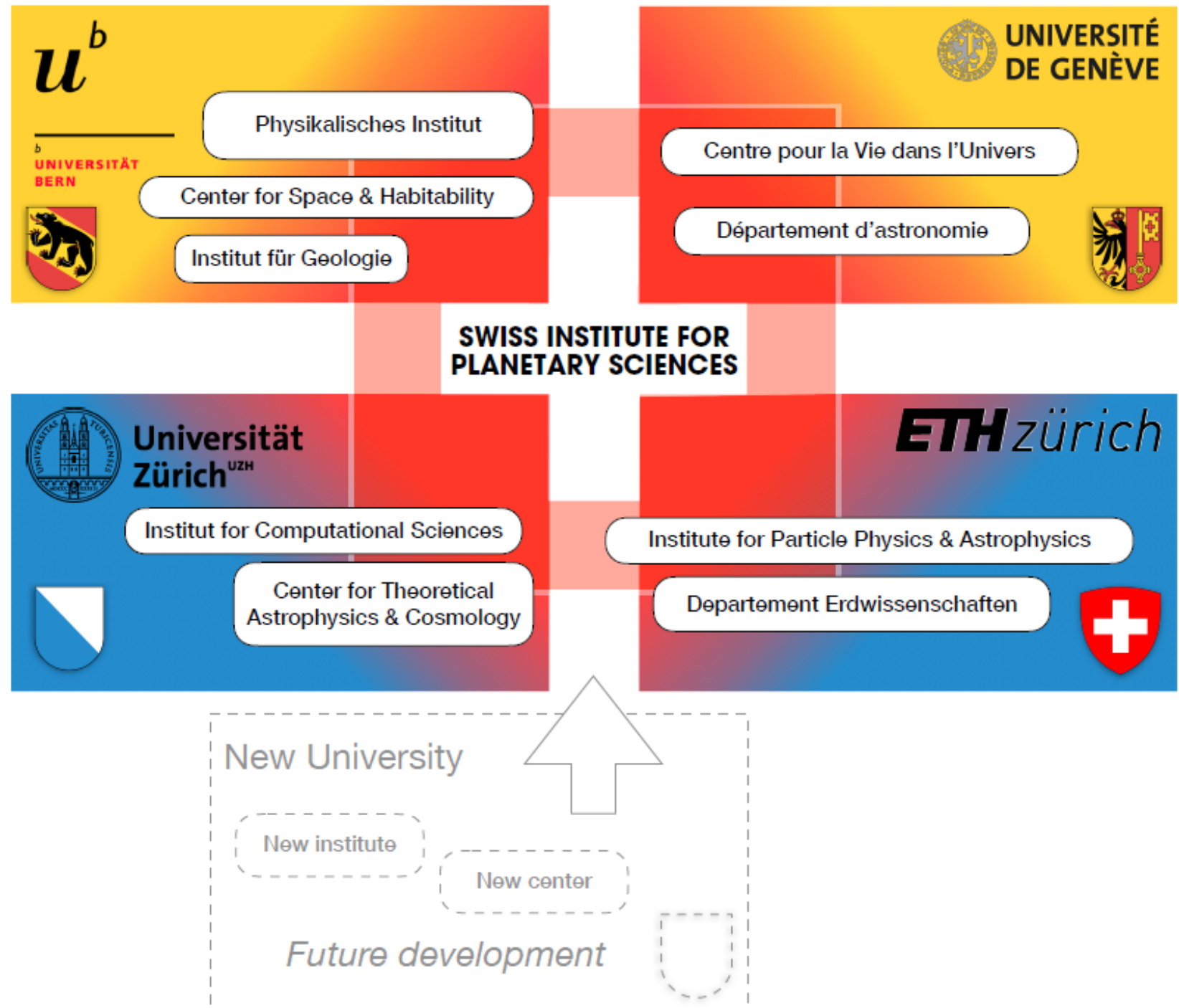


# Swiss Institute for Planetary Sciences (SIPS)

An infrastructure to support global leadership in planetary sciences

SIPS is to be seen as a coordinating and integrating institution to optimize scientific return on investment



## Topics in this Report

- Article 15 funding?
- Document status
- Initiating collaborations on flagships
- Legal advice on setting up the entity

# Article 15 funding

- “Article 15” refers to the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA)

## 420.1

*English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.*

### **Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA)**

of 14 December 2012 (Status as of 1 January 2020)

#### **Art. 15** Contributions to research facilities of national importance

<sup>1</sup> As part of its approved budget, the Federal Council may make contributions to research facilities of national importance. Federal contributions may be linked to certain conditions, namely the condition of reorganising or merging the research facilities concerned.

<sup>2</sup> It may delegate to the EAER the responsibility for decisions regarding contributions. Rules of jurisdiction in specific legal provisions are reserved.

<sup>3</sup> Research facilities under paragraph 1 may be legally independent facilities of the following types:

- a. non-commercial research infrastructures based outside higher education institutions or which are associated with them, in particular auxiliary scientific services in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation;

Three of the four schools have indicated that proposing SIPS to SBFI for an Article 15 funded institution is untimely.

## Why?

- The current financial situation is such that budget cuts are being implemented. New Art. 15 funding only for urgent needs. We understand that SBFI is actually looking to CUT the number of Art. 15 institutions in the coming round.
  - We have also been warned that Art. 15 is not a long term solution. Time limits on funding are being implemented (8 years max.)
- PlanetS already has SNSF funding through mid-2026. Art. 15 funding is on a four year cycle from 2025. Other programmes more in-need short term.
  - NB. We are not the only NCCR that has been asking questions of SBFI in this direction.
- Uni Bern has requested that SIPS be initiated first taking advantage of the in-kind contributions to the NCCR (~1.6-2.0 MCHF p.a. across all entities).

## SWGs

- Preliminary definition of the goals of each element of SIPS.
- First draft documents available for
  - Research and strategic vision
  - Culture
  - Technology and Innovation
  - Education
- Data still needs work

These documents will form the basis for the activities of SIPS.

## SWG 2 Statement

- The mission SIPS is to provide, using the NCCR PlanetS as a stepping stone, the ecosystem in which planetary scientists can interact and develop world-class scientific, technological and educational projects.
- Our vision is that SIPS will sustain and expand the role of Switzerland as a major player in the characterization of (potentially) habitable worlds and in the detection of signs of extra-terrestrial life.
- The strategy we propose is **to foster the development of identified areas of excellence**, providing the Swiss planetary science community with the means and expertise to lead future flagship projects (in space and on the ground) aiming at understanding the uniqueness of Earth and our solar system, via the exploration of planetary environments (in and outside the solar system), including the detection of life.

## Flagships – From SWG 2

- A ground-based spectro-imaging facility (PCS)
- A mission (or a series of missions) towards the outer part of the solar system (Uranus or other)
- A mission (or a series of missions) aiming at bringing back to Earth samples from potentially habitable worlds (in particular from Mars) (MSR)
- A space-based interferometer (LIFE/Proto-LIFE)



# Discussion of infrastructure contributions towards flagships

- The Convention and Requirements documents state .....
- “The activities of SIPS shall facilitate access for the Swiss community to infrastructure, promote and coordinate national and international initiatives.”
- To this end, we will host a meeting to look at collaboration and use of infrastructure to support the pre-selected flagship programmes.
- This could ALSO be envisaged for appropriate programmes selected via the Open Calls in the future.

This will take place on Friday in Bern.

## Legal Status

- Convention and Requirements documents have been reviewed by the Legal Department of Uni Bern.

Alles in allem schätzen wir die Situation wie folgt ein:

- Die angehängten Dokumente bilden eine sachgerechte Grundlage für das weitere Verfolgen der definierten Ziele.
- Falls die Errichtung einer juristischen Person avisiert wird, scheint uns die Rechtsform eines Vereins vorteilhafter als jene einer Stiftung.

We are now clarifying with Geneva over the establishment of a “Verein” to initiate SIPS.