

Financial statement 2021 (short version)

Financial statements 2021

As expected, the 2021 financial statements present a negative result, which can be offset via the general reserves.

The increase in federal contributions is due to the conclusion of a new cooperation agreement with the SDC in December 2021. In contrast, the federal contributions received by the SNSF under the service level agreement are slightly below the previous year's figure. The sharp increase in further contributions has to do with the BRIDGE programme, which is co-financed by Innosuisse.

Expenditure on research funding decreased compared to the previous year because the grant instalments to be charged directly to the fiscal year were lower and because less money was invested in programmes and infrastructure.

| Income statement in CHF 1,000 | 2021 | 2020 | Change in % |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Federal contributions | 1,126,680 | 1,110,724 | 1,4 |
| Further contributions | 56,406 | 938 | - |
| Donations/bequests | 3,762 | 2,003 | 87,8 |
| Research funding expenditure | -968,196 | -981,819 | -1,4 |
| Expenditure to cover indirect research costs (overhead) | -101,599 | -111,819 | -9,1 |
| Scientific evaluation and governance | -10,644 | -9,852 | 8,0 |
| Public relations work | -2,864 | -2,489 | 15,1 |
| Administration expenses and depreciation | -51,790 | -46,250 | 12,0 |
| Other operating income | 40 | 84 | -52,4 |
| Other operating expenses | -76 | -105 | -27,6 |
| Operating result | 51,719 | -38,585 | - |
| Financial income | 9,475 | 7,222 | 31,2 |
| Financial expenditure | -307 | -256 | 19,9 |
| Financial result | 9,168 | 6,966 | 31,6 |
| Investments in restricted funds | -327,882 | -266,451 | 23,1 |
| Withdrawals from restricted funds | 264,571 | 297,177 | -11,0 |
| Income from restricted funds | -63,311 | 30,726 | - |
| Ordinary income | -2,424 | -893 | 171,4 |
| Non-operating income | 9 | 16 | -43,8 |
| Extraordinary income | - | - | - |
| Annual result | -2,415 | -877 | 175,4 |

| Balance sheet in CHF 1,000 | 31.12.2021 | Share in % | 31.12.2020 | Share in % |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | | | | |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 616,793 | 75 | 619,462 | 82 |
| Accounts receivable | 59,742 | 7 | 2,602 | 0 |
| Other short-term receivables | 114 | 0 | 48 | 0 |
| Prepaid expenses | 262 | 0 | 568 | 0 |
| Total current assets | 676,911 | 82 | 622,680 | 82 |
| Fixed assets | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11,793 | 1 | 11,817 | 2 |
| Financial assets | 136,797 | 17 | 123,949 | 16 |
| Intangible assets | 229 | 0 | 198 | 0 |
| Total fixed assets | 148,819 | 18 | 135,964 | 18 |
| Total assets | 825,730 | 100 | 758,644 | 100 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Short-term liabilities | | | | |
| Liabilities from approved grants | 382,124 | 46 | 371,988 | 49 |
| Liabilities to third parties | 1,441 | 0 | 8,037 | 1 |
| Other short-term liabilities | 1,141 | 0 | 512 | 0 |
| Deferred income | 3,239 | 0 | 3,148 | 0 |
| Restricted funds | 13,495 | 2 | 30,218 | 4 |
| Total short-term liabilities | 401,440 | 49 | 413,903 | 55 |
| Long-term liabilities | | | | |
| Long-term provisions | 1,931 | 0 | - | - |
| Restricted funds | 318,074 | 39 | 238,041 | 31 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 320,005 | 39 | 238,041 | 31 |
| Total liabilities | 721,445 | 87 | 651,944 | 86 |
| Equity | | | | |
| Foundation capital | 1,330 | 0 | 1,330 | 0 |
| Free funds | 223 | 0 | 256 | 0 |
| Free reserves | 102,732 | 12 | 105,114 | 14 |
| Total equity | 104,285 | 13 | 106,700 | 14 |
| Total liabilities | 825,730 | 100 | 758,644 | 100 |

Further information on the financial statement

Restricted funds

| in CHF 1,000 | as at | | | | as at |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| | 01.01.2021 | Incoming resources | Outgoing resources | Transfer | 31.12.2021 |
| r4d fund | 9,471 | 1,397 | -6,954 | - | 3,914 |
| SOR4D fund | - | 18,800 | - | - | 18,800 |
| FLARE fund | 614 | 11,810 | -9,567 | - | 2,858 |
| Bilateral programmes fund | 29,377 | 8,569 | -7,344 | - | 30,602 |
| Fund for COST programme | 10,193 | 6,011 | -4,203 | - | 12,002 |
| NRP fund | 10,474 | 15,220 | -23,182 | - | 2,513 |
| NCCR fund | 14,435 | 68,630 | -78,548 | - | 4,517 |
| Fund for special programmes in biology and medicine | 25,439 | 15,345 | -15,257 | - | 25,528 |
| Fund for BRIDGE programme | 30,128 | 68,464 | -17,660 | - | 80,932 |
| Fund for Horizon 2020 backup measures | 1,676 | 45 | - | - | 1,721 |
| Fund for ERC transfer grants | 3,442 | - | -206 | - | 3,236 |
| Croatia fund | 596 | - | -502 | - | 94 |
| Energy research fund | 7,986 | - | -12 | - | 7,974 |
| Fund for Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative Diseases | 23 | - | - | - | 23 |
| Overhead fund | 97 | 99,589 | -99,589 | - | 97 |
| Funds from earmarked donations/bequests/agreements | 124,313 | 14,003 | -1,548 | - | 136,768 |
| Total restricted funds | 268,264 | 327,883 | -264,572 | - | 331,579 |

Grants approved for future operating years as at 31.12.2021

| in CHF | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| 1,000 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | Total |
| Total | 759,275 | 496,435 | 256,653 | 82,164 | 10,124 | - | 1,604,651 |

According to the 2022 budget, federal contributions (excluding overhead) to the SNSF amount to CHF 1,018,096 thousand. The service level agreement for the funding period 2021 to 2024 provides for federal funding (excluding overhead) of CHF 4,156,600 thousand.

Federal contributions

| in CHF 1,000 | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Basic contribution | 905 301 | 878 972 |
| National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) | 68 586 | 68 000 |
| National Research Programmes (NRPs) | 14 910 | 17 500 |
| Supplementary tasks / Federal funding mandate | 19 383 | 35 200 |
| Overhead | 99 589 | 110 000 |
| SwissCore | 500 | 442 |
| Various federal contributions | 18 410 | 610 |
| Total | 1 126 679 | 1 110 724 |

According to the service level agreement with SERI, as of 2021 the contributions for the BRIDGE programme will be part of the basic contribution and no longer subsumed under the supplementary tasks. The corresponding share for BRIDGE was CHF 13.10 million in 2021 (2020: CHF 12.900 million).

Research funding expenditure

| in CHF 1,000 | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Projects | 472 848 | 482 188 |
| Careers | 216 394 | 211 308 |
| Programmes | | |
| National Centres of Competence in Research | 78 048 | 77 245 |
| National Research Programmes | 22 711 | 34 460 |
| Other programmes | 121 204 | 118 376 |
| International cooperation | 14 502 | 13 771 |
| Total programmes | 236 465 | 243 852 |
| Infrastructures | 36 792 | 39 106 |
| Science communication | 14 886 | 12 402 |
| Supplementary tasks | 16 845 | 10 711 |
| Repayments | -18 515 | -13 165 |
| Grants approved but unused | -7 520 | -4 584 |
| Total | 968 195 | 981 818 |

Administration expenses and depreciation

| in CHF 1,000 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Personnel expenses | 39,905 | 35,696 |
| IT expenses | 9,328 | 6,707 |
| Immovable property expenses | 873 | 1,405 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 488 | 563 |
| Depreciation of intangible assets | 229 | 287 |
| Other administration expenses / external mandates | 966 | 1,592 |
| Total | 51,789 | 46,250 |

Transactions with related parties

Related persons and organisations comprise whosoever may, either directly or indirectly, significantly influence the financial or operational decisions of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The following transactions with related parties have taken place:

- Approval of research grants to members of the Foundation Council: CHF 5.431 million (2020: CHF 2.503 million)
- Approval of research grants to members of the Research Council: CHF 30.110 million (2020: CHF 22.078 million)

The total cost of research grants for members of the evaluation bodies, including the Research Council, amounted to CHF 102.939 million (2020: 77.579 million).

Performance of risk assessment

In fiscal year 2021, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) carried out a comprehensive risk assessment authorised by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council.

According to the completed risk assessment and in light of measures put in place for monitoring and mitigating risks, no risks were identified in the past fiscal year that could lead to a lasting or substantial impairment of the financial situation of the Swiss National Science Foundation. In the SNSF's assessment, there is moreover no significant risk for the foreseeable future that would necessitate an adjustment in the book values of the Foundation's assets and liabilities.

Approval of financial statements

At the recommendation of the Swiss Federal Audit Office, which is the external auditor that examined the statements, the Foundation Council approved the financial statements 2021 at its meeting of 25 March 2022.

All figured stated in this report have been individually rounded.