

NCCR FINRISK

The National Centre of Competence in Research “FINRISK: Financial Valuation and Risk Management” is tasked with understanding the risks associated with financial decision-making, and the influence of such risks on asset and firm valuation. The Centre promotes multidisciplinary approaches and active networking among its academic membership in Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano, St. Gallen and Zurich.

Switzerland has a prominent place in the world of finance and banking. Yet at the time FINRISK was established in 2001, many academics believed that there was a pressing need to intensify Switzerland’s research efforts in the field of finance and to better coordinate these efforts across the country’s various academic centres.

FINRISK set about addressing this need by attracting world-class researchers to Switzerland. Having achieved this, it now has an established research program focusing on financial and non-financial risk factors affecting wealth creation, as well as the optimal functioning of financial institutions.

This research program is broadly organized into five domains spanning asset pricing and portfolio management, corporate finance, credit risk and non-standard sources of risk in finance, quantitative methods, and banking and regulation. Key research questions include: What are the risks confronting our financial system? How should we evaluate them? And what are the implications of these risks for financial institutions, corporations and the economy at large?

The Centre has made a major contribution towards the harmonization of Swiss doctoral education in the field of finance and has direct involvement in advanced doctoral courses, workshops, and regular research seminars. An independent scientific council of prominent international finance researchers conducts regular quality assessments of FINRISK’s research activities.

Today, FINRISK has greatly increased the visibility of Swiss research in top international finance journals and constitutes an important pillar in Switzerland’s strategic investment in its financial services sector.

Moreover, the initiative has been granted a more permanent place in the Swiss academic landscape with the establishment, in 2006, of the Swiss Finance Institute Foundation. FINRISK’s reputation for excellence in finance research and doctoral education, as well as its ties with Swiss industry, will eventually operate under the banner of the new Foundation.