



## A growing institution

- Granted in 2021 the status of **National research infrastructure** and establishment of SPI as an **independent foundation**
- Substantial increase in funding through Swiss Confederation + current academic partners (EPFL, ETHZ, WSL, UNIL, UNIBE, UZH) + private foundations
- Will enable the launch of a new ambitious Swiss Polar Programme - **SPI Flagship initiatives as well as long term international partnerships / participation in international programmes**



## COVID-19 impact

- Funding granted to Swiss research groups:
  - Some were able to go to the field or find alternatives through international partnerships / data sharing
  - About 50% of projects postponed – SPI handling requests with flexibility (grants prolonged)
- Postponement of own plans (expedition envisaged with AARI-Geomar postponed from 2020)
- Multiple events and workshops in online or blended mode to keep community together but also to inform on issues related to COVID (“ask-the-expert” workshops)



## SPI Flagship initiatives

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### An ambitious Swiss-led polar programme

- Ambitious **multi-annual** programmes (max 4 years) **combining** science and technology projects from different disciplines and different groups/institutions in CH around a polar or high-altitude focus region
- **Funding** focused on field campaigns (logistics, safety, ...) and data management in order to provide a **temporary infrastructure**.
- **International** collaboration and synergies with national/international programmes highly valued
- Call launched 1 February 2021 – results to be announced in December 2021

Photo: Alexis Berne (Exploratory Grant 2018)



# SWISS POLAR INSTITUTE

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**Thank you for your attention!**

- ✓ Follow SPI on Twitter: **@swisspolar** for all news and calls for projects
- ✓ Check out [www.swisspolar.ch](http://www.swisspolar.ch)
- ✓ Drop us a line if you would like to be included in our contact list for new opportunities/events