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National Funding Opportunities in the Social Sciences for Young Researchers
Max Weber Programme – Academic Careers Observatory

Swiss National Science Foundation

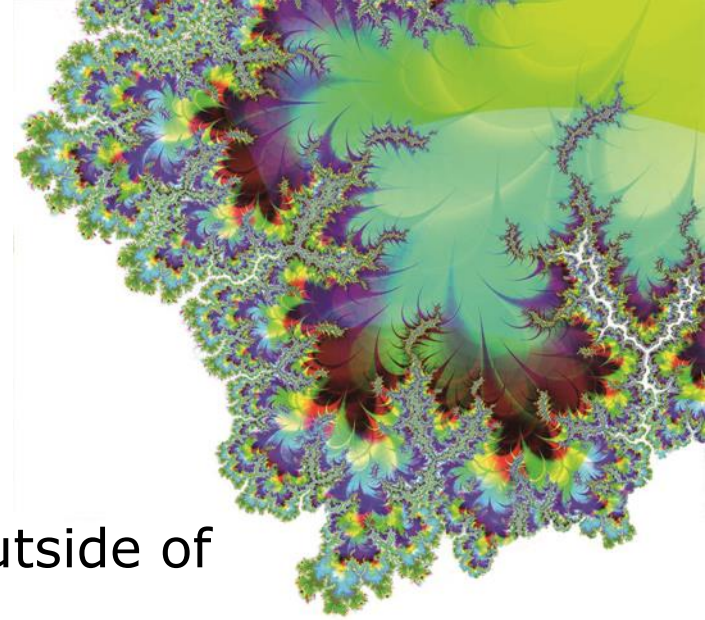
Sönke Bauck



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Contents

1. Brief overview of the SNSF and its funding schemes
2. Funding schemes (particularly for applicants from outside of Switzerland):
 - International cooperation
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SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG



The SNSF

Funding scientific research across all disciplines on behalf of the Swiss Confederation - since 1952

Research funded by the SNSF

5,800

Ongoing SNSF projects

16,000

Researchers in projects

Data 2017

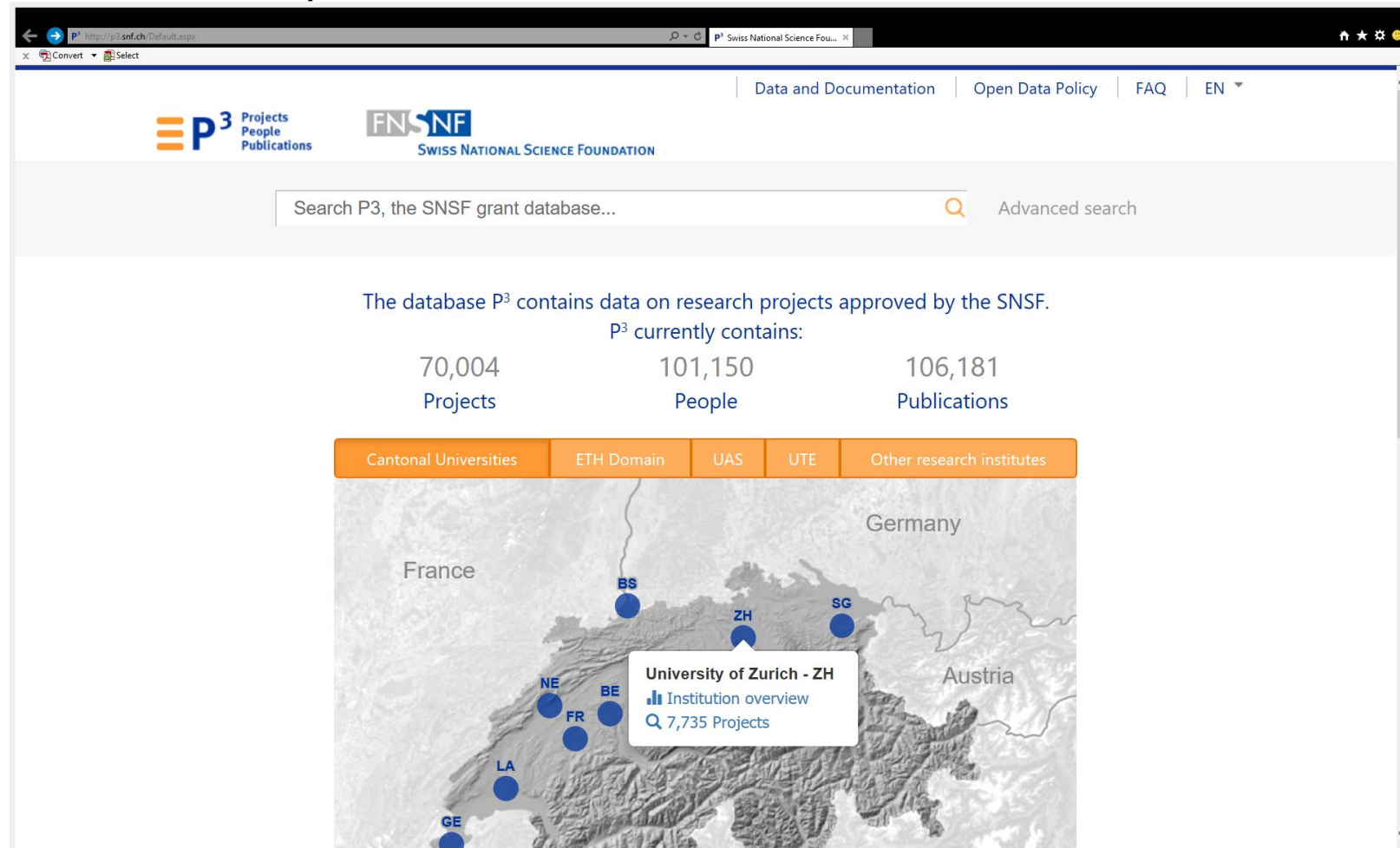


FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

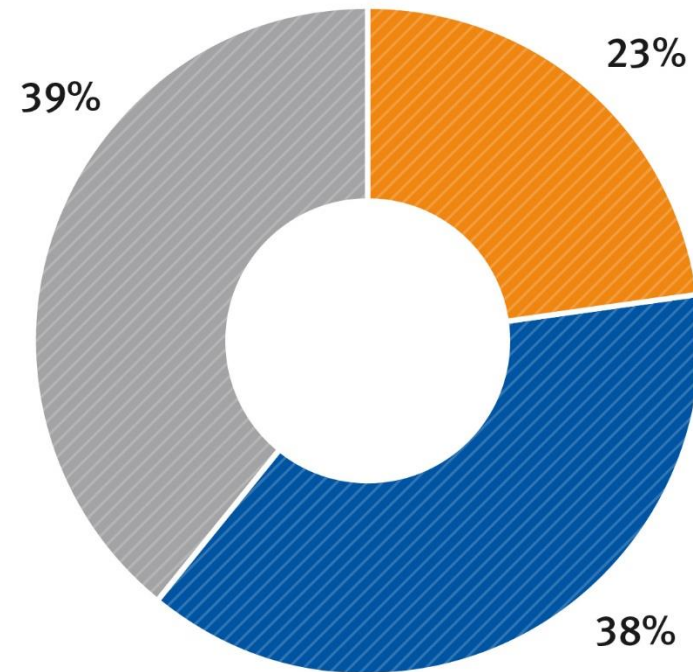


Approved Projects

P³ grant database: p3.snf.ch



Funding by research area

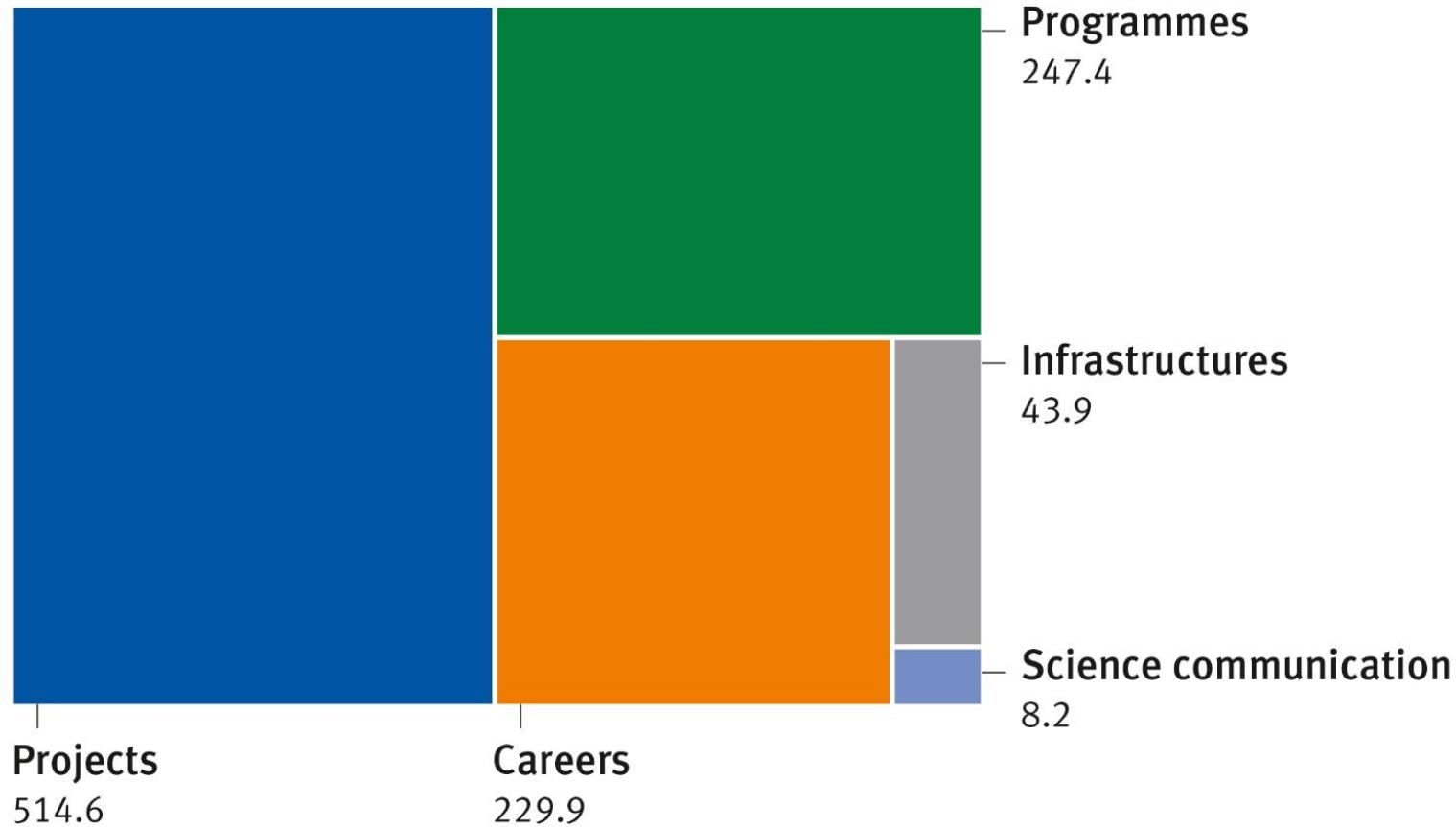


Data 2017

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

Total: CHF 1,037 million

Overview: Funding category



1,037
CHF million

2,971
Approved applications



Funding schemes



Funding schemes

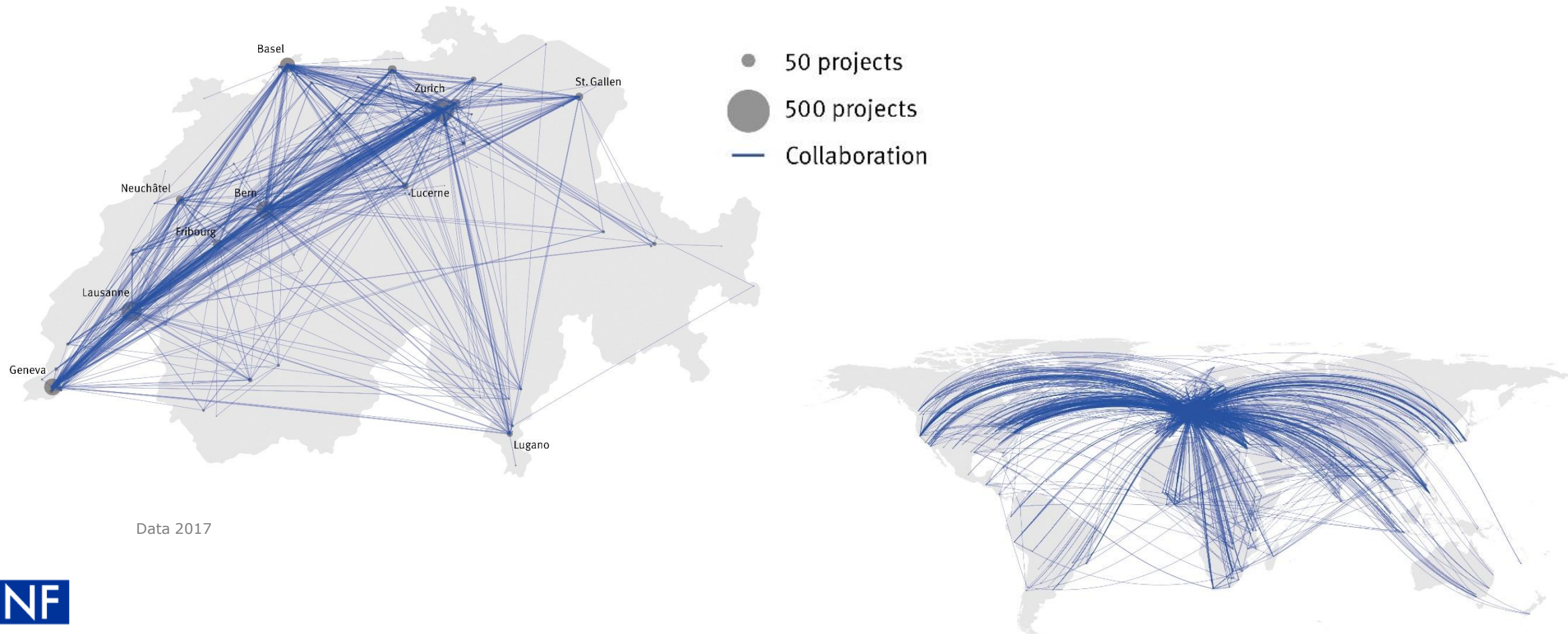
International cooperation

International higher education and research of Switzerland

- 25% of students are from abroad
- 55% of PhD candidates are from abroad
- 39% of teaching staff at universities are from abroad



Collaboration at Swiss and international level

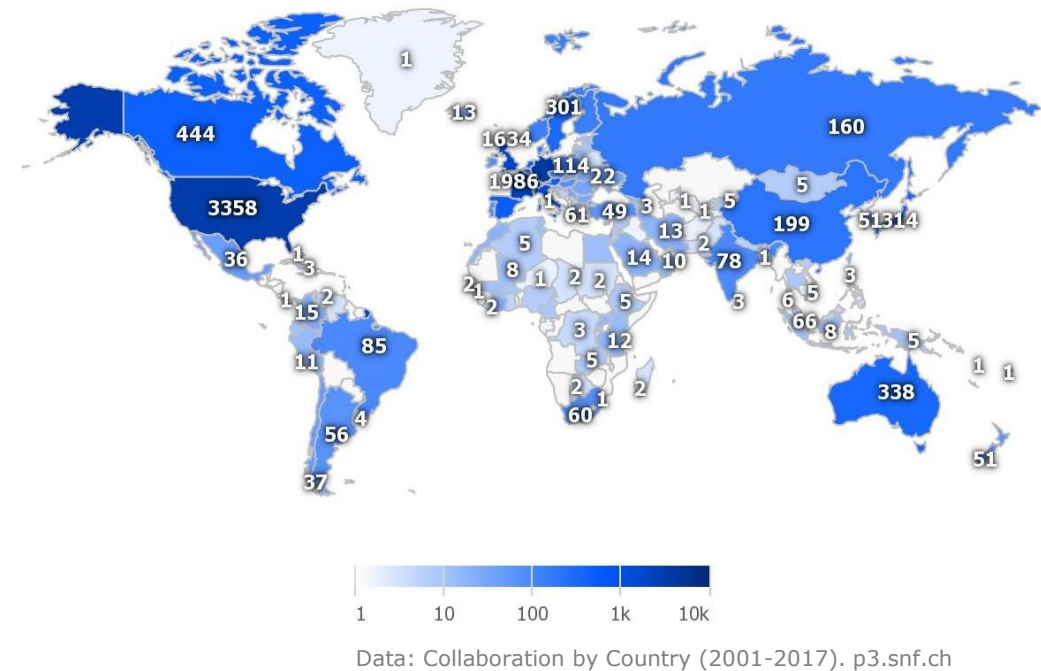


Funding: international research collaboration

Project partners in SNSF-funded projects can be based abroad (up to 20% of the project budget)

Sinergia: Promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects that propose breakthrough research (max. 1 applicant abroad among 3-4 applicants)

Bilateral project funding (topic specific)



Scientific Exchanges

- Organise scientific conferences and workshops in Switzerland, as well as visits by Swiss researchers to other countries or visits by researchers from abroad to Switzerland
- Duration: 1-5 days / 1-6 months
- Covers the travel expenses and room and board costs of researchers taking part in the events or of visiting researchers



scientific.exchanges@snf.ch

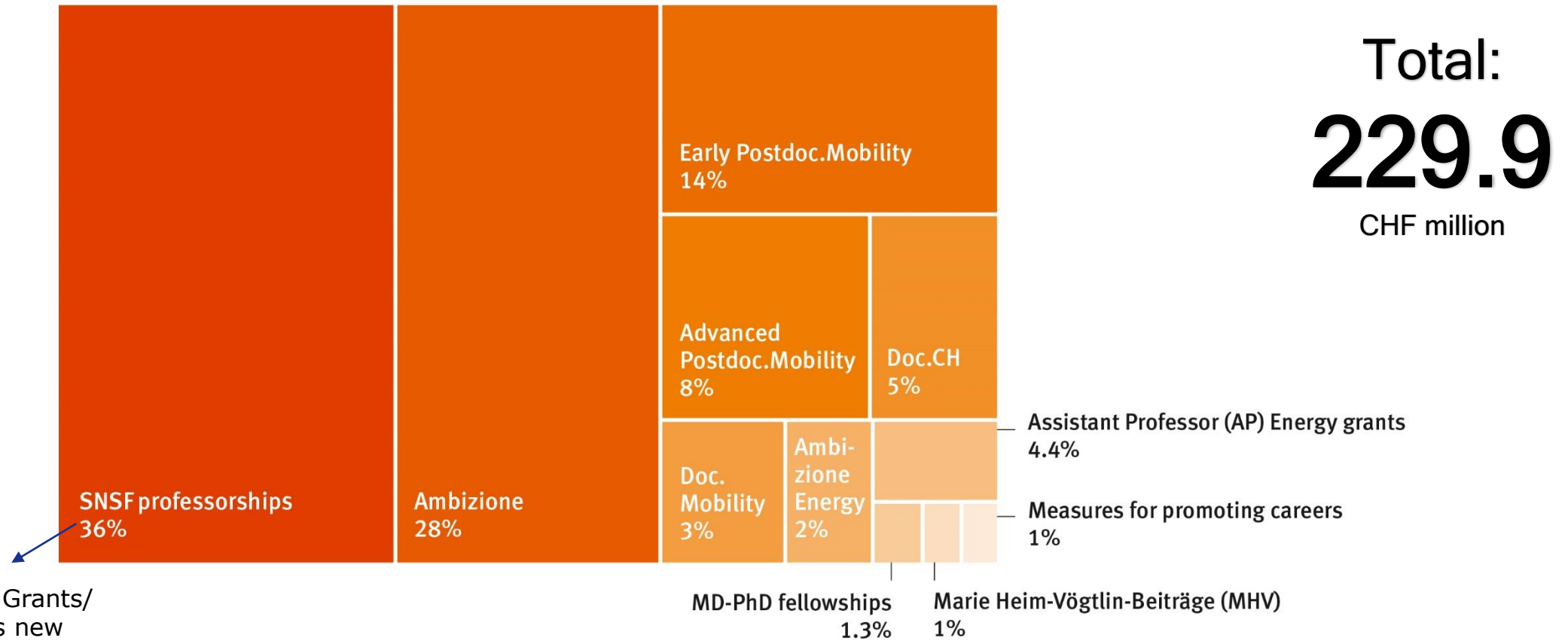




Funding schemes

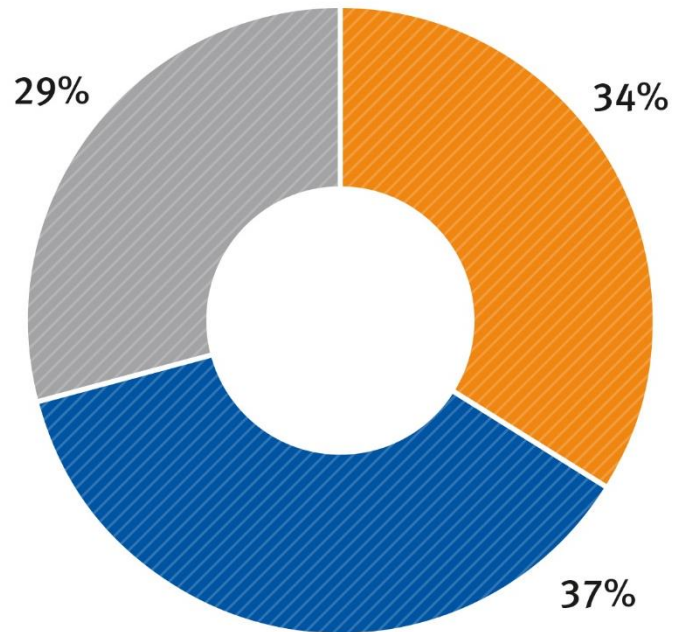
Career funding

Careers – Funding by scheme



Data 2017

Careers – Funding by research area



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

Total: CHF 222.9 million

Data 2017

Ambizione

Your first step towards scientific independence!

- Ambizione grant: own salary at local rates for senior non-professorial research staff, project funding, personnel, possibly doctoral student
- Duration: 4 years (no extension)
- Approx. 80 grants per year



Ambizione

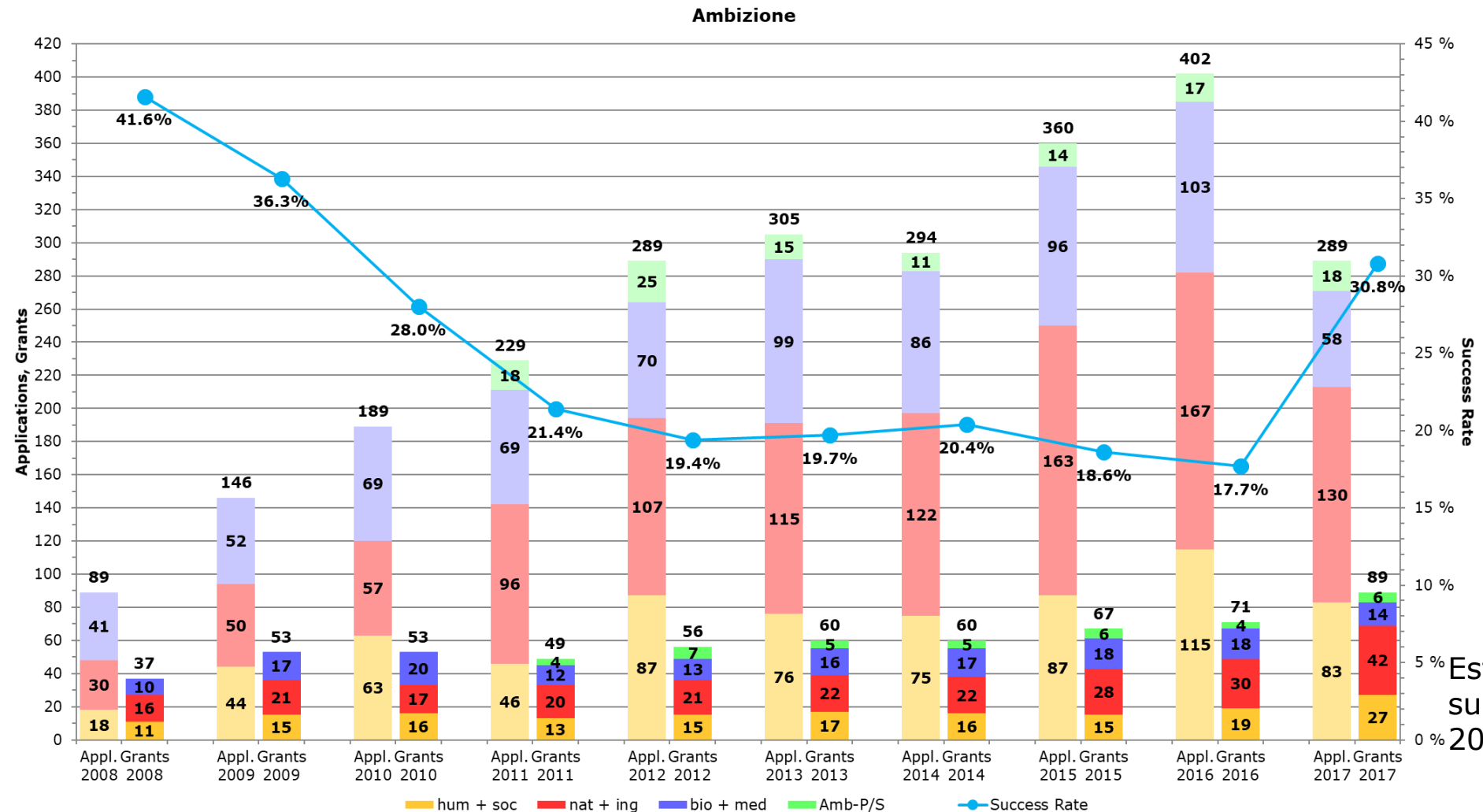
Requirements

- Up to 4 years' research experience after PhD
- Research stay of at least 12 months at a different institution from where the doctorate was obtained



ambizione@snf.ch

Ambizione (2008-2017)



Estimated
success rate in
2019: ca. 25%

PRIMA – Promoting Women in Science

For excellent female researchers aspiring to a professorship

- 10 – 12 grants per year
- Duration: up to 5 years
- PRIMA grant: grantee's salary at the local rates for senior non-professorial research staff and project funds (incl. personnel costs, max. CHF 750,000)



PRIMA

Requirements

- Doctorate (PhD or MD-PhD)
- 2 years of research experience after the doctorate or equivalent qualification
- Submission between 2-10 years after the doctorate or equivalent qualification

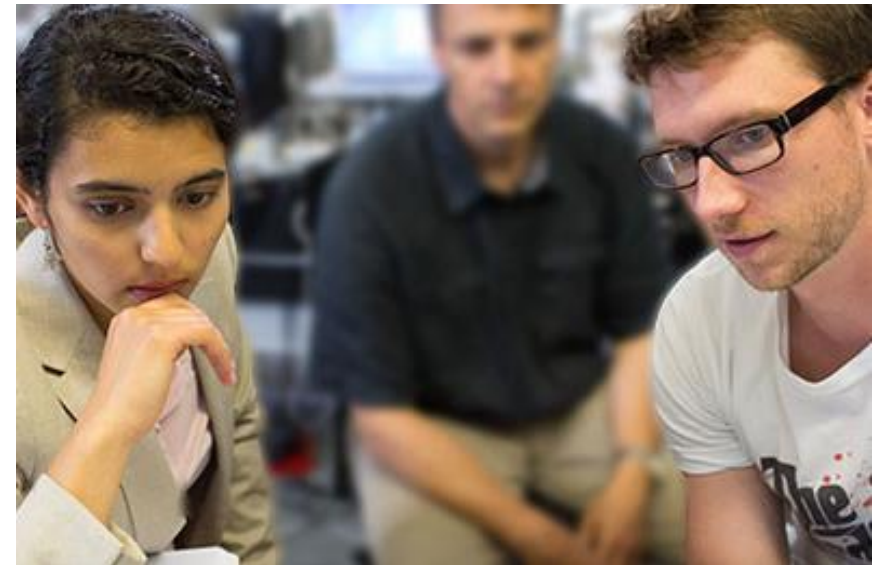


prima@snf.ch

SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships

Set up your own team to realise an independent research project at a higher education institution in Switzerland

- For highly qualified young researchers who aspire to a permanent professorship
- Salary of grantee (assistant professor level)
- Project funds of up to CHF 1,000,000
- Duration: 5 years (no extensions)



SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships

Requirements

- 3–8 years after PhD or equivalent qualification
- Postdoctoral research experience of at least 24 months at a different university from that of the dissertation; at least 12 months abroad
- Swiss university degree, Swiss nationality or at least 2 years of research activity in Switzerland



eccellenza@snf.ch

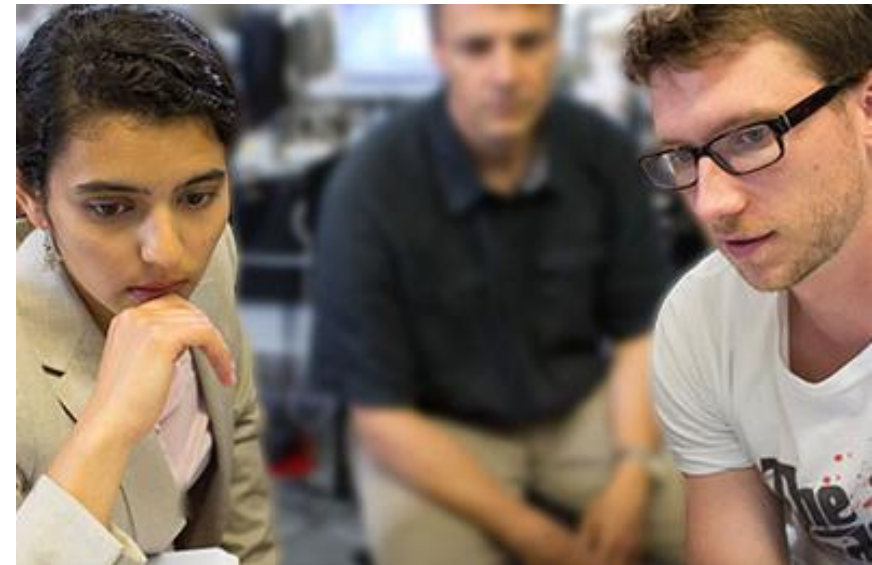
SNSF Eccellenza Grants

- For recently appointed tenure-track assistant professors in Switzerland
- Project funds of up to CHF 1,500,000
- Duration: 5 years (no extensions)

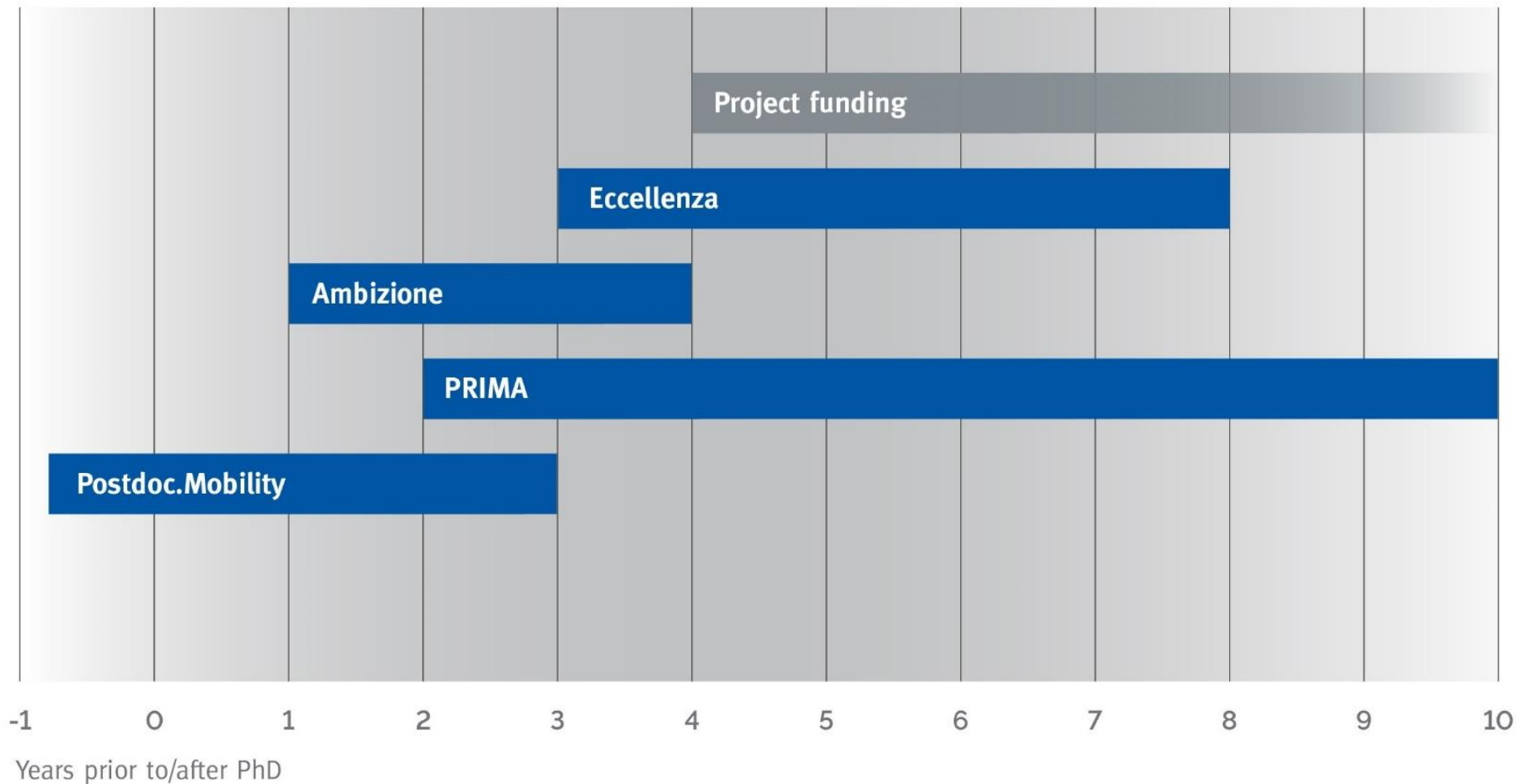
=> Approx. 45 awards per year (fellowships and grants together)

Requirements

- Tenure-track assistant professor in Switzerland
- Employment no earlier than 18 months before the submission deadline or commencing on the project start date at the latest



Overview of eligibility windows





The SNSF

Evaluation procedure

Stages in the evaluation procedure



Evaluation criteria

Proposed project

- Scientific relevance, topicality and originality
- Suitability of methods and feasibility

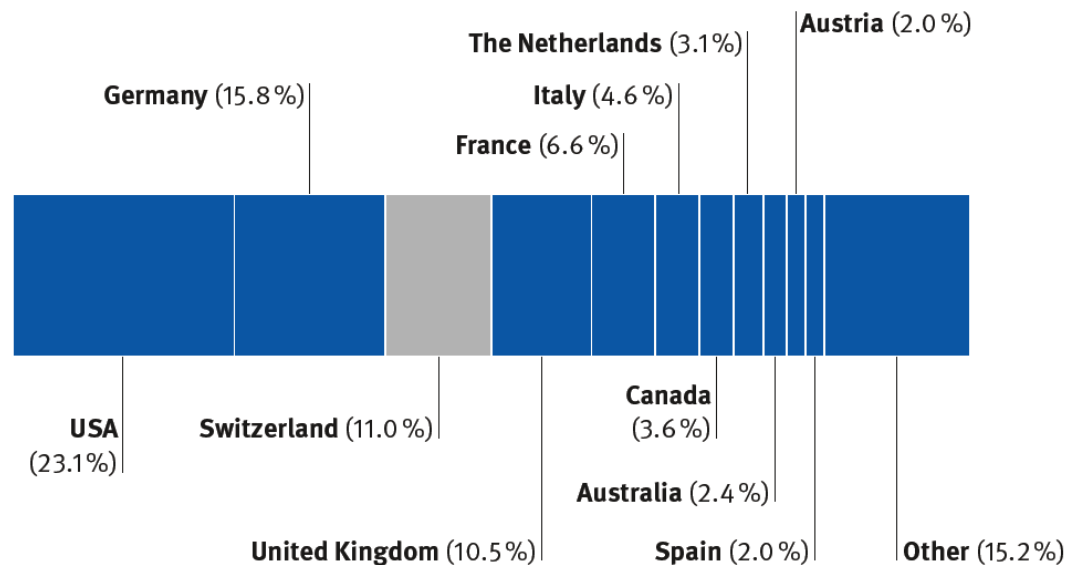
Applicants

- Scientific track record and performance in publication terms
- Professional expertise with regard to the project



Reviews by international experts

- Approx. 90% of applications are reviewed by experts abroad
- Foreign members in SNSF bodies



The benefits

- Pool of international experts
- Reduces risk of conflicts of interest
- Additional guarantee of maintaining international quality standards
- Input/feedback from experts abroad boosts Swiss research



Do you have any questions?



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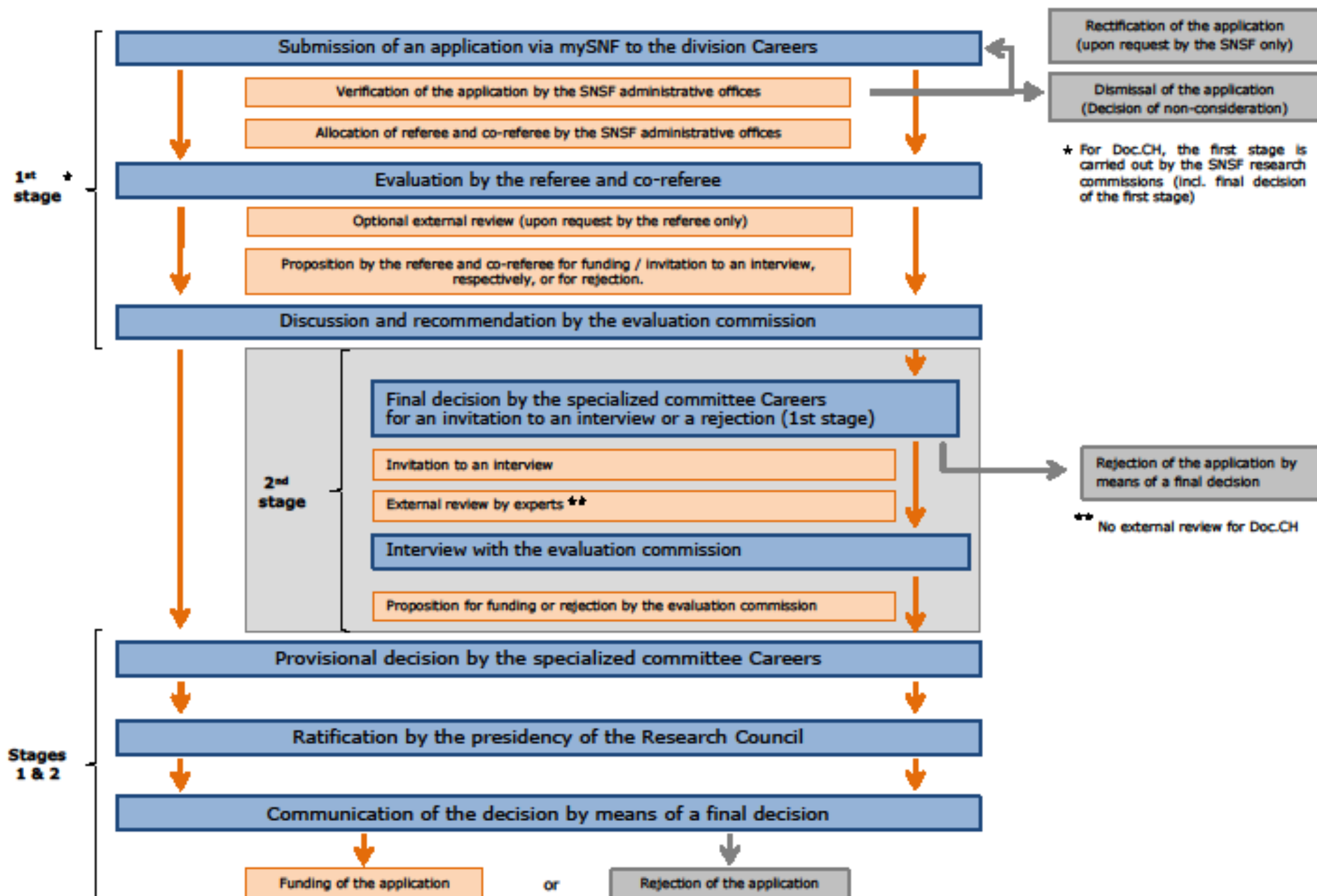
Youtube.com/SNSFinfo



Twitter.com/snsf_ch



Instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation



Early Postdoc.Mobility

- Fellowships to go abroad
- Duration: 18 months
- Designed for early-career postdocs
- The fellowships include a grant towards living costs, a flat-rate for travel expenses and a contribution to research, conference and matriculation costs if necessary
- Approximately 330 fellowships are granted / year
- This funding scheme will be discontinued in 2021



Early Postdoc.Mobility



Requirements

- Submission 9 months before and up to 2 years after the doctoral exam
- For medical researchers: submission up to 6 years after the state examination
- At least 3 years working at a research institution in Switzerland (for foreign persons)
- Submission deadlines: March 1st and September 1st

Postdoc.Mobility

Fellowships lasting 24 months for a stay abroad for postdocs who wish to pursue an academic career in Switzerland with a return option to Switzerland

- Fellowship abroad:
 - The fellowships include a grant for subsistence costs, a flat-rate for travel expenses and a possible contribution to research, conference costs and matriculation fees.
 - Duration: 24 months, 12 months Submission up to 3 years after the doctoral exam (PhD, MD-PhD)
- Return phase:
 - The return grant includes a salary, social security contributions and research funding
 - Duration: 3-12 months (no prolongations possible)
- Approximately 150 fellowships are granted / year (APM!) without return phases

Postdoc.Mobility



Requirements

- Doctorate (PhD, MD-PhD) or completed studies in human, dental, veterinary, social or preventive medicine.
- Submission up to 3 years after the doctoral exam (PhD, MD-PhD)
- Medical researchers without MD-PhD: submission up to 8 years after the state examination and at least 3 years of clinical activity after the state examination
- At least 2 years of research activity at a Swiss research institution (for foreign applicants)
- Submission deadlines: February 1st and August 1st

Doc.CH

- Dissertation lasting 2 to 4 years
- In the humanities and social sciences
- Topic of their own choice
- At a higher education institution in Switzerland
- Doctoral student's salary according to SNSF rates
- Approx. 45 grants per year





Requirements

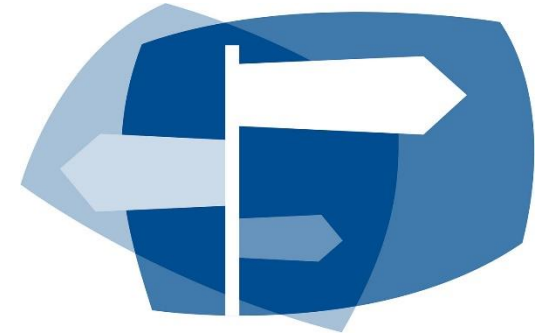
- Master's degree (or similar qualification) with excellent grades
- Master's degree from a higher education institution in Switzerland or similar foreign degree for applicants with Swiss nationality
- Submission to the Research Commission of the SNSF no more than 2 years after the master degree
- Generally at least one change of higher education institution between bachelor and start of PhD, or a planned stay abroad of at least 1 semester during doctoral studies

Doc.Mobility

- Fellowships to go abroad
- Duration: 6 to 18 months
- Designed for doctoral students
- Approximately 140 fellowships are granted / year
- This funding scheme will be discontinued in 2021



Doc.Mobility



Requirements

- Matriculation as a doctoral student for at least 12 months
- At least 1 year working at a research institution in Switzerland (for foreign persons)
- Submission deadlines: 1 March and 1 September