

WE
CHAIR

AN INDEPENDENT
ACADEMIC CHAIR
CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM

Problem

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

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

The 4P model: Public Private People Partnership

Implemented as crowdfunding web platform

For people & public & private institutions

Discover & support quality education & research projects

Values

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

**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

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

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

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?

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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