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## Regulations on BRIDGE Discovery grants

of 9 December 2020 (version of: 14 March 2023)

The BRIDGE Steering Committee

based on Article 2.2 of the Terms of Reference for the BRIDGE programme of 9 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

issues the following Regulations:

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## 1 Principles for BRIDGE Discovery grants

### Article 1 Objectives and calls for proposals

<sup>1</sup> The funding scheme "BRIDGE Discovery" fosters projects that aim to establish, explore and implement the innovation potential of research results. It supports qualified researchers who intend to conduct a research and innovation project with the clear goal of developing an application, a service, a method or a process.

<sup>2</sup> BRIDGE Discovery supports interactions between basic and applied research to implement the innovation potential of scientific results. Cooperation between universities, the Swiss federal institutes of technology, research institutes, universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTE) will be considered a positive feature in the evaluation process and is one of the evaluation criteria.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.snf.ch/media/de/Ydgbtd9566ktVV5f/2022\\_BRIDGE\\_Terms\\_of\\_Reference.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/de/Ydgbtd9566ktVV5f/2022_BRIDGE_Terms_of_Reference.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The evaluation criteria also include a commitment to sustainable development (including economic, societal and environmental consequences) in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>4</sup> BRIDGE Discovery projects may cover any type of innovation or research field, except clinical studies.

<sup>5</sup> Calls for BRIDGE Discovery proposals are announced periodically. The BRIDGE Office publishes the relevant submission deadlines on its website.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Applicants may submit only one BRIDGE Discovery application per submission date.

<sup>7</sup> Under the BRIDGE Discovery funding scheme, there is no obligation to award a grant to any person or entity.

## **Article 2      Duration of grants and maximum grants**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE Discovery grants are awarded for a maximum of 4 years.

<sup>2</sup> The maximum amount of eligible costs must not exceed CHF 850,000 for 4 years per applicant. For projects shorter than 4 years, the maximum amount is reduced proportionally.

## **Article 3      Cost-neutral extension**

<sup>1</sup> In exceptional cases, extensions may be granted on request without additional funding exclusively for the following reasons pertaining to the grantee. Only uninterrupted delays of at least two months' duration are considered.

- a) Maternity, paternity, parental or adoption leave;
- b) Incapacity to work due to illness or accident;
- c) Care duties;
- d) Services that benefit the general public, particularly military and civilian service.

<sup>2</sup> In justified exceptional cases, cost-neutral extensions that exceed one year may be approved.

## **Article 4      Overhead**

BRIDGE grants are eligible for an overhead of max. 15% of the total amount awarded. The overhead is paid directly to the host institution of the principal investigator (Article 6 Article 6, paragraph 2 letter b) and is not part of the requested amount. The processing is governed by the modalities defined in the Overhead Regulations of the SNSF.<sup>4</sup>

## **2      Requirements for applicants and for submitting an application**

### **Article 5      Applications**

Applications for BRIDGE Discovery grants must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations and the specifications of the relevant calls issued by the BRIDGE Office and must contain all the necessary data and documents.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bridge.ch/en/discovery>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.snf.ch/media/en/sCtI3YhybRNO0kDV/ueb\\_overhead\\_reglement\\_e.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/sCtI3YhybRNO0kDV/ueb_overhead_reglement_e.pdf)

## **Article 6 Requirements for applicants**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE Discovery proposals must be submitted by a single applicant or a consortium consisting of a maximum of 3 applicants.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- a) Each applicant
  - i. must meet the eligibility requirements for the submission of applications; and
  - ii. must be a member of a different independent research group in case of more than one applicant; and
  - iii. will be personally responsible for the approved project.
- b) If there are two or more applicants, the applicants must designate one person (principal investigator) as coordinator and representative of all applicants vis-à-vis the BRIDGE Office, which representation shall be legally binding. The principal investigator will assume the coordination of the project, including scientific, administrative and financial aspects. The principle investigator is obliged to keep the other applicants, the project partners and the other members of the project team informed.

<sup>3</sup> If one applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements, the application will generally not be considered for any of the applicants, unless it is easily possible to evaluate the application without considering the ineligible person.

<sup>4</sup> Applications may be submitted by faculty members or teaching and research staff employed at a higher education research centre such as a Swiss university, a federal institute of technology, a university of applied sciences, a university of teacher education or any other research institution as defined in Article 4 of the RIPA<sup>5</sup> or at a research centre outside the higher education sector as defined in Article 5 of the RIPA.

<sup>5</sup> Applicants must be able to show that

- a) they are conducting their research activities together with any scientific teaching activities to an extent equivalent to at least 50% of a full time equivalent (0.5 FTE); and
- b) they are employed at a research institution that is eligible for research funding (see paragraph 4) at least for the duration of the project and at least to the required number of FTEs, or they can demonstrate that they have been given assurance of such employment in writing; and
- c) they are in a position to carry out research projects under their own responsibility and to lead scientific and non-scientific project staff; and
- d) they make a substantial contribution to the proposed project and are able to work independently without relying on instructions from third parties; and
- e) the necessary research infrastructure is at their disposal; and
- f) the underlying research has been peer-reviewed or documented by publications or another record of achievement.

<sup>6</sup> Members of the BRIDGE Steering Committee are excluded from participating in BRIDGE Discovery calls.

## **Article 7 Implementation & project partners**

<sup>1</sup> Applicants may choose to involve implementation partners (e.g. industrial collaboration) in their Discovery project to provide specific expertise or infrastructure. However, implementation partners are not eligible to receive financial support within the scope of BRIDGE.

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<sup>5</sup> 420.1 Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA) of 14 December 2012

<sup>2</sup> Project partners are researchers who contribute to a research project through cooperation without being responsible for the project. They must be designated as such in the application. Within the scope of their contributions, such as analyses etc., project partners benefit from the BRIDGE grant. However, they do not count as remunerated employees of the project and are not among those responsible for the project as a whole. They may not refer to the support received from BRIDGE as a grant they have acquired themselves.

## **Article 8            Formal requirements for the application**

<sup>1</sup> All applicants who intend to submit a BRIDGE Discovery proposal must announce their participation in the form of a letter of intent to be submitted via the electronic platform <sup>6</sup> provided by the BRIDGE Office. In the letter of intent, the applicants outline their planned Discovery project. They are expected to provide the following information:

- a) title, applicants and institutions involved, duration and foreseeable budget
- b) short description of the planned project (1-2 pages)

<sup>2</sup> The letter of intent is not evaluated but is a prerequisite for the submission of a Discovery project proposal. Upon submission of their letter of intent, applicants receive an acknowledgment that their letter has been received.

<sup>3</sup> BRIDGE Discovery proposals must be submitted via the electronic platform provided by the BRIDGE Office and must be in English.

<sup>4</sup> The proposal must contain the following information and documents:

- a) administrative information as per the requirements set out on the electronic platform;
- b) a project description (maximum 20 pages, plus maximum 1 page summary), provided in the template on the electronic platform;
- c) a detailed budget setting out the costs incurred at the various institutions;
- d) a declaration of funding obtained or requested from other sources related to the project;
- e) the applicants' CVs;
- f) the CVs of the project partners if applicable (maximum 2 pages per person).

<sup>5</sup> The project description (paragraph 4 letter b, above) is structured as follows:

- a) summary (maximum 1 page);
- b) current state of research and innovation in the field;
- c) innovation potential, with an indication of potential applications and planned steps towards implementation;
- d) statement how the project contributes to sustainable development (i.e. societal, economic, environmental impact);
- e) detailed project plan with goals, methodology, approach and outcomes;
- f) project organisation with a timeline, milestones and deliverables as well as the responsibilities of the project participants (including complementarity and expected synergies between collaborating groups).

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<sup>6</sup> <https://bridge.mysnf.ch>

## **Article 9          Resubmission**

<sup>1</sup> An application that has been rejected may be revised and resubmitted once.

<sup>2</sup> BRIDGE only considers a resubmitted application if it is a significantly modified version of the rejected application.

## **Article 10          BRIDGE Discovery grants in relation to other funding**

<sup>1</sup> At the time of submission or during an ongoing BRIDGE Discovery project, applicants may also receive grants under all SNSF or Innosuisse funding schemes as long as the funded projects are thematically different. However, parallel submissions of the same project proposal at the SNSF or at Innosuisse are not permissible.

<sup>2</sup> It is not permissible to be involved as grantee in more than one BRIDGE Discovery project while the BRIDGE Discovery grant is ongoing.

<sup>3</sup> If the same project proposal has been submitted and accepted elsewhere, the applicants must decide on a single source of funding.

## **3          Eligible costs**

### **Article 11          Eligible costs**

<sup>1</sup> A BRIDGE Discovery grant generally comes with a global budget. Transfers between the individual cost categories during the funding period are permissible.

<sup>2</sup> The grant may cover costs directly related to the realisation of the project up to the maximum amount defined in Article 2 paragraph 2:

- a) salary costs of scientific and technical staff designated for the research project within the salary scales defined in Article 13;
- b) costs of materials that are directly related to the research work, namely material of enduring value, expendable items, field expenses, travel costs or third-party charges;
- c) direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research work (exceptions are listed in paragraph 6);
- d) infrastructure costs  $\geq$  CHF 100,000 are eligible if the institution that hosts the infrastructure covers at least 50% of the costs; for smaller infrastructures ( $<$  CHF 100,000), the institution must cover at least 50% of any amount exceeding CHF 50,000;
- e) travel and organisation costs for conferences and workshops in connection with the funded project;
- f) costs of computing time and cloud computing as well as for data acquisition or for access to data;
- g) costs for granting access to research data (Open Research Data);
- h) costs of services provided for the project by project partners; the costs generated by project partners should generally correspond to no more than 20% of the overall budget for the project.
- i) costs generated by third parties mandated by the research project; subcontracting of third parties must be justified and necessary and the costs of services provided within the scope of subcontracting should correspond to no more than 10% of the grant.

<sup>3</sup> Clinical studies are excluded under the BRIDGE Discovery scheme. Preclinical studies may be funded up to a maximum amount of CHF 100,000.

<sup>4</sup> Ineligible costs are deleted, unjustified or inappropriate costs or cost items reduced.

<sup>5</sup> Costs are regarded as unjustified or inappropriate if they are unnecessary or comprise a disproportionately large share of the budget in view of reaching the proposed project targets and maintaining the quality of the project.

<sup>6</sup> The following costs are not eligible:

- a) equipment and facilities that generally form part of the basic infrastructure, operation and standards of the host institution, in particular:
  - i. standard IT equipment including hardware and software;
  - ii. laboratory facilities and equipment;
  - iii. any other facilities and equipment routinely made available for the relevant research field in a research institution or environment.
- b) salary costs of the applicants; applicants fulfilling special conditions may, however, obtain support (Article 12).
- c) salary costs of the implementation partners and the project partners and their employees;
- d) costs for market research or the development of intellectual property strategies performed by independent advisors.

#### **Article 12 Salary complement for applicants fulfilling special conditions**

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who are employed on a part-time or full-time basis at a University of Applied Sciences (UAS) or the Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM) may apply for a complement of their own salary.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of the salary complement must be quantified on the basis of the actual contribution to the project. The salary complement must be applied for according to the guidelines set out in the online submission form.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Article 13 Salary scales**

<sup>1</sup> Institutions may apply their usual salary scales to the envisaged project staff, such as scientific staff or technicians. The maximum salary for postdoctoral students is set at CHF 130,000. This includes social security contributions based on Annex XII of the SNSF General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Doctoral students are remunerated according to the salary scales of the SNSF.<sup>9</sup> This includes social security contributions based on Annex XII of the SNSF General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations. The work-time percentage of doctoral students working on the BRIDGE Discovery project is defined by the employer. It must generally be appropriate to the task of completing a dissertation within a period of four years. This is based on the presumption that 80-100% of a full-time equivalent position is devoted to a dissertation.

<sup>3</sup> The requested work-time percentage for project staff must correspond to the actual planned time requirement for the project.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://bridge.mysnf.ch>

<sup>8</sup> Rates for social security contributions:  
[https://media.snf.ch/Wg9oQo2WuldqSIA/Annex\\_XII\\_Ausfuehrungsreglement\\_Beitragreglement\\_E.pdf](https://media.snf.ch/Wg9oQo2WuldqSIA/Annex_XII_Ausfuehrungsreglement_Beitragreglement_E.pdf) (12.5)

<sup>9</sup> Salary scales for doctoral students of the SNSF:  
[https://media.snf.ch/Wg9oQo2WuldqSIA/Annex\\_XII\\_Ausfuehrungsreglement\\_Beitragreglement\\_E.pdf](https://media.snf.ch/Wg9oQo2WuldqSIA/Annex_XII_Ausfuehrungsreglement_Beitragreglement_E.pdf) (12.1)

#### **Article 14            Costs for gender equality measures: Gender Equality Grant**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE supports the career development and networking activities of young female researchers by covering the costs of measures to promote equal opportunities (Gender Equality Grant).

<sup>2</sup> The Gender Equality Grant is debited to the project funds and need not be applied for. If the Gender Equality Grant cannot be covered via the awarded BRIDGE funding, the costs can be claimed in retrospect, provided that reference is made to the corresponding receipts in the final financial report (deficit guarantee).

<sup>3</sup> A maximum of CHF 1,000 is paid per eligible female researcher per 12 months' project duration.

<sup>4</sup> The Gender Equality Grant may be used for mentoring, coaching, career development courses, networking meetings and similar measures. The Gender Equality Grant is not meant to be used to cover family support measures (e.g. childcare costs).

#### **Article 15            Flexibility Grant**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE awards Flexibility Grants to help researchers reconcile their research activities and academic career with care duties.

<sup>2</sup> The grants are awarded to junior researchers with care duties within the scope of BRIDGE Discovery grants. Flexibility Grants contribute to the cost of hiring a support person for the project or/and to childcare costs for the benefit of postdocs and doctoral students employed under the funded project. Flexibility Grants are awarded pursuant to the regulations of the SNSF for these grants.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The category of junior researchers consist of researchers in the position of doctoral students or postdocs. Faculty members or technical staff are not eligible for the Flexibility Grants.

## **4        Proposal evaluation procedure**

#### **Article 16            Procedural law**

<sup>1</sup> The provisions of this chapter govern the evaluation procedure. The provisions of the Federal Act of 20 December 1968<sup>11</sup> on Administrative Procedure (APA), and in particular Articles 10 and 26-38 APA, apply to any matters not regulated in this chapter.

#### **Article 17            Non-consideration**

<sup>1</sup> Applications that do not meet the requirements laid out in Chapter 2 will not be considered for evaluation unless the shortcomings can be resolved by minimal corrective measures.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants whose proposals were not considered are informed accordingly by a written appealable ruling signed by the BRIDGE Office.

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<sup>10</sup> Based on Annex IV from the SNSF General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations: [https://media.snf.ch/zPDDvImCdFmOAvq/Annex\\_IV\\_Ausfuehrungsreglement\\_Beitragreglement\\_E.pdf](https://media.snf.ch/zPDDvImCdFmOAvq/Annex_IV_Ausfuehrungsreglement_Beitragreglement_E.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> SR 172.021

## Article 18 Evaluation procedure

<sup>1</sup> Applications that meet the requirements set out in Chapter 2 are evaluated.

<sup>2</sup> BRIDGE Discovery grants are awarded following a two-level selection procedure:

- a) Level 1 – Pre-selection: The evaluation panel assesses the submitted written proposal documents according to the criteria outlined in Article 19. It may take into account the opinions of external experts consulted during the evaluation. Based on this evaluation, the evaluation panel selects the best project proposals for the second assessment level.
- b) Level 2 Final selection: The evaluation panel invites the applicants admitted to the second level for an interview in English in which they present their project and innovation plans and answer questions.

<sup>3</sup> The evaluation panel ranks the projects according to their quality, based on the assessment of the written documents and the personal interview.

<sup>4</sup> The evaluation panel submits its funding or rejection recommendations to the Steering Committee, which takes the final decisions.

## Article 19 Evaluation criteria

<sup>1</sup> The following criteria are applied in the evaluation of BRIDGE Discovery applications that meet the requirements set out in Chapter 2:

- a) Quality of the project:
  - i. *Innovative potential*: The project must present a credible vision of the potential impacts of the innovation as well as of its possible implementation.
  - ii. *Scientific content*:
    - The project's scientific objectives must be of high quality and must address relevant needs (e.g. technological, societal, environmental, economic). They must be realistic and more effective compared to the state of the art and current practice.
    - The objectives should be related to the intended innovation and not just represent a continuation of the basic research. The proposed methods must be suitable, clearly defined and relevant to the objectives.
  - iii. *Feasibility*: The project must be feasible and goal-oriented based on its work plan and defined milestones (including valorisation of a process where applicable) and must include a realistic budget.
  - iv. *Implementation*: The project must contain a convincing roadmap, including the involvement of the necessary stakeholders, and a strategy outlining the envisaged steps towards implementation.
- b) Applicants' qualifications:
  - i. The applicants demonstrate an appropriate level of both scientific and innovation-based competences, including the relevant skills needed to successfully complete the project (e.g. managerial and entrepreneurial skills as well as in-depth understanding of the topic).
  - ii. In projects with more than one applicant, their competences must be complementary and their collaboration must clearly generate added value. Moreover, the applicants must be able to show that they are capable of organising the consortium and establishing appropriate project-internal communication and decision processes. Cooperation between universities, the Swiss federal institutes of technology and research institutes on the one hand, and universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTE) on the other, is considered a positive feature in the evaluation process.



- c) Additional criteria, used for prioritisation in case two or more projects are rated equally:
- i. Proposals that contribute to a sustainable economic, societal or environmental impact will be given priority.
  - ii. Proposals that increase diversity will be given priority in order to mitigate imbalances in the success rate for categories such as, e.g., proposals by female applicants, variety of institutions, variety of disciplines, variety of institutions from various language regions.

#### **Article 20      Decision**

<sup>1</sup> The decision to either fund or reject each project is taken based on the evaluation according to Article 18 and in line with the budget.

<sup>2</sup> All decisions are communicated to the principal investigators in the form of an appealable ruling signed by the BRIDGE Office.

<sup>3</sup> The ruling states, in particular, the reasons for the decision, the amount of funds allocated to the project and the conditions or requirements to be fulfilled before the project starts or once it is underway.

<sup>4</sup> In general, it is intended to complete the evaluation and decision-making process within 7 months.

#### **Article 21      Right of appeal**

The applicant may appeal against the ruling before the Swiss Federal Administrative Court.

## **5      Grants and grant management**

#### **Article 22      Status and general duties of the applicant**

<sup>1</sup> On the full or partial approval of a Discovery proposal, the applicants become grantees of BRIDGE Discovery.

<sup>2</sup> Grantees must:

- a) use the grant in accordance with the conditions set out in the ruling; and
- b) comply with the provisions stipulated in these Regulations and all other rules that apply to the grant; and
- c) carry out the project work with due care, while respecting the rules of good scientific practice and upholding the relevant principles of the discipline in question, in particular its ethical guidelines.

<sup>3</sup> In case of a single applicant, the grantee becomes the principal investigator (according to Article 6, paragraph 2 letter b). In a consortium with more than one applicant, the designated grantee becomes the principal investigator of the project and assumes its coordination, including scientific, administrative and financial aspects. The principal investigator legally represents all the grantees vis-à-vis BRIDGE.

#### **Article 23      Lay summary and branding**

<sup>1</sup> The principal investigators must provide the BRIDGE Office with a written summary of the planned project that is understandable to non-experts (lay summary). They must also provide thematic keywords for the BRIDGE, Innosuisse and SNSF websites.

<sup>2</sup> The lay summary and keywords must be submitted upon submission of the release of funds request at the latest.

<sup>3</sup> Once the grant is released, the lay summary and keywords are made available to the public.

<sup>4</sup> Once the funded project is completed, principal investigators are required to update the lay summary by including the results of the project. Such updates are a mandatory requirement for approval of the project activity report (Article 33).

<sup>5</sup> Grantees must acknowledge BRIDGE as source of funding in any publication or exchange with the public in accordance with the BRIDGE guidelines.

## **Article 24      Open access and open research data**

<sup>1</sup> While the research work is still ongoing and after its completion, grantees are obliged to make available to the public in an appropriate manner the research results obtained with the help of BRIDGE funding. Article 47 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF<sup>12</sup> and its Implementation Regulations<sup>13</sup> apply mutatis mutandis.

<sup>2</sup> The costs and fees for scientific open access publications may be covered according to the Regulations on the funding of Open Access publications of the SNSF.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Grantees may be released from these obligations should publication not be advisable for confidentiality reasons, particularly in relation to the acquisition of patents or due to a contractual commitment to observe confidentiality.

<sup>4</sup> Should any implementation partner wish to participate in the project, their commitment to the general rules of open access to research results of the SNSF<sup>15</sup> will be required.

<sup>5</sup> Data collected with the aid of a BRIDGE Discovery grant must also be made available to other researchers for further research and integrated into recognised scientific data pools (Open Research Data). Costs for granting access to research data may be covered under the eligible costs (Article 11, paragraph 2, letter g).

## **Article 25      Grant start and administration**

<sup>1</sup> The earliest possible starting date of BRIDGE Discovery grants is 1 January of the year following the funding decision.

<sup>2</sup> Grants payable over several years are paid in annual instalments.

<sup>3</sup> Principal investigators of BRIDGE Discovery projects shall have the latter administered by a grant administration office of the host institution that is recognised by the SNSF.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The principal investigators must request the release of funds and start their project within one year of the date on which the ruling was issued.

<sup>5</sup> The BRIDGE Office approves the release of funds if the conditions for release as defined in the ruling are met.

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<sup>12</sup> see Funding Regulations of the SNSF, Article 47  
([https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclgk1Euw/allg\\_reglement\\_16\\_e.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclgk1Euw/allg_reglement_16_e.pdf))

<sup>13</sup> General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations, chapters 11.9-11.16  
<https://www.snf.ch/media/en/B0SWnPsrDCRTaiCx/snsf-general-implementation-regulations-for-the-funding-regulations-e.pdf>  
<https://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/Reglement-ueber-OA-Publikationsfoerderung-E.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> see Funding Regulations of the SNSF, Article 47  
([https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclgk1Euw/allg\\_reglement\\_16\\_e.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclgk1Euw/allg_reglement_16_e.pdf))

<sup>16</sup> Recognised grant administration offices:  
[https://media.snf.ch/R7yMuVkBDFBo05g/Annex\\_IX\\_Ausfuhrungsreglement\\_Beitragreglement\\_E.pdf](https://media.snf.ch/R7yMuVkBDFBo05g/Annex_IX_Ausfuhrungsreglement_Beitragreglement_E.pdf)

## **Article 26 Changes to research plan and obligation to provide and take note of information**

<sup>1</sup> Grantees are obliged to inform the BRIDGE Office without delay in writing of any circumstances that could change or influence the prerequisites for the grant. These include, in particular, substantial changes to the work, tasks and milestones described in the project proposal or set out in the ruling as conditions, or changes to the available research infrastructure. The requested changes must be approved before the project is continued.

<sup>2</sup> Grantees must regularly take note of legally binding information issued by the BRIDGE Office.

<sup>3</sup> The BRIDGE Office may send information to grantees in electronic form.

## **Article 27 Project withdrawal or termination**

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who withdraw their BRIDGE Discovery project or have to terminate it prematurely must inform the BRIDGE Office in written form stating reasons.

<sup>2</sup> Any unused funds must be reimbursed.

## **Article 28 Project support**

<sup>1</sup> Additional support during the project such as access to patent search support by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property may be offered to BRIDGE Discovery grantees.

<sup>2</sup> Other types of project support may be offered to grantees in the course of the project.

## **Article 29 Sanctions, Research Integrity**

<sup>1</sup> In the event of suspected breaches of the terms of these Regulations, of other terms applicable to BRIDGE or of research integrity or good research practice in connection with the application or the use of the grant, the sanctions and reimbursement rules according to the Funding Regulations of the SNSF of 1 January 2016<sup>17</sup>, its Implementation Regulations<sup>18</sup> and the Regulations of the SNSF on scientific misconduct of 12 July 2016<sup>19</sup> apply mutatis mutandis.

<sup>2</sup> In general, the Steering Committee is responsible for deciding on potential sanctions and demanding reimbursements.

## **Article 30 Reporting duties, principles**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE Discovery grantees must report their activities and achievements. In particular, they must submit:

- a) annual financial reports and a final financial report at the end of the funding period (Article 31);
- b) a progress report generally 18 months after the start of the project (Article 32);
- c) output data generally 18 months after the start of the project;
- d) a final project activity report upon conclusion of the project (Article 33).

<sup>2</sup> The duty to regularly provide output data remains in place after completion of the final report and ends three years after its submission date.

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<sup>17</sup> Articles 15 and 43 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF,

[https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclqk1Euw/allg\\_reglement\\_16\\_e.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/1HxQ3Oduclqk1Euw/allg_reglement_16_e.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations, chapter 10,

<https://www.snf.ch/media/en/B0SWnPsRDCRTaiCx/snsf-general-implementation-regulations-for-the-funding-regulations-e.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.snf.ch/media/en/9sMiosyg9ApFS6E2/organisationsreglement\\_kommission\\_wiss\\_integritaet\\_e.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/9sMiosyg9ApFS6E2/organisationsreglement_kommission_wiss_integritaet_e.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> In consortia, the principal investigator coordinates the reporting duties of all grantees and submits the reports to the BRIDGE Office.

<sup>4</sup> If the requirements are met, the BRIDGE Office will approve the reports and send the principal investigator a confirmation. If this is not the case, the BRIDGE Office will return the reports to the principal investigator for revision.

<sup>5</sup> Grantees are required to provide information to evaluate the impact of the BRIDGE programme.

### **Article 31 Financial reports**

<sup>1</sup> Financial reports provide a detailed account of how the funding was used and must be submitted annually no later than 3 months after each instalment.

<sup>2</sup> A final financial report summarising the use of the funding must be submitted no later than 3 months after the end of the funding period.

<sup>3</sup> Financial reports are compiled by the grant administration office of the principal investigator and submitted to the BRIDGE Office via the BRIDGE electronic platform in good time. They must be reviewed and approved by the principal investigator prior to submission.

### **Article 32 Mid-term evaluation**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE Discovery projects will be subject to a mid-term evaluation carried out by the evaluation panel on the basis of the written progress report generally no earlier than 18 months after the start of the project.

<sup>2</sup> The written progress report must contain the following information:

- a) main scientific achievements and results;
- b) main milestones towards implementation;
- c) challenges and difficulties during the project;
- d) further steps (scientific / implementation).

<sup>3</sup> The progress report is evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) progress made in the project with respect to the set milestones (scientific and implementation achievements);
- b) Continuing viability of the roadmap and strategy of the project (scientific / implementation).

<sup>4</sup> Based on the progress made in the project and the continuing viability of the roadmap and strategy of the project, the evaluation panel may recommend its continuation, termination or reorientation. A continuation or reorientation of the project may be subject to conditions defined by the evaluation panel.

<sup>5</sup> Projects can be reoriented or terminated by the Steering Committee if milestones are not reached and no convincing alternative plans are presented.

### **Article 33      Project activity report**

<sup>1</sup> BRIDGE Discovery principal investigators must submit a final project activity report via the BRIDGE electronic platform<sup>20</sup> no later than 3 months after the end of the funding period.

<sup>2</sup> The following information must be included in the project activity report:

- a) summary;
- b) main scientific achievements and results;
- c) main milestones towards the planned innovation;
- d) challenges expected in the implementation phase;
- e) possibilities for creating a start-up or for collaborating with an economic partner;
- f) next steps.

## **6      Rights to research results and intellectual property**

### **Article 34      Research results and intellectual property**

<sup>1</sup> In BRIDGE Discovery projects that involve grantees from more than one institution who contributed to the research results, the institutions involved shall agree among themselves on ownership, rights and commercialisation strategies.

<sup>2</sup> Written confirmation of the existence of such an agreement between the grantees and their employers and – if applicable – between the grantees of the institutions involved must be submitted to the BRIDGE office before the first instalment of the grant can be paid.

<sup>3</sup> Subject to Article 29, the SNSF and Innosuisse waive any reimbursements of grants or shares in the profits.

## **7      Final Provisions**

### **Article 35      Entry into force**

These Regulations enter into force on 14 March 2023.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://bridge.mysnf.ch>