



## Information event on innovations in research funding

**FNSNF**

SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG

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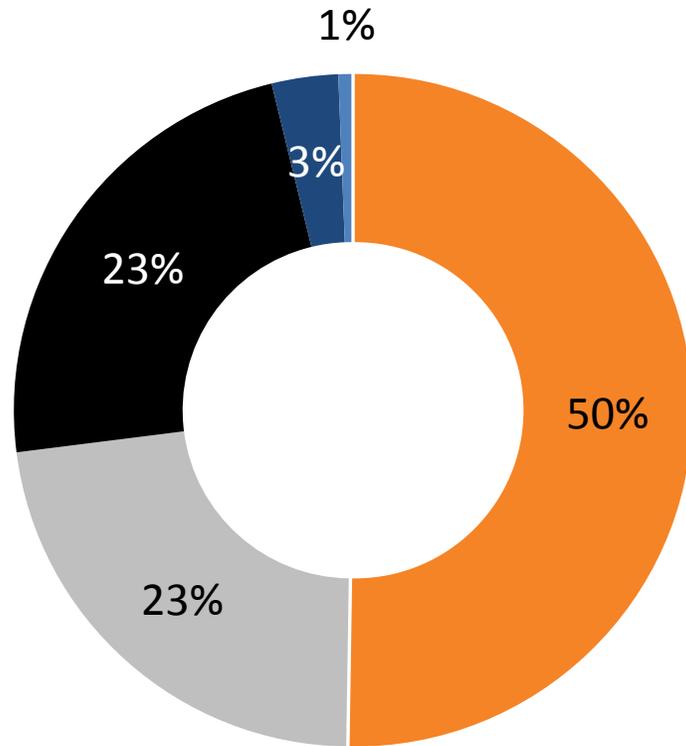
Questions



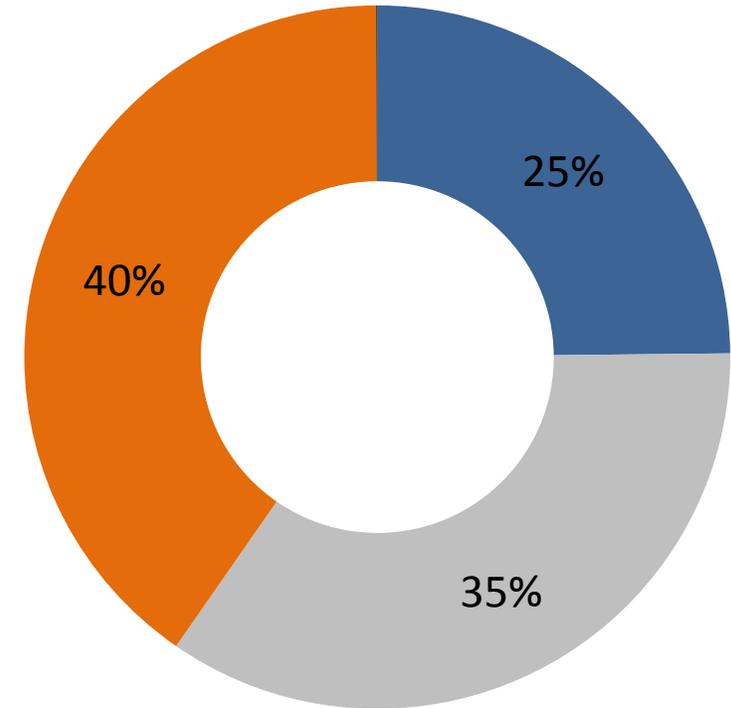
## The SNSF funding schemes

- **Overview**
- Project funding
- Career funding
- National Research Programmes
- International programmes
- Science communication

# SNSF budget of 2015: CHF 878.6 million



- Projects
- Careers
- Programmes
- Infrastructures
- Science communication



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

Prov. Numbers

# Project funding



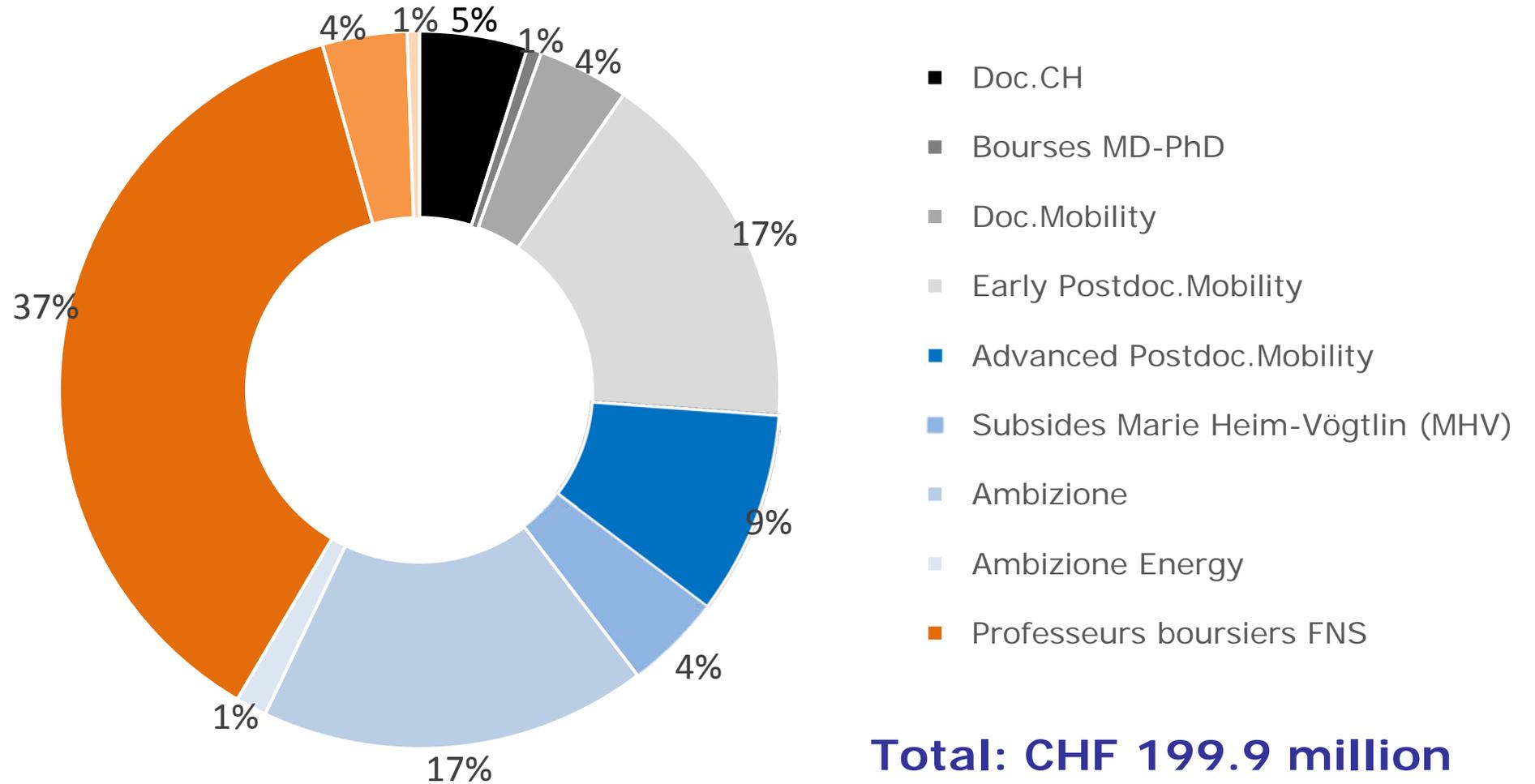
## Core “business” of the SNSF

Funding for projects of **high quality** in all scientific disciplines

**Topics can be chosen freely** by scientists

- Covers **direct research costs**  
(staff salaries, materials, travel costs, etc.)
- Does **not** cover the applicants' salaries

# Career funding by scheme 2015



Prov. Numbers

# National Research Programmes

- NRPs generate scientific knowledge aimed at **solving Switzerland's most pressing problems**
- **Topics are chosen** by the **Federal Council**
- **Problem-oriented** and **interdisciplinary**
- New NRPs started every 2-3 years
- Duration: 3-5 years
- CHF 5-20 million for each
- 11 NRPs currently running

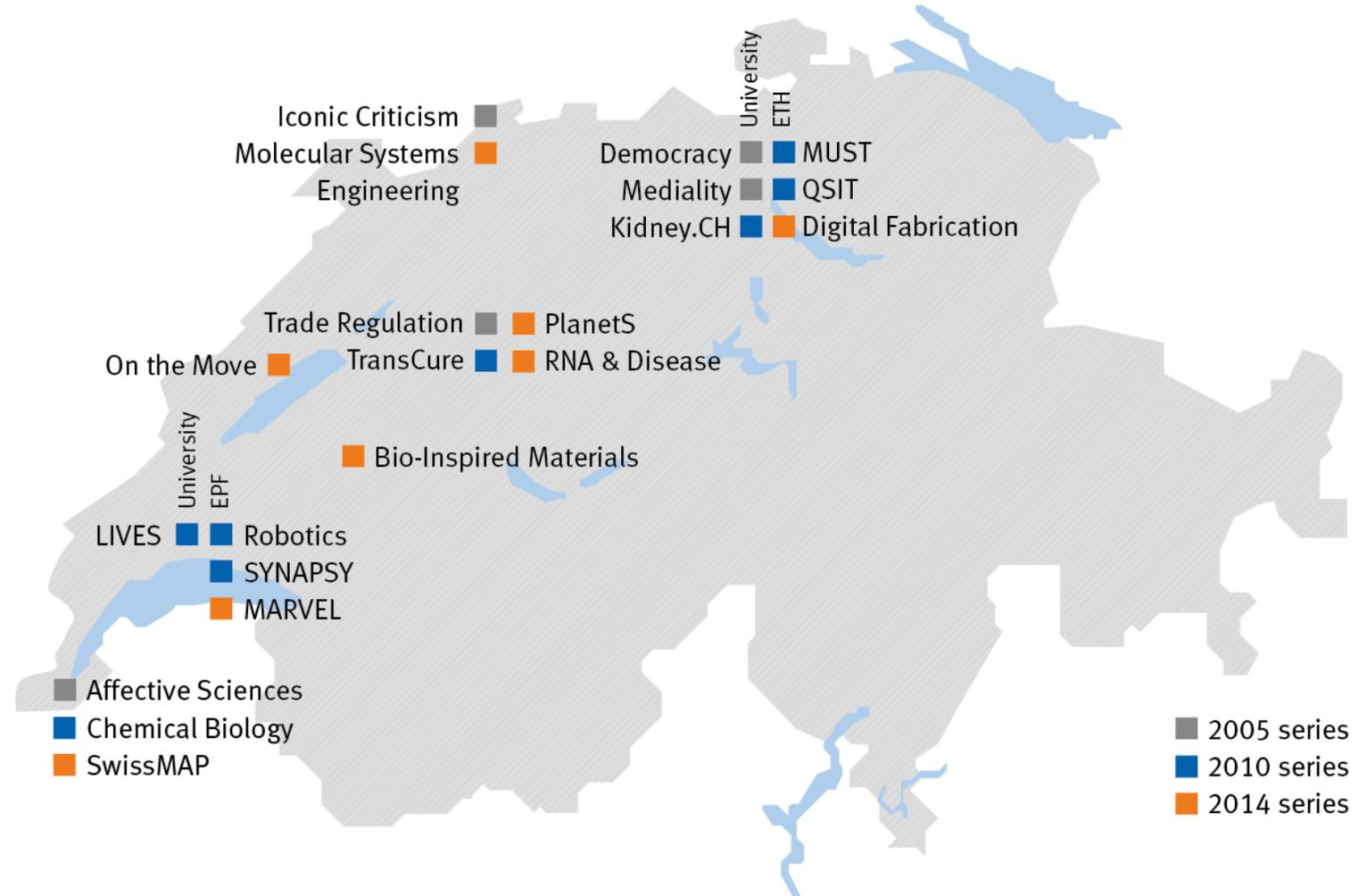


**Managing energy consumption**  
National Research Programme NRP 71



# The Centres of Competence (NCCRs) across Switzerland

NCCRs promote **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**.



# International programmes

## r4d programme

Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development



## ERA-NET

Coordination and cooperation in Europe



## Bilateral programmes

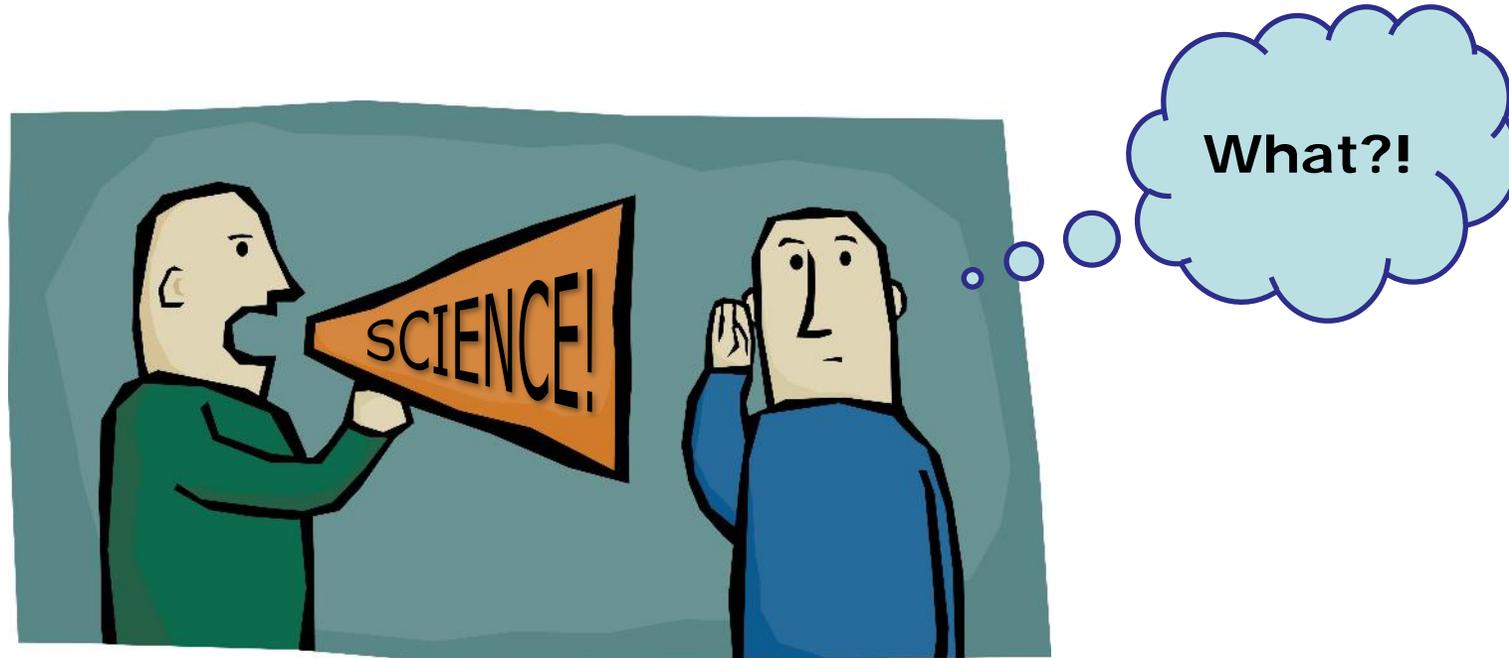
Promoting and strengthening scientific cooperation with non-European countries with significant research potential:



Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Korea, Japan and soon Argentina

# Science communication

Funds for **communication between researchers and between science and society.**



*Conferences, publication grants, exploratory Workshops, **Agora***

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The SNSF funding schemes



**Innovations in research funding**



SNSF regulations & transitional provisions



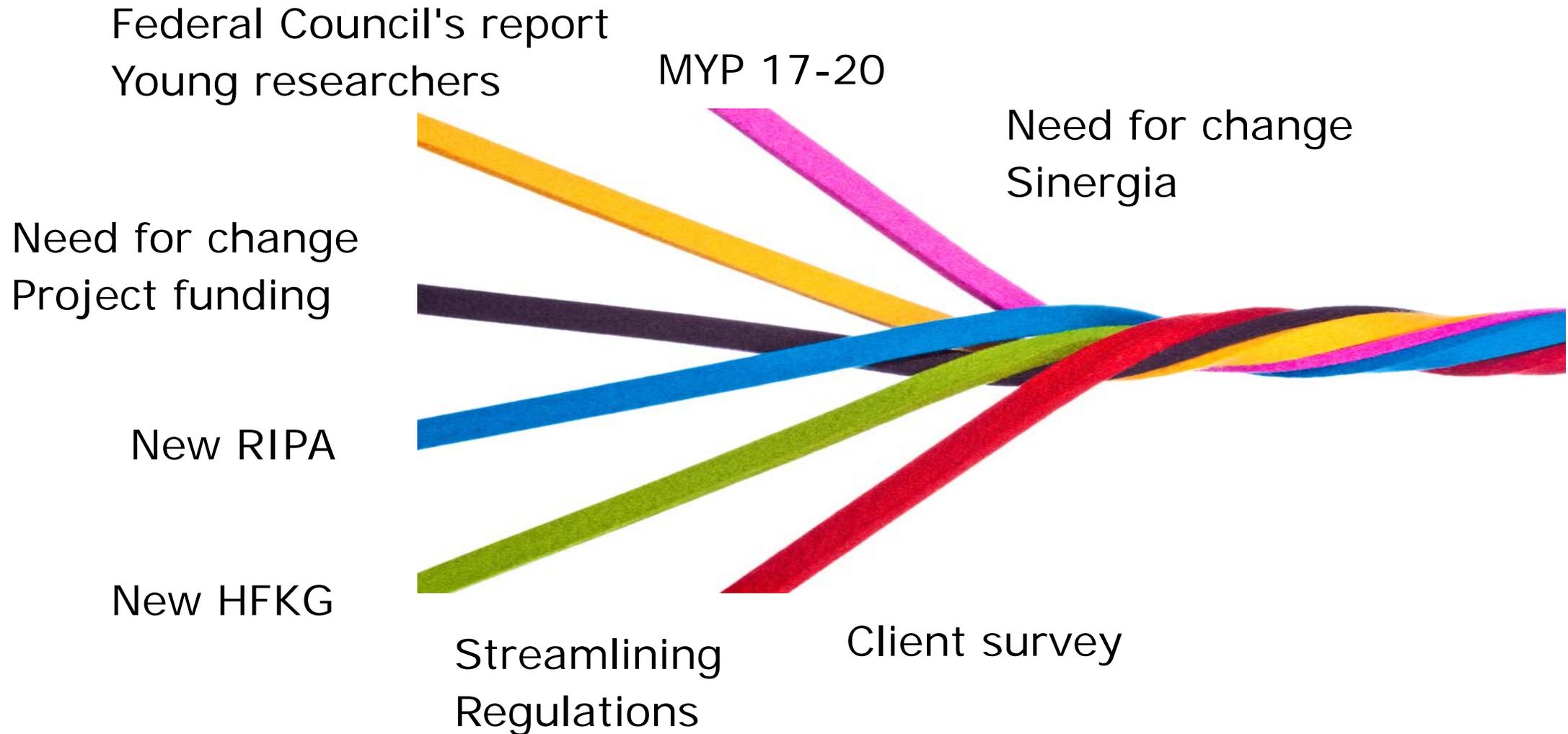
Questions



## Innovations in research funding

- **Core objectives of innovations**
- Eligibility requirements
- Grant conditions and restrictions in project funding
- Project partners and subcontracting
- Eligible costs and career measures
- Employment of staff
- Sinergia

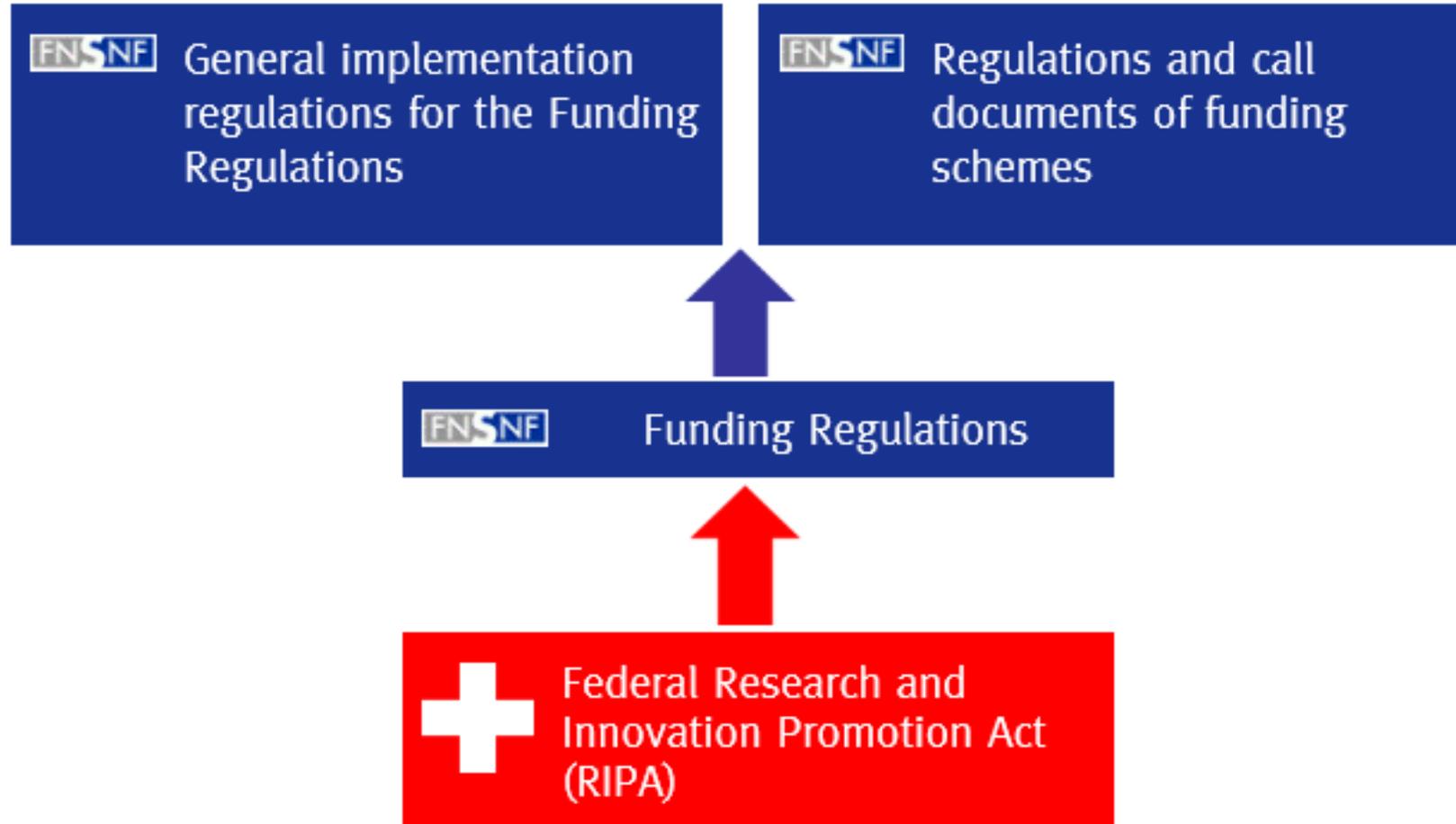
# Why change?



# Core objectives of innovations in research funding

- Respond to researchers' needs (client survey)
- Provide clear and well-coordinated funding options at each stage (of career)
- Help young researchers to achieve early independence
- Create clear responsibilities with regard to scientific merits
- Promote diversity
- Reduce administration work
- Allow more flexible use of funds
- Bring project duration closer into line with the duration of doctoral theses
- Set out clear rules for submitting proposals and using grants

# Legal basis for SNSF funding activities





## Innovations in research funding

- Core objectives of innovations
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# General eligibility requirements I

## What will the new provisions mean in practice?

- People who are **only loosely linked** to higher education institutions and/or people with a low work-time percentage should not be able to submit applications because they are not sufficiently integrated at an institution
- The institutions where the applicants work must have strong links to Switzerland
- Being employed at the time of submission is not a requirement, rather it provides **proof of employment over the entire project duration** - except for some exceptions with regard to young researchers

## General eligibility requirements II

- The **research activities**, along with any scientific teaching activities, must constitute the equivalent of at least 50% FTE.
- Researchers devoting less than 50% of their time to science are eligible **if their scientific research and teaching activities** are usually carried out **as part of another professional activity**.
- Lecturing assignments per se, honorary professorships per se or other titles as well as links within the scope of collaborations or visiting professorships **do not entail eligibility to submit applications, unless the above points are met**

# Eligibility requirements III

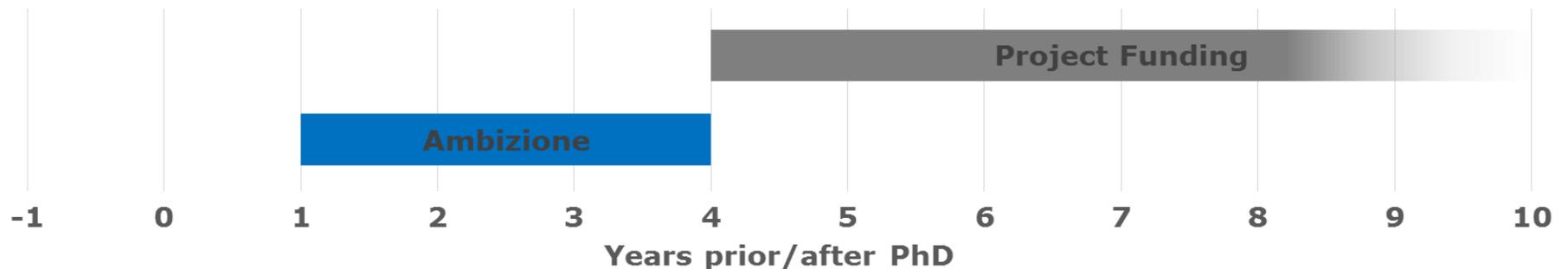
Rules governing the eligibility of institutions abroad made clearer and adapted to the new law (RIPA )

- Employment for the duration of the research project at a work-time percentage of at least 50% **in accordance with Swiss law** at a Swiss institution.
- Administration of the research project must **be in Switzerland**
- The corresponding applicant must have a **Swiss delivery address**
- The **funding principles of the SNSF** on the **eligibility of institutions** must be met, particularly with regard to the **non-commercial purpose and independence of research**

# Eligibility requirements for project funding

## What will the new provisions mean in practice?

- Professional researchers **with at least 4 years' experience after the doctorate (or an independent research position) who are in employment for the duration of the project\*** will be able to submit applications.
- Researchers with **less research experience** will be able to use the **Ambizione scheme** (implementation scheduled for early 2017); until then they will be eligible to apply for project funding



\*Exceptions possible for young researchers

# Eligibility requirements for project funding

**Four years after doctoral thesis or an independent position, notably:**

- Full professors
- Assistant professors
- Chief consultants (OberärztInnen), senior staff physicians (leitende ÄrztInnen), chief physicians (ChefärztInnen)
- Senior Scientists / Researchers
- Group leaders
- Senior assistants (OberassistentInnen / Maître-assistantEs)
- Heads of teaching and research (Maître d'Enseignement et de Recherche)



# Eligibility requirements for project funding

## **Not eligible:**

- Postdocs
- Research associates
- Assistant physicians (AssistenzärztInnen)
- Employees in SNSF projects
- Ambizione grantees
- SNSF professors in the first 2 years



# Eligibility requirements for project funding

**Eligible if research is main source of income** (research and teaching position of at least 50% at an eligible institution):

- Honorary professors
- Lecturers
- Senior lecturers (Privatdozent)



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# Grant conditions in project funding

- **Maximum grant duration** increased from three to **four years**
- Minimum grant duration set to one year
- No fixed maximum amount for grants
- **Excellence grants** (until now only awarded in Div. III für applications with grade A)  
New by invitation: **(3+3, 4+4) for applications with the two highest grades**
- Thematic continuation of applications is possible

# Grant conditions in project funding

- In principle, researchers holding a grant for project funding may not hold another such grant for the duration of the funding period.
- The SNSF may award a second grant if the overlapping research project is thematically clearly different from the ongoing project and if the applicant can show that he/she will make a substantial contribution to the second project as well.
- Two or more applicants are allowed if this is essential for successful completion of the project and if each makes a major contribution
- Lead Agency projects are regarded as applications for project funding

## Grantees with a project grant can also ...

- submit a **Sinergia** application
- initiate an **NRP** or submit a project proposal
- initiate an **NCCR** or submit a project proposal
- apply for an **AP Energy Grants**
- participate in **ERA-NETs**
- participate in **Joint Programme Initiatives (JPIs)**
- participate in **international cooperation programmes** (e.g. bilateral programmes), such as PIRE
- submit an **Agora** application



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# Project partners - Subcontracting

## What will the new provisions mean in practice?

- **Project partners:** will be able to participate in projects (and can charge corresponding costs) without being co-applicants who are co-responsible for the project
- **Subcontracting:** lower-level work can be bought-in in the form of services
- **Restrictions** were defined to avoid a situation where important work is done by third parties

## Project partners - Subcontracting

**Project partner** = makes a scientific contribution; at a public, private or commercial research institution/company in CH or abroad under the condition that the contribution does not result in a direct monetary benefit for the employer

- Usually max. 20%, exceptions are possible
- Employees of project partners cannot be employed as staff members in SNSF projects

**Subcontracting** = buy-in of services, often from companies

- Usually max. 10%, exceptions are possible

**Costs** of project partners and of subcontractors

- Services and costs should be proportionate and economical.



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# Eligible costs: **cost categories**

## Human Resources

- **Salaries and social security contributions**

## Conferences and workshops

## Collaborations (national & international)

## Direct costs for using infrastructures

## Costs of scientific open access publications

## Research costs

- **Material of enduring value, equipment**
- **Travel**
- **Third-party expenses**
  - Costs for project partner
  - Subcontracting
- **Computing time and data**

## Costs for career measures

## Conferences and workshops

Applicants will be able to charge costs for **project-related knowledge sharing events** to the project grant and will not have to apply for these costs separately.

- **Participation in and organisation** of workshops and conferences
- Travel, room & board and organisation costs are charged; the invited people must be of importance for the scientific exchange.
- Larger conferences and annual conferences of specialist associations are excluded

# Collaborations

Applicants will be able to link their project to one or more other projects in Switzerland or abroad.

- Only costs for scientific exchanges will be fundable
- Travel and room & board costs and additional research costs (incurred by the SNSF grantee) will be covered



## Direct costs for using infrastructures

- Only **direct costs** are eligible (although it may be difficult to distinguish, the message should still be given)
- **Host institutions** must be **transparent** about their infrastructure cost policy (although this may be an illusion, the message should still be given)
- Paid only if it helps researchers to **increase the efficiency** and quality of their research (relation to project goals)

## Research costs (red = new)

- **Material of enduring value, equipment** >100,000 CHF requires co-financing by the institution; usually 50%.
- **Travel**
- **Expenses of third parties**
  - Costs for project partners (<20% of the budget, no salaries)
  - Subcontracting (<10% of the budget, no salaries)
- **Computing time and data** (cloud computing and data access)
- **Operating expenses**  
(Regulations include list of fundable and non-fundable items)

## Career measures

### **120% support grant**

- postdoctoral researchers with major child care duties employed in SNSF-funded research projects with at least 80% work-time percentage

### **Mobility for PhD students**

- Promotion of mobility for 6 – 12 months

### **Gender equality grant**

- Aimed at women researchers at doctoral or postdoctoral level
- CHF 1,000 per 12 months project running time for career support measures (mentoring, coaching, career development courses, networking meetings, etc.)

→ can be applied for during the project running-time with relative ease

## Career measures:

### Grants for exemption from teaching duties (SSH)

#### **Pilot project**

- Grants will be awarded under a pilot project covering the 1 October 2016 and 1 April 2019 submission deadlines for project funding
- The SNSF will award a grant for exemption from teaching duties in the amount of CHF 6,000 for one semester hour per week up to a maximum of CHF 24,000 for four semester hours per week

#### **Requirements**

- The project must have a minimum duration of two years
- The grant for exemption from teaching duties relates solely to the applicant;
- The higher education institution must consent to the application for a grant for exemption from teaching duties

# Career measures: Research time for clinicians

## **Pilot project**

- The SNSF aims to ensure that active clinicians can devote 30% of their working time (30% of a full-time equivalent) to their research projects  
→ Costs: SNF and employer / 50:50
- The initiative for protected research time for clinicians is currently planned to last till 2020

## **Requirements**

- Clinicians are doing clinical work at an eligible Swiss hospital as defined by the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA)
- It must be a project to be evaluated by the Biology and Medicine division
- The clinician does not already hold a structural position with budget responsibility at a hospital or an academic tenured position

# Awards in the form of global budgets

- Global budgets as the **rule, PI is responsible**
- Grant holders **can dispose freely of the budget** within the framework of the applicable regulations and the submitted research plan and goals
- In **exceptional** cases, categories ('Kostenrubriken') or budget items are defined by the SNSF
- In any case, **changes to the project design** which will result in major deviations from the research plan and goals **must be submitted to the SNSF**



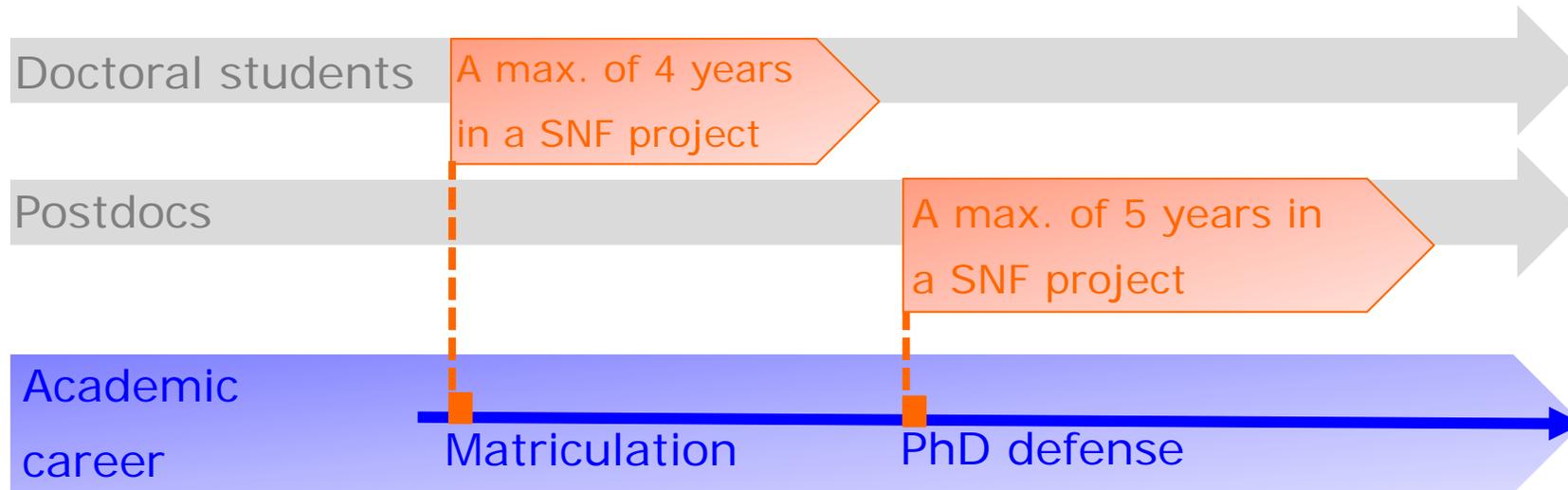
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# Employee categories of the SNSF

- **Doctoral students**
- **Postdocs** (employees with a doctorate);
- **Other employees** – these include:
  - Employees with degree, who don't want to do a doctorate;
  - Employees with a doctorate who do not plan to acquire further academic qualification in the context of the employment in question;
  - Technicians;
  - Auxiliary staff

# Employment duration in SNF projects



## ■ Reference point

- Further employees: No constraints
- The **conditions of the universities** must be respected
- The SNSF does not finance **permanent positions**

# Extension of time eligibility window

**Eligibility** with respect to the **reference point** can be **extended by at most 1 year** because of

- Care duties, parental leave and child care duties
- Illness, service to the public
- Continuing education
- Participation in mandatory graduate schools before PhD

# Employees

## Prolongation of running projects

**Project duration** can be **extended for at most 1 year** for reasons related to project **staff**

- Care duties, parental leave and child care duties
  - Illness, service to the public
  - Continuing education
  - Participation in mandatory graduate schools before PhD
- 
- Needs consent of the grant holder
  - Is normally cost-neutral
  - Grant holder can apply for a new grant in parallel



## Innovations in research funding

- Core objectives of innovations
- Grant conditions
- Eligibility
- Eligible costs
- Career measures
- Employment of staff
- **Sinergia**

## The new Sinergia program



- Promotes **collaborative** and **interdisciplinary** research which has the **potential to shift paradigms (breakthrough)**
- The **new program** is a **merger** of the funding line for **interdisciplinary single projects** and the **old Sinergia program**
- **2-4 applicants** and their groups **collaborate** closely in a **network**
- **Grants** for **4 years** and up to **CHF 3.2 million**
- **Eligibility** and **eligible costs** as in project funding
- Next deadline in **June 2016**

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**SNSF regulations & transitional provisions**



Questions



# The new regulations – Entry into force

## **Funding regulations**

Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (not yet for project funding)

## **Sinergia**

Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (1st Call 'new' Sinergia June 2016)

## **Projektförderung**

Entry into force on 2 April 2016 (valid for call in Oct. 2016)

## **Implementation Regulations**

Entry into force on 1 January 2016 (not yet for project funding)

## The following innovations are not being applied yet: transitional provisions

- Applicant's **self-declaration** concerning their own employment (Clause 1.1)
- **Project partner** as a new status (Clause 1.12; specific funding schemes that may already involve project partners excepted)
- **Reporting of any other competitive funding acquired by the applicants** that is not directly linked to the application to be submitted (Clause 1.20)
- **Grants for completing the project** (Clause 4.2, rules applicable till now to supplementary grants in accordance with mySNF texts)
- New **agreement with grant administration offices** and **written agreement** for projects without any official grant administration office (Clause 5.1)
- Changes with regard to requests for the reimbursement of **additional personnel costs** (Clause 6.4)
- Modified **employee categories** (Clause 7.2)



**Flexible** project funding for **different needs** in research



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

