FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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Guidelines for the Submission of SPIRIT Applications

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Abbreviations
SPIRIT: Swiss Programme for International Research Projects by Scientific Investigation Teams
SEC: SPIRIT Evaluation Commission

1.   General remarks

The following guidelines are based on the Regulations on the Swiss Programme for International Research Projects by Scientific Investigation Teams (SPIRIT Regulations) and on the Organisational Regulations of the Evaluation Commission for the Swiss Programme for International Research Projects by Scientific Investigation Teams (SPIRIT) (SEC Regulations). The first part of these guidelines provides additional information on the programme's framework and conditions. The Annex offers advice on the application process and is structured according to *my*SNF logic.

2.   Objectives

SPIRIT grants aim to lower barriers to international co-operation and assist cross-border collaboration. They also enable researchers from all disciplines to conduct collaborative scientific projects with clearly defined goals. For this reason, the thematic scope of the proposals is open and the choice of topics is made bottom-up by the researchers. Furthermore, SPIRIT grants foster institutional co-operation and aspire to increase scientific capacity in research communities, especially in countries receiving development assistance. Such scientific capacity raising can take various forms: These include not only the support and the fostering of scientific capacity of persons in partner countries, but also the support and the fostering of scientific capacity of researchers in Switzerland, of young researchers in general and of women. Furthermore, the encouragement of gender awareness is also understood as a form of capacity development.

The authoritative list of the eligible countries, so-called partner countries, is established by the Specialised Committee International Collaboration (Specialized Committee) and updated on a regular basis.[1] The partner countries are determined on the basis of the list of official development assistance recipients established by the OECD Development Assistance Committee.[2]

SPIRIT grants promote gender awareness and equal opportunities. This is manifest in various points, e.g., in the fact that costs for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the SPIRIT project or linked to project-related gender awareness raising activities can be requested.[3] More decisively, if two or more proposals are evaluated as scientifically equivalent during the evaluation process, the SPIRIT Evaluation Commission (SEC) gives priority to proposals by female applicants, or to those proposals that show better gender awareness. This gender awareness may be reflected on the level of content, e.g., when the dimension of gender is taken into account in the elaboration of the research question, or on the level of the project team, e.g., when the team includes female team members.

In order to achieve a desirable number of female members in SPIRIT Scientific Investigation Teams, the SNSF invites women in particular to apply.

SPIRIT supports fair and equitable research cooperation with partner countries. The Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (Kommission für Forschungspartnerschaften mit Entwicklungsländern (KFPE)) developed the Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships for researchers who plan to engage in equal partnership towards a common goal. Its 11 principles

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[1] For the complete list of eligible partner countries, refer to (www.snsf.ch/spirit) and to point 4.4 of these guidelines.
[2] http://www.oecd.org/ > Departments > Development Co-operation Directorate > DAC List of ODA Recipients.
[3] Cf. art. 10 par. 1d of the SPIRIT Regulations.

and 7 fundamental questions provide a framework for transboundary and intercultural research in partnership as a continuous process of sound knowledge generation, building mutual trust, mutual learning and shared ownership. SPIRIT applicants are strongly encouraged to adopt the KFPE's principles for their planned project.

3. Call for proposals

Proposals must be submitted to the SNSF electronically. We recommend planning sufficient time for the elaboration of pre- and full proposals. The implementation of a new mySNF account may take up to one week.

3.1 Pre-proposals

Pre-proposals can be submitted at any point in time. Generally, pre-proposals will not be peer reviewed. The SEC evaluates the pre-proposals and the Specialized Committee approves the decisions. The secretariat communicates the decisions by way of rejection letter or invitation to submit a full proposal. The process from pre-proposal submission to communication takes no more than four months.[4]

For reasons of quality management, applicants whose SPIRIT pre-proposals were rejected must respect certain conditions.[5]

3.2 Full proposals

Full proposals may only be submitted upon invitation. If a pre-proposal is favorably evaluated, the applicant receives an invitation to submit a full proposal. This letter will stipulate the deadline for the submission of the full proposal. The time provided for the elaboration and submission of the full proposal is always eight weeks. A full proposal may be submitted at any time during this time span. If the deadline is not adhered to, the submission will not be considered. Regardless of the date, the deadline is always at 17:00 Swiss local time.[6]

Full proposals undergo peer review. The SEC evaluates the full proposals and issues a recommendation for funding. The Specialized Committee and the Presiding Board of the National Research Council approve the decisions. The secretariat communicates the decisions by way of rejection letter or approval (ruling). At most, the process from full proposal submission to communication takes ten months.[7]

Applicants have the option to submit a reinforcement letter for their full proposal in a clearly defined time window. This letter may lay out innovations that have been made in the field of research, or contextualize an important publication that was issued by the applicant(s) or others since the submission of the full proposal. This letter may not contain any modifications to the research plan. The applicants will be notified of the submission time window for this letter with the invitation to submit a full proposal.

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[4] Cf. art. 8 and 14 of the SPIRIT Regulations and point 3.4 of these guidelines.
[5] Cf. art. 9 of the SPIRIT Regulations and point 3.3 of these guidelines.
[6] Cf. art. 8 and 14 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[7] Cf. art. 8 and 14 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

Re-submissions of applications are possible. If a rejected full proposal is to be resubmitted, the applicants must recommence the application process with the pre-proposal.

3.3 Temporal restrictions to submission

For reasons of quality management, applicants whose SPIRIT pre-proposals were rejected must respect the following conditions:
An applicant in Switzerland or in a partner country whose SPIRIT pre-proposal was ranked in one of the three highest of the SNSF's six ranking categories and rejected may submit another SPIRIT pre-proposal at the earliest six months after the ruling. This also applies to SPIRIT applications with different applicants and/or different research questions.
An applicant in Switzerland or in a partner country whose SPIRIT pre-proposal was rejected in one of the three lowest of the SNSF's six ranking categories may submit another SPIRIT pre-proposal at the earliest 18 months after the ruling. This also applies to SPIRIT applications with different applicants and/or different research questions.[8]
A re-submitted SPIRIT pre-proposal will only be considered if it is a significantly modified version of the rejected one.
A SPIRIT pre-proposal that was favorably evaluated and invited to the full proposal phase before it was rejected may be re-submitted without restrictions.
A SPIRIT pre-proposal that was rejected for formal reasons may be re-submitted without restrictions.

If a full proposal is a revised version of a rejected SPIRIT full proposal, upload a separate document containing a point-for-point response to the critique raised in the rejection letter. This statement must not exceed three pages. It is to be uploaded as a separate document in the section "Project plan", it must be in English and it must be named "revision_notes_[name of applicant].pdf". Significant changes/additions in the research plan must be pointed out, if applicable.

3.4 Evaluation time span

Generally, the process from submission of the pre-proposal to reception of the first letter (i.e., the rejection of the pre-proposal or the invitation to submit a full proposal) amounts to approximately four months. If an applicant is invited to submit a full proposal, the process from submission of the full proposal to reception of the second ruling (i.e., the rejection or approval) generally amounts to approximately ten months.

Altogether, the process from the submission of the pre-proposal to the final rejection or funding decision may last up to fourteen months.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Scientific investigation team

At least one applicant of the Scientific Investigation Team must be based in Switzerland and at least one applicant must be based in a partner country. Further applicants in a partner country or in Switzerland may be added. However, the total of applicants may not exceed four persons.[9]

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[8] Cf. art. 9 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[9] Cf. art. 7 of the SPIRIT Regulations and point 4.2 of these guidelines.

4.2 Partner countries

The Specialized Committee establishes the list of partner countries.[10] The list of eligible countries, called partner countries is published on the SNF website and regularly updated.

Member countries of the European Union, countries associated to the Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the European Union and countries who are involved in a bilateral call initiative with the SNSF are not eligible as partner countries and persons conducting research in these countries may not submit an application for a SPIRIT grant.[11]

4.3 Applicants in Switzerland

Each applicant is personally responsible for the project and must meet the eligibility requirements for the submission of applications. Researchers are eligible to apply if they meet the requirements set out in article 10 of the Funding Regulations and in article 1.1 of the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations. If one applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements, the application will not be considered.[12]

The applicants must designate one person in Switzerland as the representative of all applicants vis-à-vis the SNSF (responsible applicant).[13]

Each applicant (i.e., responsible applicant and other applicant(s), in Switzerland and in the partner countries) may only hold one SPIRIT grant at a time. Hence, if a person already holds a running SPIRIT grant, they may not submit a pre-proposal for an additional one, unless the running grant's planned end date precedes the submitted proposal's planned starting date. Furthermore, SPIRIT grants may not have overlapping funding periods with Ambizione or PRIMA grants. Eccellenza-grantees and SNSF-professors may not submit SPIRIT applications during the first two years of their grants.[14]

4.4 Applicants in partner countries

Each applicant is personally responsible for the project. Each must meet the eligibility requirements for the submission of applications. Researchers from partner countries are eligible to apply if they meet the requirements set out in article 10 of the Funding Regulations and in article 1.1 of the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations mutatis mutandis. If one applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements, the application will not be considered.[15]

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[10] The partner countries are determined on the basis of the list of official development assistance recipients established by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. The DAC List of ODA Recipients shows all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA). These consist of all low and middle income countries based on gross national income (GNI) per capita as published by the World Bank, with the exception of G8 members, EU members, and countries with a firm date for entry into the EU. The list also includes all of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as defined by the United Nations (UN). The next review of the DAC List will take place in 2020. The current DAC List of ODA recipients is available here: http://www.oecd.org/ > Departments > Development Co-operation Directorate > Development finance statistics > DAC List of ODA Recipients.

[11] Cf. art. 4 and 7 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

[12] Cf. art. 5 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

[13] Cf. art. 7 par. 3, art. 15, 16 and 17 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

[14] Cf. art. 6 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

[15] Cf. art. 5 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

Each applicant (i.e., responsible applicant or other applicant, in Switzerland or in the partner countries) may only hold one SPIRIT grant at a time. Hence, if a person already holds a running SPIRIT grant, they may not submit a pre-proposal for an additional one, unless the running grant's planned end date precedes the submitted proposal's planned starting date. Furthermore, SPIRIT grants may not have overlapping funding periods with Ambizione or PRIMA grants. Eccellenza-grantees and SNSF-professors may not submit SPIRIT applications during the first two years of their grants.[16]

4.5   Applicants' employment

All applicants must provide indication of employment. This information is used in the grant evaluation process to assess the applicants' eligibility for submitting a proposal. One contact person per applicant must be named who can confirm the information provided (for example supervisor, responsible person in the HR department, etc.). The SNSF reserves the right to contact this person in order to verify the information.

4.6   Project partners

Project partners are researchers who make a partial contribution to the research project without assuming responsibility for the project as a whole. They may not refer to the support received from the SNSF as a grant they have themselves acquired. Their contribution, such as services, analyses, etc., may be included in the project costs. However, the salaries of the project partners or their employees are not eligible for funding. The costs generated by project partners must be of minor significance compared to the total budget for the project. They should generally correspond to no more than 20% of the overall grant.

Project partners are allowed if their contribution is necessary for carrying out the planned research project and does not serve any commercial purposes. In particular, researchers at higher education institutions, public institutions and non-profit organisations may be accepted. Project partners from commercially oriented institutions may be accepted, provided they do not receive any financial benefits based on their contribution or participation.[17]

Services provided by project partners may include:
- Designing databases or websites (e.g., in digital humanities)
- Data preparation and analysis
- Recruiting patients
- Curating biobanks
- Elaborating legal reviews

5.   Preparation and submission of applications

5.1   Language

All information must be provided in English. By doing so, applicants ensure that international reviewers will be able to give the proposal the appropriate attention.

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[16] Cf. art. 6 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[17] Cf. art. 11 of the Funding Regulations and 1.12 of the General Implementation Regulations.

5.2 *my*SNF user account

Applications must be submitted on *my*SNF (mySNF.ch), which requires a user account. Setting up a new *my*SNF user account may take up to one week. For technical questions: *my*SNF support (German/French/English: +41 31 308 22 00; E-mail: mysnf.support@snf.ch. Mon - Fri, 8.30 to 11.30 / 13.30 to 16.30 Swiss time).

5.3 Creating a new application

To establish a pre-proposal, the option 'Create a new application' in the *my*SNF user account must be chosen. Next, under 'Programmes', the applicants select 'SPIRIT Pre-Proposal' or 'SPIRIT Full Proposal', and continue. The application now appears under 'Applications and Projects', alongside other applications and projects the responsible applicant may have.

5.4 Budget

A full budget is only required for the full proposal. While only the requested amount is required for the submission of a pre-proposal, applicants must ensure and confirm that the planned research project is feasible within the financial constraints laid out in the SPIRIT Regulations[18] and elaborated on below. This confirmation is done directly in the data container 'requested funding'.

The maximum amount that can be requested for one SPIRIT grant is CHF 500'000, the minimum amount is CHF 50'000. The amount requested should be proportionate to the running time of the project.[19] Applicants must provide a plausible explanation if proportionality cannot be warranted.

At least 30% of the approved amount must be spent in Switzerland. At least 30% of the approved amount must be spent in the partner countries, regardless of whether there are one, two or three partner countries.[20] The remaining 40% can be distributed according to project needs.

Applicants' salaries in Switzerland and in the partner countries are not among the eligible costs.[21]

Overhead costs may not be requested.[22] However, applicants in the partner countries may ask for an augmentation of up to 5% of the costs requested for the partner countries to cover general costs incurred by the research project.[23] This augmentation must be calculated as follows: maximum 5% of the costs requested for the partner countries not including the augmentation. The total requested amount, including the augmentation, may not exceed the maximum amount of CHF 500'000.

The following are eligible costs:
- Salaries of scientific and technical staff in the SPIRIT grant within the scope of the salary ranges and rates prescribed by the SNSF. Employees in partner countries may ask for salaries that correspond to the local standards of their country. Furthermore, salaries requested for employees in partner countries must be gross salaries and they may not contain tuition fees.

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[18] Cf. art. 10-12 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[19] Cf. art. 3 par. 2 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[20] Cf. art. 3 par. 3 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[21] Cf. art. 10 par. 2a of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[22] Cf. art. 10 par. 2b of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[23] Cf. art. 11 par. 1 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

- Material costs directly linked to the research work, namely material of enduring value, expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses, third-party charges, costs of computing time and data as well as costs of providing open access to research data
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research work
- Costs for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the SPIRIT grant or linked to project-related gender awareness raising activities
- Costs for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the SPIRIT grant.[24]

As of 1 April 2018, costs for open access publications are no longer regarded as eligible costs under SNSF grants and must be applied for separately via *my*SNF. The SNSF will consider applications for coverage of book processing charges (BPCs) as of 1 April 2018 and applications for coverage of article processing charges (APCs) and book chapter processing charges (BCPCs) as of 1 October 2018. Publication costs for articles and book chapters published as of 1 April 2018 will be refunded as of 1 October 2018. For further information: www.snf.ch/oa.

5.5 Data management plan DMP (Full proposal only)

No Data Management Plan (DMP) is requested during the pre-proposal phase. It only needs to be submitted with the full proposal.

The aim of a DMP is to plan the life cycle of data. It offers a long-term perspective by outlining how data will be generated, collected, documented, shared and preserved. The SNSF provides a template to help researchers complete their data management plan. Each project's DMP will refer to discipline specific standards and practices and thus its content may be different.

The DMP form must be completed in English. The information you enter in the DMP is not part of the scientific evaluation and will not be shared with external reviewers. Note, however, that the final version of the DMP will be published on P3 (public database of the SNSF) at the end of the project.

Detailed guidelines are available for the DMP. Furthermore, answers to a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about open research data (ORD) are also available.

5.6 Project plans

The project plan is used in the evaluation process to assess the scientific quality of the research project and the scientific qualifications of the applicants. In particular, scientific evaluation is conducted in accordance with the following criteria:
- Scientific relevance;
- originality of the aims and objectives;
- appropriateness of the methodology and feasibility;
- track record and expertise of the researchers;
- complementarily of the research partners;
- contribution to increasing scientific capacities in the relevant research field; and

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[24] Cf. art. 10 of the SPIRIT Regulations.

- contribution towards raising gender awareness and promoting equal opportunities.[25]

Under the term "increasing scientific capacities", the SNSF not only subsumes the support and fostering of scientific capacity of persons in partner countries, but also the support and fostering of scientific capacity of researchers in Switzerland, of young researchers in general and of women. Furthermore, the encouragement of gender awareness is also understood as a form of capacity development.

If two or more proposals are found to be equivalent with regard to their scientific merit, the SNSF will give priority to proposals by female applicants, or to those proposals that show better gender awareness.[26]

The project plan must be written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice and all sources must be cited correctly. It must consist of original text that has been written by the applicants themselves. A limited amount of text (or other material, graphs, etc.) by third parties or text published by the applicants themselves is permissible in the sections concerning the state of research and the state of their own research as well as when describing standard methods, provided that the quoted texts are clearly designated as such (quotation marks or appropriate wording) and that a verifiable source is mentioned nearby and in the bibliography.[27] The SNSF uses software to compare texts and analyses suspected cases of plagiarism. A number of universities have made such programs available to their students and employees. The SNSF recommends that applicants contact their institution for further information.

Note that all applicants take responsibility for the correctness of their contributions. If the project plan is not written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice all applicants are accountable and the project may not be considered. Reference is made to internationally recognized standards on scientific integrity.

Applicants are also advised to consider the SNSF dossier on scientific integrity; and article 15 of the Funding Regulations on Research integrity and good scientific practice.

If an application does not meet the requirements for the project plan and/or is manifestly inadequate, it will not be considered.[28]

5.6.1   Pre-proposal project plan

The project plan of the pre-proposal comprises parts 1-3 and must be structured as described below. It may not exceed 5 pages and 20'000 characters with spaces, including summary (*maximum 1 page*), table of contents, illustrations, footnotes, formulae and tables, if applicable, but excluding the bibliography. A minimum of point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing must be used.

1. Summary (maximum 1 page)
   Present the project's background, list its overall objectives and specific aims, mention the methods to be used, and briefly discuss the expected results and their impact for the field.

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[25] Cf. art. 13 par. 1-2 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[26] Cf. art. 13 par. 3 of the SPIRIT Regulations.
[27] Cf. Regulations on scientific misconduct.
[28] Cf. art. 14 and 22 of the Funding Regulations.

2. Research plan
   2.1. Rationale for the project
      Briefly outline the justification and motivation for your project.
   2.2. Outline of planned research
      Specify the approach you will take and the concrete objectives that you aim to achieve in the period of funding. Provide information concerning the methods necessary to attain the aims. Outline the envisaged studies or experiments. Mention transdisciplinary elements, if applicable. (The description should be as detailed as is necessary to enable the SPIRIT evaluation commission to assess whether the methodology is appropriate and the project feasible.)
   2.3. Collaboration, work division and milestones
      Outline the most important milestones and indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners.
   2.4. Relevance and impact
      Describe the expected impacts of your project for the discipline and for science as a whole (research and education/teaching).
3. Bibliography (does not count towards the limit of the research plan of 5 pages and 20'000 characters with spaces)
      Record all the sources referred to in the research plan. Give the full reference and provide a complete author list.

5.6.2 Full proposal project plan

The project plan of the full proposal comprises parts 1-3 and must be structured as described below. It may not exceed 20 pages and 80'000 characters with spaces, including summary (*maximum 1 page*), table of contents, illustrations, footnotes, formulae and tables, if applicable, but excluding the bibliography. A minimum of point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Annexes are not accepted.

1. Summary (*maximum 1 page*)
      Present the background and rationale of the project, list its overall objectives and specific aims, mention the methods to be used, and discuss the expected results and their impact for the field.
2. Research plan
   2.1. Current state of research in the field
      Describe your project in the context of the current state of knowledge in your field. Make reference to the most important publications, particularly by other authors. Describe which previous insights provided the starting point and the basis for the planned studies, in which areas research is needed, and why. Explain which important, relevant research projects are currently underway in Switzerland and abroad.
   2.2. Current state of your own research and partnership aspect
      Describe the work done by the different applicants in the relevant research field or in related fields and indicate the relevant publications. Explain how the different applicants complement each other for the proposed research project. Describe past collaborations between the applicants, if applicable.
   2.3. Detailed outline of planned research
      Based on the information provided under 2.1. and 2.2, please specify the approach you will take and the concrete objectives that you aim to achieve in the period of funding. Describe

the envisaged studies or experiments. Assess the risks involved and propose alternatives if necessary. Characterise existing sources and datasets and describe the data collection strategy and possible alternative strategies. Explain the role of each member of the research team (incl. applicants, employees, project partners and collaborations). Mention transdisciplinary elements, if applicable. (The description should be as detailed as is necessary to enable external experts and the SPIRIT evaluation commission to assess whether the methodology is appropriate and the project feasible.)

    2.4. Collaboration, work division, schedule, milestones and visits

Outline the most important milestones and indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners. List the planned visits between applicants in Switzerland and applicants in the partner countries. Elaborate on visiting scientist(s), hosting scientist(s), purpose and duration of visit.

    2.5. Relevance and impact

Describe the expected impact of your project for the discipline(s) and for science as a whole (research and education/teaching). Mention the form in which you wish to publish your research results (articles in scientific journals, monographs, conference proceedings, etc.).

3. Bibliography (*does not count towards the limit of the research plan of 20 pages and 80'000 characters with spaces*)

Record all the sources referred to in the research plan. Give the full reference and provide a complete author list.

5.7 Curriculum vitae, publication list and list of major scientific achievements

The SNSF signed the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)](#), which recommends funders to be explicit about the criteria used in evaluating the scientific productivity of applicants. The scientific quality, value and impact of the entire research output is taken into consideration (including datasets, software, prototypes) in addition to research publications. In this context, the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the name of the journal in which it was published. Within the scope of this evaluation, the scientific discipline, academic age and personal situation (e.g., career breaks) of the applicants will be considered.

Each applicant must provide three documents: a Curriculum vitae, a publication list and a list of scientific achievements. These documents are sent out for peer-review in the full proposal phase. Proposals that lack the relevant information will not be considered for evaluation.

5.7.1 Curriculum vitae

This document may not exceed two pages and must be written in English. Photographs may not be included. Publications may not be listed. It must include the following information, if applicable, in this order:

1.   Current position(s)
2.   Education
3.   Professional and academic experience
4.   Research career breaks (e.g., care duties, parental leave, prolonged illness, sabbaticals, change of career direction, military service, travel, voluntary work, etc.)
5.   Mentorship activities, supervised PhD theses, important contributions to the career of scientists

6. Teaching duties, administrative activities, institutional responsibilities, managerial duties, clinical work
7. Research projects as leading investigator
8. Prizes, fellowships, distinguished memberships
9. Organisation of conferences
10. Entrepreneurship
11. Outreach and contribution to open science (e.g., technology and knowledge transfer activities)

The individual points can be limited to the latest and/or for the present proposal most relevant activities.

5.7.2 Publication list

Each applicant may list up to ten scientific publications. The document must be written in English. There is no temporal frame for these publications. Items may include:
1. Publications in international peer-reviewed scientific journals
2. Monographs
3. Contributions to books
4. Review articles
5. Peer-reviewed conference proceedings
6. Patents
7. Invited contributions to international conferences
8. Other publications (maps, documents, software, databases, arXiv-articles, etc.)

The applicant's name in the list of authors and the publication year must be clearly visible (e.g., boldfaced or underlined). The sub-categories "published" and "in press" are permissible in all of the above points, if applicable. Articles connected to the present research proposal must be clearly highlighted as such. "Et al." to shorten the list of authors must be avoided, unless the research project was conducted by a large international collaboration with more than 50 authors and a direct link to the full publication is given.

5.7.3 List of major scientific achievements

Each applicant may list up to three major scientific achievements. Each item must be contain the applicant's specific contribution and the overall impact of the work. The list must be written in English.

6. Further information

For more information, refer to www.snf.ch.