



SNSF Funding Opportunities Complementary to SPHN

Ayşim Yılmaz, 29 June 2017



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The SNSF



- supports scientific basic research on behalf of the Swiss Confederation
- invests in young researchers
- enables research stays abroad
- promotes international cooperation
- promotes gender equality

Foremost Swiss funding agency



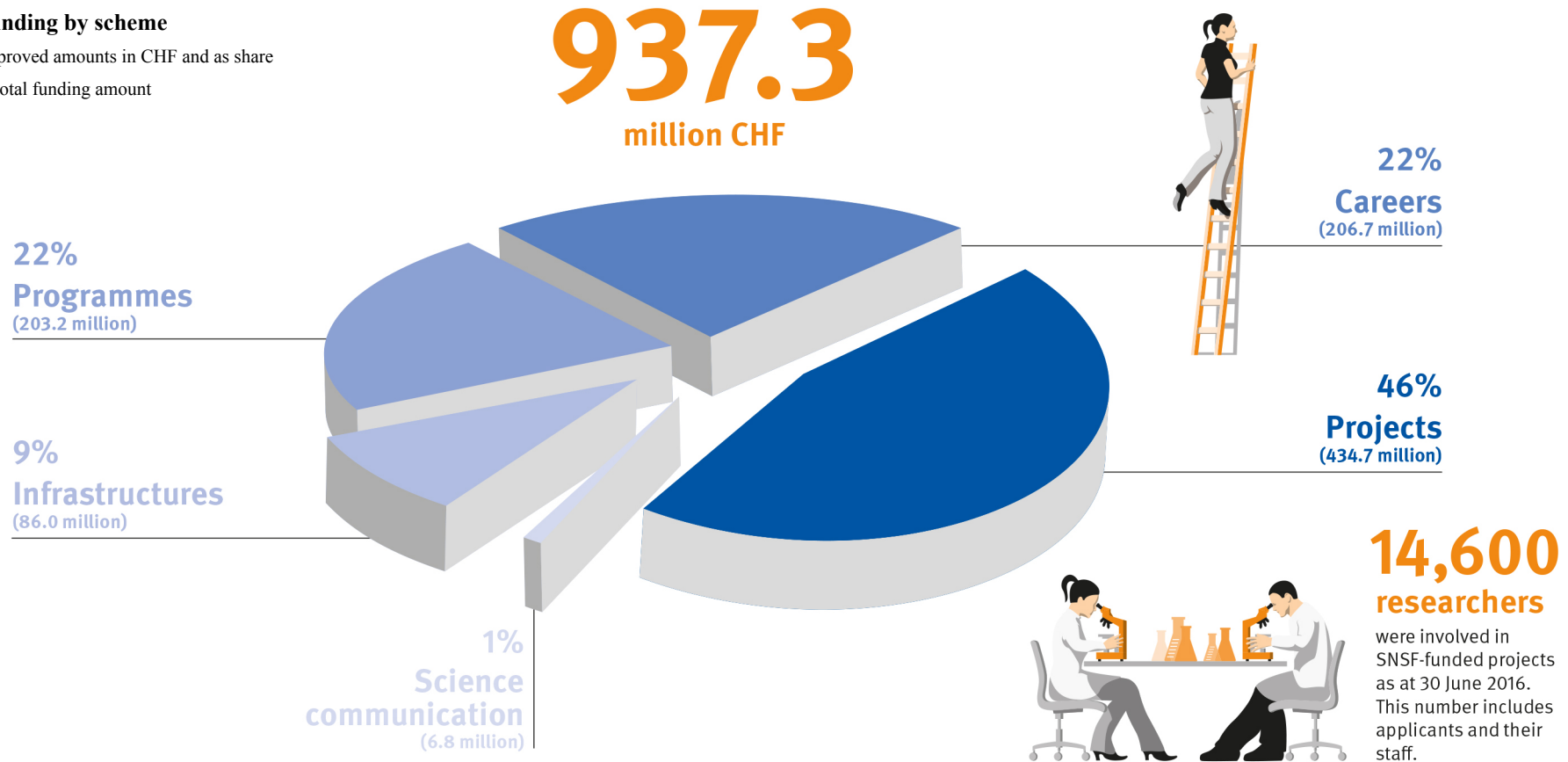
Each year the SNSF invests

- over CHF 900 million
- in over 3200 projects
- involving 14,600 researchers

The SNSF in numbers

Funding by scheme

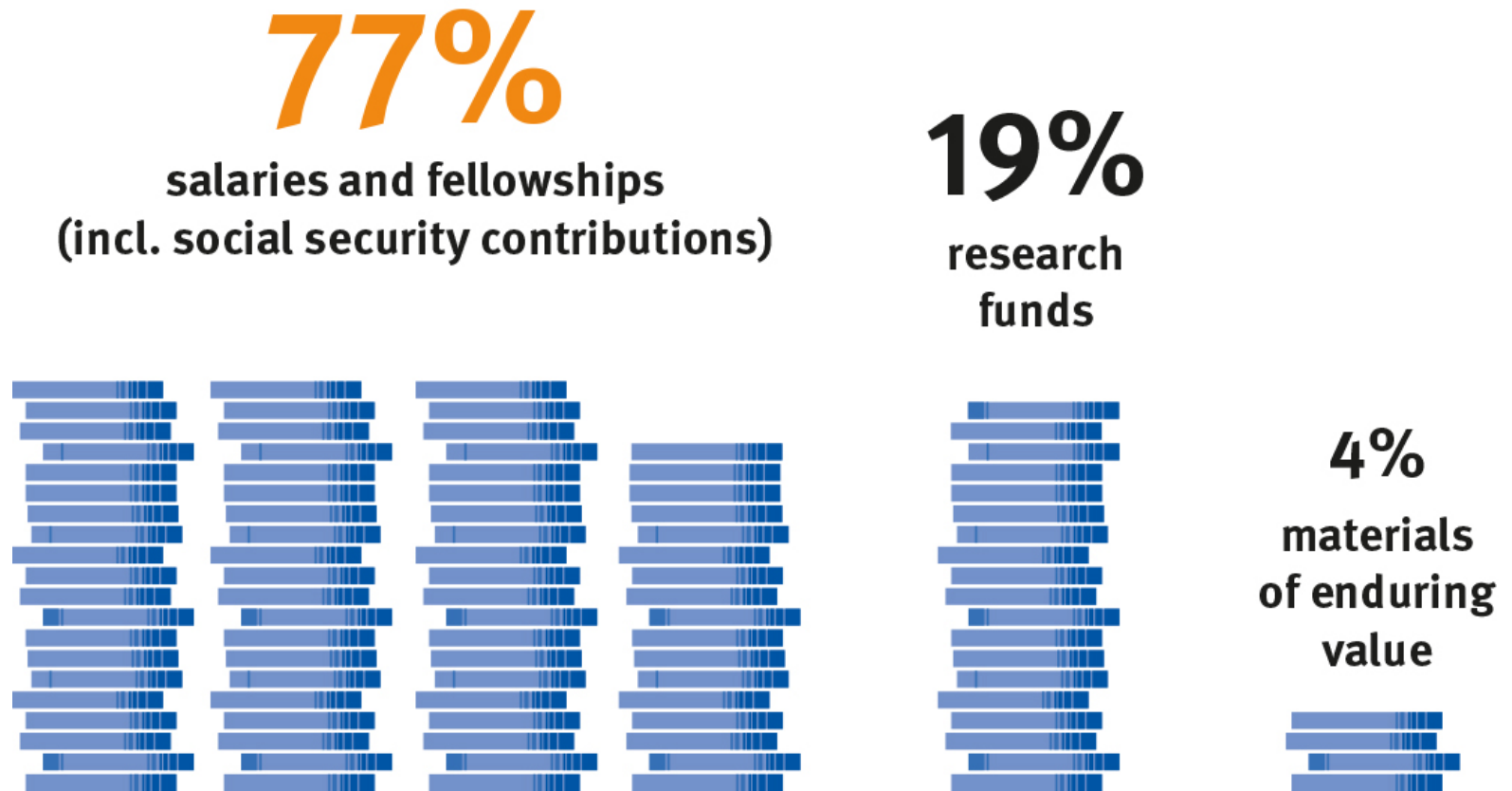
Approved amounts in CHF and as share of total funding amount



Data: 2016

Use of approved amounts

Grants worth CHF 937.3 million were approved, in percentage terms

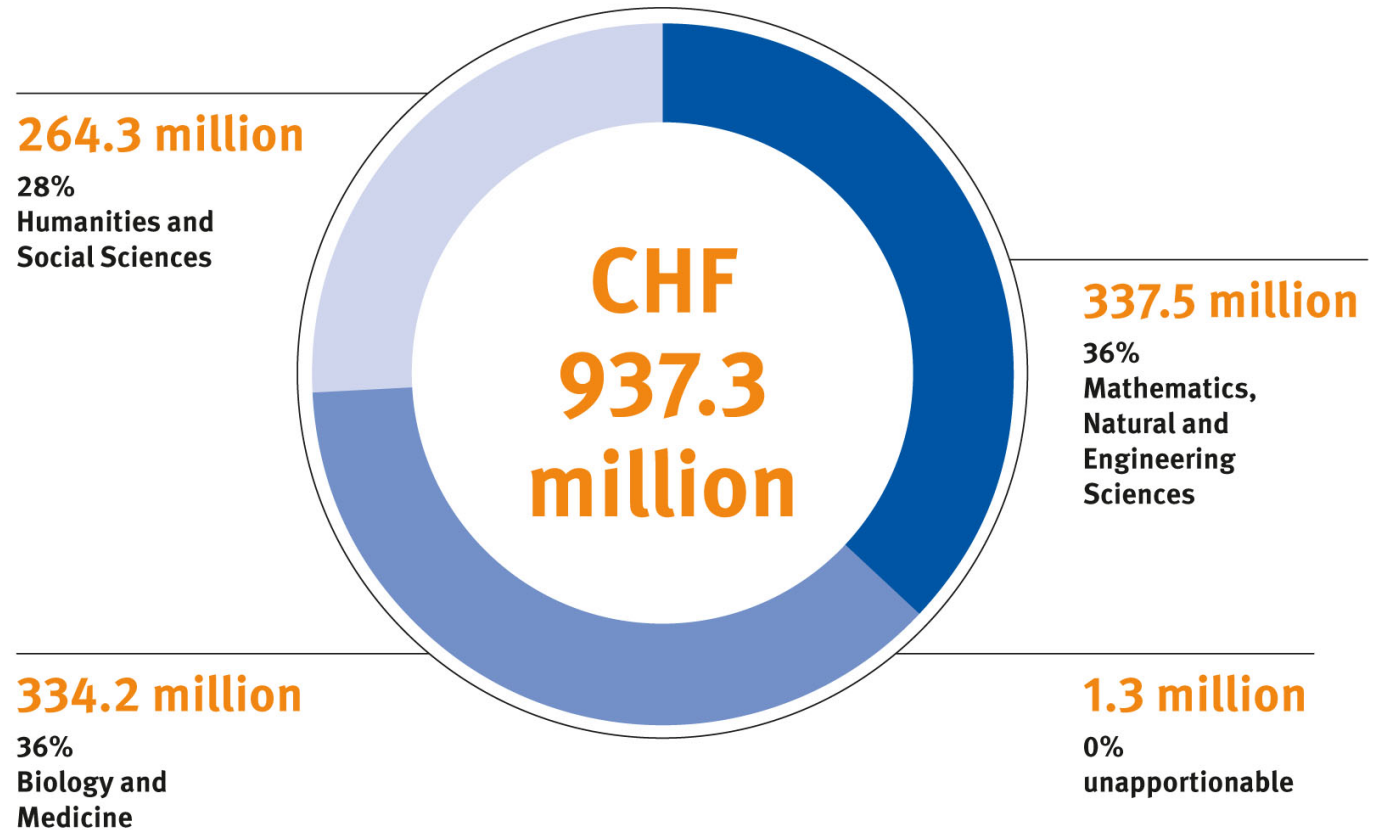


Data 2016

Funding by research area

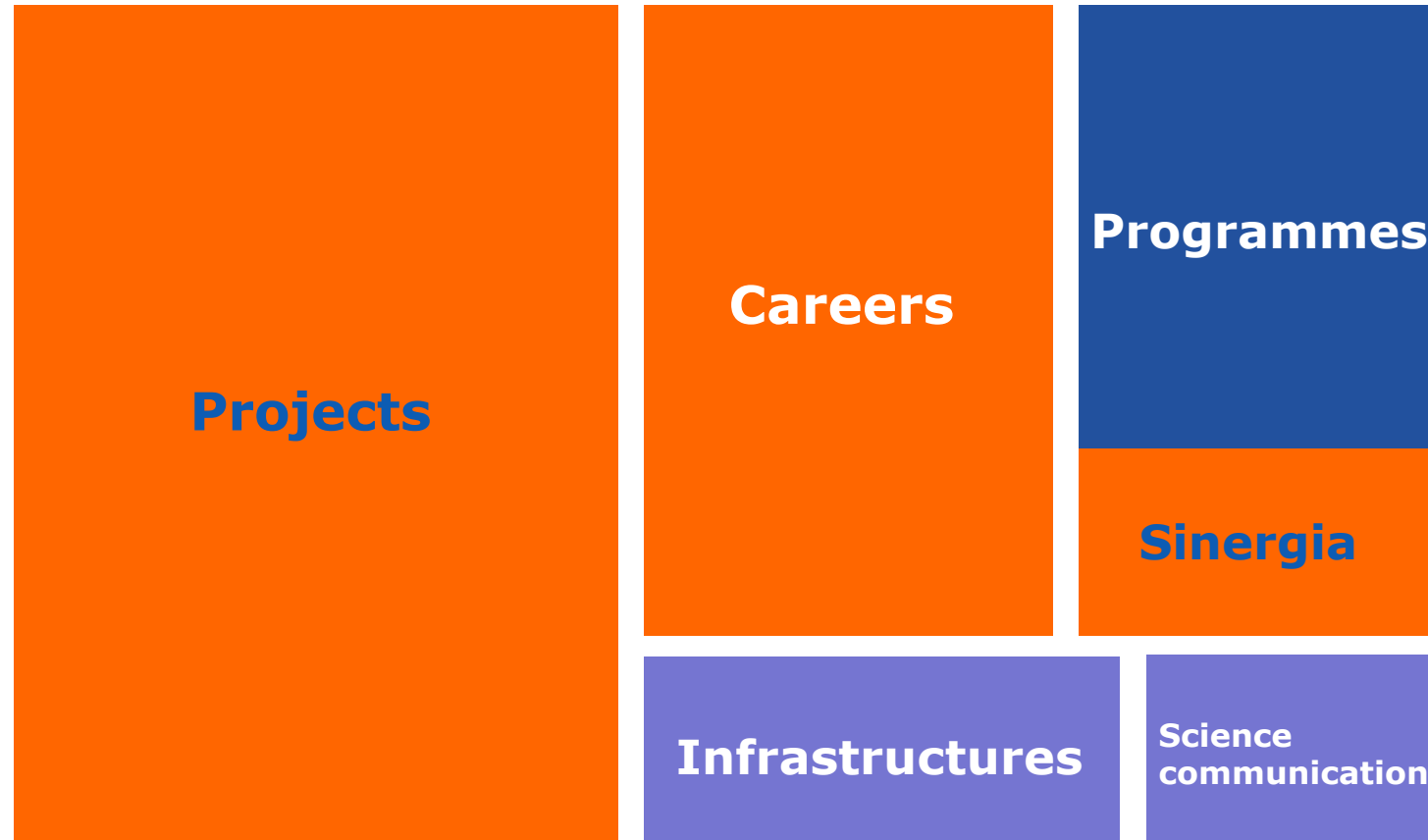
Approved grants in CHF million and as share of total funding amount

(interdisciplinary projects have been distributed across the three science areas).



Data 2016

Reforms





Project funding

Project funding

- Free choice of research themes
- All scientific disciplines
- Project evaluation (peer review)
- Competitive selection process
- Decision about six months after submission
- Calls: **1 April / 1 October** (excl. spec. programmes)



Evaluation criteria

Proposed project

- Scientific relevance, topicality and originality
- Suitability of methods and feasibility

Applicants

- Scientific track record and performance in publication terms
- Professional expertise with regard to the project





Innovations in project funding

Grant conditions in project funding

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



Project partners - Subcontracting



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

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

Subcontracting = buy-in of services, often from companies

- Usually max. 10%, exceptions are possible

Costs of project partners and of subcontractors

- Services and costs should be proportionate and economical.

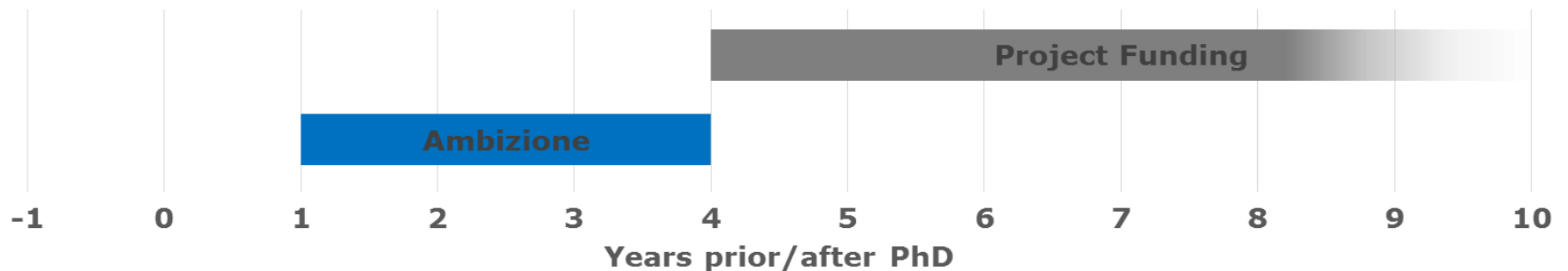
General **eligibility requirements**

- Employment for the duration of the research project at a work-time percentage of at least 50% **in accordance with Swiss law** at a Swiss institution.
- The **funding principles of the SNSF** on the **eligibility of institutions** must be met, particularly with regard to the **non-commercial purpose and independence of research**
- The **research activities**, along with any scientific teaching activities, must constitute the equivalent of **at least 50% FTE**.
- Researchers devoting less than 50% of their time to science are eligible **if their scientific research and teaching activities** are usually carried out **as part of another professional activity**, i.e. physicians

Eligibility requirements for project funding

What will the new provisions mean in practice?

- Professional researchers **with at least 4 years' experience after the doctorate (or an independent research position) who are in employment for the duration of the project*** will be able to submit applications.
- Researchers with **less research experience** will be able to use the **Ambizione** scheme.



**Exceptions possible for young researchers*

Eligibility requirements for project funding



Four years after doctoral thesis

or an independent position, notably:

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

Eligibility requirements for project funding



Not eligible:

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

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

- Honorary professors
- Lecturers
- Senior lecturers (Privatdozent)

Awards in the form of **global budgets**

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



Grantees with a project grant can also ...

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

- **But: Lead Agency proposals** are considered as normal project grant funding and count to the number of grants an applicant can have.



Sinergia

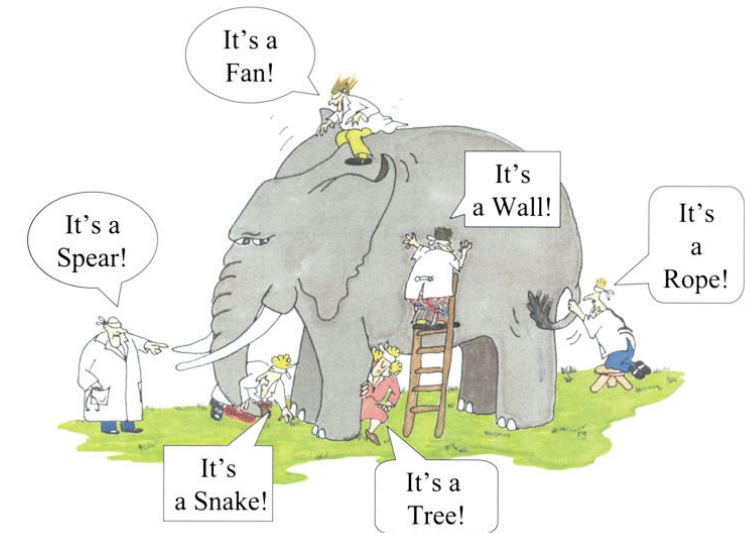
Sinergia

- Promotes **collaborative** and **interdisciplinary** research that has the **potential to shift paradigms (breakthrough)**
- is a merger of the funding line for interdisciplinary single projects and the old Sinergia programme
- 2-4 applicants and their groups collaborate closely in a network
- Grants for 4 years and up to CHF 3.2 million
- Eligibility and eligible costs as in project funding
- Submission deadlines: **1 June** and **1 December**



International cooperation in Sinergia

- Small networks: collaborative projects involving 2-4 researchers
- **Interdisciplinary**, collaborative and **breakthrough** projects
- If there are three or more applicants, **one applicant may be based at a research institution abroad**, if his/her expertise is essential, meaning it is not available in Switzerland.





International cooperation

Lead Agency procedure

Lead Agency partners of the SNSF

Germany, Austria and Luxembourg

- The national deadlines are applied
 - D, A: no deadlines
 - L: April
 - CH: 1 April and 1 October
- The project is submitted in the country that provides the lion's share of the funding.



Lead Agency partners of the SNSF

France (ANR) and Belgium (FWO and FNRS)

- Switching lead – one year the lead is in France or Belgium, the next year the lead is in Switzerland (SNSF)
- Success rate between 15% and 25%
- The French or Belgian success rate is applied for all projects

- Next submission for FNRS: July 2017 at the FNRS
- Next submission for ANR and FWO: April 2018 at the SNSF





Any questions?