

**WE**  
**CHAIR**

AN INDEPENDENT  
ACADEMIC CHAIR  
CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM

# **Problem**

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Public universities are increasingly being subject to budget cuts and restrictions

**RESEARCH:** often unthinkable to open new areas of research

**EDUCATION:** less faculty staff for delivering the same training to the students

# **Problem**

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## **Public Private Partnerships (PPP)**

Very competitive funding / difficult to obtain

Often ultimately rely on public funding after several years

Applied research favored rather than longer term basic science

Possible conflicts of interest / Possible damage to the credibility of scientific research

# **Solution**

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## **The 4P model: Public Private People Partnership**

Implemented as crowdfunding web platform

For people & public & private institutions

Discover & support quality education & research projects

# Values

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**SHARING** access to new funding resources for research, education and service to the community

**SUPPORTING** the development of science as a commons

**COMMITMENT** to a sustainable Information Society

*Ensure these values will remain at the heart of the project by building it as a Swiss fondation*

# Benefits

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**The unique value of crowdfunding is not money:  
it's community**

Crowdfunding may be one way of solving both public disengagement with science and the difficulty of funding research

# Benefits

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## Favor open notebook science

Education: give people a vision of science as it is being made rather than as an established truth

Communication: a greater understanding of the process of research may reduce ambivalent media reporting

# Benefits

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## **Favor open access and open source**

Catalyse collaboration and research dissemination

Popularize research to the public - including kids

Opened knowledge capital is a source of positive spill-overs  
to private sector productivity

# Benefits

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## Streamline research funding

Centralize funding sources on one platform

So that researchers spend more time on their research and less time writing project grants

Online scientific community based peer review and evaluation (reviewer e-reputation approach)

# Any concerns?

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## Will this lead to a race to the bottom?

A common concern is that crowdfunding will only be viable for projects with lowest common denominator public appeal, such as projects with charismatic large animals (« panda bear science »), a human health aspect, or some other element that has a populist appeal, regardless of the scientific importance of the project

*Results in the field of theater projects funding suggest a significant agreement between the funding decisions of crowds and experts: so let's be optimistic*

# Contributors

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