



SwissCore⁺

Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Switzerland's participation in Horizon Europe

Sarah Bühler (SwissCore), 8.7.2025, 10:00-11:00

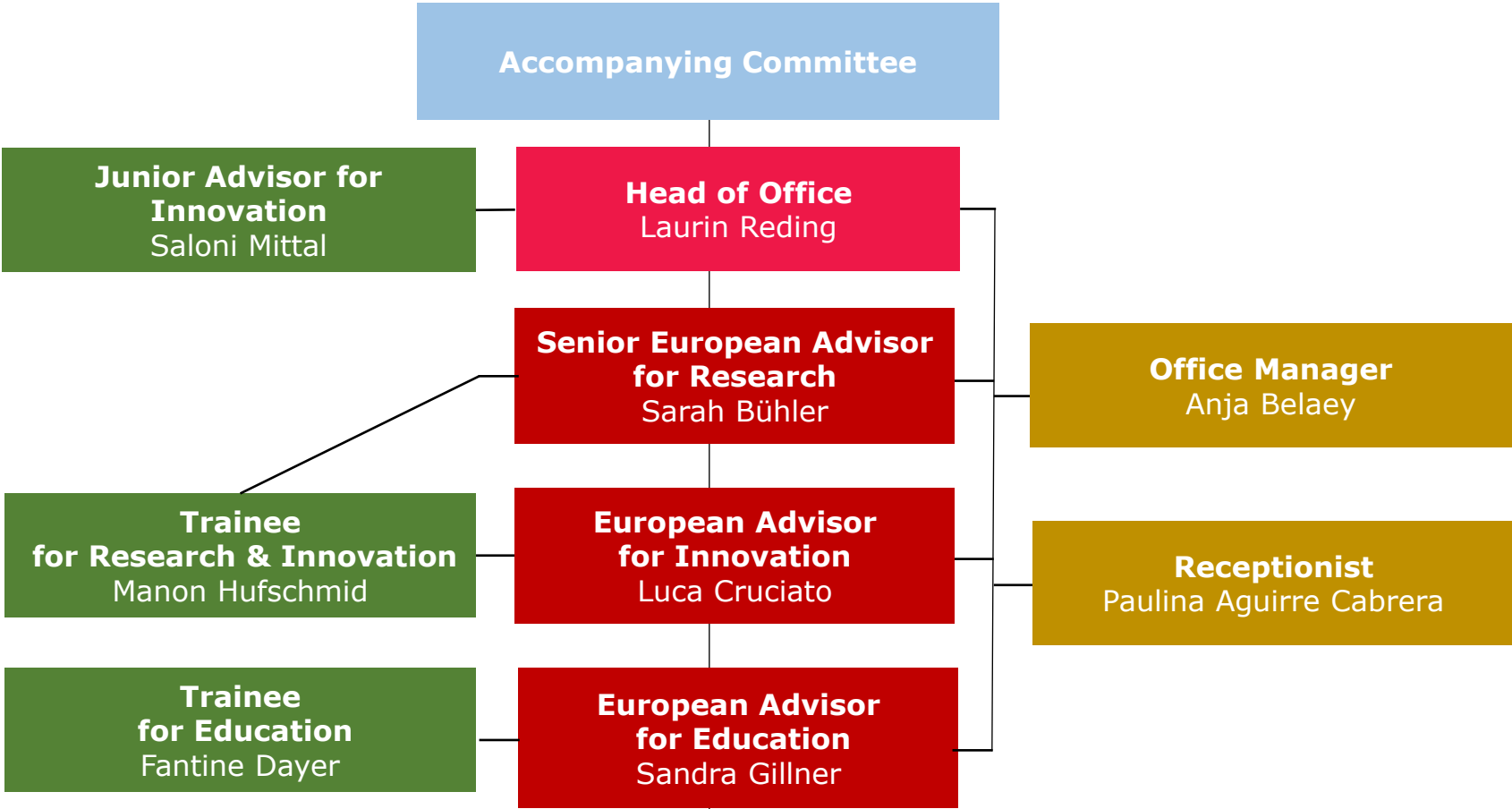


PART I

SwissCore and beyond



SwissCore Team





Euresearch

- NCP Network Office in Switzerland.
- Euresearch Network: 10 Regional offices at research institutions in Switzerland.



Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

- Provide regular updates on the association of Switzerland.
- Q&A about Switzerland's participation in R&I Programmes.



PART II

Strategy of Swiss ERI domain



Strategic priorities 2025-2028

- Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) Dispatch of **2025-2028** with transversal objectives:
 - Digitalization
 - Sustainability
 - Equal opportunities
 - National and international cooperation.

- **Bottom-up approach, excellence** in research and **international** innovation systems.



International cooperation of ERI domain

- Association to EU framework **programmes** in **ERI domain**.
- Participation **in other programmes, research infrastructures, networks** and **in initiatives**:
 - European Space Agency (ESA)
 - Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
 - EUREKA initiative (network for innovation)
 - European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).



Swissnex – worldwide Swiss network of ERI domain



- **Swissnex:** in six regions, with more than 20 **science counselors** at Swiss missions abroad.



Leading Houses and Bilateral agreements

- **Leading House pilot activities:** Mandated higher **education institutions** for bilateral cooperation.
- **Bilateral agreements & MOUs:** Cooperation in selected regions with potential for scientific and technological development.



PART III

Current status quo of Swiss association



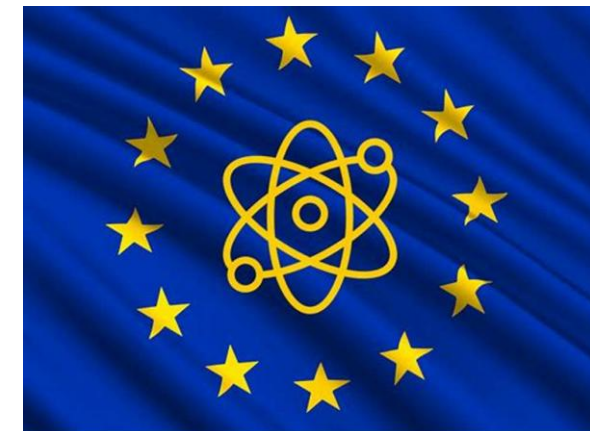
Programmes for CH association

The **package on programmes of the ERI domain:**

- Horizon Europe
- Euratom
- ITER
- Digital Europe
- Erasmus+



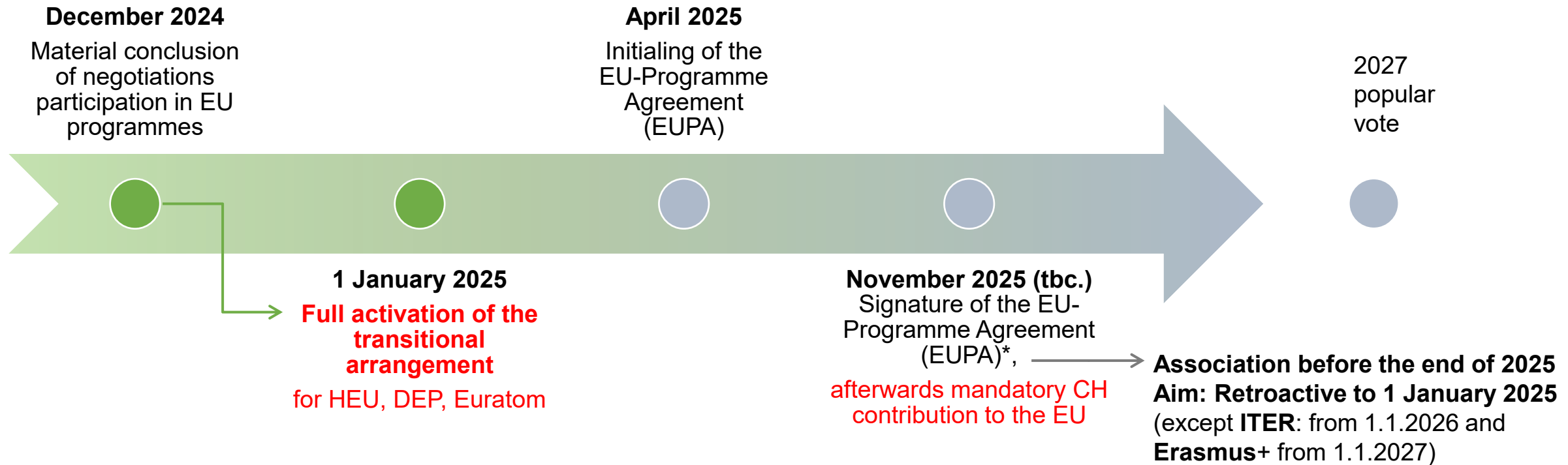
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Timeline to formal association in Horizon Europe

Association to the 2021–2027 Horizon Package (HEU, Euratom, DEP): Timeline Political Process



* to ensure Switzerland's association to the Horizon package with retroactive effect from 1 January 2025, the EU Programme Agreement (EUPA) – a component of the overall package – must be signed this year.



What does this mean for Researchers & Innovators?

- The **transitional agreement** allows for the participation of Swiss entities as “**Beneficiaries**” with some exceptions in strategic areas (HEU WP 2025: **space** is still to be clarified, DEP: **semiconductors + cybersecurity**).
- Only maintained if **Association Agreement** is concluded before **signature of grant agreement**.
- **Budgets** are included in the **total amount of project funding requested**.
- **Coordination** of consortiums is possible.
- **More information** is available in the Q&A document of SERI.

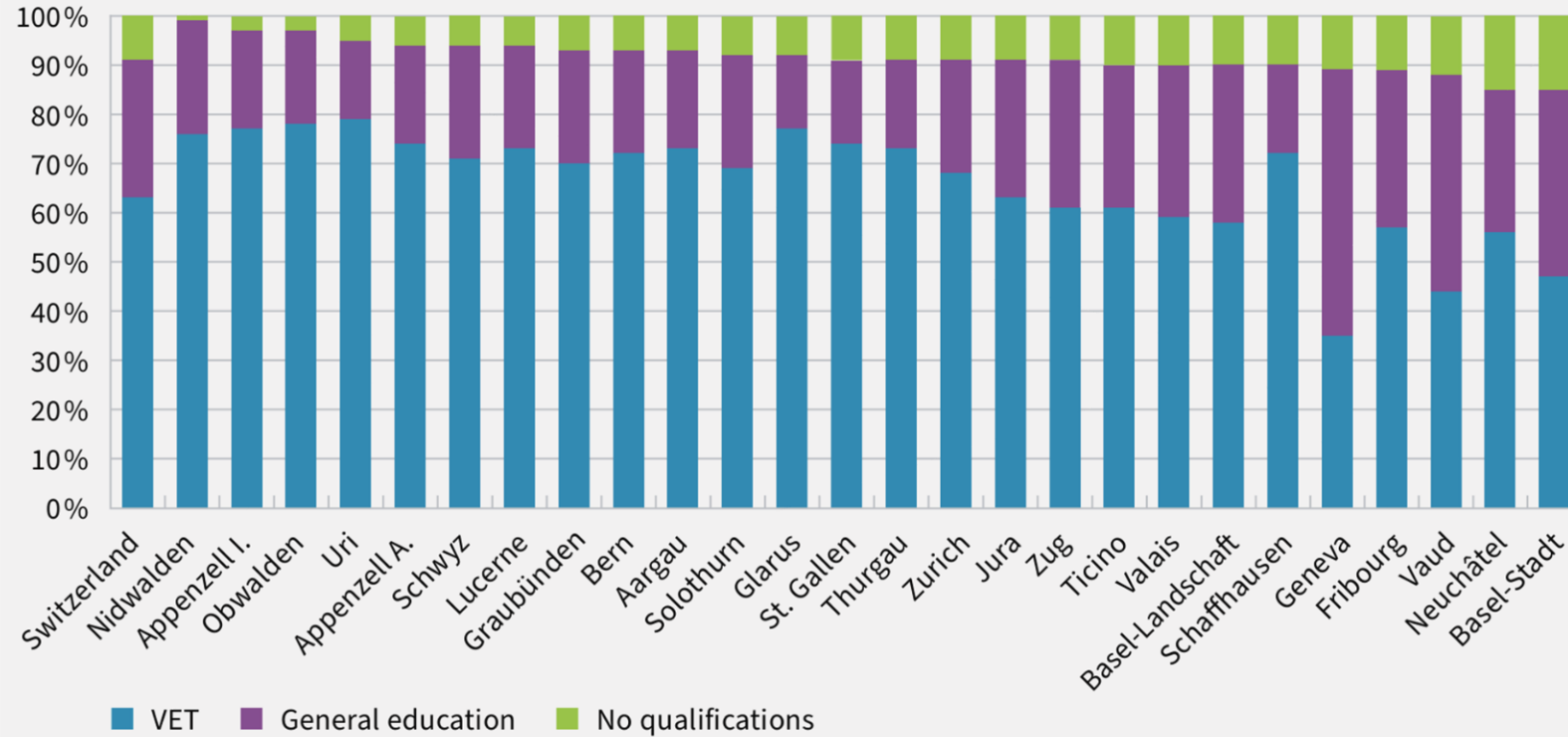


PART IV

Swiss Research and Innovation System



Swiss education landscape

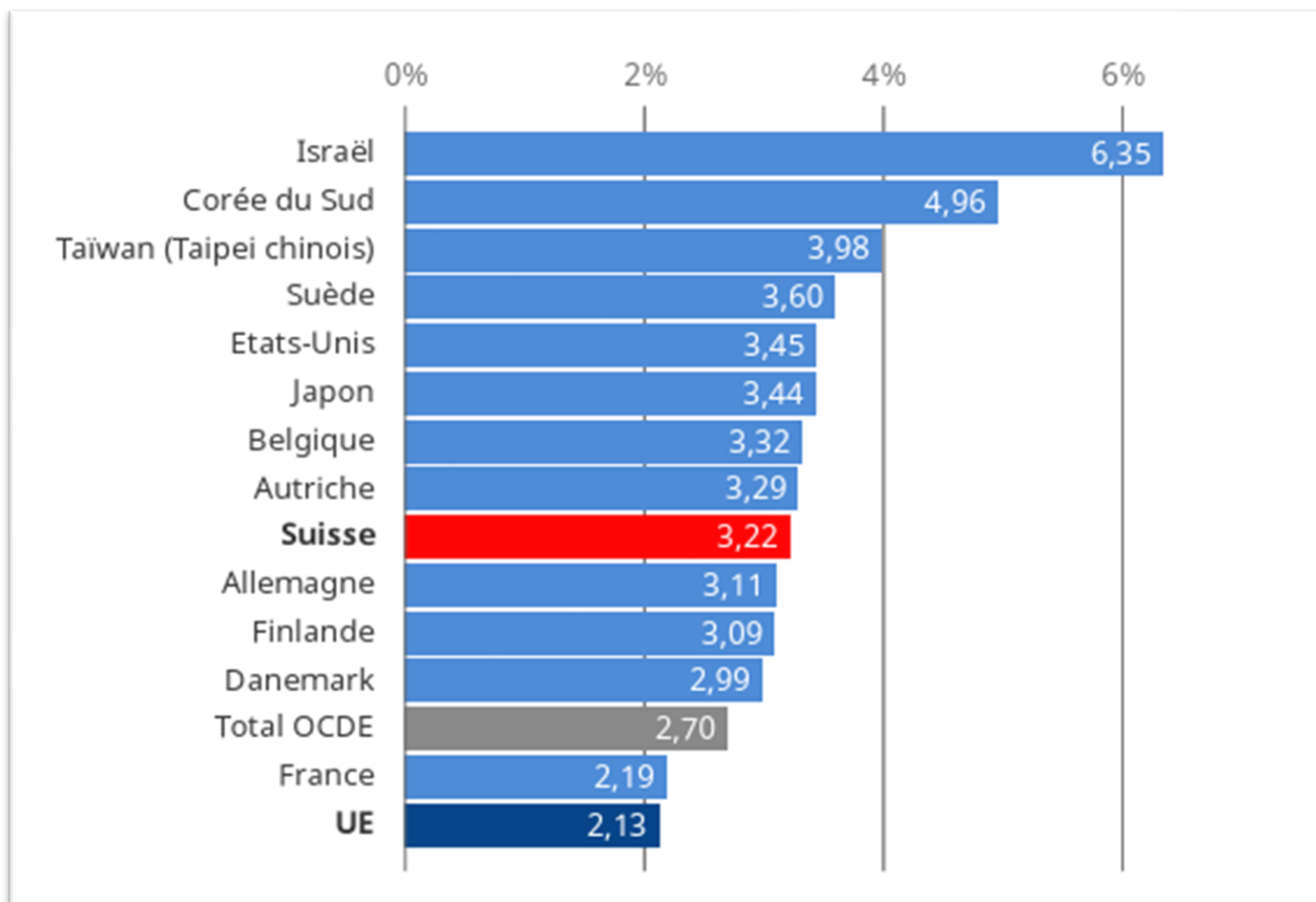


National level:

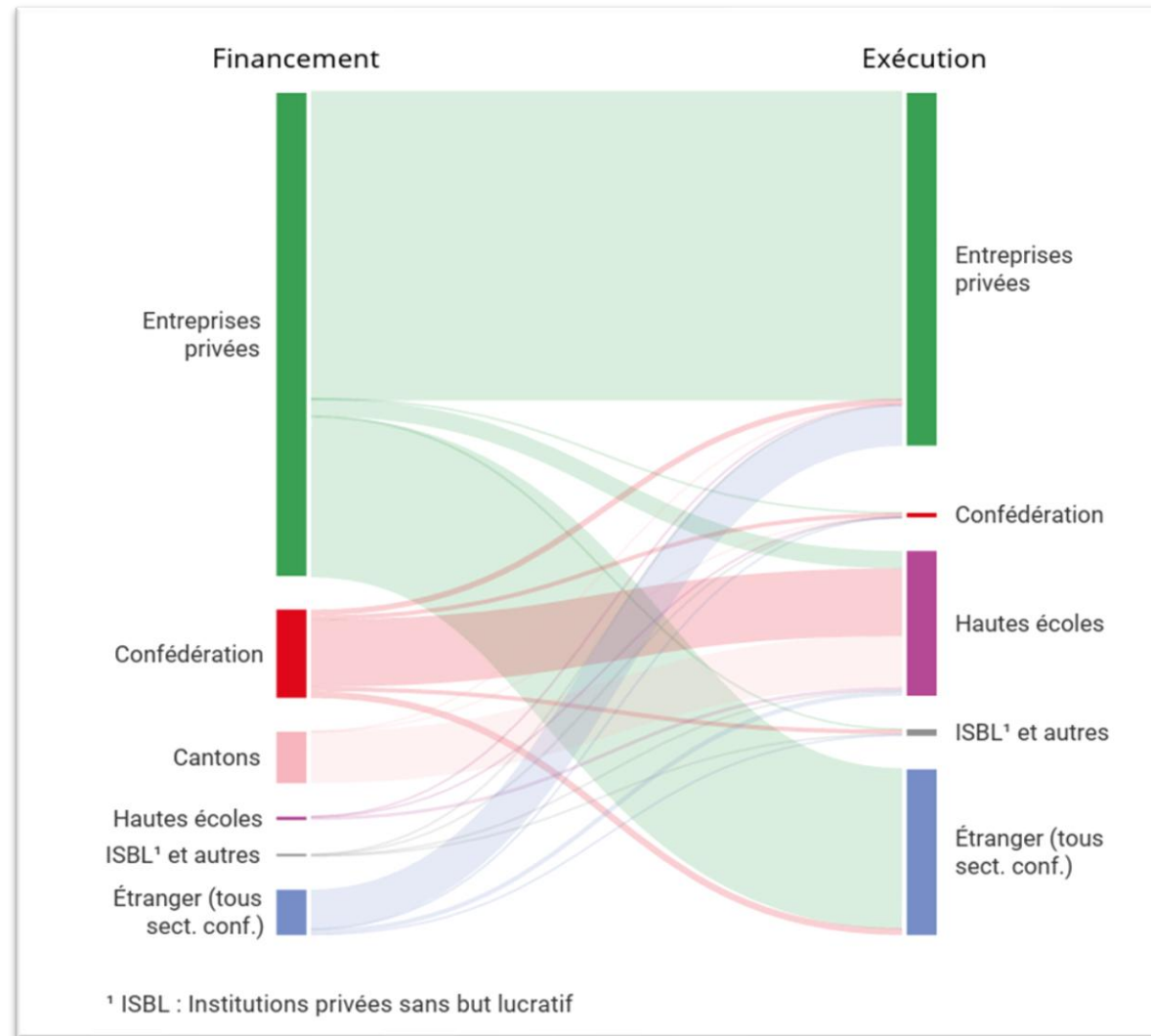
- 63% dual VET
- 28% general education

Source: FSO (2021)

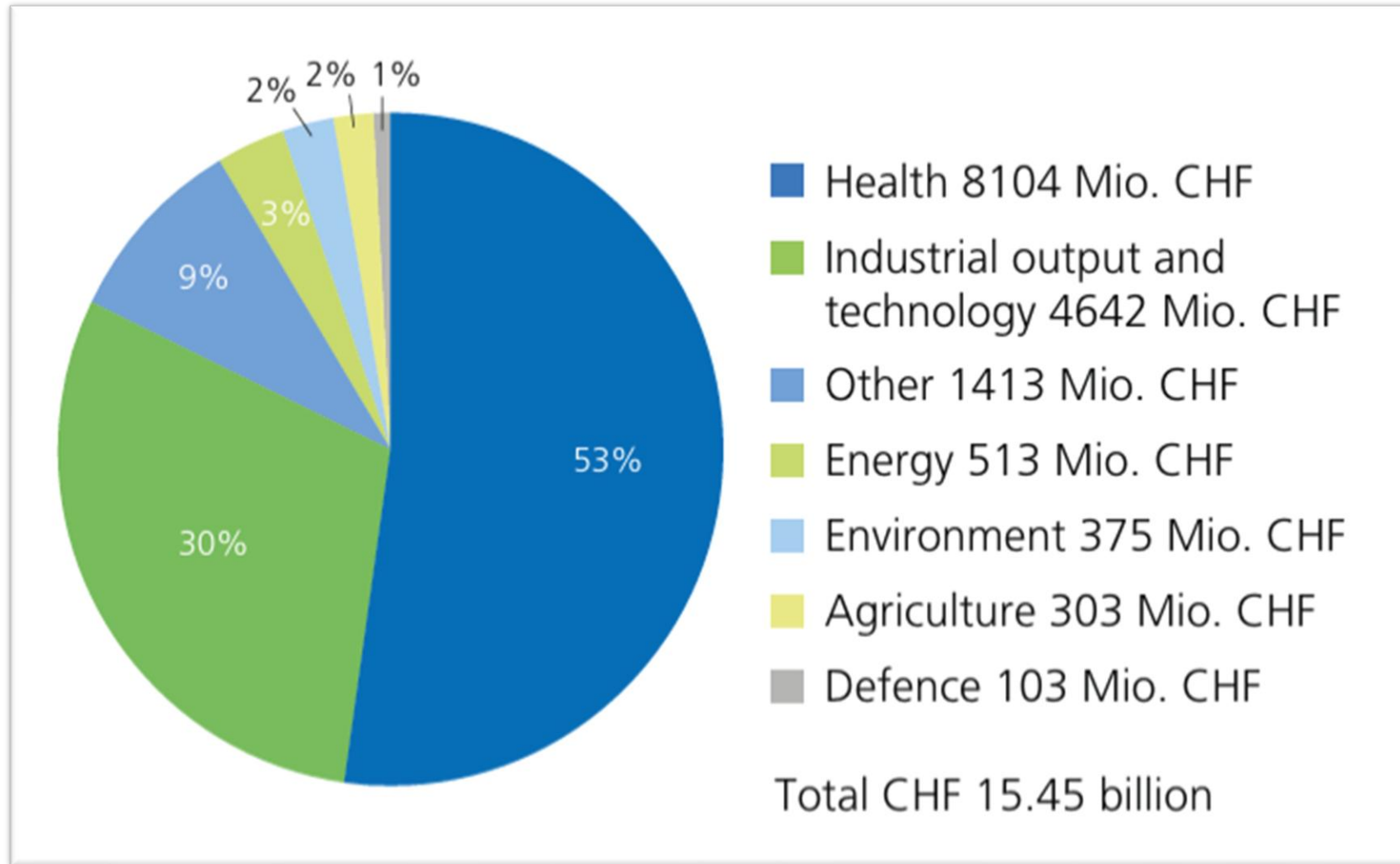
GDP Investment in R&D



Sources of Swiss R&D funding

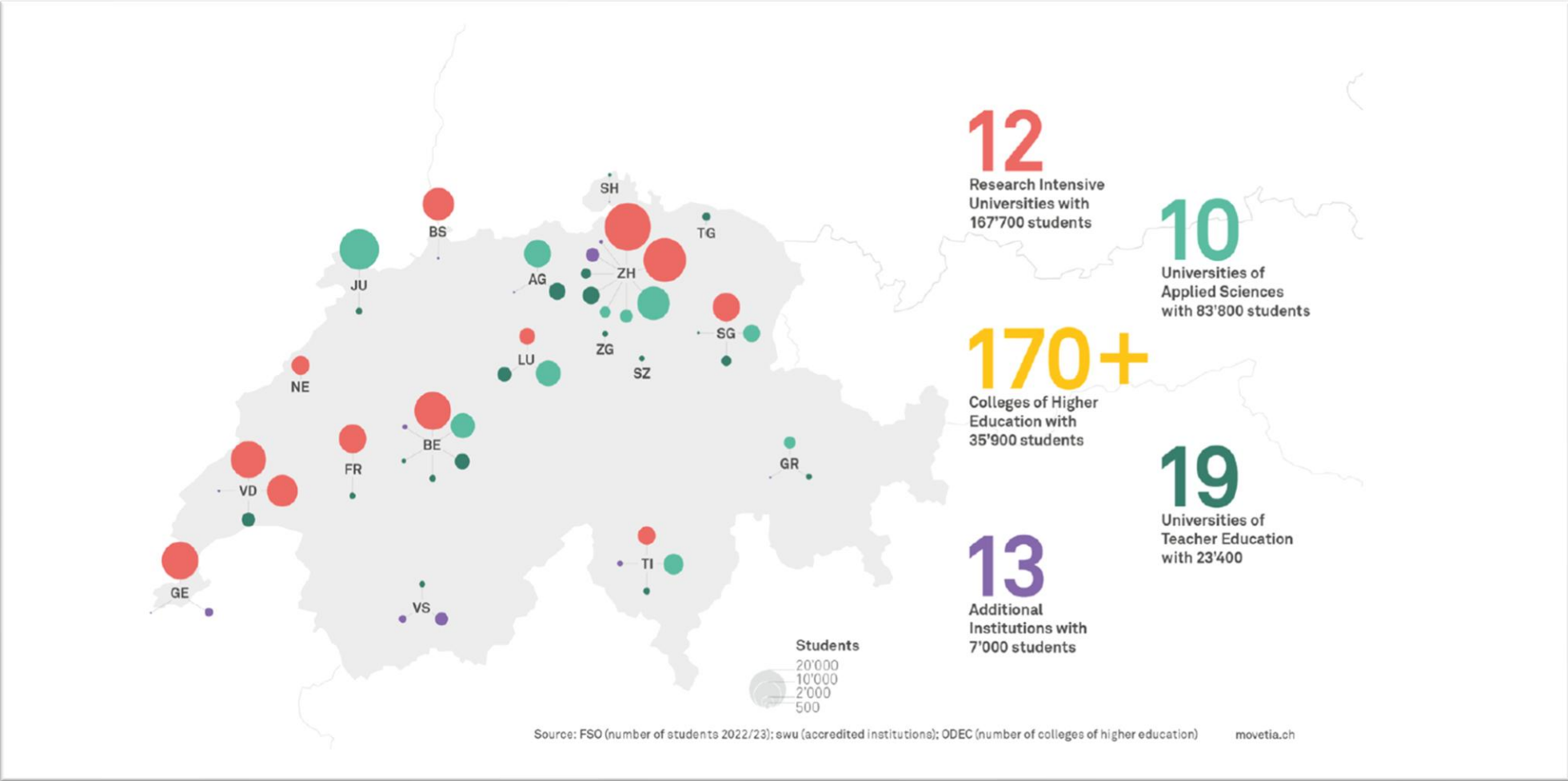


Business enterprise expenditure on R&D in Switzerland by objective





Swiss higher education landscape



European Universities Alliances with CH partners – Swiss funding





Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH) Domain

- **ETH Zurich and EPFL** are **universities** specialized in **engineering and natural sciences**.
- **Four Research Institutes** (video on [4 Research Institutes](#)):
 - Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI)
 - Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)
 - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (Empa)
 - Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).



Swiss National Science Foundation

- **Swiss funding agency for bottom-up basic and applied research**, but with some top-down approaches:
 - National Research Programmes ([NRPSs](#)): thematic, policy-relevant research (e.g., biodiversity, digital transformation)
 - National Centres of Competence in Research ([NCCRs](#)): long-term excellence centers (e.g., antibiotic-resistance, quantum).
- Some cooperation opportunities:
 - EU Cooperation in Science and Technology([COST](#))
 - [Second CH contribution](#) to selected EU Member States: PROMYS, Multilateral Call MAPs, SCIEX)
 - [WEAVE / Lead Agency](#)
 - [Scientific Exchanges](#)
 - [European Partnerships](#) and other multilateral initiatives
 - [Bilateral calls](#).



Innosuisse

- **Swiss innovation agency**, with a **bottom-up** approach, but with some top-down priorities for specific instruments:
 - [Flagship initiative](#): Industry (SMEs and startups) and higher education institutions to address economic and societal challenges.

- Some collaboration opportunities:
 - [EUROSTARS](#)
 - [EUREKA](#)
 - [Co-funded European Partnerships](#)
 - [Bilateral calls](#).

European Partnerships



Innosuisse
Swiss Innovation Agency





Switzerland's membership in ERICs

- ACTRIS ERIC
- BBMRI ERIC
- CESSDA ERIC
- CLARIN ERIC
- DARIAH ERIC
- ECRIN ERIC
- EPOS ERIC
- ESSurvey ERIC
- ICOS ERIC





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THANK YOU



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