



## Switzerland's participation in Erasmus+

Information dated 22 February 2019

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI updates its information on Erasmus+ on an ongoing basis:

- Switzerland has third-country status in the current Erasmus+ (2014–2020) with. From 2018 to 2020, a Swiss solution provides legal and planning certainty for Swiss participants. Parliament approved funding for this programme on 27 November 2017.
- The Swiss solution makes mobility activities in Europe possible in all educational areas.
- Swiss institutions can still act as project partners with third-country status (partner country) in Erasmus+ cooperation projects. However, they do not enjoy full participation rights.
- The Federal Council is closely following the ongoing discussions in the EU on the follow-up programme to Erasmus+ (2021–2027). Once the programme parameters are known, it will consider the question of association, carefully taking into account the cost-benefit ratio involved.
- If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the Federal Council will rapidly undertake to make the necessary legislative changes in order to avoid any financial shortfall for mobility between Switzerland and the UK.

### A. Facts

#### Erasmus+ (2014–2020)

- An overview of the structure of Erasmus + and its different programme areas can be found on the [SERI website](#).
- Full information can be found on the website of the European Commission, including all ongoing calls for tenders and proposals and an overview of the various ways in which institutions from partner countries can participate ([programme guide](#)).

### B. Conditions and recommendations for the applicant

#### B.1 Mobility projects (Key Action 1)

Swiss citizens should submit their applications to **Movetia**, the organisation responsible for implementing the interim solution for exchange and mobility. The exact conditions and application procedure for mobility projects at all educational levels are published on the Movetia website.

#### B.2 Cooperation projects and support for policy reform (Key Actions 2 / 3)

Swiss institutions can take part in these actions either as an EU-funded full partner or as a self-funded associated partner.

- Full partner: Swiss institutions can continue to participate under the regular Erasmus+ call procedure and are funded directly from the EU budget. However, special conditions apply. For example,

institutions in Switzerland cannot assume the coordination of a project and applications must respect the necessary minimum number of partners and programme countries (which does not include Switzerland). These project participations do not receive any further financial support from SERI.

- Associated partner: alternatively, Swiss institutions can participate in a project as an associated partner. In this case, EU funding is not available, but institutions can apply for financial support from Movetia. Swiss applicants must show that their project has been accepted by the relevant EU agencies and that their participation contributes to joint federal and cantonal educational objectives. Details of how to apply for project funding can be found on the Movetia website.

Unlike under Erasmus+, all activities in the Jean Monnet programme area are open to partners and coordinators from partner countries including Switzerland.

### **C. Funding**

- The Federal Assembly approved funding for the Swiss solution for Erasmus 2018–2020 on 27 November 2017. Priority has been given to mobility. The part of the budget allocated to institutional cooperation projects has been considerably curtailed compared to the situation when Switzerland had full association in the programme.
- The amount of funding is determined by the provisions of the Ordinance on International Cooperation in Education, Professional Education and Training, Youth Affairs and Mobility (ICEMO; SR 414.513).

### **D. Impact on mobility of the UK's withdrawal from the EU**

SERI has launched a total revision of the Federal Act on International Cooperation in Education, Professional Education and Training, Youth Affairs and Mobility (ICEMA, RS 414.51), in part in view of the upcoming changes resulting from Brexit. The draft law creates some scope for funding mobility with countries that are not associated to the EU education programmes. It is intended that the revised law will come into force on 1 January 2021.

Mobility exchanges between Switzerland and the UK in place before Brexit and carried out in the 2018/2019 academic year will not be affected. However, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, measures will have to be introduced so that exchanges can take place between Switzerland and the UK in the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years.

SERI is aware of this funding gap and of the problems that it could give rise to. As soon as the legal situation is clear – probably at the last moment – SERI will act rapidly to find a pragmatic solution. Any decision on the matter will be made by the Federal Council.

If the UK and the EU do manage to reach an agreement and the withdrawal period of two years starts on 30 March 2019, funding for mobility between Switzerland and the UK will be ensured without any further measures being taken.

## E. Contact

- For questions regarding the submission of applications:

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