PRIMA
Supplementary information following the meeting held on June 14th, 2017

The answers to the questions were provided by the SNSF PRIMA team prima@snf.ch

The researcher will be under supervision during the first two or three years of the grant. Then, until the end of the grant, the researcher will be independent and during this last period, the SNSF will help her to fully integrate her faculty. Could you elaborate on the management of these two different periods?

According to the PRIMA regulations, it is foreseen that the PRIMA beneficiaries are independent and autonomous from the beginning of the subsidy. However, in a similar way to Ambizione, beneficiaries must have the support of a research institute in the following areas (Art 8):

- integration of the beneficiary of the grant into the research institution;
- guarantee of a place of work and access to the research infrastructure;
- appropriate participation of the institution in research costs;
- where applicable, guarantee of the supervision of doctoral students employed in the project;
- taking a stance on the autonomy of the project, as well as on the applicant's scientific independence and career prospects.

Furthermore, it is possible that the SNSF will ask the institution to take a stance on the beneficiary's chances of having a position as a professor after PRIMA. This question would come towards the end of the financing.

What is the status of the applicant who receives a PRIMA grant? Should PRIMA researchers be considered as SNSF professors?

PRIMA beneficiaries have a status equivalent to Ambizione. The SNSF does not require them to be promoted as it is the case for SNSF professorship.

Doctoral and post-doctoral supervision requirements? Co-responsibility? Could we have more information? The regulation only stipulates that, for doctoral students, the institution must guarantee supervision and the appropriate completion of the thesis for doctoral students involved in the project even in the event of an early termination of the employment relationship.

The situation with doctoral students is identical to the Ambizione beneficiaries. For doctoral students who are funded by the PRIMA beneficiaries, an attestation from the thesis supervisor from the research institute must be attached to the application.

Is it advisable for researchers who meet the conditions of the PRIMA and Ambizione instruments to apply to these two instruments and tell them not to choose only one subsidy, this increases their chance of obtaining one subsidy!

In general, the SNSF advises the ordinary route via Ambizione and Professorship. PRIMA is an additional option for candidates who do not meet one of the personal conditions of the regular course or can clearly demonstrate a non-linear career. PRIMA will require at least the quality of the
best Ambizione applications. In addition, there is also a strategic reflection to be taken into account for those who fulfill the requirements of the two instruments:

The eligibility window for Ambizione is from PhD +1 to PhD +4. The eligibility window for PRIMA is from PhD +2 to PhD +10. During the PhD +2 - PhD +3 career phase (and with a mobility of at least 12 months after the PhD), candidates can apply for "PRIMA option Ambizione".

For Ambizione and PRIMA it is possible to submit a second request in case of rejection.

In the case of an application for "PRIMA option Ambizione", the candidate will have formally filed a PRIMA request and an Ambizione request. Taking into account the limited number of PRIMA subsidies granted (10 to 12 per year in all disciplines), candidates must make the "strategic" decision whether to risk losing an application opportunity for PRIMA given that the eligibility window is PhD +10.

**Advice for Promising Researchers: Should I apply for PRIMA or SNFS Professorship?**

PRIMA allows promising researchers who have not had the opportunity to do their postdoctoral work in an institution different from that of the doctoral thesis to submit an application. However, the granting of subsidies is limited to 10 to 12 subsidies per year (including all disciplines).

The personal conditions for submitting a query for a SNSF Professorship are stricter. However, if the candidates meet the personal requirements for a SNFS Professorship and consider that their qualifications are sufficient, they should be encouraged to submit a request for this instrument.

According to Article 13 of the PRIMA regulations, a PRIMA application may be submitted for a period of support for which no other career support grant is requested from the SNSF.