BRIDGE

Building Bridges

Swiss National Science Foundation

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Complete the funding portfolio

Without implementation partners

With implementation partners

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Startup coaching, training, support

Innovation projects

BRIDGE

Proof of Concept

Discovery

Swiss National Science Foundation

Research projects

(Fundamental) research

Research & Development

Application Development

BRIDGE governance

Overall responsibility
SNSF Presiding Board, Innosuisse Board of Directors

Program-specific functions
- Steering Committee
- Evaluation Panels

Advisory function
Stakeholder Group

Administrative support
BRIDGE Office (supported by SNSF & Innosuisse)

SNSF Board*

Innosuisse Board**

SNSF & Innosuisse Executive Commit-tees & Offices

BRIDGE Office

BRIDGE Steering Committee
(7-9 members: 2 Innosuisse, 2 SNSF, 3-5 external)

Evaluation Panel
Proof of Concept
(ca. 15 members)

Evaluation Panel
Discovery
(ca. 20 members)

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

Goal of the program

« Turn scientific results into economic or societal innovation »

BRIDGE...

- ... fosters the economic and social 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

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, scientific publication, patent)

- Projects may cover any type of innovation or research field

Requirements for applicants

Eligibility windows
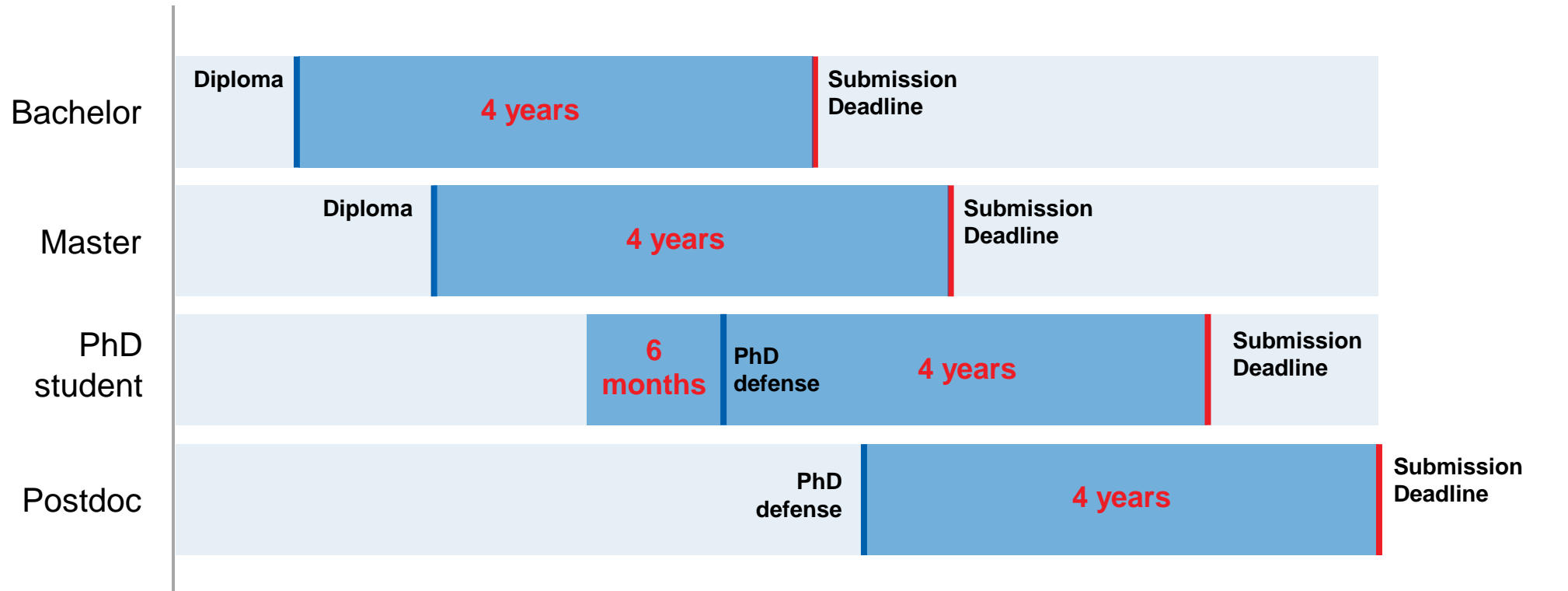
Proof of Concept

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

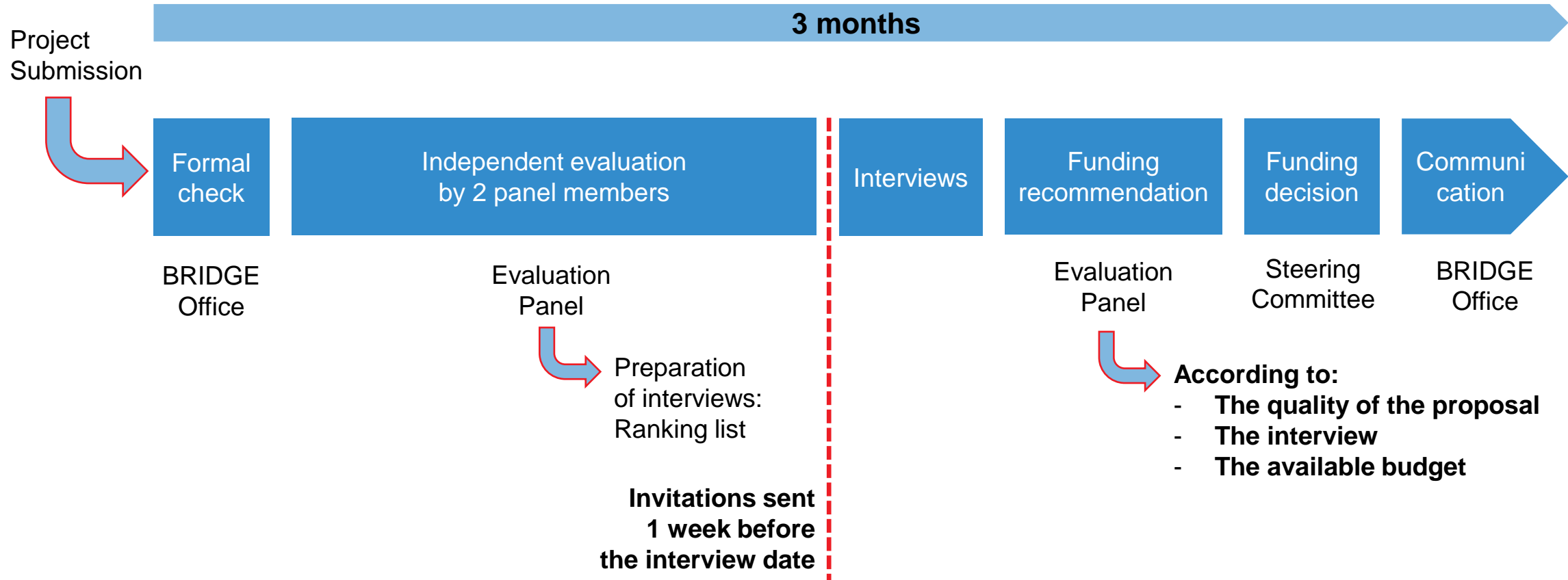**Details of the funding scheme**

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

3 months

Project Submission

| Formal check | Independent evaluation by 2 panel members | Interviews | Funding recommendation | Funding decision | Communication |

BRIDGE Office

Evaluation Panel

Preparation of interviews: Ranking list

Invitations sent 1 week before the interview date

Evaluation Panel

Steering Committee

BRIDGE Office

According to:
- **The quality of the proposal**
- **The interview**
- **The available budget**

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
- 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 an answer to the problem (start from the end)
- Follow the structure of the template (do not leave blank)
- Support your statements with facts and figures
- 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

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

Proof of Concept Support

Proof of Concept

Additional support

BRIDGE support

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

- BRIDGE Fellows can request an assisted patent search for research and innovation

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
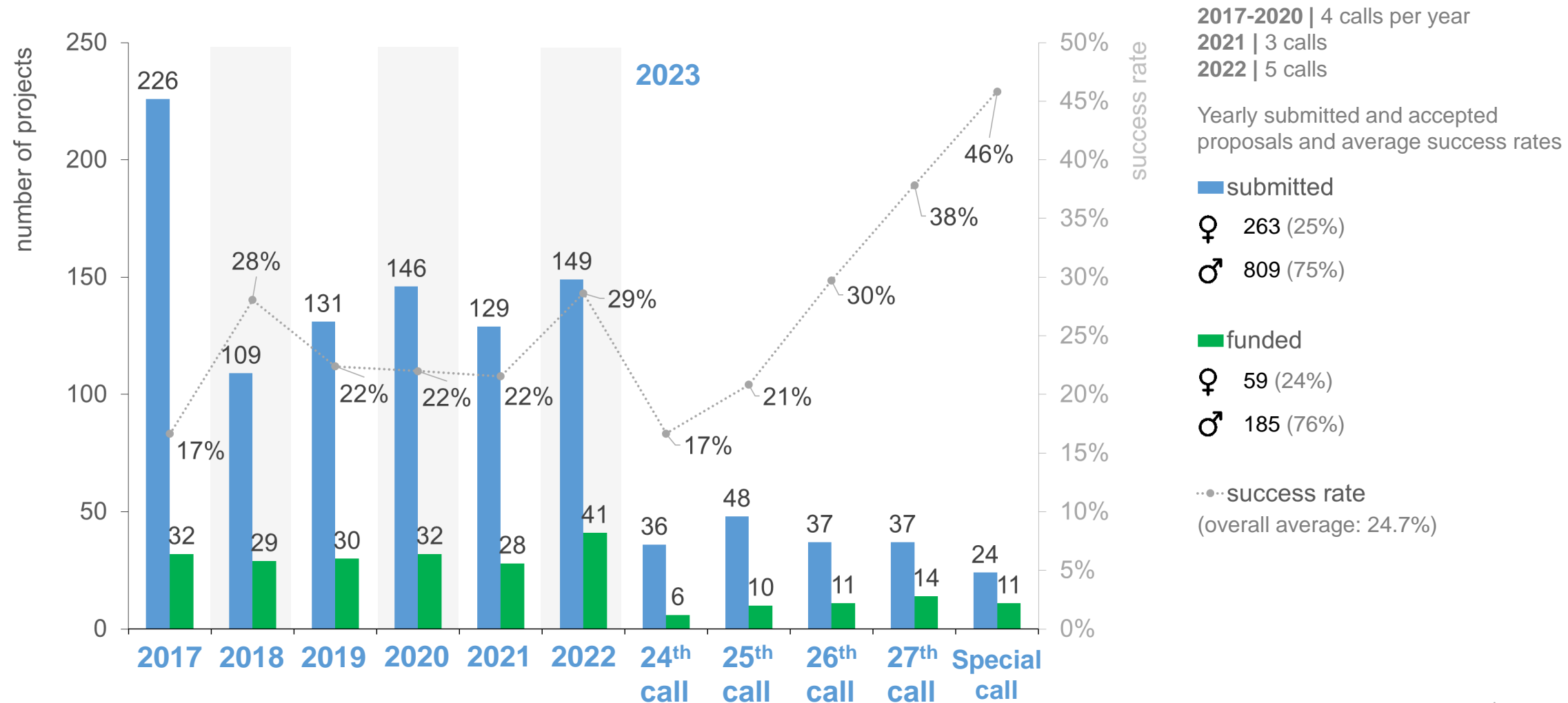
SNSF support

- BRIDGE provides SNSF's Flexibility Grants to help researchers better balance their childcare responsibilities with their scientific work and academic careers

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

BRIDGE Status 2017-2023

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
♀ 263 (25%)
♂ 809 (75%)

■ funded
♀ 59 (24%)
♂ 185 (76%)

····• success rate
(overall average: 24.7%)

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by institutions 2017-2023
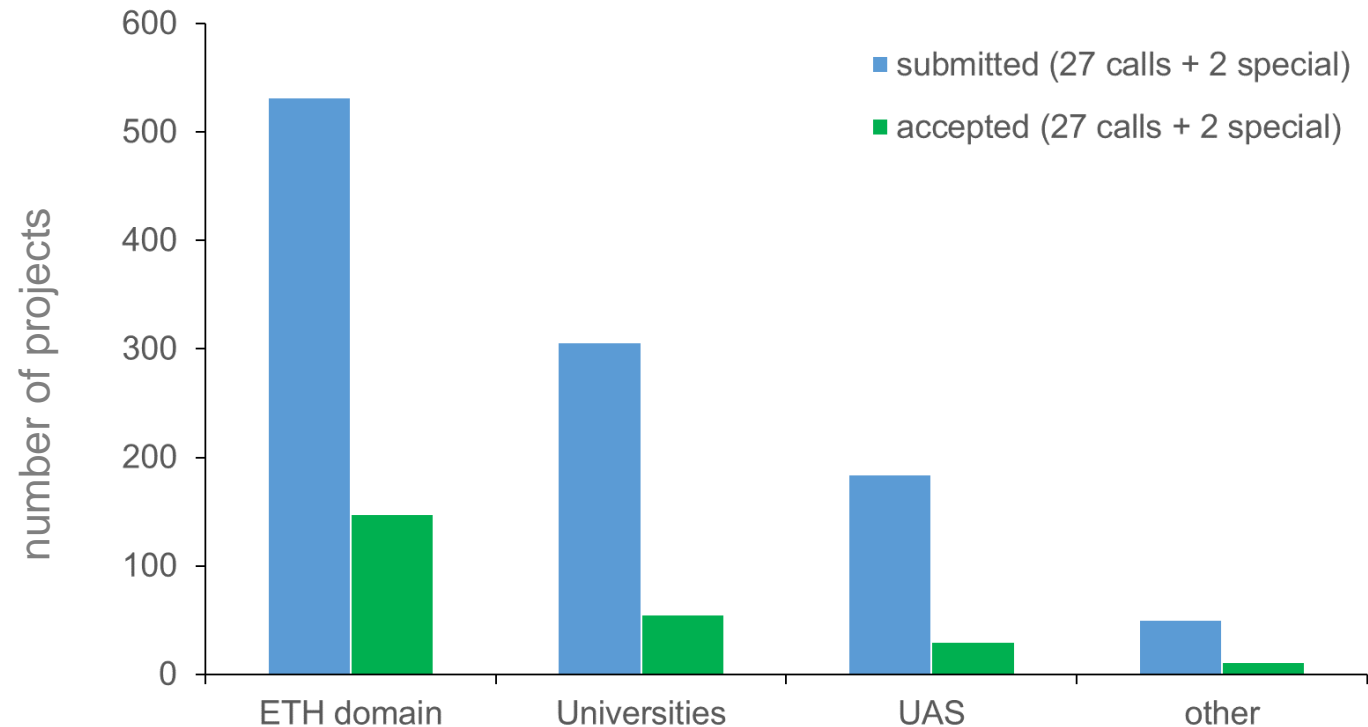
Success rates

ETH domain	28%
UAS	16%
Uni	18%
Other	22%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Submitted/funded projects by Universities of Applied Sciences 2017-2023

Chart legend:
- submitted (27 calls + 2 special)
- accepted (27 calls + 2 special)

Y-axis: number of projects (0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60)

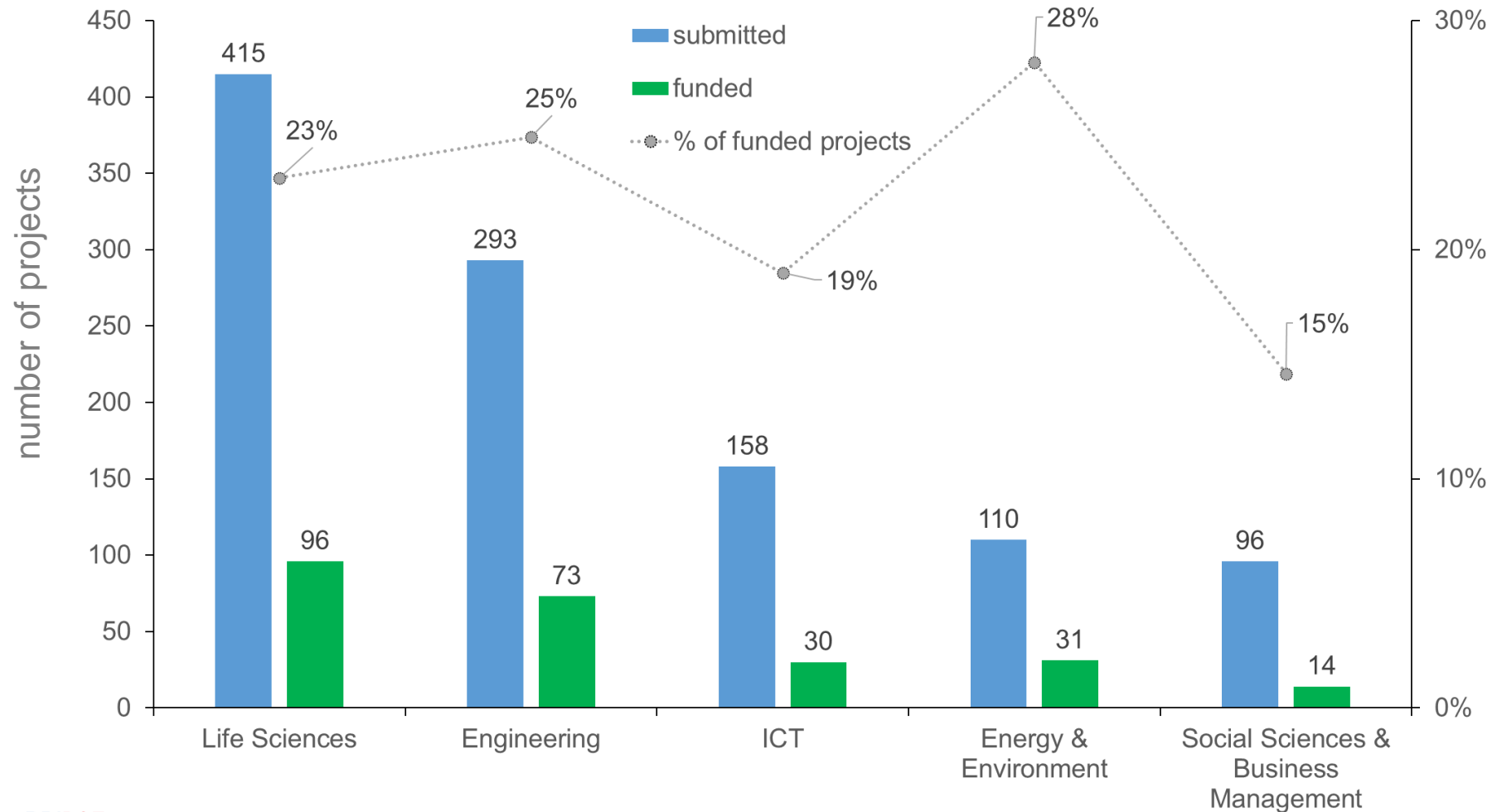X-axis categories: HES-SO, ZHAW, BFH, FHNW, HSLU, SUPSI, ZHdK, FHGR, OST, UTE
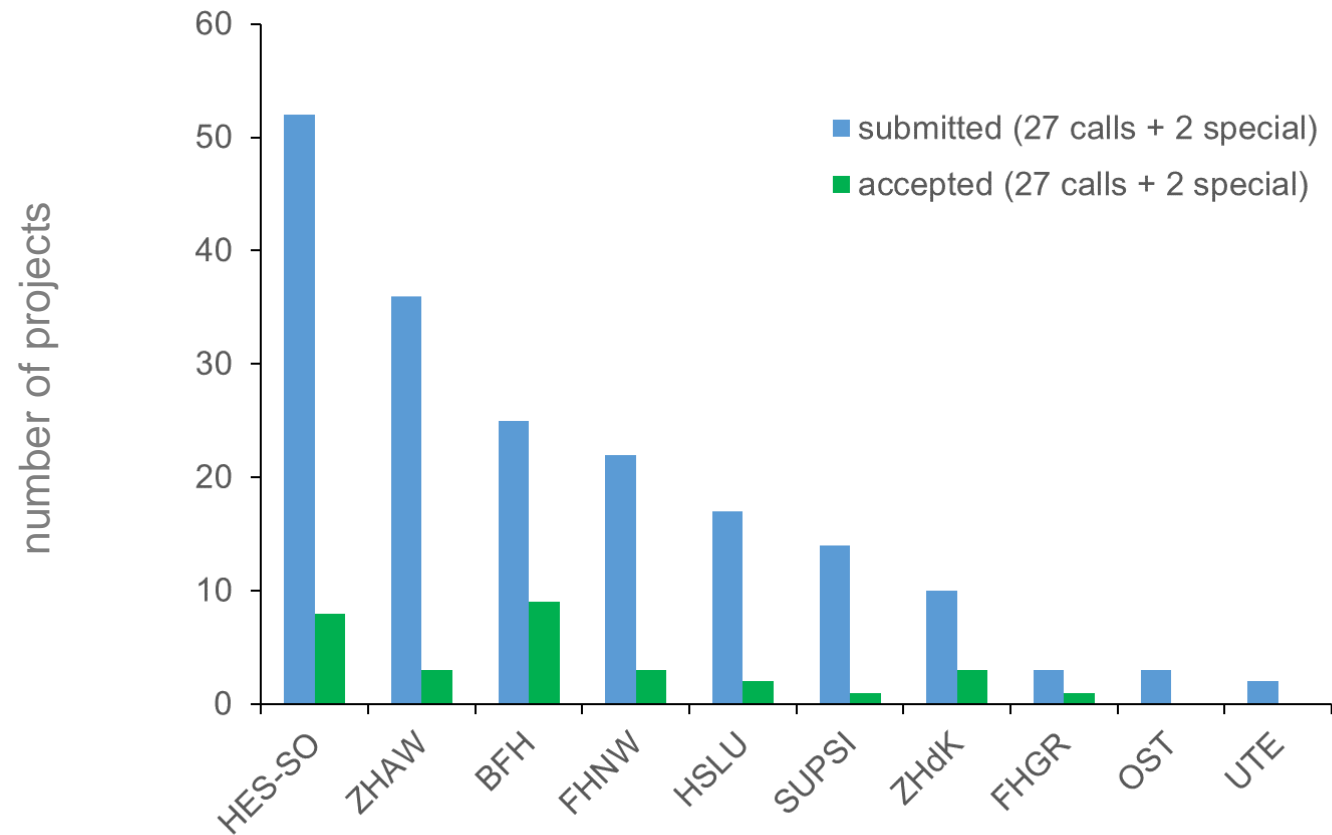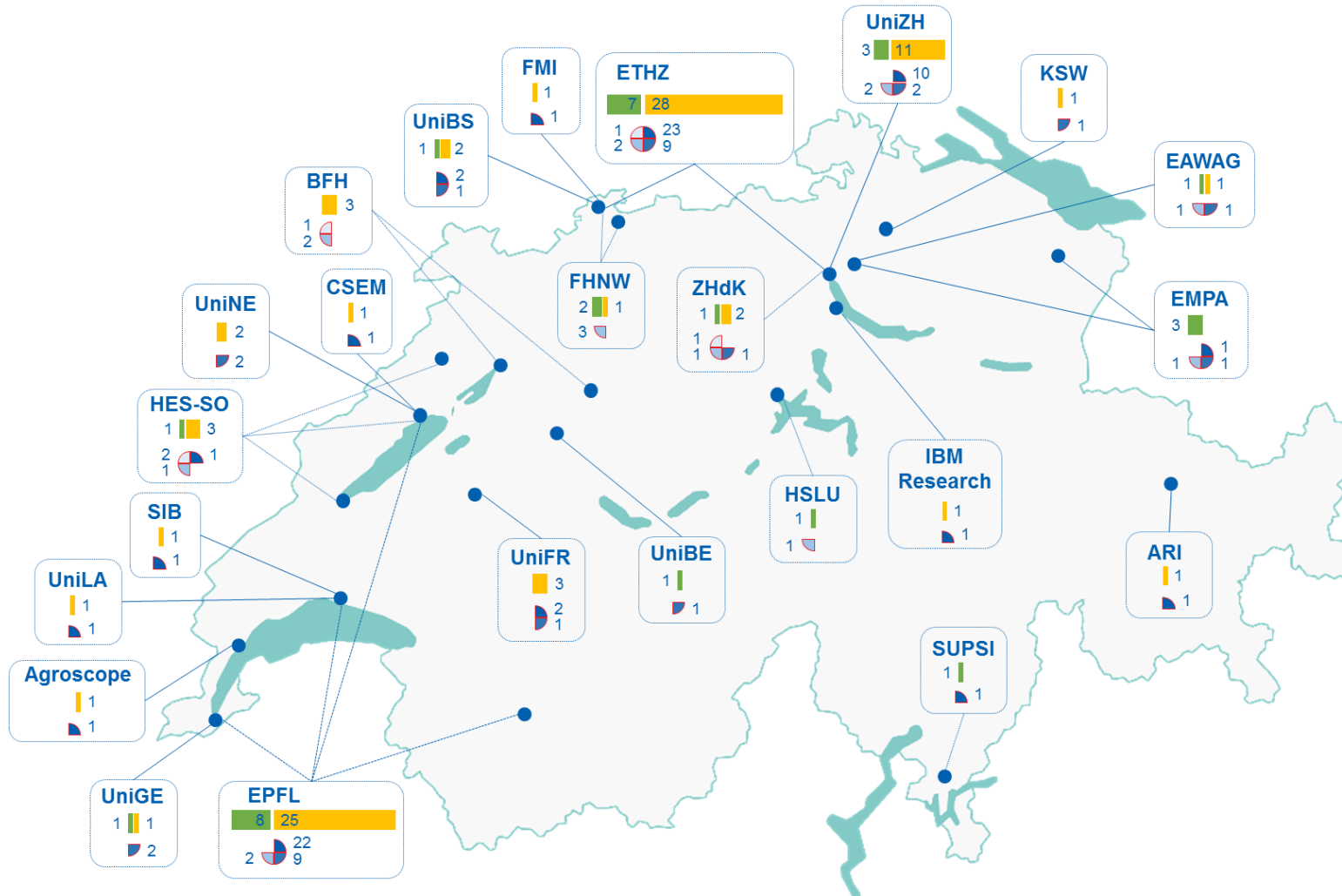
Success rates
- **HES-SO: 15%**
- ZHAW: 8%
- BFH: 36%
- FHNW: 14%
- HSLU: 12%
- SUPSI: 7%
- ZHdK: 30%
- FHGR: 33%
- OST: 0%
- UTE: 0%

Proof of Concept Current Status

Disciplines (calls 2017-2023)

Proof of Concept **financed projects** 2017-2020
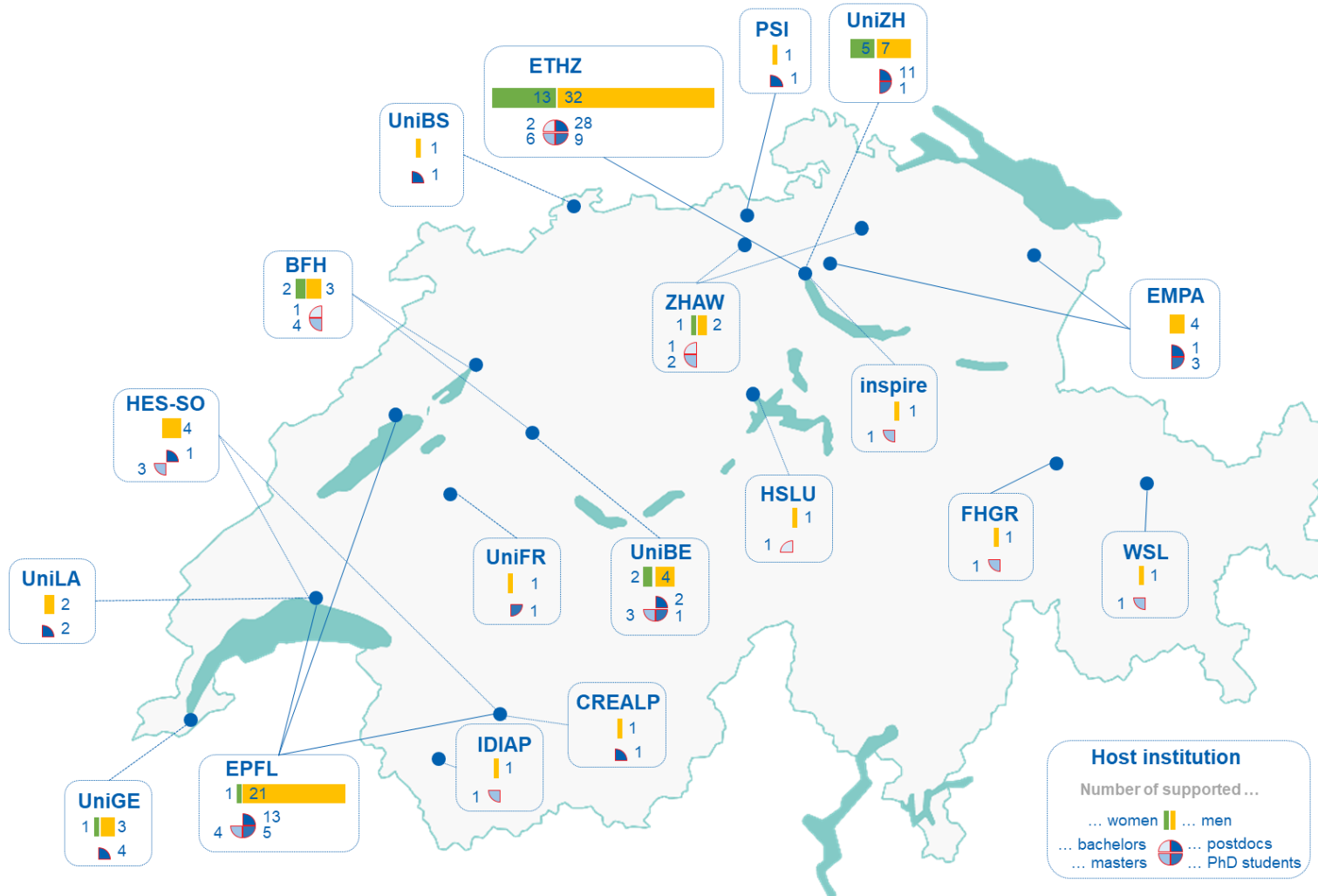

16 calls
612 applications
121 projects approved

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

Proof of Concept financed projects 2021-2023

13 calls
460 applications
118 projects approved

- -

Total budget approved: **15.0 mioCHF**
Average grant/project: **127 kCHF**

Engineering

ICT

Life Sciences

89 start-ups
out of **121** BRIDGE Proof of Concept projects
(**16** calls 2017-2020)

Energy & Environment

Social Sciences

Engineering

ICT

Life Sciences

Flink

NO-TOUCH ROBOTICS

deepjudge   viboo

NEXMR

ENANTIOS

sallea

K2PHOTONICS

typeless   Syntheticus®

PROseed

sensowear

MANTIS technologies   dentexion

SURI BioTech

SEITO Biologics

q°Cella   apheros®

CITUS

ONTRACK Biomedical

41 start-ups
out of **118** BRIDGE Proof of Concept projects
(**13** calls 2021-2023)

breathe   +irmos

inseit
BIOCATALYST IMMOBILIZATION

rea

FOOD BREWER   a metal   ASC=NTO

terrabiom   ⌇UNAXER

HEMETRON

airScale   cultivated BIOSCIENCES

DigiT Soil   Planeto

eight inks

nedu WANNA DO.

ISOSPEC analytics

Cassi●-P

ELDERLI

YLAH

Energy & Environment

Social Sciences

BRIDGE Next Calls

Submission Deadlines

Deadline always 17:00 Swiss local time

Proof of Concept

Interviews

- **29th call: 4 March 2024**   2/3 May 2024
- **30th call : 3 June 2024**   20/21 August 2024
- **31st call : 2 September 2024**   12/13 November 2024
- **32nd call: 2 December 2024**   February 2025

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

Proof of Concept Proposal

Proof of Concept

How to apply?

www.bridge.ch

- **Proof of Concept**

- **Section Documents:**
  - $\Rightarrow$ Regulations
  - $\Rightarrow$ Checklist
  - $\Rightarrow$ 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 on the **SNSF Portal**)
  - 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/DZdaIIZws1UxpN9N/BRIDGE_PoC_checklist.pdf

Proof of Concept

Intellectual Property (IP)

Overview of the ownership of existing Intellectual Property rights to research results

- Potential for a patent application?
- Patent search already performed?
- Patent already filed?
- Any other IP rights?
- Owner/agreement on the IP?

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 or society or to actors who will implement your results?
- 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?
- Project plan with clear 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

- How the project contributes to a sustainable development (i.e. societal, economic, environmental impact)? Guidelines

BRIDGE Office **Team**

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BRIDGE Steering Committee 2024

Innosuisse

chair Nicoletta Casanova (FEMTOprint | Engineering)
Dave Brown (Angel Investor and Mentor | ICT) (chair EP Proof of Concept)

SNSF

Bernd Gotsmann (IBM Research | Engineering)
Mirjam Christ-Crain (Uni Basel | Life Sciences)

external

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

advisory function

Jakob Rhyner (Uni Bonn | Sustainability / Physics) (chair EP Discovery)

Proof of Concept Evaluation Panel 2024

Life Sciences

Karl-Heinz Krause	**UniGE**
Anja Harmeier	**Pureos Bioventures**
Greta Guarda	**USI**
Regine Eibl-Schindler	ZHAW

Social Sciences

Urs Bucher	**Kalaidos**
Paola Ghillani	**Paola Ghillani & Friends**
Lesley Spiegel*	**DIZH**

* ad hoc member

ICT

<u>**Dave Brown**</u>	**loganbrown**
Lisa Falco	**Zühlke Group**
Olga Fink	**EPFL**

Engineering

James Miners	**Fongit**
Teodoro Laino	**IBM Research**
Daniele Inaudi	**Smartec / Roctest**
Anna Valente	**SUPSI**

Micro-/Nanotechnologies

Christofer Hierold	**ETHZ**
Alex Dommann	**UniBE**
Samantha Paoletti	**CSEM**