



Annual Report 2011



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
2011**



From left to right:
 Gabriele Gendotti, President of the Foundation Council since January 2012
 Dieter Imboden, President of the National Research Council
 Daniel Höchli, Director of the Administrative Offices

Foreword

Between tradition and transformation: The SNSF celebrates its 60th anniversary

Ladies and gentlemen

The inauguration ceremony of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) was held in the State Council hall of the Federal Parliament building on 1 August 1952. However, the beginnings of the SNSF date back to the year 1934, when the notion of promoting scientific research to strengthen the export industry arose as part of the job creation policy of the day. But the path of federal politics is long and winding, and it was only ten years later, in 1944, that the Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Research (KWF) was created at the Federal Department of Defence (!). Another eight years passed before forward-looking personalities, including the future president of the Research Council, Alexander von Muralt, were able to convince parliament that research merited support irrespective of employment policies and opportunities for politicians to exert their influence. They proposed a foundation run by the researchers themselves. The founders did a good job: the SNSF operates along these lines to this day.

Sixty years later, the SNSF has given itself a new mission statement. Why only now? Mission statements are seldom indicative of a change in direction; on the contrary: they are drafted as a means of self-reflection and of tracing one's development. The SNSF's development has been marked by steadiness, which is precisely why critical analysis is so important.

The new mission statement is based on the fundamental idea "Knowledge is the key to the future. Research creates knowledge", which could just as well have occurred in a speech sixty years ago. But although the SNSF's overriding goals have remained constant, the means for reaching

them are no longer the same today, be it in terms of quality or quantity. The world of research has changed radically since 1952, when the SNSF's budget amounted to around four million Swiss francs and the number of applications being evaluated was 172. Quite in contrast, today's figures are 700 million and approximately 4,000 applications of all kinds.

"The success of the original idea obligates all of us to act for the good of the SNSF."

Research has gained tremendously in stature: it is globalised and permeates all aspects of our lives. The wisdom and foresight of pioneers only becomes evident in retrospect, in the tension between tradition and transformation. The success of the original idea obligates all of us, whatever our role within the SNSF, to act both dynamically and conservatively for the good of an institution that has contributed to the success of Swiss research like no other. *Ad multos annos!*

G. Gendotti *D. Imboden* *D. Höchli*

Gabriele Gendotti

Dieter Imboden

Daniel Höchli

The Swiss National Science Foundation ...

... funds scientific research in Switzerland

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- _ DORE – A successful funding programme comes to an end (p. 18)
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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

Catalogue of all publications supported by the SNSF in 2011: www.snsf.ch › About us › Publications › Publications Catalogue

Optimised services

2011 – A year devoted to quality

The first principle embodied in the new mission statement underlines the importance of quality: “We promote scientific excellence. We also expect our own performance to be of a high standard.” Besides presenting key figures on the core activities of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), it is therefore more than appropriate to shed some light on its efforts to ensure services of high quality.

Key figures: Project funding 2011

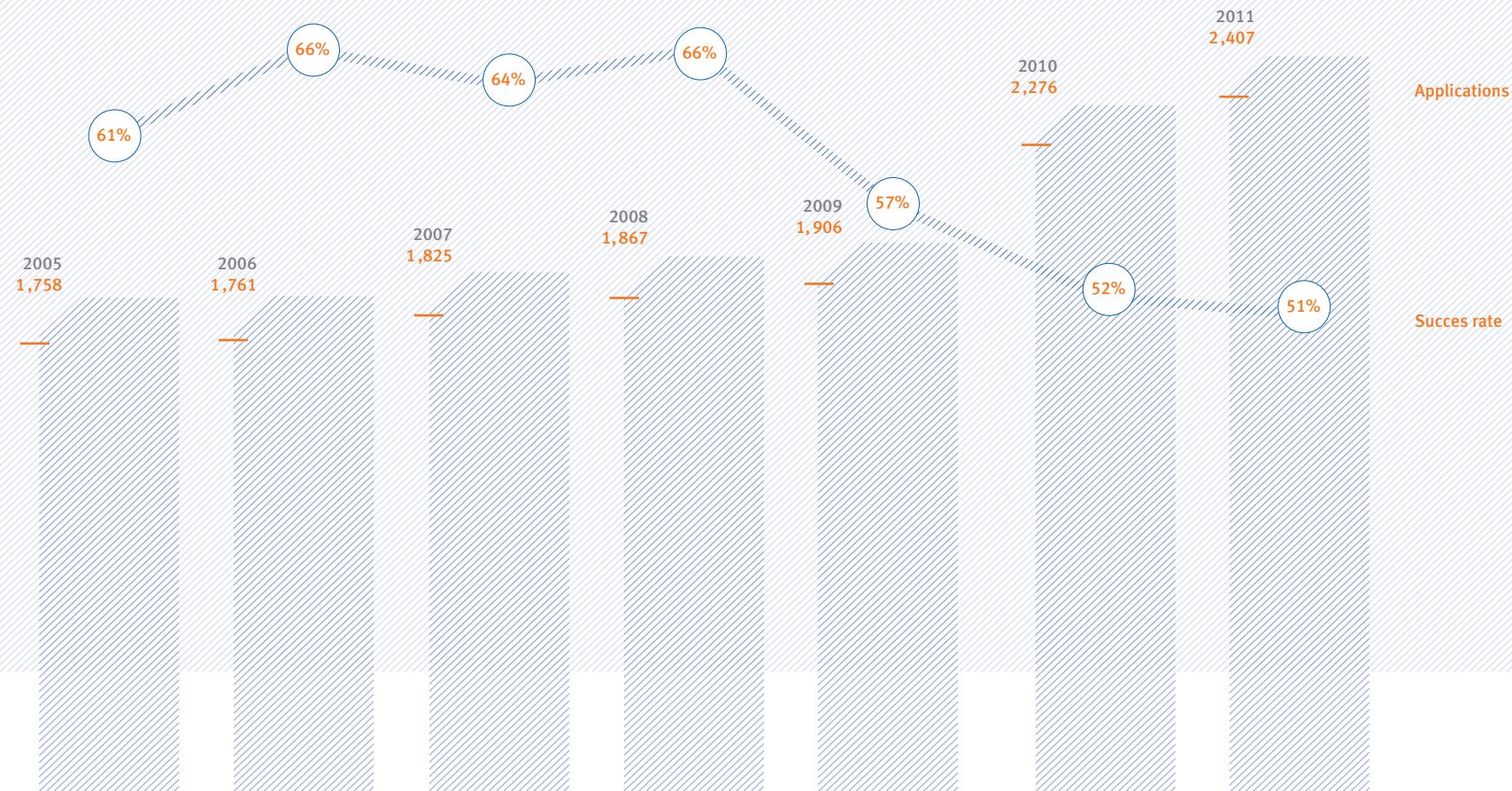
2,407
Submitted applications

1,229
Approved applications

51%
Success rate

-1%
Change in the success rate 2010–2011

Project funding
Number of applications submitted and success rate



Key figures: Project funding 2011

878 million
Amount requested in CHF

359 million
Amount approved in CHF

41%
Funding rate

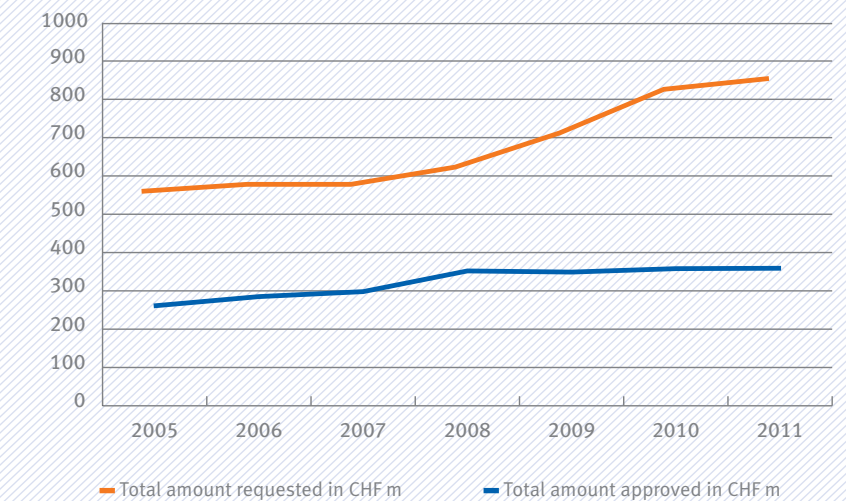
-1%
Change in the funding rate 2010 – 2011

Overhead

82.5 million
Overhead contribution of the SNSF in CHF

In project funding, the SNSF’s main instrument, six percent more applications were received than in the previous year. Fortunately, the federal contribution to the SNSF also rose strongly. In 2011, it very nearly reached the amount that parliament had envisaged in the Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (BFI Dispatch) 2008-2011. The SNSF had not expected this much budget growth and had cautiously earmarked funds for 2011 already in the previous years. These unexpected developments prompted the SNSF to stabilise the success and approval rates in the previous year. In spite of this, the rates remained relatively low. The overhead contributions towards indirect research costs corresponded to 15.6 percent of the overhead-eligible research grants. The initially envisaged 18 percent could not be reached due to a reduction in the relevant contribution by the Confederation.

Project funding: Requested and approved amounts



In career funding, the demand for fellowships for advanced researchers and Ambizione grants was particularly high in 2011, with the number of applications increasing by 25 and 23 percent respectively year-on-year. Given the rising number of applications, the National Research Council and the Administrative Offices must continue their efforts to enhance the efficiency and quality of their work, regardless of the amount of funds available. Consequently, the SNSF initiated or implemented a range of measures in 2011 that are aimed at maintaining or improving the quality of its services.

The SNSF put to the test

As mentioned above, the SNSF has published a mission statement defining the visions, ambitions and values that guide its activities. Moreover, it regularly assesses the quality of its services. Thus the evaluation of its fellowship schemes in 2010, while coming to a very positive conclusion, also contained recommendations that prompted a moderate reorganisation of the schemes in the previous year (see “In brief”, p. 13). The SNSF initiated two other evaluations in 2011: a group of international experts has

> been commissioned to examine the quality of the evaluation procedure at the SNSF. This will be followed by evaluations of the individual project funding schemes.

Supporting the researchers

The evaluation procedure and the administration of projects should be as clear and as simple as possible. The guidelines and descriptions of the evaluation procedure published in 2011 aim to give researchers a better understanding of the SNSF and help them select the appropriate funding scheme. The guidelines and aids for external reviewers and for members of the National Research Council were revised at the same time. Thanks to a newly introduced lifetime management of research projects via the online portal *mySNF*, project management is now simple and paperless for researchers. The SNSF has had to deal with several cases of plagiarism in applications in recent years. In 2011, it established processes and introduced a special software with which it can follow-up on any cases of suspected plagiarism. An initial report on this subject was published in December.

Fostering communication

Research sponsored by public funds is particularly effective if its results can flow back into society. For this reason, the SNSF issued the first call for proposals for communication projects by scientists in 2011 ("Agora", see p. 9). It also substantially improved the quality of its projects database, which was redesigned and made available on the SNSF website in January under the new name "Research database P³" (projects, persons, publications). P³ is available with enhanced search functions in English, French and German. The database now includes more detailed information on the content and – as a new feature – also on the output of research projects funded by the SNSF.

Visible output

In 2011, the SNSF began systematically collecting data on the output of funded projects. These data concern, e.g., the education of young scientists, publications, events, patents and spin-offs and are inputted by the researchers themselves via the online portal *mySNF*. The SNSF intends to use the data for project monitoring and for the evaluation of follow-up projects. At the same time, the data will offer a useful means of showing politicians and the public more tangibly the wide range of research results obtained through the SNSF's funding activities. <



One of the many research projects supported by the SNSF in 2011: dyed water on the Plaine Morte glacier – an unusual spectacle.

Geographers and hydrologists want to improve their understanding of melt water flows and determine who benefits from this water and to what extent. The results will help to refine the hydrologic balance of regional water supplies.

In brief

Agora: Science explained and discussed

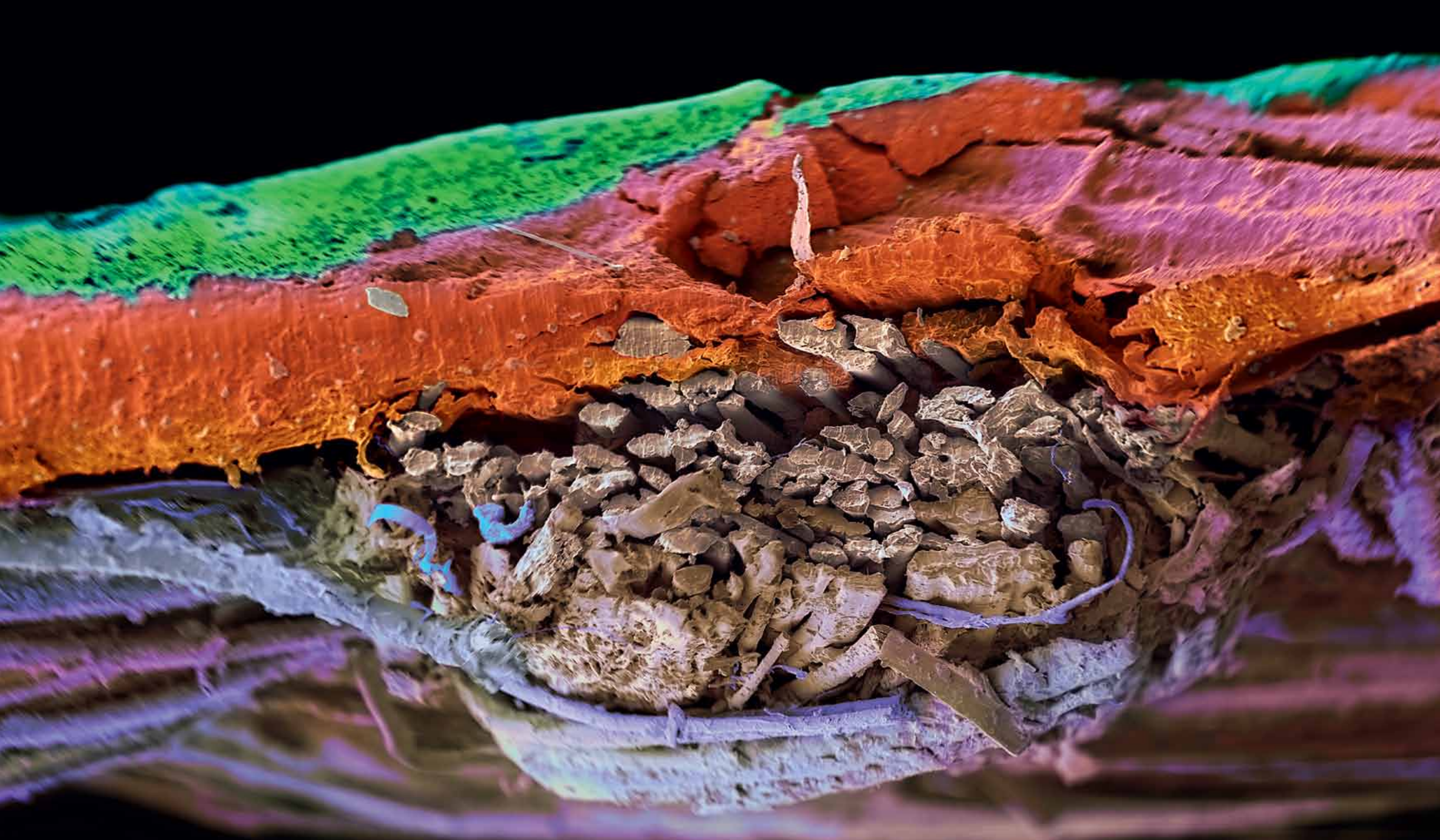
In 2011, the SNSF for the first time issued a call for science communication projects aimed at a wider public under its new funding scheme, Agora. In response to the call, the SNSF received 77 applications from a total of 109 disciplines. The proposed projects offer a wide range of communication formats, such as websites, social media, workshops, teaching materials, films, games and drama. The available funds of approximately two million Swiss francs are sufficient to support 17 communication projects.

RIPA: Needs of the SNSF considered

The SNSF welcomes the comprehensive revision of the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA), to which it has made a significant contribution. Most of its demands have been considered in the draft bill prepared by the Federal Council. In particular, the roles of the SNSF and the CTI have been formulated more precisely. A new provision in the RIPA would allow the SNSF to make independent decisions within its sphere of competence as regards schemes and forms of funding as well as participation in funding programmes at national and international level. Furthermore, the revised Act would give the SNSF a legal basis for cross-border information exchanges regarding cases of scientific misconduct. The SNSF hopes that parliament will approve the bill.

Cohorts: A long-term commitment

Researchers explore biomedical questions over long periods within the scope of cohort studies. For instance, they may attempt to measure the influence of polluted air on human health. In 2011, the SNSF again invested 11 million Swiss francs in the setup and maintenance of eight cohort studies devoted to the collection and analysis of high-quality health data. Additional public and private funds are needed to secure the long-term future of the cohorts.



Early 20th century painting Cross-section to analyse the damaging effects of metal soaps present in the oil ground and paint layers (magnification factor 540 : 1)

International co-operation

Supporting the international research dynamic

What could be more natural than research groups from different countries working together? The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports this dynamic by contributing to the planned European Research Area and collaborating with research funding agencies in neighbouring countries.

The year under review saw significant developments in the international environment of the SNSF, particularly the creation of Science Europe, further progress towards the next European framework programme and the preparation of a research funding policy with developing countries by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The SNSF is observing these developments closely, engaging with international players and bringing its funding schemes more closely into line with the needs of researchers.

Towards a European Research Area

Launched at the Lisbon summit in 2000, the idea of creating a “common market for knowledge, research and innovation” is steadily gaining ground, both among the member states of the EU and the countries associated with the framework programmes, including Switzerland. In February 2011, the European Council set 2014 as the deadline for implementation. In collaboration with its European partners, particularly within Science Europe, the SNSF is actively engaged in facilitating international mobility for researchers, supporting transnational co-operations and making research infrastructures more accessible.

Lead Agency

The Lead Agency procedure simplifies the processing of transnational grant applications by assigning their evaluation to a single agency, whose decision is accepted by the partner agencies. Between 2008 and the end of 2011, a total of

101 requests involving Swiss research groups were submitted under the Lead Agency system to the DFG (Germany), the FWF (Austria) or the FNR (Luxembourg). Of these, 37 have been approved by the mentioned institutions and hence recognised by the SNSF, while 25 applications are still being evaluated. Conversely, 132 applications were submitted to the SNSF, of which 27 have been approved (35 are still being evaluated).

Co-ordinated European approach

The European Union’s framework programme for research and innovation “Horizon 2020” will succeed the 7th framework programme in 2014. It aims to reinforce international co-operation through joint programming and the ERA-Net research networks. The SNSF’s participation is guided by the interests of the Swiss scientific community and depends on the amount of funds available.

Contributing to the solution of global problems

The SDC and the SNSF have jointly set up the “Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d.ch)” for generating knowledge and innovative solutions to global problems in developing countries. Based on scientific excellence, partnership and an interdisciplinary approach, the research projects are divided into two modules: a module allowing researchers to choose their own thematic, and another comprising five pre-defined topics, namely the reduction of poverty through job creation, causes and resolutions of

Key figures Lead Agency procedure (2008–2011)

The agency of one country decides, the others accept its decision.

3

Lead Agency agreements (between Switzerland and GER, AUT, LUX)

233

Submitted applications

64

Approved applications

17.4 million

SNSF contribution in CHF

social conflicts, agricultural production and food security, sustainable ecosystem use and management and, finally, health care provision. A framework agreement signed by the SDC and the SNSF in 2011 provides the legal basis for this co-operation. The first calls for proposals were launched at the beginning of 2012. <

Grant Union

In order to promote mobility among researchers, national research funding organisations in European countries have come up with the idea of a Grant Union in which the money allocated to research projects would circulate more easily in each of the following cases:

- _ Money Follows Researchers allows researchers who relocate to a different country to continue using the funds already allocated;
- _ Money Follows Co-operation Line allows a national agency to finance a sub-project conducted by a group based abroad;
- _ Lead Agency procedure (see article above).

In brief



Joining forces in Science Europe

The SNSF and around 50 national research organisations from over 20 European countries are pooling their strengths through the establishment of “Science Europe”. The aim is to forge ahead with the EU in structuring the European Research Area (ERA) and to strengthen collaboration between the member organisations. At the helm of the organisation is Paul Boyle (Economic and Social Research Council, UK), who succeeded the founding president Dieter Imboden (SNSF) in October.

Reorganisation of the fellowships programme

An external evaluation has shown that the fellowships programmes of the SNSF are achieving their main goals. However, a number of points still need to be improved. A new funding scheme is therefore planned for doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences (Doc.CH). Once the scheme has been put into practice, it could be further developed as needed based on the initial experiences. The new scheme will be financed through funds formerly allocated to the ProDoc programme, which is expiring. The existing fellowships for prospective researchers will be split into two schemes: “Doc.Mobility” at doctoral level and “Early Postdoc.Mobility” at postdoctoral level. The fellowships for advanced researchers – now called “Advanced Postdoc. Mobility” – will be brought more closely into line with the other schemes. Implementation is planned for 2013.

Co-operation with Bulgaria and Romania

In 2011, the SNSF issued calls for two research programmes with Bulgaria and Romania, which are endowed with a budget of ten and four million Swiss francs respectively. The topics range from waste management through to major diseases. The co-operation programmes launched together with the SDC are financed via the enlargement contribution, through which Switzerland is helping to reduce economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU.

Knowledge and technology transfer

Impulses for industry

New prototypes of apparatuses and software as well as patents – the technology transfer projects of the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) transmit a wide range of impulses to industry.

In response to the successful technology transfer activities of the NCCRs, parliament allocated ten million Swiss francs to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) as part of a package of measures to stabilise the economy. This contribution enabled the SNSF to approve 28 two-year technology projects in nine different NCCRs in autumn 2009. An analysis has since shown that the researchers have been able to transmit a wide range of impulses to industry.

Concrete benefits

In the 28 projects, researchers and their industry partners have developed eleven prototypes of technical apparatuses or software from scratch and further developed 27. Furthermore, 17 technical processes have emerged from the projects. Thanks to these results the researchers have already obtained or applied for nine patents while four others are currently at the planning stage.

Further developments

The creative flow of knowledge from basic research to the economy is not limited to these technology transfer projects, however. Further collaboration appears likely in 17 projects once SNSF funding comes to an end. This will involve expanding jointly developed applications



Knee operations are among the most common surgical interventions. The simulator developed in the NCCR "CO-ME" enables surgeons to practise operating room techniques.

into other fields or implementing them together with other industry partners. In 21 projects, the researchers have already come up with ideas for follow-up projects with different partners – eight

projects together with the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) and one within the scope of EU research programmes. <

New innovation projects

Alongside measures to counteract the strength of the Swiss franc, the Federal Council has earmarked a further ten million Swiss francs for innovation projects in the current NCCRs. This is aimed at strengthening the labour situation in Switzerland in the medium term. The SNSF issued a call for proposals for these projects in November 2011. The evaluations will be completed in May 2012.

Evaluation of interdisciplinary projects

Need for action identified

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has analysed its evaluation practice with regard to the funding scheme "Interdisciplinary projects". While the results are on the whole positive, the SNSF wishes to bring its assessment criteria more closely into line with the special nature of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and implement them more consistently.

Since 2006, the SNSF has evaluated more than 250 interdisciplinary projects through one of its expert bodies, the Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research (FA-ID). In 2011, it took stock of this evaluation activity with the aim of capturing the special features of interdisciplinary applications and of their applicants. Furthermore, it aimed to identify the factors influencing the acceptance or rejection of interdisciplinary applications.

Humanities and social sciences well-represented

The characteristics of applicants submitting interdisciplinary applications are similar to those of applicants with disciplinary projects. An analysis of the age and gender distribution, academic degree and number of applications submitted per person did not reveal any systematic differences.

The analysis does show, however, that researchers from the humanities and social sciences submit an above-average number of interdisciplinary applications (46%) and that the initiative for collaboration between different fields often comes from them (42%).

According to the analysis, the most frequent reasons for rejection concern,

in particular, the methodology outlined in the applications, or its degree of detail, as well as the organisation of interdisciplinary co-operation in the project.

Need for action identified

The SNSF presented the results of its analysis at an international conference on the evaluation of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. In so doing, it aimed to take a critical look at the evaluation practice and develop it further on the basis of concrete proposals.

One of the concerns voiced by researchers was to bring the evaluation criteria more closely into line with the special features of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. In response, the SNSF has optimised its evaluation criteria and produced clearer guidelines for peer reviewers. Again taking its cue from researchers, the SNSF has also prepared guidelines for the submission of applications. At the same time, more experts with interdisciplinary experience are being appointed to the Specialised Committee to ensure that the special nature of interdisciplinary research is reflected in the evaluation process.

The SNSF has a pioneering role among funding organisations insofar as part of its budget is earmarked specifically for

interdisciplinary research. The analysis has shown that the funding scheme is already well-established. In the future, the SNSF aims to focus even more closely on projects involving innovative collaborations across disciplinary boundaries. <

Interdisciplinary projects 2011

41.8 million
Requested amount in CHF

11.9 million
Approved amount in CHF

90
Submitted applications

33
Approved applications

Equal opportunities in research funding

Ten years of equal opportunities: Mixed emotions

If all genders are to enjoy the same opportunities in research, a permanent equal opportunities effort is needed. In 2011, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) looked back on ten years of equal opportunities in research funding, but more work is still needed. The conference held on the occasion of the anniversary focused on the key question of how mobility relates to a career in academia.

In Switzerland, women scientists are still substantially under-represented in top positions and in certain fields. The SNSF has sent a clear signal in the past ten years by doing everything in its power to dismantle gender-specific barriers and appointing an Equal Opportunities Commission and an Equal Opportunities Representative. Furthermore, it has helped to diminish certain obstacles that tend to block women's academic career paths (typically child care issues and lack of support).

Decreasing share of women along the career path

But despite measures to support families, mentoring programmes, the promotion of mobility and MHV grants for young female researchers, Dieter Imboden, the president of the National Research Council, views the results of ten years of hard work for equal opportunities with "mixed emotions". Figures show that the share of women still steadily decreases along the career path: from fellowships (38%) via SNSF professorships (25%) through to the main applicants of approved research projects (21%). However, these figures only reinforce the SNSF's commitment to equal opportunities. One of its specific targets is to increase the share of women in the National Research Council (today 23%).

Conference on mobility and networking

To mark the tenth anniversary of Equal Opportunities in Research Funding, the SNSF held an international conference on mobility and networking on 14/15 November 2011. Around 90 participants from Switzerland and abroad listened to and discussed speeches by renowned scientists, who examined the relationships between mobility and gender in all its facets. In workshops, participants discussed measures that would enable research funding organisations, in particular, to promote mobility without inadvertently generating gender inequality at the same time. The members of the closing panel were unanimous in their belief that, while international contacts and networking are crucial to a successful scientific career, geographical mobility is generally overemphasised.

“The MHV grant of the SNSF enables you to work part-time and helps finance child care, which I think is unique.”

Jennifer Keiser, Pharmacologist, Basel University Hospital



20th anniversary of the MHV programme: A success story

The Marie Heim-Vögtlin programme for the promotion of women in science celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. Since 1991, the programme has not only enabled many women to continue their research careers, but also benefited Swiss science as a whole. It can thus be regarded as a success story, to which the SNSF pays tribute with a volume of short profiles entitled "Women in research – 20th anniversary of the Marie Heim-Vögtlin programme". The brochure gives the successful MHV programme a face, or rather nine faces. The profiled former recipients of MHV grants – all of them now professors – describe in very personal terms how the MHV programme has been crucial to their career and to their family life.

MHV Prize goes to philologist

The SNSF has awarded the Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) Prize annually since 2009. The MHV Prize is awarded to MHV grant recipients who achieve outstanding scientific success and career development during the grant period. The MHV Prize 2011 was awarded to classical philologist Rebecca Lämmle. In her dissertation she explores the poetics of Greek satyr plays. Despite family commitments, Rebecca Lämmle achieved her aim of successfully completing her PhD, while also publishing numerous articles in renowned journals. She obtained her doctorate in 2010 and is now registered for a habilitation (qualification for a professorship) at the University of Basel.

Insights for funding

Mobility is not an end in itself, it serves to enrich researchers' careers and improve the quality of their scientific work. Mobility requirements that are "set in stone" tend to increase conformity and put people with unusual career paths at a disadvantage. Mobility across national borders need not necessarily be better than mobility in one's own country. Whether it is beneficial to careers depends rather on the quality of the research institutions visited. What is more, longer stays abroad can have a negative impact on researchers with families or dual-career couples, especially during the postdoc phase. All of this is reason enough for the SNSF to rethink how mobility can be best encouraged without detriment to equal opportunities.

Research at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education

DORE – A successful funding programme comes to an end

The SNSF and the CTI launched the DORE programme (DO REsearch) in 2000 to give an initial impetus to socio-logical research and art studies at universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTE). As of 2004, the SNSF ran the programme on its own, funding 302 practice-oriented research projects in these fields. DORE came to an end in 2011 once the SNSF had integrated this aspect of research funding into its general project funding activities (see box).

Intense competition

“Research at universities of applied sciences is practice-oriented, studies social realities and generates data for socio-political decision-making”, the then president of the specialised commission evaluating DORE proposals, Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello, pointed out when the programme was launched. She emphasised the great potential that practice-oriented research has to offer society, the economy and science. DORE had its own budget and competition for a portion of it was intense:

between 2004 and 2011, approximately 750 project proposals demanding a total amount of 130 million Swiss francs were submitted.

Co-financed by partners from the practical realm

The SNSF awarded a total amount of 46 million Swiss francs to UASs and UTEs for DORE projects. An additional 15 million Swiss francs were contributed by partners from the practical realm. These funds were used to

support research projects on many different topics in the following areas of study: social work (78 funded projects), arts/design (62), health (56), education (48), music/theatre (41), applied psychology (10) and applied linguistics (7). This funding also allowed for the foundation and expansion of institutes and centres of competence at UASs and UTEs and for the overall strengthening of research capacities at these higher education institutions (see interview, p. 19).

New: “use-inspired” proposals

For the coming years, the SNSF envisages a more broad-based funding of use-inspired basic research, which includes the areas of study funded under DORE. It therefore integrated practice-oriented research at UASs and UTEs into its general project funding in 2011 and did not continue DORE. Since August 2011, researchers have been able to qualify their project as “use-inspired” when submitting their proposal. This innovation by the SNSF takes account of the fact that the application aspect is important in many research fields within basic research too. It is also aimed at ensuring that “use-inspired” proposals are evaluated appropriately – in particular proposals from the former DORE fields.



About the institute

The Institute for the Performing Arts and Film (IPF) of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), with Anton Rey at the helm, has run eight research projects that were funded by DORE.

Image: “Attention Artaud” at the Theatre of Arts in Zurich – the first project involving artistic research into contemporary acting.

Research to counteract the loss of perception

Mr Rey, how was DORE important for the establishment of your research institute?

We only became aware of DORE when the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film was founded in autumn 2007. The SNSF had encouraged us at the time to follow our own path and to formulate the research questions that are relevant to us. These questions were different from the ones asked by the established film, dance and drama studies institutes because we train artists and therefore our questions are more related to the practice of drama and the aspects of production and aesthetic quality. Since then, eight projects at our institute have been funded by DORE, along with a number of conferences, publications and employees.

What are your thoughts regarding the need for research in the area of acting, theatre and film?

The search for innovative knowledge and practices is essential to the arts. However, in contrast to academic disciplines, results in this area are generally not reproducible. Guided by the motto “Research as opposition to the increasing loss of perception”, the IPF therefore aims to test methods of reflection and

experimentation by putting artistic processes into practice. This corresponds with the newly introduced category “use-inspired basic research”.

“We would not have got off to such a good start without DORE”

How were the research results transferred to the practical realm?

DORE wanted us to have partners from the practical realm. While this seemed difficult at first, it eventually turned out to be quite useful. Whether renowned theatres in Zurich, Einsiedeln or Tokio, or institutions like Cinémathèque Suisse, the Federal Office of Culture, SUVA or even the Swiss Epilepsy Centre – they all showed an immediate interest in collaborating with us and made very suitable partners. Film, dance and drama have long been a part of our social, cultural and individual identity and have thus far been mainly studied in terms of their effects. We use stages and film sets as laboratories. Our mode of simulating and creating worlds opens

up an unusual perspective which could be of value to many professions and partners from the practical realm.

How was DORE important for the promotion of young researchers at your institute?

The institute consists of two full-time posts and around twenty employees financed through third-party funds, many of whom are young researchers. A postdoctoral level is emerging and we are grateful to the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology for promoting this development. That said, the structures at universities of applied sciences are not yet ideal as regards the sustainable positioning of research. But we would not have got off to such a good start without DORE. <

Events and activities

Key events 2011



30 August

Chemist wins National Latsis Prize

Karl Gademann, associate professor at the Department of Chemistry of Basel University, wins the National Latsis Prize 2011. The organic chemist's research is inspired by the interface between chemistry and biology. By isolating and synthesising natural materials, he discovers surprising interconnections which open up new research fields.

The prize, which is worth 100,000 Swiss francs, is one of the most prestigious science awards in Switzerland. It is awarded by the SNSF on behalf of the Latsis Foundation of Geneva to researchers up to the age of 40.



19 October

Holistic thinking

Settlement, infrastructure and landscape as a whole are only sketchily and incompletely conceptualised and further developed in Switzerland. The result: negative impacts on the quality of life and high costs. This is one of the conclusions reached by the National Research Programme "Sustainable Development of the Built Environment" (NRP 54), which presents its results at a press conference. Since 2005, the 31 research projects of NRP 54 have generated knowledge that contributes to the sustainable development of settlement and infrastructure in Switzerland. The interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects have a very wide reach, covering architecture, urbanism, economics and the geosciences as well as the engineering, natural and social sciences.

11 May

At the [SwissCore Annual Event 2011](#) in Brussels, Dieter Imboden (SNSF) and Jacques de Watteville (Mission of Switzerland to the EU) emphasise the commitment of the Swiss science and technology sector to the European Research Area. In his keynote speech "Dare to excel in European research and innovation funding", Rolf-Dieter Heuer (CERN) isolates excellence as the guiding principle for the research framework programme "Horizon 2020".

12 May

The National Research Programme "[Non-Ionising Radiation – Health and Environment](#)" presents the results of its research to journalists: electromagnetic fields and radiation can influence brain activity, a causal link has been shown to exist. No health effects have been discovered, however.

1 June / 7 December

The SNSF organises a "[Research Day](#)" together with the universities of St. Gallen and Geneva, where the events are held. Young researchers, in particular, have an opportunity to learn at first hand how the SNSF can support their research projects.

8 July

The Biology and Medicine division of the SNSF strengthens the scientific exchange with researchers at the universities of applied sciences. Researchers from the areas of "Life sciences" and "Health" present and discuss their research projects at the "[Interactive Symposium – Research in Applied Health & Life Sciences](#)".

2 September

The Executive Committee of the Foundation Council [elects the National Research Council of the SNSF](#) for the 2012-2015 period of office. The maximum period of office for research councillors is eight years.

29 September

SNSF director, Daniel Höchli, is elected as [president of the Finance and Audit Committee](#) of the European Science Foundation.

30 September / 1 October

The conference "[ScienceComm'11: Science for Children and Adolescents](#)" brings together all Swiss science communication players across linguistic boundaries for the first time. The participants discuss how young people can best be reached. The event is organised by the SNSF in collaboration with the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and the foundation "Science et Cité".

11 October

The [Swiss Science Briefing "Policy versus science: who is in the driver's seat?"](#) sheds light on the interplay of politics and research in the European environment. The event is organised by SwissCore and the Mission of Switzerland to the EU in Brussels.

21 October

The [foundation meeting of Science Europe](#) is held in Berlin (see p. 13). Its predecessor organisation EUROHORCS was dissolved the day before.

2 November

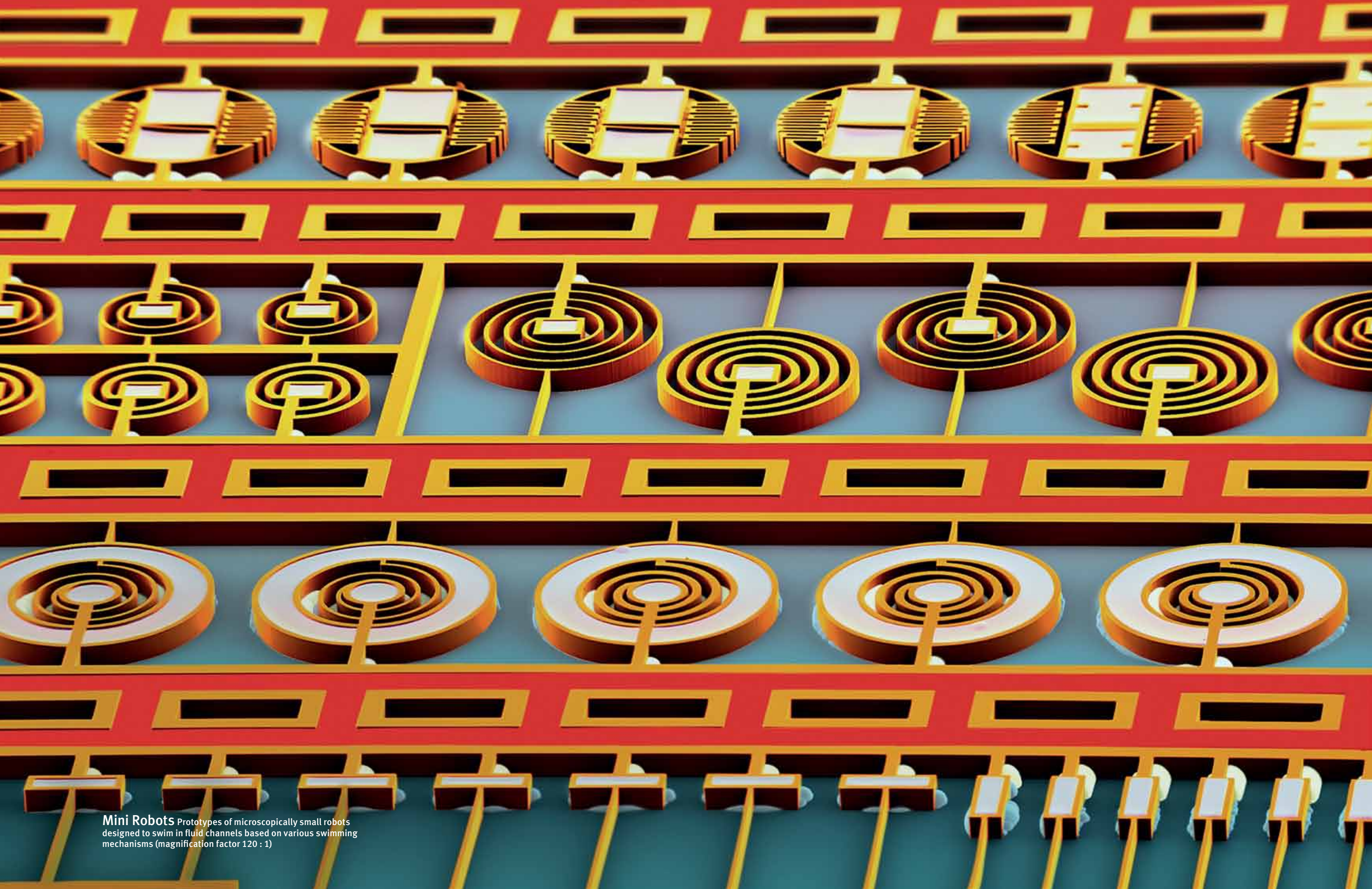
The SNSF organises its first "[Day for Advanced Researchers](#)" at its offices in Berne. Around 150 researchers from all over Switzerland attend the event, where they gain first-hand information on funding opportunities.

7 November

Following the 2011 annual meeting of the consortia of the [Special Programme University Medicine](#), an international panel evaluates their progress: the education of young medical doctors in translational research is highly successful. Seven out of ten consortia launch into the next three-year period.

16 December

The persons steering and managing the eight new National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) and a number of representatives of the preceding series of NCCRs discuss their initial experiences at the [Gurten Conference](#) in Berne. The discussions address topics such as leadership, technology transfer, the promotion of young researchers and equal opportunities.



Mini Robots Prototypes of microscopically small robots designed to swim in fluid channels based on various swimming mechanisms (magnification factor 120 : 1)

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2011 – Research funding in figures

In 2011, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) granted funding to the total value of CHF 713 million, 1.8% less than in 2010 (CHF 726 million). This financing was used to support over 3,400 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 2011. Additional grants are not treated as separate applications but are included in the approved amounts.

Since 2011, the SNSF has distinguished between five groups of funding schemes and reported figures for them in its statistics: projects, careers, programmes, infrastructures and science communication. The gender statistics refer to the share of responsible applicants.

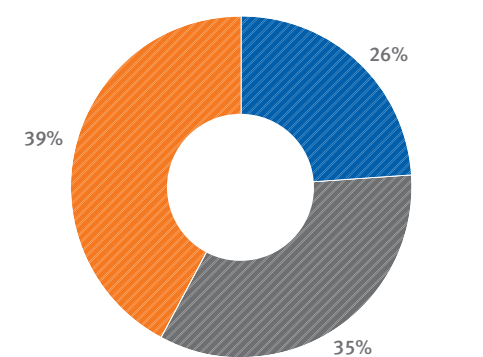
The data in the statistical part of the annual report are not comparable with the figures in the annual statement.

1. Funding in overview

1.1 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF millions

Distribution of the approved amounts

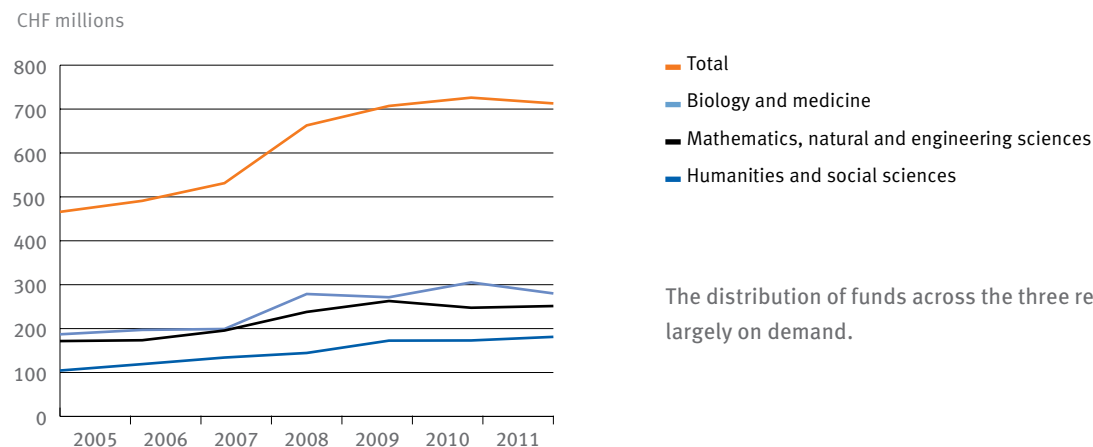


- Humanities and social sciences
- Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences
- Biology and medicine

	Amount	Women Men
Humanities and social sciences	181.2	31% 69%
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	251.4	13% 87%
Biology and medicine	280.1	18% 82%
Unapportionable	0.2	
Total	712.9	19% 81%

The allocation to the research areas has changed slightly year-on-year. The share of the humanities and social sciences has risen by two percent.

Approved amounts since 2005

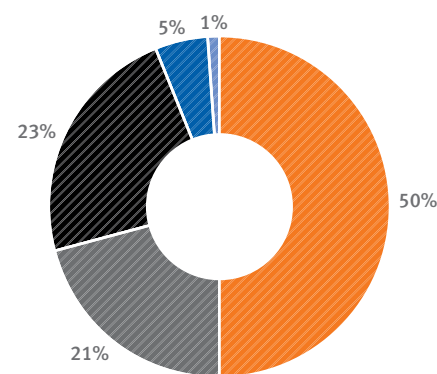


The distribution of funds across the three research areas is based largely on demand.

1.2 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



- Projects
- Careers
- Programmes
- Infrastructures
- Science communication

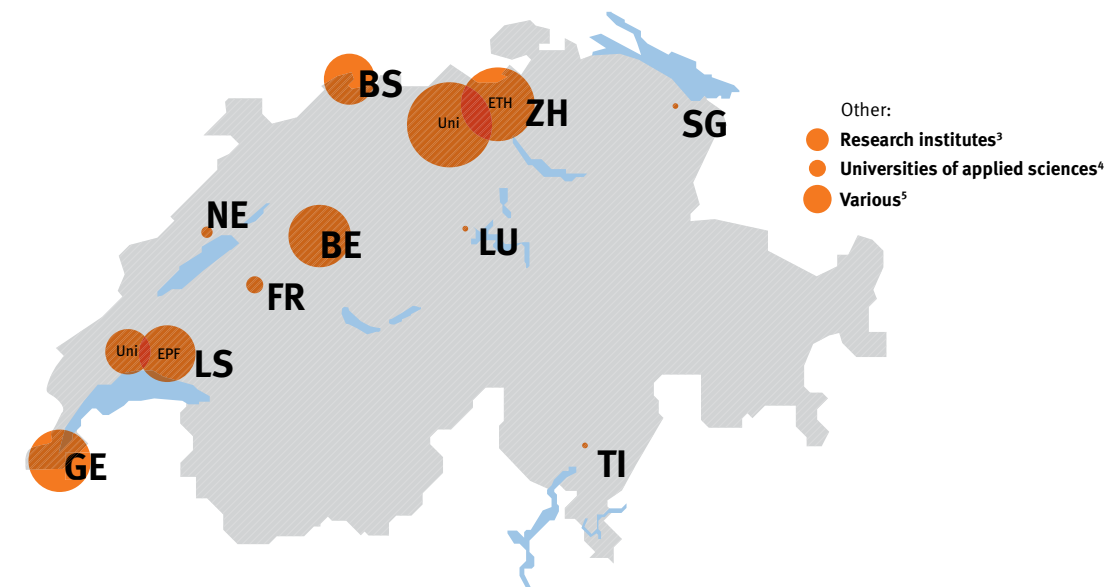
	Number	Amount
Projects	1,229	359.0
Careers	1,108	150.1
Programmes	650	164.4
Infrastructures	83	35.3
Science communication	410	4.1
Total	3,480	712.9

In 2011, the SNSF allocated half of its funds to its main instrument, project funding.

1.3 Funding by institution and research area

Amounts in CHF millions

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 millions	Total in %	Overhead ²	Total incl. overhead
Universities	131.5	107.2	210.2		448.9	63%	55.5	504.4
Berne (BE)	21.4	28.2	37.9		87.5	12%	7.8	95.3
Basel (BS)	20.2	11.5	34.2		65.9	9%	8.6	74.5
Fribourg (FR)	6.7	8.8	8.5		24.0	3%	4.3	28.3
Geneva (GE)	16.3	28.4	34.1		78.8	11%	11.2	90.0
Lucerne (LU)	4.6	–	–		4.6	1%	0.5	5.1
Lausanne (LS)	13.7	1.9	40.4		56.0	8%	7.2	63.2
Neuchâtel (NE)	6.8	2.6	3.3		12.7	2%	1.4	14.1
St. Gallen (SG)	6.1	0.0	–		6.1	1%	0.4	6.5
Ticino (TI)	3.7	4.3	–		8.0	1%	1.2	9.2
Zurich (ZH)	32.0	21.5	51.8		105.3	15%	12.9	118.2
ETH Domain	9.5	132.7	47.3		189.5	27%	23.1	212.6
EPF Lausanne	2.6	49.9	19.7		72.2	10%	8.5	80.7
ETH Zurich	6.8	63.9	22.6		93.3	13%	11.7	105.0
Research institutes ³	0.1	18.9	5.0		24.0	4%	2.9	26.9
Universities of applied sciences⁴	16.7	4.1	0.7		21.5	3%	1.8	23.3
Various⁵	17.3	4.4	13.6		35.3	5%	2.1	37.4
Unassignable⁶	6.2	3.0	8.3	0.2	17.7	2%	–	17.7
Total	181.2	251.4	280.1	0.2	712.9	100%	82.5	795.4

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)

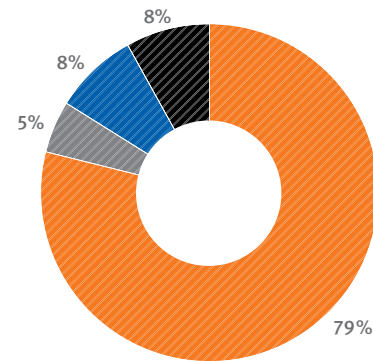
⁴ BFH, FHNW, FHO, HES-SO, HSLU, SUPSI, ZFH, Kalaidos and universities of teacher education. You will find the breakdown by institution in the Web version.

⁵ Research centres, museums, libraries, individuals, companies, non-profit organisations, etc.

⁶ Not assignable to an institution and/or discipline (e.g. advanced fellowships, conferences, publications)

1.4 Use of approved amounts

Total amount: CHF 712.9 millions



- Salaries and fellowships (incl. social security contributions)
- Materials of enduring value
- Consumables
- Other (travel and field expenses)

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.

1.5 Personnel in research projects

Around 4,900 persons were employed in research projects in 2011. In addition, approx. 850 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	35%	44%	56%
Personnel at doctoral level	52%	42%	58%
Technicians, support staff	13%	66%	34%
Total	100%	46%	54%

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).

1.6 Success rates

Amounts in CHF millions

	Success rate ¹			Number of applications submitted			Number of applications approved			Approved amount
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	
Projects	51%	43%	53%	2,407	495	1,912	1,229	213	1,016	359.0
Humanities and social sciences	42%	38%	43%	768	219	549	321	84	237	73.2
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	66%	57%	67%	785	86	699	516	49	467	131.0
Biology and medicine	47%	43%	48%	764	167	597	359	71	288	142.9
Interdisciplinary research	37%	39%	36%	90	23	67	33	9	24	11.9
Careers										
Fellowships (prospective)	65%	66%	65%	762	333	429	497	220	277	28.6
Fellowships (advanced)	52%	44%	58%	208	78	130	109	34	75	11.2
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV)	31%	31%	–	104	104	–	32	32	–	5.9
Ambizione ²	22%	25%	20%	232	79	153	51	20	31	28.5
SNSF professorships	24%	22%	24%	177	45	132	42	10	32	73.2
Programmes										
National Research Programmes ³	41%	27%	44%	68	11	57	28	3	25	12.4
International programmes	55%	58%	54%	147	31	116	81	18	63	6.6
Sinergia	38%	39%	38%	90	18	72	34	7	27	49.0
Special programmes biology and medicine ⁴	100%	100%	100%	6	1	5	6	1	5	5.1
ProDoc	61%	65%	59%	154	48	106	94	31	63	26.1
Infrastructures	85%	88%	84%	98	8	90	83	7	76	35.3
Science communication	87%	91%	85%	470	157	313	410	143	267	4.1

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 66

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)	38%	62%
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV) ¹	100%	
Ambizione	34%	66%
SNSF professorships	25%	75%
Projects	21%	79%

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

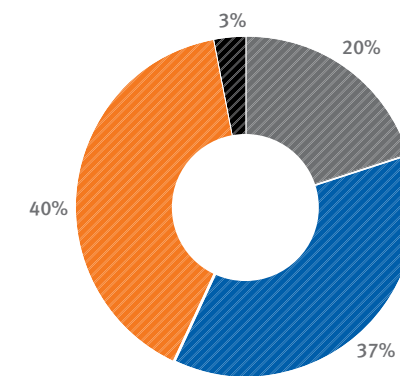
2. Projects

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 millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



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

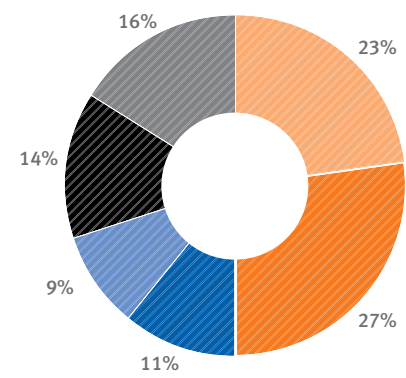
	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	73.2
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	131.0
Biology and medicine	142.9
Interdisciplinary research	11.9
Total	359.0

2.2 Funding by group of disciplines

Amounts in CHF millions

Division I: Humanities and Social Sciences

Distribution of the approved amounts



	Number	Amount
Philosophy, psychology, educational sciences and religious sciences	70	16.6
Legal and social sciences, economics	95	19.7
History	33	7.9
Archaeology, ethnology, art studies and social urban science	28	6.9
Linguistics and literature	35	10.6
Applied sciences ¹	60	11.5
Total	321	73.2

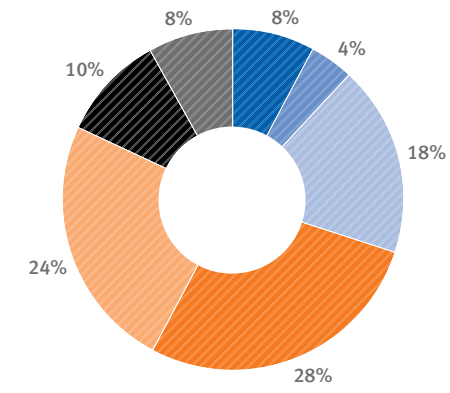
¹ DORE projects (51 grants; CHF 9.3 million)

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

The distribution of the approved grants across the groups of disciplines changed only slightly year-on-year. The largest increases were recorded in the educational science, communication and media studies, linguistics and literature and economic fields.

Division II: Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences

Distribution of the approved amounts



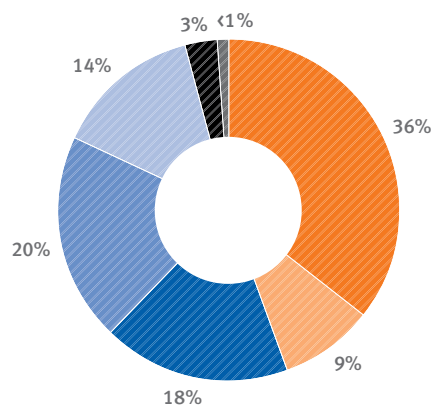
	Number	Amount
Mathematics	54	11.2
Astronomy, astrophysics and space sciences	12	5.1
Chemistry	81	24.2
Physics	106	36.1
Engineering sciences	161	30.9
Environmental sciences	50	13.0
Earth sciences	52	10.5
Total	516	131.0

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

The distribution of the approved grants across the groups of disciplines has changed marginally. This is partially attributable to the exclusion of infrastructure applications (R'Equip).

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	108	50.9
General biology	30	12.4
Basic medical research	68	25.2
Experimental medicine	70	28.4
Clinical medicine	64	20.8
Preventive medicine (epidemiology/early diagnosis/prevention)	18	4.7
Social medicine	1	0.5
Total	359	142.9

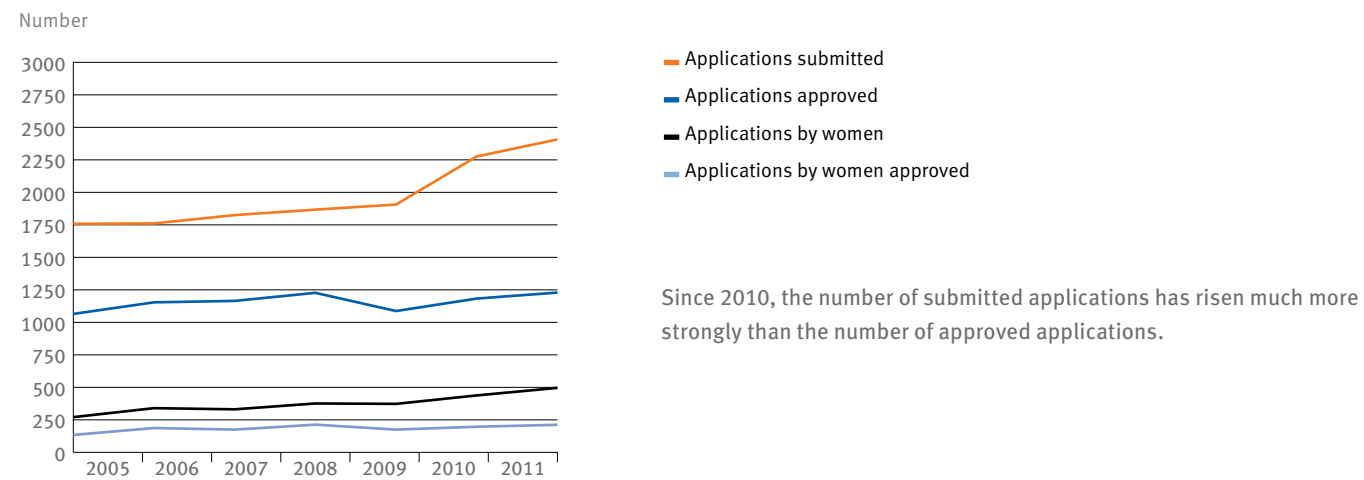
In 2011, the SNSF again supported international consortia in biology and medicine. The Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative Diseases JPND and the ERA-Net Euronanomedicine opened up new avenues for highly specialised Swiss research groups to engage in Europe-wide co-operation.

2.3 Grants, reductions and rejections

Amounts in CHF millions

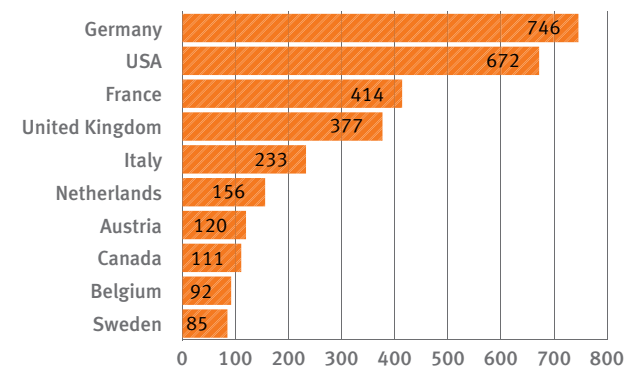
	Number	Amount	Grants	Reductions	Rejections, withdrawals
Humanities and social sciences					
Applications submitted	768		42%		58%
Requested amount		218.6	33%	8%	59%
Grants	321	73.2			
Reductions in approved applications	(225)	17.4			
Rejections, withdrawals	447	128.0			
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences					
Applications submitted	785		66%		34%
Requested amount		272.4	48%	23%	29%
Grants	516	131.0			
Reductions in approved applications	(443)	62.8			
Rejections, withdrawals	269	78.6			
Biology and medicine					
Applications submitted	764		47%		53%
Requested amount		345.4	41%	12%	47%
Grants	359	142.9			
Reductions in approved applications	(265)	41.6			
Rejections, withdrawals	405	160.9			
Interdisciplinary research					
Applications submitted	90		37%		63%
Requested amount		41.8	28%	6%	66%
Grants	33	11.9			
Reductions in approved applications	(27)	2.5			
Rejections, withdrawals	57	27.4			
Total					
Applications submitted	2,407		51%		49%
Requested amount		878.2	41%	14%	45%
Grants	1,229	359.0			
Reductions in approved applications	(960)	124.3			
Rejections, withdrawals	1,178	394.9			

2.4 Number of applications and grants since 2005



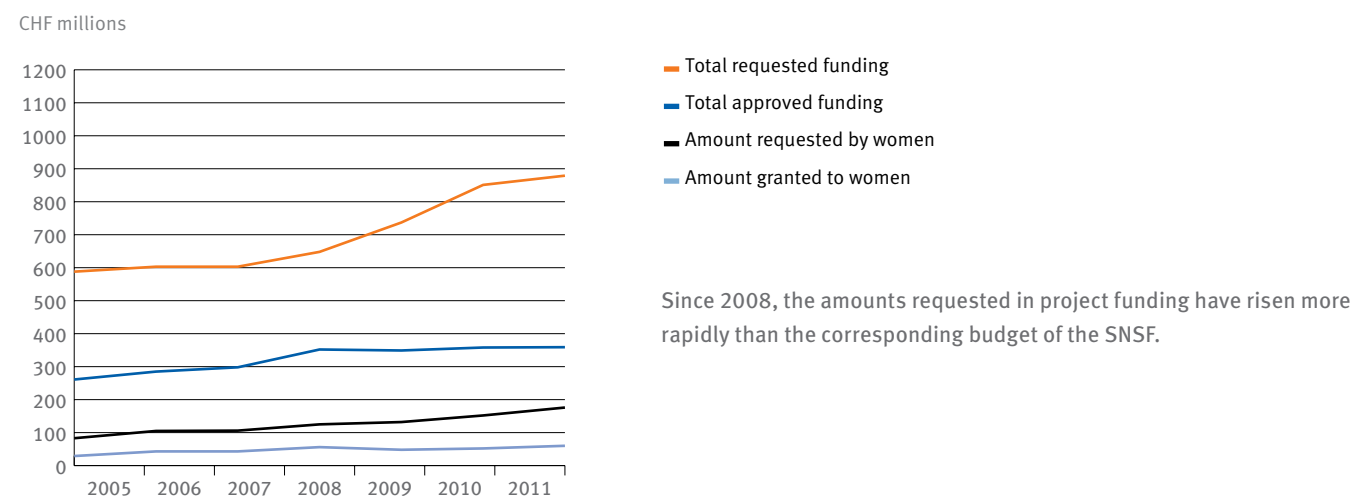
2.6 International networking

Number of international collaborations



In total, nearly 3,900 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.

2.5 Requested and approved amounts since 2005



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 millions

	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)	762	333	429	44	60	497	220	277	28	37	28.6
Fellowships (advanced)	208	78	130	5	12	109	34	75	4	6	11.2
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants (MHV)	104	104	-	7	-	32	32	-	4	-	5.9
Ambizione ¹	232	79	153	6	11	51	20	31	6	11	28.5
SNSF professorships	177	45	132	4	17	42	10	32	4	17	73.2
DORE: young researchers	4	1	3	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	0.1
MD-PhD fellowships	7	1	6	-	-	7	1	6	-	-	1.3
Graduate courses	7	1	6	-	-	7	1	6	-	-	0.2
Summer courses	151	90	61	-	-	146	88	58	-	-	0.4
International short visits	108	32	76	-	-	97	30	67	-	-	0.7
Total	1,760	764	996	66	100	991	437	554	46	71	150.1

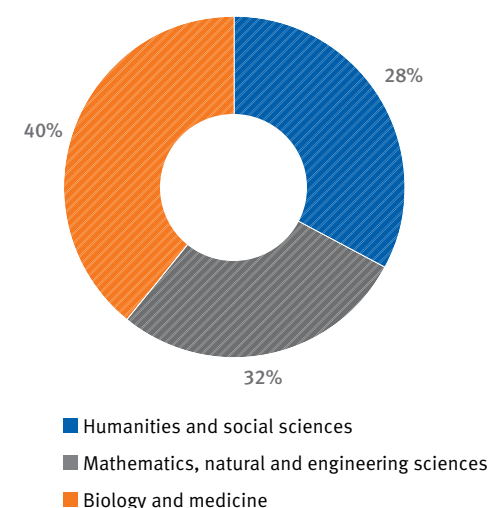
¹ incl. Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE (2 grants; CHF 0.8 million)

With the exception of SNSF professorships, demand for the main career funding schemes rose again in 2011. While the number of new applications to Marie Heim-Vögtlin, the programme for the promotion of women, rose only slightly, fellowships and Ambizione registered increases of 10% and 20% respectively. Since the introduction of Ambizione in 2008, the demand for this funding scheme has risen markedly every year. In spite of this, the overall budget for career funding remained practically unchanged year-on-year.

3.2 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF millions

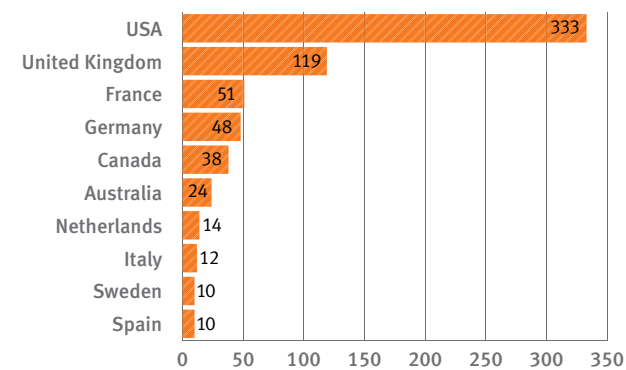
Distribution of the approved amounts



	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	41.8
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	48.8
Biology and medicine	59.5
Total	150.1

3.3 Fellowships by host country

Number of fellowships



With 681 fellowships for prospective and advanced researchers, the SNSF supported a total of 726 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. Some of the SNSF's programmes were suggested by researchers or their home institutions, while others were established by political actors.

4.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF millions

	Number	Amount
National Research Programmes (NRPs)	30	12.4
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)¹	405	65.2
International programmes	81	6.6
SCOPES/ESTROM programme	63	4.7
Programme of research partnerships with developing countries	–	0.2
Multilateral collaborations	18	1.7
Sinergia	34	49.0
Special programmes biology and medicine	6	5.1
Cohort studies	3	3.5
Clinical Trial Units (CTUs)	3	1.6
Doctoral programmes (ProDoc)	94	26.1
Total	650	164.4

¹ Sub-projects

4.2 National Research Programmes

Amounts in CHF millions¹

The National Research Programmes (NRPs) generate scientific knowledge aimed at solving Switzerland's most pressing problems. The topics are prescribed by the Federal Council.

	Approved amount 2011 ²	Overall budget	Overall amount approved up to 2011 ³	Duration
Current NRPs	Total		Total	
NRP 54 Sustainable Development of the Built Environment	–	13.0	11.1	2004–2011
NRP 57 Non-Ionising Radiation – Health and Environment	0.0	5.0	4.6	2006–2011
NRP 58 Religions, the State and Society	0.5	10.0	10.0	2006–2011
NRP 59 Benefits and Risks of the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified	0.1	15.0	13.0	2007–2012
NRP 60 Gender Equality	0.4	8.0	6.6	2010–2013
NRP 61 Sustainable Water Management	0.2	12.0	9.7	2010–2013
NRP 62 Smart Materials	0.0	11.0	6.6	2010–2014
NRP 63 Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine	–	10.0	5.6	2010–2014
NRP 64 Opportunities and Risks of Nanomaterials	–	12.0	7.2	2010–2015
NRP 65 New Urban Quality	0.0	5.0	3.5	2010–2013
NRP 66 Resource Wood	11.1	15.0	11.1	2012–2017
NRP 67 End of Life	–	12.0	0.4	2012–2018
New NRPs				
NRP 68 Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource	–	13.0	–	2013–2017
NRP 69 Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production	–	13.0	–	2013–2017
Total	12.3	154.0	89.4	

¹ Amounts under CHF 0.05 million are shown as zero

² Excluding grants for formally terminated programmes (CHF 0.1 million)

³ These amounts do not take account of repayments, third-party funds, etc.

The SNSF launched two new programmes in 2011, NRP 68 “Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource” and NRP 69 “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production”. Research work in both NRPs will start in 2013.

The share of women in the ongoing NRPs has remained largely unchanged (women 20%, men 80%).

4.3 Ongoing National Centres of Competence in Research

Amounts in CHF millions

Through the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs), the SNSF promotes long-term research networks in areas of strategic significance for the future of science, the economy and society in Switzerland.

Series 2001	SNSF contribution 2011 ¹	SNSF contribution for 12 years	Total budget for 12 years	Start	Home institution
Financial Valuation and Risk Management (FINRISK)	2.1	28.2	56.5	2001	University of Zurich
Computer Aided and Image Guided Medical Interventions (CO-ME)	1.5	42.7	112.7	2001	ETH Zurich
Frontiers in Genetics (Genetics)	2.0	43.0	125.5	2001	University of Geneva
Interactive Multimodal Information Management (IM2)	1.0	32.8	84.5	2002	Idiap, Martigny
Climate	1.6	26.6	130.7	2001	University of Berne
Materials with Novel Electronic Properties (MaNEP)	2.5	49.6	203.8	2001	University of Geneva
Mobile Information and Communication Systems (MICS)	1.2	37.5	91.5	2001	EPF Lausanne
Molecular Oncology	1.4	43.6	115.1	2001	EPF Lausanne
Nanoscale Science	1.7	49.3	185.1	2001	University of Basel
North-South	1.8	36.4	99.0	2001	University of Berne
Neural Plasticity and Repair (NEURO)	1.7	42.7	237.8	2001	University of Zurich
Quantum Photonics	1.7	44.8	122.2	2001	EPF Lausanne
Structural Biology – Molecular Life Sciences	1.5	36.7	108.6	2001	University of Zurich
Plant Survival	1.6	33.4	81.6	2001	University of Neuchâtel
Total	23.3	547.3	1,754.6		

Series 2005	SNSF contribution 2011 ¹	SNSF contribution for 8 years	Total budget for 8 years	Start	Home institution
Affective Sciences – Emotion in Individual Behaviour and Social Processes	2.5	20.0	49.6	2005	University of Geneva
Democracy – Challenges to Democracy in the 21 st Century	1.9	14.6	30.1	2005	University of Zurich
Iconic Criticism – The Analysis of Image Processes	1.9	14.6	33.3	2005	University of Basel
Mediality – Historical Perspectives	1.5	11.7	20.9	2005	University of Zurich
International Trade Regulation – From Fragmentation to Coherence	2.3	19.8	26.6	2005	University of Berne
Total	10.1	80.7	160.5		

Series 2010	SNSF contribution 2010 ¹	SNSF contribution for 4 years	Total budget for 4 years	Start	Home institution
Chemical Biology – Visualisation and Control of Biological Processes Using Chemistry	4.2	13.4	28.6	2010	University of Geneva EPF Lausanne
Kidney.CH – Kidney Control of Homeostasis	4.5	16.5	28.0	2010	University of Zurich
LIVES – Overcoming Vulnerability: Life Course Perspectives	3.6	14.5	29.6	2011	University of Lausanne University of Geneva
MUST – Molecular Ultrafast Sciences and Technology	4.0	17.3	37.6	2010	ETH Zurich University of Berne
QSIT – Quantum Science and Technology	3.6	17.1	56.0	2011	ETH Zurich University of Basel
Robotics – Intelligent Robots for Improving the Quality of Life	3.7	13.3	30.7	2010	EPF Lausanne
SYNAPSY – The Synaptic Bases of Mental Diseases	4.5	17.5	43.2	2010	EPF Lausanne University of Lausanne University of Geneva
TransCure – From Transport Physiology to Identification of Therapeutic Targets	3.7	14.1	27.0	2010	University of Berne
Total	31.8	123.7	280.7		
All NCCRS	65.2	751.7	2,195.8		

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

In 2011, the SNSF issued calls for proposals for another series of NCCRs. The available funds are sufficient to support approximately five to six new programmes.

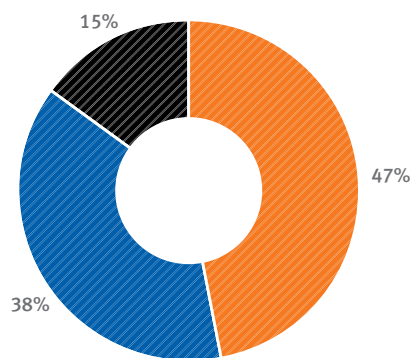
5. Infrastructures

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 millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



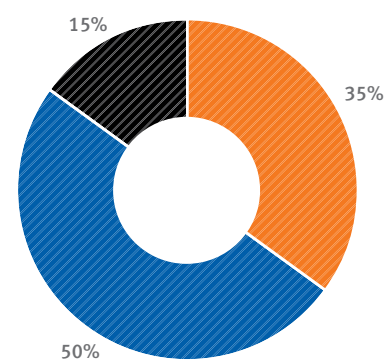
- Research infrastructures
- R'Equip
- FORCE/FINES

	Number	Amount
Research infrastructures	15	16.7
R'Equip	52	13.3
FORCE/FINES	16	5.3
Total	83	35.3

5.1 Funding by research area

Amounts in CHF millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



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

	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	12.5
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	17.5
Biology and medicine	5.3
Total	35.3

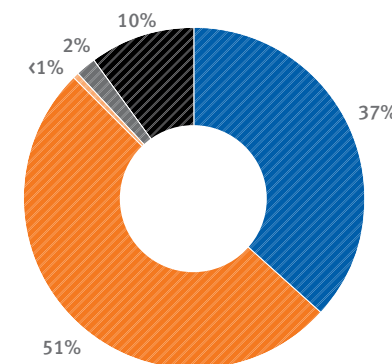
6. Science communication

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

6.1 Funding by scheme

Amounts in CHF millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



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

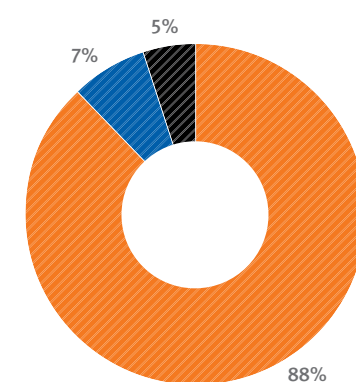
	Number	Amount ¹
Scientific conferences	202	1.5
Publications	149	2.1
DORE: Publications	3	0.0
DORE: Conferences	26	0.1
International exploratory workshops	30	0.4
Total	410	4.1

¹ Amounts under CHF 0.05 million are shown as zero

6.2 Funding by research area

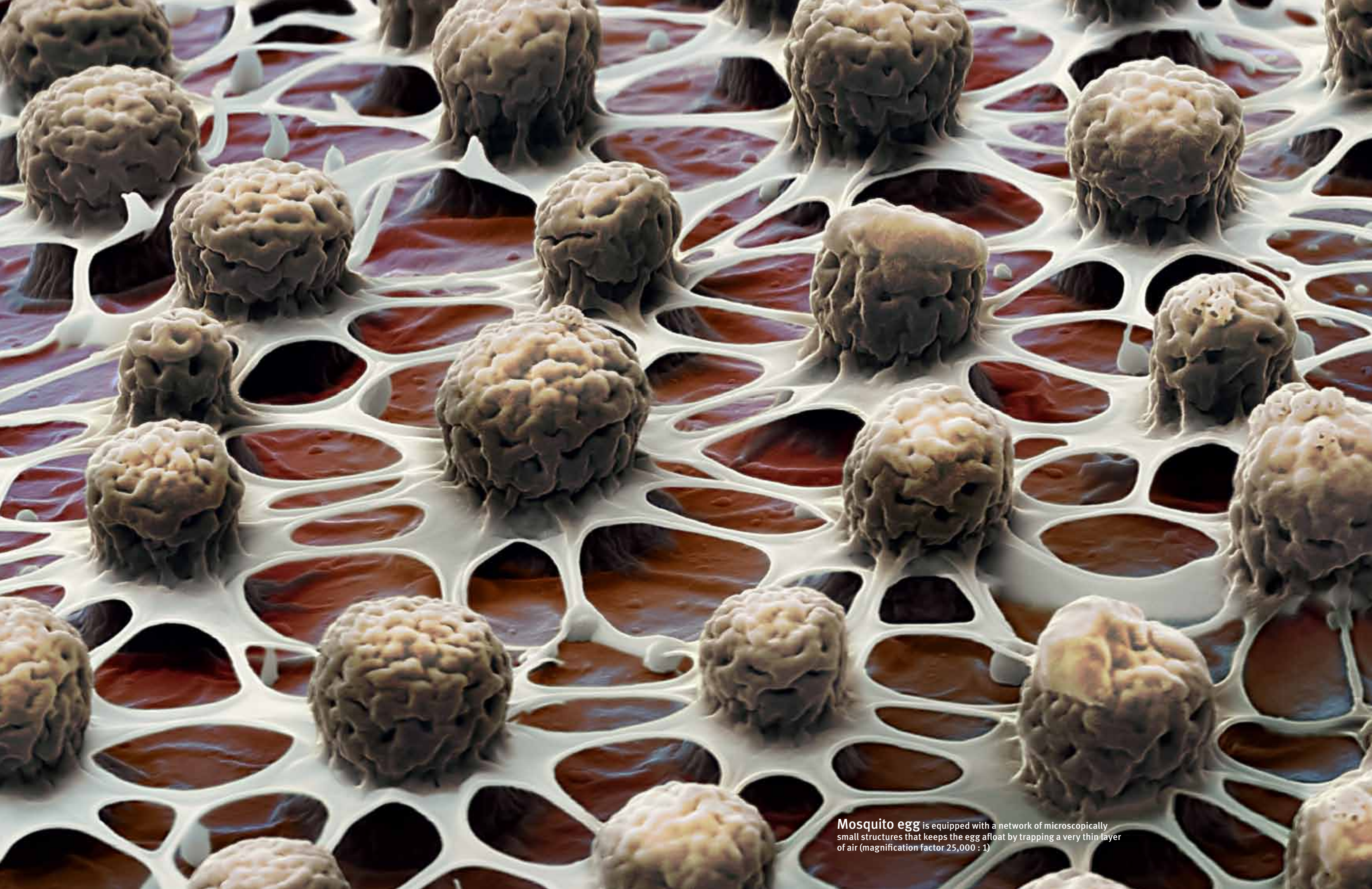
Amounts in CHF millions

Distribution of the approved amounts



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

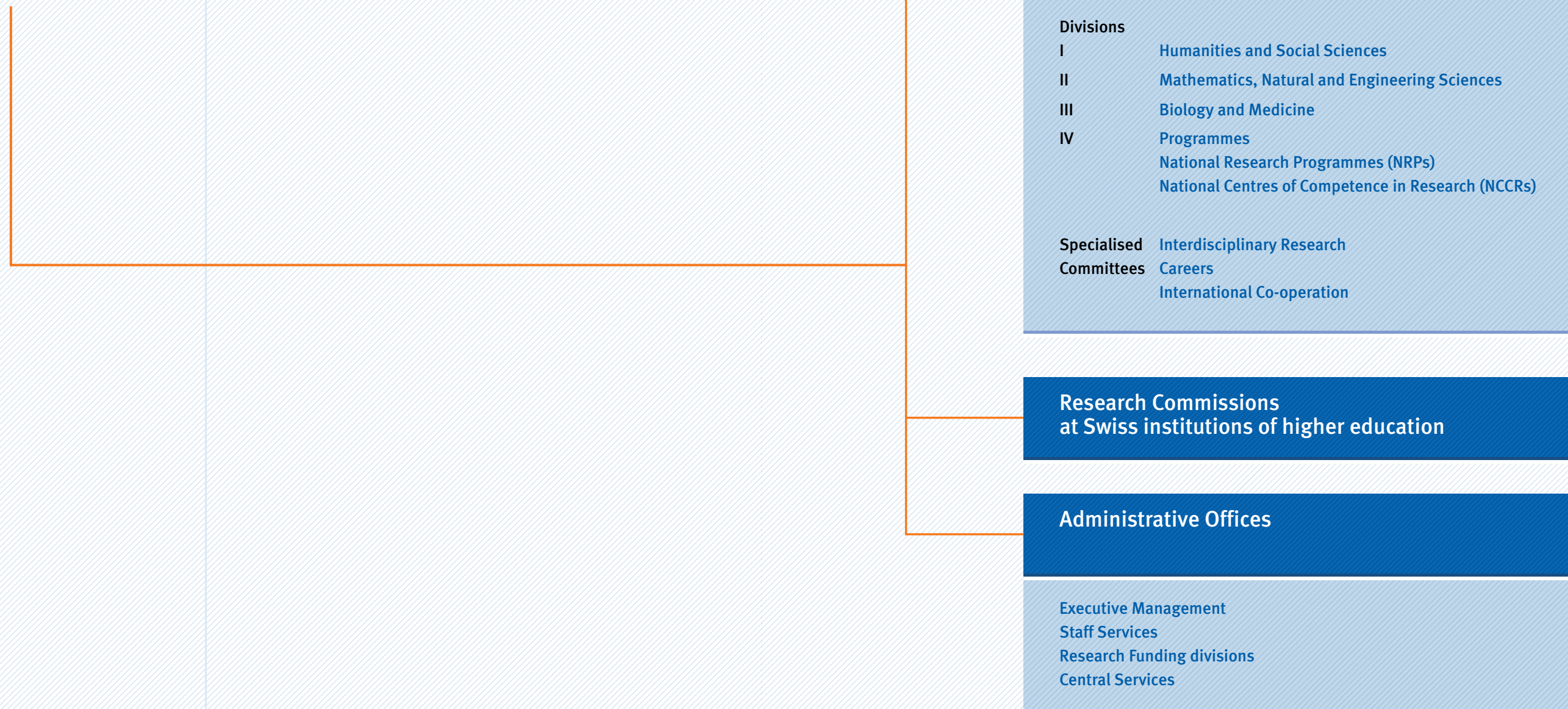
	Amount
Humanities and social sciences	3.6
Mathematics, natural and engineering sciences	0.3
Biology and medicine	0.2
Total	4.1



Mosquito egg is equipped with a network of microscopically small structures that keeps the egg afloat by trapping a very thin layer of air (magnification factor 25,000 : 1)

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

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 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. Peter J. Meier-Abt; Deputy Prof. Ralph Hertwig
Berne	Prof. Margit Oswald; Deputy Prof. Martin Täuber
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. Valentin Groebner
Neuchâtel	Prof. Kilian Stoffel; Deputy Prof. Alain Valette
St. Gallen	Prof. Torsten Tomczak (from 1.2.2011), Prof. Bernhard Ehrenzeller (until 31.1.2011, Deputy from 1.2.2011); Deputy Prof. Heinz Müller (until 31.1.2011)
Ticino	Prof. Rico Maggi (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Bertil Cottier (from 1.4.2011); Deputy Prof. Peter Schulz (until 30.9.2011), Deputy Prof. Massimo Filippini (from 1.10.2011)
Zurich	Prof. Hanspeter Kriesi; 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 of Applied Sciences (KFH)
Prof. Crispino Bergamaschi; Deputy Prof. Luca Crivelli | Prof. Sabine Jaggy; Deputy Prof. Lukas Rohr | Prof. Christian Kunze; Deputy Prof. Michel Fontaine | Prof. Monika Wohler; Deputy Prof. Ursula Blosser

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS)

Prof. Patrick Aebischer; Deputy Dr. Raymond Werlen

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

Prof. Annette Tettenborn; Deputy Prof. Luca Botturi

ETH Board

Dr. Fritz Schiesser; Deputy Privatdozent Dr. Kurt Baltensperger

Swiss Lawyers Association

Prof. Regula Kägi-Diener; Deputy Prof. Stephen V. Berti

Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES)

Prof. Klaus Neusser; Deputy Prof. Peter Kugler

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

SAHS	Prof. Anne-Claude Berthoud; Deputy Dr. Markus Zürcher
SAMS	Prof. Peter Suter; Deputy Prof. Kathrin Mühlemann
SCNAT	Prof. Denis Monard; Deputy Prof. Felix Escher
SATW	Prof. René Dändliker; Deputy Prof. Andreas Zuberbühler

Government appointed members

Judith Bucher (VPOD); Deputy Peter Sigerist (SGB) | Isabelle Chassot (member of cantonal government [Fribourg]); no deputy | Dr. Ursula Renold (OPET); Deputy Dr. Sebastian Friess (OPET) (from 1.4.2011) | Gabriele Gendotti (member of cantonal government [Ticino]); no deputy | Dr. Barbara Haering (former National Councillor); deputy post vacant | Dr. René Imhof (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.); Deputy Dr. Wolfgang A. Renner (Cytos Biotechnology Ltd., until 31.3.2011), no deputy (from 1.4.2011) | Dr. Wolfgang A. Renner (Cytos Biotechnology Ltd, from 1.4.2011); no deputy | Prof. Luzius Mader (FO); Deputy Dr. Werner Bussmann (FO) | Dr. Andreas Langenbacher (Pro Helvetia); Deputy Marianne Burki (Pro Helvetia) | Jürg Burri (SER); Deputy Dr. Gregor Haefliger (SER) | Dr. Andreas Steiner (economiesuisse); Deputy Dr. Rudolf Minsch (economiesuisse) | Hans Ulrich Stöckling (former member of cantonal government [St.Gallen]); no deputy | Dipl. Ing. Walter Steinlin (CTI) (from 1.4.2011); Deputy Dr. Klara Sekanina (CTI) (from 1.4.2011)

Executive Committee

Hans Ulrich Stöckling, former member of cantonal government (President), Prof. Anne-Claude Berthoud (Vice President), Prof. Patrick Aebischer, Prof. Crispino Bergamaschi (from 1.4.2011), Prof. Lucas Bretschger (from 1.4.2011), Jürg Burri, Dr. René Imhof (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Hanspeter Kriesi, Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, Prof. Fritz Müller, Prof. Margit Oswald, Dr. Ursula Renold, Dr. Wolfgang A. Renner (from 1.4.2011), Prof. Howard Riezman, Dr. Andreas Steiner (until 31.3.2011), dipl. Ing. Walter Steinlin (from 1.4.2011), Prof. Kilian Stoffel

Status as at 31.12.2011

National Research Council

The National Research Council (RC) reviews thousands of applications submitted to the SNSF each year and decides whether and to what extent they merit funding. The Council is composed of researchers, most of whom are employed at Swiss institutions of higher education. It 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".

100
Members

23%
Proportion of women

10
Meetings per annum

Presiding Board

President RC	Prof. Dieter Imboden
President Div. I	Prof. Walter Leimgruber
President Div. II	Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser
President Div. III	Prof. Stephanie Clarke
President Div. IV	Prof. Thomas Bernauer
President Specialised Committee Careers	Prof. Dietmar Braun
President Specialised Committee International Co-operation	Prof. Ulrike Landfester (deputy to the President of the RC)
President Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research	Prof. Bernhard Schmid

Division I: Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Walter Leimgruber (President), Prof. Lorenza Mondada (Vice President), Prof. Oskar Bächtli, Prof. Claudio Bolzman (from 1.9.2011), Prof. Thuring Bräm, Prof. Dietmar Braun, Prof. Monica Budowski, Prof. Corina Caduff (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Pierre-Luigi Dubied (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Dario Gamboni (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Annelies Häcki Buhofer, Prof. Andreas Herrmann, Prof. Ulrike Landfester, Prof. Alessandro Lomi, Prof. Jon Mathieu, Prof. Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello, Prof. Eliane Perrin, Prof. Anne Peters, Prof. Thomas Probst, Prof. Kurt Reusser, Prof. Katia Saporiti, Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Silvia Schroer, Prof. Paul Schubert, Prof. Peter Schulz (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Laurent Tissot, Prof. Eric Widmer, Prof. Frank Wilhelm (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Friedrich Wilkening

Expert Commission DORE (until 31.12.2011)

Research Councillors: Prof. Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello (President), Prof. Thuring Bräm, Prof. Eliane Perrin
Permanent experts: Prof. Jean-Pierre Tabin (Vice President), Prof. Corina Caduff, Prof. Lucien Criblez, Marianne Daepf (representative CTI), Dr. Cornelia Oertle Bürki

Division II: Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser (President), Prof. Jürg Osterwalder (Vice President), Prof. Urs Baltensperger, Prof. Lukas Baumgartner, Prof. Christian Bernhard (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Michal Borkovec, Prof. Harald Brune, Prof. Marc Burger, Dr. Urs Dürig, Prof. Jean-Pierre Eckmann, Prof. Klaus Ensslin (until 30.9.2011), Prof. Antonio Ereditato, Prof. Gerhard Jäger, Prof. Kai Johnsson, Prof. Christian Leutwyler (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Simon Lilly, Prof. Marcel Mayor (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Bradley Nelson, Prof. Moira C. Norrie, Prof. Marc Parlange, Prof. Andreas Pfaltz (until 30.9.2011), Prof. Michael W.I. Schmidt (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Mohammad Amin Shokrollahi, Prof. Andreas Strasser, Prof. Sara van de Geer, Prof. Bernhard Wehrli (until 30.9.2011), Dr. Marco Wieland

Division III: Biology and Medicine

Prof. Stephanie Clarke (President), Prof. Denis Duboule (Vice President), Prof. Hans Acha-Orbea, Prof. Stylianos Antonarakis, Prof. Konrad Basler, Prof. Jürg H. Beer, Prof. Sebastian Bonhoeffer, Prof. Thierry Calandra, Prof. Pierre-Alain Clavien, Prof. Matthias Egger, Prof. Urs Frey, Prof. Stephan Grzesiek, Prof. Huldrych Fritz Günthard, Prof. Michael N. Hall, Prof. Markus Hermann Heim, Prof. Christoph Hock, Prof. Laurent Keller, Prof. Christian Lüscher, Prof. Pierre Magistretti (until 30.9.2011), Prof. Jean-Pierre Métraux, Prof. Ernst Niggli, Prof. Walter Reith, Prof. Eric M. Rouiller, Prof. Markus Rudin, Prof. Walter Schaffner (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Bernhard Schmid, Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, Prof. Markus Stoffel, Prof. George Thalmann, Prof. Didier Trono, Prof. François Verrey, Prof. Sabine Werner, Prof. Hanns Ulrich Zeilhofer (from 1.10.2011)

Division IV: Programmes

Prof. Thomas Bernauer (President), Prof. Peter Chen (Vice President), Prof. Kay W. Axhausen, Prof. Nina Buchmann, Prof. Fabrizio Butera, Prof. Christoph Dehio, Prof. Gerd Folkers (until 28.2.2011), Prof. Dominique Foray, Prof. Katharina M. Fromm, Prof. Alexander Grob, Prof. Stefanie Hellweg (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Claire Huguenin, Prof. André G. Kléber, Prof. Paul Leiderer, Prof. Isabelle Mansuy, Prof. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal, Prof. Philipp Rudolf von Rohr, Prof. Frank Scheffold (from 1.5.2011), Prof. Peter Schurtenberger (until 31.3.2011), Prof. Angelika Steger, Prof. Jürg Ulrich Steiger, Prof. Frédéric Varone

Specialised Committee Careers

Prof. Dietmar Braun (President), Gerhard Jäger (Vice President), Dr. Hans-Ulrich Blaser, Prof. Nina Buchmann, Prof. Thierry Calandra, Prof. Urs Frey, Prof. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal, Prof. Katia Saporiti, Prof. Sara van de Geer, Prof. François Verrey

Specialised Committee International Co-operation

Prof. Ulrike Landfester (President), Prof. Moira C. Norrie (Vice President), Prof. Kay W. Axhausen, Prof. Monica Budowski, Prof. Denis Duboule, Prof. André Kléber, Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, Prof. Andreas Strasser, Dr. Marco Wieland

Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research

Prof. Bernhard Schmid (President), Prof. Bernhard Wehrli (until 30.9.2011, Vice President until 31.1.2011), Prof. Alessandro Lomi (Vice President from 1.2.2011), Prof. Peter Chen (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Jean-Pierre Eckmann, Prof. Gerd Folkers (until 30.6.2011), Prof. Christian Lüscher, Prof. Marc Parlange (from 1.10.2011), Prof. Philipp Rudolf von Rohr, Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast, Prof. George Thalmann, Prof. Laurent Tissot

Status as at 31.12.2011

Research Commissions

The university-based Research Commissions of the SNSF present a local view point 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.

12

Research Commissions

173

Members

21%

Proportion of women

38

Meetings per annum

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. Adrian Bangerter (until 31.7.2011) Prof. Simona Pekarek Doehler (from 1.8.2011)
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 31.12.2011

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.

212

Employees

63%

Proportion of women

291,300

Working hours 2011

Executive Management

Director	Dr. Daniel Höchli
Deputy Director	Prof. 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
Division II, Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences	Dr. Paul Burkhard
Division III, Biology and Medicine	Dr. Aysim Yilmaz
Division IV, Programmes	Dr. Beat Butz (until 30.6.2011) Dr. Dimitri Sudan (from 1.9.2011)
Division Careers	Dr. Marcel Kullin
Division Interdivisional Co-ordination and Co-operative Research (CoRe)	Prof. Angelika Kalt
Division International Co-operation/SwissCore	Dr. Jean-Luc Barras (from 1.3.2011)

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	René Liechti
Software Development	Mario Andenmatten
Logistics	Pia Mosimann

Status as at 31.12.2011

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.

Presidents of the Steering Committees of the NRPs

NRP 54	Sustainable Development of the Built Environment Prof. Eugen Brühwiler
NRP 57	Non-Ionising Radiation – Health and Environment Prof. Alexander Borbély
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

Status as at 31.12.2011

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.

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
NCCR FINRISK	Prof. Michel Habib
NCCR Genetics	Prof. Denis Duboule
NCCR Iconic Criticism	Prof. Gottfried Boehm
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

Status as at 31.12.2011



Dividing Cancer Cells The transformation of a healthy cell into a tumor cell is a complex process, involving the deregulation of genes that control cellular growth and division (magnification factor 12,000 : 1)

Financial figures in brief

Annual statement 2011

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**

	2011	2010
Federal contributions (ordinary and other)	814.1	722.1
Federal contributions for overhead	82.5	80.8
Returns	18.0	19.1
Accrued income	1.5	6.7
Miscellaneous	1.7	1.6
Total	917.8	830.3

Expenditure

	2011	2010
Research funding	758.9	727.4
Project funding	450.4	432.1
Funding for individual researchers	162.1	152.3
Grants for conferences, publications and other activities	4.0	3.4
International co-operation	9.8	11.8
National Research Programmes	18.2	17.7
National Centres of Competence in Research	65.2	62.5
Third-party programmes (SystemsX.ch, nano-tera.ch)	49.2	47.6
Overhead payments to research institutions	82.5	80.8
Accrued expenses	36.9	13.0
Scientific evaluation and governance	8.2	7.4
Foundation Council	0.1	0.1
National Research Council	6.6	6.0
Miscellaneous	1.5	1.3
Public relations work	1.7	1.8
Administrative expenses	25.9	24.3
Personnel expenses	21.6	19.7
Information technology expenses	1.8	1.7
Miscellaneous	2.5	2.9
Other expenses	0.0	0.2
Surplus	3.7	-24.6
Total	917.8	830.3

Balance sheet**Assets**

	2011	2010
Cash and cash equivalents	398.1	329.0
Other current assets	0.5	0.6
Fixed assets	9.5	10.0
Financial assets	55.5	57.1
Total	463.6	396.7

Liabilities

	2011	2010
Loan capital	375.6	310.7
Miscellaneous short-term liabilities	307.3	283.3
Miscellaneous provisions	68.3	27.4
Earmarked donations and bequests	53.7	55.4
Equity capital	34.3	30.6
Non-earmarked donations and bequests	0.4	0.4
Foundation capital	1.3	1.3
Reserves	28.9	53.5
Unappropriated surplus	3.7	-24.6
Total	463.6	396.7

Additional information on the annual statement**Grants approved but not entered for the years 2012 to 2015**

As at 31 December 2011 the following liabilities existed which were not listed in the balance sheet: CHF 597 million / EUR 1 million.

Remuneration of the Foundation Council

In 2011 the members of the Foundation Council received fixed remunerations and daily allowances totalling CHF 67,750.00 (2010: CHF 79,250.00).

Transactions with related parties

In 2011 the members of the National Research Council and the members of the expert commissions used by them were awarded funding grants totalling CHF 19.9 million, representing 3.8% of the grants approved (2010: CHF 25.2 million or 4.3%). 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 30 March 2012.

Abbreviations and glossary

Agora	SNSF funding scheme for science communication	Sinergia	SNSF funding scheme to facilitate collaborative projects in independent research
Ambizione	Career funding scheme for qualified young researchers who aim to conduct a project of their own	SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation
BFH	Bern University of Applied Sciences	Success rate	Percentage of approved applications among the submitted applications
BFI Dispatch	Dispatch of the Federal Council on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation	SUPSI	University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research	SwissCore	Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education: SNSF presence in Brussels, co-financed by the SER and the OPET
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	UAS	University of applied sciences
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation)	UTE	University of teacher education
Division I of the SNSF	Humanities and Social Sciences division	VPOD	Association of Swiss Civil Servants
Division II of the SNSF	Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences division	WSL	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (ETH Domain)
Division III of the SNSF	Biology and Medicine division	ZFH	Zürcher Fachhochschule
Division IV of the SNSF	Programmes division (NRPs and NCCRs)		
DORE	DO REsearch: the SNSF's funding scheme for practical research at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education		
EAWAG	Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology		
economiesuisse	Association of Swiss companies: largest umbrella organisation representing the Swiss economy		
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 coordinating research activities		
ESF	European Science Foundation		
ESTROM	Environmental Science and Technology in Romania		
ETHZ/EPFL	Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (Zurich and Lausanne)		
EUROCORES	Basic research programmes financed by member bodies of the ESF		
EUROHORCS	European Heads of Research Councils		
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)		
FNR	Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg (Luxembourg research foundation)		
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		
FWF	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (Austrian Science Fund)		
HES-SO	University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland		
HSLU	Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts		
Idiap	Research institute specialising in perceptive artificial intelligence, Switzerland		
Kalaidos	Kalaidos University 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)		
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation		
SER	State Secretariat for Education and Research, Switzerland		
SGB	Swiss Federation of Trade Unions		

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Images

“Micronaut” – Researcher and artist

The pictures of molecular biologist Martin Oeggerli, also known as “Micronaut”, open up fascinating new worlds. He creates his images with the help of a scanning electron micrograph (SEM). The resulting black and white SEM images are then coloured by hand. In this way, Martin Oeggerli makes visible what would otherwise remain invisible to the eye.

➤ www.micronaut.ch

Image credits

Front page: Butterfly egg (Caligo memnon)
Martin Oeggerli, Allschwil/supported by the School of Life Sciences (FHNW) (front page, 10/11, 22/23, 46/47, 56/57)
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Some goals for 2012

Focus on energy research

The Federal Council aims to support energy research. For this reason, the call for new National Research Programmes was limited to this topic. Researchers and federal departments submitted 27 NRP proposals. After careful evaluation of the proposals, the SNSF decided to produce feasibility studies and programme outlines in 2012. In 2013, the SNSF will launch calls for proposals for the new NRP “Energy”, which disposes of an overall budget of 45 million Swiss francs.



Lending wings to young researchers

As of 2012, the SNSF will encourage mobility at PhD level to offer researchers, especially women, more flexibility in planning their careers. Doctoral candidates working for an SNSF funded project can now apply for a research stay abroad of up to 12 months. Applications for mobility funding have to be submitted by agreement with project leaders. The SNSF has set aside 2.4 million Swiss francs for this measure in 2012.



Evaluation under the microscope

The SNSF has commissioned an external assessment of the procedures governing its evaluation of research projects. To what extent does the current project evaluation promote scientific excellence and originality in funded research? Is the evaluation procedure fair and unbiased? Are decisions transparent and understandable? Answers to these questions are expected in early 2013.



