

# **IFS Workshop**

**Should and can the institutional links  
between donors be strengthened?**

Berne, 9 November 2009  
Elisabeth Schenker



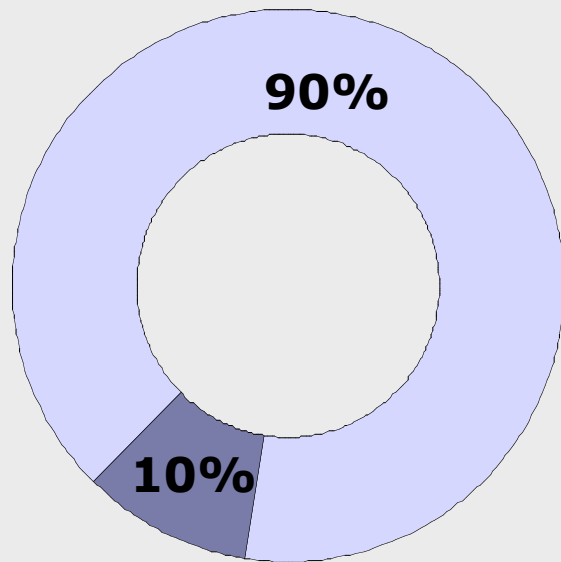
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

# Key features of SNSF

- \_ Founded in 1952 as a foundation under private law; self-governing body of Swiss science
- \_ Main instrument of Switzerland for funding investigator-driven & targeted research and for promoting young scientists
- \_ Pure funding agency (without research institutes)
- \_ Autonomy: political influence mainly on overall budget and general themes in targeted research; no political influence on individual project decisions
- \_ Principles: Peer review, competition
- \_ Budget: ca. € 475 Mio. (2009)

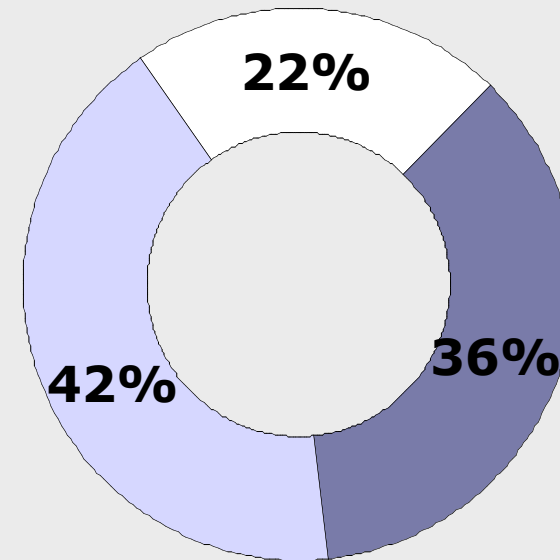
# Use of funds 2008

Investigator-driven Research



Targeted Research

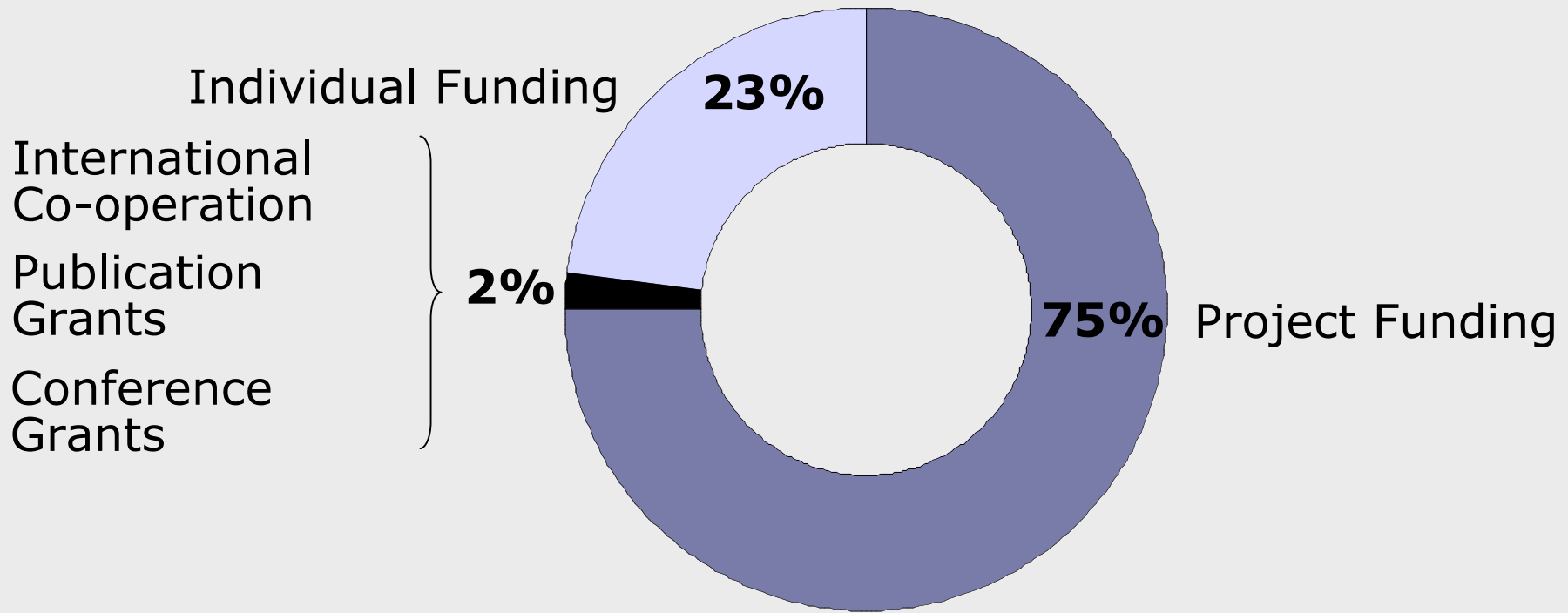
Humanities and Social Sciences



Biology and  
Medicine

Mathematics, Natural and  
Engineering Sciences

# Investigator-driven Research 2008



# Joint funding schemes: Forms of co-operation

- \_ Complementary Organisations  
e.g. Research funding Agency and Development Agency
  
- \_ Similar Organisations  
e.g. two Research Funding Agency

Co-operation can be national or international

# Joint funding schemes: Co-operation SNSF - SDC

- \_ Leading funding bodies in their field in Switzerland
- \_ Putting together know-how and funds
- \_ First common programme in 1990

# Joint Funding Schemes

## Joint programmes SNSF-SDC

- \_ SCOPES, Eastern Europe (since 1990)
- \_ Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (since 1999)
- \_ National Centre of Competence in Research, NCCR-North/South (since 2001)

# Joint funding schemes:

## To get a common ground on:

- \_ The principles and the aim of the programme
- \_ Type of research (basic research, applied research)
- \_ Bottom-up or top-down approach
- \_ Specific themes or open to all disciplines/open call
- \_ Eligibility criteria for applicants
- \_ Evaluation procedure

# Benefits of co-operation

- \_ More know-how and experiences involved
- \_ More money involved
- \_ Synergies between the organisations
- \_ Better projects with more impact

**Thank you for your  
attention**

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