BRIDGE

Building Bridges

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

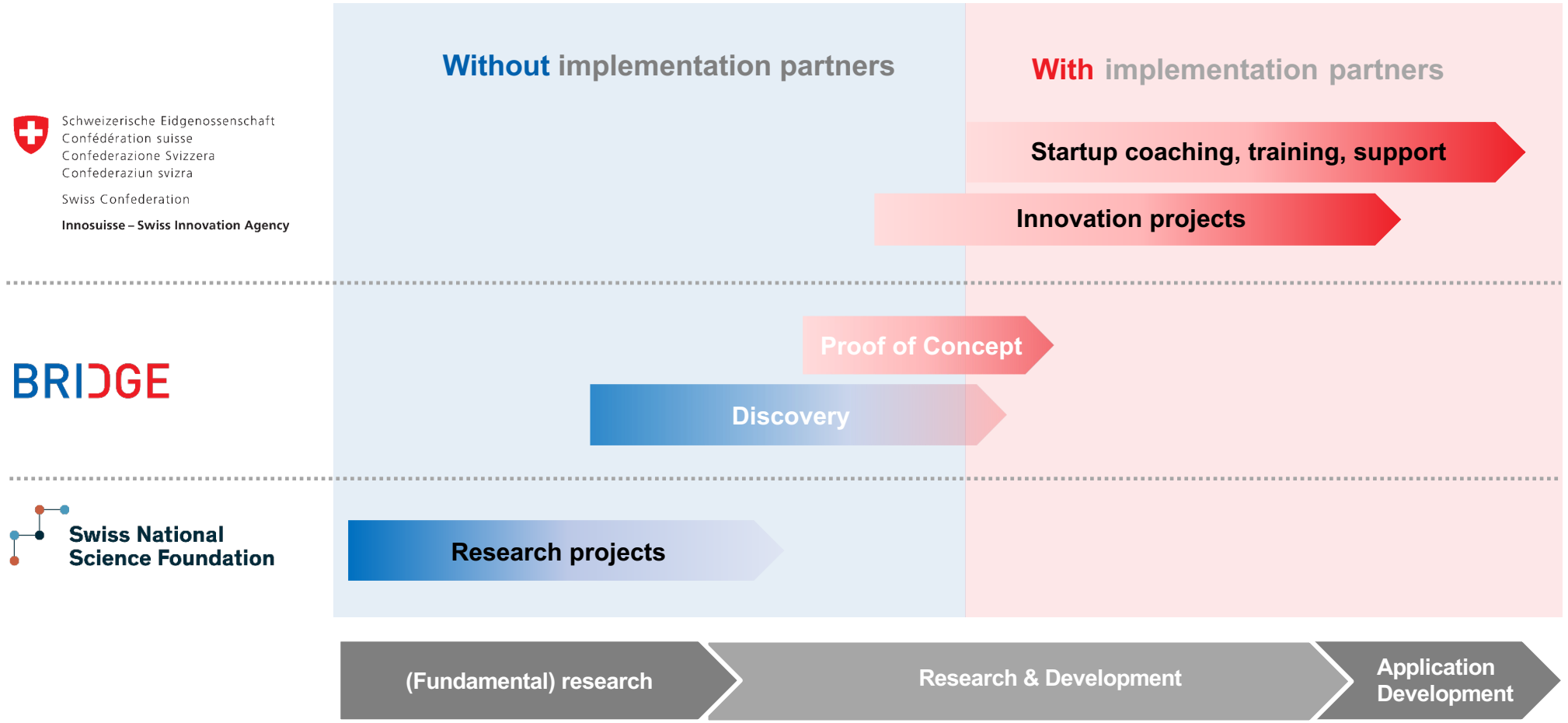
Swiss National Science Foundation

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

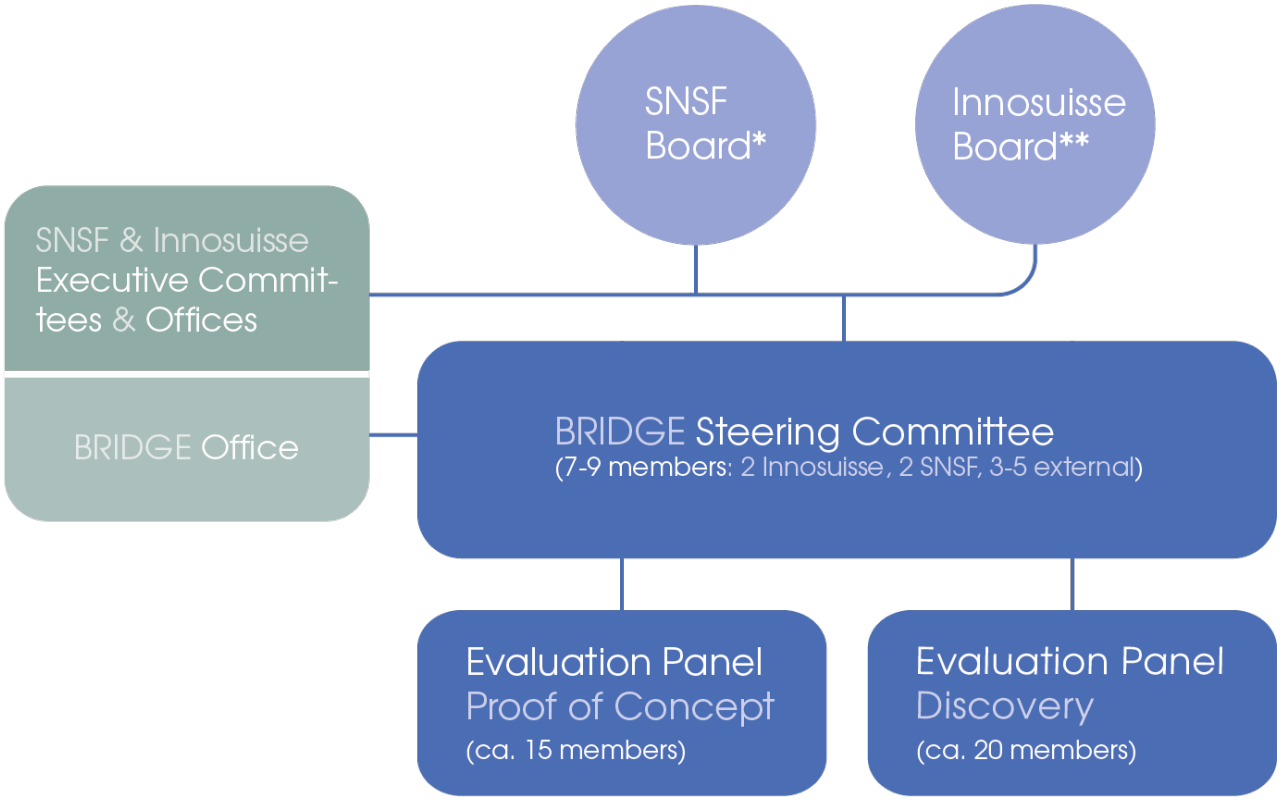
Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Complete the funding portfolio



BRIDGE governance



* SNSF Presiding Board of the National Research Council
** Innosuisse Board of Directors

Overall responsibility
SNSF Presiding Board, Innosuisse Board of Directors

Program-specific functions
- Steering Committee
- Evaluation Panels

Administrative support
BRIDGE Office (supported by SNSF & Innosuisse)

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 realize 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

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

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

Details of the funding scheme

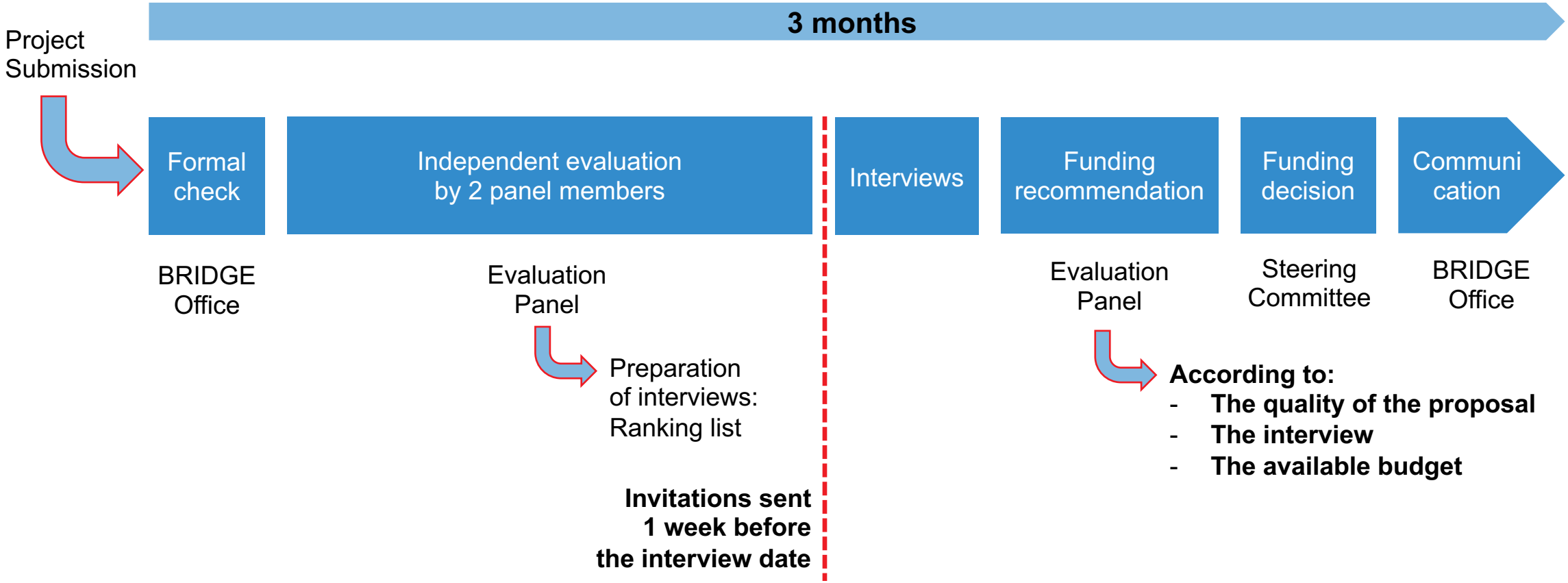
Evaluation criteria

- Expected **economical or societal impact** for the envisioned innovation, product or service
- **Feasibility of project** and the **implementation scenario**
- Appropriate level of innovation-based, entrepreneurial and managerial **competences of the applicant**, and **motivation to implement**

Evaluation procedure

- Evaluated by the Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel
- Two levels:
  - evaluation of submitted documents (project)
  - interview of the applicant
- Decision within 3 months

Proof of Concept Evaluation Process



Proof of Concept

Additional support

Assisted patent searches

- An assisted patent search for research and innovation can be requested while you are preparing a BRIDGE application

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

Support for women

- BRIDGE supports career development and network building for the next generation of female researchers through the SNSF's Gender Equality Grants

Proof of Concept application

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 and/or implementation partners has been described

Clear

- Innovative content is clearly indicated
- 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?

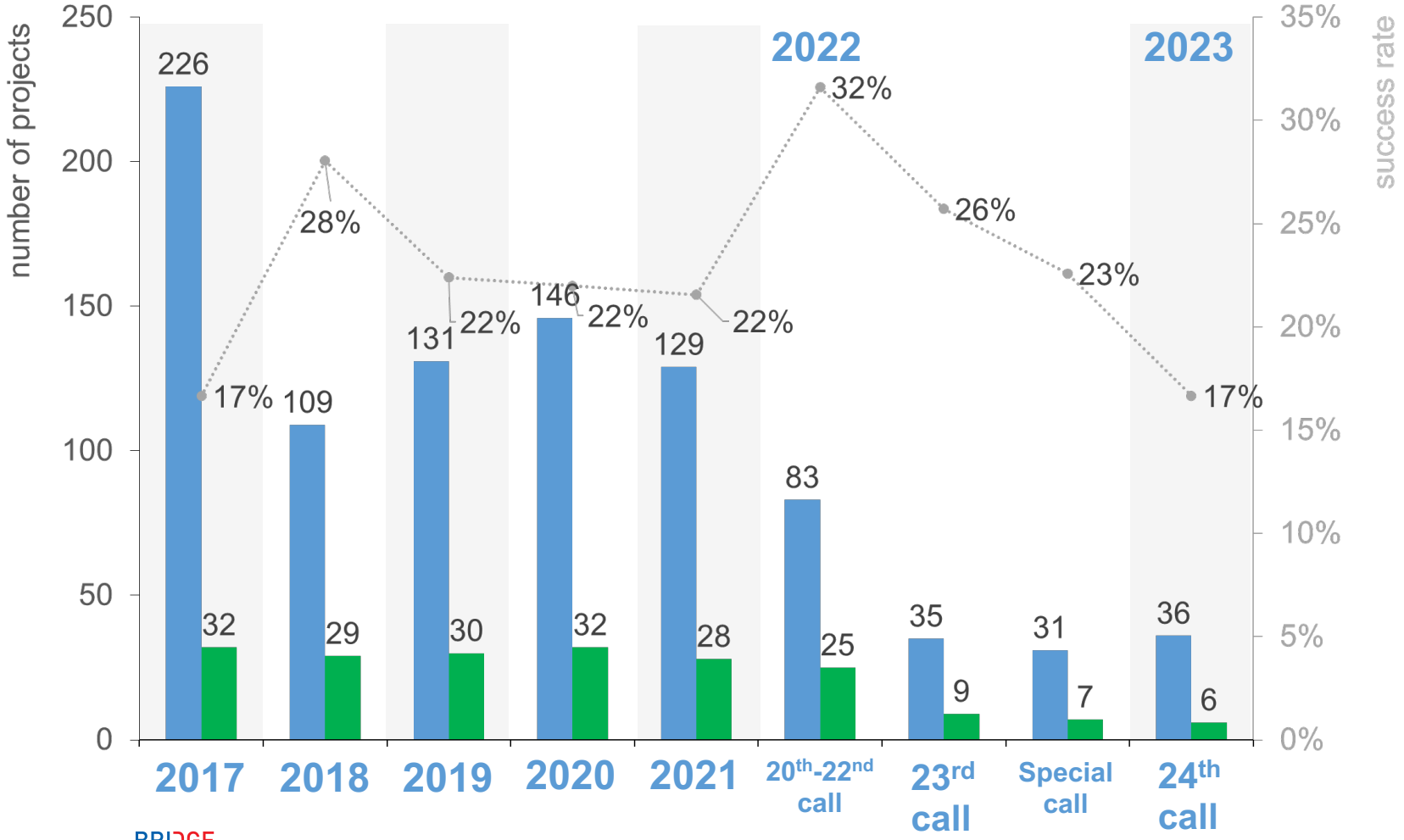
- If rejected, you can apply a second time for the same project, provided you still meet all the formal requirements
- List and explain the changes made to the former version of the project

BRIDGE Status 2017-2023

Proof of Concept information

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted and accepted projects



2017-2020 | 4 calls per year
2021 | 3 calls
2022 | 5 calls

Yearly submitted and accepted proposals and average success rates

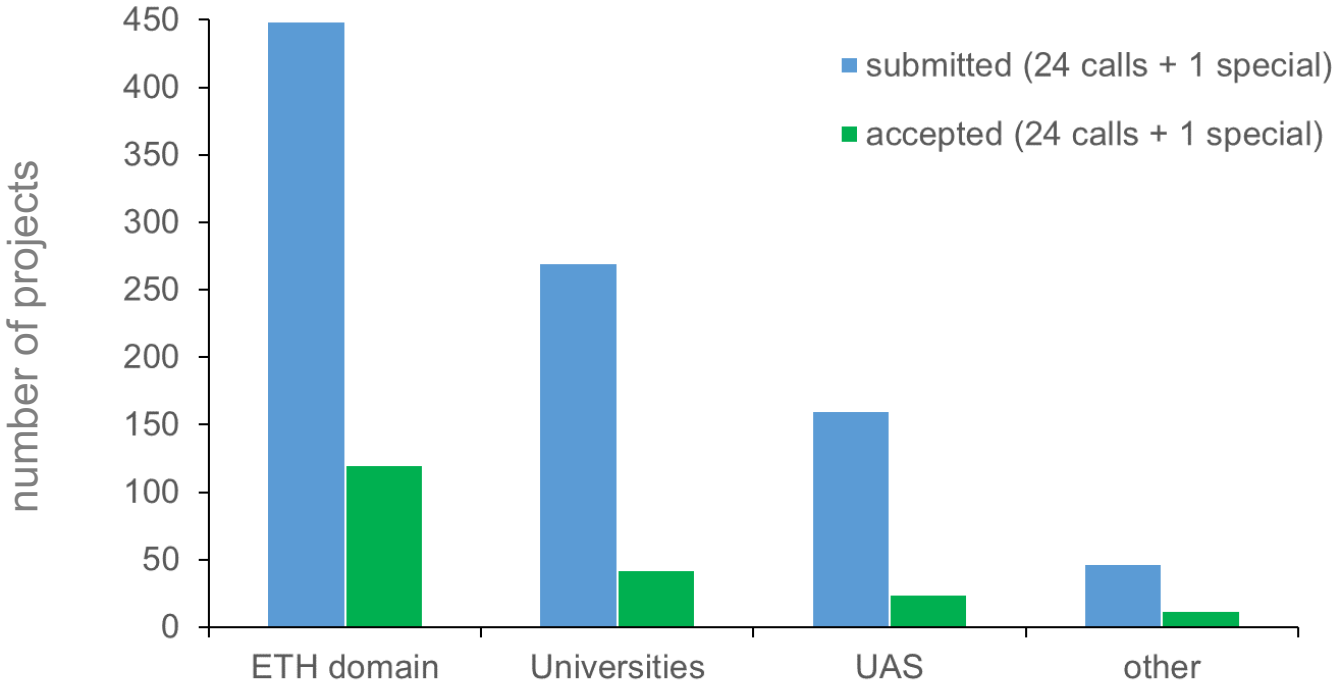
submitted
♀ 231 (25%)
♂ 695 (75%)

funded
♀ 52 (26%)
♂ 146 (74%)

success rate
(overall average: 23.2%)

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by institutions 2017-2023

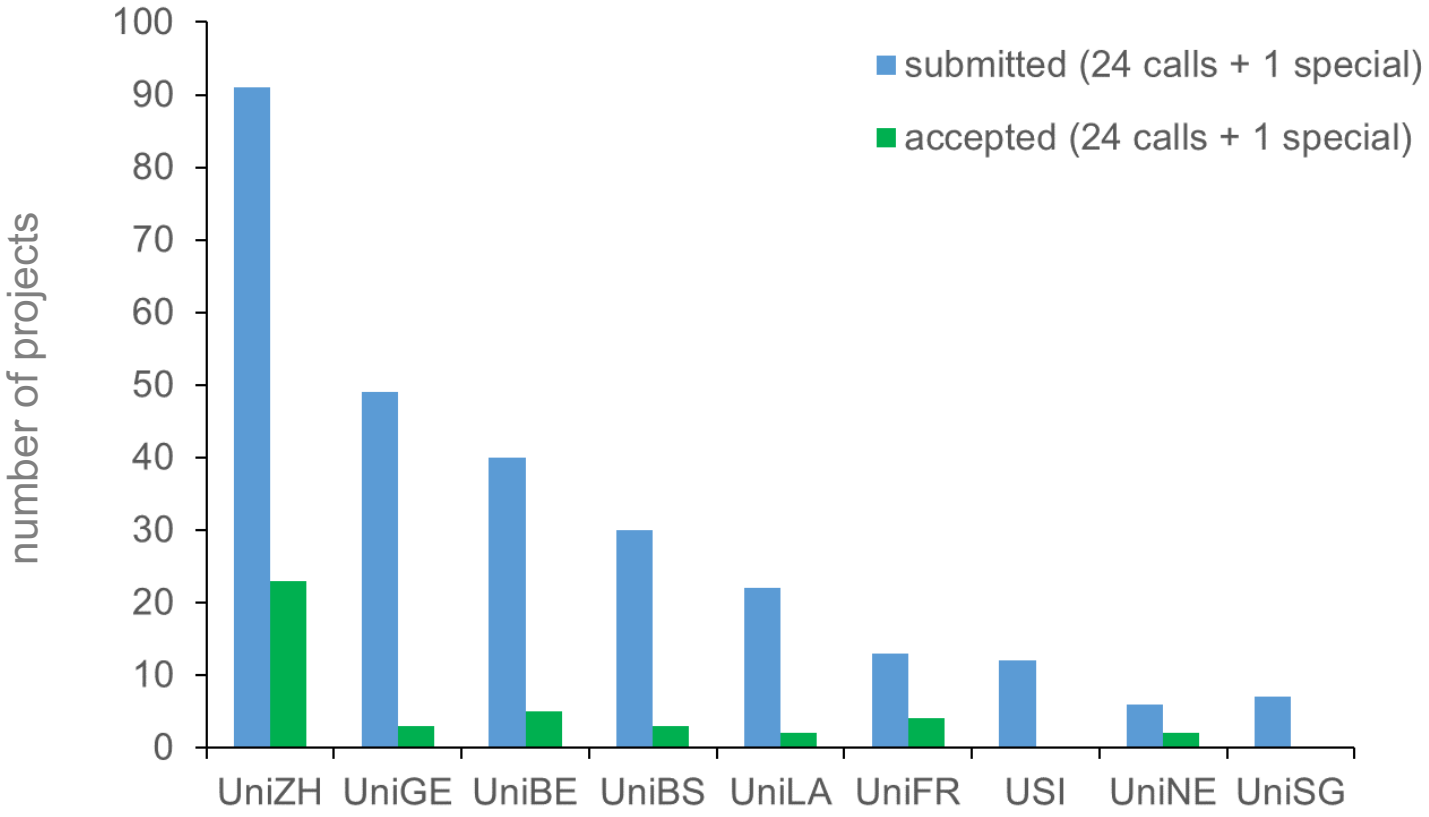


Success rates

ETH domain	27%
UAS	15%
Uni	16%
Other	26%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by universities 2017-2023

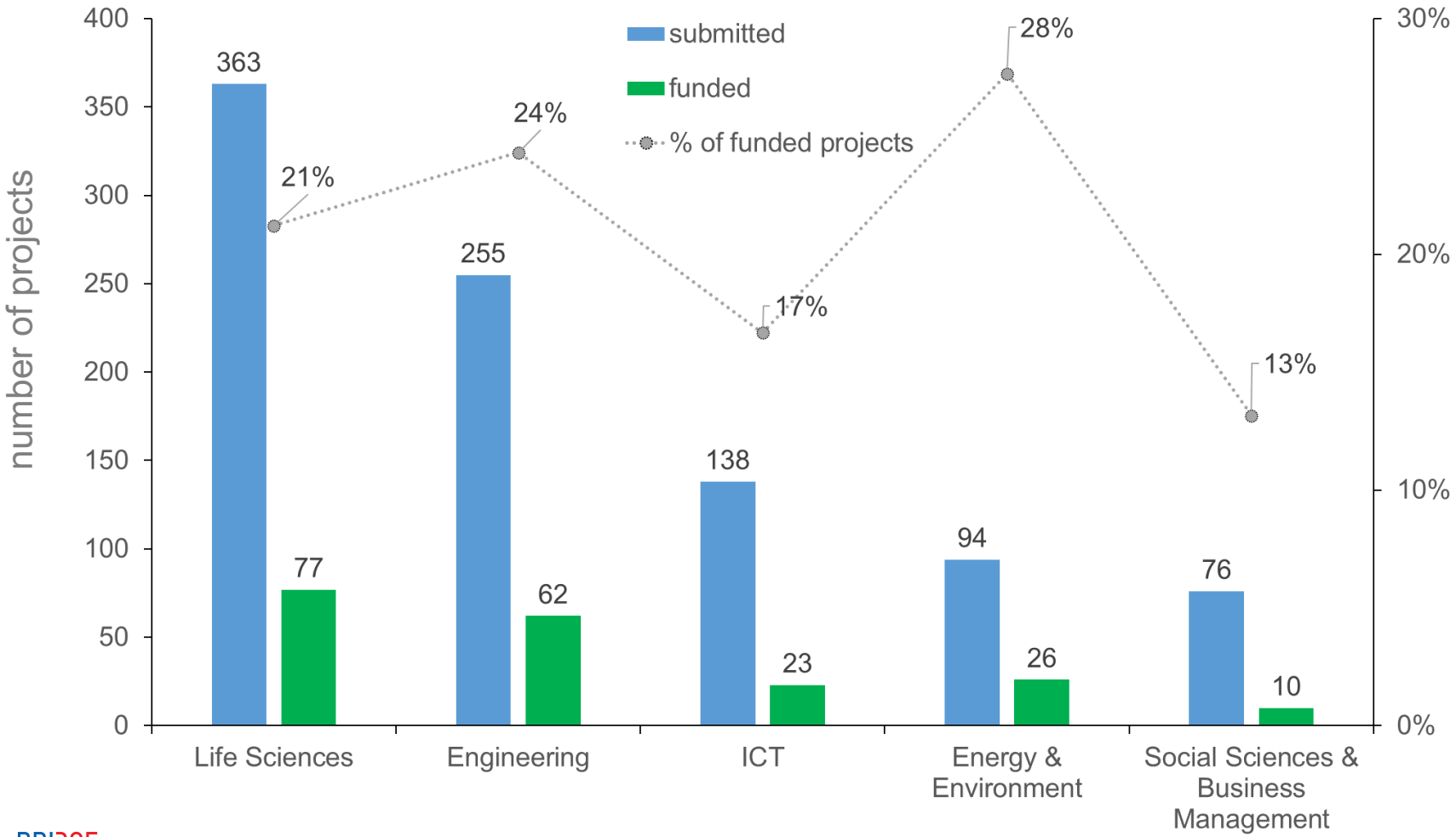


Success rates

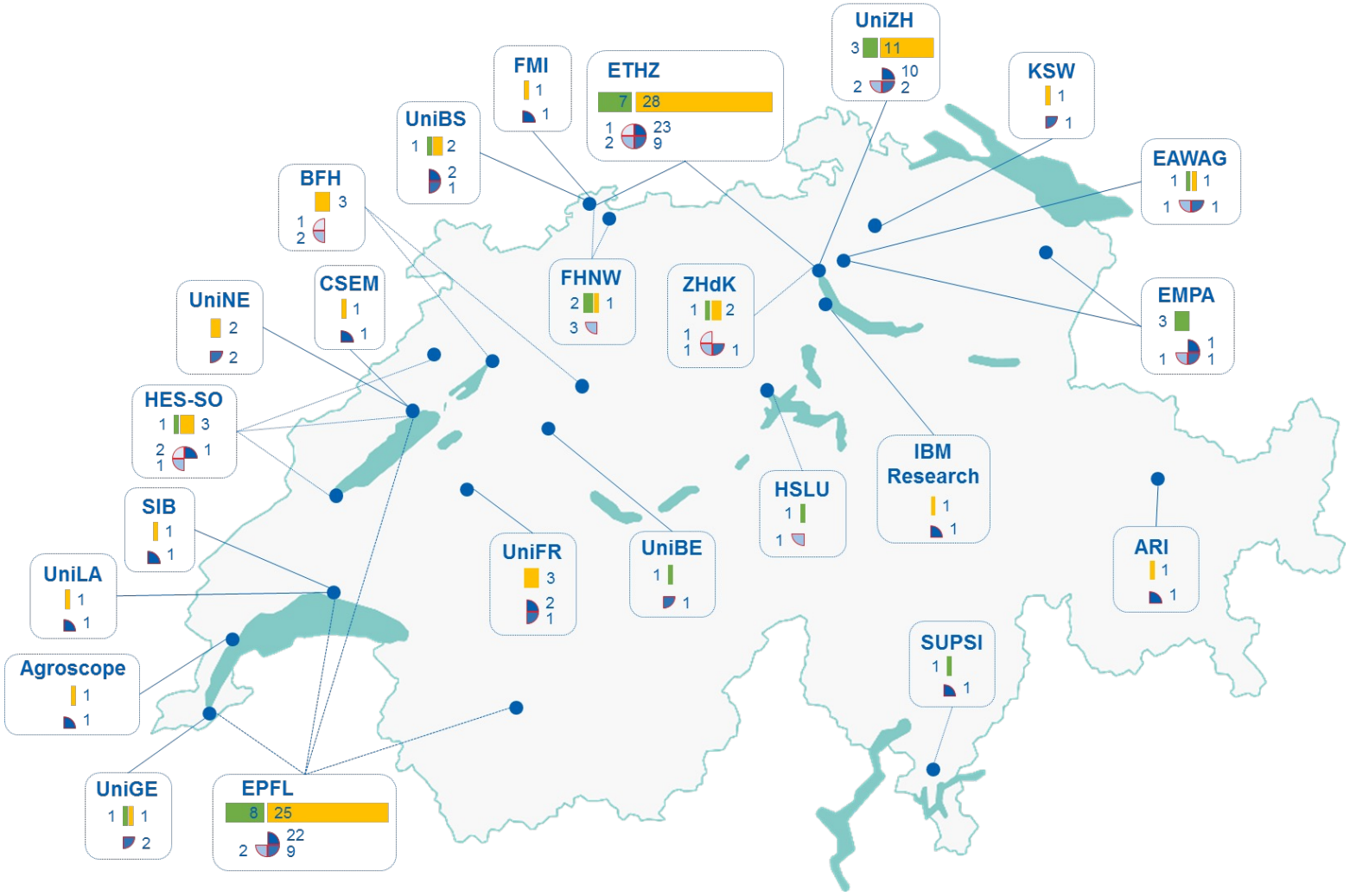
- UniZH: 25%
- UniGE: 6%
- UniBE: 13%
- UniBS: 10%
- UniLA: 9%
- UniFR: 31%
- USI: 0%
- UniNE: 33%
- UniSG: 0%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Disciplines (calls 2017-2023)



Proof of Concept financed projects 2017-2020



16 calls
612 applications
121 projects approved

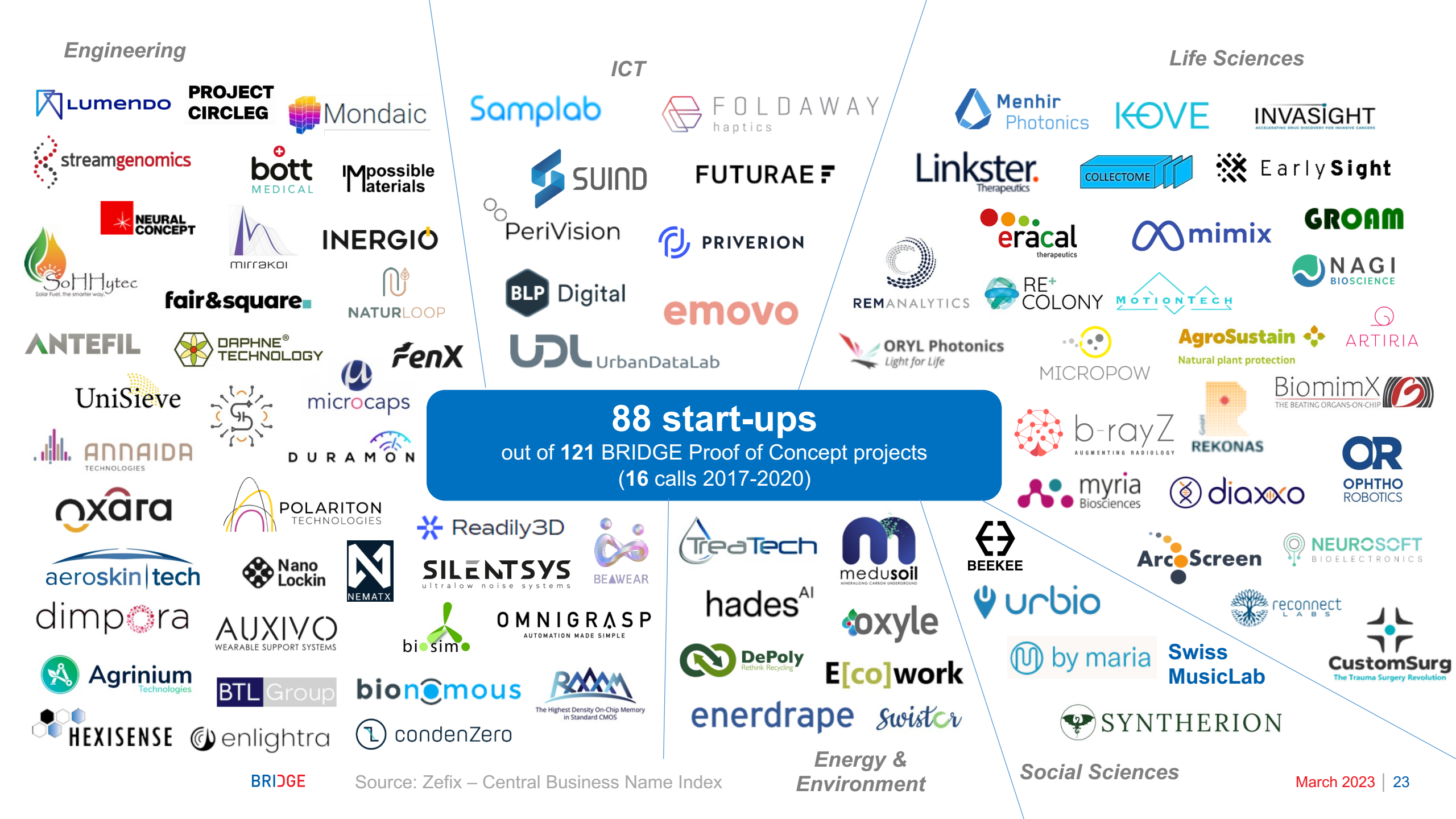
Total budget approved: **15.2 mioCHF**
Average grant/project: **126 kCHF**

Host institution

Number of supported …

… women … men

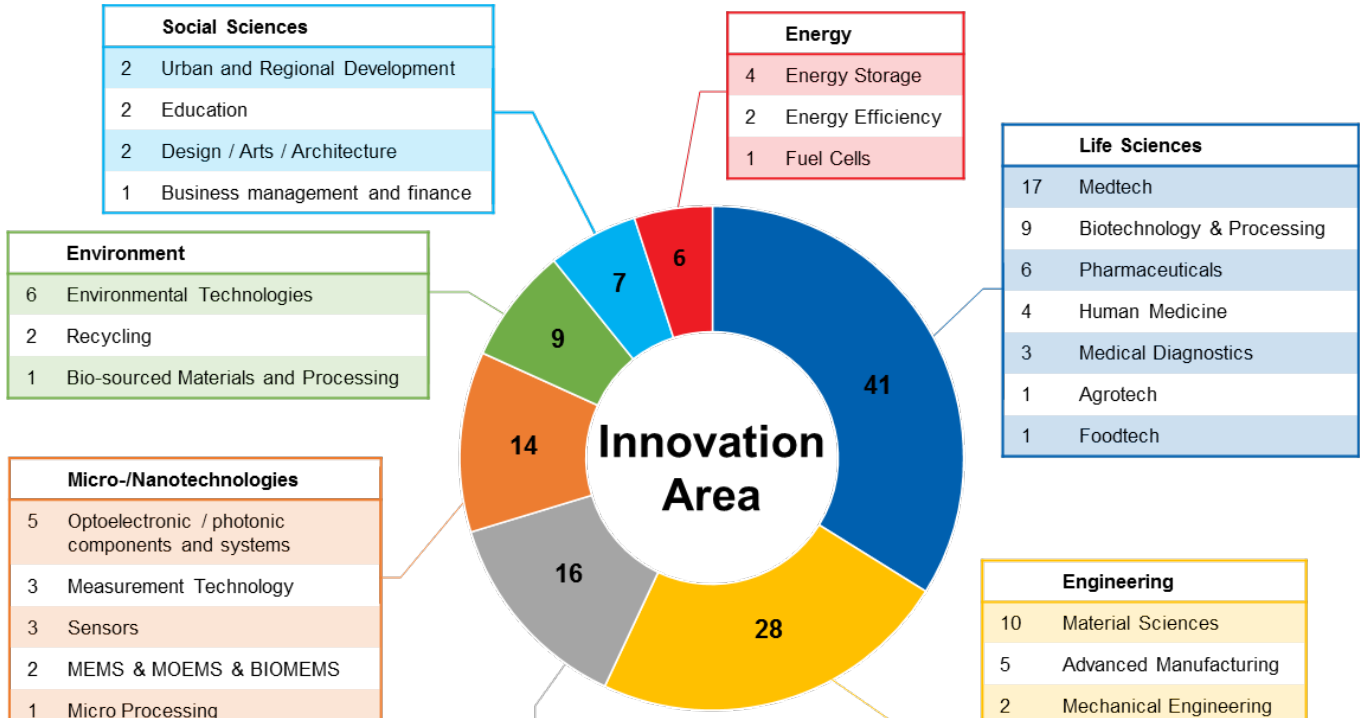
… bachelors … masters … postdocs … PhD students



Source: Zefix – Central Business Name Index

Proof of Concept funded projects 2017-2020

Funded projects per "innovation area"



Social Sciences	
2	Urban and Regional Development
2	Education
2	Design / Arts / Architecture
1	Business management and finance

Energy	
4	Energy Storage
2	Energy Efficiency
1	Fuel Cells

Life Sciences	
17	Medtech
9	Biotechnology & Processing
6	Pharmaceuticals
4	Human Medicine
3	Medical Diagnostics
1	Agrotech
1	Foodtech

Environment	
6	Environmental Technologies
2	Recycling
1	Bio-sourced Materials and Processing

Micro-/Nanotechnologies	
5	Optoelectronic / photonic components and systems
3	Measurement Technology
3	Sensors
2	MEMS & MOEMS & BIOMEMS
1	Micro Processing

ICT	
5	Information and communication technologies
5	Deep Learning
4	Robotics
1	Data Sciences
1	Artificial/Networked Intelligence

Engineering	
10	Material Sciences
5	Advanced Manufacturing
2	Mechanical Engineering
2	Products Engineering
2	Chemical Engineering
2	Process Engineering
2	Civil Engineering
2	Electrical Engineering
1	Acoustics

BRIDGE Next Calls

Submission Deadlines

Deadline always 17:00 Swiss local time

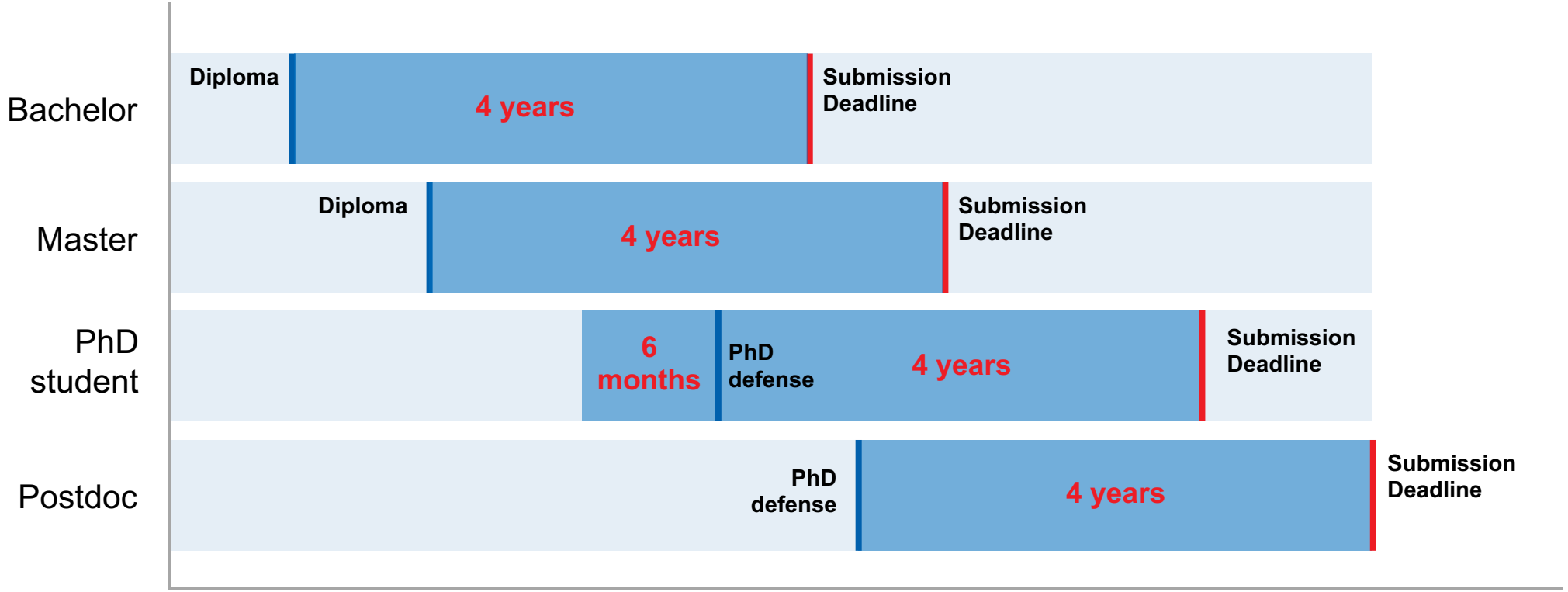
Proof of Concept

	Interviews
▪ **26th call: 5 June 2023**	22/23 August 2023
▪ **27th call: 4 September 2023**	9/10 November 2023
▪ **28th call: 4 December 2023**	February 2024

Check our website: **www.bridge.ch**

Requirements for applicants

Eligibility windows



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
  - CV of the Head of the host research group
  - **Project description** (*template*)
  - IP overview (*template*)
  - Etc. (cf. checklist and mySNF)

https://media.snf.ch/oSB5fqX4NISzPCz/BRIDGE_PoC_checklist.pdf

Proof of Concept

Project Description

1. Summary

2. Project Description

2.1 Research background
2.2 Innovation potential and market review
2.3 Description of the project and Implementation strategy
2.4 Project plan, milestones and deliverables
2.5 Commitment to a sustainable development

6 pages

Bibliography

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.1 Research background

2.2 Innovation potential and market review

- In what way is your idea innovative?
- What is the expected impact of your idea on the market or society?
- How can your innovation offer the economy a competitive advantage and benefit society? What is its potential “unique selling proposition”?
- *If applicable,* what is your strategy in terms of intellectual property?
- What are the possible market outcomes?

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.3 Implementation strategy

- How do you intend to achieve the proof of concept?
- How do you plan to bring your idea to the market and society and/or to implementation partners?
- What are the main challenges expected to face with regard to implementation strategy and partners?
- If you are planning to found a start-up company, how advanced are your plans in this respect?

Proof of Concept

Project Description

2.4 Project plan

- What needs to be done during the project to achieve your goals?
- What challenges are expected? How do you plan to respond to them?
- Milestones and deliverables
- Are the presented measures feasible and realistic within the timeframe of the funding period?
- What will be your future role?

2.5 Commitment to a sustainable development

Swiss National
Science Foundation

BRIDGE

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

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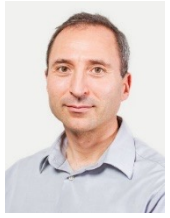
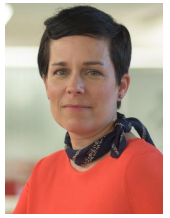
BRIDGE Steering Committee 2023


Innosuisse

chair Nicoletta Casanova (FEMTOprint | Engineering)
Dave Brown (Angel Investor and Mentor | ICT) (chair PoC evaluation panel)


SNSF

Anastasia Ailamaki (EPFL | ICT)
Mirjam Christ-Crain (Uni Basel | Life Sciences)

external

Mariana Christen Jakob (seif | Social Innovation)
Götz Schlotterbeck (IRM Basel | Chemistry)
Penny Schiffer (Raized.AI | Entrepreneurship)

advisory function (chair Discovery evaluation panel)

Jakob Rhyner (Uni Bonn | Sustainability / Physics)

Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel 2023

Life Sciences

Karl-Heinz Krause	University Geneva
Anja Harmeier	Pureos Bioventures
Greta Guarda	USI
Regine Eibl-Schindler	ZHAW

Social Sciences

Urs Bucher	Kalaidos
Paola Ghillani	Paola Ghillani & Friends

ICT

Dave Brown	loganbrown
Lisa Falco	Zühlke Group
Boi Faltings	EPFL

Engineering

James Miners	Fongit
Teodoro Laino	IBM Research
Daniele Inaudi	Smartec / Roctest

Micro-/Nanotechnologies

Christofer Hierold	ETHZ
Alex Dommann	EMPA
Samantha Paoletti	CSEM

Discovery Evaluation Panel 2023

Life Sciences

Claude Clément	BioAlps
Ursula Graf	3dcellculture
Emanuela Keller	Uni Hospital Zurich
Giuseppe Perale	USI, IBI SA
Stefan Weber	Artorg UniBE
Hans-Florian Zeilhofer	UniBS
Wolfgang Haap	Roche
Kaspar Binz	Binz Biotech Consult.
André Mercanzini	Aleva Neurotherapeutics

ICT

Luca Gambardella	USI, Artificialy SA
Anne-Marie Kermarrec	EPFL
Stéphane Marchand-Maillet	UniGE
Helmut Grabner	ZHAW

Engineering

Marc Bohner	RMS Foundation
Dimos Poulikakos	ETHZ
Yves Perriard	EPFL
Pierangelo Groening	EMPA
Alke Fink	AMI UniFR
Göran Stemme	KTH (Sweden)
Emine Cagin	Heidelberg Instruments Nano

Energy

Stephen Wittkopf	HSLU

Environment

Jakob Rhyner	University of Bonn

Social Sciences

Sven Schimpf	Fraunhofer IAO
Christine Mohr	UniLA
Naomi Häfner	UniSG