

# BRIDGE



## Building Bridges

# Webinar **special call** Proof of Concept

## **12:00-12:30**

- Presentation of the funding scheme
- Status 2017-2023 and statistics
- Recommendations “How to apply”

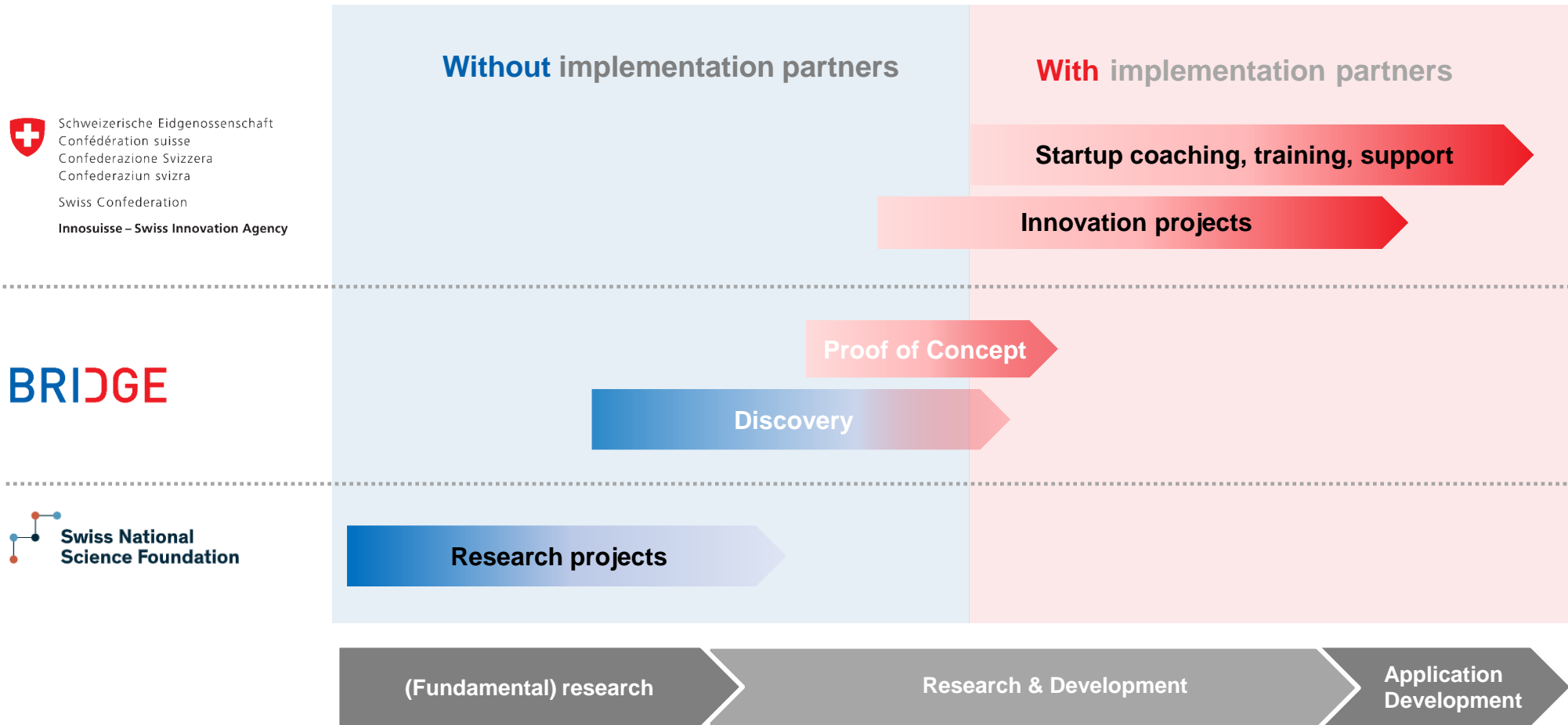
## **12:30-13:00**

- Testimonial: Marc Gürber
- Testimonial: Kevin Kempter

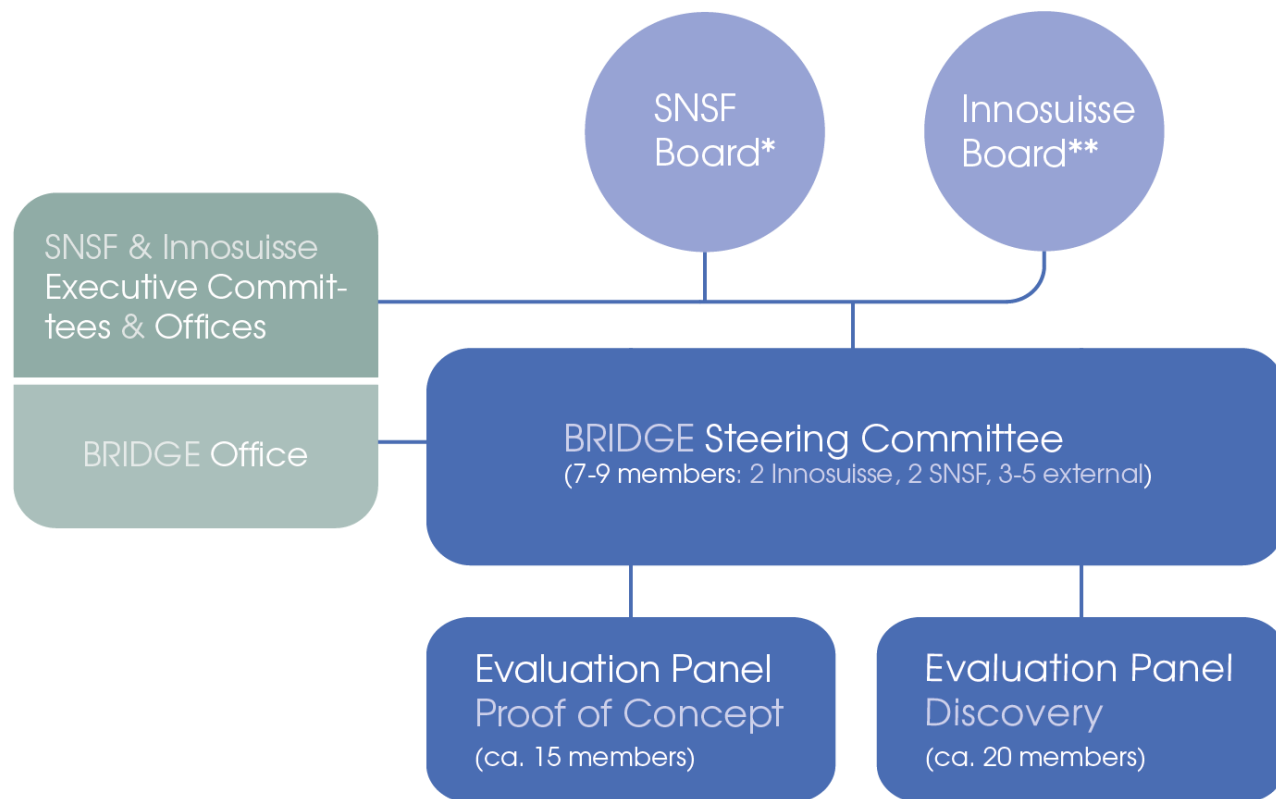
## **13:00-13:30**

- Q&A session

# 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

## Advisory function

Stakeholder Group

## 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 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 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, postdoctoral researchers)
- 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, thesis presentation)
- 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 based on the 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

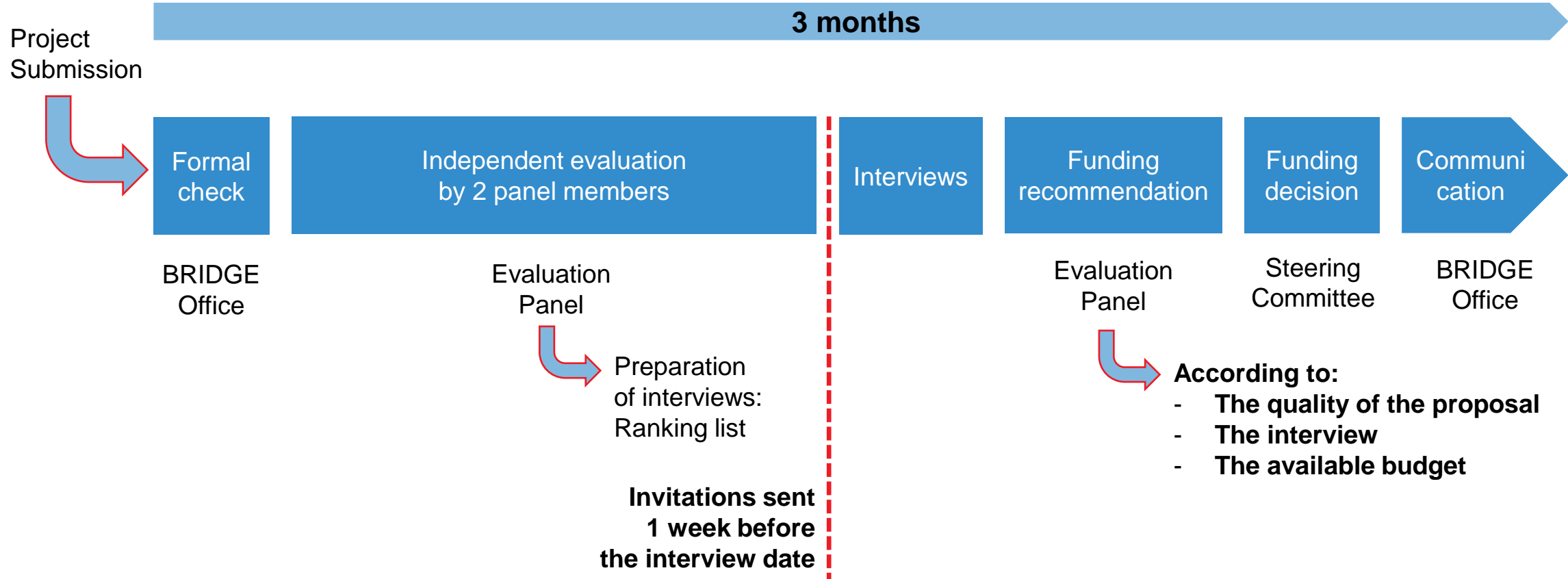
### Evaluation criteria

- 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 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 (leave nothing out)
- 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

# Proof of Concept **Support**

# Proof of Concept

## Additional support

### Assisted patent searches

BRIDGE Fellows can request an [assisted patent search for research and innovation](#)

### Support for women

BRIDGE supports career development and network building for the next generation of female researchers through the SNSF's [Gender Equality Grants](#).

### Support for PhDs and postdocs working on the project

BRIDGE provides SNSF's [Flexibility Grants](#) to help researchers better balance their childcare responsibilities with their scientific work and academic careers.



# Proof of Concept

## Additional support

### **BRIDGE Coaching**

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

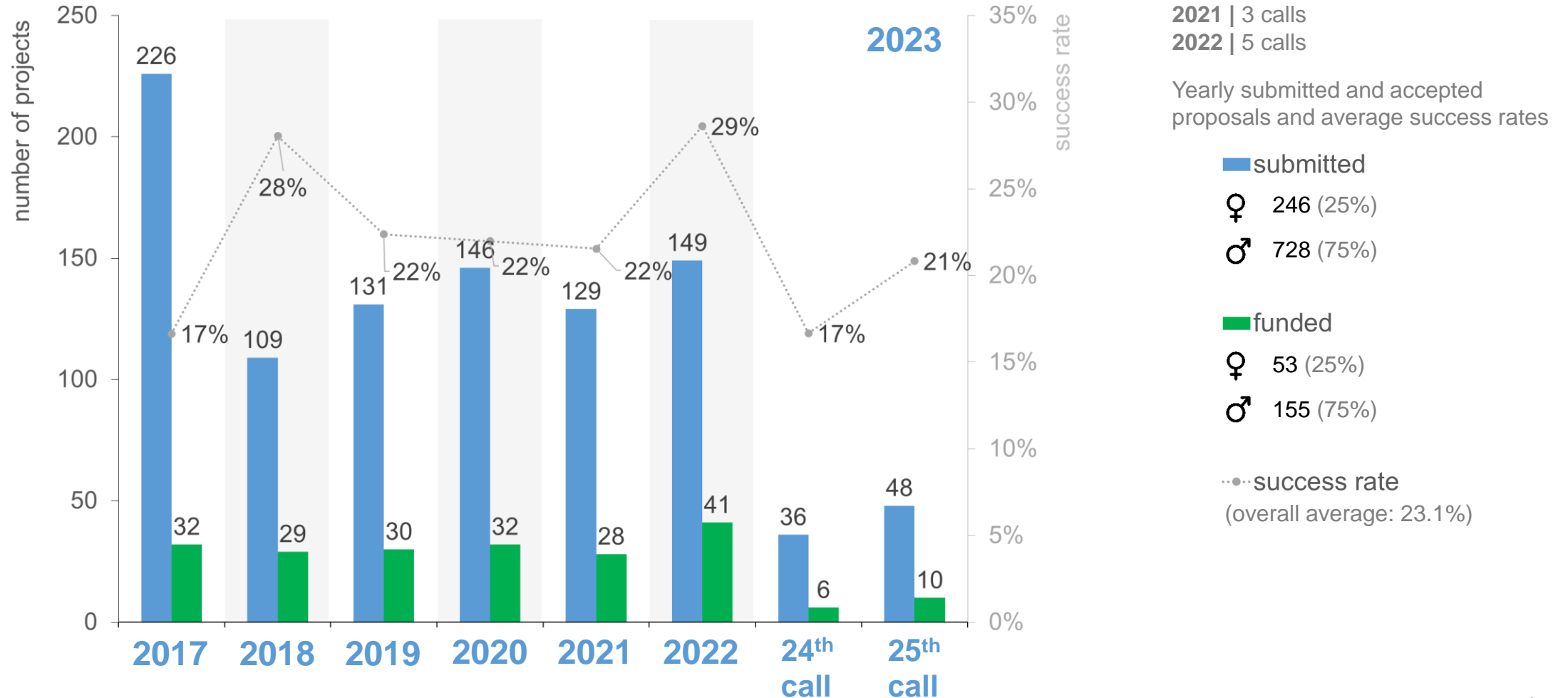
### **Innosuisse support**

- 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

# **BRIDGE Status 2017-2023**

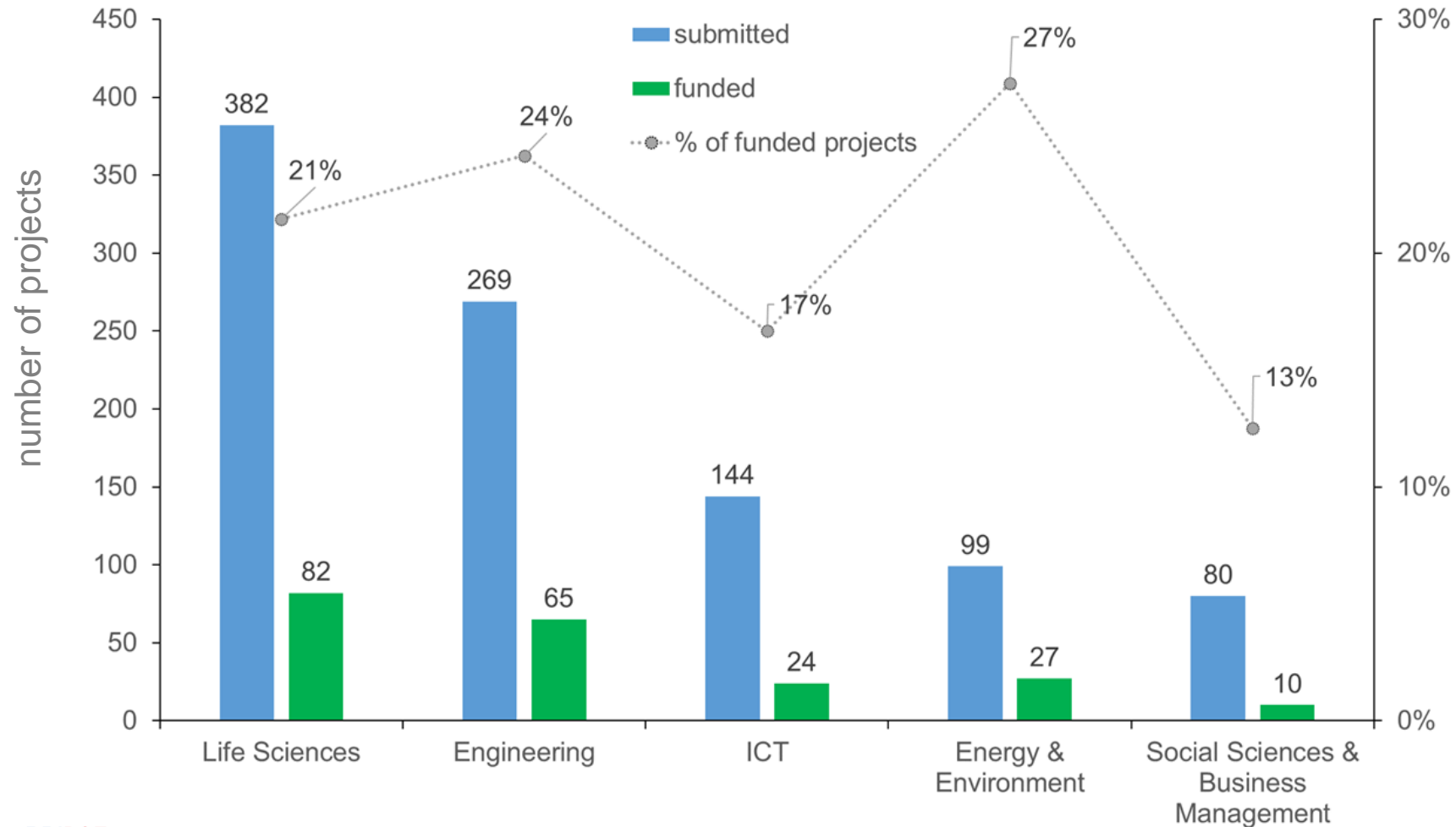
# Proof of Concept **Current Status**

## Submitted and accepted projects

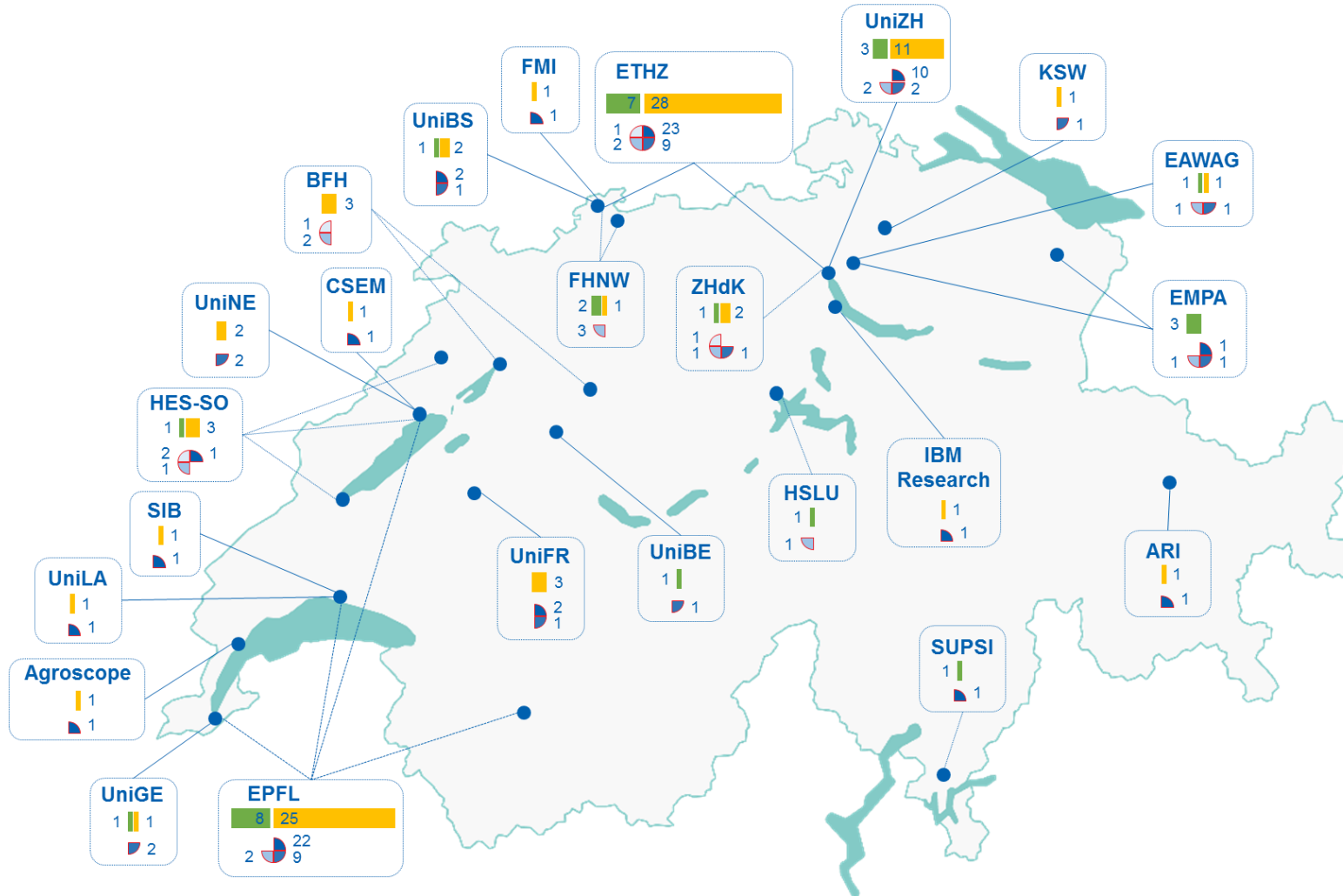


# Proof of Concept Current Status

Disciplines (calls 2017-2023)



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



16 calls  
612 applications  
121 projects approved

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

**Host institution**

Number of supported ...

- ... women
- ... men
- ... bachelors
- ... masters
- ... postdocs
- ... PhD students

Engineering



ICT



Life Sciences



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

Energy & Environment



Social Sciences

# **BRIDGE** Next Calls

# Submission Deadlines

Deadline always 17:00 Swiss local time

## Proof of Concept

- **31<sup>st</sup> call: 2 September 2024**
- **Special call: 2 September 2024**
- **32<sup>nd</sup> call: 2 December 2024**

## *Interviews*

12 or 13 November 2024

12 or 13 November 2024

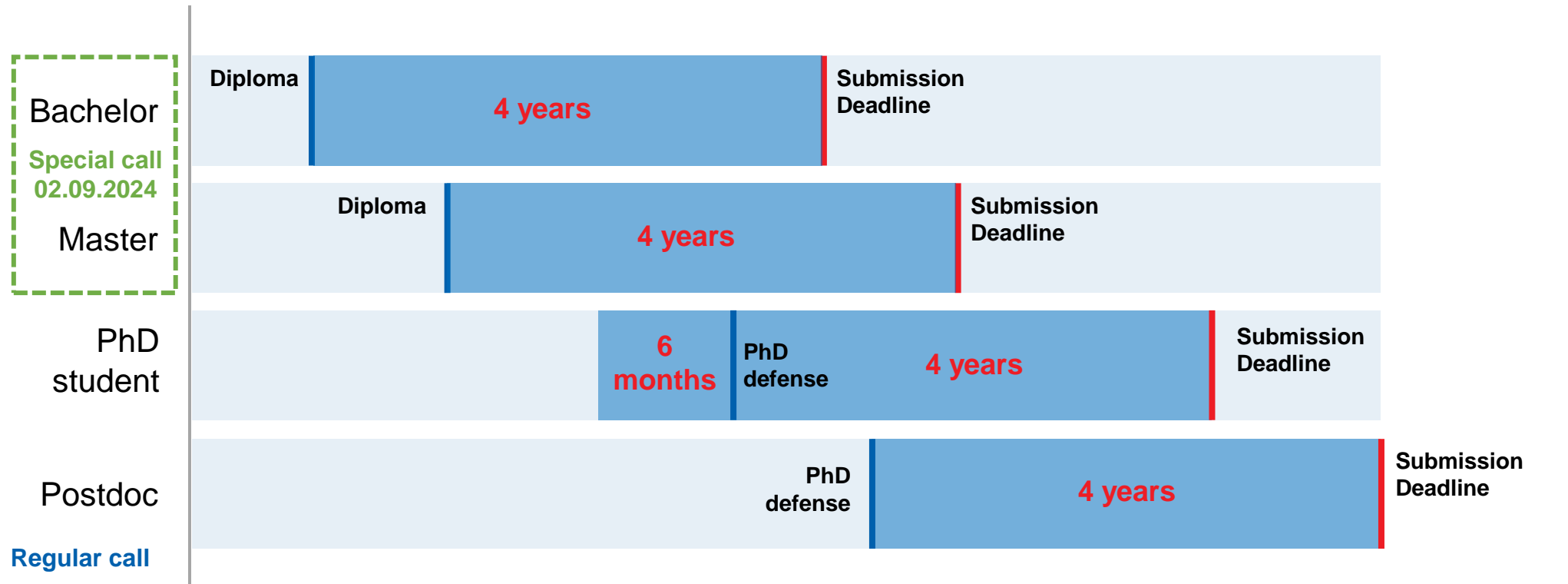
February 2025

Check our website: [www.bridge.ch](http://www.bridge.ch)



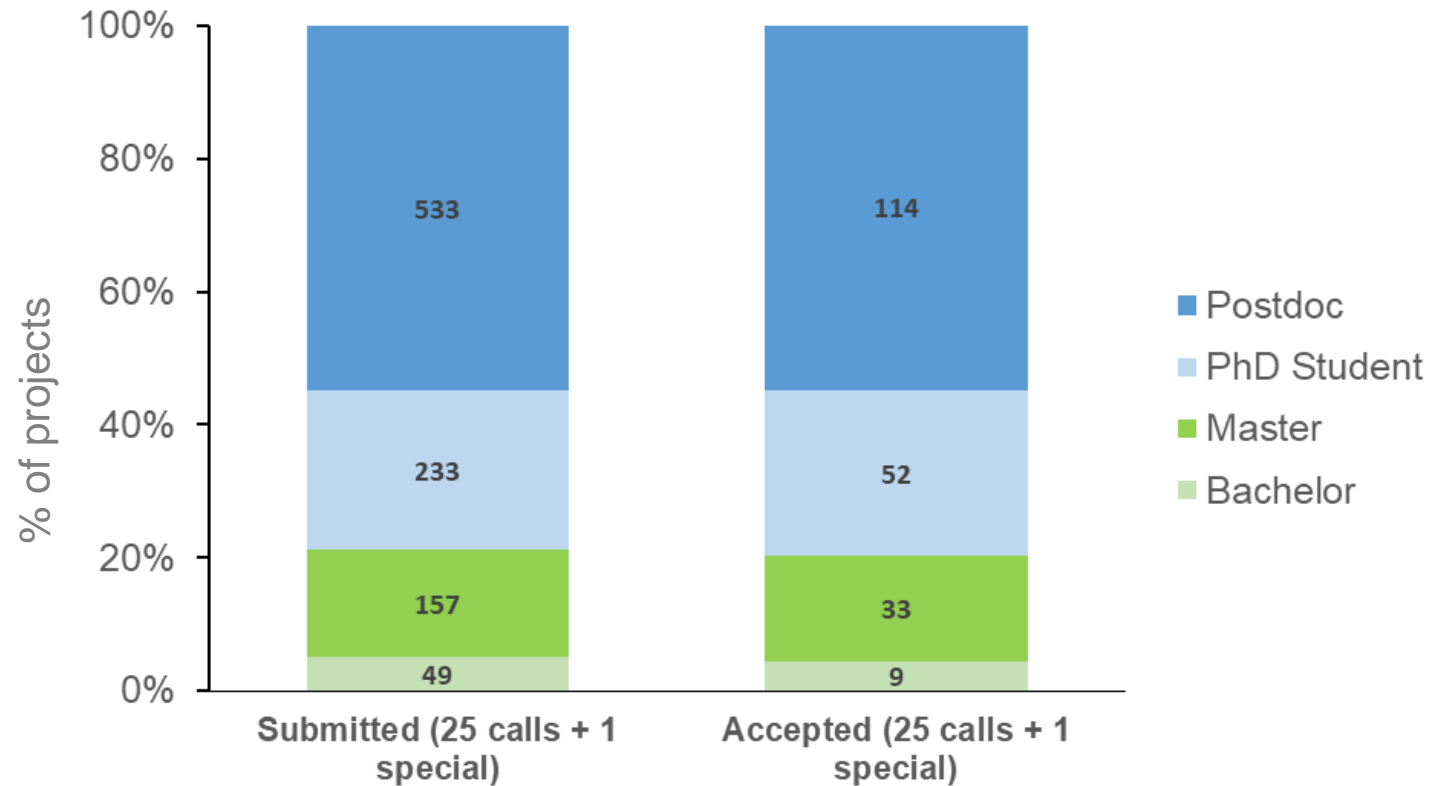
# Requirements for applicants

## Eligibility windows



# Proof of Concept **Current Status**

Submitted/funded projects by **career state** 2017-2023

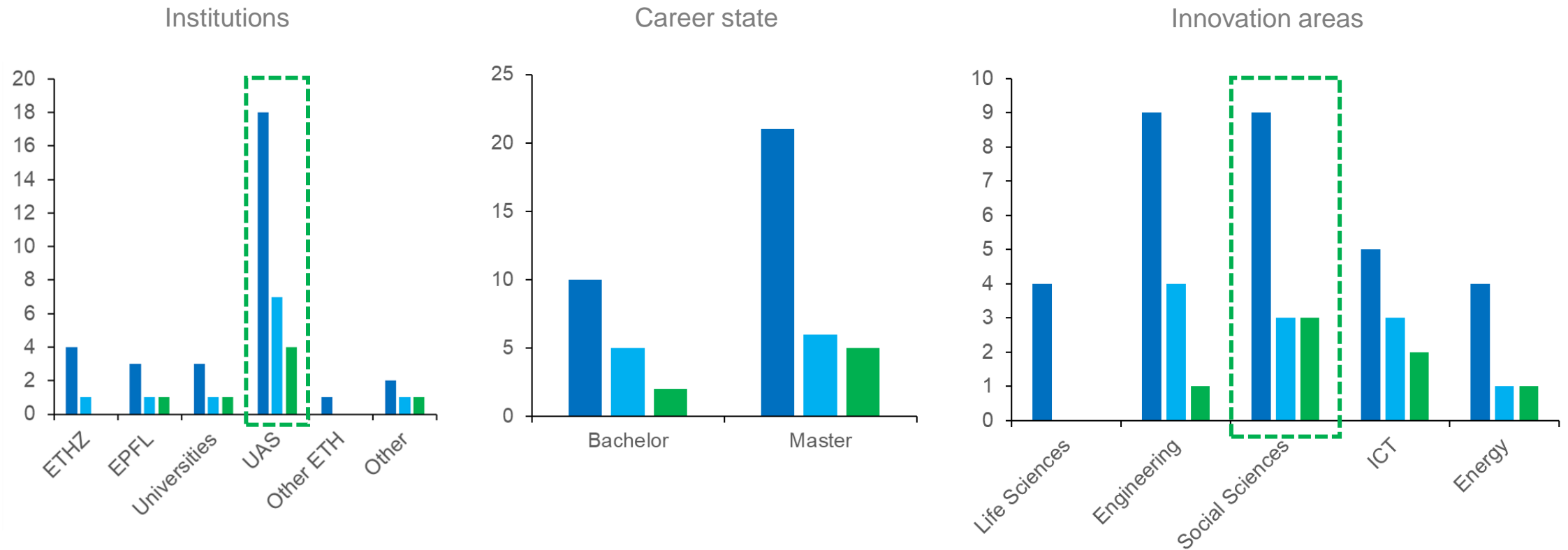


## Success rates

- Postdoc: 21%
- PhD Student: 22%
- **Master: 21%**
- **Bachelor: 18%**

# Proof of Concept Special call 2022

Submitted (■), invited (■) and accepted (■) projects



# Proof of Concept **Proposal**

# Proof of Concept

How to apply?

[www.bridge.ch](http://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 => **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/DZdallZws1UxpN9N/BRIDGE\\_PoC\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.snf.ch/media/en/DZdallZws1UxpN9N/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?

### Assisted patent searches

BRIDGE Fellows can request an [assisted patent search for research and innovation](#)

# 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/or benefit society? What is its potential “unique selling proposition”?
- *If applicable*, what is your strategy in terms of intellectual property?
- What are the possible societal or 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/or society and/or to implementation partners?
- What are the main challenges expected to face regarding 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

# Testimonial: Marc Gürber

hosted by UniBE

May 2023 – April 2024

**“VRST-YES: Virtual-Reality-Simulator-Training for Youth and Elite Sports”**

# Testimonial: Kevin Kempter

hosted by HES-SO

June 2023 – May 2024

**“Elderli : professional social support for intergenerational homeshare.”**

# Q&A and **Feedback**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Do you have any questions?**



# BRIDGE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

**Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency**

# BRIDGE Office Team

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# BRIDGE Steering Committee 2024



## Innosuisse

**chair** Nicoletta Casanova (FEMTOprint | Engineering)

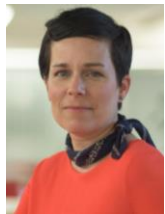
Dave Brown (Angel Investor and Mentor | ICT) (**chair EP PoC**)



## SNSF

Bernd Gotsmann (IBM Research | Engineering)

Matthias Stuber (Uni Lausanne, CHUV | 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

<b>Karl-Heinz Krause</b>	University Geneva
<b>Anja Harmeyer</b>	Pureos Bioventures
<b>Regine Eibl-Schindler</b>	ZHAW
<b>Arianna Calcinotto</b>	USI

## Social Sciences

<b>Urs Bucher</b>	Kalaidos
<b>Paola Ghillani</b>	Paola Ghillani & Friends
<b>Lesley Spiegel*</b>	DIZH

\* ad hoc member

## ICT

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

## Engineering

<b>James Miners</b>	Fongit
<b>Teodoro Laino</b>	IBM Research
<b>Daniele Inaudi</b>	Smartec / Roctest
<b>Katrin Loan</b>	OST

## Micro-/Nanotechnologies

<b>Christofer Hierold</b>	ETHZ
<b>Alex Dommann</b>	UniBE
<b>Samantha Paoletti</b>	CSEM