

Annual statements 2013

All amounts are stated in Swiss francs.

1. Income statement

1.1 Income

	2013	2012
Federal contributions	927,568,925.55	905,042,782.30
Ordinary federal contributions	778,846,866.20	768,097,243.70
Project-specific federal contributions	50,980,000.00	45,493,222.00
Federal contributions for overhead	85,000,000.00	83,000,000.00
SDC contributions	12,080,000.00	7,875,000.00
Federal contributions for SwissCore	662,059.35	577,316.60
Other contributions	793,684.04	794,366.82
Other contributions	753,684.04	794,366.82
Withdrawal from fund for earmarked donations/bequests	40,000.00	0.00
Returns	22,777,111.18	18,066,153.45
Repayments	13,847,710.90	11,763,093.43
Contributions approved but not used	8,929,400.28	6,303,060.02
Income from Foundation assets	40,894.32	42,534.50
Interest income from Foundation capital	7,426.35	4,988.90
Rental income from Foundation property	33,467.97	37,545.60
Deferred income	9,035,256.60	30,010,724.96
Deferrals for funding-specific contributions	642,155.70	1,067,005.06
Deferrals for participation in international programmes and agreements	415,578.00	0.00
Liquidation of provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement	7,977,522.90	28,943,719.90
Extraordinary and off-period income	229,947.94	116,217.78
Total	960,445,819.63	954,072,779.81

1.2 Expenditures

	2013	2012
Research funding	770,585,578.81	781,834,002.30
Projects	385,464,589.50	363,799,791.70
Careers	165,788,647.00	156,593,085.00
Programmes	135,210,228.31	183,533,133.60
National Research Programmes	19,711,587.41	22,521,453.57
National Centres of Competence in Research	40,246,027.00	64,615,300.00
Other programmes	66,429,369.00	89,435,690.00
International co-operation	8,823,244.90	6,960,670.03
Infrastructures	36,306,982.00	32,591,132.00
Science communication	5,352,179.00	5,238,399.00
Third-party programmes	42,462,953.00	40,078,481.00
Overhead	84,999,998.00	83,000,000.00
ERA initiatives	46,347.57	30,914.95
Accrued expenditures	70,115,350.38	6,364,934.20
Accruals for funding-specific contributions	13,318,804.75	5,748,010.20
Accruals for participation in international programmes and agreements	5,709,688.00	616,924.00
Formation of provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement	51,086,857.63	0.00
Scientific evaluation and governance	9,250,961.34	8,699,256.39
Foundation Council	95,105.75	136,957.60
Research Council, evaluation and quality control	7,187,611.96	6,782,719.32
Steering committees and expert groups	1,837,378.83	1,649,150.17
Research Commissions	130,864.80	130,429.30
Public relations work	1,710,857.09	1,691,861.95
Administrative expenditures	29,172,433.51	28,277,453.14
Payroll and personnel expenses	23,874,783.63	22,583,939.29
External mandates	345,415.52	197,202.40
SwissCore	993,089.97	865,927.21
Other administrative expenditures	781,688.09	733,923.59
Information technology expenditures	1,940,638.34	1,482,482.93
Property expenditures	737,817.96	1,860,955.07
Movable and immovable property depreciation	499,000.00	553,022.65
Extraordinary and off-period expenditures	200,007.22	199,268.66
Expenditure surplus/income surplus	-5,635,714.29	43,975,088.22
Total	960,445,819.63	954,072,779.81

2. Balance sheet

2.1 Assets

	2013	2012
Current assets	553,843,568.26	454,145,668.24
Cash and cash equivalents	553,676,432.87	453,498,628.24
Accounts receivable	0.00	66,868.40
Other short-term receivables	44,482.80	55,734.80
Prepaid expenses	122,652.59	524,436.80
Fixed assets	76,648,009.66	71,804,598.84
Financial assets		
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	425,441.90	406,504.35
Earmarked donations and bequests	68,315,567.76	60,992,094.49
Foundation capital invested with the Federal Finance Administration	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00
Tangible assets	8,577,000.00	9,076,000.00
Total	632,491,577.92	525,950,267.08

2.2 Liabilities

	2013	2012
Loan capital	491,546,218.27	386,711,604.00
Short-term loan capital	409,140,828.99	347,415,549.45
Liabilities to third parties	1,289,809.96	1,744,956.07
Liabilities with respect to approved grants	379,533,250.61	335,060,381.71
Deferrals	332,884.90	314,741.20
Deferral of holiday and flexitime credits	1,470,000.00	1,550,000.00
Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions	20,805,195.52	8,128,546.47
Liabilities for participation in international programmes and agreements	5,709,688.00	616,924.00
Long-term loan capital	82,405,389.28	39,296,054.55
Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement	82,405,389.28	39,296,054.55
Earmarked donations and bequests	68,315,567.80	60,992,094.49
Equity capital	72,629,791.85	78,246,568.59
Foundation capital	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	425,441.90	406,504.35
Reserves	76,510,064.24	32,534,976.02
Unappropriated expenditure/surplus	-5,635,714.29	43,975,088.22
Total	632,491,577.92	525,950,267.08

3. Appendix

3.1 Purpose of the Foundation

As specified in Article 1 of the Statutes, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports scientific research in Switzerland. Its aim is to strengthen the international competitiveness of Swiss scientific research as well as its networking and problem-solving capacity. Particular attention is focused on providing support for young researchers (further information is available at www.snsf.ch).

3.2 Accounting principles

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles of the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations. The annual statements comprise a balance sheet, income statement and appendix to the annual statements and reflect the Foundation's actual financial position.

3.3 Valuation principles

Assets and liabilities are valued individually on the basis of acquisition values or fair market values. The main balance sheet items and deviations from these valuation principles are described briefly below:

3.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand and current account balances with PostFinance and with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Assets are stated in the balance sheet at their nominal value.

3.3.2 Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable and other short-term receivables are disclosed at nominal value and include contributions for projects and grants invoiced to third parties, services by the Administrative Offices charged to third parties, advances and recoverable withholding taxes.

3.3.3 Prepaid expenses

Prepayments for services that will not be required until the new fiscal year.

3.3.4 Financial assets

In addition to the Foundation's capital, which is invested in an interest-bearing account with the Federal Finance Administration, the financial assets also include assets originating from donations and bequests. Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the balance sheet at their nominal value, while securities are stated at market values. Fluctuations in value are recorded under accounts for earmarked and non-earmarked donations and bequests, and have no effect on the income statement. Investment guidelines determine how assets are invested.

3.3.5 Tangible assets

Tangible assets comprise movable property and immovable property. The capitalisation limit is CHF 25,000 per item for movable objects. Items are depreciated from their acquisition value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life. Office properties and land serving operational purposes are reported in the balance sheet at acquisition value less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated over a useful life of 30 years.

3.3.6 Liabilities to third parties

These are services provided and invoiced by third parties, which do not fall due for payment until the new fiscal year. They are disclosed at nominal value.

3.3.7 Liabilities with respect to approved grants

Contributions for projects, careers, programmes, etc. that are ready for disbursement. These are disclosed at nominal value.

In the funding categories listed below, contributions that extend over several calendar years are divided into tranches, each of which is recorded directly in the fiscal year to which it relates:

- Projects and grants in the context of programmes such as NRPs, NCCRs, Sinergia, etc.
- Grants for infrastructures
- SNSF professorships and EURYI awards
- Ambizione
- Project and membership contributions within the framework of international co-operation

This means that funding in tranches, which will not be paid out until a later accounting year, are disclosed only in the appendix to the annual statements (cf. item 3.6).

3.3.8 Deferrals

Services by third parties, that have been provided, but not yet paid for or invoiced. These are valued on the basis of orders and quotes.

3.3.9 Deferral of holiday and flexitime credits

Provisions for holiday and flexitime credits for employees at the SNSF's Administrative Offices that have not yet been taken. The valuation is based on average salary rates inclusive of all social insurance contributions.

3.3.10 Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions

Earmarked funds that third parties, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the SNSF make available for specified programmes and that have not yet fully been used for the intended purpose.

3.3.11 Liabilities for participation in international programmes and agreements

International research projects in which the SNSF participates, provided that foreign actors also contribute to them. As long as these contributions are not confirmed, the SNSF does not approve the project or postpones the start of the programme. The tranche to be financed by the SNSF may be put on hold, however, if there is a reliable prospect that the international research collaboration will come into being.

3.3.12 Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement with the Swiss federal government

If targets set in the service agreement with the federal government that are measurable using accounting values are not reached, provisions can be established. Federal contributions that are to be used for specified measures thus retain the purpose for which they were intended.

3.3.13 Provisions for future funding measures

Provisions may be established by agreement with the SERI in view of the launch of new funding initiatives or the adjustment of existing measures.

3.3.14 Earmarked donations and bequests

Donations and bequests earmarked for specific purposes and that have not yet been used fully for funding contributions. These are valued at nominal or market values inclusive of withholding tax credits.

3.3.15 Foundation capital

In accordance with Article 4 paragraph 2 of the Statutes, the Foundation's capital comprises funds invested by the founders and the federal government.

3.3.16 Non-earmarked donations and bequests

Assets that have been transferred to the SNSF without being earmarked for a specific purpose and that have not yet been used. These assets are invested with the Federal Finance Administration.

3.4 Notes regarding the balance sheet

3.4.1 Accounts receivable

As at 31.12.2013, there were no accounts receivable that had been due for payment for more than twelve months. However, an indemnity claim of CHF 19,413.15 had to be written off in full at the end of August 2013 after the SNSF received a certificate of unpaid debt.

3.4.2 Financial investments

On the reporting date, total financial investment holdings were as follows:

Donations and bequests	31.12.2012	Percentage	31.12.2013	Percentage
Cash and cash equivalents, fixed-term deposits and accounts receivable	21,138,208.84	34%	10,296,556.70	15%
Bonds and bond funds	16,406,766.00	27%	25,217,989.00	36%
Shares and equity funds	16,976,403.00	28%	25,289,063.00	37%
Alternative investments	6,877,221.00	11%	7,937,401.00	12%
Total	61,398,598.84	100%	68,741,009.70	100%

To safeguard against part of the exchange-rate risk on foreign currencies, foreign exchange futures contracts to a total value of CHF 4,486,961.37 were held as at 31.12.2013.

3.4.3 Deferral of holiday and flexitime credits

Included in the calculation of payroll and personnel expenses is a decline in holiday and flexitime credits of CHF 80,000.00 (i.e. from CHF 1,550,000.00 as at 31.12.2012 to CHF 1,470,000.00 as at 31.12.2013).

3.4.4 Liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions

These are funds which are not yet committed to research contributions, but are reserved for certain programmes or initiatives. The funds have originated at least in part from third parties and generally have to be repaid to the latter if they have not been used for the intended purpose.

	Total as at 31.12.2012	Third-party contributions		SNSF contribu- tions	Returns	Expendi- tures ¹	Total as at 31.12.2013
FLARE	0.00	SDC	5,700,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,659,396.00	40,604.00
SCOPES	2,252,592.79	SDC	2,000,000.00	2,065,580.00	333,402.42	1,567,755.00	5,083,820.21
Cooperation pro- grammes with Bulgaria and Romania ²	641,519.00	SDC	3,680,000.00	300,127.00	0.00	4,621,646.00	0.00
r4d ³	2,118,589.95	SDC	6,400,000.00	3,200,000.00	0.00	5,668,474.84	6,050,115.11
ERA initiatives	115,844.73	Misc.	97,466.04	0.00	0.00	46,347.57	166,963.20
Swiss bilateral programme	3,000,000.00	SER	8,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,036,307.00	9,463,693.00
Balance as at 31.12.2013							20,805,195.52

¹ Research funding inclusive of administrative portion

² The contract signed with the SDC does not envisage any financial participation by the SNSF in the co-operation programmes with Bulgaria and Romania. However, as the expenditure exceeds the contributions of the SDC, the SNSF invested its own funds in 2013. The expenditure on the part of the SNSF is likely to be offset by the contributions that the SDC has promised for the 2014 to 2016 period.

³ Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development

3.4.5 Liabilities for participation in international programmes and agreements

Grants for research projects that are supported within the scope of international agreements and for which a positive funding decision was taken in the report year. However, the corresponding grants cannot be awarded to the applicants as yet since confirmation from foreign partners is still outstanding.

	Status as at 31.12.2012	Processed applica- tions from 2012	Pending appli- cations 2013	Status as at 31.12.2013
Positively assessed pending inter- national research projects	616,924.00	616,924.00	709,688.00	709,688.00
Promotion of Young Talents in ERA ¹	0	0	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
Balance as at 31.12.2013				5,709,688.00

¹ In accordance with the decision of the Presiding Board of the Research Council, this programme serves to promote young researchers in the new EU member states in Eastern Europe. The SNSF is currently defining the procedures together with its partner institutions abroad.

3.4.6 Provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement with the Swiss federal government

These provisions are used for the subsequent tracking of financially measurable targets, which were stipulated in the service agreement, but which have not yet been achieved or only partially so.

	Status as at 31.12.2012	Performance target 2013	Actual value ¹ 2013	Status as at 31.12.2013
ProDoc doctoral programme ²	13,212,209.49	0	7,977,522.90	5,234,686.59
National Research Programmes	20,247,522.57	28,000,000	20,709,392.89	27,538,129.68
National Centres of Competence in Research	5,836,322.49	52,500,000	39,903,586.50	18,432,735.99
Return grants for holders of fellowships	0.00	4,500,000	0.00	4,500,000.00
Increase in lump sum for doctoral students ³	0.00	11,000,000	0.00	11,000,000.00
Special programmes biology & medicine	0.00	20,000,000	4,300,162.98	15,699,837.02
Balance as at 31.12.2013				82,405,389.28

¹ Expenditures less income from third-party funds, repayments and contributions not claimed

² In accordance with the service level agreement, funds budgeted for ProDoc but not used in the 2008-2011 period have been transferred to the following years as provisions. This enables an orderly conclusion of the programme.

³ Return grants and increased salaries for doctoral students are envisaged for 2013-2016 pursuant to the service level agreement, provided that the necessary funding is available. By agreement with the SERI, the SNSF has therefore budgeted the amounts mentioned under the performance target 2013 as provisions in the estimate for 2013.

3.4.7 Fund statements

Earmarked donations and bequests		2013
Balance as at 31.12.2012		60,992,094.49
Interest and dividend income		685,138.50
Capital gains		2,892,729.17
Allocations		3,770,107.64
Withdrawals from the fund for research projects		0.00
Administrative costs		24,502.00
Balance as at 31.12.2013		68,315,567.80
Non-earmarked donations and bequests		2013
Balance as at 31.12.2012		406,504.35
Interest income		2,322.60
Allocations		56,614.95
Fund withdrawal		40,000.00
Balance as at 31.12.2013		425,441.90

3.5 Notes regarding the income statement

3.5.1 Project-specific federal contributions

The following project-specific federal funds have accrued to the SNSF:

	Project, programme, funding scheme	2012	2013
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)	CH-Index	5,493,222	0
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)	Funding mandates from the Confederation (FLARE / bilateral programmes)	0	14,200,000
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	ProDoc	4,200,000	0
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	SystemsX	20,700,000	24,500,000
Swiss University Conference (SUC) and ETH Board	Nano-Tera.ch	15,000,000	12,100,000
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences	Research magazine "Horizons"	90,000	180,000
Commission for Technology and Innovation	Media training for researchers	10,000	0
Total		45,493,222	50,980,000

3.5.2 SDC contributions

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has made the following contributions to the SNSF for the implementation of special programmes:

	2012	2013
SCOPES	1,975,000	2,000,000
Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development / r4d	400,000	6,400,000
Cooperation programmes with Bulgaria and Romania	5,500,000	3,680,000
Total	7,875,000	12,080,000

3.5.3 Expenditure on other programmes

Expenditure on other programmes consists of the following items:

	2012	2013
Cohorts, CTUs and Special Programme Univ. Medicine	20,002,375	4,919,877
Sinergia	48,221,772	52,650,511
ProDoc doctoral programme	21,211,546	8,858,981
Total	89,435,690	66,429,369

3.5.4 Changes in liabilities with respect to funding-specific contributions

Deferred income and accrued expenditures with respect to funding-specific contributions consist of the following items:

Affecting income	2012	2013
SCOPEs	76,145.07	0.00
Romanian-Swiss Research Programme	0.00	601,509.00
Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme	9,990.00	40,010.00
Research partnerships with developing countries	980,869.99	0.00
ERA initiatives	0.00	636.70
Total	1,067,005.06	642,155.70

Affecting expenditures	2012	2013
FLARE	0.00	40,604.00
SCOPEs	0.00	2,831,227.42
Romanian-Swiss Research Programme	561,509.00	0.00
Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development / r4d	2,118,589.95	3,931,525.16
Swiss Bilateral Programme	3,000,000.00	6,463,693.00
ERA initiatives	67,911.25	51,755.17
Total	5,748,010.20	13,318,804.75

3.5.5 Change in liabilities for participation in international programmes and agreements

Accrued expenditures for participation in international programmes and agreements consists of the following:

Affecting expenditures	2012	2013
Approved, pending international research projects	616,924.00	709,688.00
Promotion of Young Talents in ERA	0.00	5,000,000.00
Total	616,924.00	5,709,688.00

3.5.6 Change in provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement

Deferred income and accrued expenditures in connection with provisions for liabilities arising out of the service agreement consist of the following items.

Affecting income	2012	2013
ProDoc doctoral programme	16,092,185.51	7,977,522.90
National Research Programmes	717,619.71	0.00
National Centres of Competence in Research	12,029,638.68	0.00
Europ. & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership	104,276.00	0.00
Total	28,943,719.90	7,977,522.90

Affecting expenditures	2012	2013
National Research Programmes	0.00	7,290,607.11
National Centres of Competence in Research	0.00	12,596,413.50
Return grants for holders of fellowships	0.00	4,500,000.00
Increase in lump sum for doctoral students	0.00	11,000,000.00
Special programme biology & medicine	0.00	15,699,837.02
Total	0.00	51,086,857.63

3.5.7 Fees paid to the Foundation Council

Based on the regulations governing the remuneration of the SNSF's executive bodies (the Foundation Council, the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council, the National Research Council and the SNSF Research Commissions), the following fixed payments and daily allowances were paid to the members of the Foundation Council:

Remuneration to Foundation Council members	2012	2013
Fixed payments	28,333.35	30,000.00
Daily allowances	73,500.00	43,000.00
Total	101,833.35	73,000.00

3.6 Contributions approved for future fiscal years

In the case of the following funding categories, the SNSF records multi-year contributions in tranches, with only the first tranche being charged to the current accounting year. The tranches approved for subsequent years are charged only in the fiscal year to which they relate. As at 31.12.2013, the following liabilities, which were not listed in the balance sheet and which will have to be met in future years, existed:

	2014	2015	2016	Total
Projects	228,170,752	100,908,542	400,000	329,479,294
Careers	64,681,821	36,686,718	13,849,004	115,217,543
Programmes	79,452,675	45,855,894	6,216,655	131,525,224
Infrastructures	13,394,760	8,703,415	210,000	22,308,175
Third-party programmes	5,444,107	1,781,538	0	7,225,645
Total	391,144,115	193,936,107	20,675,659	605,755,881
International co-operation in EUR	205,236	26,236	0	231,472

3.7 Fire insurance value of (tangible) fixed assets

	2012	2013
Movable property and IT hardware	4,650,000	5,450,000
Immovable property	24,873,716	24,873,716

3.8 Disbursements to pension funds

	2012	2013
PKG Pensionskasse	3,330.90	6,995.60
Publica	423.75	427.25
Pensionskasse für Journalisten/Pensionskasse Freelance	970.80	1,191.70
Total	4,725.45	8,614.55

3.9 Pro bono services for the benefit of the SNSF

The SNSF specifically seeks out experts from Switzerland and abroad to provide expert reviews of the grant applications it receives. The majority of these reviews are drafted free of charge.

3.10 Transactions with related parties

In 2013, the members of the National Research Council and the members of the expert commissions appointed by them were awarded funding grants totalling CHF 26.6 million, representing 4.3% of the grants approved (2012: CHF 22.7 million or 3.8%). The ceiling set by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, letter k of the Statutes was not exceeded.

3.11 Details concerning the performance of a risk assessment

In fiscal year 2013, the 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 position of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The assessment found no significant risk for the foreseeable future that would necessitate an adjustment in the book values of the Foundation's assets and liabilities.

3.12 Events after the balance sheet date

To our knowledge, there has been no major event subsequent to the balance sheet date that could affect the financial statements.

4. Report of the Statutory Auditor

to the Foundation Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Berne

Report of the statutory auditors on the financial statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Swiss National Science Foundation, which comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Foundation Council's Responsibility

The Foundation Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Foundation Council is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our judgement, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes. We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Report on other legal requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 Code of Obligations (CO) and article 11 AOA) and that there are no facts incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Foundation Council.

Berne, 7 February 2014

Swiss Federal Audit Office

Signed Martin Köhli
Licensed Audit Expert

Signed André Vuilleumier
Licensed Audit Expert

The Foundation Council of SNSF approved the annual statements at its meeting on 28 March 2014.