



To Higher Education Institutions involved in European cooperation in education

Our reference: wj/la
Berne, 12 October 2017

Swiss-European mobility and cooperation in education: Funding opportunities for 2018-2020

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Within the European education programme Erasmus+, Switzerland has the status of a third country ("partner country" in the Erasmus+ terminology). Swiss institutions can only participate in a reduced number of activities and only under the conditions applying to organisations from "partner countries" as described in the Erasmus+ programme guide.

To ensure the continuity of the mobility activities and cooperation of Swiss education institutions with the Erasmus+ programme countries, the Swiss Federal Council has established a Swiss-funded interim solution for Erasmus+ 2014-2017.

In the coming weeks, the Swiss parliament will decide on the Federal Council's proposal to maintain and develop these funding opportunities in the years 2018-2020. Both Switzerland and the European Commission agreed that it would be the most efficient way forward to concentrate further efforts on an association of Switzerland to the successor of Erasmus+.

For higher education mobility projects, the main features of the Swiss indirect participation to Erasmus+ in the years 2018-2020 are:

- Funding for higher education mobility projects is provided under the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP), it follows the principles of Erasmus+;
- Student mobility for studies and staff mobility for teaching are based on inter-institutional agreements between Swiss and European higher education institutions (HEI);
- Swiss HEIs can apply for Swiss funding of outgoing and incoming mobility activities (key action 1) with any Erasmus+ programme country. The grants for both outgoing and incoming mobilities will be paid by the Swiss HEIs to the ultimate beneficiaries;
- The activities include all types of mobility: student mobility for studies and student mobility for traineeships, staff mobility for teaching and staff mobility for training. Traineeships in Switzerland can only be funded if they are coordinated by a Swiss partner HEI;
- In 2017, the amount awarded to students coming to Switzerland for study purposes is between CHF 360 and CHF 420 (approx. EUR 310-370), for traineeships CHF 420 (approx. EUR 370). Although the amount for 2018 has not yet been set, no substantial changes are to be expected.

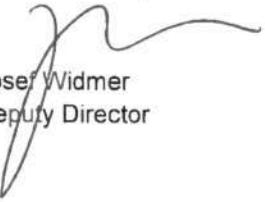
Swiss HEIs can participate in Erasmus+ cooperation projects (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships) in two ways:

- Either within the framework of the interim solution, i.e. Swiss HEIs can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships as "associated partners" and apply for national funding.
- Or Swiss HEIs can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships as "full partners" (benefiting from funding from Erasmus+) on condition that they bring added value to the project.

For more details and for information about the funding in other education sectors please consult the website of Movetia, the agency that is newly in charge of the implementation of the Swiss solution for Erasmus+ as of January 2017 (www.movetia.ch).

We hope to pursue fruitful cooperation with all our partners in order to continue to have an open and innovative education system.

Kind regards



Josef Widmer
Deputy Director