Project SNSF futuro

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Objectives and Guidelines

_ Preparation of the SNSF for growing and upcoming tasks

_ Reinforcement of the research policy role and visibility of the SNSF

_ Increased transparency of the processes to our customers

_ Improvement and establishment of cross-functional tasks / responsibilities in the Foundation Council

_ Harmonisation of interdepartmental processes

Principal decisions for creating guidelines

and concrete instructions for actions

Application evaluation I

Evaluation process

- external <u>expertise from individual experts</u>

- <u>panel of experts</u> (by suitable (groups of) applications)

- electronic file administration and management

Application evaluation II

External Expertise

- At least 2 external expert appraisals necessary

- For every application, expert consultant plus co-consultant

- No compensation for external experts

Application evaluation III

Panels

- Usually engaged for several application rounds, but also *ad hoc* possible

- Composed of international experts; led by expert consultant and co-consultant

- Beforehand, written statements from 2 external panel members

Application evaluation IV

Stronger involvement of the administrative offices

- Increased competence for autonomous decisions of the administrative offices by small financial amounts

- Bilateral decision administrative offices – expert consultant for conference and publication applications

- Suggestions for experts and expert consultants

Written performance agreement between the Research Council and the Administrative Offices

Transparency I

Feedback for the applicant

- Relevant passages from expert evaluations as well as the expert consultant proposal(s) which have been made anonymous

- Comparison of own evaluation to the evaluation of other applications

- Specified quality limit (*quality line*) as well as other specified evaluation limits above which projects are financed (*financing line*)

Transparency II

- Standardised evaluation scale for all Divisions and Expert Commissions

- Overview of awarded values (individual marks)

Project support

Aim: Homogenity of practice within the SNSF

- Consideration of the scope and quality of the project by financial awards

- More than 1 application per main applicant possible (as long as various themes and sufficient time resources are evident)

- Simplified process for prolongation of max. 2 years for successful and experienced researchers

Monitoring supported projects

- Simplification of interim- and final reports

- Site visits to assess the general progress of a research group (with subsequent transcript)

Scientific policy role of the SNSF

- Strengthening of communication as a strategic (internal and external) instrument

- Checking the influence of SNSF intruments on the structural processes of change at institutions of higher education

- Evaluation services for large research projects and networks, even when not totally financed by the SNSF (e.g. SystemsX.ch)

Task forces

_ There are five different task forces drawing up concrete instructions for actions for the implementation in the SNSF

_ Quantitative cost estimation of the planned measures

_ Revision / audit or re-creation of the legal basis

Task force 1 "Foundation council / policy of research of SNSF

- Profile and election of the Foundation Council

- Steering Committee

- Ratification by the Steering Committee

- Compartments

- Plenum

- Higher education area

- Evaluation service

- Internal and external communication

Task force 2 / "Expert committees"

- General question

- Expert committee "international co-operation"

- Expert committee "interdisciplinary research"

- Expert committee "funding for individual scientists"

- Equal treatment

Task force 3 / "Monitoring and Controlling"

_ Compliance committee

_ Site visits

_ Progress and final reports

_ Output evaluation

Task force 4 / "Application evaluation" (1)

_ Submission of application

_ Application with small financial budget,
  Conference grants, publication grants

_ Decision of expertise interdepartmental / expert committee

_ Designation consultant and co-consultant

_ Decision of support interdepartmental / expert committee

Task force 4 / "Application evaluation" (2)

_ Expertise through panels

_ Expertise through external experts

_ Standard evaluating scale

_ Grade statistics

_ Project financing

_ Feedback to applicants

Task force 5 / "legal basis"

- Organisation regulations Foundation Council

- Grant regulations

- Performance agreement Foundation Council – administrative offices

- Other regulations

Milestone 2008

_Implementation of the planned measures in the Swiss National Science Foundation