Portrait
Swiss National Science Foundation

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Swiss research landscape
Switzerland - Key facts (I)

A small country
- Population: 8,139,631 persons
- Area: 42,000 km²
- Few natural resources

An open country
- Official languages: German, French, Italian, Rhaeto-Romance
- 23.8 % of Swiss inhabitants of foreign origin
- 1 franc out of 2 in the GDP from exports
Switzerland - Key facts (II)

International higher education & research

• 30% of students are from abroad

• 50% of PhD candidates are from abroad

• 51% of professors are from abroad
R&D: sources of finance in Switzerland

Total: CHF 18.5 billion

Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office, data: 2012
R&D: federal funding

- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF): 24%
- Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI): 6%
- European Union/Abroad: 41%
- Indirect financing at universities: 4%
- Intramuros (R&D by the Confederation): 20%
- Other direct financing: 4%

Total: CHF 3.6 billion

Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office, data: 2012
R&D: international comparison

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of the GDP

Source: OECD, MSTI database. Data: 2012, last updated in February 2015

Knowledge is the key to the future.
Impact of scientific publications

Relative citation index

- United States
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- Belgium
- Canada
- Germany
- Sweden
- Finland
- France
- Australia
- Austria
- Norway
- New Zealand

Source: Thomson Reuters (SCI/SSCI/A&HCI), adaptation SERI, 2013
Patents

Number per million inhabitants

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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The institution
The SNSF

- promotes scientific basic research on behalf of the Confederation
- invests in young scientists
- enables research stays abroad
- promotes international co-operation
- promotes gender equality
Foremost Swiss funding agency

Each year the SNSF invests over CHF 800 million in over 3,400 projects involving 14,000 researchers
Strategic goals

To consolidate Switzerland’s pole position in research

• To guarantee and improve the attractiveness of Switzerland for researchers
• To offer research funding in line with actual needs in the different research categories
• To facilitate international co-operation and support competitiveness
• To embed research in society

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Knowledge is the key to the future.
Funding (general) by research area 2014

Total: CHF 848.5 million
Funding (general) by scheme 2014

Total: CHF 848.5 million
International co-operation
Aims and philosophy

- Improvement of framework conditions for international co-operation
- Concentration on the added-value of international co-operation – remains close to the needs of scientists
- Concentration on scientific excellence
- Simplification of structural measures
- Collaboration with other funding agencies
- Complementarity with other Swiss and international actors
Funding schemes
Overview

Source: Guidelines for selecting SNSF funding schemes, August 2011
Researchers at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education without a doctorate need to show that they have the necessary research experience.

Knowledge is the key to the future.
Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER(SCORE)

Research in Switzerland: returning or incoming

Own salary, project funding, personnel, possibly doctoral candidate

Duration: 3 years
(generally no extension)
Sinergia

Small inter-institutional networks (Collaborative projects involving 3-4 research groups)

Interdisciplinary and innovative projects

Competitive scheme for experienced researchers
r4D

Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme)

- 5 thematic research programmes (research partnerships with at least 2 developing countries)
- 1 thematically open programme with 3 calls
International Short Visits

Allows researchers working in Switzerland to go abroad or researchers from elsewhere to come to Switzerland

Exchange of knowledge that is beneficial to both co-applicants and their institutions

Duration 1 week to 3 months
International Exploratory Workshops

Allow researchers working in Switzerland to organise workshops with participants from abroad

Should bring together scientists with different backgrounds

Duration 2-5 days
Do you have any questions?

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«If we knew what we were looking for, it wouldn’t be called research.»

Albert Einstein