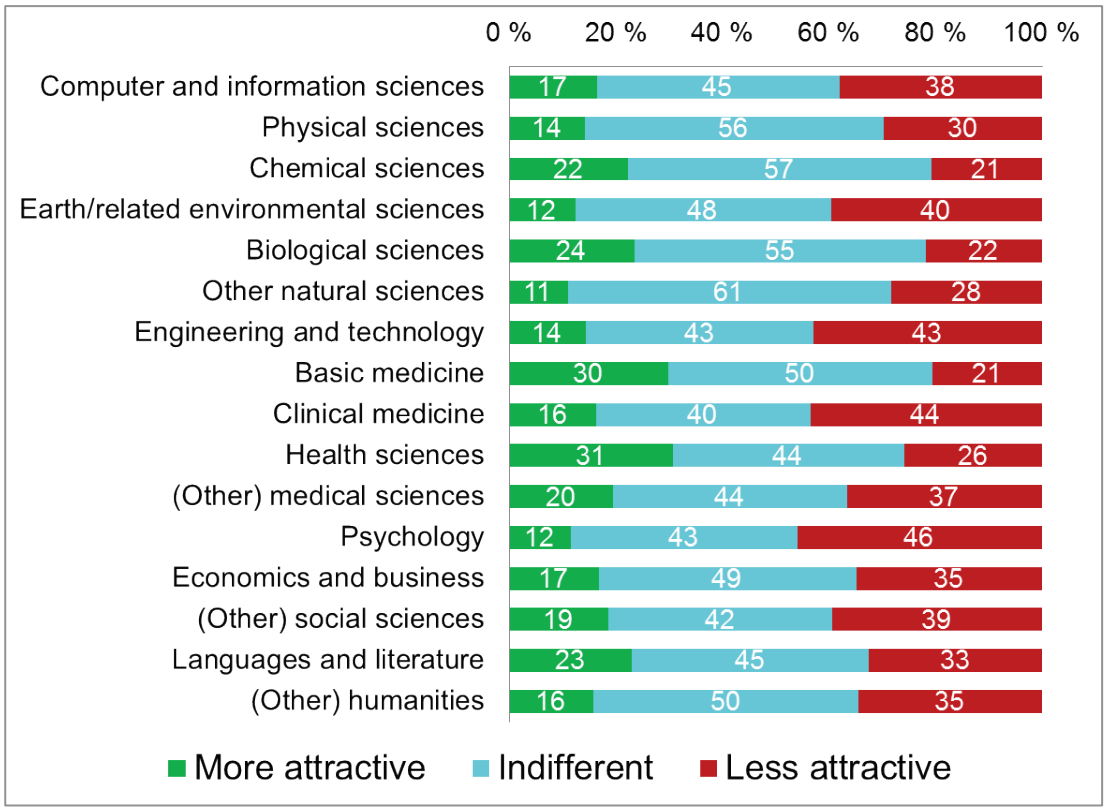

Figure 20 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. Q32f: 'Limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person' By field of research. Per cent.**

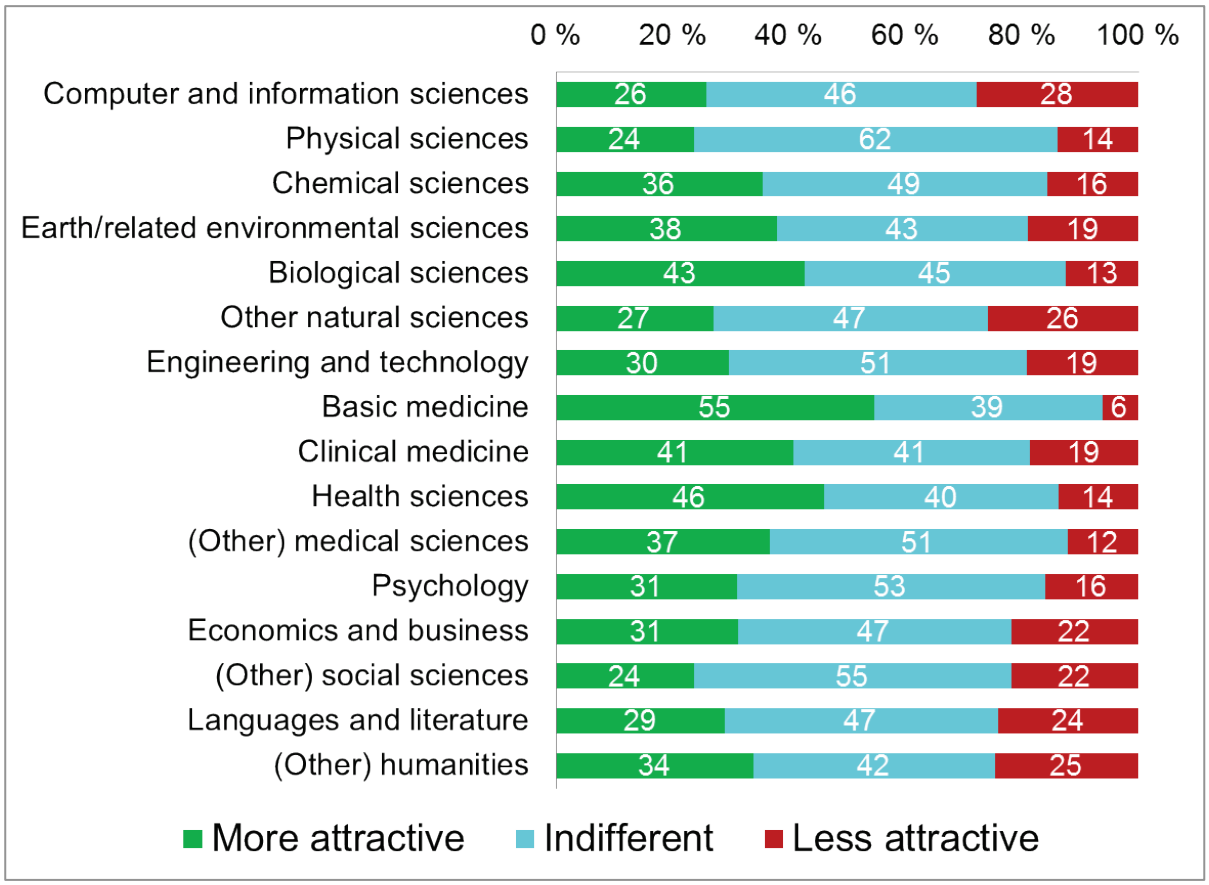

Figure 21 **Researchers' views on planned adjustments to SNSF project funding. Q32h: 'Co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant' By field of research. Per cent.**

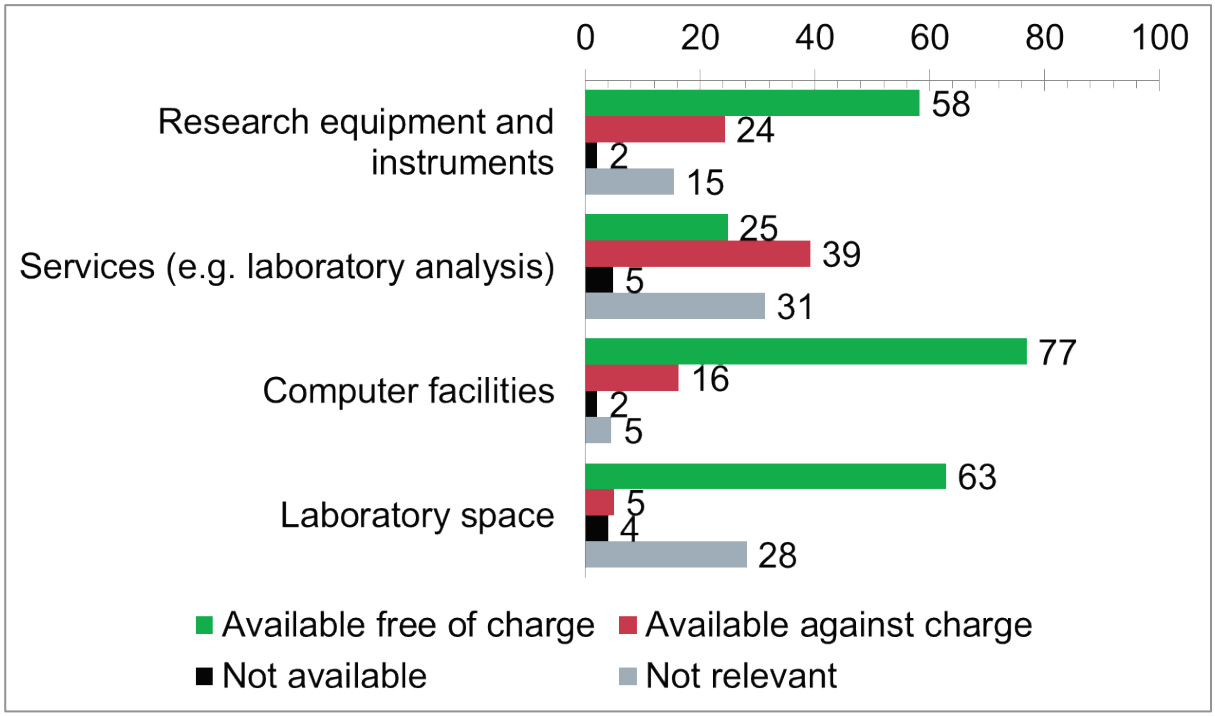

Figure 22 **Local resources: Conditions for access to services/facilities (Q39). Per cent.**

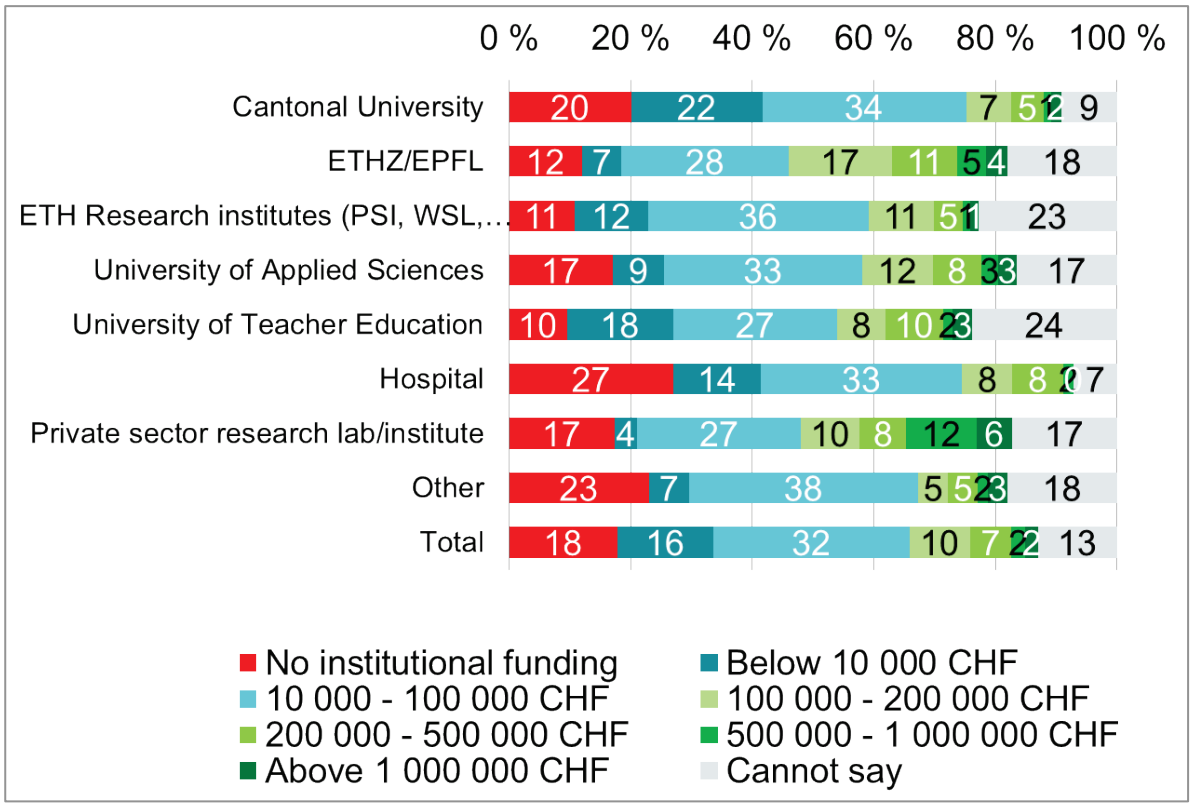

Figure 23 **Institutional funding available to respondents. By institution. (Q41). Per cent.**

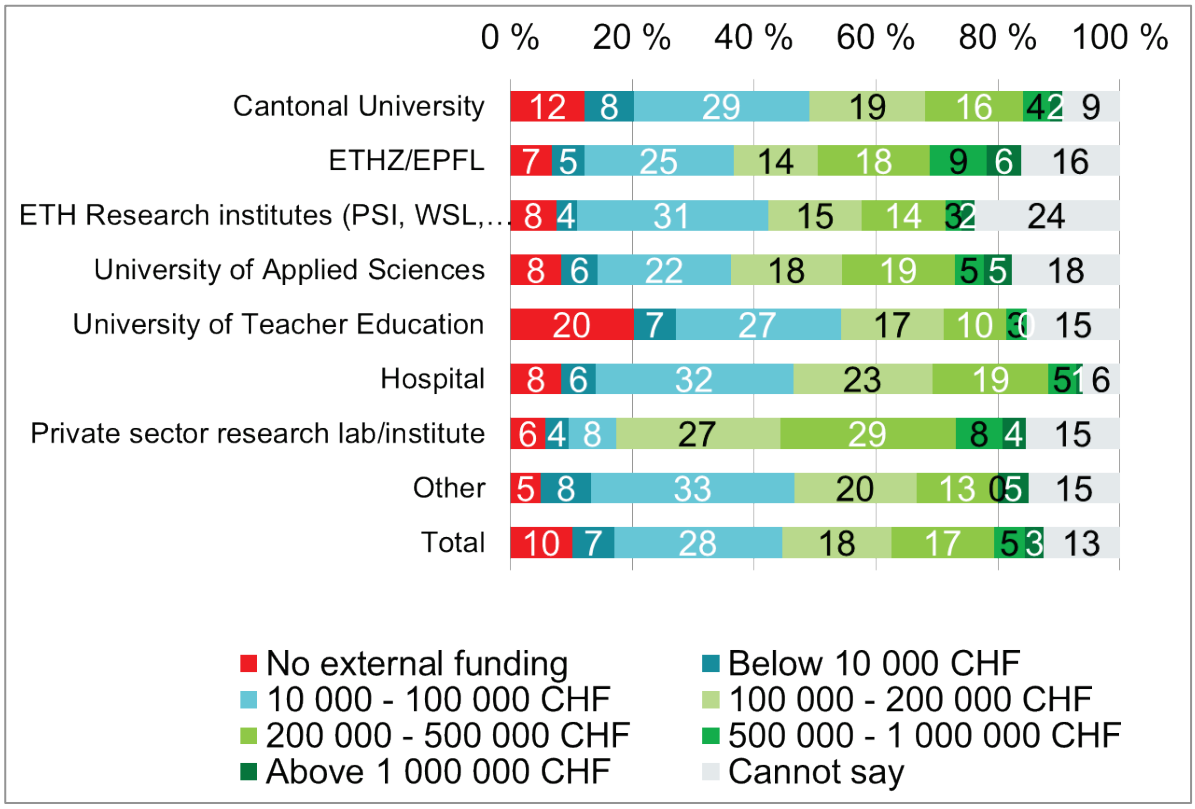

Figure 24 **Third party funding available to respondents. By institution. (Q44). Per cent.**

Appendix 3 Database and sampling for the survey

1. Sources for the database

SNSF provided us with a list of all applicants to relevant funding schemes from 2008 onwards (not including fellowships/instruments not targeting senior scholars). The file consisted of 26,915 records. Of these, there were 9,256 unique applicants.

SNSF contacted HEIs/research institutions in Switzerland with employees eligible for application for research grants, and asked them to provide lists with e-mail addresses for these employees and information about gender, title/level of employment and field of science. NIFU received 60 files from 44 different institutions. The information given in the files varied, from only e-mail-addresses and names of the researchers to complete fill-ins of the form provided. Altogether, there were 16,474 records from the institutions.

2. Duplicates, invalid email addresses and non-complying researchers

348 entries were not included in the database:

- Several duplicates of email-addresses existed in the files from the institutions – some people were employed at more than one institution, others had more than one employment relationship to the same institution. These were removed.
- SNSF sent out emails to all applicants, so that those who did not want the SNSF to share data with NIFU could decline. A total of 65 people declined, of these 24 were also present in the lists from the institutions, and were removed from the database.
- When sending out emails to all applicants, a number of email-addresses were reported as non-valid. These addresses were replaced with information in the entries from the institutions, or the record was removed. In addition, 26 entries from the institutions lacking e-mail addresses, or with e-mail addresses incomplete, were removed.

16,126 unique e-mail-addresses remained in the files from the institutions, which were then merged with the 9,256 applicants from the SNSF database. The e-mail-addresses were used as the identification key in the merging process. At some institutions, researchers use both full and short forms of their e-mail addresses, hence we also checked for duplicates of names. After removing double counting, the total number of people in the database was 20,008.

Table A1. 1 The merged database, overview by type of institution gender and research area.

Field	Gender	University	ETH domain	University of Applied Sciences	University of Teacher Education	Hospital	Others	Total
Humanities and social sciences (GSW)	Female	1296	192	486	94	2	85	2155
	Male	2357	679	626	95	1	179	3937
	Total	3653	871	1112	189	3	264	6092
Natural sciences, engineering and technology (MNI)	Female	909	502	110	0	0	28	1549
	Male	1990	2050	756	3	1	167	4967
	Total	2899	2552	866	3	1	195	6516
Biomed*	Female	1114	288	92		32	35	1561
	Male	2831	851	71		71	107	3931
	Total	3945	1139	163		103	142	5492
Unknown	Female	93	351	36			0	480
	Male	245	974	109			1	1329
	Missing	0	99	0			0	99
	Total	338	1424	145			1	1908
Total	Female	3412	1333	724	94	34	148	5745
	Male	7423	4554	1562	98	73	454	14164
	Missing	0	99	0	0	0	0	99
	Total	**10835**	**5986**	**2286**	**192**	**107**	**602**	**20008**

Note: Data from SNSF (9256 applicants) and the institutions (16474). Overview of merged data after first stage of removing duplicates. 600 entries were removed from the database before drawing the sample, and more duplicates were detected and removed in the sample drawn for the survey.
* Medicine and health sciences and biology

3. Categorising data and reduction of the total sample (from 20,008 to 19,408)

To prepare the extraction of the sample, the entries in the database were categorised according to four major variables:

A. Programme - We made a classification of the entries in the SNSF-file by programme category and divided the applicants by the categories *Sinergia*, *Project funding*, NFP/NRP, NFS/NCCR, Other programmes, Career, Project funding other. Some irrelevant projects/instruments were excluded from the database.

B. Type of institution – In the database from SNSF, main applicants' institutional affiliation was categorised as: University (Kantonale Universität), ETH-domain, University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule) or others. In addition to these categories, NIFU included University of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschulen) and Hospital. In these two last categories there were very few entries and we decided to include all entries in the sample (as drawing a random stratified sample was impossible). The remaining types of institutions were merged into two main categories when drawing a random proportional sample: 1) *Universities and ETH* and 2) University of Applied Sciences and ETH domain. Moreover, the institution category *'other' was reviewed and*, reclassified from *Sonstige*, *Einzelpersonen*, *Firmen* or *Non-profit organizations* to other types of institutions based on their e-mail-address (typical co-applicants that were employed at HEIs). Those who could not be reclassified were removed.

C. Field of science - Based on the data from SNSF and the institutions entries were categorised into three main fields of science: GSW (humanities and social sciences), MNI (natural sciences, engineering and technology, agricultural sciences) and Biomed (Medicine and health sciences and biology). (The institutions were asked to include information on field of science according to OECD's field of science (six main fields). The file from SNSF was classified according to a national classification system.)

D. Gender - Information on gender was provided from SNSF and almost all the institutions. For the two institutions that did not include gender, we did a review of the names determining gender. Those which could not be determined based on name, a total of 99 people, were included along with the men when drawing the sample.

Moreover, before drawing the sample, 11 people who had been invited to participate in a pilot study and helped improve the questionnaire, were removed from the database.

The initial plan was to sort the sample also by position level, but this turned out not to be feasible, as position information was missing or incomplete in several of the files from the institutions, and the SNSF applicant database contained limited information on position.

4. The drawing of the survey sample

All main applicants that received grants through *Project funding* or *Sinergia* were to be included in the survey. And as explained above, all entries at hospitals and Universities of Teacher Education were included in the sample. In this way 3,814 people were preselected.

The rest of the records in the database were grouped by type of institution (*University/ETH* and *Fachhochschule etc*), field of science (GSW, MNI, Biomed) and gender (male/female), in this order. The sample file was sorted alphabetically by email-address before the random stratified sample was drawn.

Percentages of the different categories drawn to the survey sample
The stratified sample was drawn according to the gender distribution of researchers in Switzerland (Source: BFS - Statistisches Lexikon der Schweiz), and according to the entries in the database as regarding type of institution and field of science:[50]

Gender

- Proportion of women among 'professor/innen', 'übrige dozierende' and 'Assistierende und wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende' in 2012 for University + EPFL/ETHZ: 34%
- Proportion of women among 'professor/innen', 'übrige dozierende' and 'Assistierende und wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende' for Fachhochschulen/Pädagogische Hochschulen in 2012: 36 % (i.e. 32% for fachochshulen and 60% for PH).[51]

Type of institution

- Proportion of people in the database employed at University + EPFL/ETHZ: 79%
- Proportion of people in the database employed at Fachhochschule/ Pädagogische Hochschulen / ETH Bereich/Andere: 21%

Field of science

- GSW = Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaft. Corresponds to Social sciences and Humanities in the OECD's field of science.
- MNI = Mathematik, Natur- und Ing.. Corresponds to Natural sciences (excl. Biology), Engineering and technology and Agricultural sciences the OECD's field of science.
- Biomed = Biologie und Medizin. Corresponds to Medical sciences and Biology in the OECD's field of science.
- Unknown = people where information on field of science was not given by the institutions.

Table A1. 2 Share of persons in the database by main type of institution and field of science. Per cent.

Type of institution	GSW	MNI	Biomed	Unknown	Sum
University + EPFL/ETHZ	29 %	32 %	32 %	8 %	100 %
Fachhochschulen, PH, ETH Bereich, Andere	36 %	37 %	9 %	18 %	100 %

[50] For each category the percentage needed from the remaining database (without the preselected sample) to obtain the proportion in the full data base/national figures was calculated.
[51] We lacked national figures for the gender distribution at other institutions and used the overall distribution (34 per cent female) for the Fachhochschulen and Pädagogische Hochschulen for this category.

Table A1. 3 Estimated percentage to be selected for the stratified sample.

	University and EPFL/ETHZ	Fachhoch-schulen, PH, ETH Bereich, Andere
Men		
GSW	15 %	5 %
MNI	16 %	5 %
Biomed	16 %	1 %
Unknown	4 %	2 %
Women		
GSW	8 %	3 %
MNI	9 %	3 %
Biomed	9 %	1 %
Unknown	2 %	1 %
Total	**79 %**	**21 %**

Table A1. 4 Number of preselected* respondents.

Gender and field of research	University and EPFL/ETHZ	Fachhoch-schulen, PH ETH Bereich, Andere
Men		
GSW	589	231
MNI	937	165
Biomed	958	144
Unknown	0	0
Women		
GSW	199	182
MNI	113	34
Biomed	221	41
Unknown		
Total	3017	797

*These include applicants that received grants through *Project funding* or *Sinergia and*, all entries at hospitals and Universities of Teachers Education.

Table A1. 5 Number of respondents to be selected randomly.

Gender and field of research	University and EPFL/ETHZ	Fachhoch-schulen, ETH Bereich, Andere
Men		
GSW	578	170
MNI	343	241
Biomed	329	-41*
Unknown	310	199
Women		
GSW	458	25
MNI	607	175
Biomed	503	12
Unknown	174	103
Total	3302	884

*The 41 extra men within Biomed at the Fachhocschulen were withdrawn from the MNI-group.

Table A1. 6 The sample: researchers invited to the survey by type of institution, gender and research area.

Field	Gender	University	ETH domain	University of Applied Sciences	University of Teacher Education	Hospital	Others	Total
GSW	Female	597	72	95	96	2	16	878
	Male	943	229	237	99	1	49	1558
	Total	1540	301	332	195	3	65	2436
MNI	Female	495	318	96	0	0	18	927
	Male	627	846	131	4	1	31	1640
	Total	1122	1164	227	4	1	49	2567
Biomed	Female	609	136	13		30	6	794
	Male	1085	227	8		70	38	1428
	Total	1694	363	21		100	44	2222
Unknown	Female	50	193	22				265
	Male	84	356	33				473
	Missing	0	38	0				38
	Total	134	587	55				776
Total	Female	1751	719	226	96	32	40	2864
	Male	2739	1658	409	103	72	118	5099
	Missing	0	38	0	0	0	0	38
	***Total**	4490	2415	635	199	104	158	8001

*Reduction of the sample: The drawn sample initially included 8019 entries. Based on this sample, email invitations were sent to 8001 researchers. The 18 entries not included in this table include: 13 email duplicates detected and removed in an additional check of the sample (these were all people with multiple SNSF IDs), and via SNSF we received messages from 3 additional applicants that they were not longer in the target group. Two of the email addresses in the sample were not accepted by the survey administrator system (no invitation was sent).

5. Reduction of the survey sample after invitations were sent out (from 8001 to 7884)

117 'invitees' are excluded from the sample when calculating the overall response rate:

- Invalid email addresses: 107 email addresses generated non-deliverable massages
- Duplicates: 8 person-duplicates were detected after sending out the survey – by feedback from respondents.
- We were informed that 2 invitees were deceased

In addition, a number of invitees reported that they were outside the target group (21), had no time or did not want to participate (39), or had technical difficulties filling in the questionnaire (5). These invitees are not excluded from the gross sample when calculating response rates.

Moreover, two replies received were excluded from the analysis because they did not come from unique invitees: two invitees sent two (different)[52] replies each, and only one from each was included in the analysis.

[52] Apparently by forwarding the invitation to a colleague and overruling the technical restraints on one reply per invitation.

Appendix 4 Questionnaire

CONFIDENTIAL

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the most important Swiss agency promoting scientific research. As mandated by the Swiss Federal government, it supports research for non-commercial purposes in all disciplines. Your needs as well as experiences with research funding instruments are of great importance for the SNSF, and we kindly ask you to participate in this study. The purpose of the survey is to map Swiss researchers' needs and preferences for research funding, as well as the terms provided by the local research environments and views concerning the SNSF.

1. The survey addresses a broad group of researchers in Switzerland including both applicants and non-applicants to the SNSF.
To determine whether you are in the target group of this survey, please answer the two entry questions below.

Yes	No	
○	○	I am engaged in scientific research in Switzerland and employed by an institution domiciled in Switzerland
○	○	I hold a PhD or several years' research experience and am in a position to perform research independently

Start

2. **At your current institution, how would you evaluate each of the following resources and facilities you need to support your research?**

	5 Excellent	4	3	2	1 Poor	Not applicable
Local funding for research projects	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local funding for PhDs and/or postdoc positions	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local funding for international project collaboration	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local funding for interdisciplinary project collaboration	○	○	○	○	○	○
Laboratory space	○	○	○	○	○	○
Laboratory services	○	○	○	○	○	○
Research infrastructures	○	○	○	○	○	○
Research equipment and instruments	○	○	○	○	○	○
Computer facilities	○	○	○	○	○	○
Research support staff/technicians	○	○	○	○	○	○
Library facilities and services	○	○	○	○	○	○
Time available for research	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Please specify

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3. **Do you regularly work on different research topics or research lines in parallel?**
(Check only one)

- ◯ Yes, always
- ◯ Yes, often
- ◯ No, seldom
- ◯ No, never
- ◯ Other, please specify: [ ]

4. **To what extent do you regularly hold multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research?**
Please consider all kinds of research grants when replying – competitive grants from your own institution as well as external funding sources. Check only one.

- ◯ I always/nearly always have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research
- ◯ I often have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research
- ◯ I seldom/never have multiple grants for the same research topics/lines of research
- ◯ Not applicable

5. **How long do you typically work on one topic/research line?** Check only one.

- ◯ Less than a year
- ◯ 1-2 years
- ◯ 3-4 years
- ◯ 5-6 years
- ◯ 7-8 years
- ◯ 9-10 years
- ◯ More than 10 years
- ◯ Cannot say
- ◯ Not applicable

6. **How are junior scientific staff normally integrated in your research projects?**

	Yes	No	Not relevant
There is normally no need for PhDs and/or postdocs in my projects	◯	◯	◯
I or another senior in the project will normally be the supervisor of the PhDs	◯	◯	◯
The PhDs will normally be integrated in doctoral schools	◯	◯	◯
Postdocs in my projects may work fairly independently	◯	◯	◯
Part-time postdoc positions are more adequate for my kind of projects than full-time postdoc positions	◯	◯	◯

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7. **What are your institution's policies concerning third party funds/external funding for research?**

	Yes	No	Don't know
My institution communicates information about SNSF funding schemes and calls to the researchers	○	○	○
My institution provides support services for writing research applications to the SNSF	○	○	○
Obtaining third-party funds is important for personal career advancement at my institution	○	○	○
My institution requires to be informed about applications for third-party funds	○	○	○
My institution has no restrictions on applying for third party funds (researchers may normally apply for the kind of grants they wish)	○	○	○
My institution normally/often has a prescreening of third party funds and may not allow all applications	○	○	○
Grant holders are required to pass a part of third party funds on to my institution to cover indirect costs	○	○	○
Part of the overhead payment my institution receives from the SNSF in relation with my project flows back to the grant holder/research group	○	○	○

8. **Please indicate which of the following sources you have obtained, or tried to obtain, research funding from in the period 2008-2013.**

	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot say
SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)	○	○	○	○
Commission for Technology and Innovation, CTI	○	○	○	○
Other Swiss Federal authorities	○	○	○	○
Cantons	○	○	○	○
Private industry (Swiss)	○	○	○	○
Private foundations (Swiss)	○	○	○	○
Other Swiss sources	○	○	○	○
The European Research Council (ERC)	○	○	○	○
Foreign/international sources (other than ERC)	○	○	○	○

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9. **You have indicated that you have not applied for grants from the European Research Council (ERC). What are your reasons for not applying for these grants?** (several answers possible)

- ☐ I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources
- ☐ The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application
- ☐ I do not think the ERC would fund my kind of research
- ☐ The ERC does not offer grants relevant to my situation/to fund my research
- ☐ I do not have information about ERC grants
- ☐ My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for ERC grants
- ☐ Other (please elaborate below)

Please elaborate on your reasons for not applying

10. **Have you been a 'responsible applicant' and/or 'co-applicant' for SNSF funding in the period 2008-2013?** (Check only one)

- ○ Yes, I have applied as responsible applicant (verantwortliche Gesuchstellende; requérant-e responsable; richiedenti)
- ○ Yes, I have applied as co-applicant (weitere Gesuchstellende/autre requérant-e/co-richiedenti)
- ○ Yes, I have applied both as responsible applicant and co-applicant
- ○ No, I have not applied for SNSF funding as responsible applicant or co-applicant
- ○ Cannot remember

11. **Please indicate why you have applied for SNSF funding as co-applicant and not as responsible applicant** (several answers possible)

- ☐ The research proposal(s) was not initiated by me
- ☐ I did not want to have the administrative tasks of a responsible applicant for the SNSF grant(s)
- ☐ I had less formal qualifications for the project(s) than the chosen responsible applicant
- ☐ I had too limited scientific authorship/track record to be the responsible applicant
- ☐ I had too limited project leader experiences to be the responsible applicant
- ☐ I had scientific expertise only in part of the research fields needed for the project(s) applied to
- ☐ My previous application(s) for SNSF funding was rejected
- ☐ Other, please specify:

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12. **In a previous question you replied that you have applied for SNSF funding in the period 2008-2013. In order to direct you to the correct follow-up questions, please indicate below whether you have tried to obtain/obtained SNSF Project funding or SNSF Sinergia grants as main/responsible applicant.**

	Obtained funding	Tried, but not obtained	Not tried	Cannot remember
SNSF Project funding 2008-2013	○	○	○	○
SNSF Sinergia grant 2008-2013	○	○	○	○

13. **Considering your experience with the SNSF, to what extent do you find SNSF's information on its funding schemes satisfactory?**

	5 To a great extent	4	3	2	1 Not at all	Cannot say/Not relevant
Access to relevant information about funding schemes	○	○	○	○	○	○
Easy to understand information about funding schemes and options	○	○	○	○	○	○

14. **What is your main information source on SNSF funding options?** Check only one

- ○ The SNSF website
- ○ The SNSF newsletter
- ○ Information distributed by your institution
- ○ Information from colleagues/informal information
- ○ No information source
- ○ Other (please specify) [ ]

15. **In a previous question you have indicated that you have not applied for research grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the period 2008-2013. What are your reasons for not applying for SNSF grants?** (several answers possible)

- ☐ I/my unit had sufficient funding from other sources
- ☐ The rejection rate is too high to warrant an application
- ☐ The spending level/project size is too low
- ☐ I do not think SNSF would fund my kind of research
- ☐ I'm not eligible for any of the funding schemes relevant to fund my research
- ☐ I do not have information about any SNSF scheme relevant for my research
- ☐ Research grants have not been relevant for me as I have had no/very little research time (i.e. employed in a teaching position or mainly administrative obligations)
- ☐ I am involved in research activities, but have not yet had a leading role in any research project
- ☐ My institution does not encourage me/my unit to apply for SNSF grants
- ☐ There has not been any SNSF scheme that fits my needs for research funding

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16. **Please specify your funding needs that you consider not covered by any SNSF scheme** (several answers possible)

- ☐ funding for research networks
- ☐ my/my institution's needs for overhead costs
- ☐ funding for large projects
- ☐ funding for long-term projects
- ☐ funding for small projects
- ☐ funding for international collaboration
- ☐ funding for mobility
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

Please elaborate on your reasons for not applying and the kind of funding needs not covered by SNSF

17. **Please elaborate on your reasons for not applying (e.g. your alternative funding and specific needs not covered by SNSF)**

18. **Is it likely that you will submit an application to the SNSF in the coming 2-3-years?**

- ○ Yes, most likely
- ○ No, most likely not

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Part III: Experience and satisfaction with SNSF funding and policies

Please answer with reference to your most recent project funding grant (as responsible applicant). If you hold several project grants, please refer to the most recent grant for which you are able to answer. If you are unable to reply, leave blank or select the "cannot say" option.

19. **Considering this SNSF project funding grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by SNSF project funding, other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding** (if you are not able to give an estimate, leave blank)

	% of total costs
SNSF project funding	
Other SNSF funding	
Other external funding	
Internal/institutional funding	
Total	100%

20. **Was the original budget for this (most recent) SNSF project funding grant cut by SNSF?** Check only one

- ○ No cut in original budget
- ○ Minor cut in original budget
- ○ Substantial cut in original budget
- ○ Cannot say

21. **How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?** (several answers possible)

- ☐ The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution
- ☐ The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project
- ☐ The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped
- ☐ Other (please specify)

22. **Did/do you have any co-applicants in this project** (your most recent SNSF project funding)? Check only one.

- ○ No co-applicants
- ○ One or more co-applicants
- ○ Cannot say

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23. **What is/was the task division between the applicants?**

	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups	Cannot say
The initiative to cooperate was taken by	○	○	○	○	○
The project idea was formulated by	○	○	○	○	○
The main work with writing the project description was done by	○	○	○	○	○
The scientific project leader tasks were/are performed by	○	○	○	○	○
The administrative project leader tasks were/are performed by	○	○	○	○	○
Most of the research was/is performed by	○	○	○	○	○

Please elaborate on your views and experiences concerning the need for and role of multiple applicants in your projects:

24. **Please indicate the total number of researchers in the project and the number of researchers directly benefiting from the SNSF project funding** (your most recent SNSF project funding)

Total number of researchers working on the project	
Number of researchers benefiting* from your most recent SNSF project funding	
* Benefiting in terms of salary or funds for research (including equipment, travel etc.)	

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25. **When comparing SNSF project funding with your other relevant funding sources, is SNSF project funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning:**

	Better	About the same	Poorer	Cannot say
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	○	○	○	○
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	○	○	○	○
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	○	○	○	○
Amount of funding	○	○	○	○
Flexibility of use of funds	○	○	○	○
Support for young scientists?	○	○	○	○
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	○	○	○	○
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○

Other (please specify)

Please answer with reference to your most recent Sinergia grant (as responsible applicant). If you hold several Sinergia grants, please refer to the most recent grant for which you are able to answer. If you are unable to reply, leave blank or select the "cannot say" option.

26. **Considering this SNSF Sinergia grant, please estimate the proportion of the total project costs covered by the Sinergia grant, by other external funding, and by internal/institutional funding** (if you are not able to give an estimate, leave blank)

	% of total costs
SNSF Sinergia grant	
Other SNSF funding	
Other external funding	
Internal/institutional funding	
Total	100%

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27. **Was the original budget for your (most recent) Sinergia grant cut by SNSF?** Check only one.

- ○ No cut in original budget
- ○ Minor cut in original budget
- ○ Substantial cut in original budget
- ○ Cannot say

28. **How has SNSF's cut in the original budget affected the project?** (several answers possible)

- ☐ The project was delayed / some tasks have been postponed
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by other SNSF funding (additional application(s) to SNSF)
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from other external sources
- ☐ The budget cut has been substituted (fully or partly) by funding from own institution
- ☐ The project group is reduced / fewer persons are involved in the project
- ☐ The project content is reduced / some parts of the project are dropped
- ☐ Other (please specify)

29. **What is/was the task division between the applicants in your (most recent) Sinergia grant?**

	Myself	Co-applicant(s)	Other project staff	Several of these groups	Cannot say
The initiative to cooperation was taken by	○	○	○	○	○
The project idea was formulated by	○	○	○	○	○
The scientific project leader tasks were/are performed by	○	○	○	○	○
The administrative project leader tasks were/are performed by	○	○	○	○	○
Most of the research was/is performed by	○	○	○	○	○

Please elaborate on your views and experiences concerning the need and role of multiple applicants for 'Synergia type' projects:

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30. **When comparing Sinergia grants with your other relevant funding sources, is Sinergia poorer, about the same or better, concerning:**

	Better	About the same	Poorer	Cannot say
Opportunities for building new international scientific networks	○	○	○	○
Opportunities for building new national scientific networks	○	○	○	○
The number of groups allowed in the project	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for doing unique/original research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for addressing high-risk topics	○	○	○	○
Support for new projects without requiring preliminary research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for doing interdisciplinary research	○	○	○	○
Opportunities offered for broadening your field of expertise	○	○	○	○
Amount of funding	○	○	○	○
Flexibility of use of funds	○	○	○	○
Support for young scientists?	○	○	○	○
Impact on the prestige and career of the awarded investigators?	○	○	○	○
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○

Other (plese specify here)

31. **Administrative tasks: When comparing SNSF funding with your alternative funding sources, is the SNSF funding poorer, about the same or better, concerning the required time to write applications and administer project grants?**

COMPARED TO	Better	About the same	Poorer	Not relevant
Local competitive funding	○	○	○	○
Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)	○	○	○	○
The European Research Council (ERC)	○	○	○	○
EU Framework Programme (other than ERC)	○	○	○	○
Private foundations	○	○	○	○

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Part IV: Planned adjustments to SNSF project funding

32. **The SNSF plans changes to its project funding scheme to better meet researchers' needs, clarify the roles and responsibilities of researchers involved in projects and to facilitate the evaluation process.**

We would like your views on the suggestions below. Please indicate whether the changes would make the scheme more or less attractive to you.

NUMBER OF GRANTS, GRANT SIZE AND RUNNING TIME	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive
a. possibility to obtain more substantial project grants with additional restrictions on parallel grants within project funding	○	○	○
b. 4-year running time for project grants instead of 3 years	○	○	○
c. one single long-running grant (e.g. one proposal for a 6-year grant) instead of several subsequent project grants	○	○	○
d. possibility to obtain smaller grants (e.g. 50 000 CHF) with reduced application requirements	○	○	○
e. option to include in project funding a provision for items which you currently have to ask for in separate funding schemes (e.g. workshops, international short visits, science communication, networking, publications, etc.)	○	○	○

RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANTS	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive
f. limitation of the number of applicants per proposal to one scientifically responsible person (co-investigators could benefit from the project funds and there could be exceptions for interdisciplinary projects)	○	○	○
g. limitation of the number of applicants per grant to two	○	○	○
h. co-applicants allowed, but scientific responsibility clearly attributed to the main applicant	○	○	○

PROPOSALS	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive
i. possibility to leave the research plan more open concerning the research aims and methods	○	○	○
j. possibility for greater openness of the research plan in terms of working plan, milestones, outcomes, etc.	○	○	○
k. requirement for more detailed research plan than currently	○	○	○
l. limitation of the number of pages for the research plan to 10-15 pages (instead of 20)	○	○	○
m. extension of the number of pages for the research plan to 25-30 (instead of 20)	○	○	○

SNSF's EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	More attractive	Indifferent	Less attractive
n. greater weight on the project idea than on past performance of the applicant when evaluating proposals	○	○	○
o. greater weight on the past performance of the applicant than on the project idea when evaluating proposals	○	○	○
p. greater weight on the aims of the project than on its feasibility and preliminary results	○	○	○

33. **Please feel free to comment on the above suggestions in the light of your overall views and experience regarding SNSF's funding schemes.** Bear in mind that the terms of funding schemes imply trade-offs, e.g. between the size and number of grants.

Part V: Background information

34. **What is your current (main) position?**

- ◯ Full professor or similar
- ◯ Associate professor or similar
- ◯ Assistant professor or similar
- ◯ Senior researcher (other than Postdoc, see below for examples)*
- ◯ Postdoc
- ◯ Professor emeritus
- ◯ Other (please specify)

* Eg. Privatdozent/privat-docent, Titularprofessor/professeur titulaire, Lehrbeauftragter /chargé de cours, directeur de recherche, maître d'enseignement et de recherche, Maître assistant, 1er Assistant, Oberassistent, Oberarzt, Assistenzarzt/médecin assistant.

35. **What is your current (main) institutional affiliation?**

- ◯ University
- ◯ University of Applied Sciences
- ◯ University of Teacher Education
- ◯ ETHZ/EPFL
- ◯ ETH Research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa, Eawag)
- ◯ Private sector research lab/institute
- ◯ Hospital
- ◯ Other:

36. **What are the terms of your current employment contract? If** you are affiliated with multiple research/higher education institutions, please answer for your principal/most important employment.

- ◯ Permanently employed (tenured)
- ◯ Continuously employed (no pre-set term, but no guarantee of permanence)
- ◯ Fixed-term employment with permanent/continuous employment prospects (tenure-track)
- ◯ Fixed-term employment without permanent/continuous employment prospects
- ◯ Other (please specify)

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37. **Are you full-time or part-time employed?** If you are affiliated with multiple research/higher education institutions, please answer for your principal/most important employment.

- ◯ Full-time employed
- ◯ Part-time employed, as % of full-time
- ◯ Part-time with payment according to work tasks
- ◯ Other (please specify) [ ]

38. **Considering all your professional work during a typical working month, how large is the part that you normally spend on research activities?**

- ◯ Less than 10%
- ◯ 10-25%
- ◯ 25-50%
- ◯ 50-75 %
- ◯ More than 75%

39. **At your current institution, which are the conditions for access to the following services/facilities?**

	Available free of charge	Available against charge	Not available	Not relevant
Research equipment and instruments	◯	◯	◯	◯
Services (e.g. laboratory analysis)	◯	◯	◯	◯
Computer facilities	◯	◯	◯	◯
Laboratory space	◯	◯	◯	◯
Other, please specify (below)	◯	◯	◯	◯

You may enter additional information/explanations below

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Institutional funding: Please give an estimate of funding available to you from your own institution in 2012

40. **a) Number of your staff funded by your institution (e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents):**

41. **b) Research funds in CHF** (not including staff/salary):
Check only one

- ◯ No institutional funding
- ◯ Below 10 000 CHF
- ◯ 10 000 – 100 000 CHF
- ◯ 100 000 – 200 000 CHF
- ◯ 200 000 – 500 000 CHF
- ◯ 500 000 – 1 000 000 CHF
- ◯ Above 1 000 000 CHF
- ◯ Cannot say

42. **c) Was some of that funding obtained on a competitive basis?**

◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ Not applicable

Third party funding: Please give an estimate of third party/external funding available to you in 2012.

43. **a) Number of your staff funded from external sources (e.g. your PhDs, postdocs, assistants; in full time equivalents):**

44. **b) Research funds in CHF (not including staff/salary):**
If you hold multi-year grants and do not have exact sums for 2012, please make a rough estimate by dividing total amount by number of funding years.
Check only one.

- ◯ No external funding
- ◯ Below 10 000 CHF
- ◯ 10 000 – 100 000 CHF
- ◯ 100 000 – 200 000 CHF
- ◯ 200 000 – 500 000 CHF
- ◯ 500 000 – 1 000 000 CHF
- ◯ Above 1 000 000 CHF
- ◯ Cannot say

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45. **Please select your field of research from the dropdown list below.** *The list contains 42 (OECD) categories, numbered as follows:* 1 Natural sciences; 2 Engineering and technology; 3 Medical sciences; 4 Agricultural sciences; 5 Social sciences; 6 Humanities; 7 Others.
If you do not find you field of research on the list, please select the closest category. The categories are explained at the OECD web pages http://www.oecd.org/science/inno/38235147.pdf

Select field of research

Other field:

46. **Please indicate your year of birth (four digits needed) and your gender**

Your year of birth

and gender:

◯ Female ◯ Male

47. **Which year did you receive your (first) doctorate?** (four digits needed)

48. **Where did you receive your (first) doctorate?**

◯ In Switzerland
◯ In another country

49. **International mobility: Please indicate if you have had any research-stays abroad/performed research outside Switzerland for at least one semester during your career.**

	Yes	No
during doctoral studies	◯	◯
during postdoc research	◯	◯
as a senior researcher/at other times than postdoc/doctoral studies	◯	◯
stay(s) abroad funded by the SNSF	◯	◯

50. **Before completing the survey, please take the time to comment on aspects of SNSF funding you find important. Of particular interest are your funding needs and ideas for improvement of the SNSF.**

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[Message to those filtered out by the entry questions]

51. **Thank you very much for entering the survey. Your replies to the entering questions indicate that you are outside the target group of the SNSF researcher survey. If you still are in the target group (employed by an institution domiciled in Switzerland in a position to perform research independently), but checked incorrect replies, please select the "Back" option and correct your answer.**

    If you are outside the target group, please select "Complete" to exit the survey. Then your questionnaire will be registered as completed and you will not receive reminders concerning this survey.

Back Complete

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