

Call for proposals

**National Research Programme
'Deglobalisation and supply chain resilience'
(NRP 87)**

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What are National Research Programmes (NRPs)?

Research carried out under National Research Programmes consists of research projects that contribute towards addressing societal challenges of national relevance.

Under the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 2 letter c of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation of 14 December 2012 (RIPA), the Federal Council selects the topics and focus areas to be researched in NRPs and mandates full responsibility for implementing the programmes to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The Ordinance to the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation of 29 November 2013 (RIPO), [Articles 3-9](#), describes NRPs and their launch. According to this legal basis, two different processes can lead to the launch of an NRP:

1. Open rounds
2. Thematically defined rounds

The topic addressed in this NRP results from the second type of process and corresponds to current federal strategies and the priorities of the federal administration. In comparison to the open rounds process, this NRP aims at a shorter duration, a reduced budget and a strengthened link between researchers and the federal administration. Scientific evaluation and funding decisions are carried out independently of political authorities and in accordance with the principles of scientific excellence and academic freedom.

On 1 July 2025, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) mandated the SNSF to assess the feasibility of conducting an NRP on 'Deglobalisation and supply chain resilience' and to develop a programme concept that would define the aims and the key research issues to be addressed. Based on this programme concept, the Federal Council decided on 20 March 2026 to launch the NRP 'Deglobalisation and supply chain resilience'. The members of its Steering Committee were elected by the National Research Council of the SNSF on 24 March 2026. The Steering Committee formulated this call for proposals and oversees the strategic management of the programme.

1. Summary

The National Research Programme 'Deglobalisation and Supply Chain Resilience' (NRP 87) investigates how deglobalisation dynamics and supply-chain disruptions reshape the constraints, vulnerabilities and policy choices facing Switzerland. It focuses on two closely connected research areas:

- The first examines the political and economic dynamics of deglobalisation, including the fragmentation of global markets, the erosion of multilateral rules, the rise of coercive economic statecraft, sanctions, export controls, protectionism and the regionalisation of production networks.
- The second analyses Switzerland's supply-chain vulnerabilities and resilience capacities by identifying critical dependencies, chokepoints and channels through which disruptions may cascade across firms, sectors, regions and the wider economy.

Across both areas, projects will contribute to three dimensions of inquiry: analysis, resilience mechanisms and policy design. The programme will produce risk assessments, dependency mappings, scenarios, stress tests, datasets and comparative analysis. It will also assess the effectiveness, costs and sustainability implications of strategies such as diversification, substitution, redundancy, strategic reserves, circular economy approaches, early-warning systems, data-sharing, joint procurement and public-private coordination. The programme proceeds through interdisciplinary research and includes elements of transdisciplinary research. It will combine insights from different academic disciplines and engage in ongoing, active exchange with public authorities, companies, industry associations and other stakeholders. This programme design will ensure that its findings are scientifically robust, practically relevant and useful for policy design.

The programme has a total budget of CHF 5 million, of which CHF 4.25 million is reserved for research. It is expected to fund approximately five to ten projects across the two research areas. The maximum budget per project is CHF 500,000, and research projects must have a duration of 36 months.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 24 November 2026, 5 pm Swiss local time, and full proposals by 19 January 2027, 5 pm Swiss local time. Final funding decisions by the SNSF Research Council are expected by August 2027 at the latest. Funded projects must start no later than 1 December 2027.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background and problem framing

After decades of increasing integration of global goods, services and capital markets, the world economy is currently experiencing a marked slowdown of globalisation and there are indications that a process of deglobalisation may be setting in. ‘Deglobalisation’ refers to a process in which cross-border economic integration becomes slower, more fragmented, more politicised or partially reversed. It may be a result of changing economic dynamics, but increasingly also emerges from deliberate policy choices, such as the erosion of multilateralism and rule-based frameworks, nationalist policy initiatives, an increase in coercive policy approaches, sanctions and export controls, the re-regionalisation of value chains, reshoring/near-shoring and a stronger role of the state in steering markets in strategic sectors.

These developments challenge Switzerland’s liberal economic model, centred on openness, competition and limited intervention, and create new trade-offs in terms of efficiency, resilience and sustainability. As a small, open and landlocked economy, Switzerland is critically dependent on foreign trade, access to global value chains, reliable transport routes and a rules-based order. At the same time, compared to other actors such as the European Union, China or the United States, Switzerland’s power to shape the rules and dynamics of the world economy is limited. Deglobalisation therefore raises fundamental questions about how Switzerland can preserve the benefits of openness while reducing exposure to geopolitical fragmentation, coercive policies and disruptions in critical economic flows.

Supply chains are one of the main channels through which these pressures materialise. Supply chains comprise the domestic and cross-border networks of companies, infrastructure, technologies, services, logistics and regulations through which goods and services are produced, transported, financed, distributed and maintained. Successive shocks – including the Covid-19 pandemic, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, extreme weather events, shipping disruptions, export controls on critical inputs, unilateral and/or protectionist trade policies, as well as rising rivalry between major international players and the new power-based US approach to foreign policymaking – have exposed fragilities in highly integrated, just-in-time systems. For Switzerland, these developments translate into significant vulnerabilities for the secure provision of important goods and services, such as medicines, energy, food, raw materials, critical minerals, industrial components, advanced technologies and military equipment, as well as uncertainty for its export-oriented industries.

An effective response to these challenges is hindered by three main knowledge gaps: (1) an incomplete understanding of how deglobalisation processes challenge Switzerland’s open economic model and create potential for cascading disruptions across sectors, regions and the macroeconomy; (2) limited cross-sector mapping of Swiss dependencies, chokepoints and sources of supply chain resilience; and (3) a lack of decision frameworks that help reconcile economic security with Switzerland’s liberal economic order, fiscal prudence and international obligations, including those related to sustainability.

The National Research Programme “Deglobalisation and Supply Chain Resilience” (NRP 87) will contribute to closing these knowledge gaps by channelling research insights from disciplines such as economics, in particular industrial organisation and applied macro/trade; management science, including operations, supply-chain management and logistics; political science and international relations, especially comparative and international political economy; and law, history and human geography. It will generate evidence on how deglobalisation dynamics affect Switzerland’s open economic model and supply chains, identify critical Swiss supply-chain vulnerabilities, evaluate resilience strategies and develop practicable options for public authorities, industries and companies. Its central aim is to translate evidence and know-how into practicable options for public authorities, industries and companies in ways

that make Switzerland better able to withstand and recover from deglobalisation pressures and disruptions to supply chains that are critical to its prosperity, security, sustainability and societal well-being.

2.2 National and international research environment

Several initiatives and research programmes related to economic security, strategic dependencies and supply chain resilience have been launched in recent years. At an institutional level, the [European Commission](#) has made strategic dependencies and economic security a central policy concern, supported by in-depth reviews of strategic dependencies and by analytical work by the [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) on supply-chain vulnerabilities, strategic value chains and early-warning tools. The [OECD](#) has developed a broad workstream on resilient supply chains, including a policy toolkit, a Supply Chain Resilience Review and a Forum for Critical Supply Chains, bringing together policymakers, businesses and researchers. At a multilateral level, the [WTO](#) and [UNCTAD](#) have expanded their work on global value chains, resilience and supply-chain reconfiguration in response to geopolitical tensions and other disruptions. The UNEP [International Resource Panel](#) links supply-chain resilience with resource efficiency, circular economy and sustainability considerations.

At the research level, [Horizon Europe](#) funds a growing number of projects and calls relevant to supply chain resilience, industrial ecosystems and economic security. Recent examples include ReSChape, which examines how recent disruptions affect supply chains and develops policy scenarios and tools, and ResC4EU, which focuses on resilience and sustainability in European industrial ecosystems, especially for SMEs. More broadly, Horizon Europe provides the main European framework for research and innovation relating to these issues.

For Switzerland, relevant work exists, but it is carried out mainly through university-based research and policy-oriented analysis rather than through a dedicated national programme of this kind. For example, the [OECD](#) has recently examined economic resilience within global value chains in Switzerland. NRP 87 complements these activities by providing a coordinated, interdisciplinary and solution-oriented framework focused on Switzerland, combining cross-sector mapping of vulnerabilities and dependencies with stress testing, mitigation strategies and policy design, and linking academic research more directly to the needs of public authorities, companies and other stakeholders.

3. Goals of the National Research Programme

NRP 87 aims to generate actionable knowledge and solution-oriented options and tools that help Switzerland navigate deglobalisation and supply chain risks while maintaining competitiveness and societal well-being. The goals of the research programme are:

1. **Analysis of deglobalisation and supply chain risks.** The programme will identify and analyse the patterns, causes and consequences of deglobalisation and supply-chain risks for Switzerland. It will improve understanding of how these developments affect Switzerland's open economic model, strategic dependencies, sustainability, critical supply chains, industries, regions and the macroeconomy.
2. **Development and evaluation of resilience mechanisms.** The programme will develop and evaluate options for strengthening resilience among companies, sectors and public authorities. It will assess which strategies are effective under which conditions, for which sectors and types

of firms, and at what cost, with attention to effectiveness, cost-efficiency, efficiency–resilience–sustainability trade-offs and budgetary implications.

3. **Policy design:** The programme will provide policy toolboxes, decision frameworks and solution-oriented recommendations that help address Switzerland's vulnerabilities and risks in relation to deglobalisation and supply-chain disruptions. It will assess the case for policy intervention (including market failures) and the costs (including potential government failures), benefits, feasibility and legal compatibility of different policy options, with the aim of supporting political decision-makers and leaders of large companies and SMEs.

4. Main research areas

NRP 87 is structured around two substantive research areas and three dimensions of inquiry. The two research areas – deglobalisation and supply chain vulnerabilities and resilience – define the core empirical and analytical focus of the programme. The three dimensions of inquiry represent the focus of analysis and define what the programme is expected to deliver across both research areas: analysis, resilience mechanisms and policy design. Projects may study these issues across different domains, such as industry and economy, governance and politics, international and regional cooperation, or specific strategic sectors. **Projects should address at least one of the two substantive research areas and make a substantive contribution to at least one of the three dimensions of inquiry.** They should also demonstrate how the project speaks to, informs or provides input for **at least one additional dimension.**

Research Area 1: Deglobalisation

This research area analyses the drivers, mechanisms and consequences of deglobalisation for Switzerland. It examines how developments that slow, fragment, politicise or partially reverse international economic integration – such as contracting multilateralism, coercive and unilateral action in trade and international exchange, sanctions, export controls, protectionist policies, regionalisation of value chains, coercive economic measures and geostrategic realignments – affect Switzerland's open economic model. Particular attention should be paid to Switzerland's position as a small, open and landlocked economy that depends on foreign trade, access to global value chains, reliable transport routes and a rules-based international order, while having limited capacity to shape the rules and dynamics of the world economy.

Research Area 2: Supply chain vulnerabilities and resilience

This research area maps and assesses Swiss supply chain vulnerabilities in selected key domains and identifies critical dependencies, chokepoints and disruption channels in Switzerland's supply chains. It examines different types of dependency, such as dependence on raw materials, components, technologies, know-how, infrastructure, logistics, standards, regulatory approvals or foreign suppliers, analyses which developments put which kinds of supply chains at risk, and assesses the potential for cascading disruptions across sectors, regions and the macroeconomy as well as the overall impact of such effects. A second focus is supply chain resilience, understood as the capacity of firms, sectors, public authorities and the overall economy to anticipate, prepare for, absorb, adapt to and recover from disruptions in critical supply chains while maintaining essential economic and societal functions.

These two thematic issues will be studied across three dimensions of inquiry:

1. Analysis

In this dimension, projects generate analyses that improve understanding of how deglobalisation, supply-chain vulnerabilities and their consequences matter for Switzerland, both separately and in interaction with one another. Projects may examine the structural drivers of deglobalisation, its consequences for different types of industries and Swiss regions, and its implications for Switzerland's external economic policy, competitiveness, sustainability, international cooperation and economic security. They may also identify and map patterns and dynamics of supply-chain vulnerabilities through dependency profiles, risk heat maps, choke-point analyses, scenarios and stress tests, and assess macroeconomic, sectoral, regional and welfare implications. Analytical work should clarify where Switzerland is exposed, why these exposures arise, how they may evolve, and/or how Swiss firms, public authorities and international organisations perceive, discuss and act on these challenges. Illustrative research questions include:

- What are the macroeconomic, sectoral and welfare effects of deglobalisation and supply chain disruptions in Switzerland, and what do they imply for its competitiveness, openness and economic security?
- How do geopolitical realignments, coercive economic policies and weakening multilateralism affect Switzerland's room for manoeuvre as a small, open economy?
- How have Switzerland and comparable small, open economies responded to past episodes of economic fragmentation, protectionism or trade disruption, and what lessons can be drawn from them today?
- What gaps, inconsistencies and limitations in existing legal and institutional frameworks are exacerbating deglobalisation and supply chain vulnerabilities and how do these shortcomings contribute to Switzerland's key dependencies?
- How do sustainability criteria – environmental, social and economic – affect supply-chain resilience? In which cases do they strengthen resilience, and in which cases can they create additional complexity?

2. Resilience mechanisms

In this line of inquiry, projects develop and evaluate resilience mechanisms that help firms, sectors and public authorities reduce exposure to deglobalisation pressures and strengthen critical supply chains. Projects may examine mechanisms such as diversification, substitution, nearshoring and reshoring, redundancy, circular economy initiatives, strategic reserves and stockpiling, public or joint procurement, public-private risk-sharing and coordination, data-sharing and traceability standards, early-warning systems, sectoral initiatives, the treatment of cooperation between companies with regard to competition policy, macroeconomic sources of resilience, such as the Swiss franc's role as a safe-haven currency, mutual dependencies, and bilateral, plurilateral or EU-Swiss cooperation. They should assess which strategies are effective under which conditions, for which sectors, firms or public authorities, and at what cost, including efficiency–resilience–sustainability trade-offs, market effects, competition policy implications and budgetary consequences. Examples of such research questions include:

- What are options for substitution – such as alternative suppliers, technical substitution of inputs, or substitution in downstream industries – and what adjustments can be made to production processes to limit the costs of supply chain risks once they materialise, at a company, industry or macroeconomic level?

- How can companies and sectors design, finance and implement resilience measures while maintaining competitiveness?
- How can competition policy, public-private coordination, joint procurement, data sharing and risk sharing enable cooperation without distorting markets or breaching legal obligations?
- How can Switzerland use international cooperation to reduce exposure to coercive policies and supply chain disruptions while preserving openness and strategic autonomy?

3. Policy design

In this dimension, projects develop policy toolboxes, decision frameworks and solution-oriented recommendations that address Switzerland's vulnerabilities and deglobalisation risks and support the move towards greater supply chain resilience. Research may analyse sector-level trade-offs between cheap foreign sourcing and secure supply; assess the roles of the Confederation, cantons, regulators, companies, public-private partnerships and alliances; and evaluate sectoral initiatives, informal coalitions and soft-law instruments, as well as international agreements. They may also explore options for partnering with like-minded countries, EU-Swiss cooperation, diversification options and substitution possibilities across foreign suppliers, as well as relevant OECD practices. Policy design should clarify when public intervention is justified and why, what form it should take, and how responsibilities should be allocated across public and private actors. Examples of such research questions include:

- How can public authorities and companies design feasible governance arrangements, risk sharing mechanisms and sectoral initiatives to strengthen supply chain resilience?
- How should policy design address the regional and spatial effects of deglobalisation and supply chain disruptions?
- How can Switzerland design economic security and resilience instruments compatible with international obligations, constitutional principles, its liberal economic order, competition rules and sector-specific regulation?
- Where do trade-offs arise between competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability, and how can policy help address them?

5. Expected outcomes

5.1 Practical significance and target audience

The programme will provide evidence-based recommendations that support, and are developed with the involvement of, Swiss public authorities, industry actors and other decision-makers, to allow for more informed decision-making regarding developments and responses relevant to deglobalisation trends, supply chain disruptions, and resilience. To support such decisions, the programme aims to provide timely risk assessments, evidence-based findings on lawful and effective resilience measures, and pathways that align economic security with sustainability and competitiveness. The target audience includes federal and cantonal public authorities, international organizations and civil society groups, as well as firms, SMEs, industry associations and infrastructure operators. The programme will also create insights relevant to research institutions, civil society and international policy communities.

5.2 Expected outcomes

Given the considerable challenges the Swiss economy is facing in a rapidly changing global system, the NRP 87 aims to provide timely and relevant analysis of deglobalisation dynamics, critical vulnerabilities

and dependencies across Swiss sectors and supply chains, as well as insights into how to strengthen resilience. It will generate actionable, durable and policy-relevant knowledge that improves Switzerland's capacity to anticipate, absorb and adapt to systemic disruptions arising from deglobalisation and supply chain risks. The intended outcomes include **both scientific and policy-relevant contributions**. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Scientific excellence and Switzerland-based interdisciplinary research expertise

NRP 87 will strengthen Switzerland-based interdisciplinary research expertise on topics related to deglobalisation and supply chain resilience. By bringing together researchers working on this topic across different disciplines and regions, and by involving relevant stakeholders and the policy community, it will facilitate interdisciplinary research and include elements of transdisciplinary research. It will create network effects and produce new evidence, data, and high-quality scientific outputs, including peer-reviewed publications and durable research collaborations.

b. Evidence-based situational awareness and risk transparency

NRP 87 will improve understanding of Switzerland's key dependencies, vulnerabilities and resilience capacities. Outputs may include dedicated datasets, analytical and policy tools, resilience strategies and solution-oriented recommendations that can be used by companies, sectoral organisations and public authorities, including the Federal Administration. These outputs should help identify where Switzerland is exposed, why these exposures arise, how they may evolve, and which disruptions could have systemic macroeconomic, sectoral, regional, sustainability or welfare consequences.

c. Resilience and implementation strategies, policy toolboxes and coordination

NRP 87 will generate insights into mitigation strategies and resilience mechanisms, with implementation tested in pilot designs where possible. It will develop policy toolboxes and decision frameworks that help assess trade-offs, costs, benefits, sustainability and budgetary implications, and support balanced interventions. The programme will also support institutional learning, policy uptake and improved coordination within and between the public and the private sector over the course of the programme and beyond.

d. External economic positioning and contribution to wider debates

The insights generated by NRP 87 can inform Switzerland's foreign economic and security policies, including diversification of bilateral cooperation, regulatory cooperation and alignment with international trade and environmental commitments. This can contribute to increased coherence and strategic depth of Switzerland's external economic policy in times of contested globalisation. By making Swiss experience and perspectives visible, NRP 87 will also contribute to European and global debates on managing deglobalisation pressures and strengthening economic resilience, especially for small, highly open economies.

5.3 Conditions for achieving outcomes

Achieving these outcomes requires several enabling conditions.

- **Interdisciplinary collaboration:** The issues at stake need to be studied from a range of perspectives and disciplines. The programme will thus combine projects from various disciplines. Active participation in regular synthesis workshops will ensure interaction between the individual research projects and improve coherence and synergy across theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches.

- **Focus on challenges facing Switzerland.** The programme focuses on the challenges posed to Switzerland by deglobalisation, supply chain risks and exposure to weaponised interdependence. Because these trends create challenges that are shared across national contexts, especially in other small, open economies, it may be helpful to draw on relevant lessons from other countries or other historical episodes. Such comparative studies should always include Switzerland as a key case and specify the implications of the analysis for the Swiss context.
- **Transdisciplinarity and stakeholder engagement:** Early and continuous involvement of relevant stakeholders will ensure that the research programme addresses the questions that matter for Switzerland and that the insights generated by the NRP can be translated to and taken up by Swiss authorities, firms and other users. Stakeholders will be actively engaged both in each individual project as non-academic project partners and in overall NRP activities.
- **Data access and interoperability:** Collaboration with the Federal Administration and, where relevant, industry partners, should support access to and reuse of existing data, while respecting confidentiality, legal constraints and FAIR principles.
- **Active communication and dissemination strategy:** In addition to strong research output, the programme needs to ensure multi-channel outreach (such as working papers, research summaries and webinars) and dedicated knowledge exchange.

6 Characteristics of the NRP

6.1 Research approach

NRP 87 has a solution-oriented focus and aims to enable interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge acquisition:

Solution-oriented focus: Projects must be solution-oriented and relevant to practice. Project proposals should include a discussion of the project's practical relevance and concrete proposals for the practical implementation of the project results. The NRP will not fund basic research that does not generate any solution-oriented outcomes, nor projects in the field of scientific theory.

Interdisciplinarity: The programme is keen to attract projects that combine more than one of the relevant academic disciplines. While interdisciplinary approaches are preferred, individual projects can pursue disciplinary approaches. Such projects are expected to spell out their implications for other disciplines and to engage in interdisciplinary discussions and activities in the context of overall programme activities. Across the NRP, the sum of individual research projects must cover the issues at stake from a multitude of perspectives and disciplines.

Elements of transdisciplinarity: Involvement of relevant non-academic actors is central to the goals of the NRP. Each project **must include at least two non-academic actors as project partners** with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Depending on the project, non-academic actors may contribute to the identification of research questions, provide data, validate assumptions, identify decision constraints, assess feasibility or test policy options.

Non-academic partners can include the following groups:

- **Federal and cantonal public authorities.** This group includes the relevant federal offices as well as cantonal and regional authorities. These stakeholders are expected users of dependency assessments, stress tests, legal and regulatory analysis, and policy toolboxes.

- **Companies, SMEs, industry associations and infrastructure operators** (see also Chapter IV, Paragraph 1.12 of the [General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations](#)). These partners are directly affected by deglobalisation pressures and supply chain risks. They include actors in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical goods, energy, food and agricultural inputs, logistics, digital services, industrial components, machinery, critical minerals and defence-related supply chains. Differences between small and large companies with regard to exposure, data access and adjustment capacity should be recognised. In addition to these characteristics, projects that establish links between different domains, as well as between different levels of analysis, are particularly welcome.
- **International organisations and civil society groups** that work on deglobalisation and supply chain risks. These partners may provide relevant insights, expertise and data.

Cross-project synergy and NRP-specific activities: The programme will facilitate regular interdisciplinary exchange between projects and stakeholders through interactive forms of participation and engagement (e.g. workshops and webinars). Project PIs and their teams are expected to actively participate in NRP activities organised in the context of the overall programme. This includes engagement in cross-project discussions, activities and stakeholder exchange, as well as contributions to programme-level communication and outreach activities. Collaboration across projects is encouraged.

6.2 Other special characteristics of the NRP

Data access, data management and open research data: Publicly funded research should, as far as possible, be accessible to the public free of charge. The SNSF is committed to this goal (Open Science on [snf.ch](#)). For most funding schemes, researchers have to include a data management plan (DMP) in their application. At the same time, the SNSF expects data generated by SNSF-funded projects to be publicly accessible in FAIR digital databases (making sure that the data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), provided that there are no legal, ethical, copyright or other problems.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research funding: In its endeavour to meet EDI requirements, the SNSF defined three main axes to be pursued ([link](#)):

- Fair and respectful work environments
- Diversity of personnel
- Diversity of knowledge.

Projects will be encouraged to take these aspects into account.

Sustainability: The SNSF is committed to promoting research that guarantees the sustainable development of society, the economy and the environment. Projects will be encouraged to take these aspects into account.

7. Submission and evaluation procedure

7.1 General conditions and requirements

Legal basis: Proposals must be in line with the regulations outlined in this call document. In addition, and if no specific provision is formulated in this call, the [SNSF Funding Regulations](#) and the [General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations](#) apply.

Coordinated research and programme activities: National Research Programmes contribute towards solving pressing challenges of national significance. To this end, the Steering Committee coordinates and manages the selection of projects, the research carried out and other NRP-specific activities, such as annual programme meetings and stakeholder exchange. The Steering Committee will maintain continuous contact with the key stakeholders throughout the programme and will ensure their participation in activities carried out within its framework. The aim is to ensure the quality of the research, enable synergies and disseminate the projects' outcomes to relevant target audiences. By submitting a project proposal to NRP 87, applicants agree to participate in the programme activities, cooperate with the Steering Committee and the programme management, and contribute to the collective results of the programme.

Project start: Research for the approved projects must begin no later than 1 December 2027.

Project budget and duration: The average budget of a project is expected to range between CHF 300,000 and CHF 500,000. Higher budgets may be possible but need to be justified in detail. Co-funding of projects by other funding sources is welcome (Article 18 of the SNSF Funding Regulations and Chapter I, paragraph 1.20 of the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations). Projects should have a duration of 36 months.

Salaries: The salaries of applicants will not be funded by NRP 87. The three-year project duration means that these projects are not suitable for PhD students at the beginning of their doctoral studies. For projects proposing to employ PhD students who have already started work on their dissertation, applicants must demonstrate a viable plan for how the dissertation results will be incorporated into the final report at the end of the research project.

Language of applications: Expressions of interest and full proposals should be submitted in English.

7.2 Eligibility criteria for applicants and project partners

Applicants: Applicants must fulfil the requirements of Art. 10 of the SNSF Funding Regulations. Applicants with a doctorate must have obtained the latter no less than four years before the submission date of the application. Applicants without a doctoral degree must demonstrate at least three years of full-time research activity.

Applicants must be in a position to be fully responsible for carrying out a research project and managing the staff involved. Conflicts of interest and incompatibilities are assessed in accordance with the SNSF regulations on recusal and conflicts of interest. Applicants who are family members, are in a personal relationship with each other or may otherwise be perceived as lacking independence cannot collaborate scientifically on the same project, particularly where hierarchical relationships are involved.

Number of projects: Each applicant can only submit one full proposal to NRP 87 and cannot participate as a project partner in any other proposal submitted to NRP 87. Non-academic project partners may be project partners in several projects in NRP 87. A proposal to NRP 87 may be submitted regardless of the number of other SNSF grants held or applied for, provided that the regulations of the relevant funding instruments are complied with.

During the evaluation process, applicants may not have identical or substantially similar proposals under evaluation in another SNSF funding scheme with overlapping funding periods (cf. Art. 17 Funding Regulations).

Eligibility of project partners: Project partners can be researchers and/or non-academic actors who make a partial contribution to the research project without being responsible for the project (at least two non-academic partners are required; academic research partners are optional). They are eligible according to the SNSF Funding Regulations and the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations. As with the applicants, project partners' own salaries will not be funded by NRP 87, and the share of the total budget allocated to project partners should generally not exceed 20%. Project partners must not refer to the support received from the SNSF as a grant they have themselves acquired.

Cross-border research projects: Collaboration with research groups in other countries is allowed, provided that such cooperation either generates significant added value that could not be achieved without cross-border collaboration or substantially enhances the proposed research in terms of content or methodology, or if the expertise of the researchers from abroad is essential for the successful completion of the project. As a rule, the funding share requested for co-applicant researchers from abroad may amount to 30% of the requested research budget. For co-applicants from abroad, the salary rates and norms of the relevant country will apply *mutatis mutandis*, with the SNSF maximum rates as the upper limit. Before submitting a proposal with a cross-border component, please contact the programme manager for NRP 87.

7.3 Submission procedure

The application procedure for this NRP consists of a two-step process, with an initial submission of an expression of interest (not evaluated) and subsequent submission of a full proposal, which will undergo review. Please note that all applicants and project partners must enter their personal data, including CV, in the SNSF Portal themselves. Only then can you submit your expression of interest. Invite all applicants and project partners as contributors to the expression of interest early on, so that they have enough time to create a user account if necessary and to enter their data in the SNSF Portal. **Once the submission deadline for the expression of interest has passed, it will no longer be possible to apply to this NRP.**

7.3.1 Online submission via the SNSF Portal

To submit a proposal, applicants and project partners need to log in to the SNSF Portal with a SWITCH edu-ID. Step-by-step instructions are provided for the initial login ([Create an SNSF Portal user account](#)).

CV: Applicants must compile their CV using the template available on the SNSF Portal. Further information can be found on the [CV website](#) and on the [SNSF Portal](#).

7.3.2 Expression of interest

The template for full proposals is provided on the SNSF Portal and on the website [nfp87.ch](#) at the expression of interest stage.

Applicants must submit an expression of interest, including personal data, CV, team composition and an abstract of the proposed project (max. 4,000 characters), via the SNSF Portal by **24 November 2026**, 5 pm Swiss local time.

Project partners confirm their participation in the project by entering their administrative data into the SNSF Portal. The expression of interest and provided information allow the SNSF to organise the upcoming evaluation process. There will be no evaluation or pre-selection at this stage.

The expression of interest will be accepted on 25 November, and applicants will then be able to complete the full proposal on the SNSF Portal.

7.3.3 Full proposals

The deadline for submitting full proposals is 19 January 2027, 5 pm Swiss local time.

Full proposals must be submitted online via the [SNSF Portal](#). In addition to the administrative data of the applicants and project partners, which must be entered directly into the SNSF Portal, the following documents must be uploaded:

- **Project plan and bibliography** (in PDF format): Applicants must use the template provided in the SNSF Portal. The project plan must not exceed 15 pages (excluding bibliography).

Please note that formal letters of commitment from non-academic project partners will be required at a later stage.

7.4 Project selection procedure

The SNSF Office checks whether the personal and formal requirements are met before forwarding the proposal for scientific review. The SNSF will not consider proposals that do not meet these requirements. The applicants will be notified of such a decision by means of a formally appealable ruling.

The Steering Committee may carry out a preliminary assessment of the full proposals and exclude from further consideration those that fall outside the objectives and scope of NRP 87. The SNSF will notify the applicants of such a decision by means of a formally appealable ruling.

The full proposals selected to proceed to the next stage are evaluated by national and international experts. Based on these external reviews and the evaluation criteria set out below, the Steering Committee assesses the full proposals and formulates a funding recommendation. During the evaluation phase only, ad hoc experts may be appointed to provide specific expertise and complement the evaluation panel alongside the Steering Committee. In formulating its recommendation, the Steering Committee takes into account the overall coherence of the selected projects with the programme's objectives, as well as the transparent and consistent application of the evaluation criteria. Final funding decisions are taken independently by the National Research Council.

7.5 Evaluation criteria

Eligible full proposals are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Compliance with the goals of NRP 87 and relevance to its research questions:** Full proposals must fall within the overall framework of the programme and correspond to the programme goals specified in this call for proposals.

- **Scientific quality of the research project:** Full proposals must meet international standards in terms of scientific quality, relevance, topicality and originality, suitability of methods and feasibility.
- **Policy relevance:** Projects must demonstrate their relevance for Swiss politics, economy and society and spell out their plan or potential for practical application and implementation of results.
- **Involvement of non-academic project partners:** The quality and added value of the involvement of the non-academic partners must be convincing. The type of collaboration, timeline and rationale for project-specific interactions must be clearly laid out.
- **Scientific qualification and experience of the applicant(s) and suitable infrastructure:** Applicants must have a proven scientific track record in the field of the proposal and the ability to carry out the research project. Adequate personnel resources and a suitable infrastructure must be secured for the project.

8 Programme budget and schedule

8.1. Programme budget

Projects	CHF 4.25 million
Knowledge exchange measures and programme synthesis	CHF 300,000
Cross-project and programme-level collaboration	CHF 150,000
Scientific evaluation, support and steering	CHF 300,000
Total budget	CHF 5 million

8.2. Schedule

The individual projects of NRP 87 have a duration of 36 months.

Publication of call for full proposals	22 September 2026
Deadline for submission of expression of interest	24 November 2026
Deadline for submission of full proposals	19 January 2027
Final decision on full proposals	by August 2027 at the latest
Start of research	No later than 1 December 2027
End of research	November 2030
Publication of the programme synthesis	Mid 2031

9 Organisation and actors

Steering Committee of NRP 87

Professor Stefanie Walter, Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich (President)

Professor Ilaria Espa, International Economic Law, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)

Professor Thomas A. Weber, Chair of Operations, Economics and Strategy, EPFL

Professor Guntram Wolff, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Université libre de Bruxelles

Delegate of the Research Council for Thematic and Solution-oriented Research (TSOR)

Professor Mira Burri, Faculty of Law, University of Lucerne

Representative of the Swiss Federal Administration

Dr Ulrich Schetter, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne

Programme Manager

Yvonne Rosteck, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Berne

Programme Assistant

Jacqueline Hänni, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Berne

10 Contacts

For questions regarding the submission of expressions of interest and full proposals, please contact Yvonne Rosteck, Programme Manager: nrp87@snf.ch or +41 31 308 22 22.

For questions concerning salaries and eligible costs, please contact Roman Sollberger, Head of Finance: roman.sollberger@snf.ch or +41 31 308 22 22.

For technical help with the SNSF Portal and electronic submissions, please access the SNSF Support Portal: <https://snf-ch.atlassian.net/servicedesk>

Hotline: tel. +41 31 308 22 00 (Deutsch/Français/English)