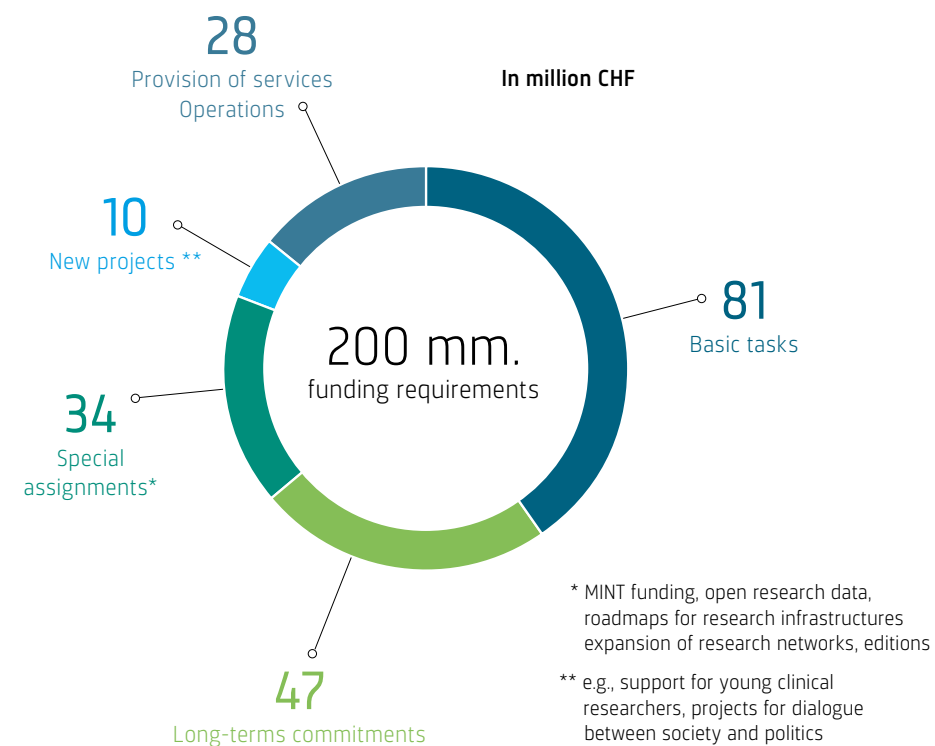


## Investing for a strong science

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are in a position to provide their services at a comparatively low cost. This is only possible thanks to their broad network and the voluntary work of countless members.

Due to this, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are one of the most efficient institutions in the ERI sector, despite their size. They received a total of less than one hundredth of the total ERI budget in federal funding for the years 2021–2024, i.e. 0.63 %.

To be able to continue performing and further developing its core tasks in an optimal way, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences need CHF 200 million for the upcoming programme period, which corresponds to a budget increase of 3.2 % per year. Without this budget, projects that support young scientists as well as science dialogue and clinical research initiatives will be at risk. The Academies have accumulated valuable know-how in these areas over the years and want to continue making it available for the benefit of our country.



## Knowledge creates trust

Democracy and knowledge are the foundations for Switzerland's success. When faced with far-reaching scientific, technological and societal changes, it is particularly crucial to develop options for action at the national and international levels, to describe interrelationships, establish networks and seek a dialogue with the population. This is important to explain the contribution of science to the well-being of our democratic society. As independent platform and as part of their core mission, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences bring together and network different actors in the scientific community, conduct the dialogue with society and advise politicians and authorities. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences set their priorities in Digitalisation, Health and Sustainable Development. In those areas they are committed to serving science, politics, economy and society with events, publications, support for young scientists and advisory activities.

We promote Switzerland as a science location

We strengthen the economy in a sustainable way

We seek the exchange with society

We provide political authorities with advice



→ To the Strategic multi-annual programme 2025-2028



## STRATEGIC MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2025–2028

## The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

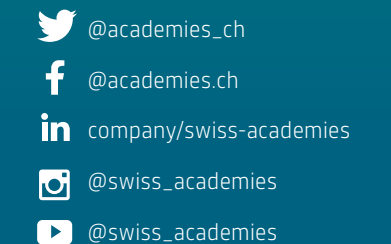
The association Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences a+ is the largest scientific network in Switzerland. With over 100'000 members working as volunteers, we build bridges between science, society, economy and politics.

The association Swiss Academies a+ consists of four academies for natural sciences (SCNAT), humanities and social sciences (SAHS), medical sciences (SAMS) and technological sciences (SATW) as well as the competence centres Science et Cité and TA-SWISS. Together they encompass 154 specialist societies, 132 commissions as well as 29 cantonal and regional societies. The Swiss Young Academy connects early career academics.

The association Swiss Academies a+ strengthens awareness of the sciences as a central pillar for cultural and economic development. Its broad-based support makes it a representative partner for the political authorities. a+ networks scientific actors, provides expertise, promotes the dialogue between science and society, identifies and assesses scientific developments and lays a solid foundation for young scientists.

### Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

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## We promote Switzerland as a science location

Research and innovation are of crucial importance for Switzerland's sustainable social and economic development – also in competition with Europe and internationally. This is where the association of Swiss Academies plays a key role. It is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, open access to scientific knowledge and continuous development of the science system, for example in the area of research integrity.

The Swiss Academies link the research community across institutional, disciplinary and national boundaries, address broader societal issues and play a key role in identifying new research fields. In this context, the Swiss Academies set strategic priorities in Digitalisation, Health and Sustainable Development. The association of Swiss Academies a+ supports young scientists by disseminating knowledge and methods as well as through networking and mentoring. In addition, the association of Swiss Academies supports young scientists with subsidies and awards.

### Three core topics for the period 2025–2028:

- › a+ seeks to strengthen the science system in a sustainable way through transdisciplinary networking.
- › a+ helps to overcome national, regional and global challenges by creating knowledge bases.
- › a+ supports young scientists through networking, mentoring and subsidies.



**“Our world and our lives are full of challenges that need to be maneuvered with wisdom; scientific insights and methods often have the most promise to guide our way forward. Science academies are incredibly useful as staging grounds for such difficult discussions.”**

Thomas Zurbuchen,  
Former head of science at NASA (until end of 2022)

## We strengthen the economy in a sustainable way

Switzerland has committed to implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. To do so, business and industry are dependent on innovation from research and technology. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences help to shape this process, for example with studies on scenarios for the future such as the “Technology Outlook” and on economically-relevant issues such as innovative capacity. Efforts are coordinated at a national level and practice-oriented research networks are being initiated, for example in artificial intelligence – also in cooperation with universities of applied sciences.

Programmes for the advancement of women are important for Switzerland as a business location, as is strengthening the awareness that natural and technical sciences are a central pillar of our country's economic development. The association of the Swiss Academies a+ also engages at the primary and secondary school levels, with the aim of stimulating pupils' interest in mathematics, information technology, natural sciences and technology in particular (MINT subjects), thus helping to overcome the shortage of skilled personnel.

### Three core topics for the period 2025–2028:

- › a+ is committed to promoting MINT skills and digital maturity.
- › a+ is expanding the interfaces between science and business with instruments such as an industry advisory council.
- › a+ provides assessments of the opportunities and risks of new technologies for business and society in Switzerland.



**“Ricerca e sviluppo sono e restano i motori trainanti che assicurano un futuro sostenibile sia all'industria che alle PMI. L'analisi critica del potenziale di innovazione e il technology outlook sono fonti di informazioni preziose per le nostre aziende.”**

Monica Duca Widmer,  
Direttrice e Titolare Ecorisana SA

## We seek the exchange with society

The system of direct democracy depends on the dissemination and explanation of scientific facts, because they serve as a basis for public and private debates that shape societal development. The association of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences a+ plays a key role in this context. Specialist societies located in the regions foster a basic understanding of how science works (“scientific literacy”) with their lectures and excursions.

The Swiss academies also use accessible and innovative forms of communication to exchange ideas with society, to share knowledge and to support opinion-forming. In this way, not only people interested in science are reached, but also new groups of all ages. In doing so, the Swiss academies rely on the dialogue between researchers and citizens, dialogue on digital channels and dialogue between Swiss science communication actors.

### Three core topics for the period 2025–2028:

- › a+ is committed to fostering discussion and understanding between science and society.
- › a+ promotes the inclusion of new target groups and sections in the population in the “science and society” dialogue.
- › a+ networks Swiss science communication actors and is recognised as a central and trusted science communication partner.



**“Les Académies des sciences jouent un rôle important d'interface entre les journalistes scientifiques et la société, en pourvoyant des informations de fond qui couvrent toute la recherche scientifique effectuée en Suisse dans les domaines ciblés.”**

Olivier Dessibourg,  
Journaliste et éditeur scientifique

## We provide political authorities with advice

The coronavirus pandemic clearly showed that crises can only be tackled effectively and based on facts in a close dialogue between science and political authorities. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences strengthen the discussion between scientific disciplines, political authorities and practice. In interdisciplinary networks they develop options for action that do justice to the complexity of political challenges. The focus here is on major issues such as global warming, ageing society, consumption, energy shortage and cybersecurity.

The association of the Swiss Academies a+ is mandated by the federal government to foster the dialogue between science and politics. Reports, factsheets, statements, etc. serve as a basis to fulfil this mandate in a wide variety of forums and events, such as the Ageing Society platform, the Swiss Global Change Day, briefings, information events, etc. Action-oriented reports (e.g. Energy System 2050, Turning the Tide on Climate and Biodiversity) provide political actors with reliable information for their decision-making.

### Three core topics for the period 2025–2028:

- › a+ reinforces the dialogue between science and political authorities by deepening cooperation among science institutions and systematically building bridges for a dialogue with politics (establishing scientific policy advice).
- › a+ takes part in political consultation processes and drafts statements on current topics.
- › a+ delegates experts to international projects and activities to provide scientific policy advice.



**“Als Politikerin bin ich auf Erkenntnisse der Wissenschaft angewiesen. Die Politik braucht für ihre Entscheidungen ‘facts and figures’, nicht einfach Meinungen. Die Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz spielen dabei eine wichtige Rolle.”**

Eva Herzog,  
Ständerätin Basel-Stadt