

Press Release

September 1st 2011

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

Fourth call: 28 projects from excellent young researchers selected

In its fourth call, the Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) awards 2.2 million Swiss Francs to 28 projects from Hungarian, Lithuanian, Slovakian and Slovenian top researchers. The funding allows the researchers to carry out a part of their research at a Swiss institution. The Programme Sciex-NMS^{ch} – which is open to all scientific disciplines - aims at promoting young talented researchers from the New Member States of the EU and simultaneously at enhancing the Swiss scientific network.

The Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) - part of the Swiss contribution to the EU enlargement - aims at establishing scientific partnerships in order to develop, on the long term, individual researchers' capacities, to foster innovation and to establish networks between researchers. 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 fourth call, open to Hungary, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia and concluded on April 1st 2011, is again characterized by an increase in the number of submitted proposals.

A selection based on scientific excellence

96 eligible proposals were submitted and 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 August 24th 2011 in order to select the proposals on the basis of the results of the evaluation and the budget available.

Concerning Hungary, as a result of the increased number of submitted proposals on the one hand and the available budget on the other hand, it was not possible to fund all proposals that the experts had recommended to support on the basis of their excellent scientific quality.

28 excellent researchers will carry out part of their research at a Swiss institution

Altogether, the projects of 28 excellent researchers from Hungary (8), Lithuania (8), the Slovak Republic (8) and Slovenia (4) were selected.

Among the selected researchers, 13 are Doctoral Candidates and 15 are PostDocs – and 12 are female researchers.

Although the Sciex-NMS^{ch} Programme is open to all scientific disciplines, the majority of the selected projects concerns the natural and technical sciences: Chemistry (7 projects), Physics (5 projects), Basic Biological Research (4 projects) and Engineering Sciences (3 projects). 5 projects will be conducted in the Human and Social Sciences.

A financial commitment of more than 2.2 million Swiss francs

The total amount allocated for the fourth call amounts to 2.2 million Swiss francs - devoted to covering the costs for salaries and travel expenses of the researchers and split as follows: ca. 620'000 CHF for the projects from each of the three New Member States Hungary, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic and less than 380'000 CHF for Slovenian projects.

The list of all 28 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 28 projects between the Swiss universities and research institutes

14 researchers will be integrated in a university:

- University of Basel: 1
- University of Fribourg: 3
- University of Geneva: 5
- University of Lausanne: 1
- University of St-Gallen: 1
- University of Zurich: 3

8 in a Swiss Federal Institute of Technology:

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne: 5
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich: 3

3 in a Swiss Federal Research Institute:

- EMPA - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology: 2
- PSI - Paul Scherrer Institute: 1

3 in a university of applied sciences:

- HES-SO - University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland: 1
- ZHAW - Zurich University of Applied Sciences: 2.

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