

Swiss National Science Foundation

POSTDOC.MOBILITY CALL FEBRUARY 2027

16 November 2026, 10:00 – 11:30

The SNSF Postdoc.Mobility team

Scientific Officers

– SSH: **Coralie Dorsaz**, David Möller
– MINT: Marco Bieri**, Lea Klaiber,** Ramona Rauber
– LS: Corina Maritz, **Martina Haug**, Renate Zindel

Grant Managers

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Contact information

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– Slides will be available on our website Postdoc.Mobility

Overview of the SNSF Career instruments

SNSF Career Funding Schemes



Develop your research expertise

Postdoc.Mobility

Postdoc abroad

1 – 2 years

Return Grants

Postdoc in CH after PM

3 – 12 months



Lead your research project

Ambizione

Mid-career researcher

4 years



Lead your research project and your team

SNSF Starting Grants

Assistant professor/ Group leader

5 years

SNSF Career Funding Schemes – 2028

– **Postdoc.Mobility** and **Ambizione** will be replaced by the new scheme **Postdoc Grants** as of 2028

– Ambizione: final submission deadline was 3 November 2026

– Postdoc.Mobility: final submission deadlines on **2 February 2027** and **3 August 2027**

– Return Grants: researchers with an ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship can submit a Return Grant application even after 2027 (as long as they are eligible → ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship)

– More information on the new Postdoc Grants will follow

Eligibility criteria

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (1)

All requirements must be fulfilled on the date of 2 February 2027

PhD/MD-PhD

– Submission of the application within 3 years* after the date of your PhD defense, or
– Completion (=successful defense) of the PhD within 6 months after the submission deadline.

Medical studies with doctorate (Dr. med)

– Submission of the application within 8 years* after the state examination, or
– Completion of the doctorate (Dr. med) within 6 months after the submission deadline.
– At least 3 years of clinical work.

-> Studies towards an MD-PhD cannot be funded under this scheme.

* Extension of the eligibility window is possible under certain conditions, see next slide

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (2)

– Extension of the window of eligibility can be requested based on the following reasons:

– paternity, adoption or parental leave
– inability to work due to illness or accident
– care duties
– services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service
– continuing education in connection with the applicant's research activities, particularly internships or clinical work

Only the actual incurred delay can be requested

Maternity: extension of 18 months per child

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (3)

– All requirements must be fulfilled on the date of 2 February 2027

– **CH passport, Swiss permanent settlement permit (permit C) or married resp. in a registered partnership with a Swiss**. The permit C must either be valid at the submission deadline (2.2.2027) or should have expired no more than 6 months before the submission deadline.
– Candidates who do not fulfill these conditions are admitted
  – if they are conducting or have conducted their **doctoral studies (PhD or MD) at a Swiss higher education institution** or
  – if they have obtained their **state examination in Switzerland**
  – **and had not held a postdoctoral position abroad** prior to the submission deadline. A postdoctoral position abroad is defined as any research position in an academic environment taken up abroad following the completion of a PhD, regardless of the exact job description (postdoc, research assistant, etc.) or the general conditions (fixed-term or permanent position, employment or fellowship, workload, duration).

Personal requirements Return Grants

– Applications for a return grant can only be submitted during an **ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship** at the official submission deadline (2 February 2027).
– Exception: if the Postdoc.Mobility fellowship ends on 31 January 2027, a proposal for a return grant can still be submitted on 2 February 2027.

– **For Postdoc.Mobility and the Return Grants: Please consult the Postdoc.Mobility Regulations and the guidelines on our website to check your formal eligibility.**

Application details (1)

Deadlines

- **Tuesday, 2 February 2027, 17:00:00 Swiss local time**
- **Tuesday, 3 August 2027, 17:00:00 Swiss local time**

(→ final Postdoc.Mobility call)

→ NOT-NEGOTIABLE

- Parallel submission for the same period to e.g. Ambizione not possible, except RG

Duration

- **Postdoc.Mobility:** 12-24 months
- **Return Grants:** 3-12 months

Start of the grant

- Earliest start on 1 August 2027
- Latest start on 1 August 2028

Application details (2)

Host institution(s)

Postdoc.Mobility

- Non-commercial research institution abroad
- 1 or more host institutions
- Max. 1/3 in Switzerland
- Max. 1/4 at institutions in the practical field (industry, administration, etc.)
- Home country if justified (except CH)
- Place of education (institution where an academic degree was obtained) is not allowed

Return Grants

- Host institution in Switzerland
- Place of education is formally possible (but mobility is an evaluation criterion)

Worktime percentage

- 100%
- 80% in case of care duties, teaching, clinical activity

How to apply

General tips

- **All relevant information can be found on the SNSF website and on mySNF**
- Postdoc.Mobility Regulations, Guidelines Postdoc.Mobility, Guidelines Return Grants, are on our website (Homepage > Funding > Find funding scheme > Postdoc.Mobility)
- Submission via www.mysnf.ch
  - Register on mySNF as early as possible (scheme open 3 months before deadline)
- Start planning your submission early: deadlines are strict and non-negotiable, and the document upload may take some time, mySNF closes exactly at 17:00:00
- Invest enough time for preparing all required documents (e.g., research plan, confirmation(s) host institute(s), support letter(s)…)
- You are competing with many applicants, i.e., your proposal must stand out and make a difference

Research plan

Postdoc.Mobility

- Number of pages: max. **8 pages**
- Character count: max. **30’000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

Return CH Grant

- Number of pages: max. **4 pages**
- Character count: max. **15’000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

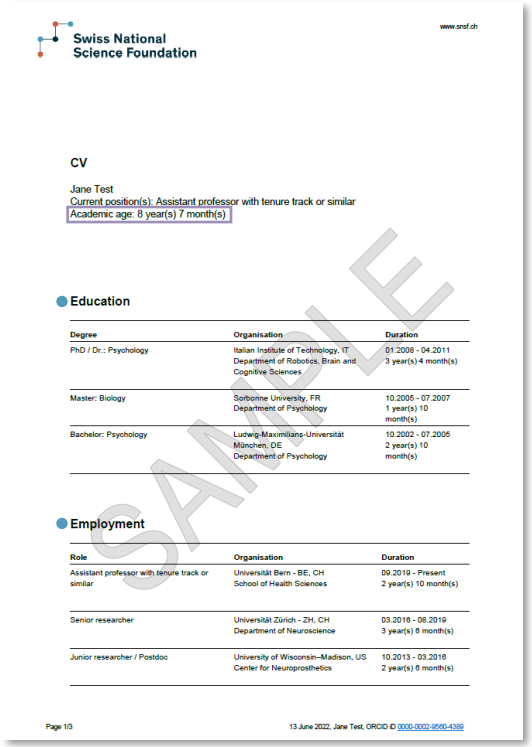
Both

- Please follow the guidelines/instructions carefully, also regarding the requested structure
- At least point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing
- Research plan should be understandable for experts (within area of research) as well as for people in the wider discipline
- No annexes allowed

Max. number of pages AND of characters must be respected, otherwise, your application will be formally rejected

CV: Structure and main elements (SNSF Portal)

- Academic age
- Education & Employment (with supervisors)
- 3 Major achievements
- Works (up to 10), ideally with a direct link
- ORCID iD (make sure it is public)



Swiss National Science Foundation

www.snsf.ch

CV

Jane Test
Current position(s): Assistant professor with tenure track or similar
Academic age: 8 year(s) 7 month(s)

Education

Degree	Organisation	Duration
PhD / Dr.: Psychology	Italian Institute of Technology, IT Department of Robotics, Brain and Cognitive Sciences	01.2008 - 04.2011 3 year(s) 4 month(s)
Master: Biology	Sorbonne University, FR Department of Psychology	10.2005 - 07.2007 1 year(s) 10 month(s)
Bachelor: Psychology	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, DE Department of Psychology	10.2002 - 07.2005 2 year(s) 10 month(s)

Employment

Role	Organisation	Duration
Assistant professor with tenure track or similar	Universität Bern - BE, CH School of Health Sciences	09.2019 - Present 2 year(s) 10 month(s)
Senior researcher	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Department of Neuroscience	03.2016 - 08.2019 3 year(s) 6 month(s)
Junior researcher / Postdoc	University of Wisconsin–Madison, US Center for Neuroprosthetics	10.2013 - 03.2016 2 year(s) 6 month(s)

SAMPLE

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13 June 2022, Jane Test, ORCID ID 0000-0002-9560-4389



SNSF

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Role	Organisation	Duration
Junior researcher / Postdoc	ETH Zurich, CH Institute for Neuroscience	05.2011 - 10.2013 2 year(s) 6 month(s)

Major achievements

Achievement 1

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[1] journal-article. Carberry, J. (2012). A Methodology for the Emulation of Architecture. Journal of Psychoceramics, 5(11), 1–3. https://doi.org/10.5555/12345680. DOI.
[2] journal-article. Carberry, J. (2011). The Impact of Interactive Epistemologies on Cryptography. Journal of Psychoceramics, 8(11), 1–3. https://doi.org/10.5555/9876543211. DOI.
[3] journal-article. Aziri, D., Freeman, L., Stepien, R., Rush, J. E., Tjostheim, S., Kellihan, H., Aherne, M., Vereb, M., & Goldberg, R. (2021). Effect of type of diet on blood and plasma taurine concentrations, cardiac biomarkers, and echocardiograms in 4 dog breeds. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 35(2), 771–779. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16075. DOI.
[4] journal-article. Sannino, C., Cannone, N., D'Alò, F., Franzetti, A., Gandolfi, I., Pittino, F., Turchetti, B., Mezzasoma, A., Zucconi, L., Buzzini, P., Guglielmin, M., & Onofri, S. (2022). Fungal communities in European alpine soils are not affected by short-term in situ simulated warming than bacterial communities. Environmental Microbiology. https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2920.16080. DOI.

Achievement 2

SAMPLE

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13 June 2022, Jane Test, ORCID ID 0000-0002-9560-4389



SNSF

www.snsf.ch

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[1] book-chapter. Bassolino M., Serino A. Representation and perception of the body in space. (2021). In: Della Sala, S. (Ed.). Encyclopedia of Behavioral Neuroscience, vol. 2, Elsevier, pp. 640–656. DOI.
[2] journal-article. Kastner, M., Wilczynski, N. L., McKibbon, A. K., Garg, A. X., & Haynes, R. B. (2009). Diagnostic test systematic reviews: bibliographic search filters ("Clinical Queries") for diagnostic accuracy studies perform well. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, 62(9), 974–981. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2008.11.006. DOI.

Achievement 3

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SAMPLE

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13 June 2022, Jane Test, ORCID ID 0000-0002-9560-4389

[Your curriculum vitae – all about the CV format]

Confirmation letter(s) host institution(s)

- Mandatory for each host institution (for stays of at least 1 month)
- Document must bear
  - the official letter head of the host institution (no e-mail)
  - and the original signature of the head(s) of the institution or host professor(s)
- Has to state the start and end dates
- **Has to state clearly that the necessary infrastructure is available for the duration of the research stay**
- If you submit a project requiring authorisations or notifications (the SNSF follows the regulations applicable in Switzerland), the letter must confirm compliance with the legal provisions and ethical guidelines in the country of the host institute and that all necessary authorisations have been obtained.
- If the letter cannot provide such confirmation by the submission deadline and if the necessary authorisations are only obtained at a later date, a second letter must be submitted at the latest before the release of funds. The funds can only be released for payment once the SNSF is in possession of such confirmation from the host institute.

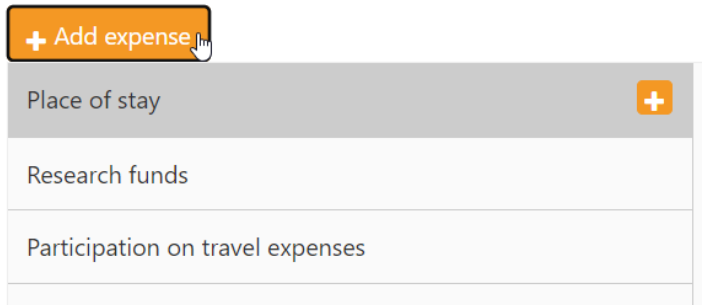
Support letter(s) from the mentor(s) at the host institution(s)

- For stays of at least 6 months
- Official letter head of the host institution (no e-mail)
- Original signature of the mentor(s)
- The mentor(s) at the host institution(s) must confirm their willingness to support the applicant for their future career path
- The SNSF requires the mentor at the host institution to comment on the following aspects:
  - How will the research project be supported scientifically?
  - How will the applicant's scientific independence be ensured and promoted?
  - How will the continuous intellectual development and continuing education of the applicant be facilitated?
  - What resources needed for the research will the mentor make available to the applicant should they receive a fellowship?
- The person who signs the confirmation letter can also sign the support letter. However, **2 letters must be submitted.**

Requested funding

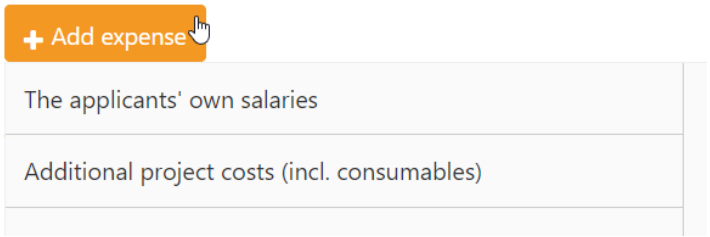
Postdoc.Mobility

- Grant towards living costs, flat-rate for travel expenses (fellowship and travel allowances rates). Please note this is a scholarship, not a salary
- Child allowances



Return CH Grant

- Salary and social contributions



Both

- Contribution to research and conference costs (max. CHF 5’000/year) **must be requested with the application**

Do not upload, otherwise you will be asked to delete

- Cover letter
- Career plan
- Reference letters
- Annexes to the research plan
- Publications, PhD thesis, …

Evaluation procedure and timeline

2 February 2027 at 17:00:00 (Swiss local time)	Submission deadline
February – April 2027	Scientific evaluation by two panel members (written evaluation, external reviews upon request)
May 2027	Panel meetings (list of panel members is available on our website)
Beginning of July 2027	**Communications of decisions**
1 August 2027	Earliest project start

Detailed description of the evaluation procedure -> Evaluation procedure

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria*

Applicant

- Scientific research output to date (quality), relative to the net academic age
- Ability, based on achievements to date, to conduct the project and contribute to it personally
- Career development and mobility (past and future)

Project

- Scientific relevance, quality, originality and topicality
- Suitability of approach, methodology and feasibility

Host institution

- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project
- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant's independence, intellectual development and continuing education
- For RG: value added to a scientific/academic career in CH

SNSF

* Art. 18 para. 2 of the Postdoc.Mobility Regulations

Host institutions abroad

Evaluation criteria

- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project
- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant's independence, intellectual development and continuing education

Clarify as early as possible whether a stay at the host institution is subject to any conditions, e.g.:

- Overhead -> the SNSF does not pay overhead or bench fees
- Minimum salary requirements (for example at US institutions) -> SNSF fellowship rates are binding, any gap should be covered by the host institution -> clarify questions regarding funding etc. early enough.
- Status of visiting researchers (for example in France, where fellowship holders usually must be employed after a certain period).
- Research in crisis area: The SNSF assesses the feasibility of research proposals during the scientific evaluation process. Risk analyses presented in the research plan are also examined. These may present alternative options, for example how the research could be carried out without travelling to countries with a significant security risk or whether it could be carried out entirely in another country.

If you are successful…

- Read carefully the decision letter (conditions etc.)
- For administrative questions, see our Information set Postdoc.Mobility and our FAQ on the website
  - Taxes
  - Instalment/bank account
  - Insurances
  - Maternity, parental leave
  - Reporting (scientific and financial reports)
  - …
- For individual questions where you cannot find information: contact us!

If you are not successful…

First…

- Read the decision letter (including the referee reports) carefully
- If you have questions, contact us for clarifications

If you are thinking of resubmitting,…

- Check if you still fulfill all formal requirements for the same funding scheme
- Consider the points criticised when preparing the new application
- You may apply once more for a Postdoc.Mobility resp. Return CH Grant (if you fulfill the eligibility requirements)

If you strongly disagree with the decision,…

- You can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision

Possible reasons for rejection (non-exhaustive)

- Lack of details with regard to the **evaluation criteria**
- Not clearly demonstrated **experience** or **expertise** in the field of the project
- Quality of **scientific achievements** not clear, not convincing
- Unclear or missing **own contribution** to the project
- **Aims**, **research questions** or **hypotheses** unclear or not well defined
- Lack of **coherence**, lack of **focus**
- Missing **references** to sources, archives, literature or competitors
- **Theoretical framework** is not clear
- Not enough details about the **experimental approaches**
- Unclear, outdated, inappropriate or insufficiently developed **methods** (inc. data collection)
- Unclear statistical plan/power calculation, etc.
- Overambitious, **feasibility** not clearly given
- No **backup plan**
- **…**

Postdoc Grants – new funding instrument as of 2028

- **Launch in 2028**, replacing Ambizione and Postdoc.Mobility
- **Swiss-based grant** with flexible international research stays and a high level of autonomy
- Up to **4 years funding** + CHF 100k project costs + CHF 10k for continuing education
- Targeted specifically at **R2** researchers
- **Eligibility**
  - PhD (or comparable research experience) of confirmed date for PhD defense within 3 months after submission
  - Evidence of at least one original research output that has undergone a recognised quality assurance process (such as peer review or review by an editorial board)
  - Swiss link: Swiss nationality, a higher education qualification (master's, PhD) from a Swiss institution or one year's research work in Switzerland after the doctorate
  - Host must be different from the institution of the PhD
- Detailed regulations and more information about evaluation procedure will be communicated early 2027
- News published in early October: Latest news on career funding reform

FAQ

FAQ

Can I apply for Postdoc.Mobility if I have already submitted an Ambizione or SNSF Starting Grant application?

If you have submitted an application for Ambizione or SNSF StG which is under evaluation, you cannot submit an application for a Postdoc.Mobility fellowship for the same funding period.

Do you consider the oral exam, final draft submission or public defense as date for the PhD?

The date of the examination or respectively the date of the defense of the doctoral thesis is the relevant date (the public defense is, with few exceptions, held on a different day than the exam and is therefore not relevant here).

FAQ

Can I apply to go to more than one host institution?

Yes, this is possible. You must submit a confirmation letter from each host institution (for stays as of 1 month) and a support letter from each mentor (for stays as of 6 months).

Can a dual national apply to go to one of their home country, where they have never lived, studied...?

Yes, but a request for exemption has to be uploaded in the application.

Is it possible for the host institution to top up the stipend?

Yes, if there is a minimal amount demanded at the host institute. The SNSF does not top up the stipends.

FAQ

Will my Postdoc.Mobility fellowship be taxed in Switzerland?

Generally, all cantons consider the fellowships to be taxable income in the year of approval or in the year of payment. If you have any questions, please contact the relevant tax office directly.

Further FAQ on our website: Postdoc.Mobility -> FAQ

Practical information

- Contact the research institution(s) and the mentor(s) well in advance for the **confirmation letter(s) and the support letter(s)**

- Avoid submitting at the very last moment, uploading documents and confirming each section in mySNF may take some time!

- **Submission deadline: 2 February 2027, 17:00:00 Swiss local time**

- Question “rumors/myths” – better contact the SNSF at pm@snf.ch

Thank you!

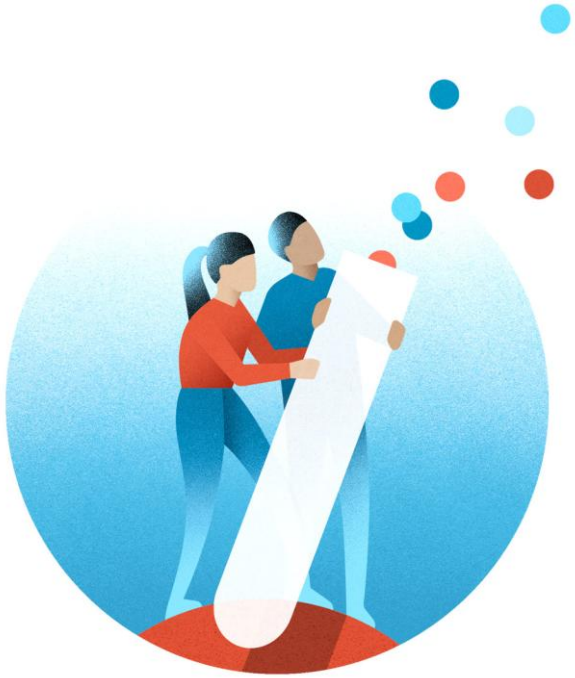
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Swiss National Science Foundation - YouTube

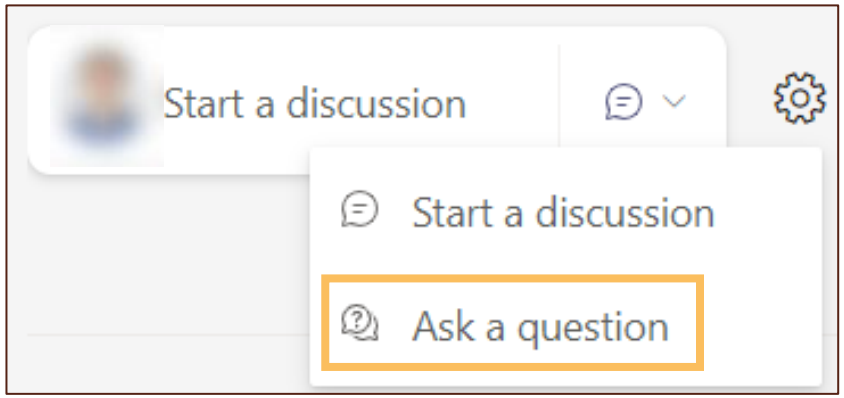


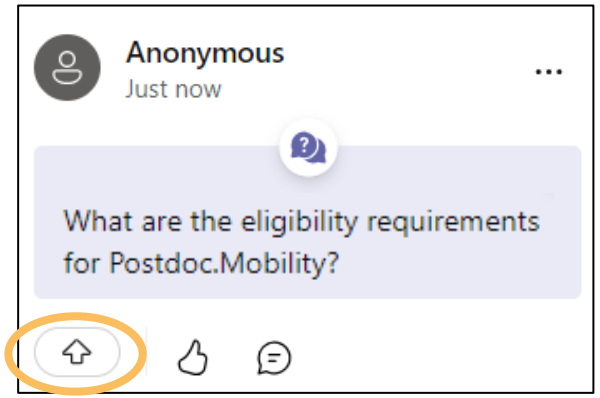
Check out our website: https://www.snf.ch/en

Visit the SNSF Data Portal: https://data.snf.ch/

Rules for the Q&A session

- **Ask brief and general questions** relating to this call in Teams, language: English
- Questions regarding the new Postdoc Grants will not be answered today. The regulations (including eligibility criteria and transitional provisions) will be published by early 2027.
- Click on *ask a question* and choose *anonymous*. We moderate and publish the questions.





- **Upvote any published question** by *clicking on the arrow*. Upvote rather than ask a similar question. We will answer questions orally.
- We will not publish specific questions relating to your personal situation. For this you can reach us at pm@snf.ch; we stop the Q&A at **11:30**