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

Swiss National Science Foundation

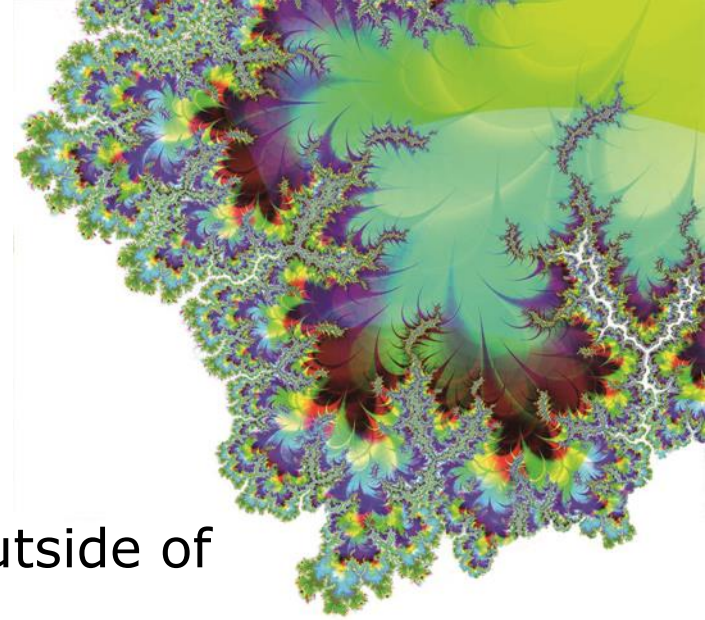
Sönke Bauck



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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3. Evaluation procedure



SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG



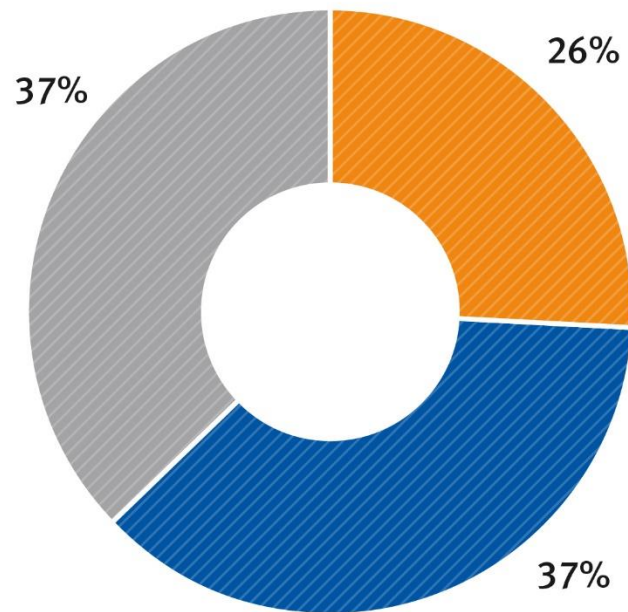
The SNSF

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



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

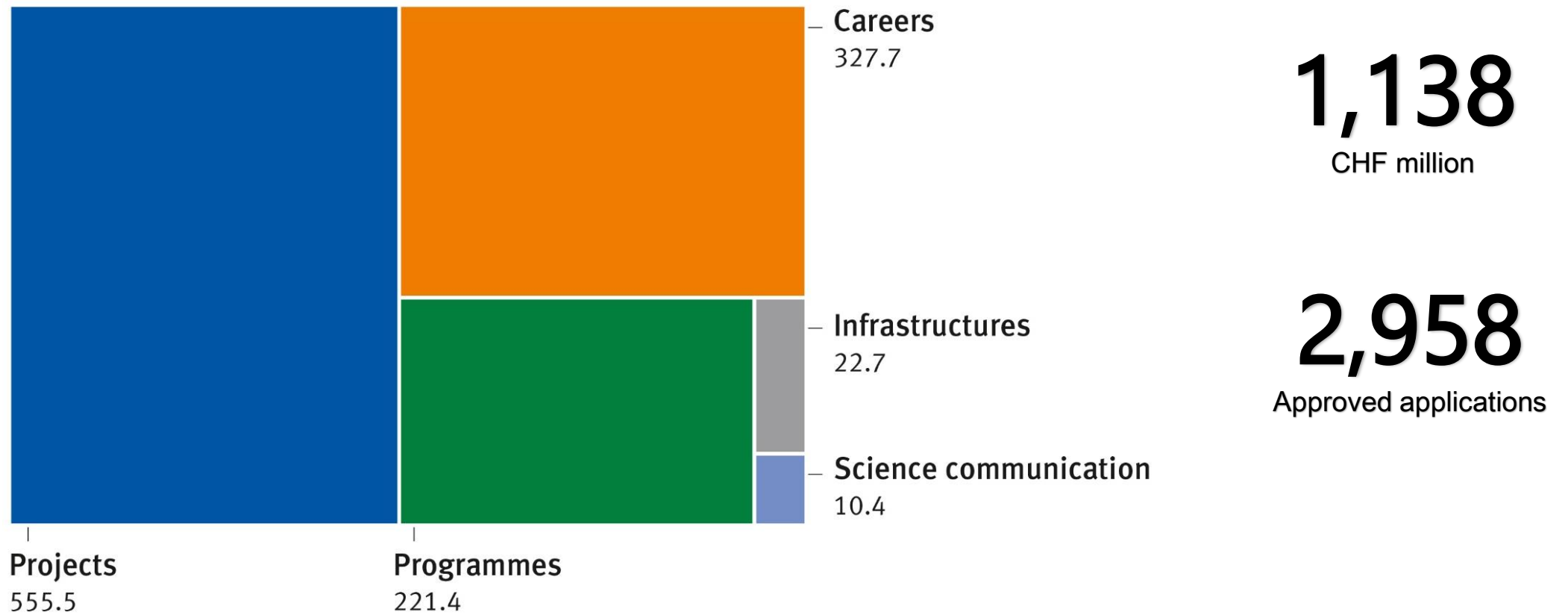
Funding by research area



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

Total: CHF 1,137.6 million

Overview: Funding category



Data 2018

Ongoing SNSF projects

6,500

Ongoing SNSF projects

16,300

Researchers in projects



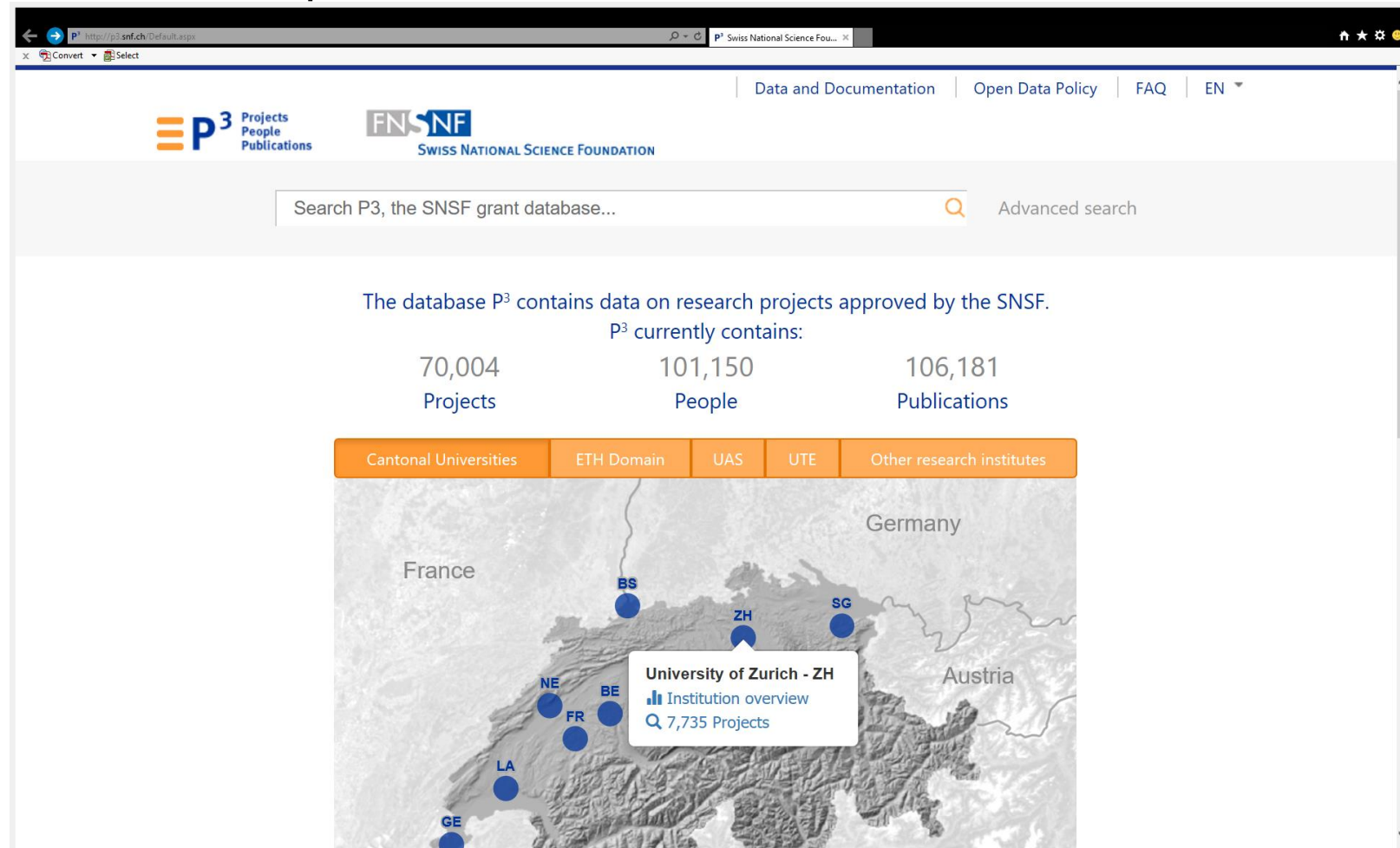
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Data 2018



Approved Projects

P³ grant database: p3.snf.ch

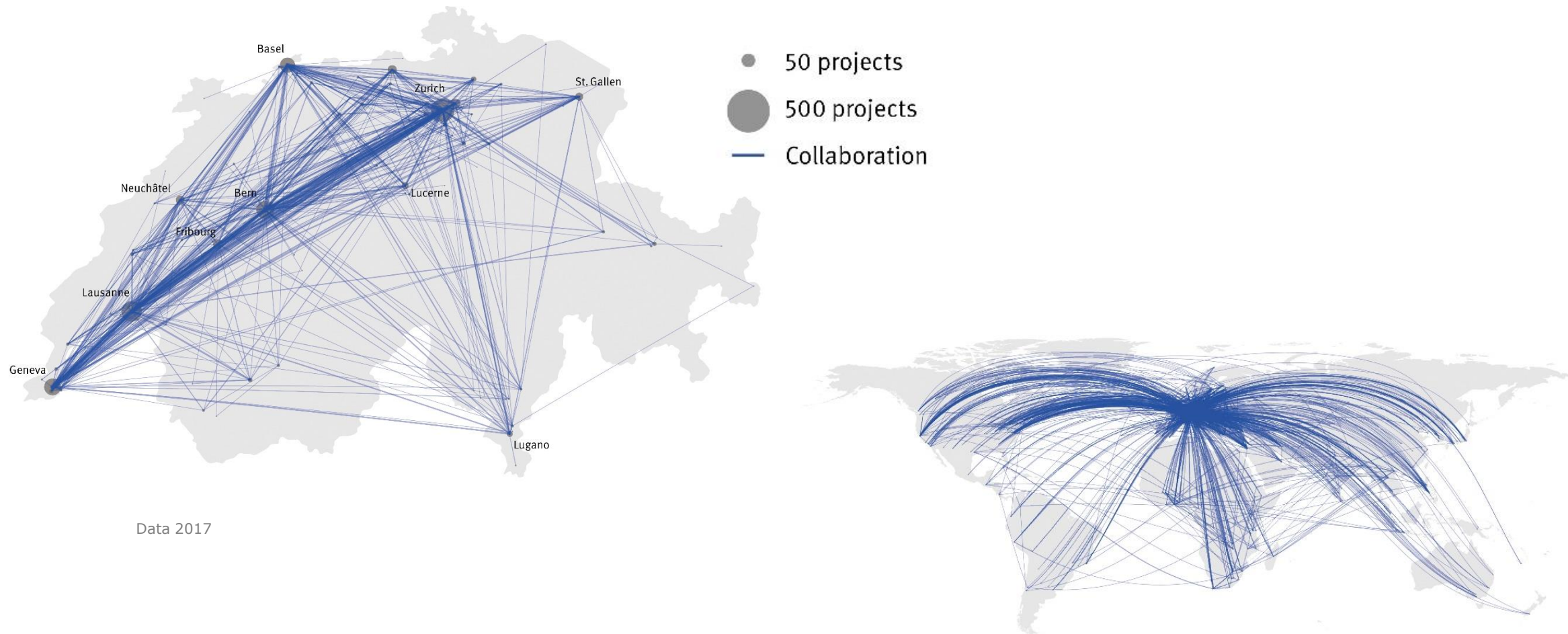


International higher education and research of Switzerland

- 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 schemes



Computed by Olivier H. Beauchesne and SCImago Lab, data by Elsevier Scopus

Funding schemes

International cooperation

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



SPARK



- The aim of Spark is to fund **highly original projects that show unconventional thinking or introduce a unique approach**. In particular, the rapid testing or development of new scientific approaches, methods, theories, standards or ideas for applications can be funded
- The most important evaluation criteria are the unconventionality and originality of the proposed project.
- Incremental research or continuations of already ongoing research projects are not fundable through Spark



General information

- Open to all disciplines
- Call deadline: 11th March 2020
- Opening of the call: 15th February 2020
- Budget: 50'000 - 100'000 CHF
- Duration: 6 - 12 months
- The applications are evaluated in a double-blind procedure
- Results will be communicated within 6 months after the submission
- Start of the approved projects between 1st September and 1st November 2020

Requirements

- PhD students are not eligible to submit a Spark application
- PhD or equivalent research experience
 - Defence date must be before the submission deadline
 - Equivalence to PhD: three years of research work as main source of income after obtaining higher education degree
- The applicants must
 - a. either be employed at a Swiss research institution providing the necessary infrastructure at least for the duration of the project, or
 - b. provide a support letter of a Swiss host institution, confirming that this institution will **employ** the applicant and provide the necessary infrastructure for the duration of the proposed project



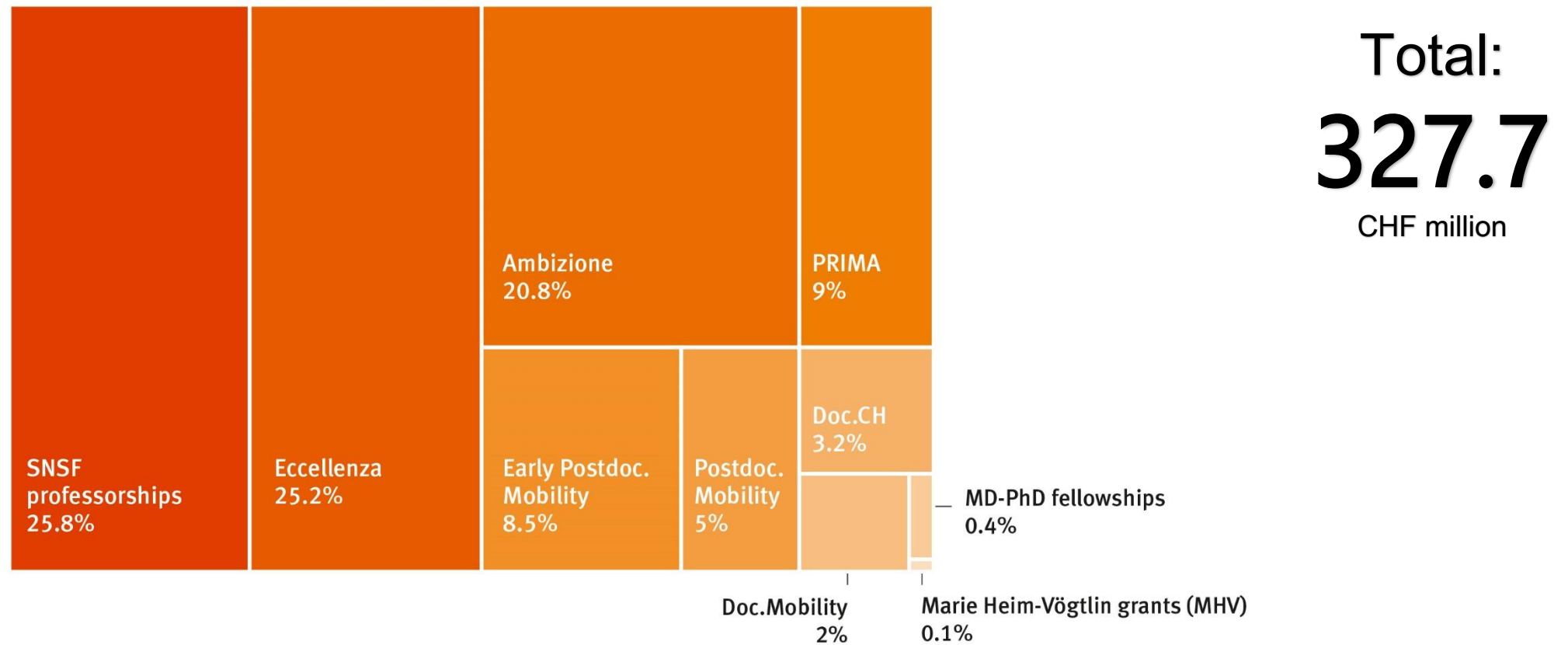
spark@snf.ch



Funding schemes

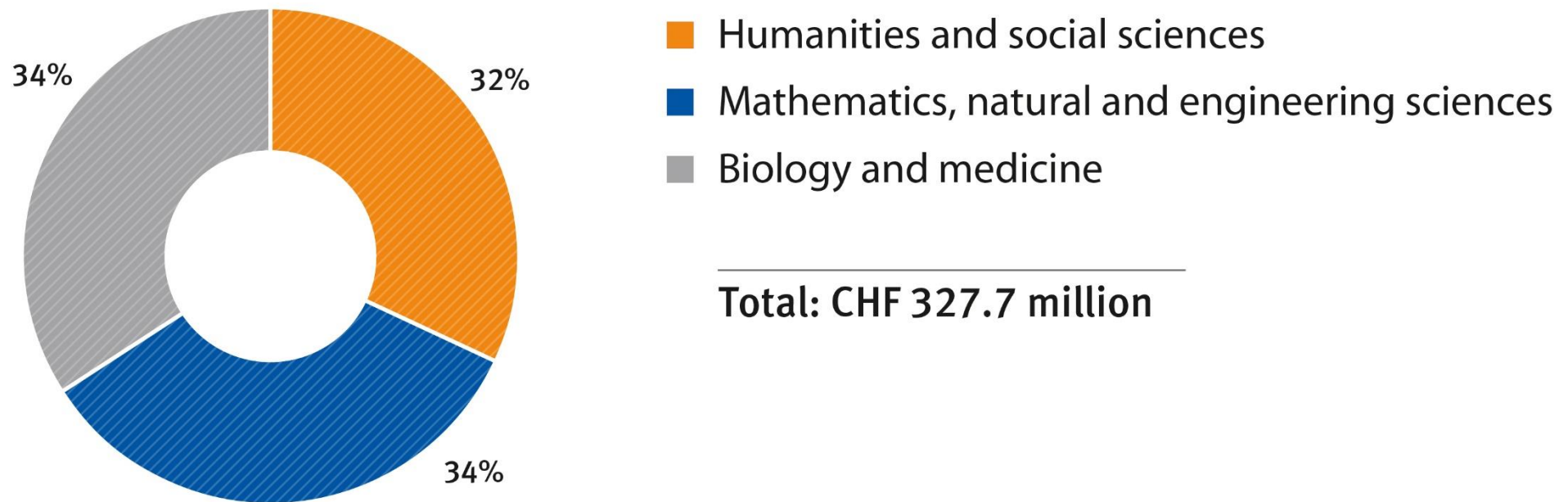
Career funding

Careers – Funding by scheme



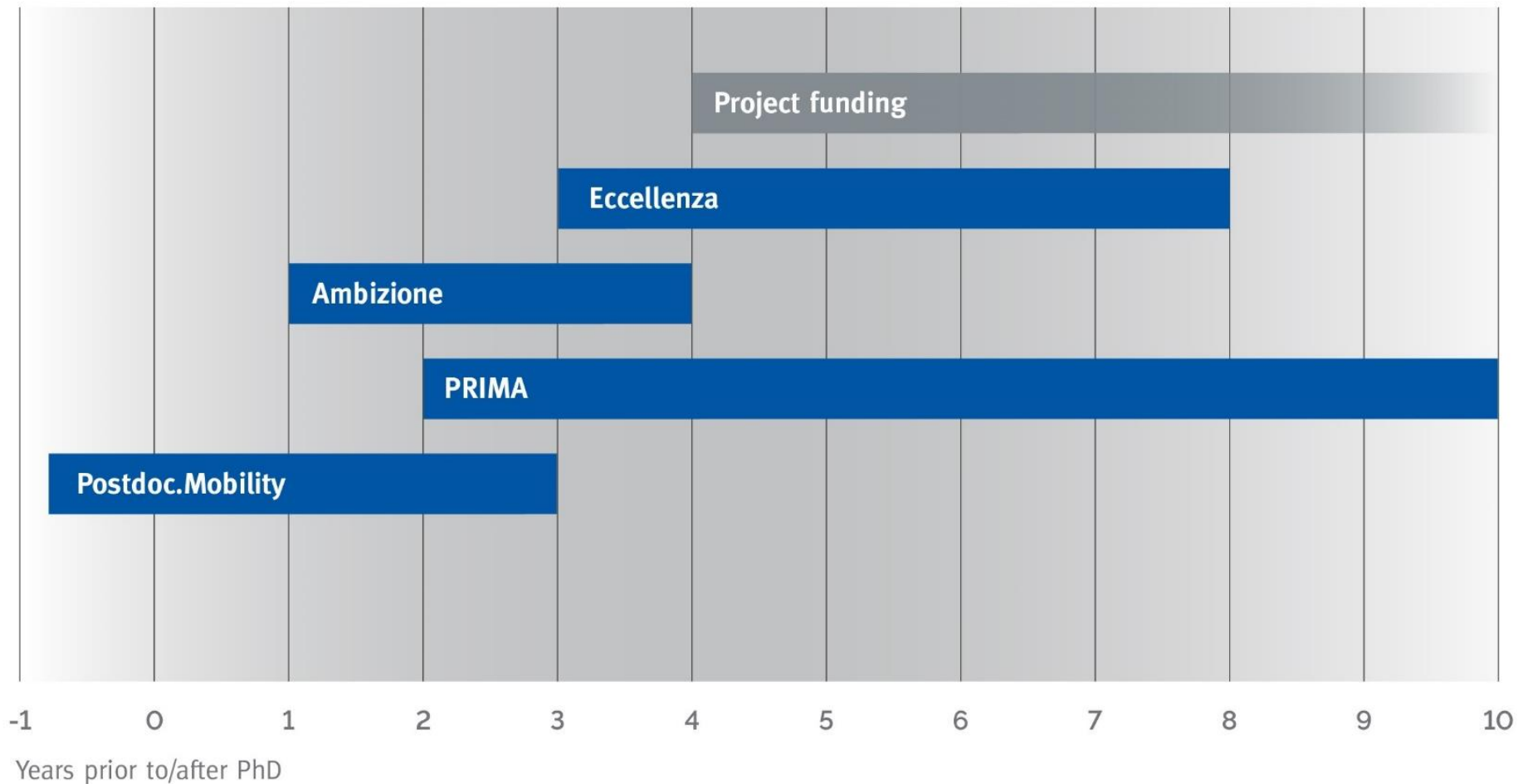
Data 2018

Careers – Funding by research area



Data 2018

Overview of eligibility windows



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
- Success rate 2019: 21.7%



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

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)
- Success rate 2018: 16%



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)
- Success rate 2019: 19.7%



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

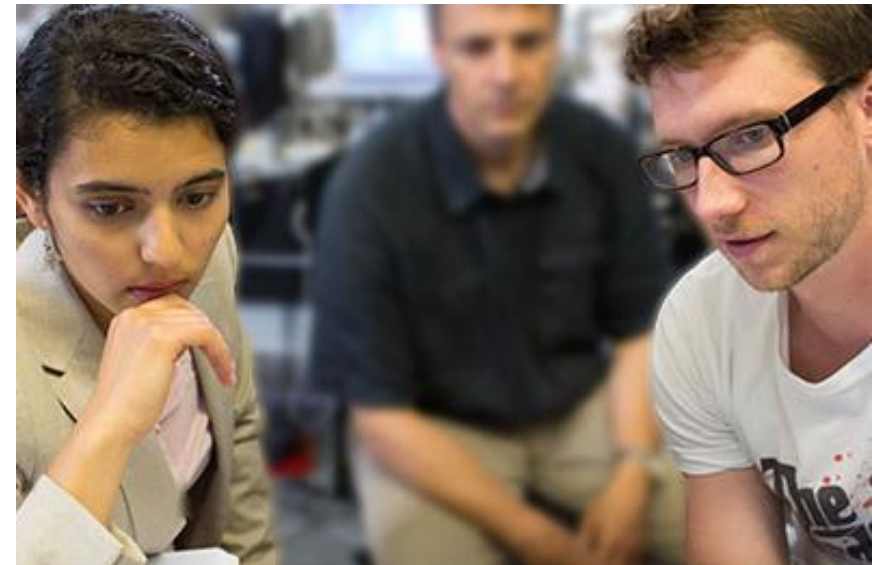
SNSF Eccellenza Grants

- 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





The SNSF

Evaluation procedure

Stages in the evaluation procedure



Evaluation criteria

Proposed project

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

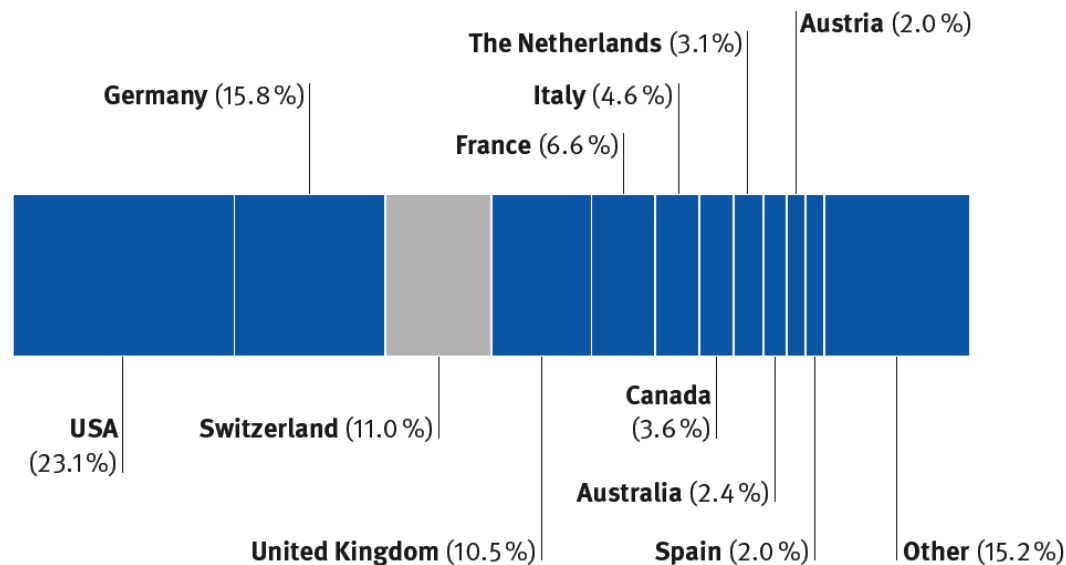
Applicants

- 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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