

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Innovation projects
2018/2021



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

“Moving the world with Swiss innovation”

The long-term impact goals of innovation promotion can be assigned to six outcomes.



*No results are available for this yet. Start-up coaching monitoring will begin in 2022.

Monitoring 2021

To measure the impact of the funding used, Innosuisse has been conducting a systematic impact assessment of all completed innovation projects since the beginning of 2021. This means that the benefits of innovation promotion can now be demonstrated with concrete figures and its development tracked over time.

I am pleased that the results from the first year impressively confirm the positive impacts of Innosuisse’s innovation promotion. The figures show that the implementation of the funded innovation projects creates numerous promising jobs and that the funds invested flow back into the national economy within a short period of time.

It is also gratifying to note that a large proportion of the projects funded deal with future-oriented topics such as sustainability or digitisation, thereby strengthening Switzerland’s long-term competitiveness.

Gérald Walti
CFO/Member of the Executive Committee of Innosuisse



Methodology

The impact assessment of the project funding is based on online surveys of the implementation partners at the end of the project and three years later. Therefore, in 2021, all implementation partners of projects completed in the current year (320) and all implementation partners of projects completed three years ago (2018) were surveyed (364). The survey’s response rate was 56% for projects completed in 2018 and 70% for projects completed in 2021.

The indicators surveyed refer to the strategic goals of the Federal Council and the formulated outcomes of innovation promotion. Based on the indicators, it is possible for the first time to estimate the economic impact of project funding. This estimate was carried out in cooperation with Ernst Basler und Partner.

Acceleration of cooperation and technology & knowledge transfer between research and industry

45%

of the companies are still collaborating with their research partner three years after project completion.

Innosuisse's project funding strengthens knowledge and technology transfer beyond the project's time period. Both will benefit from the continued cooperation in the long term: Business partners from access to knowledge, research partners from the further development and implementation of the innovation.

15%

of companies hire personnel from participating research institutions.

Knowledge and technology transfer is also promoted by employing research personnel from the projects at the companies. This further strengthens the innovative power of companies in the longer term. (Survey three years after project completion)

57%

of the companies develop further research and innovation ideas.

The funded projects stimulate further investment in research and development and the emergence of new research and innovation ideas. Two out of five companies involved in innovation projects invested additional financial resources in research and development three years after project completion as a result of the funded project.

Successful innovations that would not otherwise have come about due to risks

49%

of innovations are launched onto the market or in the organisation three years after project completion.

Innosuisse focuses on the business plans and the implementation of the projects on the market or in companies when assessing the applications submitted. The results prove that the projects are implemented quickly and successfully: In the phase of project completion, 21% of the projects are already implemented on the market or in the organization and 24% are planned to be implemented within one year.

78%

of the projects are still active three years after completion.

In addition to the 49% of projects already launched on the market, another 29% of projects are either close to launch or have a follow-on project underway. The remaining 22% of projects are not active anymore. This result is not surprising, since radical or disruptive innovation ideas with great economic potential are presumably associated with higher innovation risks.

70%

of the projects relate to product innovations.

Of the projects already launched on the market or in the implementation phase, 70% are product innovations, 30% are process innovations, 23% are service innovations and 7% are successful business-model innovations. (More than one type of innovation can apply.)

7%

of the projects would have been carried out in unchanged form even without funding from Innosuisse.

A further 19% would have been launched by the companies but in a downsized version. Three out of four projects would not have been realized at all or in a greatly reduced form.

22%

of the companies have already obtained or applied for a patent.

A clear sign of the impact of project funding is that one in three participating companies has become active regarding intellectual property regulation with patents (22%), copyrights (5%) or licensing agreements (6%).

Strengthening the economic and social impact of SMEs and companies

49%
of the companies
observed specific
economic effects.

Three years after project completion, specific economic effects can be demonstrated among the companies: In research and development investment growth (28%), total company employment growth (26%), additional research and development personnel (25%), sales growth (24%), or cost savings (11%). In addition, 27% of the companies see an improvement in market share.

1,080
jobs were created at
companies from the
364 projects completed
in 2018.

A funded project creates an average of three full-time jobs after three years. For each job created, the total cost of the funding is CHF 122,000.

5.1
Swiss francs in added value
from one funding franc
after three years.

One Swiss franc invested in innovation projects leads to an additional value added of 5.1 Swiss francs for companies over a period of three years. The 1,080 jobs from all projects completed in 2018 generate 224 million Swiss francs in economic value added in one year. (Not included here are indirect effects on the national economy via additional spending by these companies).

Strengthening innovation activities, especially in areas with disruptive potential

45%

of funded projects pursue radical or disruptive forms of innovation.

Radical technologies or innovations with disruptive effects, which thus entail completely new rules of the game in the innovation and competitive markets, are often risky. Innosuisse supports innovative companies and their innovations which otherwise would not have been carried out due to high risks, despite great economic potential. 34% of completed projects pursue radical technologies. 28% suggest potentially disruptive market impacts.

30%

of respondents describe their innovation as a world market novelty.

Switzerland is the most innovative country in the world, according to international rankings. Every third innovation supported by Innosuisse is a world market novelty: yet more proof of the success of Switzerland's public innovation promotion.

Increased innovation activities on future key issues and social challenges

55%

of projects deal with digital solutions.

The ongoing digital transformation is a strong driver of innovation. Many innovation projects use digitisation to create completely new and innovative business models as part of their process, product or service innovations. Swiss companies thus gain long-term competitive advantages in existing or new markets. (Data from projects completed in 2021)

58%

of the projects concern environmental and social sustainability.

Ensuring sustainability in the economy, society and the environment is an enormous challenge. More than half of the innovation projects funded are concerned with sustainability issues. 48% of projects target environmental sustainability issues and 26% target social sustainability. Three years after completion, 17% of the companies see a high social and societal benefit in the funded projects.

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency
Einsteinstrasse 2
3003 Bern

www.innosuisse.ch