

# Swiss National Science Foundation



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



## Agenda

- Welcome
- Swiss research landscape
- Funding instruments for international cooperation
- Scientific Exchanges
- Swiss and Horizon 2020, a general overview



# Swiss research landscape

# Switzerland – Key facts (I)

## **A small country**

- Population: 8'419'550 people
- Area: 42,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Limited natural resources

## **An open country**

- Official languages: German, French, Italian, Rhaeto-Romance
- 24.6% of Swiss inhabitants of foreign origin
- 1 franc out of 2 in the GDP from exports



## Switzerland – Key facts (II)

### **International higher education and research**

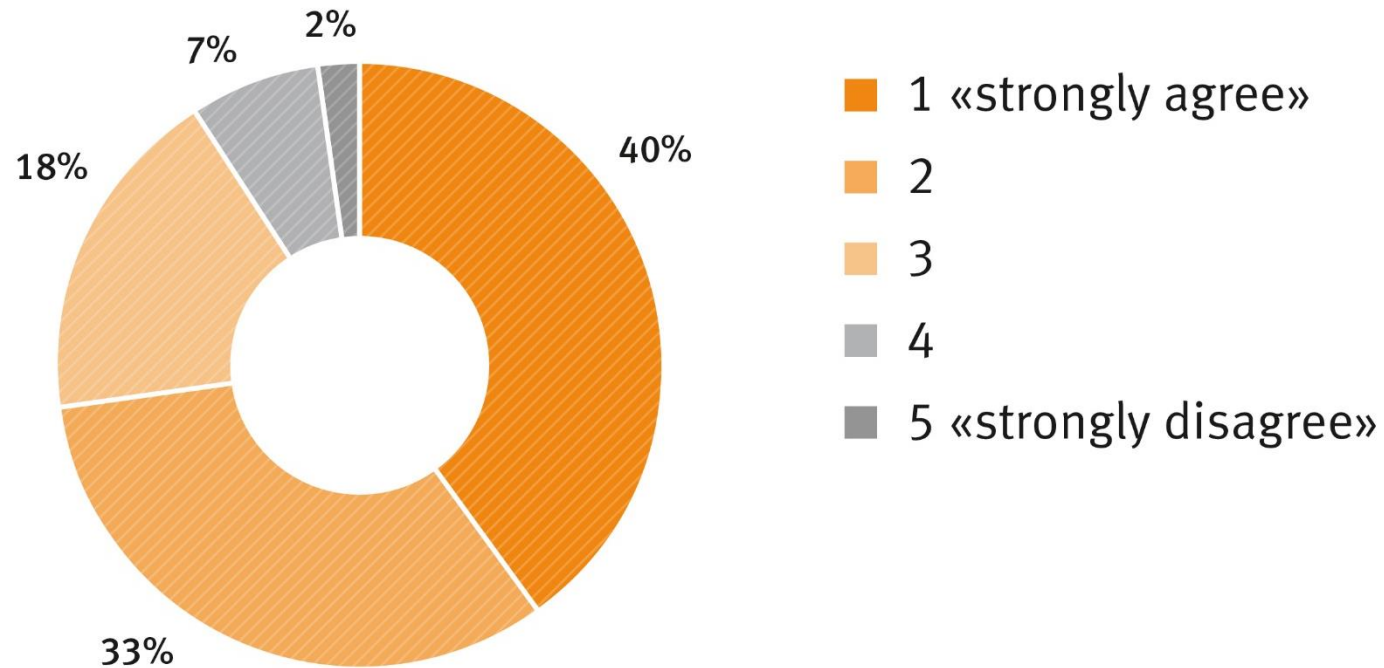
- 25% of students are from abroad
- 55% of PhD candidates are from abroad
- 39% of teaching staff at universities are from abroad





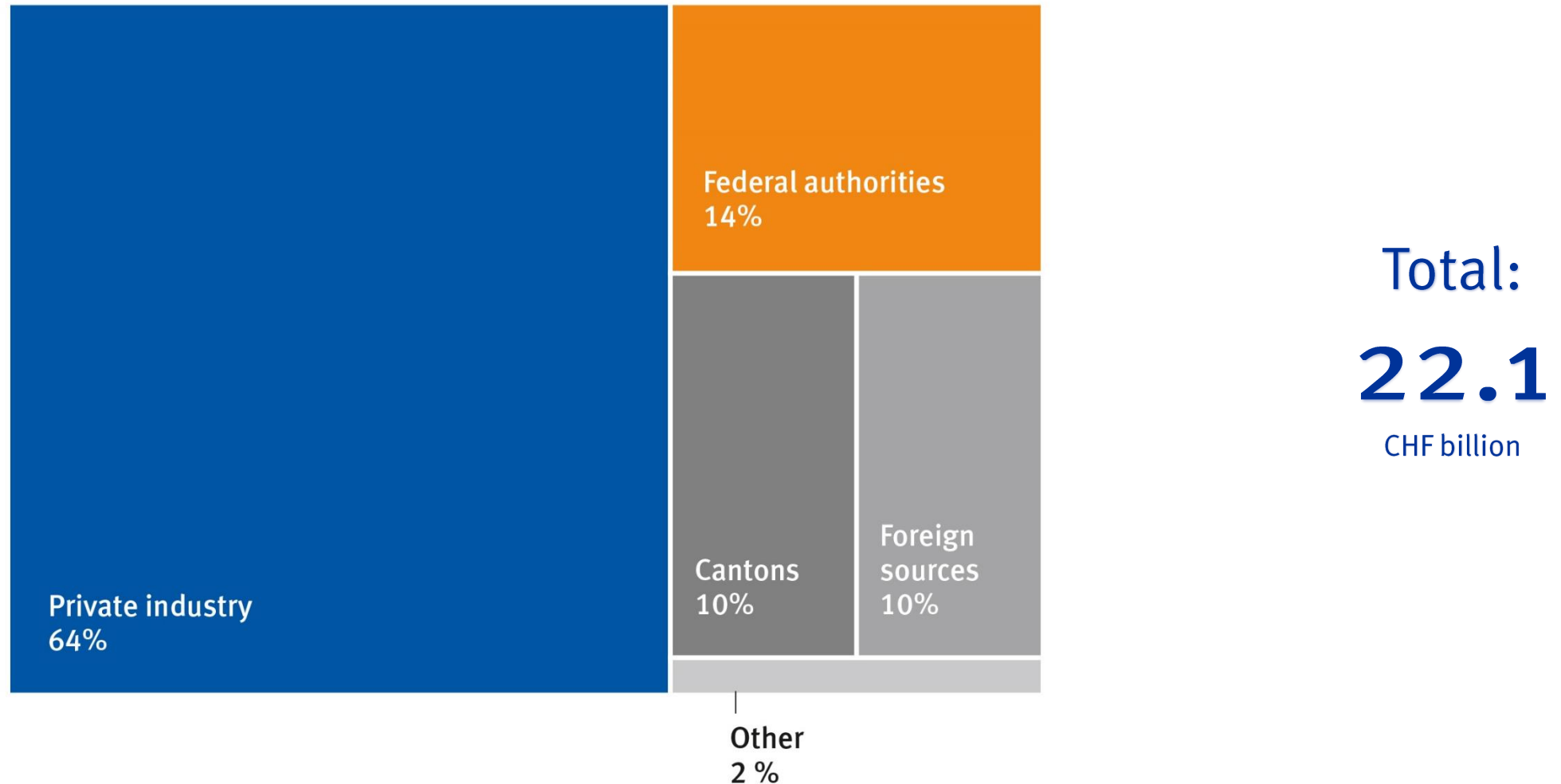
# Necessity of research

**Is scientific research necessary even if there are no immediate practical benefits?**  
Scientific research should be state-funded – this is what most of the people in Switzerland think.



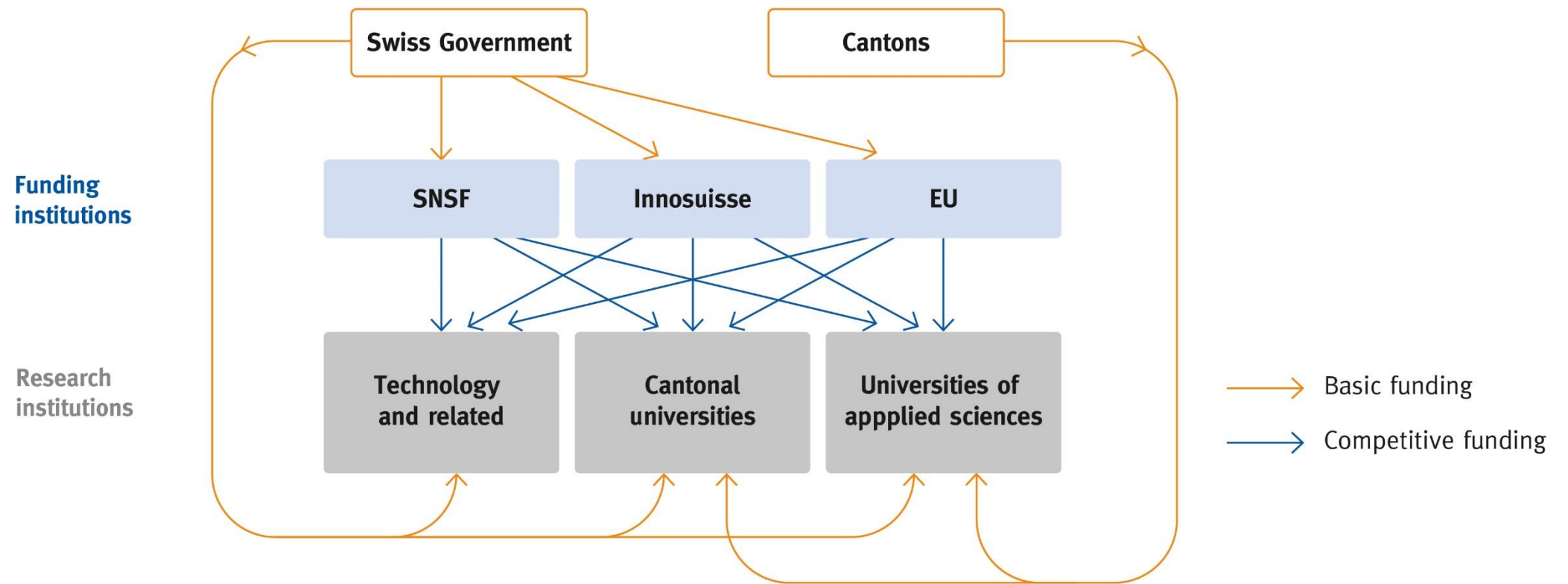
Based on interviews with 1,039 people; all data in percentages  
Source: WissensCHAftsbarometer, University of Zurich and IPMZ. Data: 2016

# R&D: sources of finance in Switzerland



Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Data 2015

# Main financial research flows in Switzerland







## International funding, activities

# International cooperation strategy

## Basic principles

Scientific excellence

Free choice of topics, interdisciplinary collaboration and scientific autonomy

High ethical standards

Simpler structures and multilateral approaches

Freely accessible data



# Policy activities

## European / International integration of the SNSF

Involvement of the SNSF in European and international science policy organisations and discussion fora (such as Science Europe or the Global Research Council)

### Aims

To contribute meaningfully and constructively to European and global policy debates and actions

To communicate and argue positions (e.g. European Framework Programmes) in the interest of the Swiss research community

To strengthen our network of contacts with sister organisations and other agencies

To get inputs/feedback from the international research environment



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

[illegible]

24.01.2019

**Abstract**

(PhD students)

## Mobility fellowships

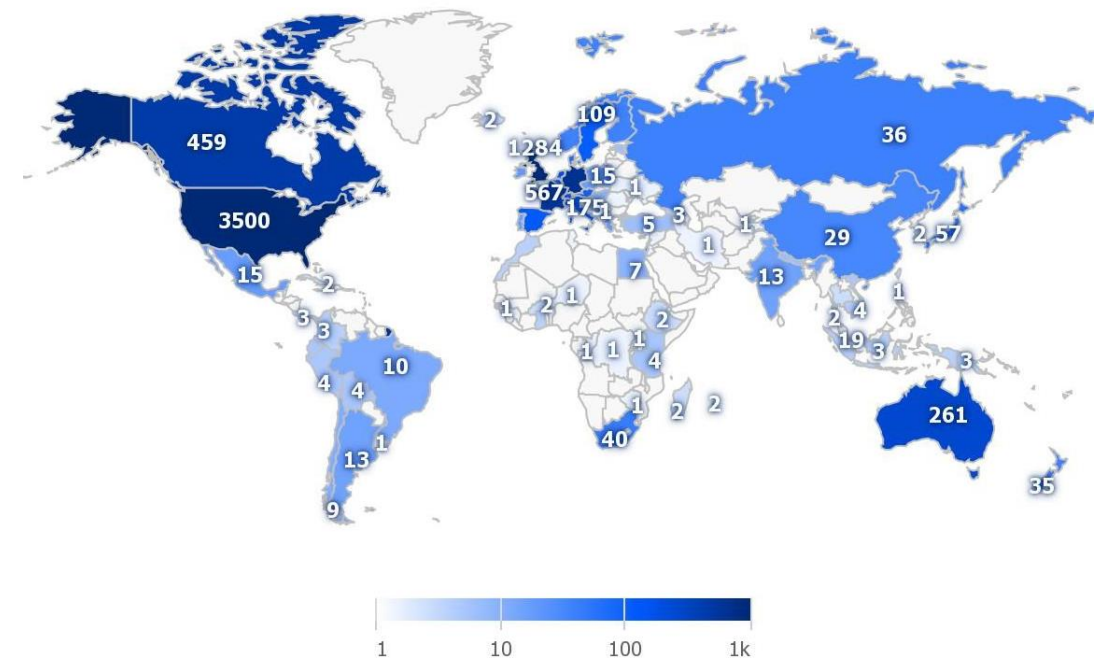
## Doc.Mobility, Postdoc.Mobility

## Scientific Exchanges

## Short and mid-term individual mobility grants

## Money follows researcher

## Continuation of SNSF project abroad



Data: Fellowships by Host Country (2005-2017). [p3.snf.ch](https://p3.snf.ch)



# Collaboration with international co-investigators

## **International Co-Investigator scheme**

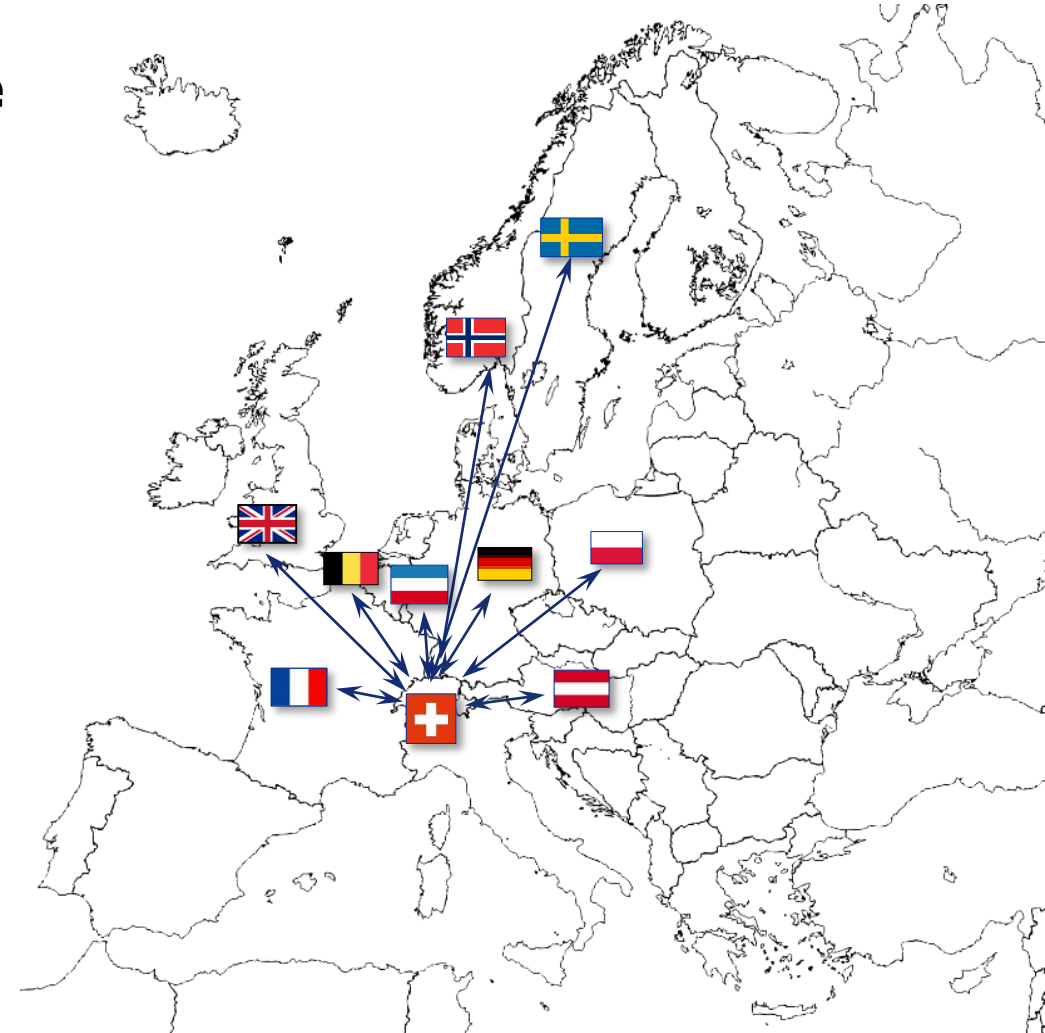
Reciprocal cross-border funding with:

→ Austria, Germany, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom (in Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities only)

## **Lead Agency Agreements and other bilateral schemes**

Mutual recognition of funding decisions with:

→ Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland (2019), Slovenia (tbc) and Multilateral Lead Agency (MLA, tbc, 2020)





# Sinergia

## Aim

Promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects that propose breakthrough research

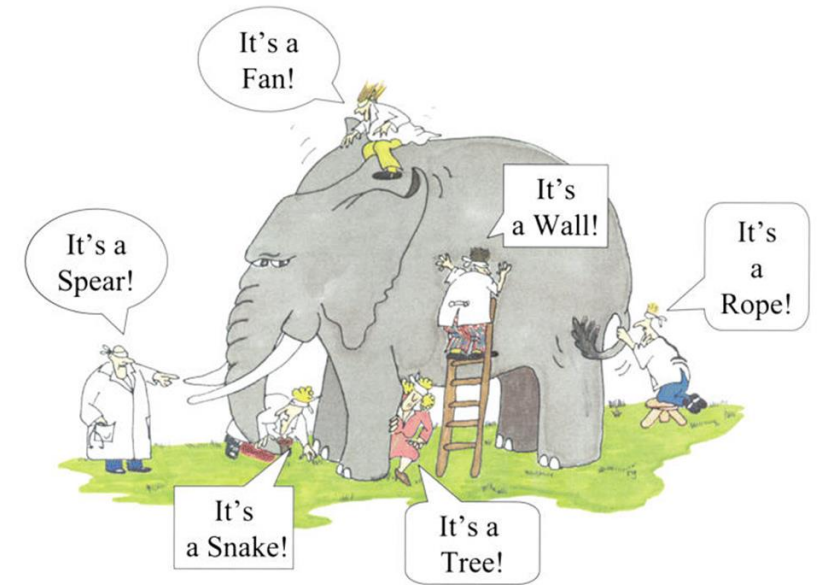
## Requirements

Research across disciplinary boundaries and beyond existing models, theories or methods

Goals can only be reached through the integration of elements from two or more disciplines

Joint research approach of applicants with complementary expertise and knowledge

Similar importance of all disciplines and applicants involved





# Sinergia

## **Grant conditions**

2 to 4 applicants and their groups collaborate closely in a network

When 3 or 4 applicants, 1 can be based abroad, if expertise is not available in CH

Eligibility and eligible costs as in project funding

Only one Sinergia grant per person and period for all applicants

Only one Sinergia application per applicant and deadline

## **Duration**

1 to 4 years

## **Submission deadlines**

1 June and 1 December

# Scientific Exchanges

- Enables researchers in Switzerland to organise scientific conferences and workshops, 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





Swiss Participation in European Framework  
programmes, link with the ERC

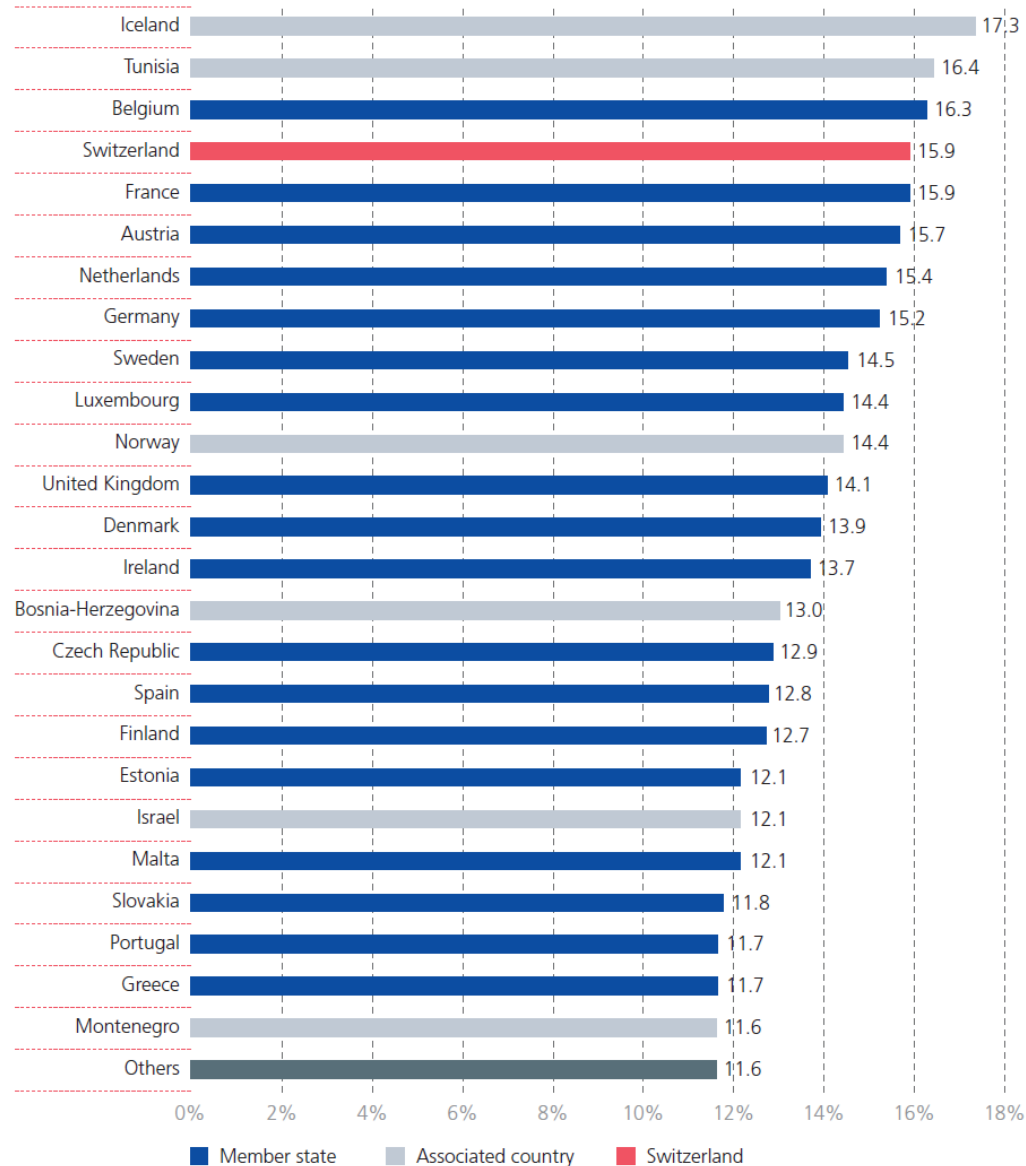


## Switzerland's involvement in European Framework programmes

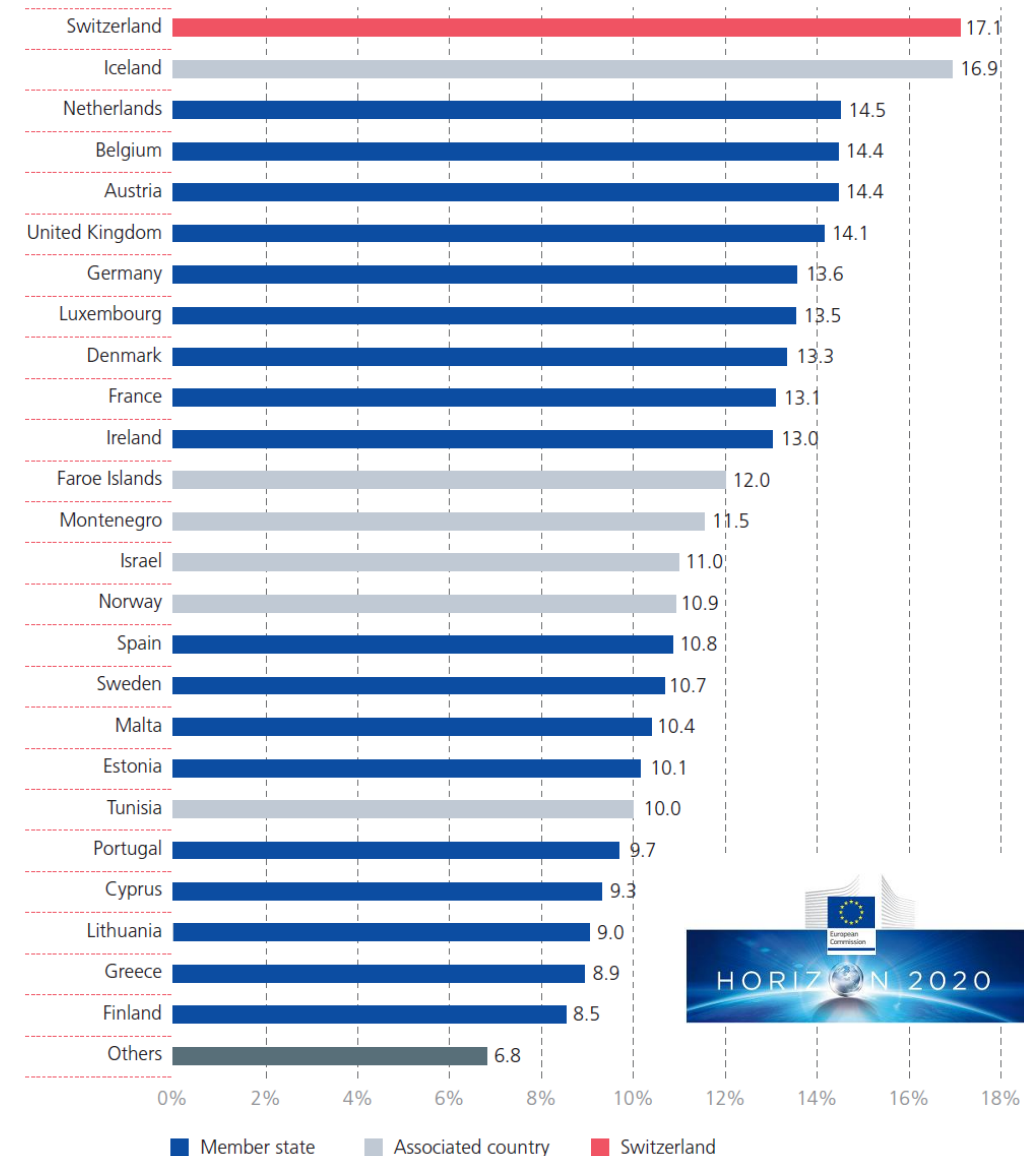
- The Swiss Government has a keen interest to keep the status as an associated country
- After the SNSF, European funding is the second most important source for public funding for research in Switzerland
- Compete with the best researchers and collaborate in joint projects with the best players in research and industry.
- Current situation not clear – regarding Switzerland's status in FP9

# Success rates

Project proposal success rate in % under Horizon 2020 by country



Success rate for project proposals as coordinator





## SwissCore – Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education

Funded by **SNSF** (part of the SNSF InterCo team), **SERI and Innosuisse** – close contacts with Euresearch/ch Foundation

Mission: **bridge** CH-EU (policy + programmes – Horizon 2020/E+)

Services: information, **advice** (e.g. InterCo on scenarios cf. non association), **events** (e.g. EP event knowledge divide, Annual Event Open Science Cloud), workshops, **visits** (e.g. FAIZ delegation), trainings, **representation SNSF** (e.g. Science Europe WG Horizon 2020)

Important dossiers 2016/2017: **association**; interim evaluations and **next programmes** (e.g. FET-Flagships); open science; research infrastructures (e.g. InRoad)



# SNSF Position on the 9<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme (30.06.2017)

## Key Messages

- Maintain **excellence** as the backbone of next Framework Programme
- Pursue **continuity**, reinforce the ERC and create stronger links between research and innovation
- **Invest** in Europe's future
- Ensure a 9<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme with clear **European added value**
- **Widen participation** by spreading seeds of excellence (e.g. PROMYS)
- Overcome **global challenges** through international cooperation and openness
- Tackle **contemporary challenges**



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

30 June 2017

### SNSF position on the 9<sup>th</sup> European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

#### Key Messages

The Swiss National Science Foundation highlights its key messages from its perspective as a research funder for the next European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) as follows:

- Maintain excellence as the backbone of next Framework Programme
- Pursue continuity, reinforce the ERC and create stronger links between research and innovation
- Invest in Europe's future
- Ensure a 9<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme with clear European added value
- Widen participation by spreading seeds of excellence
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- Tackle contemporary challenges

#### Introduction

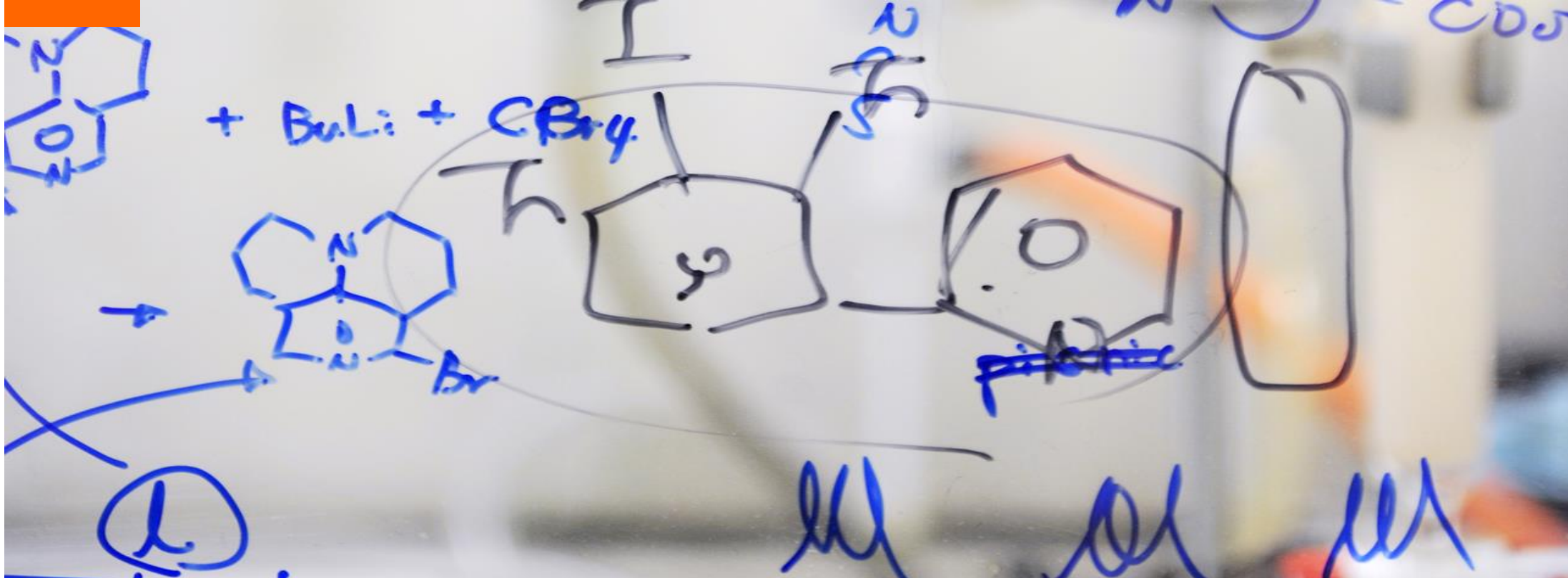
The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the main Swiss funding agency for fundamental research, with an annual budget of nearly € 860 mio. It supports researchers and research projects in all disciplines, from philosophy and biology to nanoscience and medicine.

The SNSF aims at providing the best possible service for researchers working in Switzerland and thus, as a committed member of the European Research Area (ERA), takes the initiative to propose a vision for the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9). The SNSF would like to emphasize especially the need for complementarity and coherence between national and European funding instruments and programmes, and for schemes with a clear European added value.

For the SNSF the Horizon 2020 specific objective of "strengthening scientific excellence in Europe" is the most important, and we believe that FP9 should continue to focus on this aim. The Framework Programmes are an important part of the ERA, which is an open-ended process and we have to constantly work on improving it. The SNSF particularly and highly welcomes the association of Switzerland to Horizon 2020. The SNSF contributes to the development of the ERA through its engagement in Science Europe, its active participation in the EC's consultations and its numerous mechanisms and instruments for transnational cooperation and mobility. Moreover, the SNSF highly welcomes the European Commission's (EC) efforts to ensure gender equality in all kinds of research and innovation aspects and encourages these actions to continue.

Drawing from our observations of Horizon 2020 and other previous Framework Programmes, we would like to outline some key points that the SNSF considers crucial for the next Framework Programme. We would like to point out as well that the SNSF has contributed to and fully endorses the Science Europe position statement on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, *The Framework Programme that Europe Needs*<sup>1</sup>. This paper goes further than the above mentioned statements.

<sup>1</sup> Science Europe, 2016. *The Framework Programme that Europe needs*. (Ref. Nr. 0/2016/13.324/10). [pdf] Brussels: Author. Available at: [http://www.scienceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SE\\_Framework-Statement\\_v0200.pdf](http://www.scienceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SE_Framework-Statement_v0200.pdf) (Accessed 26 June 2017).



Thank you very much for your attention

- any questions?