

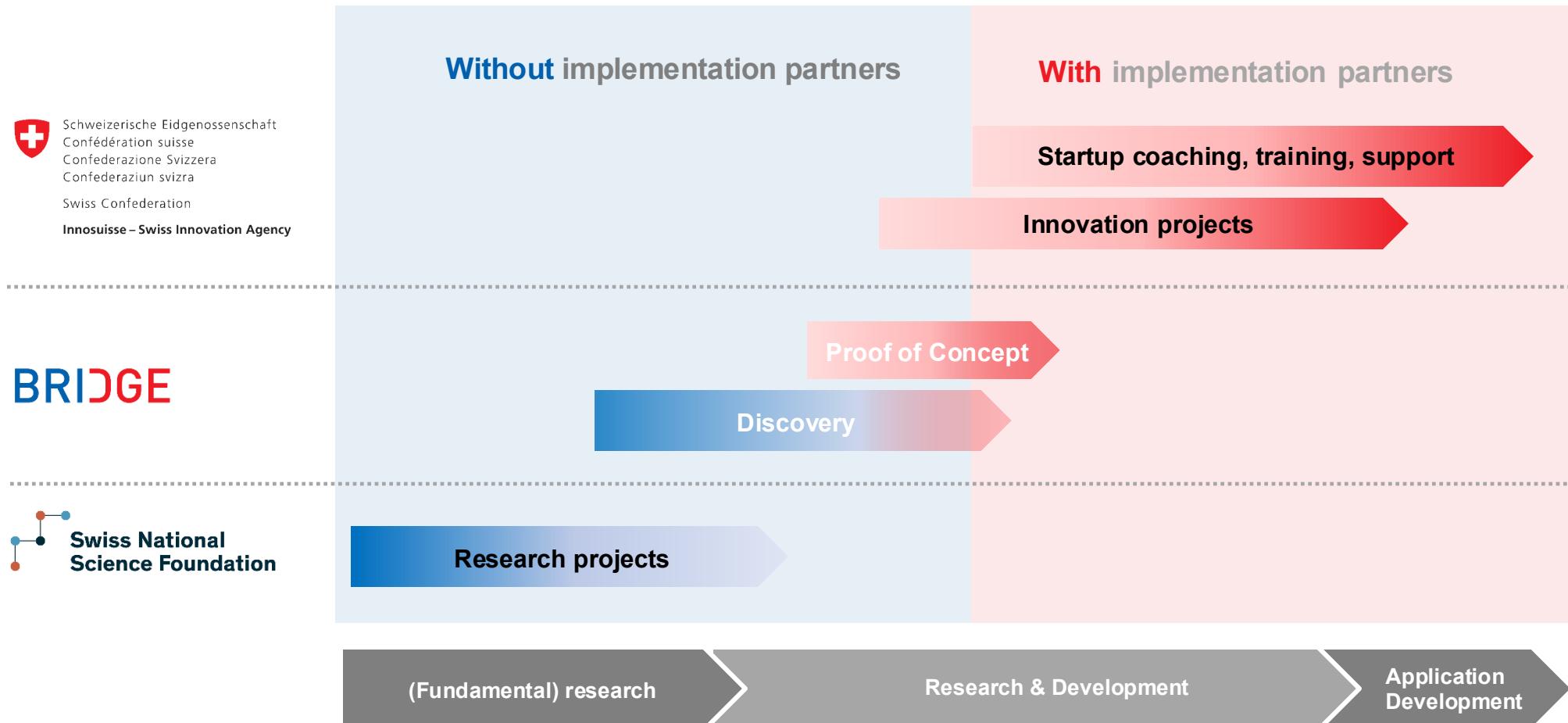
BRIDGE



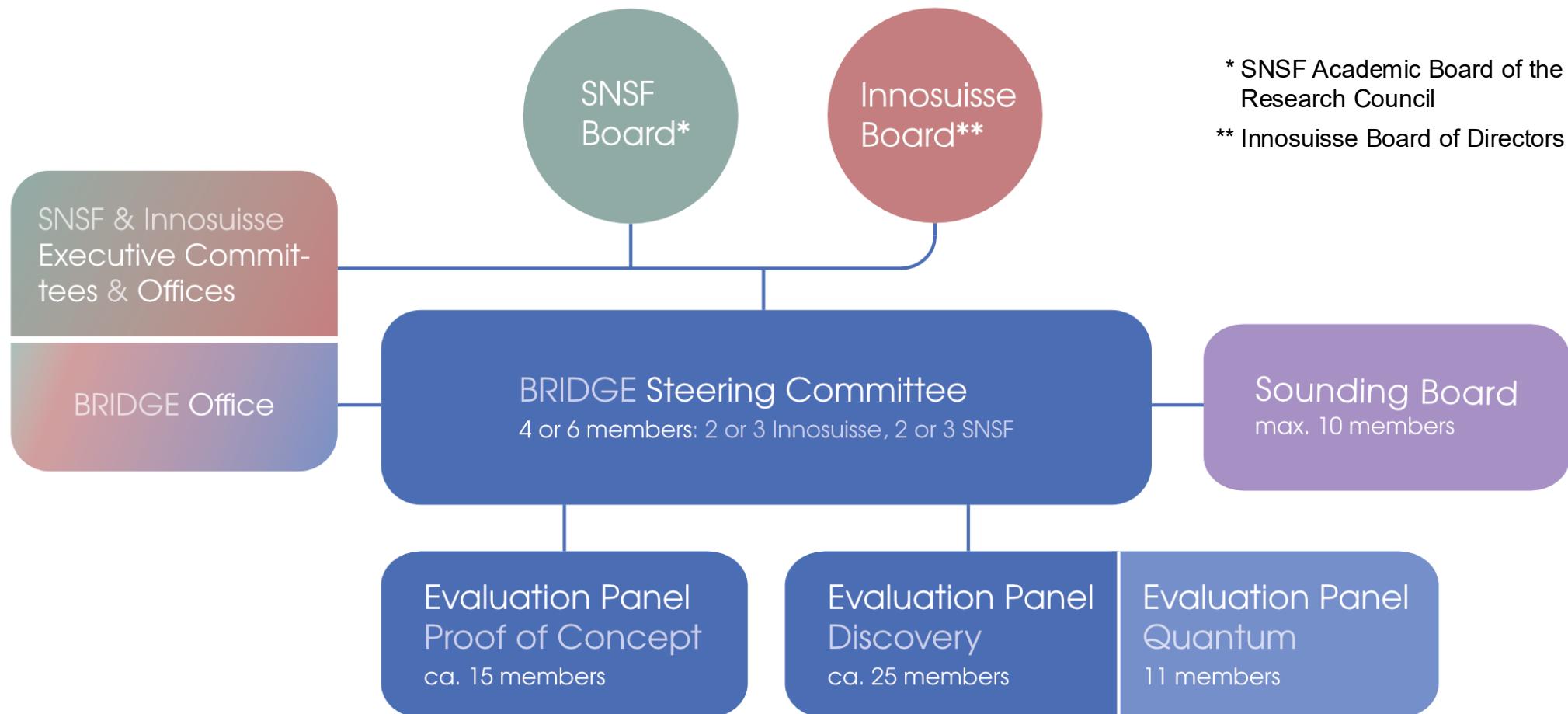
Building Bridges

https://www.snf.ch/media/de/MidiFiP2DarHMDIS/BRIDGE_presentation_general.pdf

Complete the funding portfolio



BRIDGE governance



Goal of the program

« Turn scientific results into economic or societal innovation »

BRIDGE...

- ... fosters the economic and societal potential of scientific research,
- ... supports projects in the critical precompetitive phase that have a clear vision of potential application,
- ... facilitates cooperation between Universities, ETHs, research institutes, and Universities of Applied Sciences, Universities of teacher education.

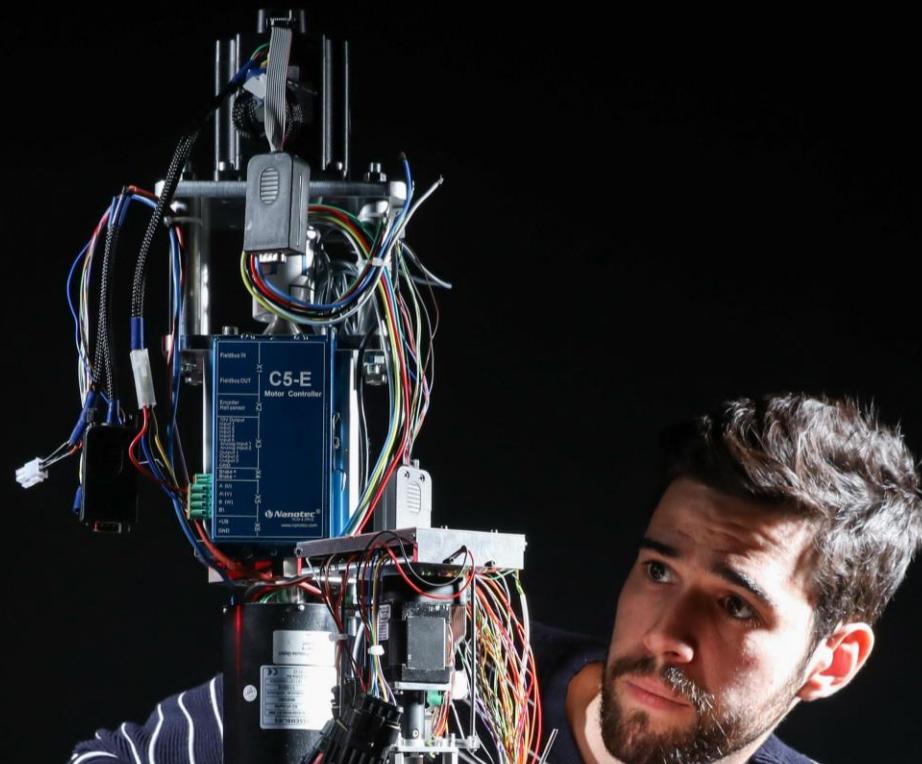
Two lines of funding

Proof of Concept

- Scientific results developed into a product or an application
- Young researchers on their way to entrepreneurship or willing to implement their research findings with an economic or social partner
- Open to all types of innovation

Discovery

- Interaction between basic and applied research to realise the innovation potential of scientific results
- Importance of the societal and economic impact
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field



Proof of Concept

Sébastien Le Fouest

Vertical-axis wind turbine performance enhancement using a cyber-physical system

→ [EPFL](#) | → [windworks](#)

Image: Alain Herzog / EPFL

Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

Eligibility criteria for the applicants

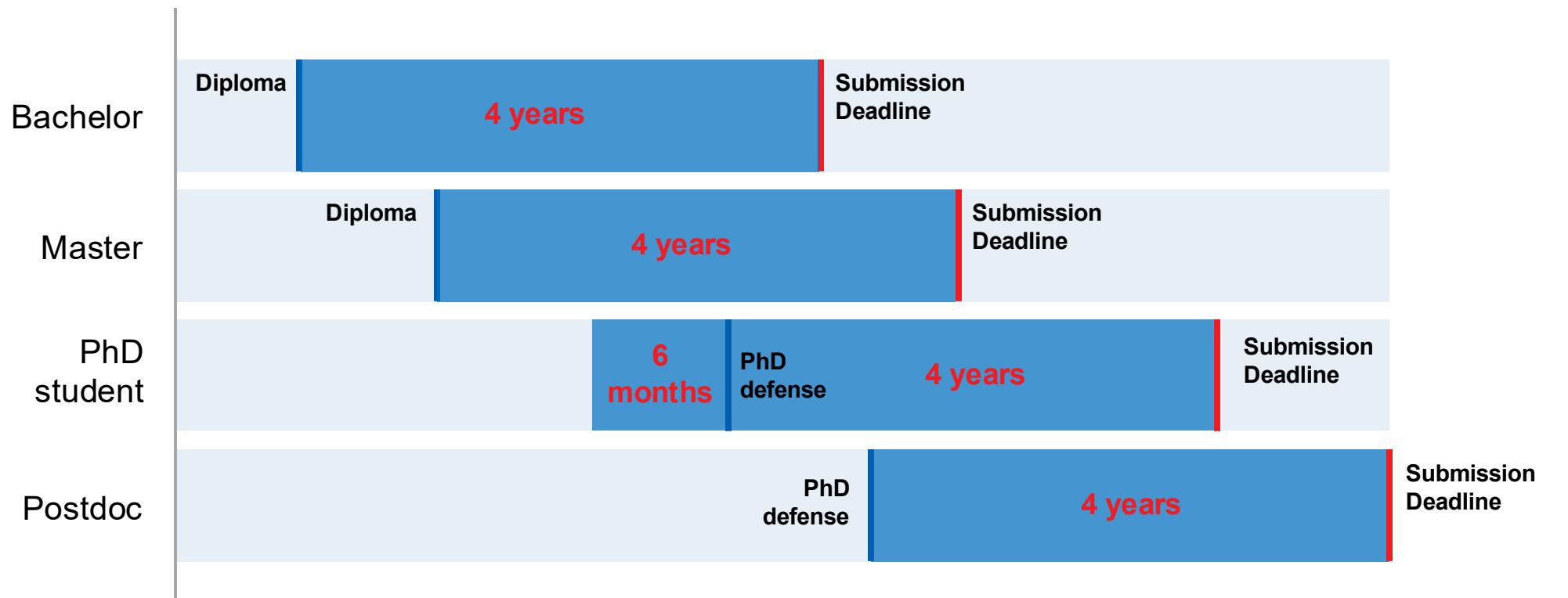
- Early stage of career (bachelor's or master's degree, doctoral students, PhD degree obtained within the last four years)
- Support by a Swiss research institution
- Applicants dedicate their full time to the project

Requirements for the project

- Based on the applicants' own research results or on research results they have substantially contributed to
- The underlying science has been peer-reviewed or documented by publications or another record of achievement (e.g. bachelor's, master's or doctoral thesis, thesis presentation, scientific publication, patent)
- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field

Requirements for applicants

Eligibility windows



Proof of Concept

Details of the funding scheme

- Up to 4 calls per year
- Projects are submitted by a single applicant

Eligible costs

- Budget of project: max. 130'000 CHF per year
- 100% of applicant's salary (calculated on the basis of current rates at the host institution)
- Costs directly related to the realisation of the project

Duration

12 months (extension of up to 6 additional months exceptionally possible)

Overhead

max. 15% overhead paid to the host institution

Proof of Concept

Evaluation criteria

Quality
of the project

- **Innovative potential:** expected **economical or societal impact** for the envisioned innovation, product or service

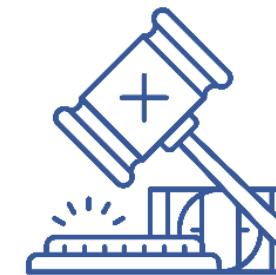
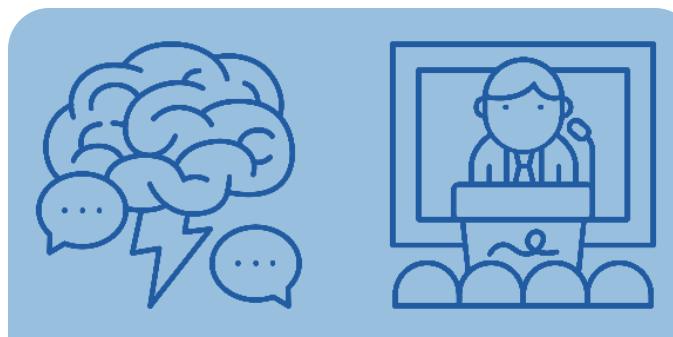
- **Feasibility of project**
- **Implementation plan**

Qualification
of applicant

- Appropriate level of innovation-based, entrepreneurial and managerial **competences of the applicant**, and **motivation to implement**

Proof of Concept

Evaluation procedure



Submission ➤ Formal Check ➤ **Qualitative Evaluation** ➤ Decision

Level 1

Submitted
Proposal

Level 2

Presentation
& Interview

Duration from submission to funding decision: **3 months**



Proof of Concept Support

Samantha Anderson

Radically Enhanced Room Temperature Degradation of PET

→ [EPFL](#) | → [deploy](#)

Image: www.pme.ch

Proof of Concept

Additional support

Assisted patent searches

BRIDGE Fellows can request an [assisted patent search for research and innovation](#)

Support for women

BRIDGE supports career development and network building for the next generation of female researchers through the SNSF's [Gender Equality Grants](#).

Support for parents working on the project

BRIDGE provides SNSF's [Flexibility Grants](#) to help researchers better balance their childcare responsibilities with their scientific work and academic careers.

Proof of Concept

Additional support

BRIDGE Coaching

A coaching limited to 10h is offered to all BRIDGE fellows

Innosuisse support

- BRIDGE fellows can take part in the Innosuisse [Start-up Training](#) programme, from Module 2 onwards
- Through the Innosuisse [Start-up Coaching](#) programme, start-ups can attend specialist international trade fairs either as visitors or exhibitors



Proof of Concept Application

Simon Oschwald

Project Circleg – Affordable lower-limb prosthetic system made of recycled plastic

→ [circleg](http://circleg.world)

Image: www.circleg.world

Proof of Concept Application

A good application is...

Concrete

- Clear base of research/scientific results exists
- Market and/or societal interest exist; product, application or service has been defined
- Access to the market/end users and/or implementation partners has been described

Clear

- Innovative content is clearly indicated, and innovation is clearly defined
- Project plan is comprehensible
- Tasks are clearly defined and meaningful
- Milestones are reasonably set and goals are quantitatively described

Consistent

- Project planning and financial planning are consistent
- Timetable and resource allocation are realistic

Proof of Concept Application

Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- Provide answer to the problem (start from the end)
- Follow the structure of the template (do not leave blank)
- Know and follow the evaluation criteria (self-evaluation)
- Start early (necessary documents and signatures, proofreading)

Don'ts

- Focus only on the scientific part
- Neglect “impact” and “implementation”
- Hope for exceptions to the rules
- Imply too much

Proof of Concept Application

If you are not successful

Important

- Carefully read the decision letter
- If you have questions, ask the BRIDGE Office to clarify

Can you improve your application?

- If rejected, you can apply a second time for the same project, provided you still meet all the formal requirements
- List and explain the changes made to the former version of the project



BRIDGE Status 2017-2025

Patricia Frei

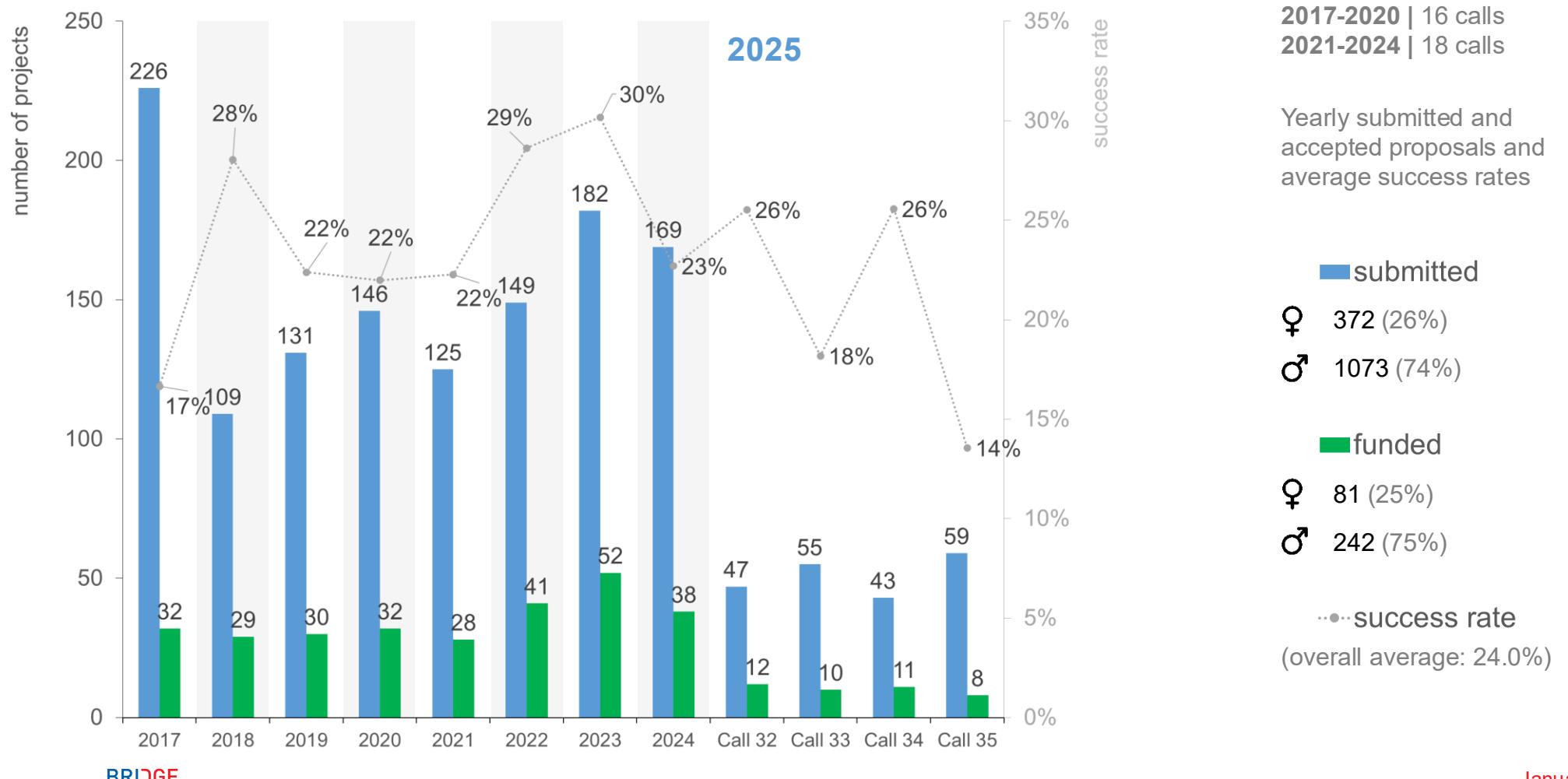
Migrant Birth Kit

→ [BFH](#) | → [ONEDU](#)

Image: [ONEDU](#)

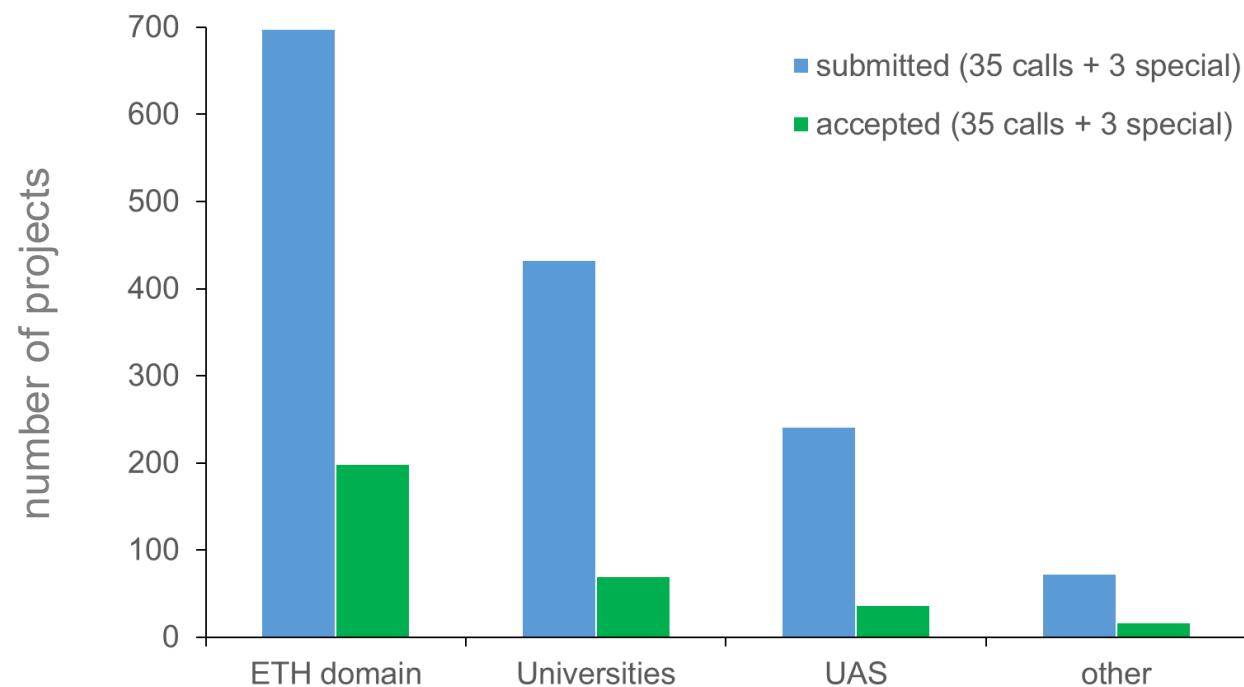
Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted and accepted projects



Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by institutions 2017-2025

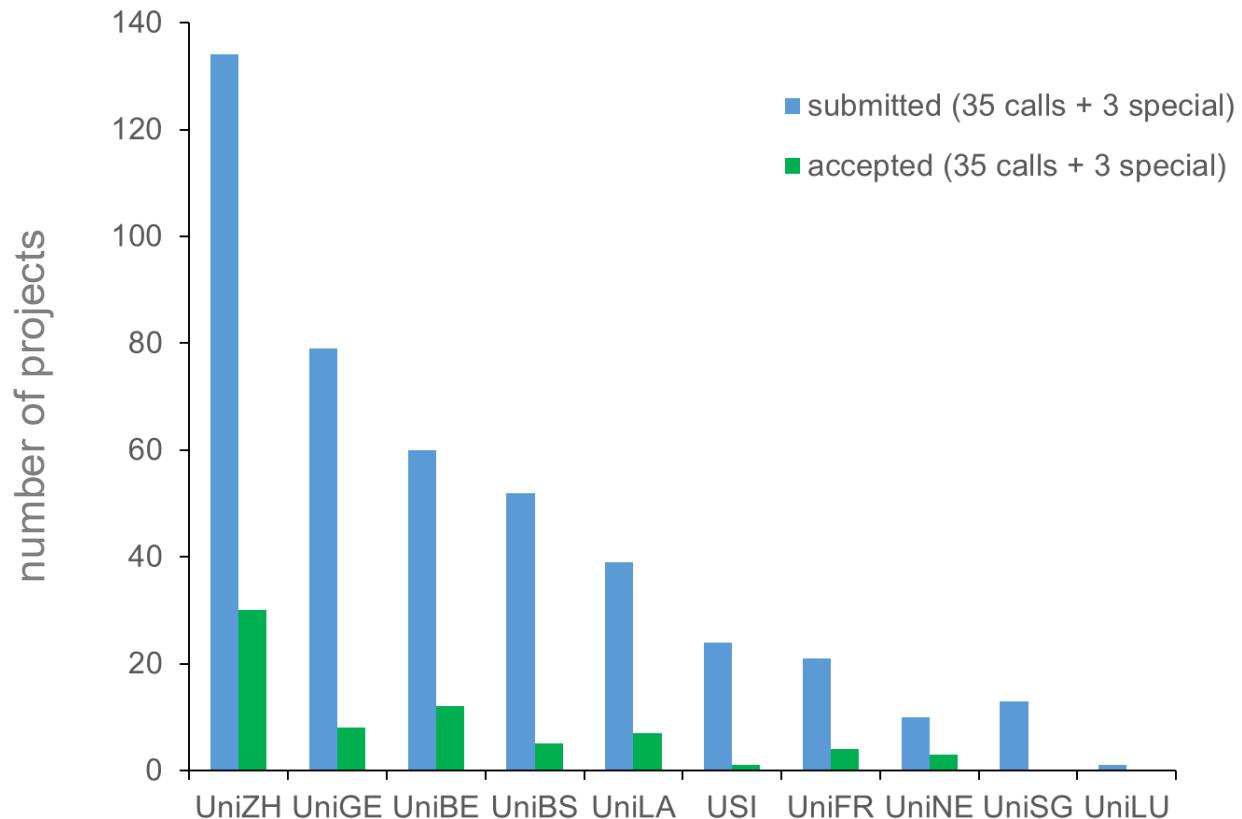


Success rates

ETH domain	29%
Uni	16%
UAS	15%
Other	23%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by universities 2017-2024

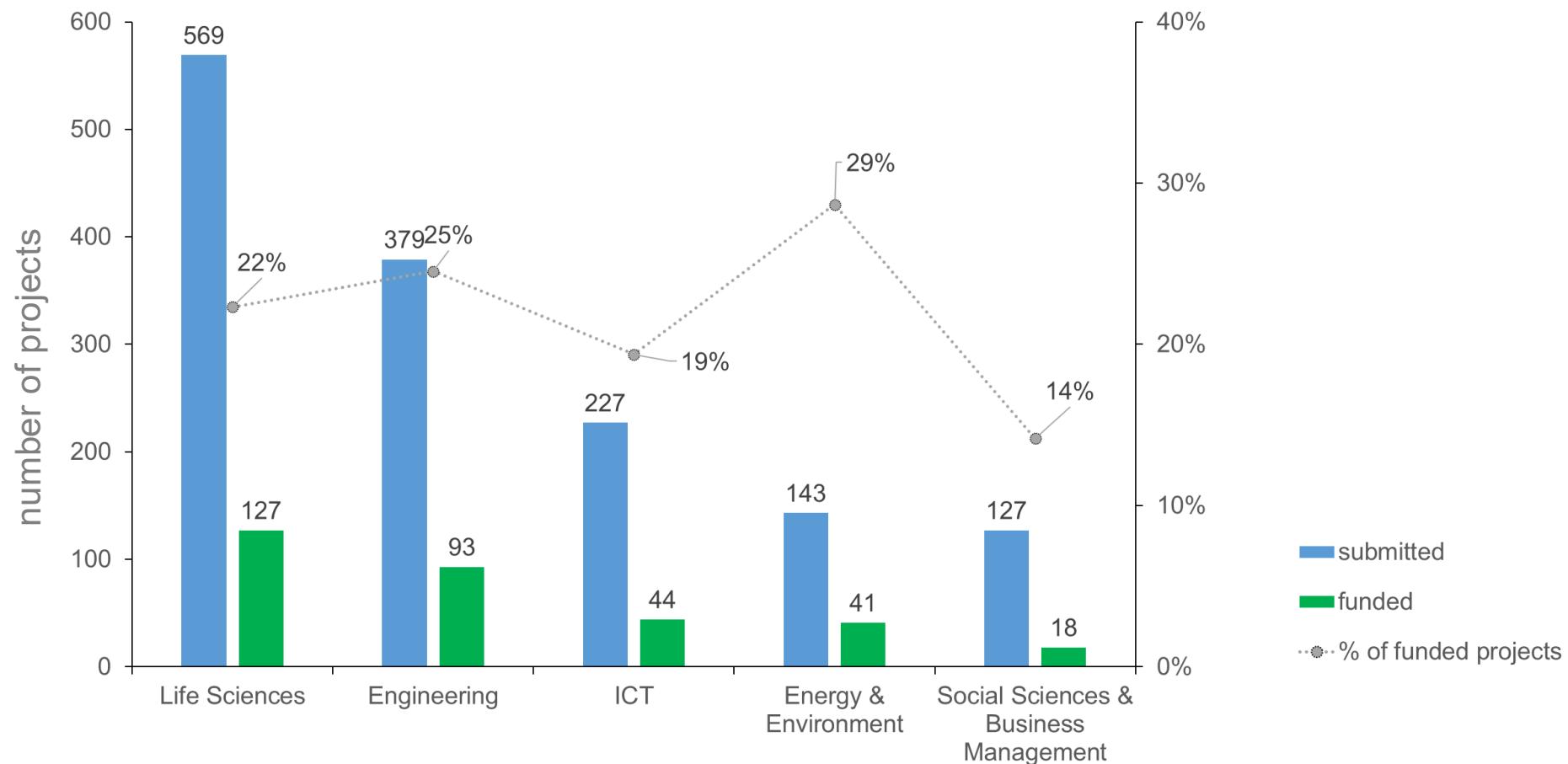


Success rates

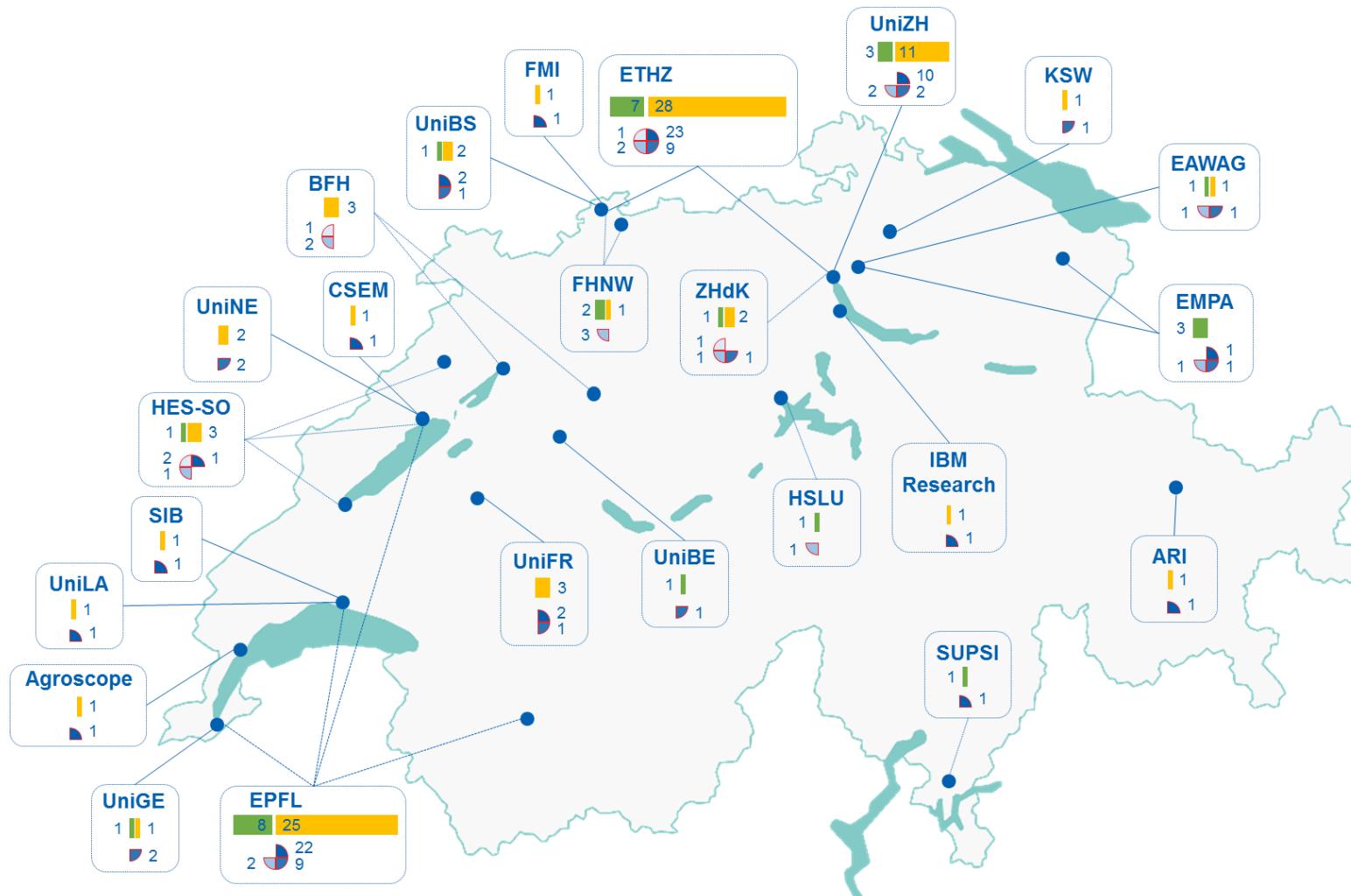
- UniZH: 22%
- **UniGE: 10%**
- UniBE: 20%
- UniBS: 10%
- UniLA: 18%
- USI: 4%
- UniFR: 19%
- UniNE: 30%
- UniSG: 0%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Disciplines (calls 2017-2025)



Proof of Concept financed projects 2017-2020



16 calls
612 applications
121 projects approved

Total budget approved: **15.2 mioCHF**
Average grant/project: **126 kCHF**

Host institution
Number of supported ...
... women ... men
... bachelors ... postdocs
... masters ... PhD students

Engineering



ICT



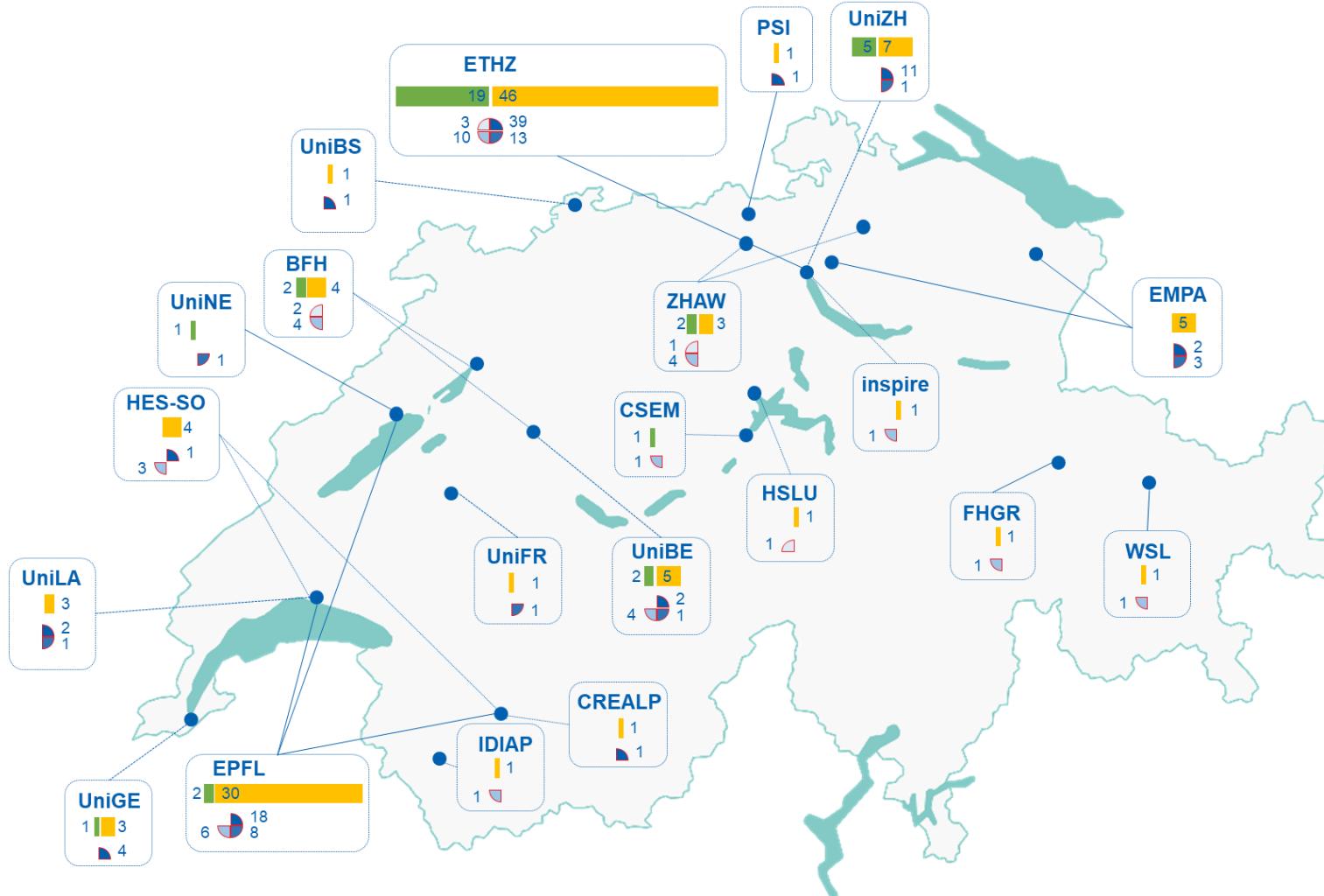
Life Sciences



BRIDGE

Source: Zefix – Central Business Name Index

Proof of Concept financed projects 2021-2024



15 calls + 3 special calls
625 applications
154 projects approved

Total budget approved: **19.7 mioCHF**
Average grant/project: **128 kCHF**

Host institution
Number of supported ...
... women ... men
... bachelors ... postdocs
... masters ... PhD students

Engineering



ICT



Energy & Environment



Life Sciences



Social Sciences



81 start-ups

out of 152 BRIDGE Proof of Concept projects
(18 calls 2021-2024)



BRIDGE Next Calls

Florian Jakober

Swiss Food Co-op Network

→ [BFH](#) | → [koop.cc](#)

Image: Michael Züger, Zürich

Submission Deadlines

Deadline always 17:00 Swiss local time

Proof of Concept

- **37th call: 2 March 2026**
- **38th call : 1 June 2026**
- **39th call : 1 September 2026**
- **40th call: 1 December 2026**

Interviews

- 11/12 May 2026
- 20/21 August 2026
- 11/12 November 2026
- February 2027

Check our website: www.bridge.ch

Proof of Concept Proposal

Proof of Concept

How to apply?

www.bridge.ch

- **Proof of Concept**
- **Section Documents:**
 - ⇒ Regulations
 - ⇒ Checklist
 - ⇒ Template for project description

<https://www.mysnf.ch/newuser.aspx>

- **Section Registration** if you are a new user

Proof of Concept

How to apply?

- **Creation of the mySNF account at least one week before the deadline**
- **Take the time to prepare all the requested documents and information:**
 - Commitment letter from the future host institute (*template*)
 - Reference Letter
 - Your CV (following the standardised template)
 - CV of the Head of the host research group
 - **Project description** (*template*)
 - IP overview (*template*)
 - Etc. (cf. checklist and mySNF)

https://www.snf.ch/media/en/DZdallZws1UxpN9N/BRIDGE_PoC_checklist.pdf



BRIDGE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

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BRIDGE Steering Committee 2026



Innosuisse

Toufann Chaudhuri (DLMS User Association | Engineering)

Bettina Ernst (Biotech Entrepreneur and Investor | Life Sciences)



SNSF

chair Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken (ZHdK | Design)

Matthias Stuber (Uni Lausanne, CHUV | Life Sciences)



Advisory function

Dave Brown (Angel Investor and Mentor | ICT) (**chair EP PoC**)

Emine Cagin (Heidelberg Instruments | Engineering) (**chair EP Discovery**)

Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel 2026 (19 members)

Life Sciences

Vincent Forster Forlight Bio

Arianna Calcinotto USI

Jacques Schrenzel UniGE

ad hoc

Ursula Graf-Hausner 3dcellculture

Anja Harmeier Rewind Therapeutics

ICT

Dave Brown loganbrown

Lisa Falco Zühlke Group

Olga Fink EPFL

Environment

Cara Tobin C Greene Solutions

Engineering

James Miners Fongit

Teodoro Laino IBM Research

Daniele Inaudi Smartec / Roctest

Katrin Lohan OST

Micro/Nanotechnologies

Christofer Hierold ETHZ

Giovanni Leo EFI Lake Geneva Ventures

René Rossi EMPA

Social Sciences

Paola Ghillani Paola Ghillani & Friends

Maria Caiata Zufferey SUPSI

ad hoc

Lesley Spiegel ETHZ