

Press Release

April 11th 2012

Sciex-NMS^{ch} - The Swiss contribution to EU enlargement

Results of the fifth call (November 2011):

58 projects from excellent young researchers selected for a total funding of 4.8 million Swiss francs

The Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) - part of the Swiss contribution to the EU enlargement - aims at establishing scientific partnerships in order to develop, on the long term, individual researchers' capacities, to foster innovation and to establish networks between researchers. In this way, the Sciex-NMS^{ch} Programme finances fellowships for research stays of Doctoral Candidates or PostDocs in Swiss research teams for a period of 6 to 24 months.

The fifth call, which was opened to the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and, for the first time, Bulgaria and Romania, concluded on November 1st 2011. This call is again characterized by a large increase in the number of submitted proposals. The first participation of Bulgaria and Romania can be qualified as satisfactory and shows the interest of the researchers from these two countries to develop collaborations with Swiss researchers.

171 eligible proposals were submitted and evaluated by experienced experts, covering the field of each proposal and following a procedure focussing on scientific quality. At the end of the procedure, the Sciex Steering Committee held a meeting in order to select the proposals on the basis of the results of the evaluation and the budget available.

58 excellent researchers will carry out part of their research at a Swiss institution

Altogether, the projects of 58 excellent researchers from Bulgaria (4), the Czech Republic (21), Estonia (3), Latvia (2), Poland (21) and Romania (7) were selected.

Among the selected researchers, 21 are Doctoral Candidates and 37 are PostDocs – and 26 are female researchers.

Although the Sciex-NMS^{ch} Programme is open to all scientific disciplines, the majority of the selected projects concerns the natural and technical sciences: Basic Biological Research (12 projects) Chemistry (9 projects), Physics (8 projects), and Environmental Sciences (7 projects). 9 projects will be conducted in the Human and Social Sciences.

A financial commitment of 4.8 million Swiss francs

The total amount allocated for the fifth call amounts to 4.8 million Swiss francs - devoted to covering the costs for salaries and travel expenses of the researchers and split as follows:

- Bulgaria: 380'000 CHF
- Czech Republic: 1.6 million CHF
- Estonia: 280'000 CHF
- Latvia: 170'000 CHF
- Poland: 1.8 million CHF
- Romania: 640'000 CHF.

The list of all 58 selected Sciex Fellows and more detailed information about the Sciex Programme are available on the website www.sciex.ch. You will also find there the dates of the coming calls for tenders for the different partner countries.

Repartition of the 58 projects between the Swiss universities and research institutes

34 researchers will be integrated in a university:

- University of Basel: 2
- University of Bern: 6
- University of Fribourg: 3
- University of Geneva: 5
- University of Lausanne: 3
- University of Lugano: 1
- University of Neuchatel: 2
- University of Zurich: 12

11 in a Swiss Federal Institute of Technology:

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne: 8
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich: 3

10 in a Swiss Federal Research Institute:

- EAWAG - Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology: 2
- EMPA - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology: 5
- PSI - Paul Scherrer Institute: 2
- WSL - Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research: 1

3 in a university of applied sciences:

- HES-SO - University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland: 1
- FHNW - University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland: 1
- ZHAW - Zurich University of Applied Sciences: 1.

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