

Funding opportunities for postdocs

Grants Office, EU GrantsAccess &
Industry Relations
23 January 2024



Who are we?

Grants Office

- ETH funding
- SNSF funding
- Prizes

EU GrantsAccess

- EU and US funding
- SNSF transitional measures

ETH Industry Relations

- funding schemes for applied research and research with industry partners

ETH Postdoc Career Week 22-26 January 2024

FAQs

Will we get slides for the sessions? Any ETH Zurich postdoc who registered for at least one PDCW session will be emailed a link at the end of PDCW (latest 30 January) with any materials we have received for all sessions.

Will the sessions be recorded? No, please use the slides and other materials provided. Postdocs interested in getting information should register for at least one event.

Can I give feedback to improve future PDCW sessions? Yes, please do. You can fill out this form per session, and also make a comment about the overall programme when using this form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/WBDv0b39Tu>

What if I have an ETH postdoc colleague who would like to still join a session?

All ETH postdocs can still register for any session up to 24 hours prior to the start of each event.

What is the registration link?

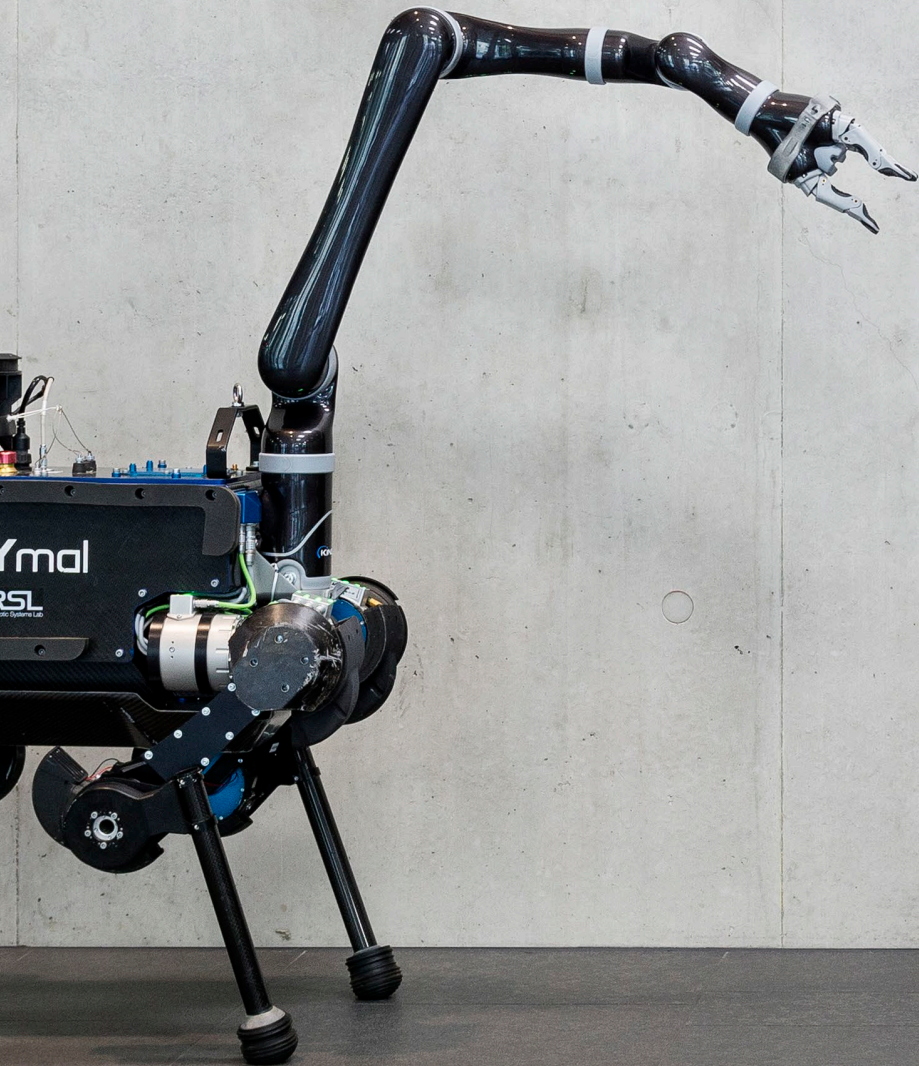
<https://ethcareer.ch/en/events/detail/?id=35140fe5-bc6d-ee11-80f8-944c41dd26bf>

Problems registering? Please email careercenter@ethz.ch



Feedback Form - Postdoc Careers
Week 2024





Programme

Part 1: 10:00 – 10:30

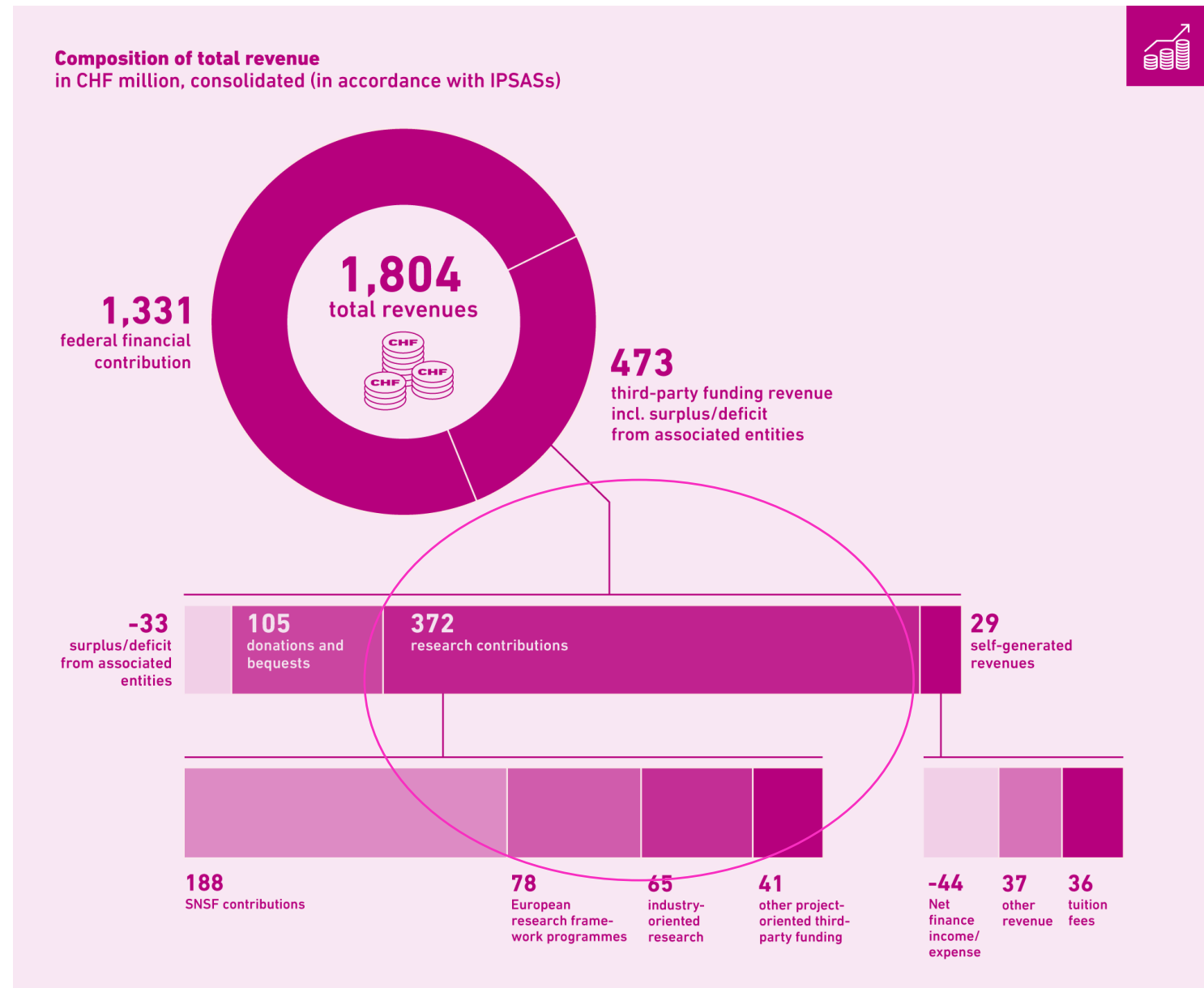
- Introduction
- The role of third-party funding
- Different categories of funding schemes
- How to find the most suitable instrument for me?
- How does the evaluation of applications work?

Part 2: 10:30 - 11:30

- Expert tips from our guests:
 - Sanne Kikkert
 - Niko Beerenwinkel
- Q&A
- Outlook

The role of third-party funding

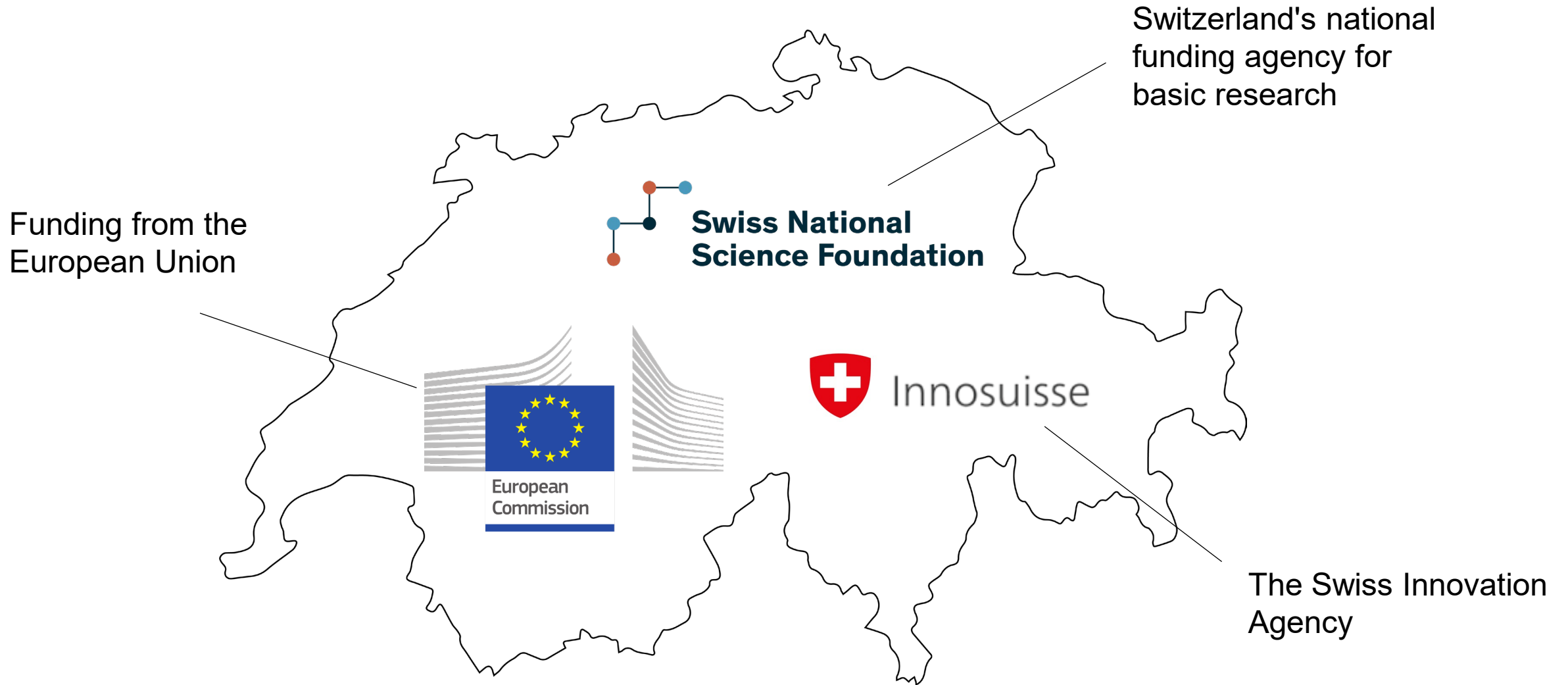
- The share of third-party funding in academia is on the rise.
- Important for institutions, especially in times of budget cuts (now...).
- Third-party funding is relevant for careers:
 - gain independence
 - demonstrate competitiveness
 - stepstone towards faculty and other senior research positions
 - stepstone towards positions in and collaborations with industry/private sector



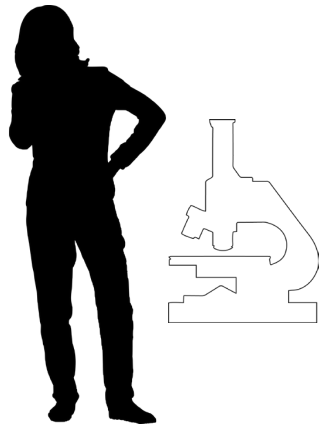
Numbers from annual report 2022

Different categories of funding

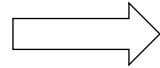
The funding landscape in Switzerland – main players



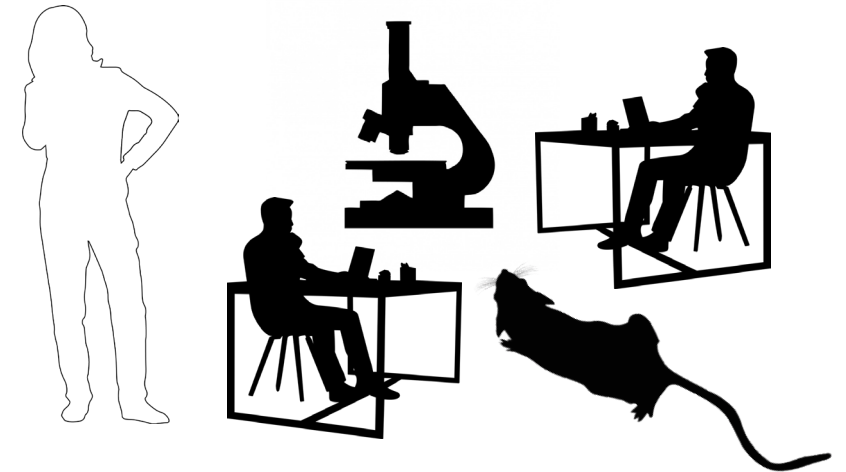
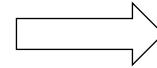
Persons or projects?



Fellowships
(career funding)



Mixed funding types
(your salary, staff,
equipment)



Project funding

- Over the course of your career, you'll be moving from funding that only includes your personal salary to projects where staff and consumables are funded but your own salary is assumed to be granted by an institution
- The earlier your career, the smaller the project component – choose the right instrument for your career stage!

Research in Switzerland vs. outgoing instruments

Funding instruments offered for researchers working in Switzerland serve different purposes:

- Support mobility
 - Get scientific input
 - Enlarge network
 - Immerse in different research culture
- Establish yourself in Switzerland
 - First step towards scientific independence
 - Start your first (small) research group
 - Stepping stone for more advanced fellowship or a faculty or other permanent research position in Switzerland (or also abroad)



E-bike City – D-BAUG

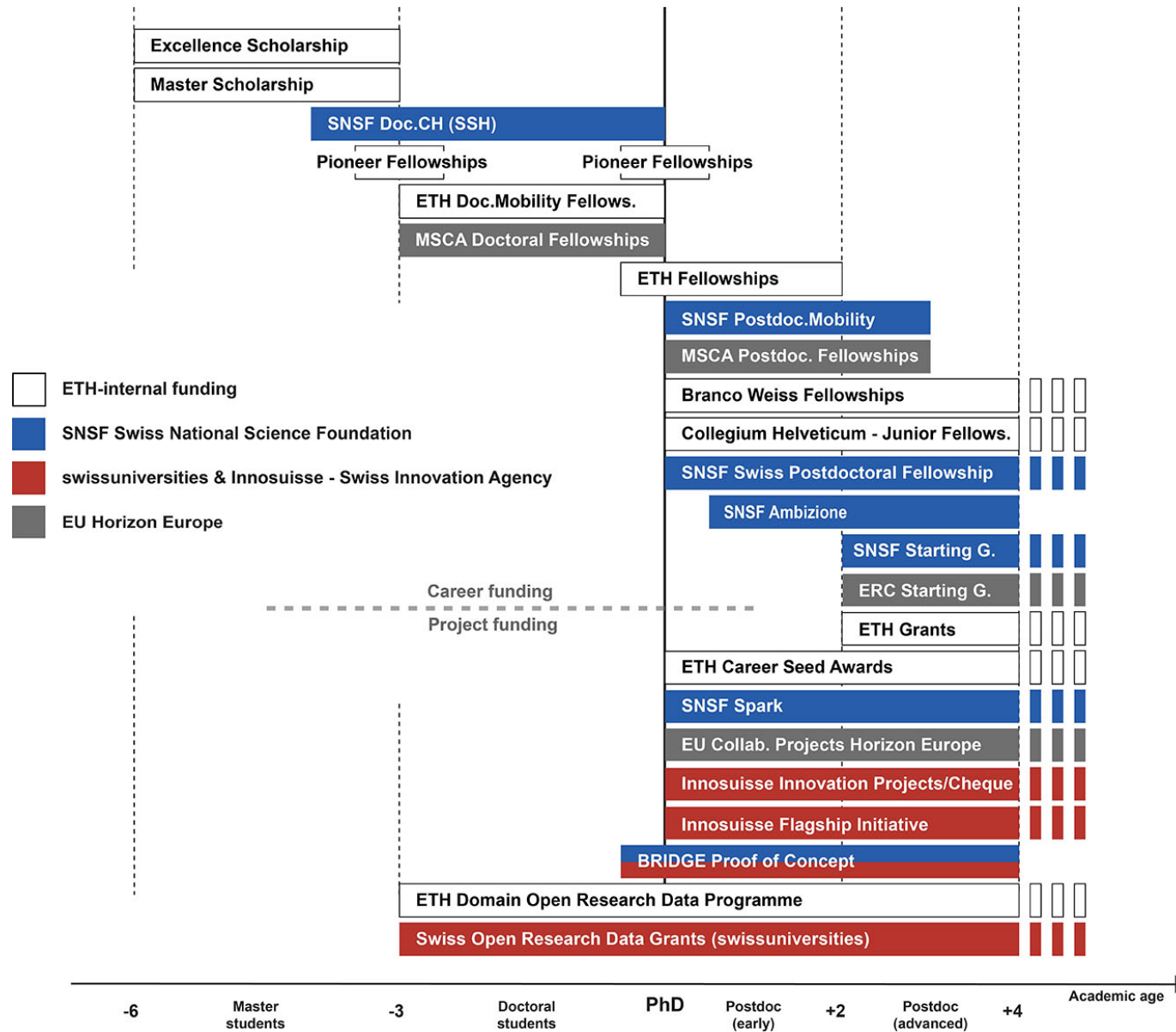
What is the most suitable funding instrument for me?

Considerations

- For which funding instruments am I eligible? Will I be eligible in due time?
- Does the instrument cover my research area/subjects?
- Where am I in my career? How many years after my PhD? Am I ready to take the next step?
- How strong is my performance? How is my academic performance compared to my peers?
- Where do I want to go?
 - Stay in academia?
 - Change to private sector or somewhere else?
 - Is this instrument helping me to achieve my goals?



Overview by career stage



Recommendations for proposal writing – evaluation process

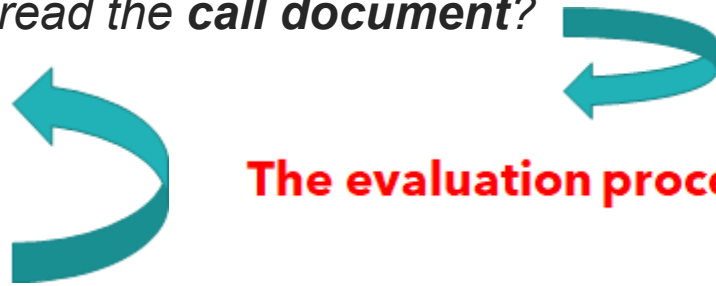
The pre-award phase including the evaluation process

The call => How to read the call document?

Proposal writing

Submission

Evaluation



The call document determines how you have to write your proposal !

The evaluation process determines how you have to write your proposal !

«objective» criteria: outlined in work programs, guidelines, briefing of evaluators

«more subjective» criteria: the actual rating of a panelist and how the process is implemented

The evaluation process

- Panel
 - Is responsible for the selection of proposals for funding
 - Often has to sort the proposals in groups => rating, e.g.
 - "qualified to be funded"
 - "not qualified to be funded"
 - Intermediate, i.e. can be funded under certain conditions
 - Which proposals are funded depends on that rating and on the funding amount that is available
- External evaluators
 - Report on the scientific quality of the proposal
 - Report is made available to the panel, is a support for the decision of the panel

We describe a typical evaluation process – for your specific call, the process may be different.

However, we believe that the hints we derive from a typical process is valid for all proposals

The general recommendation

- When writing the proposal, **take also the perspective of the reader (panelist, evaluator)**
- In the following slides and with the help of our guests, we will explain the way these people will deal with your proposal
- If you take that into consideration, it will help you to write good proposals

Consider how the panel works

- The panelists will often discuss your proposal in a very limited time frame
*Help them to find the idea and the way you will implement it **quickly***
- The majority of the panel may consist of people who are not always experts in your field
*Give them a chance to understand the **basics** of your proposal and to support you*
- Their question will typically be
What problem are you trying to solve?
Why now?
Why you?

Consider how evaluators read the proposal

- They often have a short and hard deadline, so they have less time to read a proposal than to read a paper draft. And they will have to read maybe several proposals at a time. English may be not their mother tongue. They are experts in the field, but also they may not be familiar with everything you are writing.

Do answer in the proposal clearly the questions they will have to answer in their report

Make it easy for them to read your proposal: clear and easy description of the idea, the expected results and the methods to be used

General hints, valid for the panel and the external evaluators

You have to sell an **IDEA** and the **IMPLEMENTATION** (not a result)

- The description of the idea must be clear and transparent
- Describe the objective very clear
 - What knowledge will be produced?*
 - Why was this not already done?*
- What the evaluators expect
 - The idea is convincing and achievable*
 - Be specific (not general concepts). Who will do what, when and how?*
 - Deliver a high quality document (proof read)*

General hints, valid for the panel and the external evaluators

You have to **SELL** the idea

- You have to catch the interest of the reader EARLY
- Make it easy for them to grasp your idea, your goal, your method
 - Diagrams help to explain the concept*
 - Tables and graphs help to support the diagrams*
 - Text in italics or in colour will attract attention*
- Don't be afraid to have two levels of description in the proposal
 - One easy to read and grasp quickly*
 - One that goes into depth*
 - Follow both levels through the proposal*

Questions?

Expert guests

Guests: Sanne Kikkert and Niko Beerenwinkel



Dr. Sanne Kikkert

- Group leader at the Neural Control of Movement Lab at D-HEST since 2022
- Ambizione Fellow
- former ETH Postdoctoral Fellow
- Master's degree in Cognitive Neuroscience from Maastricht University
- PhD from University of Oxford with scholarship from the UK Medical Research Council



Prof. Dr. Niko Beerenwinkel

- full professor of computational biology at D BSSE
- his research is at the interface of mathematics, statistics, and computer science with biology and medicine
- experienced panelist
- currently serving on one of the SNSF Starting Grants Panels for Life Sciences

The experience of a panel member and external evaluator

- Panel
 - How does the briefing of panel members / evaluators look like? In addition to the evaluation criteria in the call document, are there any other points that the panel member needs to evaluate? Is there a scoring system?
 - Assuming that a panel member gets a certain number of proposals for which he has to report to the panel. How is the matching of panel member and proposal done?
 - How many panel members read the proposal? (Those who have to report and the other panel members)
- Evaluation experience
 - How much time do you have resp. do you need to read one proposal?
 - How do you evaluate the proposals?
 - Do you look at the budget when reading the proposal? If yes, what role does it play for you?
- Rating
 - How does the consensus meeting where the rating is determined look like?
 - Which role takes the panel chair in practice?
 - How is the final rating for each proposal being found in the end?
 - How do you deal with interdisciplinarity?

Wrap up and outlook



- Watch out for further events:
 - **Funding for Innovation** Event, 20 March 2024 (see ETH Event Calendar)
 - More events during this **Postdoc Career Week**
 - SNSF offers various events for its funding instruments

- Feedback
 - Are there other topics you are interested in?
 - Any other feedback

Thank you for joining us today!

Please provide us with feedback for the PDCW sessions.



<https://forms.office.com/e/WBDv0b39T>

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Some tips

Some general tips

- Plan ahead and start early:
 - Deadlines
 - Eligibility windows might close
 - You also need reference letters, confirmation of host institutions, etc.

- Read instructions carefully:
 - Eligibility
 - Aims of instrument
 - When in doubt: contact managing offices

- Talk to people who have won fellowships/grants that you are interested in (e.g. SNSF data portal, ETH website)
- Consider ETH-rules regarding maximum duration of employment and age cap for assistant professors
- Beware of rumours

Some tips with regards to SNSF instruments

- **mySNF or SNSF portal account** needed for application – register in time!
- **Eligibility window** can be extended (maternity / parental leave, sick leave)

Ambizione

- ETH-specifics: application only possible when the intended project is within the candidate's **maximum duration of employment** (6 years max. as PhD and/or Postdoc + 6 years max. as OberassistentIn in ETH domain) – please check with HR manager of your department!
- ETH **support letters** needed:
 - General confirmation, signed by Vice President for Research: has to be requested at snf_fellows@sl.ethz.ch

Fellowships including professorship positions:

- Contact Office of Faculty Affairs!
- Age cap of about 35 years for assistant professors at ETH – exceptions possible

Funding instruments for postdocs

ETH-internal funding

- **ETH Fellowships**
- **The Branco Weiss Fellowships**
- **ETH Career Seed Awards**
- **Collegium Helveticum Fellows**



Salary + 20 kCHF research and travel cost contributions



Career funding

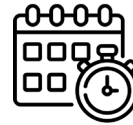


Purpose

- attract excellent young scientists at the beginning of their careers to the ETH Zurich
- own research idea; own initiative; broaden research horizon; first step towards independence



2 years



1 March and 1 September



Requirements

- up to two years after doctorate
- Application needs to be supported by an ETH professor who would act as host of the fellow
- mobility: not longer than 6 months at ETH domain and/or UZH, not longer than 12 months in past 3 years in Switzerland

[ETH Zurich Postdoctoral Fellowships](#)

The Branco Weiss Fellowship



600 kCHF



Career funding

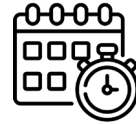


Purpose

- postdocs from all disciplines
 - with a novel and rigorous project
 - willing to engage in dialogue with other disciplines and on relevant societal topics
- fellows can work at the research institution that fits best to their project, anywhere in the world



2+3 years



15 January



Requirements

- up to five years after doctorate
- outstanding scientific achievements
- project departs from mainstream of discipline

[Branco Weiss Fellowships](#)

ETH Career Seed Awards



30 kCHF



Project funding

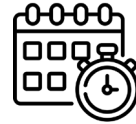


Purpose

- Tailored to postdocs
- Stepstone project towards independence
- explore or develop novel, ambitious ideas, new research directions, or collaborations
- goal: establish own record of independent research
- new research direction that is independent of ETH host



1 year



1 March and 1 September



Requirements

- $\geq 50\%$ employment at ETH
- Targeting "early-career" postdocs (up to six years after doctorate)
- Open to all postdocs who have been at ETH for more than six months and have already had scientific achievements as postdocs at ETH

[ETH Zurich Career Seed Awards](#)

Collegium Helveticum – Early Career Fellowships



Salary



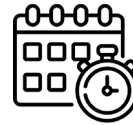
Career funding



Purpose



10 months



Deadline 1 March, project start 1 September



Requirements

- The Collegium Helveticum is a joint Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) of ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts.
- The fellowship program seeks to promote collaboration and exchange across disciplinary boundaries
- For postdocs from all disciplines and artists, willing to engage in a dialogue

- Up to five years after doctorate (for scientists) or master degree (for artistic disciplines) and not in a permanent position
- Submission of a project with the support of a professor from ETHZ, UZH or ZHDK, who will become an associated fellow
- Presence at the Collegium during weekdays

[Collegium Helveticum – Junior Fellowships](#)

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

- **Postdoc.Mobility**
- **Ambizione**
- **SNSF Spark**
- **SNSF Professorial Fellowships**

Postdoc.Mobility (outgoing)



Cost of living contribution+
research and travel costs



Mainly career funding

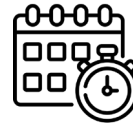


Purpose

- Funding for a research stay abroad and, optional, a return phase in Switzerland
- To increase experience and scientific independence, and enhance research profile



2 years abroad + 3 - 12
months in Switzerland



1 February and 2 August



Requirements

- Up to three years after doctorate
- "Swiss link" necessary: Swiss nationality or residence permit needed
- at least two years of research activity at a Swiss institution (for foreign nationals)

[SNSF Postdoc.Mobility](#)

Ambizione



Salary + 400 kCHF
research costs



Mixed

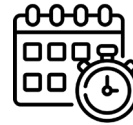


Purpose

- Aimed at young researchers who wish to lead an independent research project at a Swiss institution
- For outstanding researchers aiming at an academic career
- Open to all disciplines
- Research stay at another institution – CH, abroad or non-academic – can be included



(2-)4 years



1 November



Requirements

- Up to four years after doctorate
- At least one year of research experience as postdoc
- Open to all researchers, from Switzerland and abroad

[SNSF Ambizione](#)

Spark



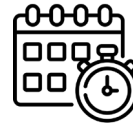
50-100 kCHF



6-12 months



Open (any costs are eligible)



4 March 2024



Purpose



Requirements

- Fund unconventional ideas (regardless of who has them)
- "Rapid testing" for new methods, theories, standards...
- Very open and highly competitive

- Doctorate or higher
- Employment at Swiss research institution *or* confirmation of support
- Strictly double-blind reviewing process
→ anonymised applications

[SNSF Spark](#)

SNSF Professorial Fellowships – tbc (future unclear)



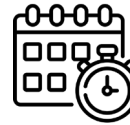
Salary + 1'000 kCHF
research costs



5 years



Mixed



tbc



Purpose



Requirements

- Aimed at highly qualified researchers aiming at a professorship
- Open to all disciplines
- Allows to lead a generously funded research project as an assistant professor with a team
- For female grantees: leadership programme offered

- Up to 8 years after PhD defense
- At least three years of research experience after doctorate

[PRIMA and Eccellenza become SNSF Professorial Fellowships \(snf.ch\)](https://www.snf.ch/primaeccellenza)

Selected Foundations

AXA Postdoctoral Fellowship
Schmidt Science Fellowship

AXA Fellowships



about 120 kEUR



Open (any costs are eligible)

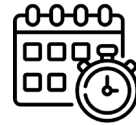


Purpose

- supporting young promising researchers on a priority topic aligned with AXA and the society
- scientific originality and innovative nature
- relevance for society has to be demonstrated



24 months



TBD



Requirements

- Up to 5 years after doctorate
- Employment at AXA partner institution for duration of fellowship
- Usually only one spot for ETH: ETH-internal preselection process! Watch out for announcement

[AXA Fellowships \(axa-research.org\)](https://axa-research.org)

Schmidt Science Fellowships



Up to 200k US Dollars



Living expenses plus travel costs



Purpose

- Fund postdoctoral placement at a world-leading laboratory anywhere in the world in a disciplinary pivot from their PhD
- Includes tailored training courses, global meeting series with other fellows



12-24 months



TBD



Requirements

- Recent or soon-to-be completed doctorate – strict deadlines occur
- graduate degree at ETH in the natural sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, or Computing – and all sub-disciplines therein
- Five - seven spots for ETH graduates: ETH-internal preselection process! Watch out for announcement

[Overview - Schmidt Science Fellows](#)

Transitional measures, European & US funding

- **MSCA: Postdoctoral Fellowships / SNSF-SPF-transitional measures**
- **ERC: Starting Grants**
- **Collaborative Projects**
- **US-Funding**



- **9th Framework Program (Horizon Europe; 2021–2027) started in 2021**
 - Switzerland is currently treated as a non-associated third country for the submission of project proposals within Horizon Europe (HE) and other related programs and initiatives
 - This status can be changed at any time, but currently applies for all calls in 2024

With this status, Swiss-based researchers can still participate in approx. 2/3 of HE & notably in most collaborative projects, but not in mono-beneficiary projects

- Funding will be provided by SERI during the lifetime of the project*
- The goal of the Swiss government remains the full association to Horizon Europe

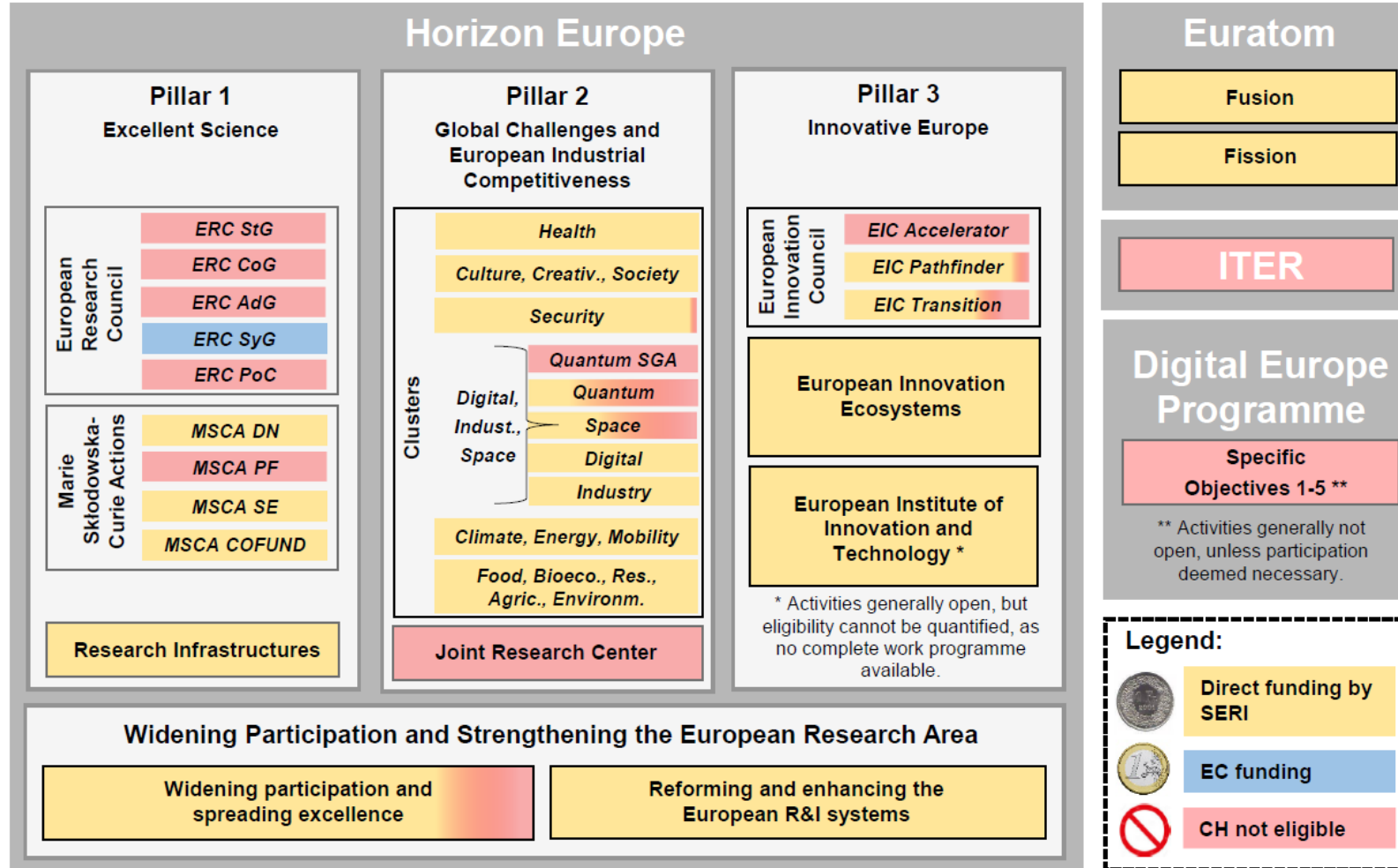
Most recent information can be found at the [website of SERI](#)


Status EU Funding & Association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe



Eligibility and funding of Swiss participants in the Horizon Package

(based on available budget in the 2023 Work Programmes)



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**
International Research and Innovation Programmes

SNSF: Postdoctoral Fellowships SPF 2024 (incoming)



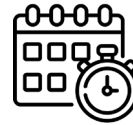
- Postdoctoral fellow's salary + social security contributions, financial contributions to research & conference costs



- 12-24 months



- Mainly personal



To be announced



Purpose



Requirements

Tool to fill the gap in your CV -> career development

- **Mobility for Postdocs is the key requirement**
- Not more than 8 years of full-time research experience after PhD (not included: research experience in third countries, maternity etc.)
- Researchers from any nationality
- Open to all research disciplines & topics

The researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their future host organization for **more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of proposals**

MSCA: Postdoctoral European Fellowships 24



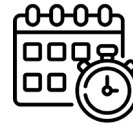
- Postdoctoral fellow's salary + social security contributions, financial contributions to research & conference costs



- 12-24 months



- Mainly personal



11. September 2024
(Deadline)



Purpose



Requirements

Tool to fill the gap in your CV -> career development

EU Member State or Associated Country

- **Mobility for Postdocs is the key requirement**
- Not more than 8 years of full-time research experience after PhD (not included: research experience in third countries, maternity etc.)
- Researchers from any nationality
- Open to all research disciplines & topics

The researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their future host organization for **more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of proposals**

MSCA: Postdoctoral Global Fellowships 24



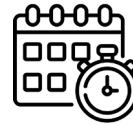
- Postdoctoral fellow's salary + social security contributions, financial contributions to research & conference costs



- Outgoing 12 –24 months
- Plus 12 month return phase } 24-36 months



- Mainly personal



11. September 2024
(Deadline)



Purpose



Requirements

Tool to fill the gap in your CV -> career development
R&I projects outside EU MS and AS; **outgoing phase in non-associated Third Country**

- **Mobility for Postdocs is the key requirement**
- Not more than 8 years of full-time research experience after PhD (not included: research experience in third countries, maternity etc.)
- Researchers being European nationals or long-term residents (min. 5 consecutive years)
- Open to all research disciplines & topics

The researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organization for **more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of proposals**

ERC: Starting Grant (StG) 2024



- Project funds up to 1'500'000 €
- + 1 Mio (conditional): major equipment, access to large facilities, major experimental and field work (no personnel costs!)



Project funding



Purpose

- Enable talented early-career scientist who have already produced excellent supervised work and show potential to be a research leader to start working independently and establish their own research team and topic.



5 years



to be announced, normally in autumn



Requirements

- 2-7 years post PhD
- Proven potential and promising track-record (including at least one important publication without contribution of PhD supervisor)
- EU Member State or Associated Country Host Institution (**currently not CH**)

HEU: Collaborative projects



- Project funds 3 – 10 Mio € (call-dependent)
- Personnel costs, travel, dissemination, equipment, open access publications, 25% overheads



Project funding with a few partners

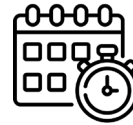


Purpose

- Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) consist of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution
- Excellent opportunity for building own network, research and publications



3-5 years



Several per year depending on call topic
Open calls via [Portal](#)



Requirements

- Post-Docs can participate as PIs
- Min. 3 Partners from EU MS or AC (CH funded nationally by SERI)
- Coordination not possible
- WP lead possible

US-Funding (federal funding opportunities)



- Project funds (Funder-dependent)
- Personnel costs, equipment, travel, dissemination, 8-10% overheads



From a few months to a few years



- Main-awardee or Sub-awardee



Multiple per year via different portals



Purpose



Requirements

- Excellent opportunity for building own network, research and publications and connect with US-collaborators

- Post-Docs can participate as PIs
- Very different, depending on the Funder
- Portal and database access required and managed by EU GrantsAccess
- Contract, Subaward, Agreement
- **Contact EU GrantsAccess**

- Searchable online database of funding opportunities prefiltered for eligibility of researchers in Switzerland
- Direct access from ETH Campus
- Access via VPN or by setting up a personal account (free registration with your institutional e-mail address)

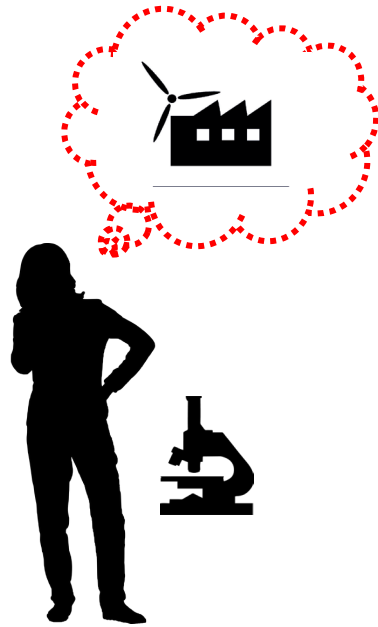


- Open innovation platform that forges links between an international network of excellent researchers and innovating companies
- Seek a consortium to join or look for partners to join yours (please contact us, if the latter applies)
- Join Helixes (thematic groups) or become a Helix leader
 - ETH (together with UZH) is [helix leader](#) for the Soil Mission (via EU GrantsAccess)
- Whenever you have question to usage or access, contact [EU GrantsAccess](#)

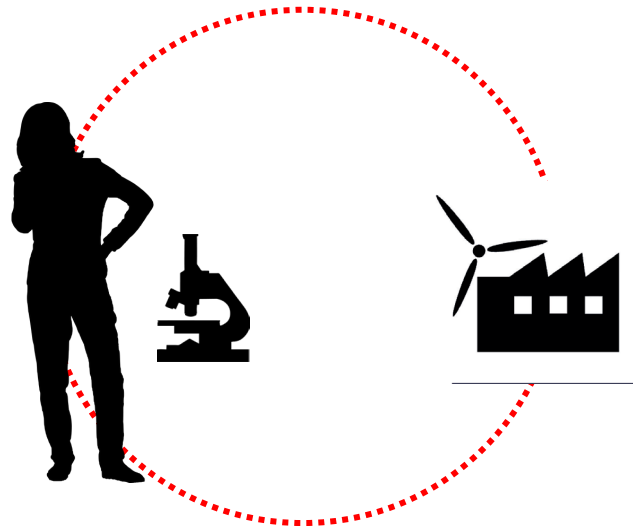
Funding for innovation

- **ETH Pioneer Fellowships**
- **SNSF/Innosuisse: BRIDGE Proof of Concept and BRIDGE Discovery**
- **Innosuisse with and without implementation partner**

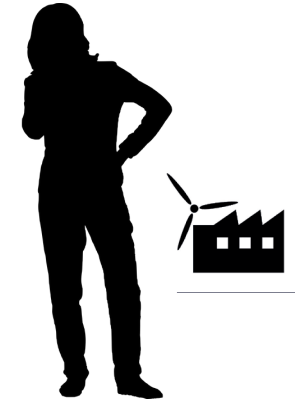
Science-based innovation



Basic research for science-based innovation



Industry-science collaborations



Pioneers and successful entrepreneurs

- Science-based innovation aims to make scientifically developed technologies, processes or services marketable.
- Various funding opportunities are open for researchers, collaborative projects with industry partners and those who want to build their own business.



150 kCHF



Mainly career

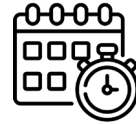


Purpose

- Give junior researchers the chance to become an entrepreneur based on Master or doctoral research
- Evaluate potential of research and prepare commercialisation
- Includes coaching by personal mentor and CAS "Entrepreneurial Leadership in Technology Ventures" and access to ETH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab



12-18 months



1 March and 1 September



Requirements

- Submit around completion of Master or doctorate (± 6 months)
- More advanced postdocs can be considered in justified cases (based on work accomplished at ETH)
- Promising business case
- Full support by a host professor at ETH

[ETH Pioneer Fellowships](#)

SNSF/Innosuisse: BRIDGE Proof of Concept

BRIDGE



max. 130 kCHF



Career

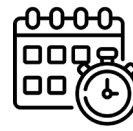


Purpose

- BRIDGE Proof of Concept helps young researchers to develop an application or service based on their research results and gain the confidence needed to make a market entry.
- Innovation of all kinds from all research areas.



12 months (+6)



4 x per year



Requirements

- Host institution
- BA or MA less than 4 months ago
- Finish doctorate in less than 6 months
- Employed as a Postdoc with doctorate less than 4 years ago

- **4. March 2024**
- **3. June 2024**
- **2. September 2024**
- **2. December 2024**

[Bridge](#)

SNSF/Innosuisse: BRIDGE Discovery

BRIDGE



max. 850 kCHF per applicant



Project (no funding of applicant's salary)

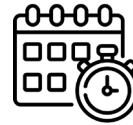


Purpose

- BRIDGE Discovery is aimed at experienced researchers for **basic** as well as **applied** research in order to realize the innovation potential of research findings.



up to 4 years



1 x per year



Requirements

- Host institution
- 1-3 applicants
- Experienced scientist with proven record of leading research projects

Next call expected Feb 2024

[Bridge](#)

Innosuisse with implementation partner



Open



Mixed

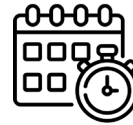


Purpose

- Science-based innovation project conducted by industrial partners and private and public institutions jointly with a single or multiple research partners



Open



9 annual deadlines



Requirements

- Innovative project idea which benefits industry or society
- At least one implementation partner who plans to commercialize the project results (Company, NGO)
- Implementation partner contributes 40-60% to project (in kind and/or cash)

[Innosuisse](#)

[ETH Industry Relations](#)

Innosuisse **without** implementation partner



Open



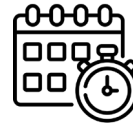
Mixed



Purpose



Max. 18 months



9 annual deadlines



Requirements

- Innovation projects of researchers who have come across an innovative idea with great market potential in the course of their research work but have not yet found a partner for the implementation on the market.

- High innovation potential
- Clear business idea
- Prospective implementation partners are known (this can include founding of own Spin-off)

[Innosuisse](#)

[ETH Industry Relations](#)

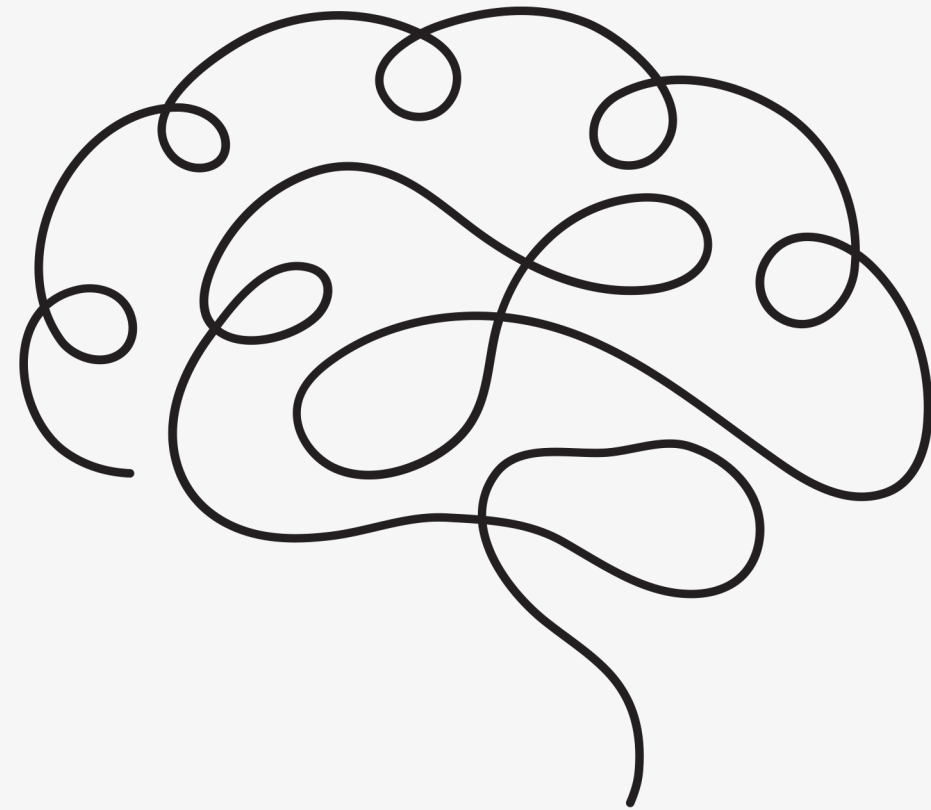


Funding opportunities for Postdocs

Sanne Kikkert

23.01.2024

Who am I?



SNSF Ambizione Group Leader



My grant writing journey

PhD

2013 - Medical Sciences Graduate School Studentship
2014 - MRC DTP Supplementary Funding
2016 - OHBM Merit Abstract Award
2016 - Merton Travel Grant
2016 - Merton College Doctoral Completion Bursary Grant
2016 - MRC DTP Supplementary Funding
2016 - Merton Prize scholarship
2016 - Goodger and Schorstein Research Scholarship in
Medical Sciences
2016 - Funds for Women Graduates
2016 - British Federation of Women Graduates

Postdoc

2018 - ETH Zürich Postdoctoral Fellowship
2018 - Guarantors of the Brain – Travel Grant
2018 - Neural Control of Movement Meeting Scholarship
2022 - ETH Zürich Career Seed Award
2022 - SNF Ambizione Grant
2023 - SNF Flexibility Grant (childcare grant)

Why write a grant?

- ✓ Establish yourself as an independent researcher.
- ✓ Not only publications, but also grants are essential for academic progression.
- ✓ Establish a track record of achievements.

Writing a grant takes time, so be realistic for what grants you are competitive...

I already got funding for the next years. Why should I write a grant?



Show your competitiveness and apply for grants (and awards) to show your continuous excellence!



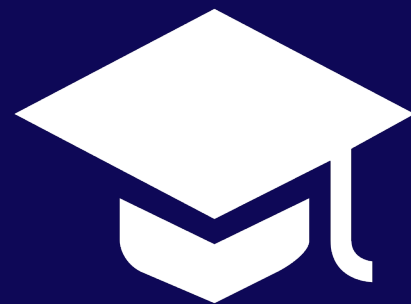
Travel grants



*Short Research Visits &
Collaboration grants*



Career grants



*Competitive
summer schools*



Project grants

Go for a balance between small (fast, less competitive, but less \$) and big grants (slow, more competitive, more \$\$\$).



The small grants will make you more competitive for the big grants!

Where can I apply for funding?



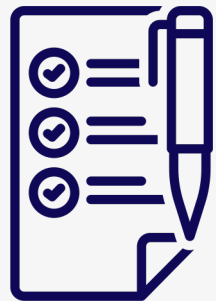
- ➔ Talk to your advisor and colleagues
- ➔ Research online and create a list
- ➔ Contact your department's grant offices and/or go to information events
- ➔ Consider (international) collaborative grants
- ➔ See if you can apply for smaller funding bodies (e.g., gender-specific, non-profit, disease-specific)

Possible funding sources: University, Research Foundations (SNSF), Conference Organisers, Private companies, Non-profit organisations

Some helpful websites:

- ETH Grants Office website (<https://ethz.ch/en/research/research-promotion.html>)
- SNF's find the funding scheme that is right for you (<https://www.snf.ch/en/A7fep1IPxz1XezVS/page/find-funding-scheme>)

Tips for writing a successful application



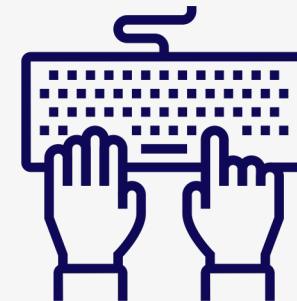
Prepare

- Check eligibility criteria (e.g., academic age)
- Familiarise yourself with the application process (check who will read your application - write it for them) and scoring/assessment process.



Plan ahead

- Check deadlines
- Request support letters
- Request references
- Request to read (successful) grant applications from colleagues or friends
- Plan feedback rounds



Simplify & feasibility

- Write clear and simple! Use understandable language for non-experts
- Feasibility is key! Discuss feasibility, risks, how you will address setbacks. Pilot data helps a lot!



Feedback

- From your advisor, colleagues (who may have successfully applied in the past), and non-expert friends.

Not only the research counts - sell yourself...



Establish (interdisciplinary) collaborations

They want to fund future leaders so work on your soft skills

e.g., Leadership, time management, project management, conflict management, feminno

Don't be modest or shy. Why are you the best for this project?

Clearly map your vision for your future career and research

Ensure you get glowing reference letters

- Think carefully who you will ask
- Give them ample heads-up

Round 2: The interview...



Know the process and follow the instructions carefully. Don't go over time.



Practice A LOT! Do mock interviews! Record yourself if possible...



Prepare potential questions (check your panel). Ask your colleagues to grill you.

Answer to the point.



Be enthusiastic and enjoy!

**Celebrate your successes and make the most
of a rejection!**



Questions

