Stakeholder meeting
“Social science and humanities (SSH) infrastructures in Switzerland”

31 May 2022

Kuppelraum Hautgebäude Universität Bern

FORS

Programm

9.15	Welcome, Introduction
9.30	The current ESFRI and Swiss infrastructure Roadmap Process and the status of SSH in these projects
10.00	Existing and future ESFRI roadmap projects (SHARE, ESS, CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH, GGP) as well as national projects
10:30	*Coffee break*
11.00	Position paper: discussion and follow up process
12.00	Next steps, including how to prepare SSH projects for the next national roadmap process

Objectives

- *Update and exchange on the situation of SSH infrastructures in Switzerland*
- *Discuss and possibly amend the position paper (attached, to be sent to researchers and research projects and institutions from the SSH with the request for support)*
- *Discuss further steps how to prepare SSH projects for the next national roadmap update*

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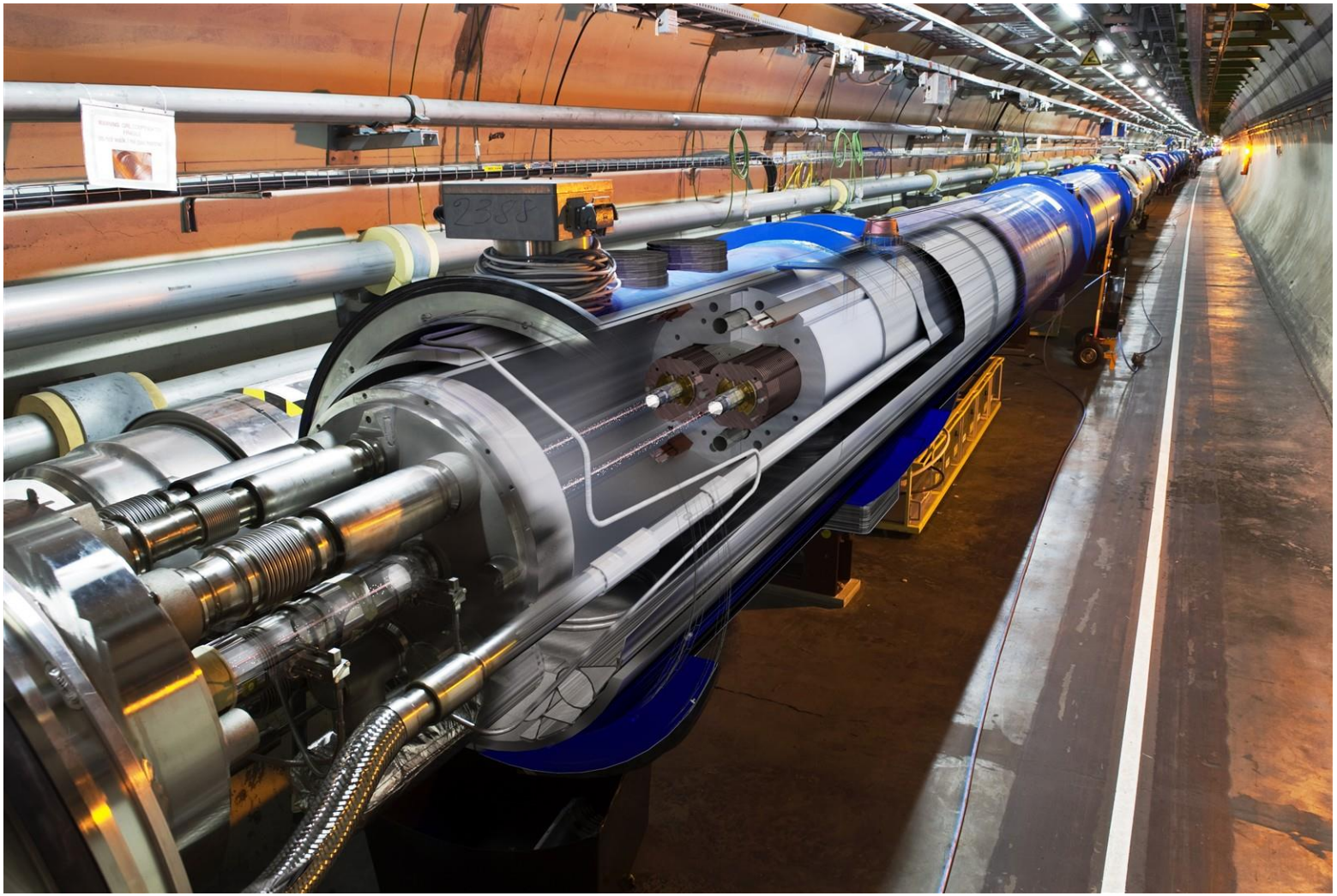
1. What are research infrastructures
2. ESFRI and the Roadmap Process
3. The national roadmap process
4. EU Horizon Europe Infrastructure funding opportunities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lab
Eye wash

Why Research Infrastructures?

Research Infrastructures (RIs) have become more and more important over the last 30 years, due to some larger trends:

- Global science competition requires large and long-term investments, that cannot be handled with traditional funding mechanisms
- Research becomes more collaborative in many disciplines and also across countries and in some cases also long-term

Defining features of RIs:

- Long-term focus, beyond the scope of usual project and career funding instruments
- Often comparative and collaborative
- Relatively large, funding required from different countries/funding sources
- Inclusive, open and broader governance (instead of individual PI)
- Ris can be single-sited or distributed

The key challenges

- Traditional **bottom-up science funding** mechanism are **not adapted** to fund and govern long-term research infrastructures
- **Science policy makers** have **problems** developing infrastructure **strategy and prioritising** projects

Solutions (in Europe):

- Establishing **ESFRI and the roadmap process**
- **National roadmap processes**, often now aligned to the ESFRI process
- Establishing different **funding and governance models**
- Establishing a legal structure for Ris in Europe -> **ERIC** = European Research Infrastructure Consortium

Roadmap processes are **planning instruments**, not funding instruments! Funding for ERICS come from many different sources, however largely from member countries.

Roadmaps process are a **dialogue between scientific and strategic science policy making**

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ESFRI

- ESFRI «European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure»
- Established 2002 to coordinate infrastructure development
- **Members = Countries** (EU & 16 Associated countries (incl. Switzerland)
- **Governing bodies «Forum»** composed of «senior science policy officials or equivalent, representing the Minister(s) responsible for Research in each of those States»
- Scientific tasks: 6 "**Strategic working groups"**, organized along disciplines, 1 Implementation group

The ESFRI roadmap process

First roadmap 2006, followed by roadmaps in 2008, 2010, 2016, 2018 and 2021

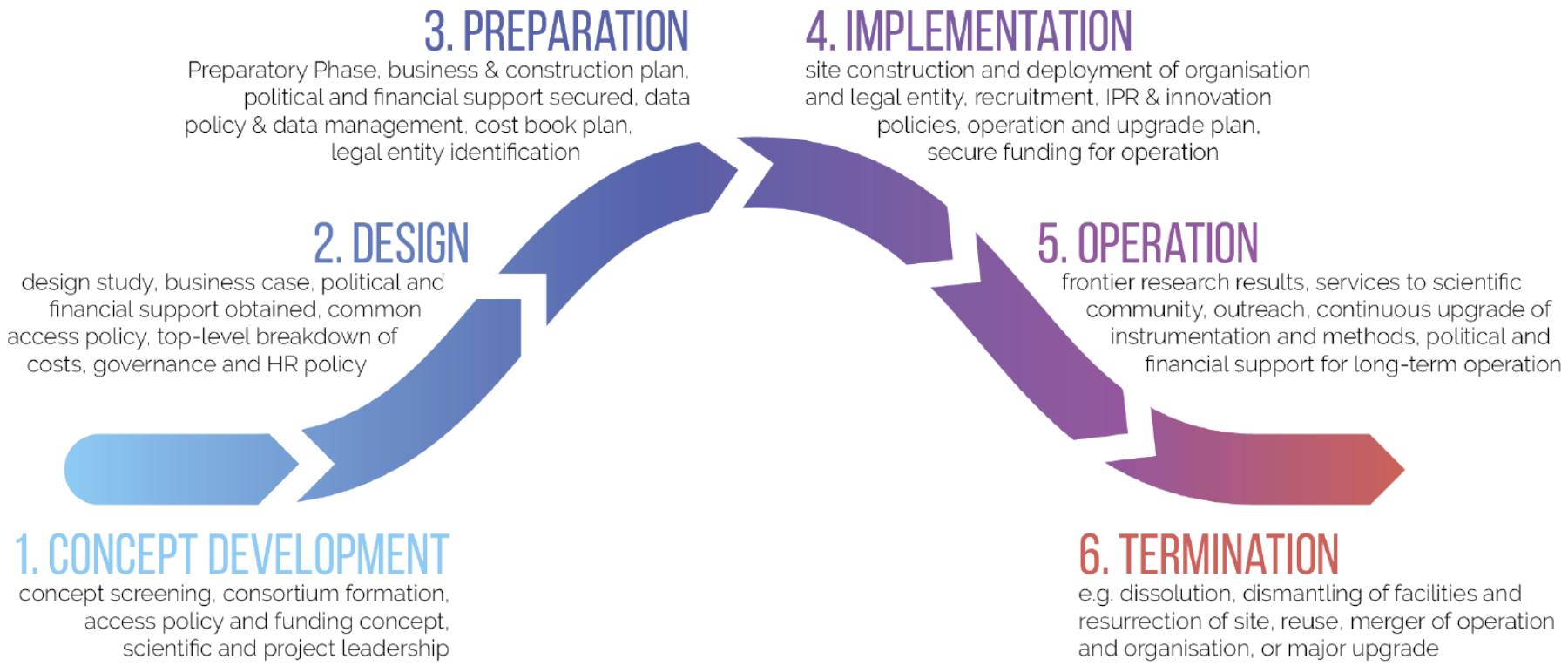
The roadmap has three parts :

1. Strategy report
2. Landscape analysis
3. Projects and Landmarks (existing and new)

Currently 63 projects on the roadmap, 11 in SSH:

- **5 «Landmarks»:** CESSDA ERIC, CLARIN ERIC, DARIAH ERIC, ESS ERIC, SHARE ERIC
- **6 Projects:** E-RIHS, EHRI, GUIDE, GGP, RESILIENCE, OPERAS

The ESFRI project life cycle approach



-> However, Social Science and Humanities often in different phases at the same time

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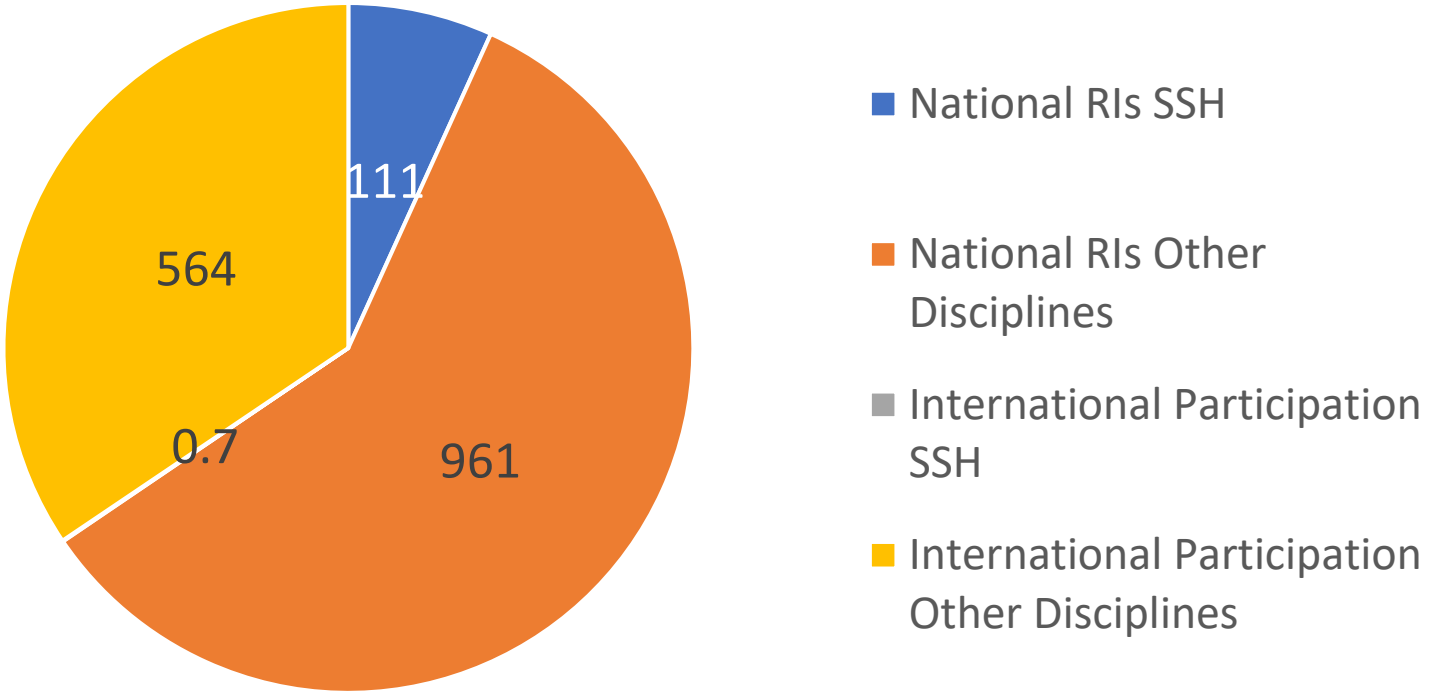
The key elements

- Switzerland has set up an own national roadmap process which is relevant for two types of RIs:
  - National project applications
  - Swiss participation in European projects
- Key actor: SERI, swissuniversities/ETH-domain, SNF (for scientific evaluation)
- Current roadmap for 2021-2024, published in 2019
- Roadmap update for 2025-2028, to be published in 2023

Budget distribution in the current Swiss Roadmap, in Mio CHF for 2021-2024



Source: https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/dam/sbfi/en/dokumente/2019/04/roadmap-21-24.pdf.download.pdf/roadmap_2019_e.pdf

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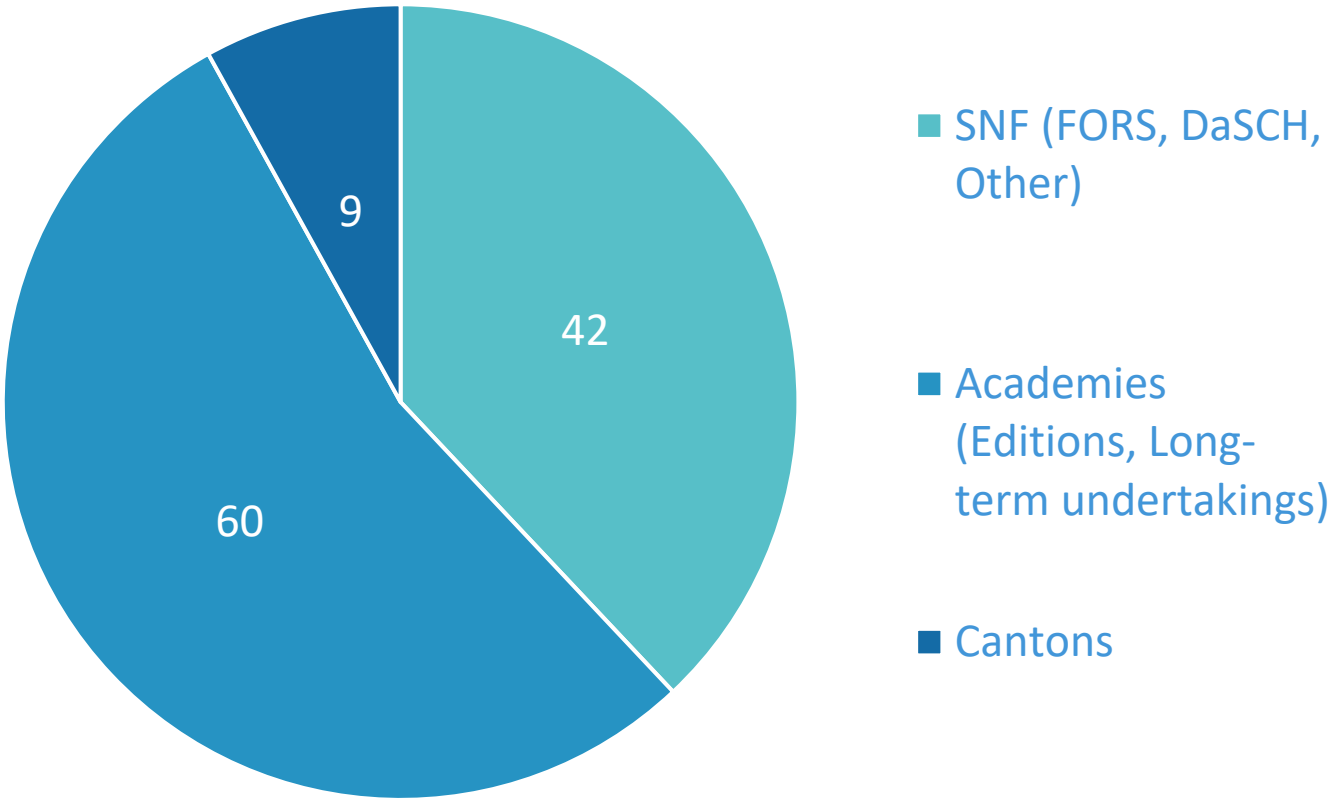
Distribution within SSH domain by funder, in Mio for 2021-2024

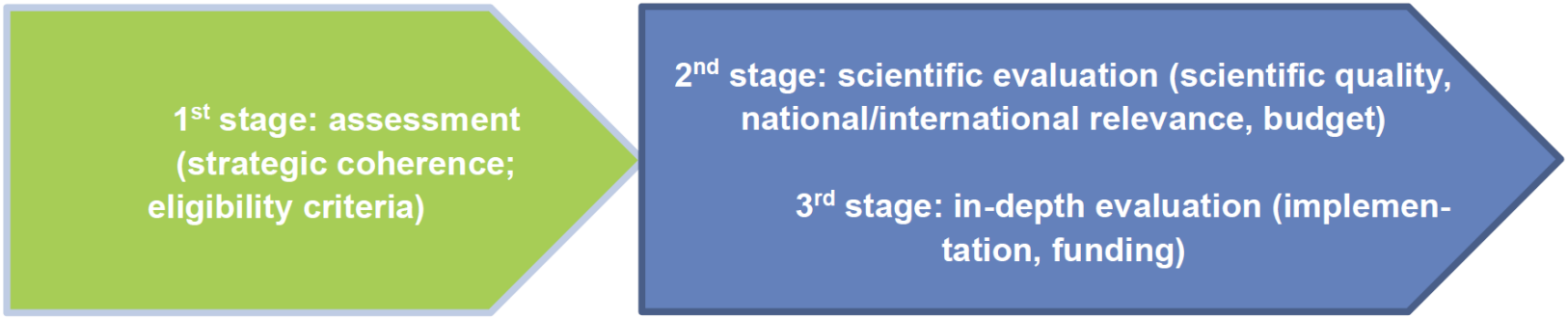


Source: https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/dam/sbfi/en/dokumente/2019/04/roadmap-21-24.pdf.download.pdf/roadmap_2019_e.pdf

National roadmap 2023: The process for national projects

The evaluation procedure for **national project applications** for the Swiss Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2023 (CH RI Roadmap 2023) is realized in the following three stages:

1st stage: assessment by the responsible bodies (Phase 1)	Mar-Dec 2021
2nd stage: scientific evaluation by the SNSF (Phase 2)	Jan-Jul 2022
3rd stage: in-depth evaluation by the responsible bodies (Phase 3)	Jul-Dec 2022



- Stage 1 Submission of project ideas : assessment by swisssuniversities and ETH Board
- Stage 2 Evaluation by SNF
- ***Attention**: Costs needed to be > 5 Mio CHF/4 years, direct funding only to ETH domain (except for high coste infrastructures > 10 Mio, where SERI covers 50%)*

Details see: https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/de/home/forschung-und-innovation/forschung-und-innovation-in-der-schweiz/uebersicht-forschungsinfrastrukturen.html

Participation in European Projects

- “To bid for a consideration in the Swiss Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2023, participants in inter-national infrastructure projects for which membership at the level of a State is foreseen must **submit an application to SERI**.
- A formal **letter of support from the home institution** of the participants to SERI shall be enclosed. However, those participants having joined an international bid for a consideration in the ESFRI Roadmap on the basis of an Expression of Support issued by SERI only need to enclose this Expression of Support.”

- Relevance currently for and CLARIN and GGP as well as the continuation of SHARE

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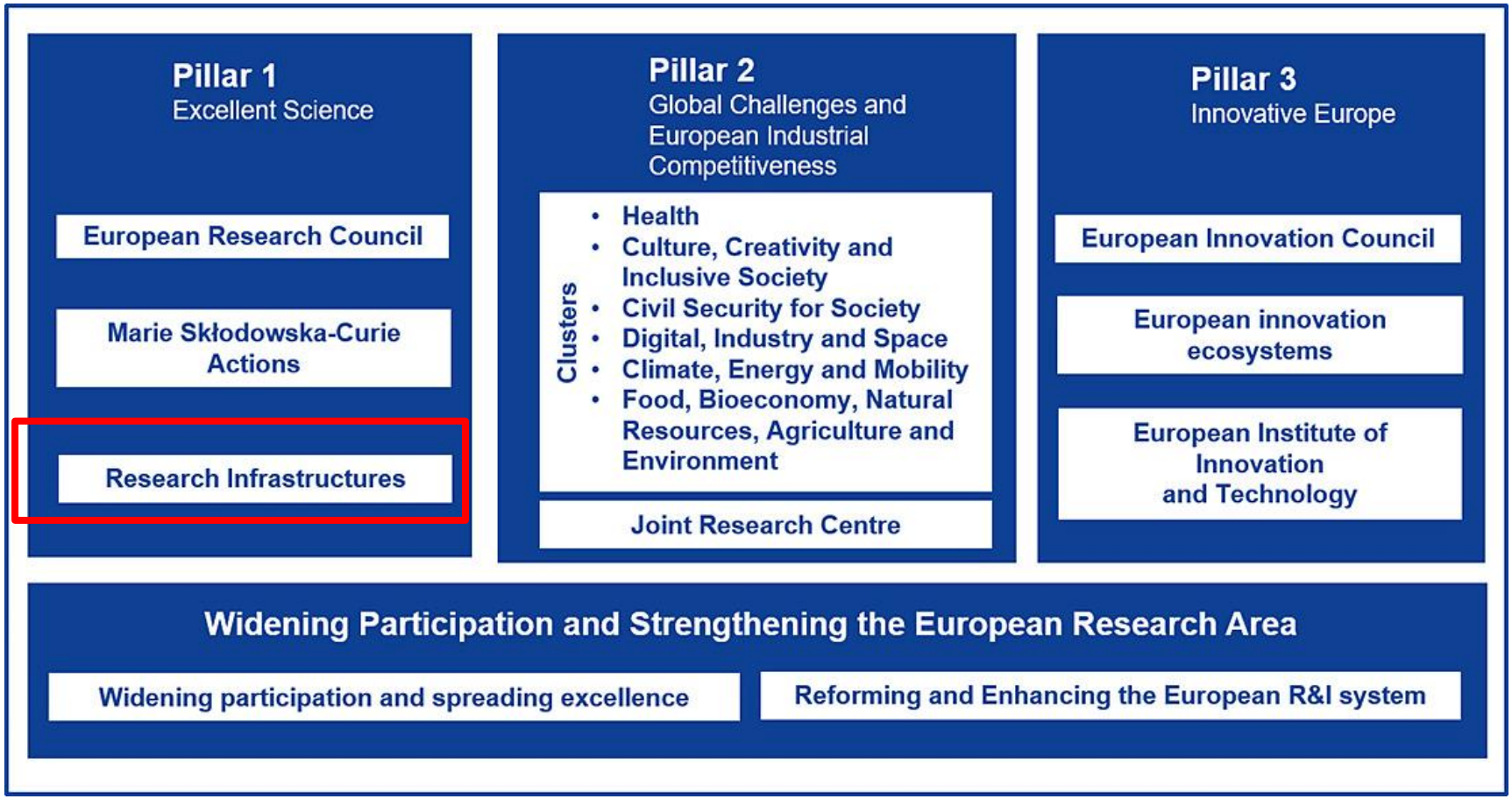
Horizon Europe



Funding Total: €95,5 Billion, of which €2,4 Billion for Research Infrastructures (€53,3 Billion for Pillar 2)

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European ERICs in the field of SSH with SWISS participation

On the current roadmap:

- CESSDA ERIC
- DARIAH ERIC
- ESS ERIC
- SHARE ERIC

New project applications

- CLARIN ERIC
- Application for GGP pending

- Infrastructure that includes national data repositories/archives (in Switzerland located at FORS) -> Key infrastructure to implement open research data in Europe so to deposit and access research data
- Makes metadate and research data (in the social sciences) FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) accross countries through the «CESSDA data catalogue»
- In 2020 for all service providers combined:
  - Almost 10 Mio. visitors
  - Almost 300’000 registered users
  - 350’000 download requests
- ERIC since 2017; currently 22 member countries and one observer (Switzerland).

DARIAH-EU

DARIAH-CH

- Designed and implemented between 2006-2019 by four European institutions involved in digital humanities, and fully operational since 2019.
- Included in ESFRI in 2006 and established as an ERIC in 2014.
- Currently, 20 European countries are full members of DARIAH ERIC.
- Switzerland has joined DARIAH ERIC in 2021 with the status of Observer.
- DARIAH's activities in Switzerland are coordinated by DaSCH, which is acting as DARIAH-CH Coordination Office.

DARIAH's vision is that *the **Arts** and **Humanities** are anchored at the centre of a technologically evolving knowledge society.*

DARIAH's mission:
Empower research communities with digital methods to create, connect and share knowledge about culture and society.

European Social Survey

- Academically driven cross-national survey that has been conducted across Europe since its establishment in 2001;
- Core module: “Media and social trust”, “politics”, “Subjective well-being”, Gender, Housholed, Socio-demograpics, Human Values
- Rotating modules, for example: “Immigration”, “Democracy”, “Climate Change”
- By now 10 rounds of data collection.
- 193’929 registered users (by 01/2022), 143’983 data downloaders, 4828 from Switzerland, many students
- ERIC since 2013: 27 members, 1 Observer (Switzerland)

- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), is a research survey that allows studying the effects of health, social, economic and environmental policies over the life-course of European citizens and beyond;
- Questions are related to various aspects of health, economic situation (employment and pensions) and social support;
- From 2004 until today, 530,000 in-depth interviews with 140,000 people aged 50 or older from 29 countries in 8 waves;
- ERIC since March 2011, SHARE became the first ERIC ever;
- 14’000 registered users, 3’500 publications with SHARE data.

CLARIN
Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure

CLARIN-CH

- Designed and implemented between 2008-2012 by 9 founding countries, and fully operational since 2016.
- Established as an ERIC in 2012 and included in ESFRI in 2016.
- Currently, 22 European countries are full members of CLARIN and 2 Observers.
- In Switzerland, the CLARIN-CH Consortium was founded in December 2020 with the mission to join CLARIN ERIC and to bring together the Swiss community using language resources.

CLARIN's vision:
Render accessible all digital language resources and tools from all over Europe through a single sign-on online environment.

CLARIN's mission:
Create and maintain an infrastructure to support the sharing, use and sustainability of language data and tools for research in the SSH.

GGP Generations & Gender Programme

- GGP on the ESFRI roadmap since 2021
- GGP core = 3 wave panel in three-year interval, 10’000 respondents
- Questionnaire: Focus on individual life courses and family dynamics
- Swiss participation submit to ESFRI to be included on the national roadmap 2025-28
- Data collection to start 2025
- Lead (Stephanie Steinmetz, Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, Jean-Marie Le Goff), Data collection at FORS

National projects with some kind of infrastructure status

At SAGW/ASSH

- HLS: Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz (HLS)
- Diplomatische Dokumente der Schweiz DODIS
- Infoclio.ch
- Inventar der Schweizer Fundmünzen
- Nationale Wörterbücher (Schweizerisches Idiotikon, Glossaire des patois de la Suisse romande, *Dicziunari Rumantsch Grischun,* Vocabolario dei dialetti della Svizzera italiana
- Année politique Suisse
- Editionen

At SNSF

- FORS (including the Swiss Household panel, ISSP/MOASiCH, Selects, Social science data archive) but also CESSDA, ESS, SHARE (in collaboration with the University of Lausanne)
- DASCH (various projects)

In addition some other projects considered as infrastructure according to the P3 database without being mentionned in the national roadmap:

- R'Quip, FLARE (Funding LArge international REsearch projects), SIB
- Editionen
- «Research infrastructures» (SHARE, TREE, «Répertoire International des Sources Musicales - RISM Digital Center», etc.)

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The current national roadmap from an SSH perspective

- The roadmap process not very favourable from an SSH perspective.
  - In 2019: Only participation in DARIAH as well as LiRI on the roadmap as new projects
  - For 2023: no new national project under evaluation, only request for participation in GGP, CLARIN as well as continuation of SHARE
- There are various reasons for this overall unfavourable outcome from SSH's point of view:

- A landscape analysis was only carried out by ScienceNat, but not in any other area. No tradition to acknowledge infrastructure needs from the SSH domain.
- A minimum threshold of 5 million CHF for a period of 4 years problematic for several reasons.
- No clear funding mechanism, except for the ETH domain (that does not have a priority in the SSH research).
- Projects in the SSH are thus not well positioned for participation in such calls. There generally are only a limited number of strong projects, and projects tend not to pass the internal university review.

Towards a fair funding environment for SSH infrastructures

- ***Universities as well as research policy actors such as swissuniversities and SERI should recognise the need for SSH to advance research through infrastructures.***
- ***Switzerland should systematically participate in European SSH infrastructures if proven interest exists***. Switzerland should also create the legal conditions and provide funding for Swiss research institutions to participate in European research infrastructures, especially ERICs, as full members and not just as observers as it is currently proposed by the Federal council.
- ***The national roadmap process should create fair conditions for prioritising infrastructures in all disciplines.*** This includes that
  - A landscape analysis should be carried out for all disciplines;
  - Prioritisation should be the same for all disciplines and universities (and not separately for the ETH domain and all other universities);
  - Minimum budget requirements should be lowered or eliminated altogether so that less costly infrastructure can be evaluated;
  - Funding models for prioritised infrastructure projects should be developed jointly by research funding organisations (SERI, swissuniversities and higher education institutions).
- ***The SSH research community should share knowledge and prepare projects well*** in order to ensure that SSH projects are well positioned for the next roadmap process. Existing and future SSH infrastructure projects in Switzerland should also showcase how to collaborate and to create synergies.