



# NCCR 6. CALL – WEBINAR

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# Content

- Presentation: NCCR 6<sup>th</sup> call (15')
  - NCCR funding scheme
  - Key elements of the call
  - Submission procedure
  - Elements of the scientific evaluation
  
- Q&A (45')

# NCCR funding scheme

- National networks on topics with strategic importance for Swiss research and long-term perspective
- Sustainable renewal and optimisation of research structures
- Implementation of coherent strategies for
  - Collaborative and coherent research programme
  - The five structure-related areas: knowledge & technology transfer, education & training, equal opportunities, communication & outreach, open science
- High organisational and financial autonomy

# Scope of the 6<sup>th</sup> call

- Presumably 6 to 9 new NCCRs
- Duration flexible between 8-12 years
- Budget between 8 to 20 Mio CHF for phase I
- Within this range, small – in terms of consortia size and/or budget – and short NCCRs are welcomed
- Same evaluation criteria for all NCCR proposals independent of their size:
  - Sustainable strengthening of Switzerland's position in proposed research fields
  - Renewal and optimisation of research structures in the fields

# Diversity

The SNSF recognises that diversity can significantly enhance excellence in research

## Gender diversity

- NCCRs are expected to establish an exemplary gender balance within the consortium (including the NCCR leadership)
- An ambitious gender balance plan must be included in the full proposal

## Institutional diversity

- The SNSF encourages to include groups from different types of institutions that can make substantial contributions to the proposed topic

# Eligibility criteria team of directors

## Team of directors

- Composed of NCCR director, co-director(s), deputy director(s), and deputy co-director(s)

## Eligibility criteria team of directors:

- Permanent position at a recognised home institution
- Experience in research management
- Additional requirements for the NCCR director:
  - Commits for at least the first phase
  - Invests at least 30% FTE to leadership tasks
  - Designates a successor in case of a retirement after the first phase
- Co-directors commit to an extent that is adapted to their organisational role in the NCCR

# Eligibility criteria PIs

– Eligibility criteria of the SNSF project funding apply:

- 4 year after PhD or clearly independent position before the 4 years
- At least 50% FTE contract for the whole duration of the first phase at an eligible institution
  - Exception for researchers on a qualification position (tenure track position)
  - Researchers reaching retirement age within the first phase must have an employment confirmation for the 4 first years

– Researchers from abroad are allowed:

- Their inclusion must be scientifically justified
- Up to around 10% of all PIs
- Their participation is generally limited to one funding period

# Requirements home institutions (HIs)

- HIs:
  - Support NCCR proposals that are compatible with their long-term strategic planning
  - Make adequate financial and structural contributions
  - Commit to releasing the NCCR director of at least 30% FTE from other duties (e.g. teaching or admin tasks)
- The following institutions are eligible as HI:
  - The Federal Institutes of Technology and the research centres of the ETH domain.
  - Universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education and other institutions in the higher education sector that are accredited under the HEdA.
  - Research facilities of national importance which receive funding from the Confederation.



# Stages in the submission process

- Declaration of intent (15 Feb 2024)
- Outline proposal (15 April 2024)
- Full proposal (3 Feb 2025)
- Shortlist SNSF → SERI (Sep 2025)
- Final decision by EAER (Jan 2026)
- Start of new NCCRs (between March and May 2026)

# Scientific evaluation

## – Declarations of intent:

- In mySNF (open in mid January)
- No documents required, no evaluation!
- Main purpose: adequate preparation of subsequent evaluation steps

## – Outline proposal:

- In mySNF (open in mid January)
- Templates available in the call document
- External peer review, at least three thematic panels
- Outcome = classification of outline proposal; recommendation whether to submit a full proposal or not

# Scientific evaluation

## – Full proposal:

- Submission platform tbd
- External peer review, rebuttal (applicants can comment external reviews), interdisciplinary panels interviewing NCCR director(s)
- SNSF submits unranked shortlist of recommended proposals to the SERI (State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation)

## – SERI:

- Evaluation of science policy aspects (incl. meetings with involved Home Institutions)
- Final decision by Federal Department EAER

# Scientific evaluation – important elements

- NCCR applicants must justify why they need an NCCR for achieving their goals.
- NCCRs are more than just very big and long-lasting research projects. Ideally, they will define new research fields, establish novel collaborations, build up new and optimise existing structures, act as test beds for innovative approaches e.g. in equal opportunities or education.
- In collaboration with the HI(s), the NCCRs build institutional structures, research facilities and community building to ensure a long-term impact. Applicants should have a first vision about their potential legacy.
- Applicants must be selective when building their consortium to make sure that their proposals are thematically coherent, of consistently high scientific quality and including highly committed PIs.

# Questions?

– For additional and very specific questions contact [nccr@snf.ch](mailto:nccr@snf.ch)