**NCCR Outline Proposal**

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| **Title of the NCCR** |  |
| **NCCR Director(s)** |  |
| **Home Institution(s)** |  |

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*The research plan must be written in English. Chapters 1 – 4 must not exceed 15 pages and 60’000 character with spaces. This includes the title or front page, footnotes, illustrations, formulae, tables (and, if applicable, the table of contents), but not the bibliography. At least font size 10 and line spacing 1.5 must be used. Condensed fonts are not allowed. The page numbers indicated in brackets are merely suggestions. It is allowed to use a different document format/layout, but the chapter structure must be followed. The explanations in italic must be removed before submitting the proposal. All documents are submitted on mySNF in a PDF format.*

# Executive summary

*Present the background and rationale of the proposal and list its overall objectives and aims for the requested duration. Mention the central concepts, theories, and methods to be used and briefly discuss the envisaged results and their impact on the fields included in the proposal. (1 page)*

# Overall goals and mid- and long-term vision

*Present the general aims and the objectives of the proposal by elaborating on the following aspects: (4 pages)*

* *Main research questions and their significance for science and society*
* *Analysis of the present research landscape (existing structures, networks, etc.) and elucidation of the critical mass needed to have a considerable impact on the scientific landscape, the strategic fit and the planned structural goals within the home institution(s) and within Switzerland*
* *Mid- and long-term vision for the NCCR (beyond phase I and beyond SNSF funding)*
* *Planning and justification of the requested duration of the NCCR (between 8 and 12 years) and the level of SNSF funding*
* *Justification of the need for an NCCR to reach the goals*

# Research programme for phase I

*The research plan for the first four years should present a coherent project portfolio. It shows how the individual projects contribute to the overall objectives and how they interact (8 pages). This should include:*

* *On a programme level: State of the art, intended contributions to the state of the art, added value created by the NCCR over the sum of the individual projects, the innovative and interdisciplinary potential, and international embeddedness*
* *Sketches of individual projects: research questions, state of the art, intended contributions to the state of the art, contributions to the overall questions of the NCCR*
* *If applicable: comment on potential ethical / legal issues*

# Organisation, management, and leadership of the NCCR

*NCCRs are characterised by a high degree of scientific and organisational autonomy. Present an organisational structure and a leadership/management concept that enables the NCCR to function effectively according to its specific needs. Mention the integration and exchange activities planned within the NCCR. For examples of organisational structures in the context of ongoing NCCRs, please refer to their websites. (2 pages)*

# Bibliography

*Sources of all completed and/or ongoing work referred to in the research plan. Provide full references including title, source, and full list of authors. For publications with 50 or more authors, you may include a link to the publication instead. This section is not included in the 15 pages limit.*