



PROJECT FUNDING REGULATIONS

CHANGES AS OF JULY 2023

Agenda

- Welcome & Rules
- Presentation
- Questions

Rules

Please be aware that we will give the whole presentations before allowing questions

We will be recoding the presentation, so that we can set it online for the people you could not participate

Chat: you can write questions, it might be that we will not manage to answer all the questions during the meeting, but will either answer them afterwards or directly take them up in the FAQ

If you would like an answer directly, please raise your hand and we will answer you orally during the meeting

We will share the presentation with the list of participants in the next days 😊



Project Funding as of October 2023

Key Points

- The current Sinergia program will be fully integrated into project funding.
- Interdisciplinary projects will be evaluated by a **dedicated evaluation panel for interdisciplinary projects**.
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects as well as Single-applicant and collaborative projects will have **equal/similar funding rates**.
- Collaborative Projects: One **Applicant from abroad** possible **and coordination costs** eligible (if 3 or more Applicants)
- **New limits** on number of grants and on funding per applicant and year

Proposal submission

- The next project funding call opens 3 July 2023, with a submission deadline of **2 October 2023**.
- For the first time, researchers will submit their applications via the **new SNSF portal**. This platform will gradually replace the *mySNF* application portal.

Create proposal

Select the appropriate proposal type. You cannot change the proposal type after creating the proposal.

Type

- SNSF individual or collaborative proposal**
Individual or collaborative proposal with researchers from one country. Applicants need to meet the SNSF participation requirements and eligibility criteria. [More information on SNSF proposals](#)
- Lead Agency proposal**
Proposal with researchers from one partner country. Applicants need to meet the participation requirements and eligibility criteria of their funding agency. More information on Lead Agency proposals. [More information on Lead Agency proposals](#)
- Weave proposal**
Proposal with researchers from 1 to 2 involved European countries. Applicants need to meet the participation requirements and eligibility criteria of their funding agency. [More information on Weave proposals](#)

Country / Organisation

France - ANR ▼

Apply for the International Co-Investigator Scheme?

The funding scheme is aimed at researchers in Switzerland whose project includes a subproject abroad. The SNSF evaluates and finances both the project and subproject. [More information on International Co-Investigator Scheme](#)

- Yes
- No

Country

Denmark - DFF ▼



Interdisciplinary projects

– Tick box --> interdisciplinary proposals

Interdisciplinary research means research beyond the boundaries of existing disciplines. The disciplines may be represented by one applicant or by several applicants. The proposals declared as interdisciplinary proposals by ticking this box will be evaluated **by a panel with interdisciplinary expertise**. Please consider that projects which are not spanning a broad disciplinary range would be more appropriate for evaluation in a disciplinary panel.

An application is considered interdisciplinary if the following requirements are met:

- the research objectives pursued require the integration of elements (e.g., theories, methods, concepts) from two or more disciplines;
- the combination of these elements is not yet common in the field;
- the different disciplines contribute to a common research goal from different perspectives

Please explain why you think your application is interdisciplinary: **(500 Characters)**

Brain Barriers ID: Identifying and Detailing the molecular mechanisms regulating integrity and immune function of the brain...

Proposal: 10.000.097 • Call: Sinergia (17.04.2023) • Submission deadline: 17.04.2023, 17:00 (Swiss local time)

- ✓ Proposal
 - ✓ Contributors
 - ✓ Title and duration
 - ✓ Relations
- Research
 - ✓ Team
 - ⊙ Summary
 - Research plan
 - Budget
 - Declarations
- Submission
 - Exclusions

Summary

In your summary, please present the background and rationale of your proposal, mention the methods to be used, and briefly discuss the expected results.

Summary
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Main disciplines
 [Search fields of research...]

Secondary disciplines (optional)
 [Search fields of research...]

Keywords

Add at least 4 keywords. You can use either the enter or comma key to add a keyword.

Is your research interdisciplinary?

Your proposal is considered interdisciplinary if it meets the following requirements:

- One or several applicants apply theories, methods, or concepts from 2 or more disciplines to pursue the research objectives.
- The combination of these elements is not yet common in the field.
- The different disciplines contribute to the research goal from different perspectives.

Interdisciplinary proposals will be evaluated by a panel of interdisciplinary expertise.

Yes No

You have selected "yes" for interdisciplinary. Describe the main elements that make your research interdisciplinary.

Description

199 / 500

Is your research interdisciplinary?

Your proposal is considered interdisciplinary if it meets the following requirements:

- One or several applicants apply theories, methods, or concepts from 2 or more disciplines to pursue the research objectives.
- The combination of these elements is not yet common in the field.
- The different disciplines contribute to the research goal from different perspectives.

Interdisciplinary proposals will be evaluated by a panel of interdisciplinary expertise.

Yes No

You have selected "yes" for interdisciplinary. Describe the main elements that make your research interdisciplinary.

Description

199 / 500



Collaborative research

- Collaborative research are projects with **2 or more** PIs
- **Equal/similar funding rates** for single-applicant and collaborative applications
- An additional evaluation criteria for collaborative project: **added value of collaboration**
- Collaborative projects last max. **4 years** similar to single PI projects. Grants must be opened within 1 year after decision.
- For projects with 3 or more PIs
 - **Coordination costs** can be budgeted
 - **1 Applicant from abroad** can be included (if 2 or more Swiss applicants participate)
- Research plan for single PI projects **max. 15 pages, + 2 additional pages for collaborative projects**

Brain Barriers ID: Identifying and Detailing the molecular mechanisms regulating integrity and immune function of the brain...

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- Proposal
 - Title and duration
 - Contributors
 - Relations
- Research
 - Team
 - Summary
 - Goals
 - Research plan**
 - Milestones
 - Risks
 - Budget
 - Declarations
- Submission
 - Exclusions
 - Remarks
 - Submission

Review and submit

Don't worry – pressing this button won't submit your proposal

Research plan

Your research plan serves as a basis for the expert reviewers and referees to assess the scientific quality and relevance of your research project. Structure and write the research plan according to the requirements. List all sources and work referred to in a separate bibliography.

Guide "How do I create the research plan?"

Formal requirements research plan:

- Projects with 2 applicants: max. 15 pages and 60'000 characters (with spaces)
- Projects with 3 or more applicants: max. 17 pages and 68'000 characters (with spaces)
- Page/character limits include illustrations, footnotes, formulae and tables (and table of contents, if applicable)
- 1.5 line spacing and at least 10-point font size
- No annexes
- File name: <proposal number>_Research_plan.pdf (example: 10000001_Research_Plan.pdf)

Formal requirements bibliography:

- Sources of all completed and/or ongoing work referred to in the research plan
- Full reference indications including title, source and full list of authors
- File name: <proposal number>_Bibliography.pdf (example: 10000001_Bibliography.pdf)

[Show less](#)

- The research plan should be a maximum of 15 pages for projects with 1 or 2 applicants.
- The research plan should be a maximum of 17 pages for projects with 3 or more applicants.
- The research plan should have a maximum of 60'000 characters (including spaces) for projects with 1 or 2 applicants.
- The research plan should have a maximum of 68'000 characters (including spaces) for projects with 3 or more applicants.

Research plan (PDF: max file size 10mb)

researchplan_lorem_ipsum.pdf
⬇
🗑

Characters: 95'000 / 68'000, Pages: 19 / 20

Principles of the 3Rs concerning animal experimentation

Does your project specifically focus on replacing, reducing or refining animal experiments a

Yes No

Revision note for proposal 325657

The SNSF only considers a re-submission if it is a significantly modified version of the reject response to the critique raised in the rejection letter and point out significant changes/additions applicable.

Revision note

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- The research plan should have a maximum of 60'000 characters (including spaces) for projects with 1 applicant.
- The research plan should have a maximum of 68'000 characters (including spaces) for projects with 2 or more applicants.

Research plan (PDF: max file size 10mb)

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🗑

Characters: 95'000 / 68'000, Pages: 19 / 17

Bibliography (PDF: max file size 10mb)

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🗑

Characters: 58'654, Pages: 4

Swiss National Science Foundation

Proposals - Brain Barriers ID: Identifying and Detailing the molecular mechanisms regulating integrity and immune function of the brain... In preparation

Info title 1: Info 1 • Info title 2: Info 2 • Info title 3: Info 3 • **Info title 1: Info 1** • Info title 2: Info 2 • Info title 3: Info 3

- Proposal
 - Contributors
 - Title and duration
 - Relations
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Review and submit

Don't worry - pressing the button won't submit your proposal

Research plan

The research plan provides the basis for the scientific evaluation, particularly to the quality of the proposed research project i.e. its scientific relevance, topicality, originality, feasibility and the suitability of its methods.

The research plan must not exceed 20 pages and 80,000 characters (with spaces), for projects with 2 applicants and 30 pages and 120,000 characters (with spaces) for project with 3 or 4 applicants, this includes illustrations, footnotes, formulae and tables (and, if applicable, the table of contents). A minimum of point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing must be used. In general, the research plan should not contain any annexed documents.

Guidelines

Show less

Research plan (PDF: max. file size 10Mb)

researchplan_lorem_ipsum.pdf

Characters: 55 654 / 80 000, Pages: 89 / 90

Bibliography (PDF: max. file size 10Mb)

bibliography_lorem_ipsum.pdf

Characters: 58 654, Pages: 4

Is your research project use-inspired?

A project can be considered use-inspired if it originates from practical needs, has the potential for eventual practical application, and may have a broader impact.

Yes No

i You have selected "yes" for use-inspired. Describe the broader impact of your project.

Describe the broader impact of your proposed project and its weight by addressing the following points:

- What is the need for research according to practitioners or the industry? Are there any knowledge gaps? What innovations and improvements can be expected?
- To what degree can the expected research results be put into practice?
- Which spheres outside science could benefit from the implementation of the research results? What would change and what is the nature of these changes?

Broader impact

1632 / 8000

Principles of the 3Rs concerning animal experimentation

Does your project specifically focus on replacing, reducing or refining animal experiments according to the 3Rs principle?

Yes No

Comment

Briefly explain which 3Rs principle is in focus and in what way.

1191 / 2200

Revision note for proposal 325657

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Revision note

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Open Research Data

The SNSF requires all funded researchers to manage their data in accordance with the FAIR principles and to make it accessible as far as possible, in compliance with the SNSF policy on Open Research Data. In this context, funded researchers will have to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) within 6 months after the start date of the project.

[Further information on Open Research Data](#), [Data Management Plan](#)

Is your research project use-inspired?

A project can be considered use-inspired if it originates from practical needs, has the potential for eventual practical application, and may have a broader impact.

Yes No

i You have selected "yes" for use-inspired. Describe the broader impact of your project.

Describe the broader impact of your proposed project and its weight by addressing the following points:

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Eligibility Criteria in Project Funding

Article 4 Personal requirements, general

1 Natural persons are eligible to submit applications if they meet the general eligibility requirements for the submission of applications pursuant to Article 10 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF. The requirements set out in Article 13 of the Funding Regulations with regard to the proposed research must also be met.

2 Applicants with a doctorate must have obtained the latter four years before the submission date of the application. Applicants without a doctorate must generally have completed three years of research work as their main source of income since obtaining their higher education degree. Such research work will be regarded as equivalent to a doctorate.

3 Researchers who assume an independent research post less than four years after obtaining the doctorate may submit project funding applications as soon as they assume the said position.

4 Applicants must be in a position to carry out research projects under their own responsibility and to lead project staff both scientifically and as personnel.

5 Applicants must make a substantial contribution to the proposed research and their work must not be directed by instructions from third parties.

6 In collaborative projects with at least 3 applicants, one applicant may be employed at a research institute outside Switzerland if his/her competences are necessary for the project.

Concurrent funding

- You may have up to 3 ongoing projects at the same time during the duration of a project funding grant if at least one of them is a:
 - Lead Agency/Weave project
 - International Co-investigator scheme
 - European consortium agreement for a Joint Transnational Call (JTC) organized by an ERA-Net or an European Partnership

Grant from SNSF career funding/ approved or ongoing Sinergia projects counts as a project funding grant

- The themes addressed by the individual projects must clearly differ from one another.

Amount of funding for a project

- Minimum funding: 100kCHF per project
- The maximum funding per project is limited to **250 kCHF per year and applicant, max. 4 MCHF over 4 years (for 4 and more applicants)**
- The applicants can decide on how to divide up the funding. Foreign applicants may not receive more than their mathematical share ($1/n$ with n applicants).
- The maximum project length is four years, resulting in **maximum funding of 4 MCHF** for a project.

Assessment Criteria in Project Funding

- 1 The relevant criteria for the award of project funding grants are the scientific quality of the research projects and the scientific qualifications of the applicant.
- 2 Scientific evaluation is conducted in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 24 paragraph 2 of the Funding Regulations:
 - a. scientific quality of the proposed research project: scientific relevance, topicality and originality, suitable methods, and feasibility;
 - b. scientific qualifications of the researchers: scientific track record and ability to carry out the research project.
- 3 For applications in use-inspired basic research, the project's broader impact is taken into account as part of the scientific quality pursuant to Para. 2 lit. a.
- 4 In collaborative projects, there is an additional evaluation criteria on how the collaboration is set-up and organised with regard to the common research goals.



Collaborative and interdisciplinary projects growing in importance: Summary

Key Changes

- **Integration of Sinergia** into project funding
- **Evaluation:** Interdisciplinary projects will be assessed by a separate evaluation panel
- **Concurrent funding:** Researchers can now hold up to three grants from project funding
- **Amount of funding for a project:** Max. 250 kCHF per year and applicant (max 4 MCHF over 4 years)
- **Applicants outside of Switzerland:** In collaborative projects with three or more applicants possible
- **Coordination costs:** If three or more applicants are involved coordination costs are eligible

FAQ – Number of proposals and grants

Can I submit 2 proposals at the same deadline?

➤ **No**

Can I resubmit a sinergia proposal and another project funding proposal at the same time?

➤ **No**

Can I submit a WEAVE proposal at the SNSF and another project funding proposal at the same time?

➤ **No, the SNSF will only evaluate 1 proposal per applicant per call. But you can submit a WEAVE proposal at a partner agency and a SNSF project at the same time.**

I have a Sinergia and two project funding grants ongoing. Can I submit another proposal?

➤ **No. Granted or running Sinergia grants count as project funding**

I have a Sinergia and a project funding and a LAE grant ongoing. Can I submit another proposal?

➤ **No. Granted or running Sinergia grants and LAV/LAE//WEAVE/ICIS/EU Consortia count as project funding**

FAQ – Number of proposals and grants

I have three ongoing projects. When can I submit a new proposal?

- **You apply for a project grant for the period after expiry of a support measure by the SNSF that was subject to the restrictions applicable to project funding.**
- **Please note: The evaluation of a proposal takes 6 months. You must start the project within 1 year of receiving the decision.**

My project has been extended for 6 months by receiving a grant for project completion. Is the extension phase affected by the SNSF restrictions with regard to multiple parallel grants?

- **No.**

FAQ – Number of proposals and grants

Do the restrictions apply to this funding instrument?

Ambizione	Yes
Eccellenza	Yes
European Partnerships and other multilateral initiatives (except Belmont Forum and & transatlantic platform for social sciences and humanities)	Yes
PRIMA	Yes
Projects on health and wellbeing	Yes
Project Funding	Yes
Sinergia	Yes
SNSF Professorships	Yes
Weave / Lead Agency / International Co-Investigator Scheme	Yes
Practice to science	Yes

You will find this table on the website

Agora	No
Bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation	No
BRIDGE	No
COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology	no
Funding LARge international REsearch projects (FLARE)	No
Investigator initiated clinical trials (IICT)	No
MARVIS – Space research	No
MD-PhD-Programm	No
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)	No
National Research Programmes (NRPs) (snf.ch)	No
Open Access book publications	No
Quantum Transitional Call	No
Research Equipment (R'Equip)	No
Scientific communication training for researchers	No
Scientific Exchanges / Scholars at Risk	No
SNSF Advanced Grants	No
SNSF Consolidator Grants	No
SNSF Starting Grants	No
SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships (SPF)	No
Solution-oriented research for development (SOR4D) programme	No
Spark	No
SPIRIT	No
Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2023	No
Belmont Forum and & transatlantic platform for social sciences and humanities	No
Enlargement contribution	No

FAQ – Applicants

In a proposal with 3 or more applicants, can one applicant be from abroad even if SNSF does not have a bilateral contract (such as WEAVE) with that country?

➤ **Yes, this is possible.**

In a proposal with 3 or more applicants, can there be two applicants from outside Switzerland even if the SNSF does not have bilateral agreements (such as WEAVE) with the funding organisations in these countries?

➤ **No, only one applicant from abroad is allowed**

In a proposal with 3 or more applicants, can one applicant be from Germany even if it is not a WEAVE proposal?

➤ **No. Proposals with applicants from country with which the SNSF has existing bilateral agreements must be submitted as WEAVE/LA/ICIS proposal.**

FAQ – Applicants

In a WEAVE proposal, can a Swiss corresponding applicant and the German applicant have another foreign applicant from a Non-WEAVE country?

- **No. For WEAVE/LA/ICIS, the respective agreements apply. An additional applicant from a Non-WEAVE/LA/ICIS country is not allowed.**

In a WEAVE proposal, can a Swiss corresponding applicant and the German applicant have another foreign applicant from an ICIS country?

- **Yes, this combination is possible.**

FAQ - Coordination costs for collaborative grants

Can I (partially) employ a PostDoc to coordinate the collaborative research funded by a project funding grant?

- **In principle yes. There is no limit on the amount that can be granted for such costs, but they must be reasonable.**

FAQ – Budget limits

Does the 250k limit per applicant and year apply strictly to each applicant?

- **No, the applicants can distribute the funding amongst themselves. The total average spending level must respect the 250k per applicant and year limit.**

Can I exceed the 250k limit per applicant and year at the beginning of the grant, when the average SL respects the limit over the full duration of the grant?

- **Yes. The 250k limit per applicant and year has to be respected as an average over the grant duration. This allows a higher SL at the start of the grant (i.e. to purchase equipment) compensated by a lower SL towards the end of the grant.**

FAQ – What information can be submitted

Can I submit a cover letter?

- **No, for equality reasons. The content of a cover letter is not standardised and may be a complement to the research plan.**

Can I submit a letter of support?

- **No. Not only the applicants, but also the project partners must create an account on the portal and enter their personal data themselves. By working directly on the proposal, they also demonstrate their commitment that they are participating in the planned project. This replaces a letter of support.**

Outlook

Key Steps

- 20.06.2023: Publication of Project Funding Regulations (in De/Fr/E)
- 21.06.2023: News „Neuerungen in der Projektförderung“
- 29.06.2023: Online Event for applicants
- 03.07.2023: Project Funding Call opens on the SNSF Portal
- 02.10.2023: Deadline proposal submission

