Quantitative analysis of the Swiss Participation in SNSF and   
EU funding opportunities

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1. Introduction and aim

With the perspective of the preparation of its multi-year plan for the period beyond 2020, the SNSF permanently observes the development of the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation and must define its own position in this regard. In order to better understand the interconnections between the national and the European funding schemes, the SNSF will conduct analysis along two axes:

1. A comparative analysis of the characteristics of the funding schemes;
2. A quantitative analysis of individual and collective applications and participations of researchers based at Swiss research institutions in the schemes of FP7 and Horizon 2020.

The SNSF performed a comparative analysis of its schemes towards the European funding schemes at several occasions in the past and can access, in particular via SwissCore, to the necessary information, in particular in relation to the development of the next Framework Programme (FP9).

However, on the quantitative side, the SNSF only analysed the participation of Swiss based researchers at the ERC; the aim is to extend this analysis to other schemes, such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, the Future and Emerging Technologies or the participation in bigger research consortia, e.g. Research and Innovation Actions in Horizon 2020.

1. Quantitative analysis

The Swiss participation in the FPs has been analysed by two comprehensive SERI studies (“[Effects of Swiss participation in EU Research Framework Programmes” (2009)](https://www.google.ch/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjB66aYtr7XAhWDCcAKHb27BH4QFggoMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sbfi.admin.ch%2Fdam%2Fsbfi%2Fen%2Fdokumente%2Fauswirkungen_derbeteiligungderschweizandeneuropaeischenforschung.pdf.download.pdf%2Feffects_of_swissparticipationineuresearchframeworkprogrammes.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2FuNxwVvouYE3WVEk39X0C) and “Facts and figures” ([Zahlen und Fakten, 2015](https://www.wbf.admin.ch/wbf/de/home/dokumentation/nsb-news_list.msg-id-60389.html)). The information provided by these studies will be used.

However, for the SNSF there are questions regarding the specifics of overlap and complementarity of instruments and the way researchers apply and make use of the available funding opportunities that need to be addressed in a separate study.

For instance, questions will cover the following topics:

1. SNSF Participation (View from Switzerland to the EU)
2. Intensity of collaboration/internationality of research in CH
3. Overlap/Complementarity

Example of possible questions are given in Annex.

It is important to precise that this is not the aim of the quantitative analysis to calculate the total amount of funding received by researchers based at Swiss research institutions from the Framework Programme and to compare it to the investment allocated by the association of Switzerland.

1. Further aims and use of the results

An analysis of the past participation is a first step to situate current trends into long-term developments. In a second step, the result of this analysis will feed back into preparations for the SNSFs multiannual planning. The idea of this exercise is to increase the general preparedness by providing in-house, fact-based recommendations and that may correspond to potential scenarios. The resulting conclusions may be developed into comprehensive messages that are used by the SNSF communications department.

All data will be anonymised; names or personal identifiers will only be used to match information from EU calls and programmes with SNSF information.

The use of this study will be used in priority for the internal discussion among the administrative offices, the National Research Council and the SNSF Foundation Council. It might lead to an SNSF publication of general public interest.

1. Question to SERI

In order to perform this analysis, the SNSF should get basic information from FP7 and Horizon 2020 calls and project funding. Some information can be extracted from the eCorda database (access granted to Jean-Luc Barras), but there might be a need for more precise information from sources only made available to the SERI by the European Commission (mainly iCorda).

The SNSF kindly asks SERI to name a contact person for further inquiry.

Annex – Example of possible questions

a) SNSF Participation (View from Switzerland to the EU)

*Data source: Mostly SNSF Data*

1. ERA-Nets/JPIs:
   * Where does/did the SNSF participate and with how much funding?
2. Assessment of participation:
   * *How do researchers think about the participation in the FP?  
     (Possible input: Enquiry on project funding) à Researcher survey from 2014*
   * What is the opinion in SNSF on participation in Public to public partnerships?  
     *(Relevant papers: Kommentierter Leitfaden* [*Discussion with SBFI*](https://servo.snf.ch/tr/era-eu-forschungspolitik/snfdok/Leitfaden_Gespräch_SBFI_P2P_Input_SNF.doc)*,* [*Discussion Notes ERA-Net Coordinators SNSF*](https://servo.snf.ch/tr/era-eu-forschungspolitik/snfdok/20171031%20Vorbereitung%20Besprechung%20mit%20SBFI%20zu%20Partnerschaftsinitiativen.docx)*)*

b) Intensity of collaboration/internationality of research in CH

1. How much co-funding by the FPs is declared in projects submitted to the SNSF?  
   *(Drittmittelquelle auswerten?)*
2. Mobility to EU: How much of mobility is to/from the EU?  
   *(SNSF career instruments, mobility in SNSF project funding, International Short Visits / Scientific Exchanges)*
3. How much staff is employed in CH that has a nationality from the EU?[[1]](#footnote-2)
4. How many publications[[2]](#footnote-3) are done with partners in the EU? Comparison to US or other regions?
5. How many EU projects result from funding given by the SNSF?  
   *(Angaben in Outputdaten?)*

c) Overlap and complementarity

*Input paper FA IZ: The SNSF and Horizon 2020 (2014)*

1. Who receives funding from both sources? Which instruments are implied?
2. ERA-Net and SNSF funding:
   * + How many researchers receive/apply for ERA-Net funding and in parallel for SNSF funding?
3. ERC/SNSF grantees comparison:
   * + Compare individuals who submit to SNSF and ERC
     + How many SNSF grantees have received SNSF funding before they got an ERC grant?
4. COST /SNSF: How many researchers get funding from both COST and the SNSF? When? COST first, then SNSF or the other way round, or in parallel?
5. Which percentage of CH researchers receive funding from the EU? What percentage of CH researchers receive funding from the SNSF? In which domains? Same questions about applications.
6. Can amounts of funding for comparable instruments be compared (examples career support, project based funding)
7. Which institutions/persons receive how much funding for comparable instruments form SNSF and EU?

1. Does not necessarily mean they migrated to CH for work [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Data team has generated a new more efficient way to analyse publication data from SCOPUS [↑](#footnote-ref-3)