Croatian-Swiss Research Programme

Contents

1. Swiss enlargement contribution
2. Evaluation procedure
3. Online application mySNF

The Swiss enlargement contribution

The Swiss enlargement contribution

- Since 2007, Switzerland has been supporting approx. 300 projects in the New Members States
- Overall goal is to reduce economic and social disparities
  - ➤ Economic development
  - ➤ Social security
  - ➤ Environment protection
  - ➤ Public security
  - ➤ Strengthening civil society
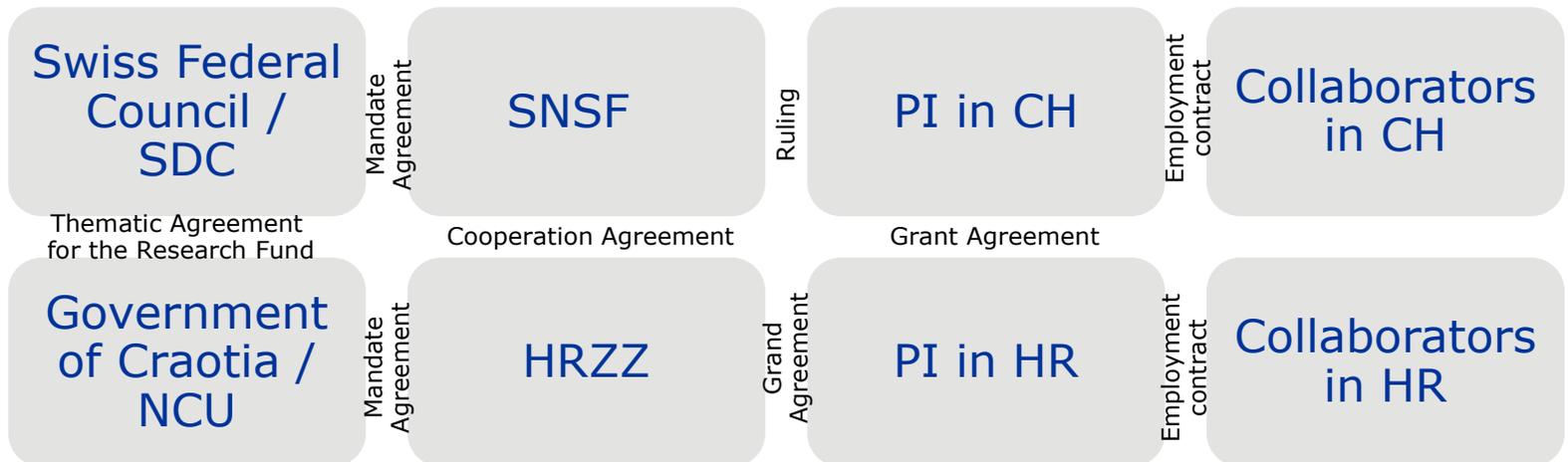
The Swiss enlargement contribution

1. The Swiss contribution was subject to a popular vote in 2006.
2. In 2007, the Swiss Parliament approved a total amount of CHF 1.3 billion.
3. Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Rumania and Croatia wanted to include scientific research as one field of cooperation
4. The SNSF was mandated to coordinate the joint research programmes with Bulgaria and Romania

The Croatian-Swiss Research Programme (CSRP)

The CSRP

1. The Swiss National Science Foundation is mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
2. The Hrvatska zaklada za znanost (HRZZ) is mandated by the National Coordination Unit

Swiss Federal Council / SDC	Mandate Agreement	SNSF	Ruling	PI in CH	Employment contract	Collaborators in CH
Thematic Agreement for the Research Fund		Cooperation Agreement		Grant Agreement		
Government of Craotia / NCU	Mandate Agreement	HRZZ	Grand Agreement	PI in HR	Employment contract	Collaborators in HR

CSRP, overall goal

- The CSRP aims at excellent scientists in Croatia and Switzerland

- To strengthen the bilateral cooperation between both countries

- Overall goal:

  - To contribute to knowledge based Croatian economy

  - To increase the competitiveness of Croatian researchers and to further integrate the Croatian researchers within the international community
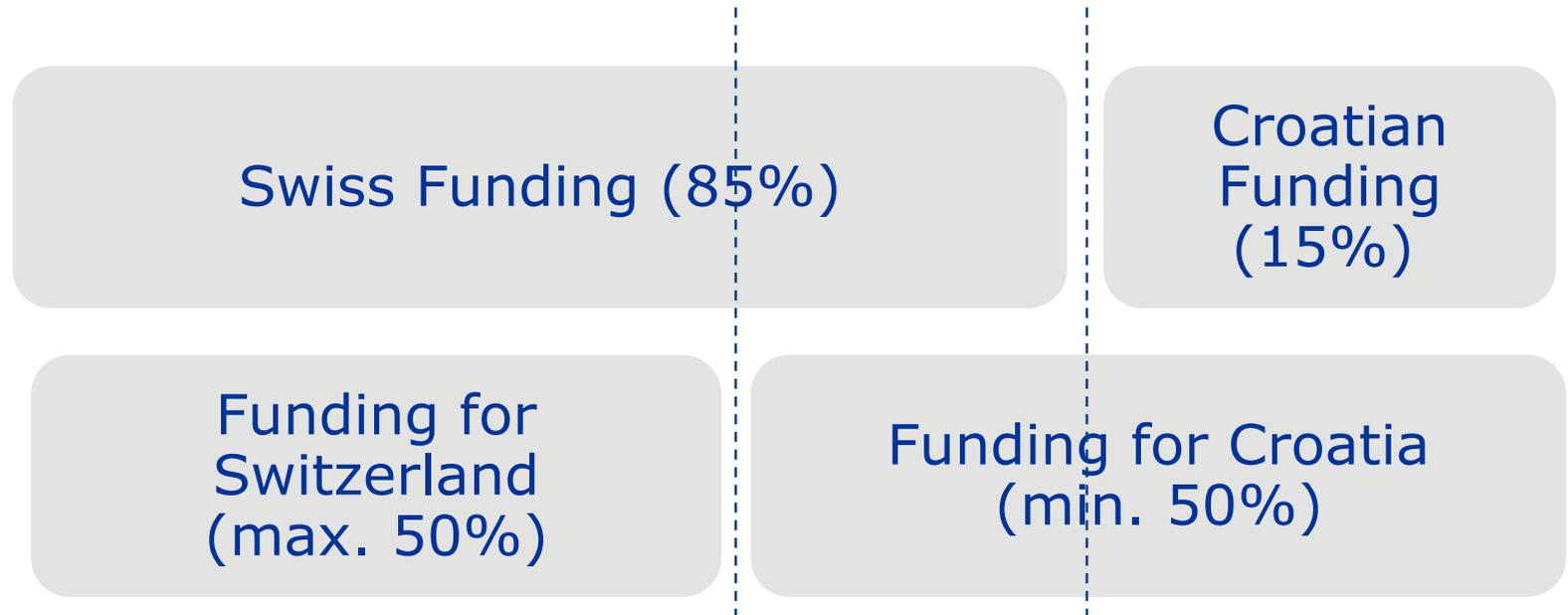
CSRP, facts and figures

- Support scientific cooperation in the form of Joint Research Projects (JRPs) lasting up to 3 years

- 4'203'000.- CHF available

- Between 10 and 12 projects can be funded

- Up to CHF 400'000 per project, max. of 50% to the Swiss PI

- Thematic open call

- At least 2 projects should be funded Social Sciences and Humanities (e.g. on social inclusion, marginalised groups of society etc.)

CSRP, eligible costs

- Salaries (PhDs, postdoctoral researchers, technicians)
- Travel allowances
- Equipment costs
- Consumables
- Other direct costs (incl. overhead for Croatia)
- Subcontracting

CSRP, administrative challenges

Swiss Funding (85%)

Croatian Funding (15%)

Funding for Switzerland (max. 50%)

Funding for Croatia (min. 50%)

Who reports what to whom?

The Grant Agreement, important information

- Role of the Beneficiaries

- Transfer of Funds

- Ownership of equipment and other material investments

- Reporting

- Obligation to information

The Grant Agreement, role of the Beneficiaries

- Both PIs are responsible for implementation and completion of JRP

- PI in CH responsible for transfer of Swiss financial contribution of the SNSF to the PI in HR

- PI in CH responsible for submission of reports to SNSF

- PI in HR must deliver to PI in CH information needed to write reports and all other relevant documents in due time

- PI in CH must inform SNSF about any changes affecting the grant. SNSF will in turn inform the HRZZ.

The Grant Agreement, transfer of Funds

- Funds may only be transferred to researchers who are listed as other grantees in the ruling

- Funds to PI in HR must be transferred only to the account indicated in "Grant Agreement between the Croatian and Swiss Beneficiaries". Recommendation: This account should be project-specific

The Grant Agreement, ownership of equipment

- Observe the principles of free competition and transparency and order material from the supplier that offers the best price/performance ratio

- Material bought for PI in CH => SNSF regulations apply (incl. at the end of the project)

- Material bought for PI in HR => HRZZ regulations apply (incl. at the end of the project)

The Grant Agreement, reporting

Scientific reporting

- Annual reports to be submitted to SNSF by PI in CH, compiled by the HR PI

- Checked by SNSF

Financial reporting

- Annual reports to be submitted to SNSF by PI in CH, covering the funds for the expenses and revenues transferred by the SNSF (including a Croatian Report)

- Annual reports to be submitted to the HRZZ by the HR PI, covering funds for the expenses and revenues transferred by the HRZZ

The Grant Agreement, obligation to information

The Beneficiaries shall immediately inform the SNSF of any occurrence and/or event likely to affect the execution and/or the successful conclusion of the JRP.

Evaluation procedure

Formal eligibility check

- Both the HRZZ and the SNSF perform an eligibility check – are formal requirements met?

- Personal requirements of PI

  - Employment status

  - Academic degree

- Research plan and CV according to requirements

- Finances

Peer review

- According to international standards

- Reviewers are proposed by the panel members

- At least 2 reviews per proposal

- Score systems is applied to define the scientific quality:
  - Outstanding
  - Excellent
  - Very good
  - Good
  - Average
  - Poor

Evaluation criteria

- Scientific relevance;

- Originality of the aims and objectives;

- Appropriateness of the methodology;

- Feasibility of the project including soundness of the budget;

- Track record and expertise of the researchers;

- Complementary qualities of research partners;

- Involvement of PhD students and young researchers;

- Chances of a stable, long-term partnership arising from the JRP.

Panel meeting

- A joint evaluation panel will recommend a selection of the strongest proposals to the Steering Committee

- The panel will be nominated by the HRZZ and SNSF

- The panel members will base their assessment on external reviews and submitted proposals.

- Same evaluation criteria apply

- Rank their recommendation between A and D

Online application on mySNF

mySNF

- Proposals are to be submitted through the electronic platform mySNF

- The Swiss PI is responsible for the submission

- The Croatian PI has the opportunity to access the proposal through the Swiss PI

- If you have a Swiss partner, you can request an account on www.mysnf.ch

Contacts

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Do you have any questions?