

# Swiss Electoral Studies (Selects)

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## A short history of electoral research in Switzerland

Surveys on political behaviour developed along post-referenda surveys from 1980 on.

1995 «new start» into electoral research with Selects series.

Since 2008 integrated into a new national research centre in social science (FORS), together with other large surveys (household panel, SHARE, ESS, ISSP) and a data archive.

Funding mainly through the Swiss National Science Foundation, since 2011 «infrastructure» status.

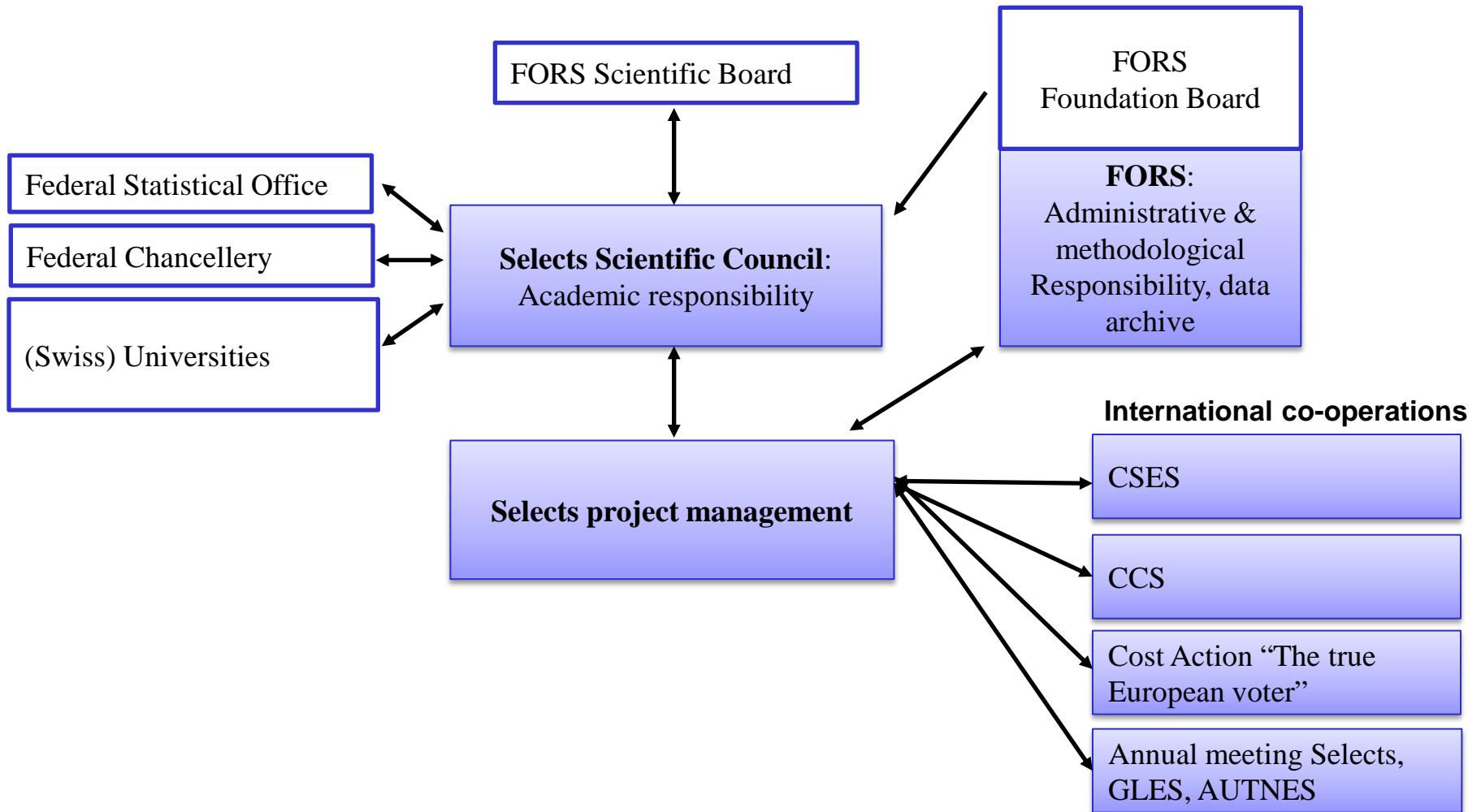
## Challenges

How to establish an election study as a long term project?  
How to balance stability and innovation?

How to deal with a relatively small (Swiss) scientific  
community doing electoral research?

How to secure funding in the long run?

# Inclusive governance and network



## Instruments and procedures

Core instruments:

- **Post-election survey** (mixed mode CATI/Online, ~ 3500 interviews, oversampling of small cantons)
- **RCS/Panel Survey & media analysis** (online only, around 6000 interviews in RCS wave)
- **Candidate survey** (among all about 3500 candidates)

Questionnaire development:

- Assuring **stability**: Core questionnaires
- **Openness** not just of the data, but of the study content: **Call for modules** (internationally)
- Assuring **comparability**: International modules (CSES, CCS)

# The new 2015 RCS design (online interviews only)

