

Press Release

March 31st 2011

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

Third call: 66 projects from young researchers selected

The third call of the Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) confirms once again the increasing interest in the Programme. As a result of this call opened to the 6 partner countries Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovak Republic, 157 eligible proposals were evaluated on the basis of their scientific excellence. Latvia and the Slovak Republic were participating for the first time in the Programme. At the end of the evaluation procedure, 66 projects from young researchers were selected.

The Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) aims at promoting young talented researchers from these countries and simultaneously at enhancing the Swiss scientific network. 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 increasing number of proposals submitted for the third call closed on November 1st 2010 clearly demonstrates the high interest in the Programme.

A selection based on scientific excellence

Each one of the 157 eligible proposals was evaluated by experimented 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 met on March 24th 2011 in order to select the proposals on the basis of the results of the evaluation and the budget available.

66 excellent researchers will conduct part of their research at a Swiss institution

Altogether, the projects of 66 excellent researchers from the Czech Republic (16), Estonia (4), Hungary (4), Latvia (3), Poland (29) and the Slovak Republic (10) were selected.

Among the 66 selected researchers, Doctoral Candidates (30) and PostDocs (36) are equally represented. At the same time, a gender balance was achieved, since 31 projects will be conducted by female researchers and 35 by male researchers.

Although the Sciex programme is open to all scientific disciplines, approximately one quarter of the selected projects concerns Chemistry – followed by Basic Biological Research, Physics, Engineering Sciences and Environmental Sciences.

A financial commitment of more than 5.6 million Swiss francs

The total amount allocated for the third call amounts to 5.6 million Swiss francs - devoted to cover the costs for salaries and travel expenses of the researchers and split as follows: less than 1.4 million CHF for Czech projects, 360'000 CHF for Estonian projects, 395'000 CHF for Hungarian projects, 206'000 CHF for Latvian projects, 2.6 million CHF for Polish projects and 700'000 CHF for Slovakian projects.

The list of all 66 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 66 projects between the Swiss universities and research institutes

38 researchers will be integrated in a university:

- University of Basel: 4
- University of Bern: 8
- University of Fribourg: 2
- University of Geneva: 5
- University of Lausanne: 6
- University of Neuchatel: 1
- University of St-Gallen: 2
- University of Lugano: 2
- University of Zurich: 8

12 in a Swiss Federal Institute of Technology:

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne: 7
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich: 5

13 in a Swiss Federal Research Institute:

- EAWAG - Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology: 3* (1 conditionally)
- EMPA - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology: 8
- PSI - Paul Scherrer Institute: 1
- 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: 2
- ZHAW - Zurich University of Applied Sciences: 1

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