



# SNSF'S NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

23 November 2023

Webinar

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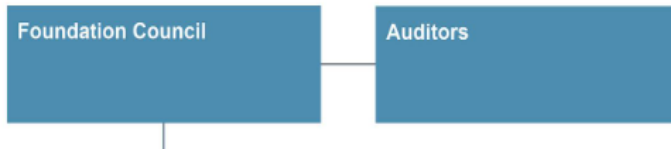
Organisation

# A forward-looking structure for the SNSF

## Contact

Section: Communication

E-Mail: [com@snf.ch](mailto:com@snf.ch)



# Welcome / Introduction

01 **Goals of the Webinar**

02 **Speakers**

03 **Questions**

please continue sending questions to  
[go2024@snf.ch](mailto:go2024@snf.ch), we will answer them as we  
progress





# The project

## GO 2024

- Governance & Organisation 2024
- Revision of the Statutes
- Reflection on the statutory bodies, structures, organisation



# SNSF at the interface:

## On behalf of the Swiss Federal Government...

- Federal Act on the Promotion of Science and Innovation (RIPA)
- Service level agreement 2021-2024 between the SNSF and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
- Federal contributions 2022: CHF 1156 million

## ... and in academic self-organisation ('science for science')

- Foundation under private law
- created on 1 August 1952 by the leading scientific organisations of Switzerland
- Independent

# Tasks of the SNSF as a research funder

1. Fund scientific research

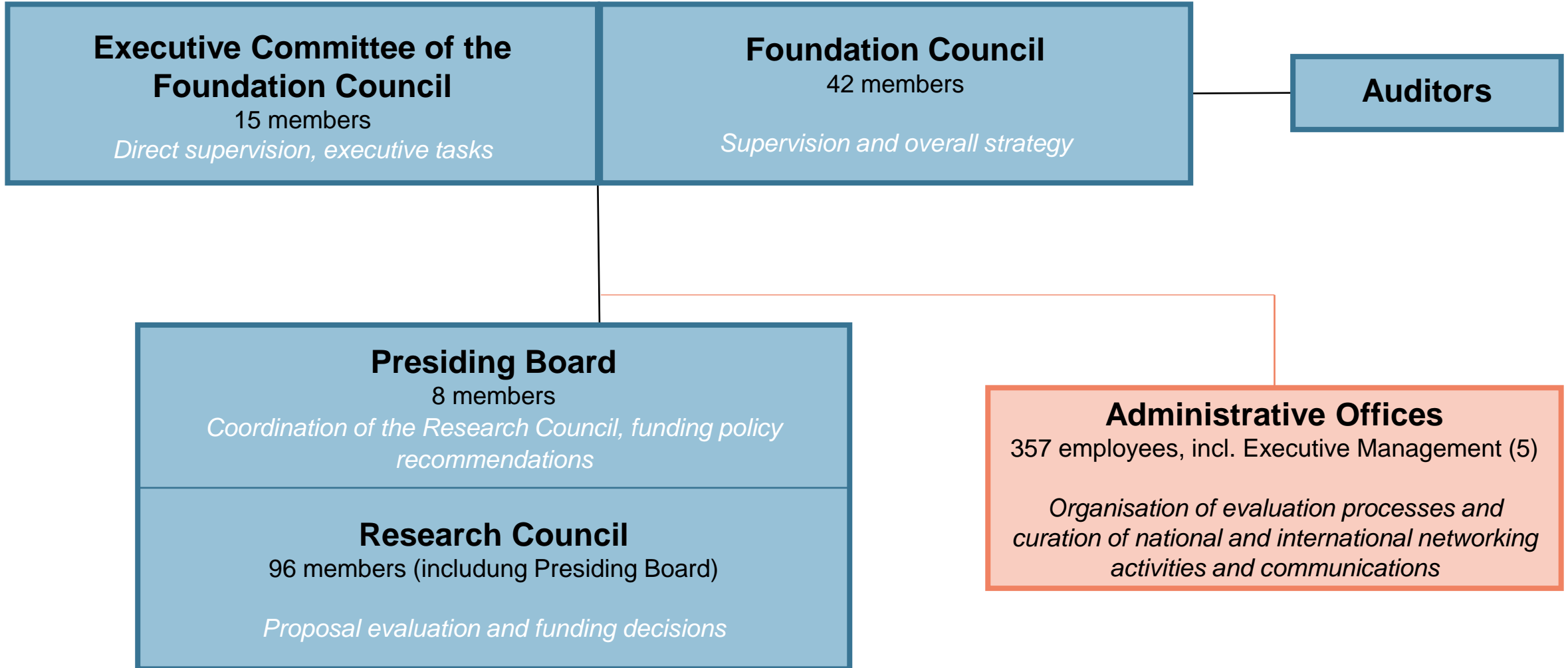
2. Promote scientific careers

3. Ensure international networking of research

4. Think ahead in strategic research issues

5. Strengthen the impact of research and explain its value

# SNSF: The current structure



# GO 2024: Revision of the Statutes

– Initiated in 2020 by the Foundation Council



GOALS  
OF THE  
REFORM



Ensure the development capacity of the SNSF



Gain flexibility



Make governance state-of-the-art



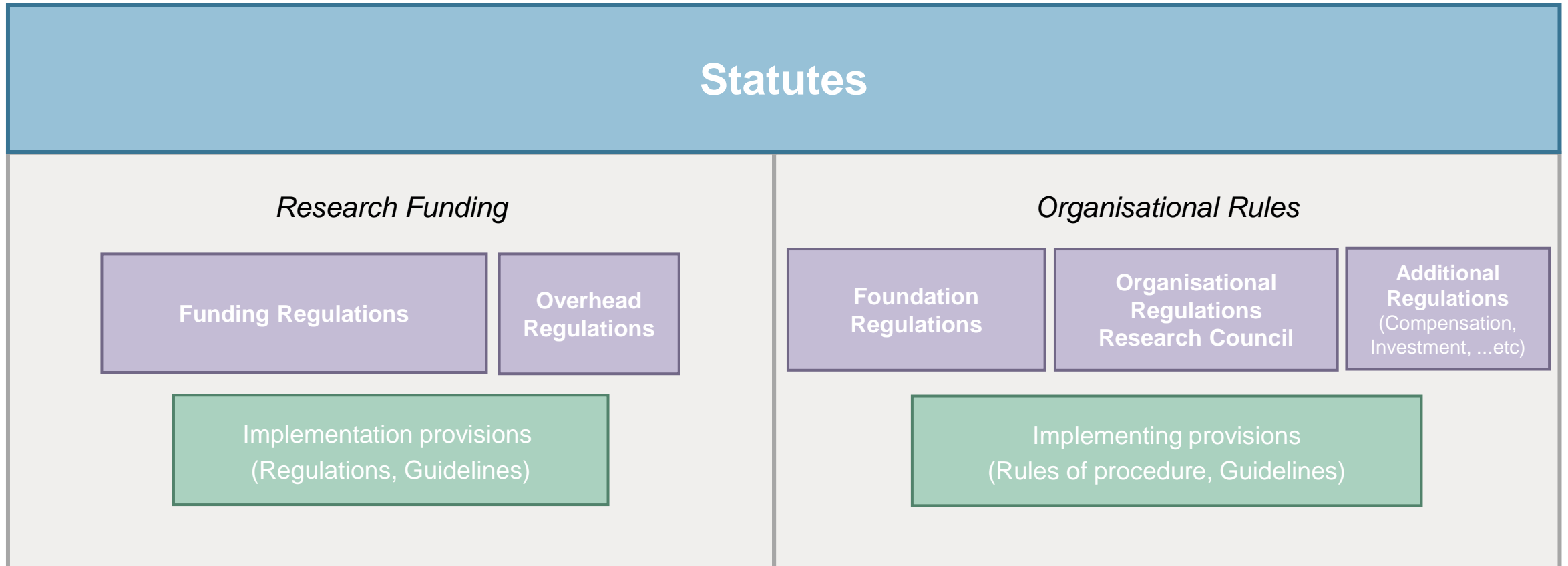
Strengthen academic leadership and the principle of 'science for science'



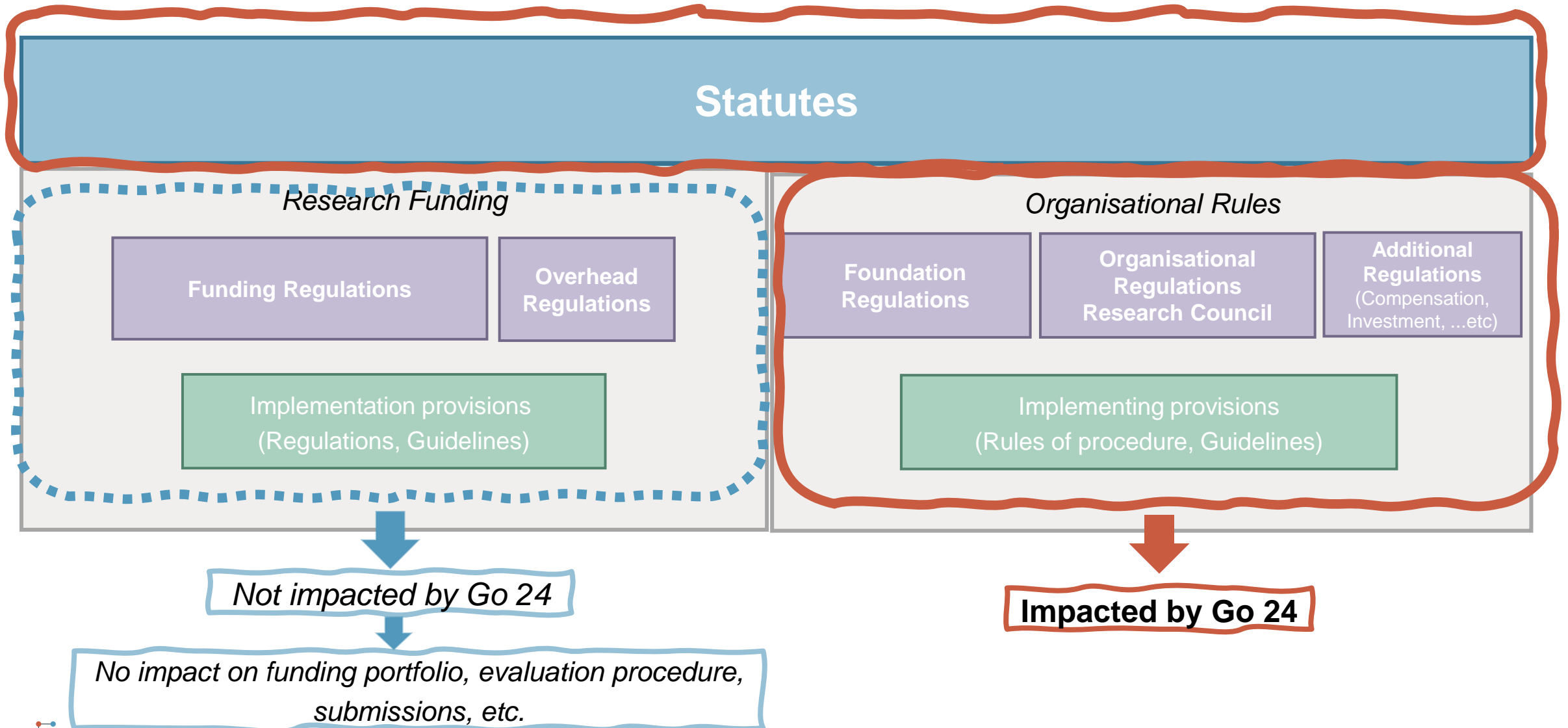
Adapt Statutes to current context



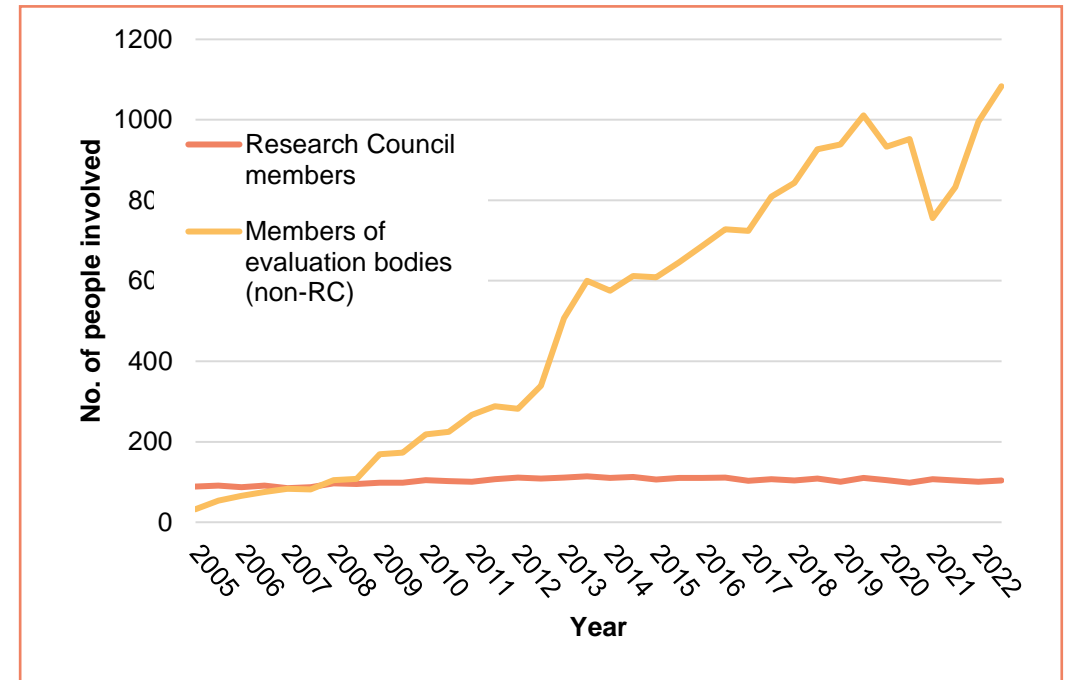
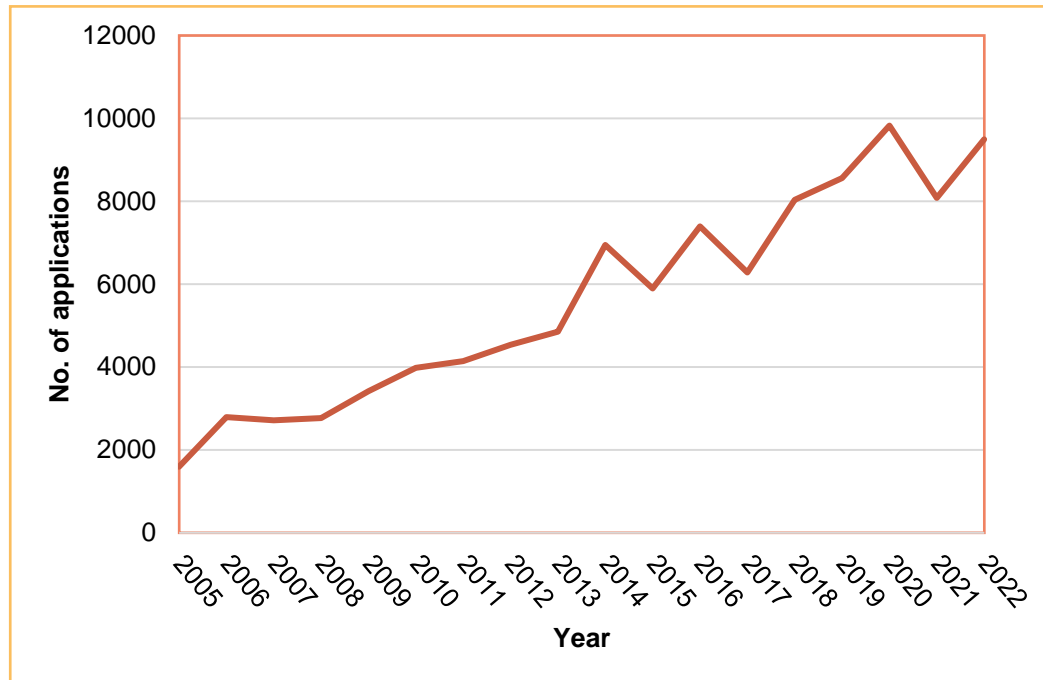
# SNSF regulatory framework



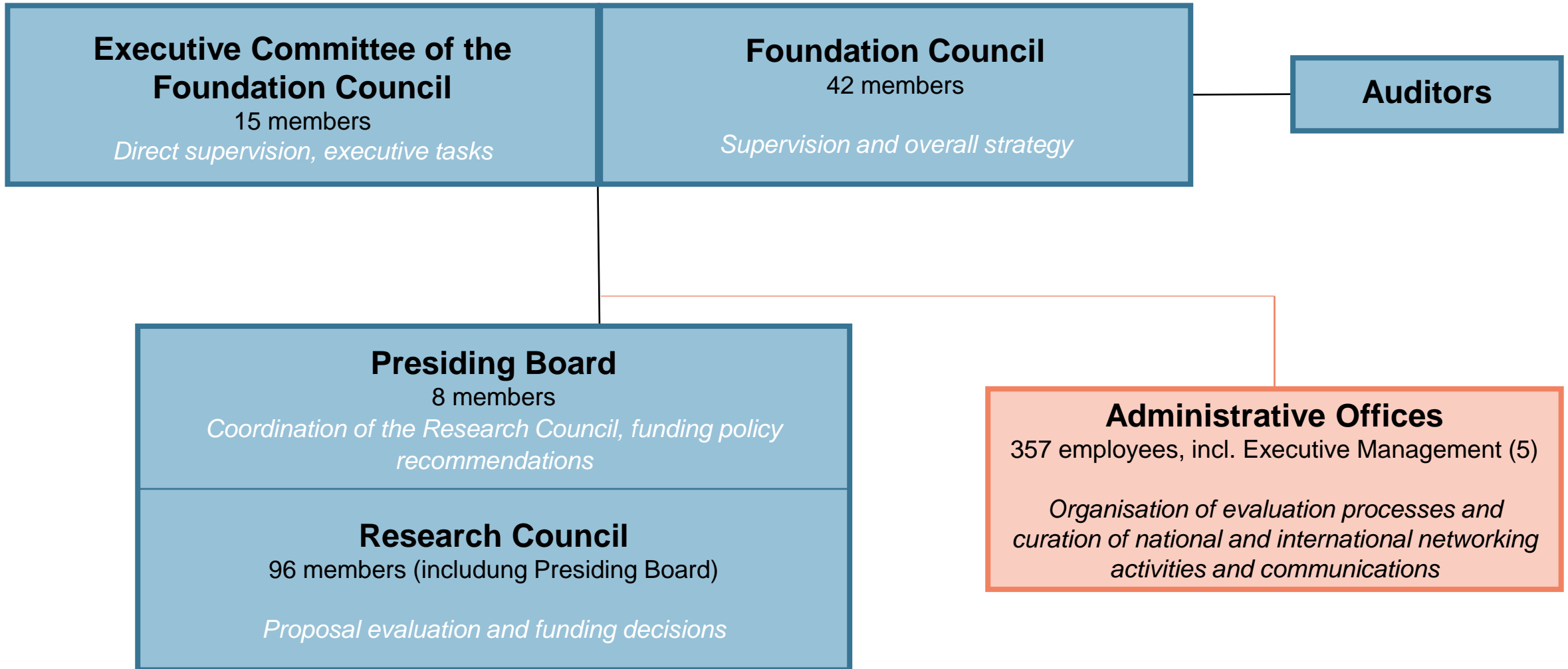
# SNSF regulatory framework



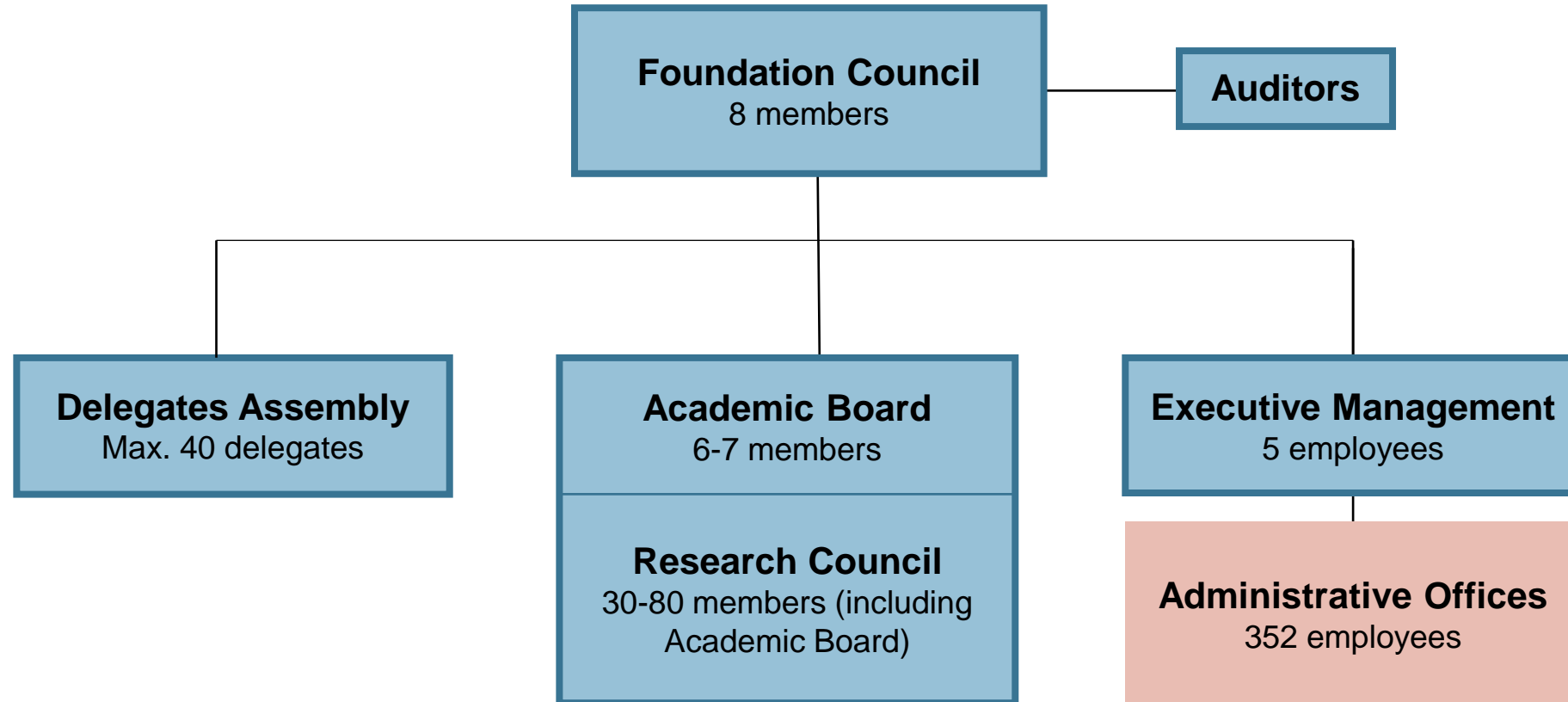
# Challenges for the current structure



# SNSF: The current structure



# New structure according to the new Statutes



## **Changes at the statute level**

- Smaller Foundation Council, no Executive Committee
- Introduction of the Delegates Assembly
- Smaller Research Council
- Research Council led by Academic Board
- Status of an official body only for the Executive Management for legal reasons



# Foundation Council

## Mission & tasks

- Senior governing body
- Responsible for the foundation, for the fulfilment of the SNSF's purpose and for the supervision of its bodies
- Highest level strategic planning, budget, accounting and annual report
- Election of members of the statutory bodies

## Structure

- 7-11 members
- Open election through a commission
- Defined profile with broad experience in science, research, law, finances, politics, administration. ½ of members must be experienced in research

## Reasoning

- Size appropriate for effective leadership
- Expertise profile tailored to the mission and tasks
- Avoidance of systemic role conflicts (no representation)

# The New Foundation Council as of 2024



Jürg Stahl  
(President)



Nikola Biller-Andorno



Astrid Epiney



Matthias Essenpreis



Urs Frey



Agnes Petit



Didier Queloz



Laetitia Philippe  
(SERI, *ex officio*, without  
voting rights)

# Delegates Assembly

## Mission & tasks

- Represents the interests of scientific organisations
- Important role in the preparation of the multi-year programme, and in major strategic decisions
- May be represented in working groups of the Research Council
- Is represented in election commissions

## Structure

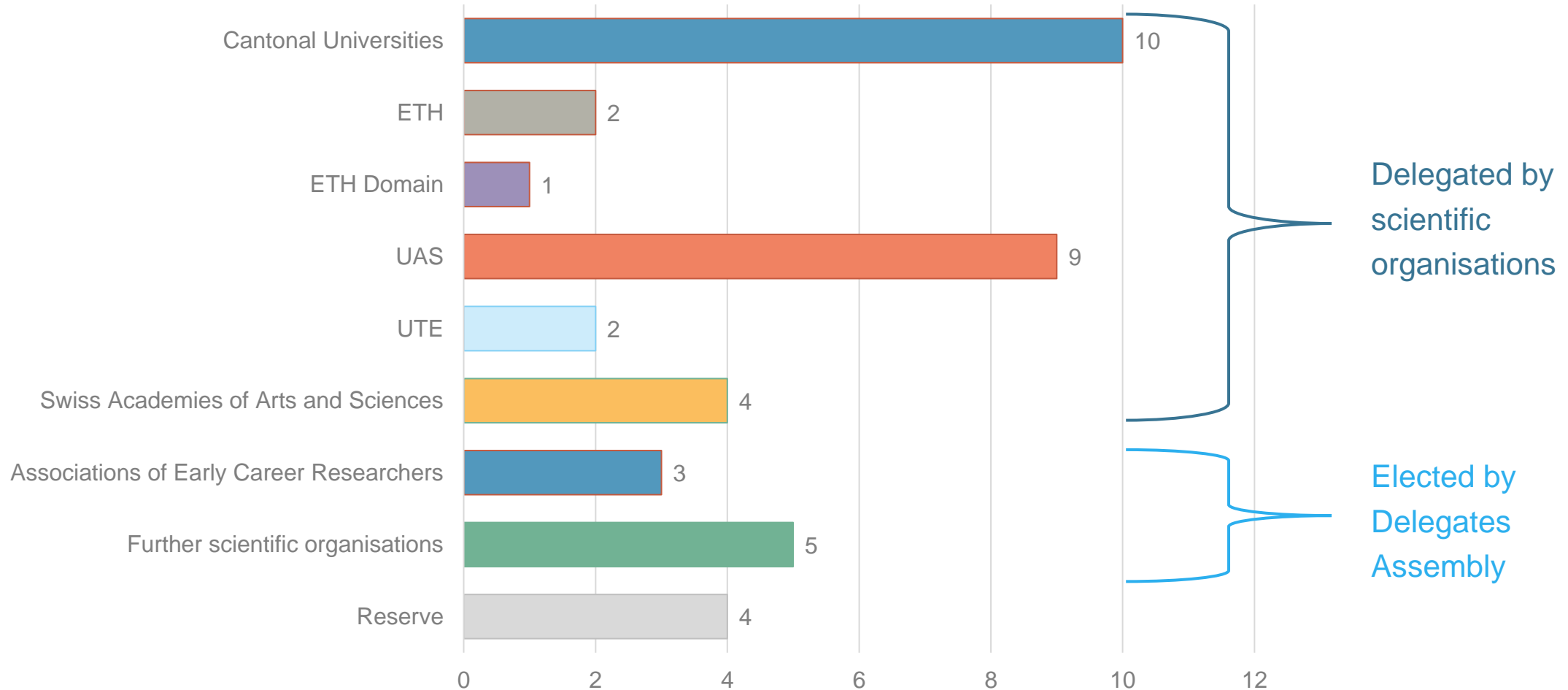
- 40 members (maximum)
- Led by the “office of the DA“ with president, vice president and two further members
- Representatives chosen by their institutions, or elected by the DA
- Will function with considerable autonomy

## Reasoning

- Avoidance of role conflicts of delegated members
- Reinforces the stakeholders’ role
- Transparent contribution aiming at SNSF policies that fit the needs of the stakeholders

# Delegates Assembly: composition

Delegates Assembly (max. 40 members)



# Research Council

## Mission & tasks

- “Scientific body” of the SNSF
- Definition of funding strategies and policies (incl. funding schemes)
- Implementation of funding policies (incl. evaluation applications, funding decisions, supervision of panels...)

## Structure

- 30 to 80 members
- Academic Board as Managing body
- Breadth and composition of bodies is flexible (no further sub-structure in Statutes)
- Members elected by a mixed commission
- Emphasis on diversity (research fields, topics, cultures, orientation, age, gender)

## Reasoning

- Strengthening the Research Council’s role in (transversal) policy and strategy
- Clearer separation of responsibilities
- Respect of good-governance principles with clear tasks, competences, responsibilities
- Increase flexibility



# Academic Board of the Research Council

## Mission & tasks

- Management of all tasks assigned to the Research Council
- Leadership and supervision of the Research Council
- Exchange with Foundation Council and Delegates Assembly
- Representation of the SNSF

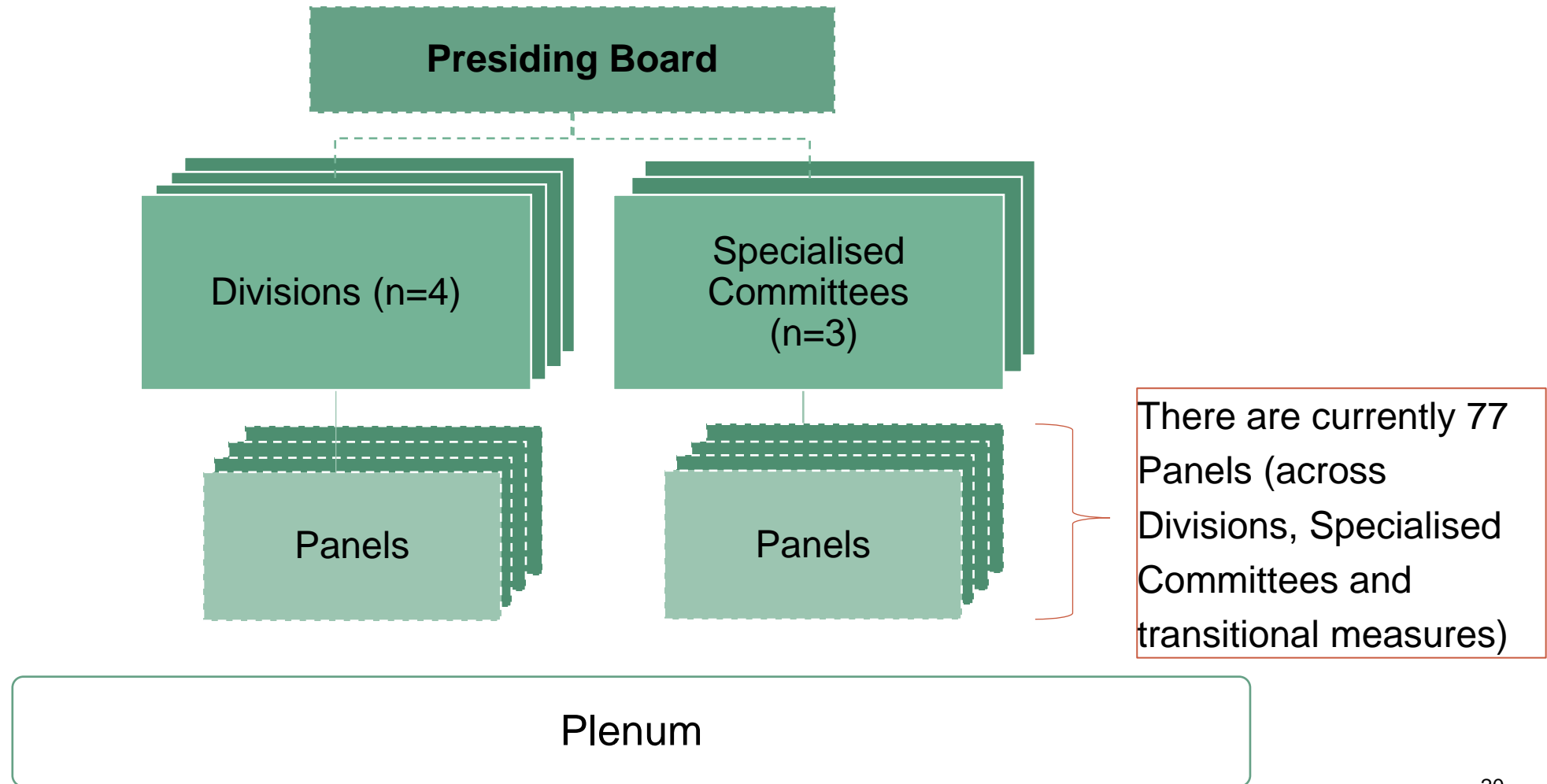
## Structure

- 6-7 members:
  - President
  - 2 vice presidents
  - 2-3 other members
  - Director of the Executive Management (non-voting)
- Election, mostly from within the Research Council. No delegation principle

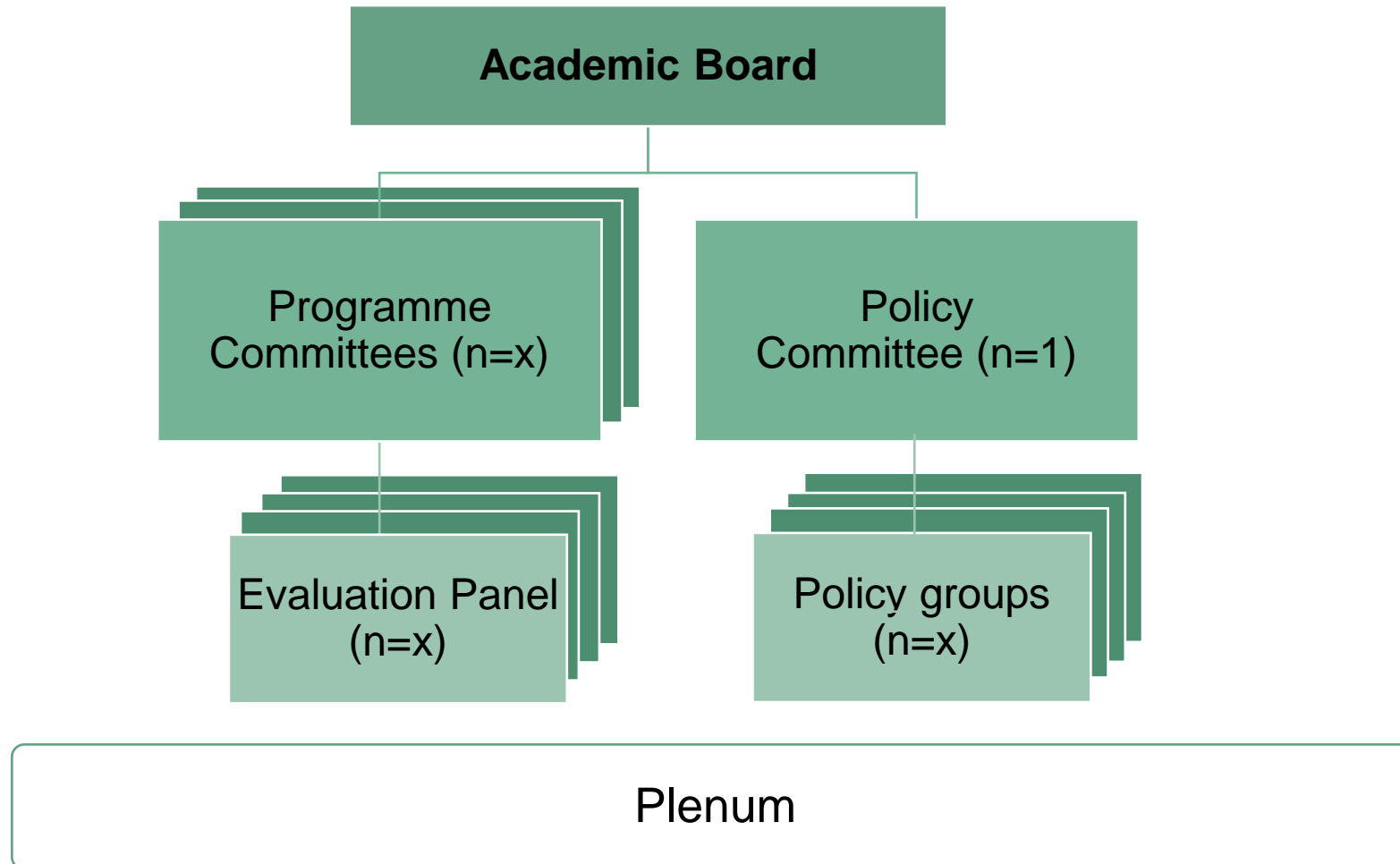
## Reasoning

- Strengthening leadership
- Providing more resources
- Clarification of roles between leading body and subordinate structures

# Current organisation of the Research Council



# New organisation of the Research Council



# Current work in progress and next steps



## New Foundation Council

- January: takes up its duties



## New Delegates Assembly

- March 2024: First meeting



## Research Council

- Until spring 2024: Research Council elaborates its future Organisation
- December 2024: Election of new Research Council
- 6 Dec 23: Election of the new President
- Until October 2024: Constitution of Academic Board in cooperation with Presiding Board



## Regulations

- 2024: Approval and entry into force of
  - the new Foundation Regulations
  - The new Organisation Regulations of the Research Council

# GO 2024 – Key messages

## With this reorganisation, the SNSF is ...

... reinforcing its ability to respond more quickly to foreseen and unforeseen challenges facing most of you and the world of research

... giving itself the means to develop major strategies for research and its support

...consolidating the quality of the scientific evaluation of submitted projects



# Thank you!

You can contact the GO 24 team at [Go2024@snf.ch](mailto:Go2024@snf.ch) for your questions

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