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## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE SECOND SWISS CONTRIBUTION

# Overview

- First Swiss Contribution
- Second Swiss Contribution
  - PROMYS
  - MCJRP
  - Sciex
- Lead Agency & Weave

# First Swiss Contribution

Bilateral research programmes with the following countries

- Bulgaria: 13 funded Joint Research Projects (completed in 2016)
- Romania: 26 funded Joint Research Projects (completed in 2016)
- Croatia: 11 funded Joint Research Projects (ongoing – to be completed in in 2023)

# Second Swiss Contribution

The SNSF received a mandate from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to implement the following instruments in the second Swiss contribution:

- PROMYS
- Multilateral Call for Joint Research Projects (MCJRP)
- Sciex

The instruments are aimed at researchers at different career stages (early career researchers after PhD, established researchers, PhDs and Postdocs), to allow a diverse population of researchers to participate.

# Second Swiss Contribution

## Participating Countries

Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania will cooperate with the SNSF under the Second Swiss Contribution.

Only Bulgaria has selected all three instruments (PROMYS, MCJRP, Sciex), the other countries will only participate in the MCJRP.

# PROMYS

- Aims at early career researchers (three years after PhD) who studied or worked in Switzerland for one year and who strive for a professorship in Bulgaria.
- Promotes brain circulation and offers promising career opportunities for excellent researchers
- Aims at researchers who aspire to a permanent professorship
- Increases the research capacity and competitiveness of Bulgaria and fosters its integration in the European Research Area
- Thematically open and researchers are free to choose the host universities in the partner country
- A grant amounts to max. CHF 625'000
  - Supporting salary of PI at assistant professor level
  - Research funds
  - PhD students and/or postdoctoral researchers can be hired
  - Duration of 5 years

# Multilateral Call for Joint Research Projects (MCJRP)

- Development of new funding scheme MCJRP, that helps to fosters cooperation with EU partner countries
- Research consortia include researchers from at least two participating EU member states + one researcher based in Switzerland
- Bottom-up approach in choosing the research topic
- Max. amount per partner CHF 350'000
- Project duration: up to 4 years
- Common call office evaluates the proposals
- No common pot = funds will be spent nationally

# Advantages of multilateral calls

- Increased cross-border cooperation among the EU partner countries
  - Supports broader networks
  - Allows to address more complex research topics
  - Increases access to knowledge and technology
  - Increases competition and better quality of proposals
- Lean administration (efficiency gains)
- Finance more projects
- National allocation is respected





# Procedure for MCJRP

## Basic principles

- Based on scientific excellence, mutual benefit, and joint funding
- Joint evaluation with international peer-review and evaluation panel meeting
- Principles of Open Access, Open Data and DORA

## Process

- Negotiation of a joint call document
- Launch of call, open for about 3-4 months
- Pre-check of submitted projects by participating funding agencies
- Joint evaluation and decision taken by evaluation panel
- A funders forum will select the strongest proposals according to the ranking of the evaluation panel and based on the financial resources that are available.

# Timeline

The second Swiss contribution needs to be completed until **3 December 2029**

## MCJRP

- Call to be launched in December 2023/ January 2024
- Start of the projects between January 2025 and April 2025
- Project end in April 2029 (cost-neutral extension of 4 months still possible)

## PROMYS

- Call launched in August 2023
- Start of the fellowships between November & December 2024
- End of the fellowships in November 2029 (no cost-neutral extension)

# Sciex

- Aimed at PhD students and postdoctoral researchers based in Bulgaria
- Who would like to deepen their knowledge and skills at a Swiss research institution
- For a duration of 6-24 months
- Researchers from all disciplines are eligible
- Will be supervised and supported by two senior researchers based in Switzerland and in Bulgaria respectively
- Senior researches can do short visits in the partner country
- During the fellowship, the early career researchers will be employed at a host institution in Switzerland
- Between 15 and 20 fellowships can be funded

Sciex will be implemented in 2024.

# Lead Agency and Weave

Lead Agency facilitates the cooperation between researchers. A common project is evaluated only by one funding agency.

## **Bilateral Lead Agency agreements with EU-13 funding agencies**

- NCN Poland: November 2018
- ARRS Slovenia: January 2019
- GACR Czech Republic: November 2019
- HRZZ Croatia: June 2020

## **Weave**

- In January 2021, all the bilateral agreements were transferred to the multilateral initiative Weave
- Currently 11 European funding agency participate in Weave (thereof 4 new EU-member states)

Thank you very much for your attention