

Annual Report

2012




SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Our ambition

We invest in researchers and their ideas.
We promote and disseminate research,
creating knowledge that is valuable to society,
the economy and politics.

Annual Report
2012



“Research creates knowledge.
For 60 years the SNSF has been
lending a helping hand.”

From left to right:

Martin Vetterli, President of the National Research Council (since January 2013)

Gabriele Gendotti, President of the Foundation Council

Daniel Höchli, Director of the Administrative Offices

Foreword

Working together for better career opportunities

Ladies and gentlemen,

Compared with other countries, Switzerland is an attractive location for the next generation of academics: its higher education institutions carry out research to the highest international standards, the research environment is stimulating and the infrastructure is of well above-average quality in virtually all areas of expertise. Even the low salaries of doctoral students are generous by foreign standards. And so, when the younger generation criticises its working conditions, the question invariably arises: are these legitimate complaints or privileged young people making a fuss?

In Switzerland, careers in academia are in some respects quite unattractive compared with careers in other professions: it takes young academics years to move to positions of responsibility and independence – and in some cases they never reach that goal. Owing to the high cost of living in the country and the positions available outside higher education institutions, salaries are not a drawing factor. Career planning tends to be a matter of accident rather than design. It therefore comes as no surprise that many of our most talented scientists, and in particular gifted women, opt for a different career path once they have completed their degrees or doctorates, or after their initial years of postdoctoral research. However, without a new generation of scientists rising through the ranks we cannot achieve sustainability in scientific research.

For many years funding the next generation of scientists has been the top priority of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). In 2012, the SNSF again introduced a number of innovations to promote young scientists (see page 6). However, despite numerous success stories there remains much potential for improvement. To make the most of this potential the SNSF will need to work even more

closely with higher education institutions to ensure that career funding by the SNSF will set incentives in the right areas and that our shared objectives can be reached. We also need to lend an ear to the concerns voiced by our country's young researchers. They are not merely complaining – they are contributing to the debate by making interesting suggestions for improvement, which must be taken seriously.

“Effective support for young scientists will require even closer collaboration between the SNSF and higher education institutions.”

The SNSF is rising to this challenge. It wishes to explore in depth how it can contribute to improving career prospects for researchers at the doctoral, postdoctoral and assistant-professor levels. One principle, however, will remain unchanged: our most promising talents should have the best opportunities.

New funding schemes and structural changes alone will not suffice. We have to have a critical discussion of the kind of culture of science we need if we are to encourage as many young people as possible to take an interest in an academic career. This will also call for cultural changes. The road ahead will be demanding, but rewarding.


Gabriele Gendotti


Martin Vetterli


Daniel Höchli

The Swiss National Science Foundation ...

... funds scientific research in Switzerland

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... promotes the international competitiveness of scientific research as well as the capacity for networking and problem-solving

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Full version of the annual statement: www.snsf.ch > About us > Facts & figures > Annual statement

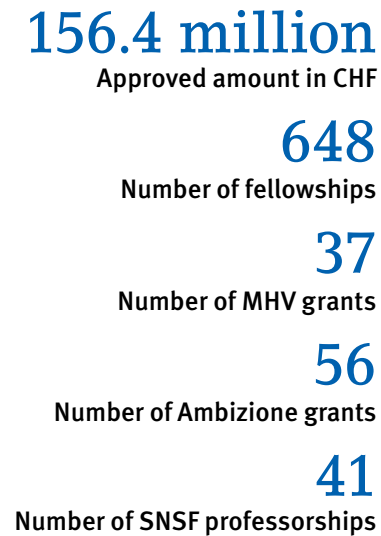
Research database P³ (approved grants since 1975): www.snsf.ch > Research database

Focus on young scientists in 2012

Promoting young scientists – from doctorate to professorship

The promotion of young scientists is a core concern of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). This goal is not only embodied in the mission statement and the statutes. It is also strongly reflected in the funding figures and the consistent orientation of funding schemes towards the needs of young researchers. At its anniversary event, the SNSF met with young researchers and listened to their ideas on how Switzerland could do more to support them.

Key figures: career funding 2012



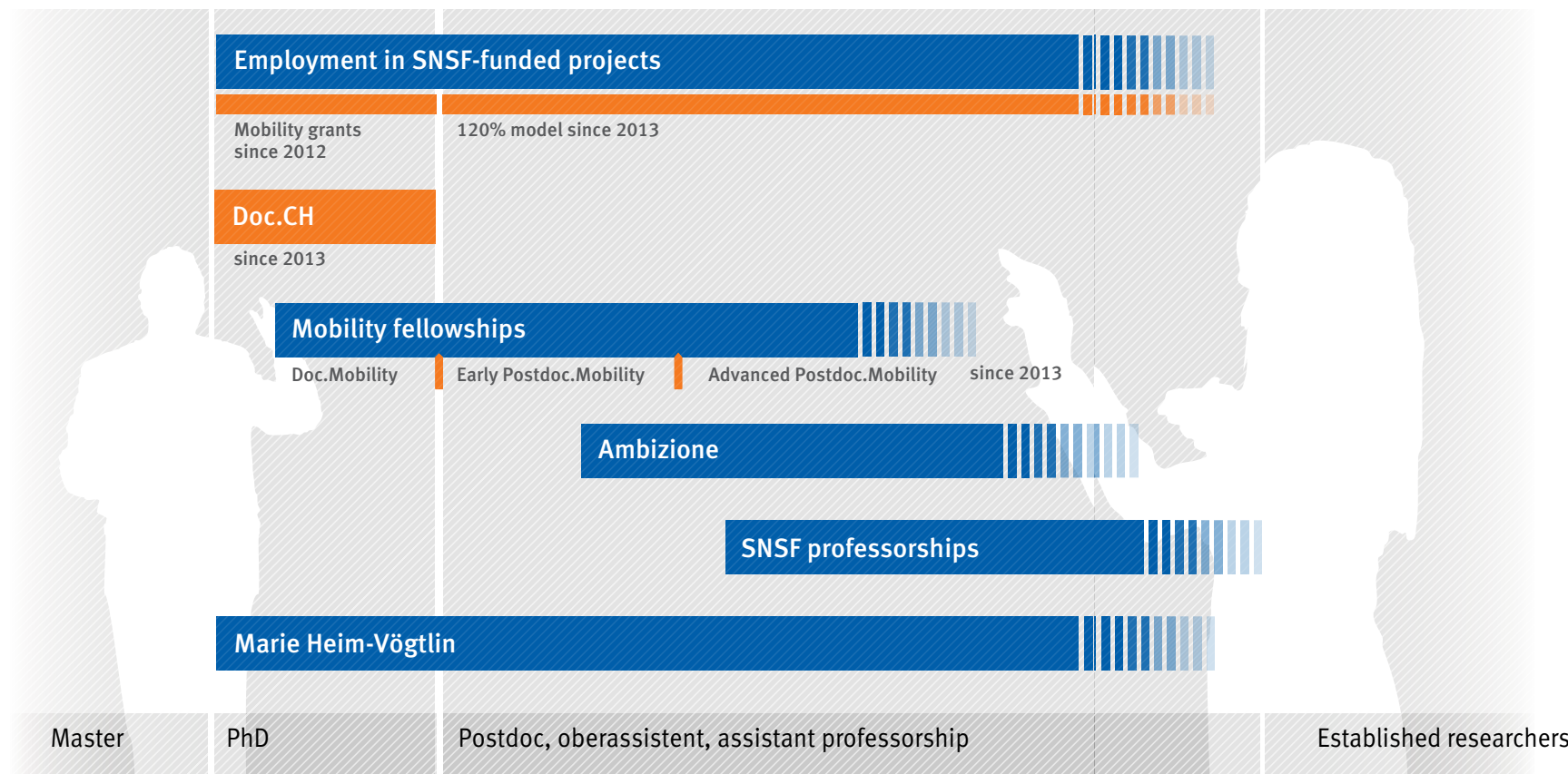
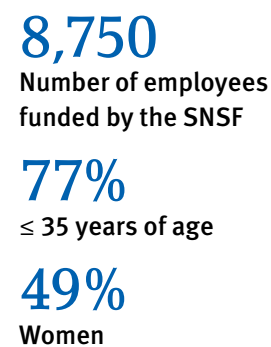
In 2012, the SNSF supported approximately 4,200 doctoral students and 2,500 postdocs via projects and programmes. These up-and-coming researchers learn how to work scientifically and increase their professional knowledge in the research projects, and they make a substantial contribution to their success as employees. By supporting such scientists, the SNSF is able to help produce highly qualified young researchers for both science and the private sector. In addition to this broad-based funding, the SNSF made available CHF 156 million for career funding schemes to support young scientists who aim to pursue an academic career. All in all, the SNSF supports approximately 20% of all doctoral students based at Swiss higher education institutions.

Continual adjustment to changing needs

The SNSF is closely following developments both in Switzerland and abroad and adjusting its funding schemes to meet the changing needs of researchers (see page 9). It has made its eligibility requirements more flexible to cater, in particular, for women researchers with a non-linear career path. Indicative limits have replaced clearly defined age limits. As academic mobility is often difficult to reconcile with family life, researchers are encouraged to make stays abroad at an early career stage and before starting a family. For this reason, the SNSF has been offering all doctoral students employed in SNSF research projects the option of a six to twelve month stay abroad since June 2012. These mobility grants can be applied for as supplementary grants for the research project.

In addition, the SNSF has decided to introduce the 120% model for postdocs with child care duties. This enables postdocs with an employment level of 80% to 100% to reduce their work-time percentage to 60%. The SNSF will complement the funds freed up by these reductions to create a further 60% position within the SNSF research project.

Key figures 2012



Funding from doctorate to professorship

In 2008, the SNSF set up the Specialised Committee Careers, which is specifically responsible for career funding. The Committee defines the strategic principles and evaluates applications for this funding category. By introducing Ambizione in 2008, the SNSF was able to fill the last remaining gap such that funding options are now available for each career stage between master degree and professorship. With its career funding schemes, the SNSF aims primarily to promote two factors that are crucial to an academic career: mobility and independence.

Better career opportunities thanks to mobility

Even in our age of electronic communication, mobility is still of central importance to up-and-coming researchers. Nothing can take the place of research experience abroad – be it during doctoral studies or at postdoc level. Such experience expands both the scientific and the cultural horizon of young scientists. In 2010, an evaluation of the SNSF’s fellowship programme clearly showed that a fellowship abroad substantially increases the chances of an academic career. Based on the evaluators’

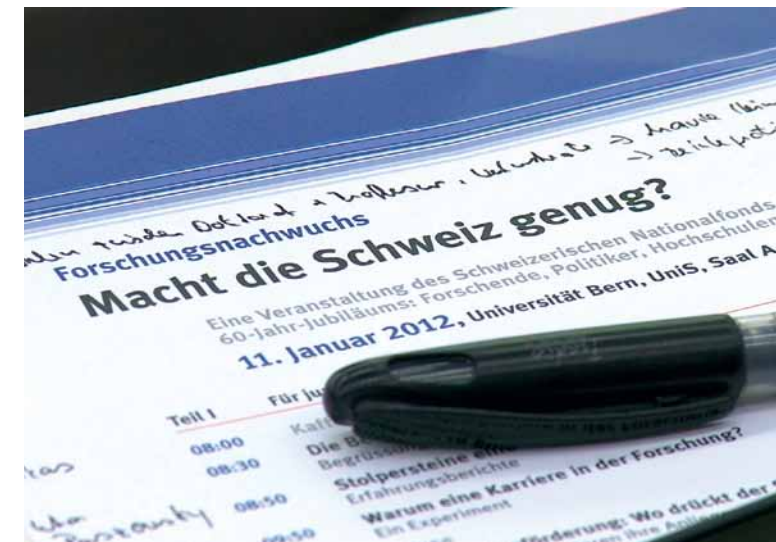
> recommendations, the SNSF decided in 2012 to harmonise the existing fellowship programme and bring it more closely into line with the different career stages.

A step towards independence

Also on the evaluators' recommendation, the SNSF decided to introduce the "Doc.CH" funding scheme. As of 2013, it will be used to support doctoral theses in the humanities and social sciences. The funds will not be requested via a superior, but directly by the young researchers. This will not only help doctoral students to become independent, it will also allow them to focus on their doctoral thesis so that they may finish it within four years and remain capable of competing with foreign researchers for academic positions.

Since 2008, young researchers have been able to take a step towards independence in the form of their own Ambizione projects. Ambizione enables them to regain a firm footing in Switzerland after a stay abroad. In addition, talented foreign researchers are given the opportunity of continuing their careers in Switzerland and making a contribution to Swiss research through know-how transfer. The strong increase in application numbers – from 90 in 2008 to approximately 300 in 2012 – clearly shows that Ambizione is meeting a need.

The SNSF-sponsored professorships are an excellent opportunity for talented, young researchers to demonstrate their powers of innovation and independence through their own research project and team. These professorships have been highly coveted for years and have played a pioneering role in the introduction of assistant professorships at Swiss universities. No less than 80% of the researchers gained a regular professorship at a higher education institution in Switzerland or abroad during or after the funding period. In 2012, the SNSF awarded 41 new SNSF professorships. <



Where do the problems lie?

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary event on 11 January 2012, the SNSF invited young researchers from all over Switzerland to its head office in Berne in order to learn more about the problems they are facing. In several workshops, the approximately 160 young researchers collected ideas on how they might receive better support. In the second part of the event, they presented their proposals to high-profile guests from politics, higher education institutions and the SNSF.

Proposals received with interest

In the time that has passed since the event, the SNSF has closely studied the proposals presented by the young researchers and initiated a number of measures to improve conditions for them.

It has been gratifying to see the anniversary event triggering discussions outside the SNSF as well: representatives of the young researchers were invited to present their proposals before the Committee for Science, Education and Culture (WBK) of the Council of States by the Committee's President, Felix Gutzwiller. Subsequently, the Council of States submitted a WBK postulate to the Federal Council requesting it to examine together with the SNSF and the other parties concerned how the promotion of young researchers could be improved.

In addition, the SNSF made support for young scientists the key topic of its "Tour de Suisse", which consists of a round of visits to the twelve Swiss universities, the KFH and the COHEP. During the visits, it received widespread support for its goal of increasing the salaries of doctoral students as well as their minimum work-time percentages so that they may devote more time to their theses. Another point of discussion was how SNSF professorships could be brought into line with the trend towards tenure track assistant professorships at the higher education institutions. An ideal solution is currently being sought.

Only a few days after the anniversary event, the SNSF for the first time elected an organisation of non-professorial teaching staff to the Foundation Council, namely Actionuni (see page 50).

- 1 Federal Councillor Alain Berset emphasises the importance of well-qualified young people for society, science and the economy
- 2 Caspar Hirschi trenchantly presents the proposals of the young researchers
- 3 Discussion with decision-makers: Christoph Eymann (President of the SUC), Caspar Hirschi (representative of the young researchers), Josiane Aubert (National Councillor), Antonio Loprieno (President of the CRUS), Dieter Imboden (President of the Research Council of the SNSF)



“For me as a sculpture researcher and art historian, it is always a great moment when I am able to touch a sculpture as the artist did centuries ago and thereby feel and discover it anew.”

Ivo Raband, University of Bern

New energy policy

Energy research as a priority

Switzerland aims to promote energy research in order to bring about a change in energy policy. In addition to the two National Research Programmes launched in 2012, the SNSF is in a position to increase its funding of energy research thanks to more federal funds.

Research is one of the strategic pillars of the Swiss government's "Energy Strategy 2050". The envisaged turnaround in energy policy is to be based on improved energy efficiency and more widespread use of renewable energy sources.

Two new NRPs on energy

In 2011, the Federal Council decided to thematically limit the next call for

proposals for National Research Programmes (NRPs) to energy research. Last year, it mandated the SNSF to conduct the NRPs "Transforming Energy" and "Options for Controlling Final Energy Consumption". The two NRPs are endowed with a budget of CHF 37 million and CHF 8 million respectively. Their objective is to develop a scientific basis for decision-making in politics, business and administration.

Intensifying research

In addition to the two new NRPs, the Federal Council requested Parliament in October 2012 to approve a total of CHF 202 million for measures to be initiated between 2013 and 2016. CHF 118 million thereof will be made available for the "Energy" funding programme. On the one hand, the aim is to support energy innovation projects of the CTI. On the other hand, the funds are to be directed towards the setup of inter-university centres of competence with industry participation that will be selected based on joint calls and evaluation procedures of the CTI and the SNSF. The SNSF has been invited to participate in this process due to its longstanding experience of programmes aimed at enhancing structures. One of the insights drawn from this experience is that setting up outstanding centres of competence takes time.

A further CHF 24 million have been set aside for the "Energy" programme aimed at promoting young scientists. By means of SNSF professorships, in particular, young scientists are to be recruited according to established quality criteria so that a sufficient number of researchers are available for energy research.

The NRP "Transforming Energy" aims to find ways to ensure a sustainable energy policy in Switzerland.



Project funding at the SNSF

Higher success and approval rates

The chances of researchers receiving a grant from the SNSF have improved in project funding: after falling in the past years, the success and approval rates have risen again slightly in 2012 thanks to fewer proposals and a stable budget.

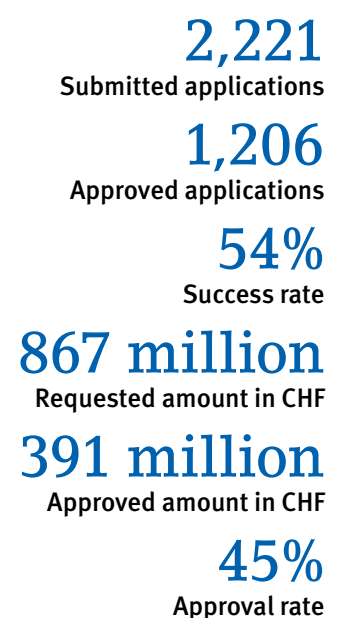
For the first time since 2005, the number of applications submitted to the SNSF has not risen further in project funding. On the contrary: the 2,216 applications submitted by researchers in the year under review represent a decrease of approximately 8% as compared to 2011. At the same time, the amount of money available to the SNSF for project funding was higher in 2012: CHF 391 million as opposed CHF 359 million in the previous year. These developments have resulted in an increase of 3% in the success rate (proportion of approved projects to submitted projects) and 4% in the approval rate (proportion of approved funds to requested funds), which came to lie at 54% and 45% respectively in 2012.

After the steady growth recorded in recent years, the decline in 2012 gives rise to the question of whether the number of applications in project funding will now stabilise at a high level. The coming years will show whether this is indeed the case and they may shed some light on the possible causes.

Challenging search for reviewers

In project funding, it is customary for each application to be reviewed by three experts on average, most of whom are based abroad. In order to find such experts, the SNSF avails itself of a comprehensive, worldwide database: more than 17,500 researchers around the globe are asked for a review each year. Only around 40% of them accept the invitation. Hence, implementing the peer review procedures poses a challenge. In addition, the international competition to engage the good and "loyal" reviewers is growing more intense. Here, too, we are confronted with the question of limits, namely those of the peer review system (see page 16).

Project funding 2012



Key funding figures

In 2012, the SNSF was able to invest six percent more in basic research than in the previous year: it approved a total number of 3,500 applications by researchers, with new grants amounting to CHF 755 million. While 52% of this money was allocated to project funding, the SNSF's main funding scheme, 20% and 24% were made available for career funding and programmes respectively. Overhead contributions towards indirect research costs paid to higher education institutions in 2012 amounted to CHF 83 million in total. This corresponds to 16% of the grants eligible for overhead.

International co-operation

Reducing obstacles in international co-operation

In a changing European and global environment, the SNSF reviewed its international co-operation strategy in 2012 in view of the upcoming challenges: more engagement in bilateral programmes of the Swiss government, monitoring of the new European Framework Programme “Horizon 2020” and participation in global dialogue.

International co-operation is an important aspect of research, but there are obstacles in its path: geographical and cultural distance, unfavourable conditions in some countries, the difficulty of financing activities abroad and differences in research funding policies. In collaboration with research funding organisations in other countries and other Swiss institutions, the SNSF is striving to overcome these obstacles to projects and programmes and to facilitate access to research infrastructures.

Different approaches for different needs

The SNSF focuses on the added value gained through international co-operation and favours a pragmatic approach which takes account of the needs of the scientific community. It aims to strengthen scientific capacities in developing and transition countries, thus making them more competitive, and to enable Swiss researchers to collaborate with research groups from these countries. In emerging, industrialised and European countries, the SNSF is mainly looking to support existing co-operation, encourage new ones and ensure that Swiss researchers gain access to the initiatives of the European Framework Programme.

Bilateral co-operations with priority countries

Launched in 2008, the Swiss government’s bilateral programmes with priority countries aim to promote and reinforce research co-operation with non-European countries that show high research potential. In the 2013–2016 Swiss Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) Dispatch, the SNSF is mandated to implement Joint Research Projects (JRPs) for five priority countries: Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa. Based on an implementation plan developed in 2012, the SNSF is organising calls for proposals to-

gether with corresponding institutions in the partner countries. The aim is to establish bilateral relations that enable long-term structural measures, such as lead agency agreements, and afford access to research groups in these countries.

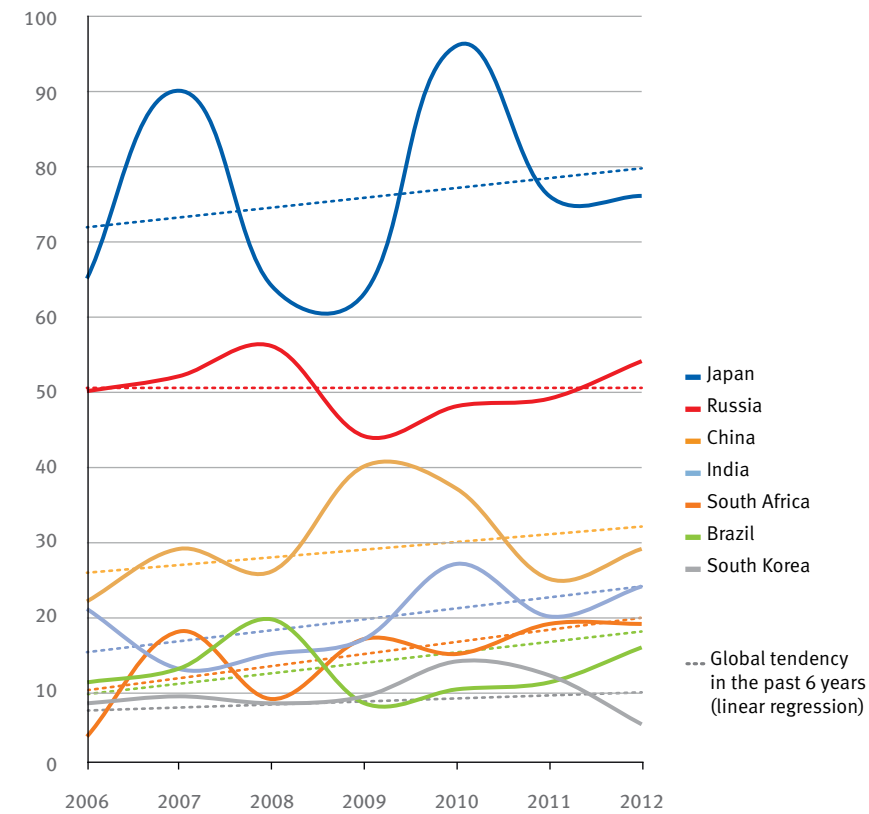
European research policy and multilateral approach

The SNSF has been actively following developments in the European Research Area together with its European partners from Science Europe and SwissCore, its contact office in Brussels. It is also engaging with the new Framework Programme “Horizon 2020” and looking at academic mobility and the future rules for participation, in particular.

Birth of the Global Research Council

At the international level, the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the USA has brought the presidents of the research councils of the G20 and OECD countries together under a common roof: a new, informal organisation known as the Global Research Council (GRC). The organisation adopted a set of principles regarding peer review at its first meeting, in which the SNSF participated. The principles are based on discussions held by working groups on five different continents. In the coming years, the GRC will focus on scientific integrity and open access to scientific data and publications. Science Europe will coordinate the positions of the European research councils. <

Development in the number of co-operations with priority countries of the Federal Government



The number of co-operations in SNSF-funded projects has increased slightly for Japan in the past six years, during which time it has clearly been the leading partner country in numerical terms. China, South Africa and India have seen comparable growth, with that of India being the most pronounced. Co-operations with other priority countries have remained more or less stable.

Four areas of activity

The SNSF’s involvement in international co-operations focuses on four main areas:

- › direct funding of stays abroad by scientists, participation in conferences and organisation of workshops,
- › participating in international dialogue within Science Europe and the Global Research Council, working together with scientific advisors at embassies and the Swissnex network,
- › joint programmes with the federal government (SDC, SERI) geared to developing, transition and emerging countries,
- › participating in international initiatives and programmes such as the ERA-NETs and Joint Programming Initiatives.

In brief

Two NRPs on the topics of soil and nutrition

In 2012, the SNSF issued calls for the National Research Programmes “Resource Soil” (NRP 68) and “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production” (NRP 69). NRP 68, which started in 2013, is expanding our knowledge about soil as an ecosystem. The programme is also developing tools to evaluate soil quality and strategies for the sustainable use of soil. NRP 69 is concerned with healthy eating habits and food production that is as environmentally friendly as possible.



Large research projects: Swiss participation thanks to FLARE

On behalf of the federal government, the SNSF launched the first call for an initiative known as FLARE (Funding LArge international REsearch projects) in 2012. FLARE supports large international projects in the areas of particle physics, astroparticle physics and astrophysics. It replaces the schemes FORCE and FINES. For the 2013–2016 period, the SNSF has made available additional funds of CHF 26.5 million for FLARE.

Strategic planning 2013–2016

Every four years, the SNSF elaborates a multi-year programme, in which it defines the main pillars of its funding policy and the amount of funding it will need. The implementation of specific policies depends on the corresponding funds being approved by parliament.

The parliamentary decision taken in autumn 2012 forced the SNSF to prioritise certain aspects of its multi-year programme. It will need to set aside a number of policies, such as the increase in overhead or the expansion of bio-medical research programmes. In its action plan 2013–2016, the SNSF has announced which policies it will implement.

www.snf.ch › About us › Funding policy › Multi-Year Programme

Evaluation procedure of the SNSF

Time-consuming – but effective

In the year under review, a team of US researchers examined the quality and transparency of the SNSF's evaluation procedure. While the results are very positive, there is still some room for improvement.

When presenting the new mission statement, Daniel Höchli stressed that "the SNSF aims to be an excellent funding body, besides funding excellent research". An independent analysis was commissioned to establish to what extent the SNSF complies with the principles and achieves the objectives set out in its mission statement.

Core task under the microscope

In 2012, a research team led by Chris Coryn from Western Michigan University examined the core task of the SNSF. The evaluation project "Quality and transparency in the evaluation procedure of the SNSF" aimed to show to what extent the evaluation procedure is fair and impartial as well as understandable and transparent. In addition, the project intended to establish to what degree the evaluation procedure of the SNSF

- › promotes excellent and original research in all disciplines,
- › increases the competitiveness of Swiss research and of researchers in Switzerland,
- › promotes young researchers.

Mission accomplished, but...

After evaluating comprehensive data, documents and information mainly gained from numerous interviews and surveys conducted with key actors of the SNSF, external reviewers and applicants (2006 to 2011), the research team has come to the conclusion that the SNSF achieves its objects to a very large degree. In particular, the applicants approached by the research team were of the opinion that the SNSF accomplishes its core mission of funding excellent research

in all disciplines. However, the increasing workloads of Research Councilors are somewhat worrying, in particular due to the time-consuming external review system for applications. But according to Coryn, this very system is crucial for the transparency and fairness of the evaluation procedure. In addition, the results show that the SNSF's decision-making, though impartial and fair, needs to be made more transparent and understandable, and the processes and criteria on which it is based need to be improved.

Valuable recommendations

In order to improve the quality and transparency of the evaluation procedure, the research team recommends reforming the external review system, e.g. through better guidelines and remuneration for external reviewers, a more effective division of tasks between the National Research Council and the Administrative Offices, and more direct rejection of applications in project funding. The research team also recommends a systematic examination of the funding schemes as well as clarifications in the election procedure for the Research Council. In addition, they suggest making the documentations and guidelines for applicants clearer and more user-friendly.

The SNSF has already initiated various measures to implement the recommendations. In spring 2013, it informed the public and interested circles about the evaluation. <

Use-inspired basic research

First results for a new type of application

In 2012, the SNSF started funding "use-inspired" research projects. This new feature allows for the adequate support of basic research with a focus on answering questions from the practical realm.

Since summer 2011, researchers have been able to tick the box "use-inspired" when submitting a proposal. In 2012, the SNSF received 406 projects of this type, 169 of which were funded. This corresponds to 14% of the 1,206 proposals approved within the scope of project funding.

Mixed results for UASs

Even though the new feature seems to be tailor-made for applications from the Universities of Applied Sciences (UASs), it has not led to an increase in UAS applications. Only 6% of all applications submitted in 2012 were linked to UASs. It is, however, notable that 60% of all UAS applications were declared "use-inspired". This corresponds to 19% of all "use-

inspired" applications. As concerns other higher education institutions (universities, ETHs, etc.) only 15% of all applications were declared "use-inspired".

Improved evaluation thanks to panels

In principle, "use-inspired" applications are evaluated by the National Research Council. However, special evaluation panels are in place for certain disciplines such as fine arts, science of art, design and architecture. Similarly, applications by researchers at UASs concerning the life sciences and health are evaluated by panels specialising in applied research, whether the applications are declared use-inspired or not. During

the evaluation of "use-inspired" projects, particular attention is paid to the criterion "broader impact". <



To support spatial planning, ETH Zurich is developing new tools to estimate the soil reserves in densely populated areas. The Swiss plateau serves as its "laboratory".

Responding to needs in the practical realm

An application may be declared "use-inspired" if it fulfils the following criteria: the research must respond to a real need in the practical realm and the results must have application potential or a possible impact beyond science.

Dieter Imboden looks back on his presidency

“The important thing is not to be taken by surprise – we must think ahead”



Dieter Imboden was President of the National Research Council of the SNSF from 2005 to 2012. From the beginning, his focus lay on the promotion of young researchers and on equal opportunities for women and men. In addition, it was his stated aim to keep the SNSF on the national political agenda and give it a greater say in Europe. He looks back on his presidency in this interview.

Mr Imboden, at the end of 2012 you handed over the presidency of the Research Council to Martin Vetterli after eight years at the helm. How does it feel?
I leave feeling slightly wistful because I put a lot of passion into my work and had the opportunity to meet so many inspiring people here – at the same time, it is reassuring to know that the presidency will be in safe hands with my successor.

When you took over the presidency in 2005, the reform project “SNSF 2008” was underway. The aim was to make the SNSF fit to face future challenges. How fit is it today?

The question is always, fit for what? The SNSF is certainly fit enough to accomplish its current tasks. This was already the case when I took up office. But new challenges have emerged since

2005, which we would not have been able to master without the reform package. I need only mention the increasing importance of interdisciplinary research and international co-operation, for which we have established specialised committees. More changes will need to be made in the coming years. The important thing is not to be taken by surprise – we must think ahead.

Last year’s 60th anniversary event was devoted to the question “Is Switzerland doing enough for its young researchers?”. What is your personal view?

Switzerland has enough young researchers because it holds a lot of appeal for Europeans. But what works for the system as a whole means a lot of insecurity and sacrifices for individuals planning their careers. In the long run, it is not sustainable to compensate flaws in the system through imports – actually it’s even dangerous: what will happen if we lose the advantages we have as a research location? While the SNSF can help to defuse these problems through its career funding schemes, a real solution must come from the higher education institutions. Their hierarchy system is outdated; the USA has developed more successful ones.

In 2011, you said that the SNSF’s efforts to promote equal opportunities for men and women have left you with mixed emotions. What is your assessment of the situation today?

Unfortunately, these mixed feelings have not gone away. To use a common metaphor: the whole pipeline is leaky, from master degree through to professorship – women are leaving the system. I am increasingly sure that the problems with equal opportunities are linked to those of academic careers. Women are simply better seismographs of what is amiss in the system.

One of your goals when you became president was to strengthen alliances with partner organisations in order to keep research firmly on the political agenda. How far have you succeeded in this?

The time had come to put aside animosities between the partners involved in Swiss research, the universities, the ETHs, the federal agencies, the Science Council and others. A strong alliance was formed during preparations for the ERI Dispatch 2008–2011 and has now been consolidated for the coming period. All the mentioned actors have contributed to these alliances. This was particularly important for the SNSF due to its key role in competitive re-

“A small country feels the need for international co-operation sooner.”

search funding. Without a positive relationship with the higher education institutions, the SNSF would have been pushed into the role of the unpopular overseer. Fortunately, that hasn’t happened.

The question of how the SNSF can play a stronger role in Europe was very much on your mind from the beginning. What have you achieved in this area?

I had the opportunity to play a leading role in the founding of Science Europe, a new and strong organisation of Euro-

pean research institutions. It represents the interests of the national organisations before the EU and aims to bring their strong points into play in the context of centralised European research funding. Looking beyond Europe, the SNSF participated in the founding of the Global Research Council in 2012. The pioneering role of smaller countries is no coincidence: a small country like Switzerland feels the need to co-operate internationally sooner and more strongly than a big country.



Martin Vetterli – new President of the Research Council of the SNSF

Martin Vetterli, professor for communication systems and, till the end of last year, Dean of the School of Computer and Communication Sciences at EPF Lausanne, has been the President of the National Research Council of the SNSF since January 2013. As a former member of the Swiss Council on Science and Technology and founding Director of a National Centre of Competence in Research, he is well-acquainted with Swiss research and higher education policies and with the SNSF. “By letting the SNSF fund outstanding research, Switzerland is investing in its own future. It is an honour for me to lead this important institution and help maintain the tradition of excellent research in Switzerland,” says Martin Vetterli.

Boundless commitment

In 2005, Dieter Imboden became the first physicist and ETH researcher to be elected as President of the National Research Council of the SNSF. His commitment towards science and science policy issues during his period of office has been limitless. In 2011, he became the founding President of Science Europe, the new umbrella organisation of national research organisations in Europe aimed at strengthening the European research area.

You have repeatedly stressed that you see research as an integral part of our culture, as something that needs to be nurtured and cherished – a bit like art. Will you use your new-found free time for artistic production?

I’d rather leave that open for the moment. My motto for the post-SNSF period is: let yourself fall and listen within for the wishes and plans that are stirring. Apart from contemplative journeys along Europe’s waterways, reading and writing will certainly be a part of it. Whether more than a few essays will come out of this is written in the stars. I would have more than enough material for a novel though. <

Events

Key events in 2012



1 August

SNSF: 60 years of investment in researchers and their ideas

When the SNSF was founded, it had at its disposal an annual budget of CHF 4 million and 270 applications to appraise. Since then, the SNSF has invested over CHF 11 billion in research, evaluated more than 70,000 project and career funding applications and launched 28 National Centres of Competence and 70 National Research Programmes. Grantees of the SNSF include Nobel laureates, current and former Federal Councillors such as Alain Berset and Joseph Deiss, the economic policy advisor of the German government, Beatrice Weder di Mauro, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, the author Adolf Muschg, the Logitech founder Daniel Borel and numerous other personalities.



16 October

National Latsis Prize goes to a medical researcher

The medical researcher Jacques Fellay is studying the human genome in search of genetic variations that influence how the body reacts to a virus and the drugs fighting it. In January 2013, he is awarded the National Latsis Prize 2012 for his research work in the presence of Federal Councillor Johann Schneider Ammann, who gives a speech. Jacques Fellay holds an SNSF professorship and has his own lab at the School of Life Sciences of EPF Lausanne. He has a passion for translational research. By applying the results of his own basic research to medical practice, he was able to discover defence mechanisms in the human genome that make it possible to fight viral diseases such as AIDS.

Worth CHF 100,000, the prize is one of the most prestigious awarded to scientists in Switzerland. The Swiss National Science Foundation presents the award to young researchers under the age of 40 on behalf of the Latsis Foundation.

27 January

The [Foundation Council](#) elects Gabriële Gendotti as its President for the 2012–2015 period of office. The former National Councillor and State Councillor succeeds Hans Ulrich Stöckling. The Vice President Anne-Claude Berthoud is reelected.

3 May

At [SwissCore's annual event](#), approximately 80 guests listen to speeches by Dieter Imboden (SNSF) and Jacques de Watteville (Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU). Antonio Loprieno, President of the CRUS, gives the keynote speech on "Research and education building knowledge societies".

13 June / 28 November

The [Research Day](#) is held at the University of Zurich and at EPF Lausanne. It gives young researchers the opportunity to familiarise themselves with SNSF funding schemes and gain advice.

18 June

The neurobiologist Claire Jacob receives the [Marie Heim-Vögtlin Prize \(MHV\) 2012](#) for her work on the regeneration of the peripheral nervous system after an injury. The SNSF awards the prize to women researchers who hold an MHV grant. The laureate is chosen based on the quality of her scientific work and career development.

3 July

The press conference marking the conclusion of the National Research Programme "[Religions, the State and Society](#)" (NRP 58) reveals a widening gap in religious matters in Switzerland. While religion plays a major role in politics and in the media, its significance in state institutions and in people's thinking is dwindling.

28 August

The National Research Programme "[Genetically Modified Plants](#)" (NRP 59) presents its results to the press. The results indicate that the genetic modification of plants does not harbour any risks for human health or the environment. The economic advantages of this biotechnology are marginal in Switzerland. However, this could change with the introduction of varieties with different features.

19 September

The SNSF welcomes advanced researchers from the whole of Switzerland to its head office in Bern. [The Advanced Researchers' Day](#) offers postdocs and more advanced researchers the opportunity of gaining detailed information on the funding options offered by the SNSF.

26 September

The Mission of Switzerland to the EU and SwissCore hold a [Swiss Science Briefing](#) on "Reaching out to the world" through international co-operation in science and technology. The speakers are Roberto Balzaretti, Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU, Mauro Moruzzi, Head of International Affairs at SER, and Jean-Luc Barras, Head of the International Co-operation division of the SNSF.

15 November

At the SNSF symposium "[Population- and Disease-Based Longitudinal Studies: perspectives for research and society](#)", universities, hospitals and public organisations of the federal government stress that longitudinal studies play an important role in obtaining basic data concerning society, health care provision and research. They also discuss financing options for the sustainable support of longitudinal studies.

“We are studying the interplay of plant and animal life in pollination as well as its impact on maintaining biodiversity. My fascination with the diversity and complexity of the interactions drives me to climb up mountains again and again to collect field data.”

Christopher Kaiser-Bunbury, Seychelles



2012 – Research funding in figures

In 2012, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) granted funding to the total value of CHF 755 million, 5.9% more than in 2011 (CHF 713 million). This financing was used to support over 3,500 research projects.

The statistics include all applications processed and approved during the financial year as well as contributions paid out in the area of National Centres of Competence in Research in 2012. Additional grants are not treated as separate applications but are included in the approved amounts. The gender statistics refer to the share of responsible applicants.

The data in the statistical part of the annual report are not comparable with the figures in the annual statement.
Full version of the statistics: www.snsf.ch > About us > Facts & figures > Statistics

Content

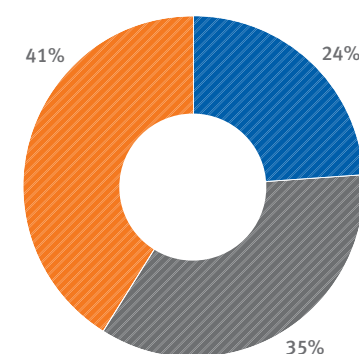
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1. Funding in overview

1.1 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts

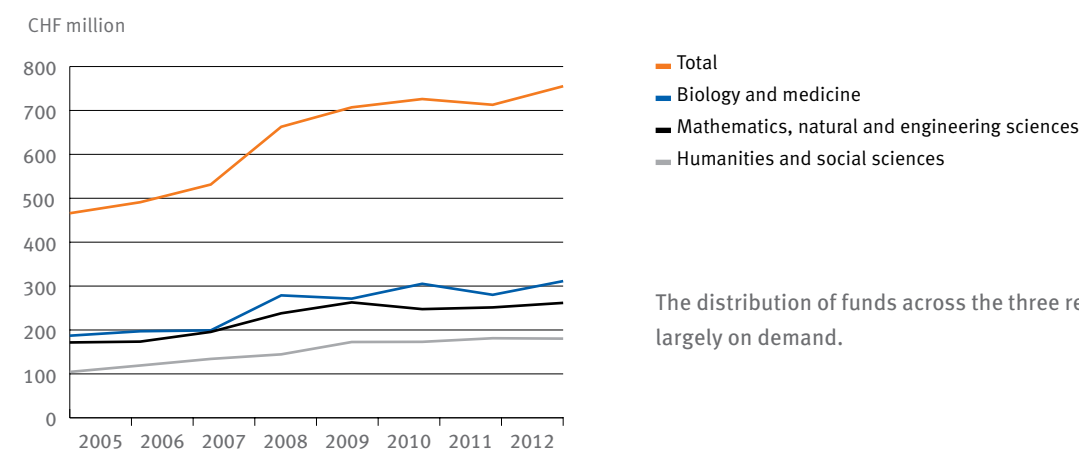


- Humanities and social sciences
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences
- Biology and medicine

	Amount	Women	Men
Humanities and social sciences	180.3	29%	71%
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	261.7	14%	86%
Biology and medicine	311.3	22%	78%
Unapportionable	1.9		
Total	755.2	21%	79%

The allocation to the research areas has changed only slightly year-on-year. The share of biology and medicine has risen by 2%.

Approved amounts since 2005

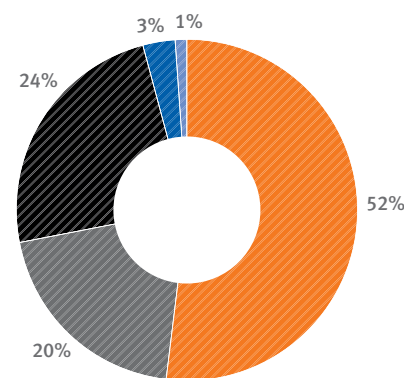


The distribution of funds across the three research areas is based largely on demand.

1.2 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Projects
- Careers
- Programmes
- Infrastructures
- Science communication

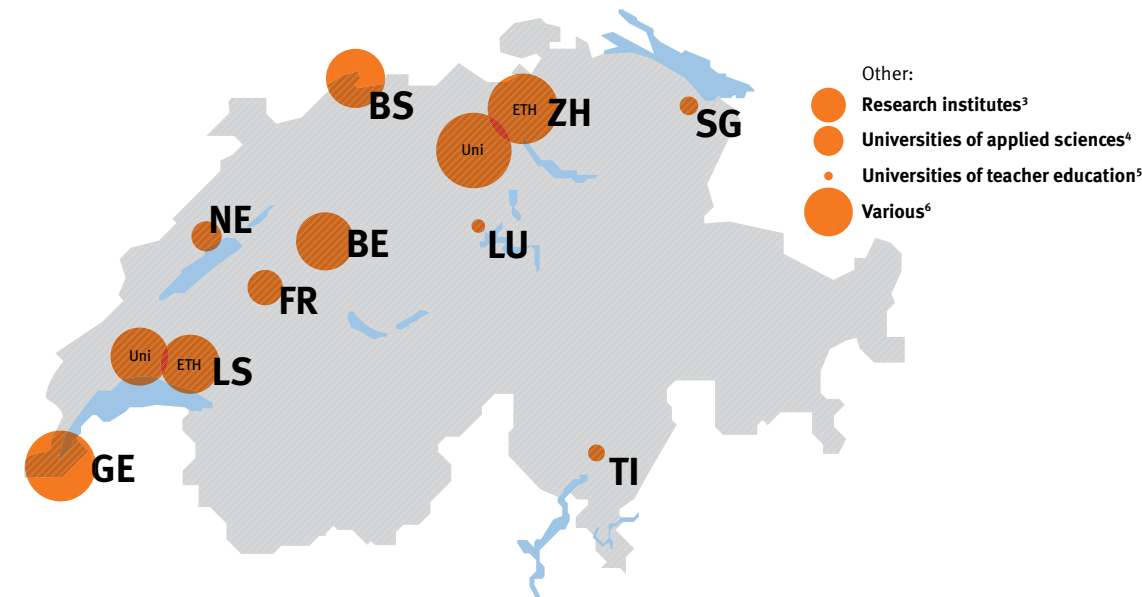
	Number	Amount
Projects	1206	391.4
Careers	1219	156.4
Programmes	600	180.0
Infrastructures	80	21.6
Science communication	395	5.8
Total	3500	755.2

In 2012, the SNSF allocated more than half of its funds to its main funding scheme, project funding. The amount of funding for science communication increased by 39% to CHF 5.8 million year-on-year due to the introduction of Agora.

1.3 Funding by institution and research area

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts (incl. overhead)¹



Institution	Humanities and social sciences	Mathem., natural and engineering sciences	Biology and medicine	Unassignable	Total in CHF million	Total in %	Overhead ²	Total incl. overhead
Universities	143.1	109.4	235.3		487.8	65%	55.2	543.0
Berne (BE)	21.2	14.4	30.5		66.1	9%	11.0	77.1
Basel (BS)	16.9	19.8	34.0		70.7	10%	8.4	79.1
Fribourg (FR)	10.8	7.6	6.8		25.2	3%	3.1	28.3
Geneva (GE)	22.5	36.6	45.8		104.9	14%	8.3	113.2
Lucerne (LU)	3.6	–	–		3.6	0%	0.6	4.2
Lausanne (LS)	16.5	7.4	45.7		69.6	9%	6.8	76.4
Neuchâtel (NE)	8.1	5.1	5.7		18.9	3%	1.7	20.6
St. Gallen (SG)	7.1	0.0	–		7.1	1%	0.7	7.8
Ticino (TI)	2.4	2.6	0.5		5.5	1%	1.0	6.5
Zurich (ZH)	34.0	15.9	66.3		116.2	15%	13.6	129.8
ETH Domain	11.2	135.7	50.0		196.9	26%	22.8	219.7
EPF Lausanne	2.1	52.7	16.4		71.2	9%	8.5	79.7
ETH Zurich	7.8	65.9	27.6		101.3	13%	11.3	112.6
Research institutes ³	1.3	17.1	6.0		24.4	4%	3.0	27.4
Universities of applied sciences⁴	10.9	3.9	2.7		17.5	2%	2.8	20.3
Universities of teacher education⁵	1.2	–	–		1.2	0%	0.3	1.5
Various⁶	13.9	12.7	23.3	1.9	51.8	7%	1.9	53.7
Total	180.3	261.7	311.3	1.9	755.2	100%	83.0	838.2

¹ If no application was presented by the respective institution, this is denoted by a dash. Amounts lower than CHF 0.05 million are shown as zero.

² Entitlement to overhead in accordance with overhead regulations

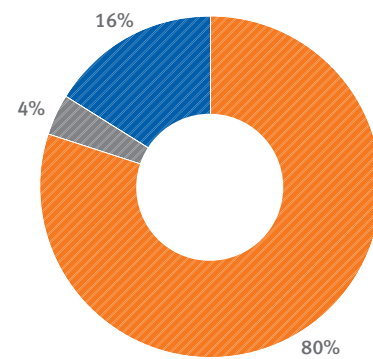
³ Research institutes in the ETH Domain (EMPA, EAWAG, PSI, WSL)

⁴ BFH, FHNW, FHO, HES-SO, HSLU, SUPSI, ZFH, Kalaidos. You will find the breakdown by institution in the web version.

⁵ Without universities of teacher education of FHNW and ZFH

⁶ Research centres, museums, libraries, individuals, companies, non-profit organisations and not assignable to an institution (e.g. fellowships for advanced researchers)

1.4 Use of approved amounts



Total amount: CHF 755.2 million

- Salaries and fellowships (incl. social security contributions)
- Materials of enduring value
- Research funds

As in previous years, the approved funds were used by the researchers mainly to cover personnel costs, whether for the financing of individual salaries/fellowships in the context of career funding or for the appointment of personnel in research projects. As of 2012, consumables as well as travel and field expenses are included in the new budget item "Research funds".

1.5 Personnel in research projects

Around 5,100 persons were employed in research projects in 2012. In addition, approx. 950 were supported in the context of career funding and 2,700 were employed through the National Research Programmes and Centres of Competence in Research.

	Total	Women Men
Scientists ¹	36%	49% 51%
Personnel at doctoral level	51%	45% 55%
Technicians, support staff	13%	66% 34%
Total	100%	49% 51%

¹ Senior researchers and postdocs

Funding for research projects primarily benefits the promotion of young scientists in Switzerland. Thus 77% of the collaborators are 35 years old or younger (95% in the case of personnel at doctoral level, 55% for other scientists). The share of women increased both among scientists (+5%) and among doctoral students (+3%) year-on-year.

1.6 Success rates

Amounts in CHF million

	Success rate ¹			Number of applications submitted			Number of applications approved			Approved amount
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	
Projects	54%	44%	57%	2221	451	1770	1206	200	1006	391.4
Humanities and social sciences	46%	42%	48%	685	196	489	316	83	233	84.8
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	68%	69%	67%	744	81	663	503	56	447	135.7
Biology and medicine	50%	35%	54%	685	138	547	344	48	296	155.4
Interdisciplinary research	40%	36%	42%	107	36	71	43	13	30	15.5
Careers										
Fellowships (prospective)	62%	62%	62%	867	383	484	538	239	299	32.0
Fellowships (advanced)	53%	54%	52%	208	83	125	110	45	65	11.7
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV)	30%	30%	–	123	123	–	37	37	–	7.8
Ambizione ²	19%	21%	18%	289	99	190	56	21	35	34.1
SNSF professorships	21%	21%	21%	192	57	135	41	12	29	67.7
Programmes										
National Research Programmes ³	26%	40%	25%	72	5	67	19	2	17	8.3
International programmes	54%	45%	56%	164	29	135	88	13	75	15.1
Sinergia	40%	32%	42%	91	22	69	36	7	29	46.2
Special programmes biology and medicine ⁴	88%	100%	80%	8	3	5	7	3	4	19.1
ProDoc	34%	41%	31%	61	22	39	21	9	12	8.7
Infrastructures	77%	50%	79%	104	8	96	80	4	76	21.6
Science communication	77%	79%	75%	516	188	328	395	148	247	5.8

¹ Ratio of the number of applications approved to the number of applications submitted

² Incl. Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE

³ Number of approved/submitted pre-proposals NRP 68

⁴ Extensions of long-term projects

The SNSF analyses the differences between the success rates of female and male applicants every year. For this purpose, it has introduced a gender equality monitoring system that examines the differences and attempts to identify the determining factors. If the differences are very pronounced, appropriate measures are taken.

Submitted applications by gender

	Women	Men
Fellowships (prospective)	44%	56%
Fellowships (advanced)	40%	60%
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV) ¹	100%	
Ambizione	34%	66%
SNSF professorships	30%	70%
Projects	20%	80%

¹ The proportion of female applicants is 100% as MHV is a programme for women scientists.

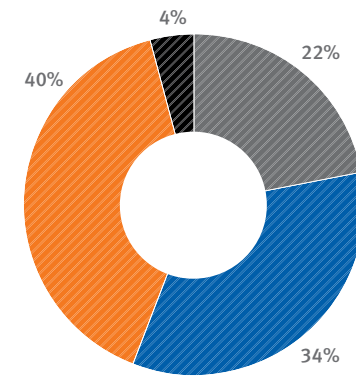
2. Projects

The SNSF supports research projects of high quality across all disciplines. The topics are selected by the researchers. Grants include contributions towards personnel costs, equipment, consumables and travel expenses.

2.1 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Humanities and social sciences
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences
- Biology and medicine
- Interdisciplinary research

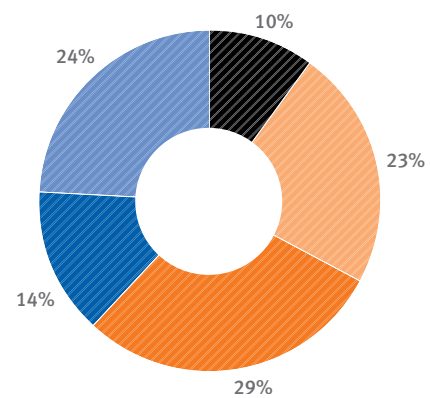
	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	84.8
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	135.7
Biology and medicine	155.4
Interdisciplinary research	15.5
Total	391.4

2.2 Funding by group of disciplines

Amounts in CHF million

Division I: Humanities and Social Sciences

Distribution of the approved amounts



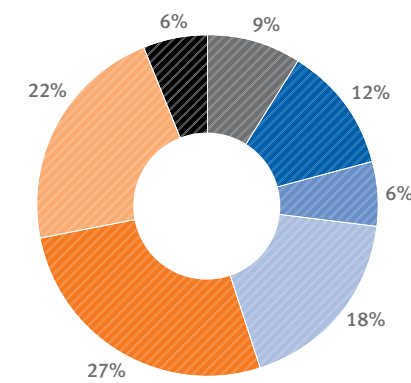
- Philosophy, psychology, educational sciences and religious sciences
- Legal and social sciences, economics
- History
- Archaeology, ethnology, art studies and social urban science
- Linguistics and literature

	Number	Amount
Philosophy, psychology, educational sciences and religious sciences	76	19.8
Legal and social sciences, economics	101	24.9
History	40	11.7
Archaeology, ethnology, art studies and social urban science	67	20.0
Linguistics and literature	32	8.4
Total	316	84.8

The integration of the DORE programme for universities of applied sciences into project funding led to shifts between the groups of disciplines. Economics and the legal and social sciences still receive the largest share of SNSF funding, namely 29%.

Division II: Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences

Distribution of the approved amounts



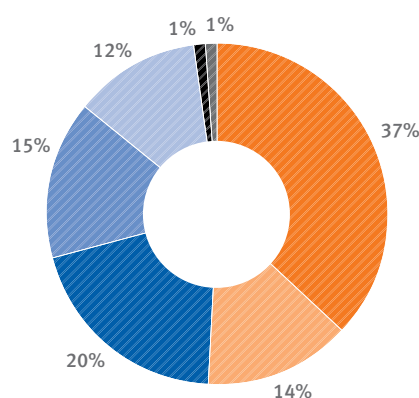
- Mathematics
- Astronomy, astrophysics, space sciences
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Engineering sciences
- Environmental sciences
- Earth sciences

	Number	Amount
Mathematics	54	15.4
Astronomy, astrophysics and space sciences	19	8.8
Chemistry	78	23.8
Physics	100	36.5
Engineering sciences	145	30.5
Environmental sciences	49	8.5
Earth sciences	58	12.2
Total	503	135.7

After decreasing in the previous years, grants in mathematics witnessed a remarkable increase of 38% in 2012 compared to the previous year.

Division III: Biology and Medicine

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Basic biological research
- General biology
- Basic medical research
- Experimental medicine
- Clinical medicine
- Preventive medicine
- Social medicine

	Number	Amount
Basic biological research	113	58.2
General biology	52	21.6
Basic medical research	70	31.8
Experimental medicine	48	22.8
Clinical medicine	51	17.9
Preventive medicine (epidemiology/early diagnosis/prevention)	6	1.8
Social medicine	4	1.3
Total	344	155.4

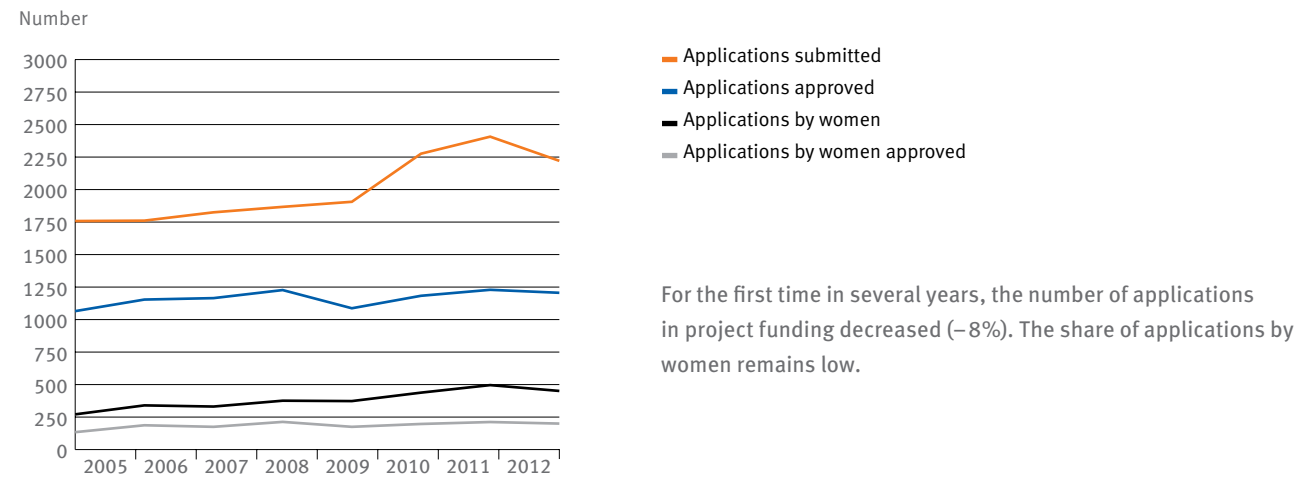
Half of the funds of Division III are allocated to biological research, the other half to medical research. As often in the past, the biological basic sciences received the largest share, in particular basic science projects in biochemistry, genetics and molecular and cell biology.

2.3 Grants, reductions and rejections

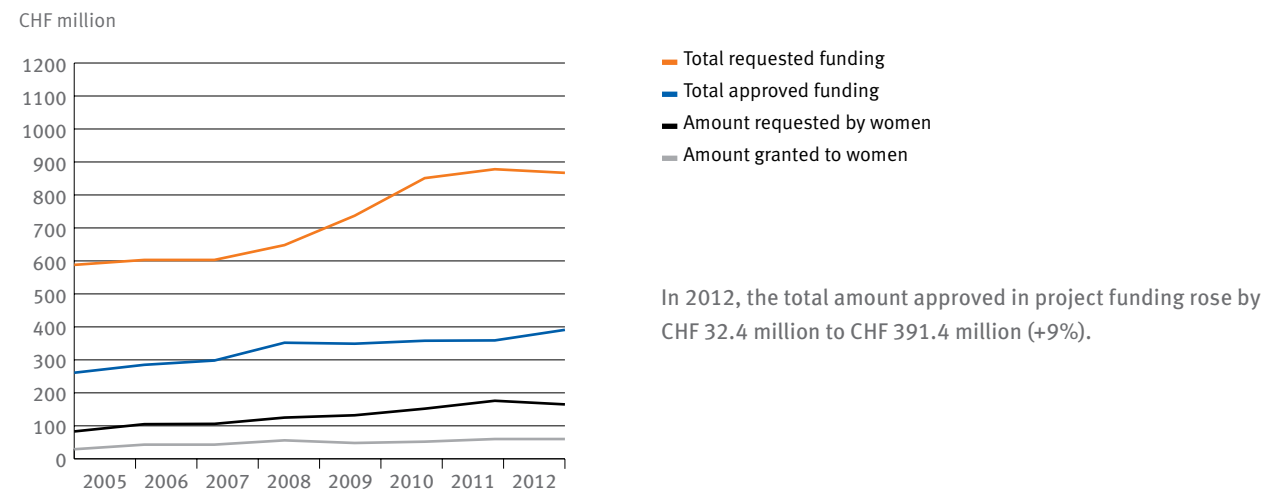
Amounts in CHF million

	Number	Amount	Grants	Reductions	Rejections, withdrawals
Humanities and social sciences					
Applications submitted	685		46%		54%
Requested amount		223.0	38%	7%	55%
Grants	316	84.8			
Reductions in approved applications	(227)	15.1			
Rejections, withdrawals	369	123.1			
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences					
Applications submitted	744		68%		32%
Requested amount		280.1	49%	24%	27%
Grants	503	135.7			
Reductions in approved applications	(440)	67.6			
Rejections, withdrawals	241	76.8			
Biology and medicine					
Applications submitted	685		50%		50%
Requested amount		319.7	49%	11%	40%
Grants	344	155.4			
Reductions in approved applications	(234)	35.4			
Rejections, withdrawals	341	128.9			
Interdisciplinary research					
Applications submitted	107		40%		60%
Requested amount		44.1	35%	5%	60%
Grants	43	15.5			
Reductions in approved applications	(30)	2.1			
Rejections, withdrawals	64	26.5			
Total					
Applications submitted	2221		54%		46%
Requested amount		866.9	45%	14%	41%
Grants	1206	391.4			
Reductions in approved applications	(931)	120.2			
Rejections, withdrawals	1015	355.3			

2.4 Number of applications and grants since 2005

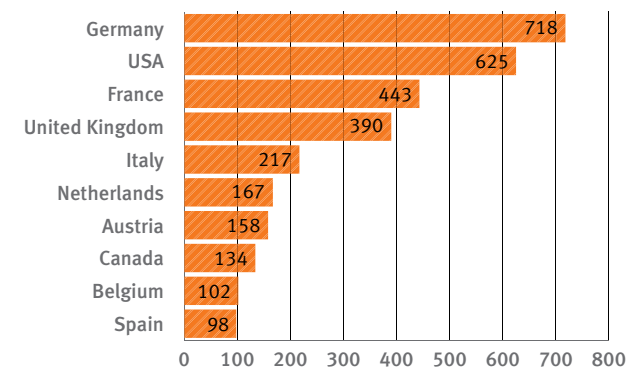


2.5 Requested and approved amounts since 2005



2.6 International networking

Number of international collaborations



In total, 4057 instances of international collaboration have taken place in the context of projects supported by the SNSF. The table shows the ten countries collaborated with most frequently.

3. Careers

The SNSF has a wide range of funding options in place to promote the careers of young researchers.

3.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF million

	Number of applications submitted					Number of applications approved					Approved amount
	New applications			Follow-up applications		New applications			Follow-up applications		
	Total	Women	Men	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Fellowships (prospective)	867	383	484	41	58	538	239	299	32	34	32.0
Fellowships (advanced)	208	83	125	14	18	110	45	65	8	14	11.7
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV)	123	123	–	14	–	37	37	–	7	–	7.8
Ambizione ¹	289	99	190	11	28	56	21	35	10	28	34.1
SNSF professorships	192	57	135	10	11	41	12	29	8	11	67.7
MD-PhD fellowships	7	4	3	–	–	7	4	3	–	–	1.2
Graduate courses	5	0	5	–	–	5	0	5	–	–	0.1
Summer courses	162	86	76	–	–	156	82	74	–	–	0.4
International short visits	116	36	80	–	–	110	34	76	–	–	0.9
Research semesters ²	7	1	6	–	–	7	1	6	–	–	0.4
Mobility grants for doctoral students ³	(15)	(10)	(5)	–	–	(13)	(8)	(5)	–	–	0,1
Total	1976	872	1104	90	115	1067	476	591	65	87	156.4

¹ incl. Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE. Ambizione follow-ups include 4 SCORE grants (CHF 1 million)

² Research semesters for departing members of the Research Council

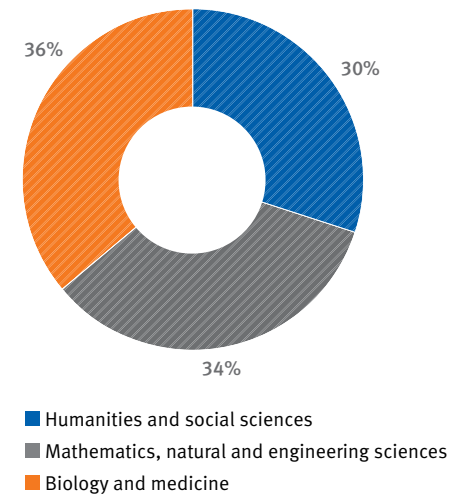
³ Mobility grants are supplementary grants and are therefore not treated as separate applications. Hence they are not accounted for in the total number of applications, but are considered in the amount.

The upward trend in career funding applications continued in 2012. The increase in demand was particularly strong in the Marie Heim-Vögtlin programme (+18%) and in Ambizione (+25%). As a result, the success rate in Ambizione fell to 19%, the lowest level since the introduction of the funding scheme in 2008. The SNSF was able to award eight mobility grants, a funding scheme introduced in June 2012.

3.2 Funding by research area

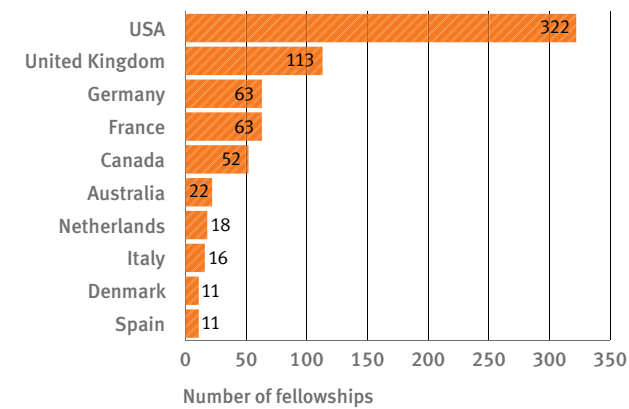
Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	47.0
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	52.7
Biology and medicine	56.7
Total	156.4

3.3 Fellowships by host country



With 736 fellowships for prospective and advanced researchers, the SNSF supported a total of 761 research stays abroad. The graph shows the ten most frequent host countries.

4. Programmes

Programmes are funding instruments with pre-defined thematic and conceptual/organisational parameters. They are either suggested by researchers or their home institutions, or established by political actors.

4.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF million

	Number	Amount
National Research Programmes (NRPs)	88	26.3
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)¹	360	64.6
International programmes	88	15.1
SCOPES/ESTROM programme	37	0.3
Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme (BSRP)	13	3.8
Romanian-Swiss Research Programme (RSRP)	26	8.9
Multilateral collaborations	12	2.1
Sinergia	36	46.2
Special Programme University Medicine	7	19.1
Doctoral programmes (ProDoc)	21	8.7
Total	600	180.0

¹ Sub-projects

4.2 National Research Programmes

Amounts in CHF million

The National Research Programmes (NRPs) study problems of societal, political and economic importance for Switzerland. The topics are prescribed by the Federal Council.

	Approved amount 2012 ¹	Overall budget	Overall amount approved up to 2012 ²	Duration
	Total		Total	
Current NRPs				
NRP 59 Benefits and Risks of the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Plants	0.3	12.0	13.3	2007–2012
NRP 60 Gender Equality	0.1	8.0	6.7	2010–2013
NRP 61 Sustainable Water Management	0.8	12.0	10.5	2010–2013
NRP 62 Smart Materials	2.9	11.0	9.5	2010–2014
NRP 63 Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine	–	10.0	5.6	2010–2014
NRP 64 Opportunities and Risks of Nanomaterials	2.0	12.0	9.2	2010–2015
NRP 65 New Urban Quality	–	5.0	3.5	2010–2013
NRP 66 Resource Wood	1.7	18.0	12.8	2012–2017
NRP 67 End of Life	10.1	15.0	10.5	2012–2018
NRP 68 Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource	8.3	13.0	8.3	2013–2017
NRP 69 Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production	–	13.0	–	2013–2017
New NRPs				
NRP 70 Transforming Energy	–	37.0	–	2013–2018
NRP 71 Options for Controlling Final Energy Consumption	–	8.0	–	2013–2018
Total	26.2	129.0	89.9	

¹ Excluding grants for formally terminated programmes (CHF 0.1 million)

² These amounts do not take account of repayments, third-party funds, etc.

In 2012, the Federal Council mandated the SNSF to conduct two new NRPs. The topics are “Transforming Energy” (NRP 70) and “Options for Controlling Final Energy Consumption” (NRP 71). The relevant calls for proposals will be issued in 2013.

4.3 National Centres of Competence in Research

Amounts in CHF million

With the National Centres of Competence in Research the SNSF promotes long-term research networks in areas of strategic significance for the future of Swiss science, Swiss economy and Swiss society.

Series 2001	SNSF contribution 2012 ¹	SNSF contribution for 12 years	Total budget for 12 years	Start	Home institution
Financial Valuation and Risk Management (FINRISK)	0.1	28.2	58.7	2001	University of Zurich
Computer Aided and Image Guided Medical Interventions (CO-ME)	1.8	42.7	114.4	2001	ETH Zurich
Frontiers in Genetics (Genetics)	1.0	43.0	145.5	2001	University of Geneva
Interactive Multimodal Information Management (IM2)	1.8	33.0	83.9	2002	Idiap, Martigny
Climate	0.4	26.6	134.1	2001	University of Bern
Materials with Novel Electronic Properties (MaNEP)	2.2	51.0	211.6	2001	University of Geneva
Mobile Information and Communication Systems (MICS)	1.0	37.5	104.4	2001	EPF Lausanne
Molecular Oncology	1.5	43.6	117.1	2001	EPF Lausanne
Nanoscale Science	2.4	50.2	183.2	2001	University of Basel
North-South	1.0	36.4	97.3	2001	University of Bern
Neural Plasticity and Repair (NEURO)	2.8	44.3	242.3	2001	University of Zurich
Quantum Photonics	2.0	45.3	122.8	2001	EPF Lausanne
Structural Biology – Molecular Life Sciences	0.8	36.7	114.7	2001	University of Zurich
Plant Survival	0.8	33.8	86.9	2001	University of Neuchâtel
Total	19.6	552.3	1816.9		

Series 2005	SNSF contribution 2012 ¹	SNSF contribution for 8 years	Total budget for 8 years	Start	Home institution
Affective Sciences – Emotion in Individual Behaviour and Social Processes	3.6	21.3	53.3	2005	University of Geneva
Democracy – Challenges to Democracy in the 21 st Century	2.2	14.9	29.8	2005	University of Zurich
Iconic Criticism – The Analysis of Image Processes	1.9	14.6	33.1	2005	University of Basel
Mediality – Historical Perspectives	1.5	11.7	22.1	2005	University of Zurich
International Trade Regulation – From Fragmentation to Coherence	2.3	20.8	27.5	2005	University of Bern
Total	11.5	83.3	165.8		

Series 2010	SNSF contribution 2012 ¹	SNSF contribution for 4 years	Total budget for 4 years	Start	Home institution
Chemical Biology – Visualisation and Control of Biological Processes Using Chemistry	3.4	13.5	27.4	2010	University of Geneva EPF Lausanne
Kidney.CH – Kidney Control of Homeostasis	4.5	16.5	27.2	2010	University of Zurich
LIVES – Overcoming Vulnerability: Life Course Perspectives	4.5	14.6	31.9	2011	University of Lausanne University of Geneva
MUST – Molecular Ultrafast Sciences and Technology	4.4	17.8	39.9	2010	ETH Zurich University of Bern
QSIT – Quantum Science and Technology	4.7	17.3	55.5	2011	ETH Zurich University of Basel
Robotics – Intelligent Robots for Improving the Quality of Life	3.7	13.3	29.9	2010	EPF Lausanne
SYNAPSY – The Synaptic Bases of Mental Diseases	4.6	17.5	41.1	2010	EPF Lausanne University of Lausanne University of Geneva
TransCure – From Transport Physiology to Identification of Therapeutic Targets	3.7	14.1	28.3	2010	University of Bern
Total	33.5	124.6	281.2		
All NCCRs	64.6	760.2	2263.9		

¹ Also contains contributions for management, knowledge and technology transfer, promotion of young scientists, etc.

Within the scope of the fourth call for new NCCRs, the SNSF will evaluate the 23 applications in 2013 and submit a shortlist of recommended projects for final selection to the Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research. Research work will start in 2014.

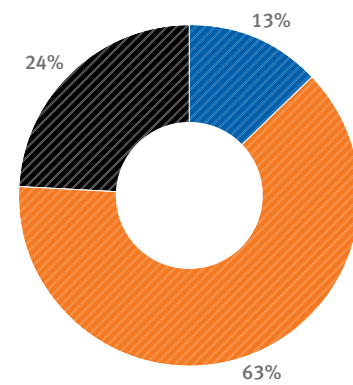
5. Infrastructures

In individual cases, the SNSF provides direct funding for research infrastructures that are indispensable for research projects. This is complemented by specific funding programmes.

5.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



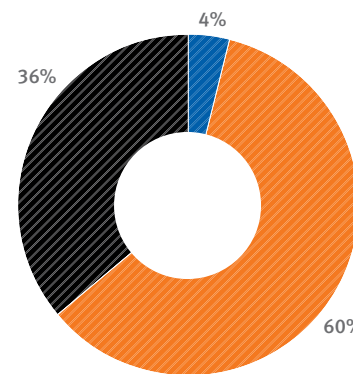
- Research infrastructures
- R'Equip
- FORCE/FINES

	Number	Amount
Research infrastructures	6	2.7
R'Equip	58	13.7
FORCE/FINES	16	5.2
Total	80	21.6

5.2 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Humanities and social sciences
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences
- Biology and medicine

	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	0.9
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	13.0
Biology and medicine	7.7
Total	21.6

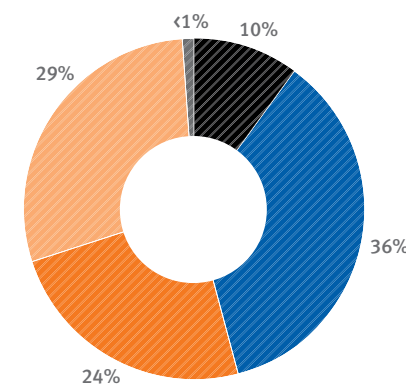
6. Science communication

The SNSF promotes communication between researchers as well as between science and society.

6.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Agora
- Scientific conferences
- Publications
- DORE: Publications
- International exploratory workshops

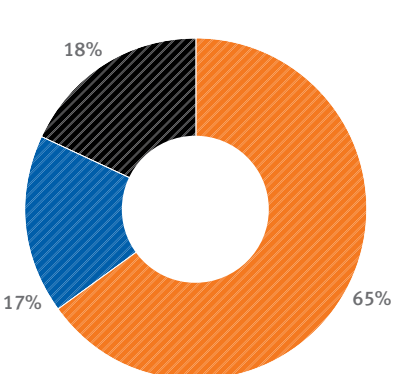
	Number	Amount ¹
Agora	17	2.1
Scientific conferences	196	1.4
Publications	138	1.7
DORE: Publications	1	0.0
International exploratory workshops	43	0.6
Total	395	5.8

¹ Amounts under CHF 0.05 million are shown as zero

6.2 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF million

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Humanities and social sciences
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences
- Biology and medicine

	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	3.7
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	1.0
Biology and medicine	1.1
Total	5.8

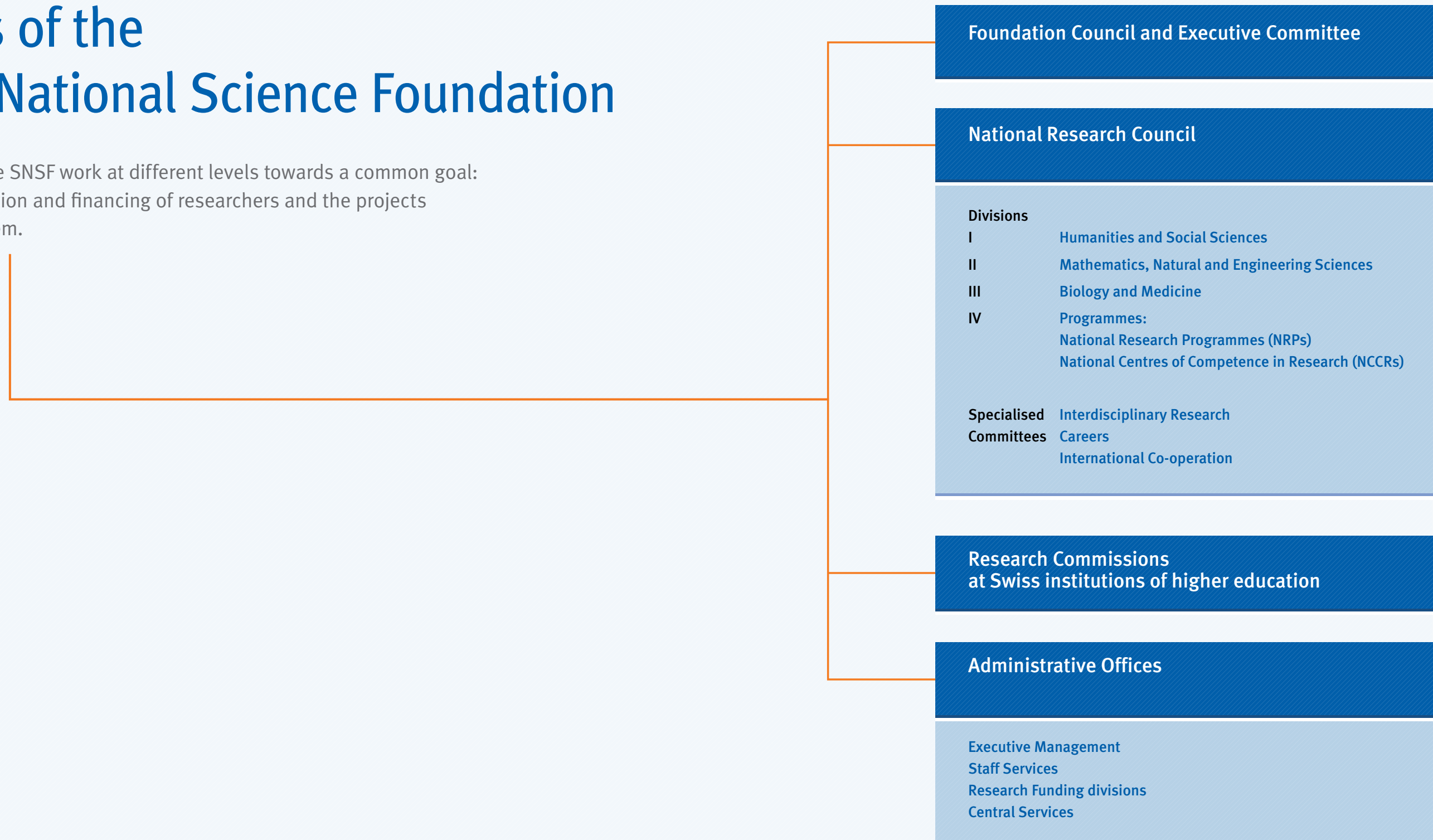


“The best moment in research is when – more or less by chance – you succeed in demonstrating a theoretical idea experimentally. In the case of my work in civil engineering, this involved observing how ordinary air bubbles can limit erosion in a river.”

Violaine Dugué, EPF Lausanne

Bodies of the Swiss National Science Foundation

The bodies of the SNSF work at different levels towards a common goal: scientific evaluation and financing of researchers and the projects submitted by them.



Foundation Council and Executive Committee

National Research Council

Divisions

I Humanities and Social Sciences

II Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences

III Biology and Medicine

IV Programmes:
National Research Programmes (NRPs)
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)

Specialised Committees Interdisciplinary Research
Careers
International Co-operation

Research Commissions at Swiss institutions of higher education

Administrative Offices

Executive Management
Staff Services
Research Funding divisions
Central Services

Foundation Council and Executive Committee

As the highest body of the SNSF, the Foundation Council (FC) is responsible for making decisions on a strategic level. It ensures that the Foundation stays on mission, defines the position of the SNSF on research policy issues and passes planning documents.

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the FC include the election of members of the Research Council as well as the adoption of the financial budget, the central regulations and the service level agreement with the federal government.

38 | 15
Members FC | Executive Committee

24% | 20%
Proportion of women on FC | Executive Committee

1–2 | 4
Meetings per annum FC | Executive Committee

Representatives of scientific organisations

Cantonal Universities

Basel	Prof. Edwin Ch. Constable, Deputy Prof. Ralph Hertwig
Berne	Prof. Christian Leumann, Deputy Prof. Walter Perrig
Fribourg	Prof. Fritz Müller, Deputy Prof. Jean-Pierre Montani
Geneva	Prof. Howard Riezman, Deputy Prof. Ueli Schibler
Lausanne	Prof. Jacques Besson, Deputy Prof. Alexandrine Schniewind
Lucerne	Prof. Martin Baumann, Deputy Prof. Martina Merz
Neuchâtel	Prof. Kilian Stoffel, Deputy Prof. Alain Valette
St. Gallen	Prof. Torsten Tomczak, Deputy Prof. Bernhard Ehrenzeller
Ticino	Prof. Bertil Cottier, Deputy Prof. Massimo Filippini
Zurich	Prof. Thomas Hengartner, Deputy Prof. Roger M. Nitsch

Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology

Lausanne	Prof. Martin Vetterli, Deputy Prof. Stephan Morgenthaler
Zurich	Prof. Lucas Bretschger, Deputy Prof. Nicholas Spencer

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS)

Prof. Martine Rahier, Deputy Dr. Raymond Werlen

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH)

Prof. Crispino Bergamaschi, Deputy Prof. Luca Crivelli | Prof. Markus Hodel, Deputy Prof. Lukas Rohr | Prof. Thomas D. Meier, Deputy Prof. Michel Fontaine | Prof. Monika Wohler, Deputy Prof. Ursula Blosser

Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education (COHEP)

Prof. Pascale Marro, Deputy Prof. Luca Botturi

ETH Board

Dr. Fritz Schiesser, Deputy Privatdozent Dr. Kurt Baltensperger

Swiss Lawyers Association

Prof. Regula Kägi-Diener, Deputy Prof. Christian Schwarzenegger

Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES)

Prof. Klaus Neusser, Deputy Prof. Volker Grossmann

Actionuni (pursuant to Article 10 paragraph 3 of the Statutes)

Dr. Odilo W. Huber (from 1.3.2012), Deputy Dr. Matthias Hirt (from 1.3.2012)

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

SAHS	Prof. Anne-Claude Berthoud, Deputy Dr. Markus Zürcher
SAMS	Prof. Peter Meier-Abt; Deputy Prof. Peter Suter (until 31.10.2012), Prof. Verena Briner (from 5.11.2012)
SCNAT	Prof. Thierry Courvoisier, Deputy Prof. Nouria Hernandez
SATW	Prof. Ulrich W. Suter, Deputy Prof. Andreas Zuberbühler

Government appointed members

Judith Bucher (VPOD), Deputy Véronique Polito (SGB) | Isabelle Chassot (member of cantonal government [Fribourg]), no deputy | Dr. Ursula Renold (OPET) (until 30.6.2012), post vacant; Deputy Dr. Sebastian Friess (OPET) | Gabriele Gendotti (former member of cantonal government [Ticino]), no deputy | Dr. Barbara Haering (former National Councillor), no deputy | Dr. René Imhof (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.), no deputy | Dr. Wolfgang A. Renner (Cytos Biotechnology Ltd.), no deputy | Prof. Luzius Mader (FOJ), Deputy Dr. Werner Bussmann (FOJ) | Dr. Andreas Langenbacher (Pro Helvetia), Deputy Marianne Burki (Pro Helvetia) | Jürg Burri (SER), Deputy Dr. Gregor Haefliger (SER) | Dipl. phys. Ulrich Jakob Looser (economiesuisse), Deputy Dr. Rudolf Minsch (economiesuisse) | Dipl. Ing. Walter Steinlin (CTI), Deputy Dr. Klara Sekanina (CTI)

Executive Committee

Gabriele Gendotti (former member of cantonal government [Ticino]) (President), Prof. Anne-Claude Berthoud (Vice President), Prof. Crispino Bergamaschi, Prof. Jacques Besson (from 27.1.2012), Prof. Lucas Bretschger, Jürg Burri, Prof. Bertil Cottier (from 27.1.2012), Prof. Thomas Hengartner (from 27.1.2012), Prof. Christian Leumann (from 27.1.2012), Prof. Fritz Müller, Prof. Martine Rahier (from 27.1.2012), Dr. Ursula Renold (until 30.6.2012), Dr. Wolfgang A. Renner, Prof. Howard Riezman, Dipl. Ing. Walter Steinlin

Status as at 31.12.2012

National Research Council

The National Research Council (RC) is composed of eminent researchers. It reviews thousands of applications submitted to the SNSF each year and decides whether and to what extent they merit funding.

The National Research Council consists of four divisions: Humanities and Social Sciences; Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences; Biology and Medicine as well as Programmes. There are also three specialised committees: “International Co-operation”, “Careers” and “Interdisciplinary Research”.

98
Members

22%
Proportion of women

10
Meetings per annum

Presiding Board

President RC	Prof. Dieter Imboden (until 31.12.2012)
President Div. I	Prof. Walter Leimgruber (deputy to the President of the RC from 1.4.2012)
President Div. II	Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Jürg Osterwalder (from 1.4.2012)
President Div. III	Prof. Stéphanie Clarke (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Denis Duboule (from 1.4.2012)
President Div. IV	Prof. Thomas Bernauer
President Specialised Committee Careers	Prof. Dietmar Braun
President Specialised Committee International Co-operation	Prof. Ulrike Landfester (until 31.3.2012) (deputy to the President of the RC until 31.3.2012)
President Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research	Prof. Andreas Strasser (from 1.4.2012) Prof. Bernhard Schmid (until 30.9.2012), post vacant

Division I: Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Walter Leimgruber (President), Prof. Lorenza Mondada (Vice President), Prof. Oskar Bächtelmann (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Claudio Bolzman, Prof. Dietmar Braun, Prof. Monica Budowski, Prof. Corina Caduff, Prof. Andreas Furrer, Prof. Dario Gamboni, Prof. Annelies Häcki Buhofner, Prof. Andreas Herrmann (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Ulrike Landfester (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Alessandro Lomi, Prof. Jon Mathieu, Prof. Anne Peters, Prof. Thomas Probst (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Kurt Reusser, Prof. Katia Saporiti, Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast (until 11.7.2012), Prof. Sabine Schneider, Prof. Silvia Schroer, Prof. Paul Schubert, Prof. Peter Schulz, Prof. Laurent Tissot, Prof. Georg von Krogh, Prof. Eric Widmer, Prof. Friedrich Wilkening

Division II: Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser (President until 31.3.2012), Prof. Jürg Osterwalder (Vice President until 31.3.2012, President from 1.4.2012), Prof. Urs Baltensperger, Prof. Lukas Baumgartner, Prof. Eva Bayer-Flückiger (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Christian Bernhard, Prof. Michal Borkovec, Prof. Harald Brune (Vice President from 1.4.2012), Prof. Marc Burger (until 30.9.2012), Dr. Urs Dürig, Prof. Jean-Pierre Eckmann, Prof. Antonio Ereditato, Prof. Gerhard Jäger (until 30.9.2012), Prof. Kai Johnsson, Prof. Arjen K. Lenstra (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Christian Leutwyler, Prof. Simon Lilly, Prof. Marcel Mayor, Prof. Bradley Nelson, Prof. Oscar Nierstrasz (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Moira C. Norrie (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Marc Parlange, Prof. Fritz Schlunegger (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Michael W.I. Schmidt, Prof. Mohammad Amin Shokrollahi, Prof. Andreas Strasser, Prof. Antonio Togni (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Sara van de Geer, Dr. Marco Wieland

Division III: Biology and Medicine

Prof. Stephanie Clarke (President until 31.3.2012), Prof. Denis Duboule (Vice President until 31.3.2012, President from 1.4.2012), Prof. Hugues Abriel (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Stylianos Antonarakis (until 30.9.2012), Prof. Konrad Basler, Prof. Beatrice Beck Schimmer (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Jürg H. Beer (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Sebastian Bonhoeffer, Prof. Thierry Calandra, Prof. Pierre-Alain Clavien (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Marc Yves Donath (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Matthias Egger, Prof. Markus Fischer (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Urs Frey (Vice President from 1.4.2012), Prof. Stephan Grzesiek, Prof. Huldrych Fritz Günthard, Prof. Michael N. Hall, Prof. Markus Hermann Heim, Prof. Christoph Hock, Prof. Petra Hüppi (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Laurent Keller, Prof. Christian Lüscher, Prof. Andreas Lüthi (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Jean-Pierre Métraux, Prof. Ernst Niggli (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Anita Rauch (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Walter Reith, Prof. Eric M. Rouiller (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Markus Rudin, Prof. Bernhard Schmid (until 30.9.2012), Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, Prof. Markus Stoffel, Prof. George Thalmann, Prof. Didier Trono, Prof. François Verrey, Prof. Sabine Werner, Prof. Hanns Ulrich Zeilhofer

Division IV: Programmes

Prof. Thomas Bernauer (President), Prof. Peter Chen (Vice President), Prof. Kay W. Axhausen, Prof. Nina Buchmann, Prof. Susanna Burghartz (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Fabrizio Butera, Prof. Christoph Dehio, Prof. Dominique Foray, Prof. Katharina M. Fromm, Prof. Alexander Grob, Prof. Stefanie Hellweg, Prof. Michael O. Hottiger (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Claire Huguenin, Prof. André G. Kléber (until 29.2.2012), Prof. Paul Leiderer (until 29.2.2012), Prof. Isabelle Mansuy, Prof. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal (until 29.2.2012), Prof. Philipp Rudolf von Rohr, Prof. Frank Scheffold, Prof. Angelika Steger, Prof. Jürg Ulrich Steiger, Prof. Dirk van der Marel (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Frédéric Varone

Specialised Committee Careers

Prof. Dietmar Braun (President), Gerhard Jäger (Vice President until 30.9.2012), Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser (until 31.3.2012), Prof. Lukas Baumgartner (from 1.10.2012), Prof. Beatrice Beck Schimmer (from 1.8.2012), Prof. Michal Borkovec (from 1.4.2012), Prof. Nina Buchmann, Prof. Susanna Burghartz (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Thierry Calandra (until 31.7.2012), Prof. Urs Frey (until 31.7.2012), Prof. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal (until 29.2.2012), Prof. Katia Saporiti (Vice President from 1.10.2012), Prof. Sara van de Geer, Prof. François Verrey

Specialised Committee International Co-operation

Prof. Ulrike Landfester (President until 31.3.2012), Prof. Moira C. Norrie (Vice President until 31.3.2012), Prof. Kay W. Axhausen, Prof. Urs Baltensperger (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Monica Budowski, Prof. Denis Duboule, Prof. André Kléber (until 29.2.2012), Prof. Jon Mathieu (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, Prof. Jürg Ulrich Steiger (from 1.3.2012), Prof. Andreas Strasser (President from 1.4.2012), Dr. Marco Wieland (Vice President from 1.4.2012)

Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research

Prof. Bernhard Schmid (President until 30.9.2012), Prof. Alessandro Lomi (Vice President), Prof. Peter Chen (until 30.9.2012, Prof. Jean-Pierre Eckmann (until 30.9.2012), Prof. Antonio Ereditato (from 30.10.2012), Prof. Christian Lüscher, Prof. Marc Parlange, Prof. Philipp Rudolf von Rohr, Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast (until 11.7.2012), Prof. George Thalmann, Prof. Laurent Tissot, Prof. Dirk van der Marel (from 1.10.2012)

Status as at 31.12.2012

Research Commissions

The university-based Research Commissions of the SNSF present a local viewpoint by analysing the proposals from their own university. The viewpoint may take into account the university's own infrastructure, academic priorities and personnel policy. The Research Commissions autonomously evaluate and decide on applications for fellowships submitted by prospective researchers from their home institution.

Presidents of the Research Commissions at Swiss institutions of higher education

Basel	Prof. Primo Schär
Berne	Prof. Chris Bösch
Fribourg	Prof. Barbara Hallensleben
Geneva	Prof. Rita Trigo Trindade
Lausanne	Prof. Othmar Müntener
Lucerne	Prof. Martin Baumann
Neuchâtel	Prof. Simona Pekarek Doehler (until 31.7.2012) Prof. Pascal Felber (from 1.8.2012)
St. Gallen	Prof. Oliver Gassmann
Ticino	Prof. Marco Borghi
Zurich	Prof. Daniel Wyler
EPF Lausanne	Prof. Benoît Deveaud-Plédran
ETH Zurich	Prof. Nicholas Spencer

Status as at 31.12.2012

12
Research
Commissions

175
Members

21%
Proportion of women

37
Meetings per annum

Administrative Offices

The Administrative Offices of the SNSF support and co-ordinate the activities of the Foundation Council, National Research Council and Research Commissions. They make decisions, pass resolutions and monitor the financial aspects of the research activity.

Among the key tasks performed each year are the commissioning and evaluation of several thousand expert opinions from national and international experts concerning research proposals. Furthermore the Administrative Offices maintain contacts with bodies responsible for research policy in Switzerland and abroad, represent the SNSF on relevant committees and ensure that the concerns of the Foundation are effectively communicated to the general public.

228
Employees

186
Full-time equivalents

66%
Proportion of women

294,500
Working hours 2012

National Centres of Competence in Research

With the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) the SNSF promotes long-term research projects in areas of vital strategic importance for the development of science in Switzerland, for the economy of the country and for Swiss society. The aim of the 27 ongoing NCCRs is to improve structures within the Swiss research community. The NCCRs are financed mainly through federal funds approved by parliament. These federal funds are complemented by funds from the universities themselves and by third-party funds.

National Research Programmes

The National Research Programmes (NRPs) generate scientific knowledge aimed at solving Switzerland's most pressing problems. The topics are specified by the Federal Council and usually require an interdisciplinary research approach and practical know-how on the part of researchers. At present 13 NRPs are running. NRPs last from four to five years and are funded with 5 to 20 million Swiss francs.

Executive Management

Director	Dr. Daniel Höchli
Deputy Director	Dr. Angelika Kalt
Vice Director	Rosemarie Pécaut

Staff Services

Executive Staff/Legal Department	Inge Blatter
Communication	Philippe Trinchan
Equal Opportunities in Research Funding	Maya Widmer

Research Funding divisions

Division I, Humanities and Social Sciences	Dr. Rudolf Bolzern (until 31.1.2012) Privatdozentin Dr. Ursula Kundert (from 1.4.2012)
Division II, Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences	Dr. Paul Burkhard
Division III, Biology and Medicine	Dr. Aysim Yilmaz
Division IV, Programmes	Dr. Dimitri Sudan
Division Careers	Dr. Marcel Kullin
Division Interdivisional Co-ordination and Co-operative Research (CoRe)	Dr. Angelika Kalt
Division International Co-operation / SwissCore	Dr. Jean-Luc Barras

Central Services and Support

Director	Rosemarie Pécaut
Human Resources	Andreas Michel, Rolf Zürcher
Strategic Planning and Controlling	Dr. Katrin Milzow
Finance	Markus König
IT Infrastructure Services	René Liechti
IT Business Services	Mario Andenmatten

Status as at 31.12.2012

Directors of the NCCRs

NCCR Affective Sciences	Prof. Klaus Scherer
NCCR Chemical Biology	Prof. Howard Riezman
NCCR Climate	Prof. Thomas Stocker
NCCR CO-ME	Prof. Gábor Székely
NCCR Democracy	Prof. Hanspeter Kriesi (until 31.8.2012), Prof. Daniel Kübler (from 1.9.2012)
NCCR FINRISK	Prof. Michel Habib
NCCR Genetics	Prof. Denis Duboule
NCCR Iconic Criticism	Prof. Gottfried Boehm (until 14.3.2012), Prof. Ralph Ubl (from 15.3.2012)
NCCR IM2	Prof. Hervé Bourlard
NCCR Kidney.CH	Prof. François Verrey
NCCR LIVES	Prof. Dario Spini
NCCR MaNEP	Prof. Øystein Fischer
NCCR Mediality	Prof. Christian Kiening
NCCR MICS	Prof. Karl Aberer
NCCR Molecular Oncology	Prof. Michel Aguet
NCCR MUST	Prof. Ursula Keller
NCCR Nanoscale Science	Prof. Christian Schönenberger
NCCR Neuro	Prof. Martin Schwab
NCCR North-South	Prof. Hans Hurni
NCCR Plant Survival	Prof. Ted Turlings
NCCR QSIT	Prof. Klaus Ensslin
NCCR Quantum Photonics	Prof. Benoît Deveaud-Plédran
NCCR Robotics	Prof. Dario Floreano
NCCR Structural Biology	Prof. Markus Gerhard Grütter
NCCR SYNAPSY	Prof. Pierre Magistretti
NCCR Trade Regulation	Prof. Thomas Cottier
NCCR TransCure	Prof. Matthias A. Hediger

Presidents of the Steering Committees of the NRPs

NRP 58	Religions, the State and Society Prof. Christoph Bochinger
NRP 59	Benefits and Risks of the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Plants Prof. Dirk Dobbelaere
NRP 60	Gender Equality Prof. Brigitte Liebig
NRP 61	Sustainable Water Management Prof. em. Christian Leibundgut
NRP 62	Smart Materials Prof. Louis Schlapbach
NRP 63	Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Prof. Bernard Thorens
NRP 64	Opportunities and Risks of Nanomaterials Prof. Peter Gehr
NRP 65	New Urban Quality Prof. Jürg Sulzer
NRP 66	Resource Wood Dr. Martin Riediker
NRP 67	End of Life Prof. Markus Zimmermann-Acklin
NRP 68	Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource Prof. Joseph Zeyer
NRP 69	Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production Prof. Fred Paccaud
NRP 70	Transforming Energy Prof. Hans-Rudolf Schalcher
NRP 71	Options for Controlling Final Energy Consumption Prof. Andreas Balthasar

Status as at 31.12.2012



“The cerebellum has to calculate the orientation of the gravity vector, otherwise we would find it impossible to stand or walk. We want to know how this works. What happens if the cerebellum is affected by illness? How could it be supported?”

Alexander Tarnutzer, Giovanni Bertolini, Sarah Marti, Zurich University Hospital

Financial figures in brief

Annual statement 2012

All amounts are stated in millions of Swiss francs.

Full version of the annual statement: www.snsf.ch › [About us](#) › [Facts & figures](#) › [Annual statement](#)

Income statement**Income**

	2012	2011
Federal contributions (ordinary and other)	822.0	814.1
Federal contributions for overhead	83.0	82.5
Returns	18.1	18.0
Accrued income	30.0	1.5
Miscellaneous	1.0	1.7
Total	954.1	917.8

Expenditure

	2012	2011
Research funding	781.8	758.9
Projects	363.8	360.1
Careers	156.6	140.1
Programmes	183.5	176.1
Infrastructures	32.6	29.5
Science communication	5.2	3.9
Third-party programmes	40.1	49.2
Overhead payments to research institutions	83.0	82.5
Accrued expenses	6.4	36.9
Scientific evaluation and governance	8.7	8.2
Foundation Council	0.1	0.1
National Research Council	6.8	6.6
Miscellaneous	1.8	1.5
Public relations work	1.7	1.7
Administrative expenses	28.3	25.9
Personnel expenses	22.6	21.6
Information technology expenses	1.5	1.8
Miscellaneous	4.2	2.5
Other expenses	0.2	0
Surplus	44.0	3.7
Total	954.1	917.8

Balance sheet**Assets**

	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	453.5	398.1
Other current assets	0.6	0.5
Fixed assets	9.1	9.5
Financial assets	62.7	55.5
Total	525.9	463.6

Liabilities

	2012	2011
Loan capital	386.7	375.6
Miscellaneous short-term liabilities	347.4	307.3
Miscellaneous provisions	39.3	68.3
Earmarked donations and bequests	61.0	53.7
Equity capital	78.2	34.3
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	0.4	0.4
Foundation capital	1.3	1.3
Reserves	32.5	28.9
Unappropriated surplus	44.0	3.7
Total	525.9	463.6

Additional information on the annual statement**Grants approved but not entered for the years 2013 to 2016**

As at 31 December 2012 the following liabilities existed which were not listed in the balance sheet: CHF 545 million / EUR 0.5 million.

Remuneration of the Foundation Council

In 2012 the members of the Foundation Council received fixed remunerations and daily allowances totalling CHF 101,833.35 (2011: CHF 67,750.00).

Transactions with related parties

In 2012 the members of the National Research Council and the members of the expert commissions used by them were awarded funding grants totalling CHF 22.7 million, representing 3.8% of the grants approved (2011: CHF 19.9 million or 3.8%). The ceiling set by the committee of the Foundation Council was not exceeded.

Approval of the annual statement

Following the recommendation of the Swiss Federal Audit Office, which audited the annual statement in its role as external auditor, the Foundation Council approved the annual statement at its meeting on 22 March 2013.

Abbreviations and glossary

Actionuni	Organisation representing young researchers as well as non-professorial teaching staff associations of the universities and the ETHs nationally and internationally	SERI	State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (as of 1.1.2013)
Agora	SNSF funding scheme for the promotion of public science communication	SGB	Swiss Federation of Trade Unions
Ambizione	Career funding scheme for qualified young researchers who aim to conduct a project of their own	Sinergia	SNSF funding scheme to facilitate collaborative projects in independent research
BFH	Bern University of Applied Sciences	SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research	SUC	Swiss University Conference
COHEP	Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education	Success rate	Percentage of approved applications among the submitted applications
CRUS	Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities	SUPSI	University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland
CSEC	Committees for Science, Education and Culture	SwissCore	Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education: SNSF office in Brussels, co-financed by SERI
CTI	Commission for Technology and Innovation of the federal government of Switzerland	SystemsX.ch	Swiss initiative in systems biology
CTU	Clinical Trial Units: centres of competence for patient-oriented clinical research	Tenure track assistant professorship	Type of assistant professorship that may be converted into a permanent professorship if the holder's performance is considered outstanding during a pre-defined period
Division I of the SNSF	Humanities and Social Sciences division	Translational research	Allows the results of basic research to be transferred to applied research
Division II of the SNSF	Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences division	UTE	University of teacher education
Division III of the SNSF	Biology and Medicine division	VPOD	Association of Swiss Civil Servants
Division IV of the SNSF	Programmes division (NRPs and NCCRs)	WSL	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (ETH Domain)
Doc.CH	Career funding scheme used to support dissertations in the humanities and social sciences	ZFH	Zürcher Fachhochschule
EAWAG	Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology		
economiesuisse	Association of Swiss companies: largest umbrella organisation representing Swiss businesses		
EMPA	Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (ETH Domain)		
ERA	European Research Area		
ERA-NET	Scheme introduced by the 6 th European Framework Programme for co-ordinating research activities		
ESTROM	Environmental Science and Technology in Romania		
ETHZ / EPFL	Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (Zurich and Lausanne)		
FHNW	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland		
FHO	University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland		
FINES	Fund for the development of instruments for the European Southern Observatory (ESO)		
FOJ	Federal Office of Justice, Switzerland		
FORCE	Fund for research at CERN (infrastructure)		
Funding rate	Percentage share of the total approved amount in the overall amount requested by researchers		
HES-SO	University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland		
HSLU	Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts		
Idiap	Research institute specialising in perceptive artificial intelligence, Martigny, Switzerland		
Kalaidos	Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences		
KFH	Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences		
MD-PhD	Doctorate in medicine and natural sciences		
MHV	Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (SNSF funding for women)		
nano-tera.ch	Swiss initiative to engineer complex systems for health, security and the environment		
NCCR	National Centre of Competence in Research, Switzerland		
NRP	National Research Programme, Switzerland		
OPET	Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology, Switzerland		
Overhead	Contribution to indirect costs of SNSF-funded projects		
P ³	Research database of the SNSF		
ProDoc	Post-graduate research programme of the SNSF		
PROSPER	Funding scheme for social medicine and preventive and epidemiological research		
PSI	Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland		
R'Equip	Research Equipment – SNSF funding scheme for research equipment		
RIPA	Federal Research and Innovation Promotion Act		
SAHS	Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences		
SAMS	Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences		
SATW	Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences		
Science Europe	Umbrella organisation of national research organisations in European countries		
SCNAT	Swiss Academy of Sciences		
SCOPEs	Scientific Co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SNSF and SDC programme)		
SCORE	Swiss Clinicians Opting for Research		
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation		
SER	State Secretariat for Education and Research, Switzerland (until 31.12.2012)		

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Images

Beat Brechbühl, photographer

Beat Brechbühl, born 1969 in Lucerne. Since completing his professional training in 1996, he has worked as a freelance photographer for clients in Switzerland and abroad. He has held a number of exhibitions and published several books.

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The image on the cover shows Valeria Büchel and Markus Suter from the Physical Meteorological Observatory and World Radiation Center, Davos.

Some goals for 2013



Survey among researchers

The SNSF wants to know more about the conditions faced by researchers so that it can fine-tune its funding activities to their needs. What do researchers expect from the SNSF and how satisfied are they with its main funding scheme, project funding? The survey will be addressed to researchers at postdoc level or higher who work in public research institutions in Switzerland.



The SNSF paves the way for Open Access

The trend away from print journals and towards Open Access journals is continuing. The SNSF is taking account of this development, which is very pronounced in some disciplines. In the course of 2013, researchers whose projects are approved will also be able to apply for grants towards publications in pure Open Access journals – a new feature.



Go-ahead for NCCRs

After having the 63 submitted project outlines evaluated internationally in a two-stage procedure, the SNSF will submit a list of the most promising projects to the Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research in summer 2013. The Federal Department will decide in autumn which five or six of the recommended NCCRs will be given permission to start in 2014.

