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# New Urban Quality

## Implementation Plan of the National Research Programme NRP 65

Bern, 3 July 2009



SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Introduction and background</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Urbanity	5
2.2	Urban structure in Switzerland	6
2.3	The challenge: New urban quality	6
2.4	National and international research context	7
<b>3.</b>	<b>Goals of NRP 65</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1	Concepts and strategies for new urban quality	9
3.2	Generation of process knowledge	10
3.3	Strengthening the research capacity	10
<b>4.</b>	<b>Target audience</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Program procedure and type of projects wanted</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Procedures</b>	<b>12</b>
6.1	Basic procedures	12
6.2	Submission procedures	13
6.3	Pre-proposals	13
6.4	Full proposals	14
6.5	Selection criteria	14
6.6	Schedule and budget	15
<b>7.</b>	<b>Organization and management</b>	<b>16</b>

## What are National Research Programmes (NRP)?

The research carried out by National Research Programmes consists of targeted research that contributes to the solution of contemporary problems of national importance. Under the provisions of Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Law on Research of 7 October 1983 (as of 25. February 2008) the Federal Council selects the topics and foci to be researched in NRPs and mandates full responsibility for implementing the Programmes to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF, Division IV).

Article 4 of the Federal Ordinance on the Law on Research of 10 June 1985 (as of 1 January 2009) describes the purposes and contents of NRPs as follows:

*<sup>1</sup> National Research Programmes are a means to direct and support coordinated research projects that have a common goal. Where needed, National Research Programmes should strengthen scientific research capacities.*

*<sup>2</sup> Topics of research are appropriate for National Research Programmes if, in general,*

- a. scientific research on the problem is of national importance;*
- b. Swiss research can make a significant contribution to the resolution of the problem;*
- c. solutions require research contributions from multiple disciplines;*
- d. the research goals cannot be met exclusively through basic research, through research within a specific section of the administration, or through industrial applications research;*
- e. research on the problem can be expected to produce research results that have practical applications within a five-year time period.*

*<sup>3</sup> The following criteria should be taken into consideration in setting forth the topics of National Research Programmes:*

- a. the programmes can provide the scientific basis for decision-making by government and the administration;*
- b. the programmes can be conducted with international collaboration and are also of great interest to Switzerland.”*

# 1. Summary

There is a great deal of controversy concerning the role and importance of the urban centres of Switzerland in view of future requirements of society, environment, commerce, and the economy. For this reason it makes sense to search for ideas and strategies for extensive planning of the built environment. This is the topic of the National Research Programme “New Urban Quality” (NRP 65).

The research programme aims at (further) developing concepts and strategies for new urban quality and testing the feasibility of the research findings. The concepts and strategies will demonstrate innovative ways to achieve urban development, urban redevelopment, and urban planning in Switzerland that are realizable in the medium term (2030) and long term (2050). The research will base on the perspectives of two disciplines: urban planning and architecture. However, it is expected that the researchers will work together with experts in all relevant disciplines in an integration-oriented way. The better researchers from the core disciplines – urban planning and architecture – learn to cooperate (in a process) with researchers from other relevant disciplines, the higher the quality of the interdisciplinary results will be; in the end those results will have to meet the requirements of the users and stakeholders.

When developing the concepts and strategies for new urban quality, the following aspects should be taken into consideration:

- urban planning/architectural design (between re-urbanization and fragmentation of the city)
- aesthetics and perception of public spaces (opportunities for appropriation)
- ecological sustainability and consequences of climate change
- social cohesion, safety/security, lifestyles, and demographic changes
- economic productivity

The ideas, strategies, and concepts following from this integrated way of viewing things are not *a priori* bound to a certain scale (that is, they can be developed on a large scale or small scale). They should build upon an explicit theoretical understanding of the connections presented and tested using examples of concrete city structures in relation to the landscape. The NRP 65 projects should be conducted by interdisciplinary research teams. In addition to the aim of developing the solutions themselves, a main thrust of NRP 65 concerns the processes of learning and collaboration between representatives of the different disciplines involved. The combining of the findings in imaginative ways should lead to different content foci and different disciplinary priorities depending on city and urban region. NRP 65 also targets improvement of university research in urban planning and architecture; the programme should provide impetus for establishing basic research-oriented teaching and research in Switzerland.

On 28 November 2007 the Federal Council mandated the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to conduct the NRP 65, with funding of CHF 5 million, for a research duration of three years. The SNSF National Research Council named a Steering Committee for strategic management of the NRP, and the Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs approved an implementation plan on 1 July, 2009.

## 2. Introduction and background

### 2.1 Urbanity

The term urbanity is used in different ways in formal and qualitative respects. Often, high density of pedestrian traffic is already seen as a criterion for an urban situation. To be able to explain a more far-reaching quality of urban development, the complex circumstances (differentiation) that shaped the nature and development of the European city over centuries must be more closely examined. This differentiation can be subdivided into three categories: temporal differentiation (processes), value differentiation; (the economy), and structural differentiation (type of use / design of buildings). Benefits are seen in this kind of differentiation, which is why the urban structure in Switzerland should also be assessed considering the principles of the European city (see here Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities adopted by the European Council of Ministers, published 27 May 2007). Lack of differentiation can be demonstrated in mono-structured city centre areas as well as in countless housing developments (social welfare housing) at the edges of cities. Urban planning situations of that kind were realized quickly, with a uniform use mix and hardly distinguishable design features, and on the basis of similar economic criteria, which usually meant that no urban quality could be created.

To conduct research on new urban quality makes sense also because the life conditions and lifestyles of a large part of the younger city residents are moving away from the suburban ideal and moving towards city centre heterogeneity and density. Differing lifestyle and occupational groups prefer urban places, because it is there that a new balance can be established between now precarious occupational options and flexible forms of living together socially. This means that the problems of urban places must also be seen as a consequence of post-Fordist employment conditions (flexible, fixed term, cooperative in small units) and postmodern lifestyles (patchwork families, flexible relationships, close connection between living and working). But in addition to these revitalization and re-urbanization processes, the fragmentation of the city must also be considered. New urban lifestyles can lead to increasing social distances between lifestyle groups, ranging to stigmatization and exclusion of whole city districts. In this respect, NRP 65 research should also emphasize openness and the process of urban development.

Urban structures provide chances and possibilities for citizens to perceive urban spaces, and these perceptions contribute to the quality of life. With the emphasis on city and *Stadtkörper* [urban body; the city as body] there must also be examination of the topic of the “in between”. The quality of movement in public space (in the built environment) is dependent upon the quality of the urban body (*Körperlichkeit*). Here the definition of urbanity pertains to the perceiving subjects and their encounters with one or another quality of the urban body. At the same time, the different lifestyles of people are relevant criteria of a new urban quality. It is important to gain integrated insights from different (sensory and mental) perception perspectives.

## 2.2 Urban structure in Switzerland

The urban structure in Switzerland is characterized by a multitude of urban towns with high quality historic city/town centres (structural heritage). But it is also characterized by urban planning incongruities – industrial parks, green spaces, vacant land, and traffic carriers in unconnected succession. Spatial conditions of that kind were usually realized based on one-sided functional aspects, and they were attached to the historic city/town centres without consideration of possible side-effects. The agglomerations that came into being in this way are mostly amorphous structures, for which new coordinates, connections, and possibly structural regimes must be found if special urban qualities are to be developed. In view of climate change and environmental protection, the suburbanization and peri-urbanization in Switzerland should be re-evaluated especially: Development concepts should be geared more to the development within cities. At the same time the question is raised for a critical reflection on centrality

The potential of future-oriented concepts does not lie in the exclusive analysis of amorphous settlement structures (*Zwischenstadt*; literal translation “in-between city”), and it does not bring us any further to (overly) strongly differentiate urbanization processes in Switzerland by outlining *metropolitan areas* and identifying subordinate settlement typologies. In all cases, the ideas, strategies, and concepts must be judged in a comprehensible context in order to meet scientific plausibility. In addition, the diversity of the urban structure in Switzerland should be re-evaluated considering municipal decision-making processes, a feature of the Swiss political system.

## 2.3 The challenge: New urban quality

NRP 65 is based on the hypothesis that the inherent qualities in urban development cannot be developed independently of one another based on aesthetic/design, environmental (soil, water, air/climate), social (solidarity, lifestyles, identity), or economic (jobs, attractiveness, competitiveness) criteria. The issues of climate change and recycling, for example, show this particularly clearly. The knowledge that the built environment (buildings and transport) are responsible for about 80% of energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions demands of urban planners and architects a completely new way of thinking. The analysis of resource cycles shows that cities can be regarded as energy consuming reservoirs of resources that might eventually become available for recycling and could replace primary resources (e.g., ores), which could lead to a conflict of interests: From an economic and ecological perspective, a short-term cycle in urban redevelopment could possibly come to be preferable to a long lifespan of the built environment. For energy-intensive settlements built soon after the Second World War, this is already the case today. In contrast, the need for people to identify with the urban landscape and the demand for protection of historical monuments/heritage (as important topics in urban development) are based on the assumption of a long-term existence of the built environment.

Therefore, the development of solutions that will stand up in the future cannot be left to any single discipline alone. Urban redevelopment strategies based on interdisciplinary approaches need to demonstrate the chances and opportunities for a new urban quality. For example, the fundamental transformation of energy systems (climate) should not be merely regarded as a task of technology design. These technologies need to be embedded into strategies and designs for urban development. Without such embedding there is a danger that the new technologies to fight climate change could have negative side effects

on other aspects of urban quality. In the face of these connections, it is evident that in NRP 65 it will not be sufficient to simply describe the morphology of the urban structure in Switzerland. What is required is process-oriented and explicit cooperation among the disciplines to achieve sustainable solutions in urban development, urban redevelopment, and architecture.

Moreover, there is general uncertainty in research, practice, and policy concerning the goals of urban and landscape development. This uncertainty is an expression of the fact that there are processes underway for which there are not yet any theoretical interpretations and solution-oriented notions. Some speak of *metropolitan areas*. Some point out that the historical city is dead and that Switzerland is a *network city*. Others see Switzerland as an “*urbanscape*”. The terms are used variously as to both scale and content, and they are applied to morphological (structural), social (habitus and lifestyle), and functional phenomena (centrality). In specific cases these definitions are definitely plausible. They provide different individual perceptions of Switzerland.

The very complexity of the urban structure in Switzerland demands a more integrated view, visionary goals, further-reaching analyses, and comparative concepts. Regional potentials (availability of natural and built resources) and qualities should be taken into consideration – and not only for strategic reasons (security of supply). European cities are characterized by specific qualities, such as high density of city centre structures, long lifespan of buildings and infrastructure, walkability, efficient public transport systems. These qualities are found less often in the city in Asia and, in part, in North America.

Finally, the challenge of NRP 65 is to produce forward-looking insights through combining interdisciplinary-based knowledge. Based on these integrated insights, the research projects should present strategies and concepts for new urban quality in the urban structure of Switzerland.

## **2.4 National and international research context**

The research context outlined here provides some general indications as to the state of the discussion, especially as arising out of the latest National Research Programmes and further, current topics in spatial and urban development. This overview is intended to encourage research applicants to specify and outline the theoretical foundations of their projects as based in the relevant literature.

In the late 1980s, NRP 22 *Use of Land in Switzerland* calculated that since 1950 the settlement area had more than doubled. All regional planning measures and efforts had not broken this trend (NRP 22). The settlement pattern that emerged, especially in the Swiss plateau (*Mittelland*), is the result of different epochs and densities, overlaid and connected through the functional network of infrastructures and central nodes. This pattern, which is also called the *Zwischenstadt* [“in-between city”] (Thomas Sieverts), has been the subject of intensive research in Germany. Just as with the research topic *Zwischenstadt*, there has been no success also in Switzerland in developing alternatives to the phase-wise settlement expansion. At the same time there is a lack of systematic qualification of existing urban and settlement structures with a view to future requirements of the economy, society, and the environment.

NRP 25 *City and Traffic* (1996) clarified the self-reinforcing processes of suburbanization and the dissolution of the cities in the areas of transport, environment and land use, separation of living and working, and public finance. It pointed out ways in which this vicious circle could be broken. Politically, it called for an agglomeration policy that went beyond the city limits; this has been realized today at least formally with the federal government's agglomeration policy.

NRP 54 *Sustainable Development of the Built Environment*, which ends in mid 2010, will provide findings on efficient, socially responsible, and sustainable settlement development in Switzerland. The researchers participating in NRP 65 will have to take these findings into consideration (see [www.NRP54.ch](http://www.NRP54.ch)).

The *Network City and Landscape* (NSL) coordinated by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) conducted the research programme *The Future of Urban Cultural Landscapes* from 2003 to 2007. The findings provide insights on how, based on interdisciplinary cooperation, scientific analysis of urban systems can be translated into design concepts. In addition, NSL and the Avenir-Suisse Think Tank for Economic and Social Issues conducted studies on the spatial development of Switzerland (NSL: "Chancen und Potenziale städtischer Dichte"; Avenir-Suisse: *Stadtland Schweiz* (2003), *Baustelle Föderalismus* (2005), and *Le Feu au Lac: Vers une Région métropolitaine lémanique* (2006)). NSL and Avenir-Suisse published in cooperation the anthology *Städtische Dichte* (2007).

At the international level the general observation can be made that regional competitiveness and the importance of urban regions as economic drivers have strongly stimulated city and metropolitan planning research. Especially under the EU-initiated framework of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON), the call for "providing scientific evidence on the European territory" brought about research networks in which Switzerland also participates. The research projects are mainly policy-oriented, with the aim to point the European metropolitan and urban structure in the right direction to meet the requirements of growth and employment, social cohesion, and sustainability.

At the level of the EU there is a consensus among the Member States' ministers responsible for urban development that the strengthening of the European city must stand at the centre of future urban development strategies. In Europe the ministers recommend: making greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches, supporting economic development, promoting ecologically sensible forms of settlement, and paying special attention to ethnic and social integration. The needed scientific and practical foundations are to be prepared (see *Leipzig Charta on Sustainable European Cities*, May 2007). Germany launched a new research programme called the National Urban Development Policy in mid 2007.



## 3. Goals of NRP 65

### 3.1 Concepts and strategies for new urban quality

New urban quality as the research programme theme sets the focus on urban planning/architecture strategies and concepts that are developed on the basis of scientific research in the relevant disciplines. Not sufficient or desired for NRP 65 are general descriptions of the existing morphology of the city (network city, metropolitan area, *Zwischenstadt*, etc.). Required are transdisciplinary processes that are based on a balanced division of tasks among the participating disciplines, including the users and stakeholders. And although the research is to be based on the two core disciplines urban planning and architecture, integration-oriented cooperation among persons from a variety of disciplines is expected. The more successfully that the two core disciplines cooperate with other disciplines, the higher the quality of the (interdisciplinary) results will be. Certainly the products of NRP 65 need to be based on a solid understanding of the characteristics of spatial growth, spatial shrinking, and differentiation processes in order to be able to discern the process dynamics of the federal government's agglomeration policy (strategy).

The strategies and concepts derived in this way are to be tested in case studies in the existing spatial and urban structure of Switzerland. Special attention will be given to the scientific discussion on the inner structure of the European city. Hence, the urban planning/architecture strategies and concepts should be combined systematically and imaginatively and rated in an interdisciplinary manner on aesthetics, ecological sustainability, social cohesion, security/safety and lifestyles, and the economic productivity demands of a service and knowledge society. In sum, projects should bear in mind the following aspects:

- Concepts for a new urban quality need to be derived from scientific analysis and tested on the basis of examples of the urban structure in Switzerland. New solution options for the built environment should be motivated by a sustainable development, a high social utility value, and a special cultural identity.
- Concepts for urban quality should be developed in an interdisciplinary process and should be comprehensible for all participants. The criteria for urban quality are to be named.
- Urban planning/architecture ideas, strategies, and concepts that take into consideration the uniqueness of the cityscape (see Aldo Rossi, *Architektur der Stadt*) are of great interest in NRP 65. In the face of the globalized markets and anonymous megacities, the focus should be placed on urban spatial design concepts that are capable of producing a special effect of images of the city. Unmistakable, distinctive places having special urban identities are also desired outside of the traditional city centres.
- Concepts of new urban quality must take into account issues of quality and the appropriation opportunities in public spaces in relation to traffic concerns. Quality of life and social identification with the city are determined by opportunities for the citizens to appropriate public spaces. In the future more highly differentiated public spaces will be offered (see, for example, shared-space strategies as contributing towards more intensive interactive effects and safety on roads).
- Due to basic cultural and migration conditions, the demographic changes will occur in Switzerland with a time lag as compared to other European countries. The

changing prevailing conditions (aging society with consequences for living space and infrastructure) make the development of forward-looking strategies and concepts imperative. These vary according to the cantonal situation. From the social changes (growing cultural/ethnic heterogeneity, aging society), consequences for an integrated urban and neighbourhood policy should be derived that contain chances for the development of new urban quality.

- In the implementation, special attention should be paid to Switzerland's federal political, planning, and property rights systems, and eventual modifications should be named.

### **3.2 Generation of process knowledge**

Within NRP 65 interdisciplinary research teams will work on developing urban planning/architecture solutions. This requires cooperation with representatives of various disciplines on equal terms, which is demanding and takes a lot of time. The following should be moderated intentionally and professionally: the consensus building in the research team when developing a common view of the problem; the setting of goals, research questions, and methods for synthesis building; and balanced integration of the disciplines' contributions into a whole. In the end, it is the joint learning process that will decide the success or failure of the research project.

NRP 65 therefore aims also at producing systematic findings on how interdisciplinary learning processes work, and how these processes should be designed. The projects should document the path of cooperation in their research teams and establish a concrete connection between the solutions and the process that led to them.

### **3.3 Strengthening the research capacity**

The research topic of NRP 65 is of contemporary importance for Swiss spatial planning and development, and it also serves targeted promotion of a canon of specialist subjects and a research area that is at present underdeveloped in competitive public research. The disciplines urban planning and architecture at the universities should be given the opportunity to develop thematically-focused research in collaboration with spatially-related, aesthetic, ecological, social, economic, and technical sciences. Such research should strengthen the foundation on which urban planning and architecture design concepts are built.

Overall, urban (development) research and systematic scientific urban planning research have been cut back at the universities over the past years in Switzerland. The traditional field of regional planning has been largely taken over by the universities of applied sciences. At the universities it is mainly area specialists within geography that investigate spatial development. To be mentioned in this connection as well are area specialists within regional economy, the environmental sciences, representatives of the political sciences and sociology, historians (in part), and representatives of the engineering sciences (infrastructure planning).

Since recently, urban designers, architects, and landscape architects are returning to this research area in order to take the step from site planning to urban planning, to integrated spatial and urban development. It is a special feature of NRP 65 that it aims to

give impetus for new research experts in the disciplines of urban planning and architecture. In the longer term this should make possible the establishment of more basic research-oriented teaching and research in urban planning and architecture at Swiss universities. Curriculum efforts at the architecture departments at our universities are heading in the same direction, in that they are expanding the canon of specialist subjects to include the basic areas social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering sciences.

## 4. Target audience

The aim is to establish a connection with the world of practice and to the many actors working in the area of spatial development. The target audience for the NRP 65 results are the universities themselves (ETH, EPFL, universities, universities of applied sciences) but also private offices, spatial development policy makers, and the relevant authorities. The practical relevance of the concepts under development should be discussed with them at an early stage. This NRP challenges science, in particular the disciplines that stand at the foreground (urban planning, architecture, and landscape architecture), to produce new findings for the steering and designing of an efficient city and urban settlement structure in Switzerland.

## 5. Program procedure and type of projects wanted

The proposals should be jointly submitted by several persons making up an interdisciplinary research team. Conformance with the requirements for research groups as set out in Article 14 of the *Beitragsreglement: Reglement des Schweizerischen Nationalfonds über die Gewährung von Beiträgen* [SNSF guidelines for grants] must be confirmed in writing at all project submission stages. The individual who will assume responsibility towards the SNSF in a legally binding way must be employed in Switzerland (at a university, at a research centre, or self-employed in Switzerland). This representative acts in the name of all members of the interdisciplinary research team and is responsible towards the SNSF for the entire project.

Lead-managed by the disciplines urban planning and architecture, the projects will work out interdisciplinary-based strategies and concepts that lead to new urban quality. Close cooperation between different disciplines involved in urban development, urban planning, and architecture is required. This means that the project partners will work together in an integration-oriented way and, with regard to joint goals and findings, work out an integrated view of the challenges identified. NRP 65 explicitly does not invite proposals involving only a single subject area or approaches in which one discipline serves merely as a supplier of information. NRP 65 is not interested in easy solutions or patent recipes coming from one disciplinary perspective. In addition to the strategies/concepts, NRP 65 places a special emphasis on the processes of decision-making and modelling.

All research projects must take into consideration concrete sustainability criteria regarding aesthetics, the environment (e.g. energy and climate), society (e.g. social cohesion), and economy (e.g. rental value, added value). These should be defined in the research

design early on, so that overall objectives that are binding for all projects can be determined.

The projects should consider the requirements that will contribute to new and robust urban quality in urban development and urban planning in Switzerland in the medium (2030) and longer term (2050).

In NRP 65 the research will be conducted in three phases of 12 months duration each. Within the first phase the projects must submit an interim report (in ca. project month 8). Based on the interim report and a site visit, the Steering Committee will evaluate the project progress. Projects that are evaluated positively enter into the second research phase (project months 13-24). In this second research phase the projects must again submit an interim report (in ca. project month 20). Provided that the evaluation is positive, the projects then enter into the third research phase (project months 25-36). The grant money will be paid out in phase-wise instalments, dependent upon positive evaluation of the preceding research phase.

## **6. Procedures**

### **6.1 Basic procedures**

- Research projects are limited to a duration of maximum 36 months. The SNSF funding amount requested by a project should not exceed CHF 1 million. SNSF funding may be used for direct research costs (salaries of personnel, material expenses, travel costs, etc.) and for coordination work between the groups involved.
- Third party co-funding or use of own funds is welcome. The participation of third parties must be described in the pre-proposal; written agreements should be enclosed with the full proposal.
- Both cooperation within one and the same university and cooperation across universities or institutions are welcome. International cooperation and work together with international research groups are welcome, if added value is expected that would not be possible without cross-border cooperation or if Swiss research would be substantially enriched in content and methodology through this external impetus. Decisions on possible co-funding of the project party abroad will be made on a case-by-case basis. It will follow the D-A-CH agreement between the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), and the SNSF.  
(see [www.snf.ch/D/international/dach](http://www.snf.ch/D/international/dach))
- The SNSF funds awarded are exempted from Value-Added Tax (VAT) (Art. 33 Abs. 6 Bst. c MWSTG). Under the programmes supporting targeted research the SNSF does not issue contracts but only awards grants to promote scientific research in Switzerland.

Please conform to the guidelines and follow the submission instructions and award administration instructions provided at [www.snf.ch](http://www.snf.ch).

## 6.2 Submission procedures

There is a two-stage submission procedure for NRP 65: Pre-proposals are submitted first, followed by invited full proposals.

The forms, guidelines, and instructions for submission via the mySNF portal are available at <http://www.snf.ch>. Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted online via the mySNF portal. To use mySNF, applicants must register for a user account in advance at <https://www.mysnf.ch>. User accounts are then valid for an unlimited time and allow access to all SNSF funding instruments. To meet the deadline for submission of pre-proposals, new user accounts must be set up 14 days prior to the submission deadline at the latest. Hard copies sent in by post are accepted only by special exception and with advance express approval by the SNSF.

## 6.3 Pre-proposals

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is 5 October, 2009.

Pre-proposals must contain an outline of the research project planned.

To be submitted directly via the mySNF portal:

- Basic data and summary
- National and international cooperation
- Cost estimates for personnel and material (budget)

In addition, a project description must be submitted using the MS WORD template provided by the mySNF portal. The project description must include the following information:

- Goals of the project
- Topic, theoretical background, and research questions
- Methods
- Interdisciplinary approach and description of the cooperation
- Time plan and milestones for each sub-group involved in the project
- Expected benefit and usability and possible applications of the results
- List of the five most important publications or projects within this field of research
- List of the grant applicant's five most important publications or projects

The project description must be written in English. The submitted document (PDF format) should not exceed six pages in length. If the project description is also available in a national language, please attach it to your submission.

The grant applicants should also attach publication lists, projects lists, short CVs (maximum 2 pages), and possibly sketches of the project idea along with the project description.

The Steering Committee reviews the submitted pre-proposals and makes the final decision to issue or not issue an invitation for submission of a full proposal based on the selection criteria listed below. If pre-proposals do not conform to the objectives of the NRP, the Steering Committee may recommend to the National Research Council – without additional expert review – that the project not be funded.

## 6.4 Full proposals

Submitters of favourably reviewed pre-proposals are invited to submit a full proposal. If the Steering Committee identifies a need for coordination between individual projects, the grant applicants will be informed of this in the invitation to submit a full proposal and, where applicable, may be requested to cooperate.

The full proposals must follow the SNSF guidelines and be submitted in English via the mySNF portal. If the project description is also available in a national language, it should be attached to the submission.

Based on review of the proposals by the Steering Committee and on project presentations, the Steering Committee decides what projects will be recommended to the National Research Council (Division IV; Presidial Board) for funding (or not recommended for funding).

## 6.5 Selection criteria

The following are the review criteria for pre-proposals and full proposals:

### **Feasibility and compliance with the goals of the programme**

The projects must be compatible with the programme goals, fulfil the requirements described in the Implementation Plan, and fit into the overall framework of NRP 65.

### **Scientific quality and originality**

Theoretically and methodologically the projects must represent current state-of-the-art in the field and conform to international scientific standards of current research and in addition have an innovative component. They must clearly set themselves apart from ongoing research (demonstrate added value).

### **Process of interdisciplinary cooperation**

The projects must make very clear how the disciplines involved are going to work together in joint research.

### **Project structure**

The quality and coherence of the networking must be convincing. The organization of the cooperation between the groups involved must be outlined very clearly.

### **Strengthening of research in urban planning and architecture**

The projects must contribute credibly towards strengthening (interdisciplinary) research activities in the fields of urban planning and architecture. They must strengthen young scientists in those disciplines.

### **Taking into consideration Switzerland's political system**

The concepts developed must also take into account the advantages and disadvantages of Switzerland's prevailing political system (at three levels: federal government, canton, municipalities).

### **Application and implementation**

National Research Programmes are explicitly required to produce research results that have practical applications. The projects must be oriented towards examples of spatial

and urban structures in Switzerland that already exist or are to be designed. NRP 65 attaches great importance to the combining of visionary ideas on future urban design with practical relevance. Not desired for the programme are projects that are exclusively theoretical or projects that aim purely at producing monographs.

#### **Personnel and infrastructure**

Adequate equipment and personnel to carry out the project must be demonstrated.

Division IV of the Administrative Offices of the SNSF checks fulfilment of formal criteria (whether the application is complete and submitted by the deadline) before the proposal is sent on for review. Pre-proposals and full proposals that do not fulfil the formal criteria will not be reviewed.

### **6.6 Schedule and budget**

The following schedule has been set for NRP 65:

Call for pre-proposals	8 July 2009
Deadline for submission of pre-proposals	5 October 2009
Invitations to submit full proposals sent out	mid-December 2009
Deadline for submission of full proposals	March 2010
Final decision on full proposals	July 2010
Start of research	August 2010

The funding for NRP 65 is CHF 5 million. The funding is planned to be allocated as follows:

Research	CHF 4.2 million
Implementation	CHF 0.5 million
Administration	CHF 0.3 million

## 7. Organization and management

### Steering Committee

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürg Sulzer, Urban Redevelopment and Urban Research (endowed chair), Faculty of Architecture, Technische Universität Dresden; and head of the *Görlitz Kompetenzzentrum Revitalisierender Städtebau*; (President)

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Häussermann, professor of urban and regional sociology, Humboldt-Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Merk, (Architect), City councillor, Director for Urban Planning, Munich City Council, Munich, Germany

Prof. Dr. Daniel B. Müller, Department of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Trondheim, Norway

Prof. Dr. Werner Oechslin, professor of art history and architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich

Prof. Dr. Karl W. Steininger, Department of Economics and Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz, Austria

### Delegate of the National Research Council

Prof. Dr. Kay W. Axhausen, Institute for Transport Planning and Systems (IVT), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich

### Programme Coordinator

Dr. Stephanie M. Schönholzer, SNSF

### Implementation Officer

N.N.

### Representative of the Federal Administration

Dr. Maria Lezzi, Director, Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), Berne

### For the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER), Bern

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