



Switzerland's participation in Erasmus+

Information dated 3 May 2021

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). Currently, Switzerland has adopted a multi-year solution that will provide legal and planning certainty for Swiss participants. The Federal Assembly approved funding for the Swiss solution on 16 September 2020.
- 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 will seek to obtain associated country status for Switzerland in the 'Erasmus+' programme for the 2021-2027 period and intends to enter into negotiations as soon as the general situation of Swiss-EU relations enables this.
- The UK's departure from the EU will not have any immediate effect on mobility between Switzerland and the UK until the end of the 2020/2021 academic year. Additional hurdles are to be expected for future exchange and mobility activities with the UK, mainly related to entry and residence requirements.

A. Facts

Erasmus+ (2021–2027)

- 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)

Applications for Swiss participation should be submitted 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 2021–2024 on 16 September 2020. 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 funding for international exchange and mobility in education from 2021 has been secured, regardless of whether or not Switzerland's association is possible. Official negotiations with the EU can only begin after two milestones have been reached: firstly, the EU has not yet decided on the parameters of its education programme and the corresponding conditions for association; second, the general relations between Switzerland and the EU have not yet reached a point where negotiations are possible.
- 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 scope for funding mobility with countries that are not associated to the EU education programmes. The revised law will be expected to come into force on 1 January 2022.

Funding for mobility exchanges between Switzerland and the UK approved before Brexit and carried out in the academic years 2021/22 is basically unaffected. However, starting from 1 January 2021, additional hurdles to exchange and mobility activities between Switzerland and the UK are expected, mainly as a result of both countries introducing changes to the rules on entering and staying in the UK.

E. Switzerland's participation in the Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027

The multi-year budgetary allocation for the period 2021-2027 has been definitively approved. Approval of the draft programme for Erasmus+ for that same period is expected to occur in May 2021.

The Federal Council will seek to obtain associated country status for Switzerland in the 'Erasmus+' programme for the 2021-2027 period and intends to enter into negotiations as soon as the general situation of Swiss-EU relations enables this. Switzerland's participation as an associated country in this programme – which will be the follow-up programme to Erasmus+ – would necessitate

commitments and credits until 2027. This goes beyond the scope of the current dispatch and would require the Federal Council to present a separate decision to Parliament.

SERI has informally met with the EU Commission's Education and Culture Directorate-General (DG EAC) several times since May 2019 in order to gather as much information as possible on the conditions of future association:

- The Commission has confirmed that it is not currently possible to hold detailed discussions on the budget or the exact nature association might take, as the EU's own consultations are still ongoing. However, it has been possible to outline the conditions of a possible future Swiss association to the Erasmus+ follow-up programme, and the form this might take.
- The DG EAC has stated that from 2021 there will be no essential changes to the currently applicable regulatory and financial conditions for association by third countries.

F. Contact

- For questions regarding the submission of applications:

Movetia, Swiss Agency for Exchange and Mobility
+41 32 462 00 50
info@movetia.ch
www.movetia.ch

- For questions regarding federal measures:
SERI, Cooperation in Education Division

Therese Steffen, Head, Cooperation in Education,
Tel. +41 58 462 96 69, therese.steffen@sbfi.admin.ch

Gaétan Lagger, Deputy Head, International Cooperation in Education and Professional Qualifications
Tel. +41 58 463 26 74, gaetan.lagger@sbfi.admin.ch

- Media enquiries:
SERI Communications

Martin Fischer, Head of Communications
Tel. +41 58 462 96 90, medien@sbfi.admin.ch