

Press Release

Movetia goes worldwide – mobility and exchanges explore further horizons!

Solothurn, 6 November 2018

The first call for projects organised by Movetia with a view to encouraging exchange and mobility outside of Europe has proved a great success. More than 100 projects were submitted for this three-year pilot programme (2018-2020). In the end, 17 projects were accepted, covering the different sectors of education and training. Through their content or approach, they all represent increased value for the education system.

Early this year, by mandate of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), Movetia launched a new international pilot programme. It is aimed at Swiss educational institutions wishing to try out new mobility ideas or models of cooperation beyond the borders of Europe. Whether with America, Asia, Africa or Oceania, what matters in terms of the project is its innovative nature, its multiplier effects and its function as a model, that is to say, its reproducibility. Therefore, the projects have to demonstrate added value for the institutions themselves and for the Swiss education system.

An outline fund of nearly CHF 2.3 million is available for the period 2018-2020, corresponding to approximately CHF 760,000 a year. In principle, three annual calls for projects will be organised until 2020 and an overall assessment of the programme will be carried out with the SERI, with the aim of improving and developing the Confederation's incentive practices in the field of international cooperation.

Success of the first call for projects: more than 100 projects submitted

Within the framework of the first call for submissions, 101 projects from different levels or sectors of education were submitted, that is 27 projects in the "guided" projects category and 74 in the "carte blanche" category. Half come from higher education institutes, approximately twenty from vocational education and training and ten or so from the school education sector. A few projects come from adult education or from the youth sector. This high number is gratifying and demonstrates the growing interest of stakeholders in the Swiss education system in international mobility and cooperation.

17 projects accepted in four sectors of education and training

On the downside, the assessment and prioritisation of the projects were complex and difficult, above all because of the limited financial resources available. Thus, of the 101 projects, it was possible for 17 to be accepted by Movetia and validated by the SERI. That is to say, 7 for tertiary education, 5 for vocational education and training, 3 for school education and 2 for the youth sector. Innovation and the added value for the Swiss education system were among the main criteria considered in the choice of those projects.

Obvious benefits for the education system

Promoting international mobility for the purposes of education and training is a fundamental element of the Confederation's education policy. A geographical expansion of mobility activities is seen as extremely beneficial for the development and attractiveness of the Swiss education system. Today, many of the stakeholders in this system are putting structures in place or working out systems offering mobility stays, integrating work experience placements abroad or developing strategic partnerships. The exchange of good practices, the transfer of innovation, and the search for partnerships and cooperation on an international scale are tending to become key factors in the development of education systems worldwide and also, of course, in Switzerland.

Annexes

- List of a few representative projects
- World map showing the distribution of the projects

Further information about the programme

www.movetia.ch/en/ipp

The next call for projects will take place in December this year.

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Annex: A few representative projects

Sustainable Development

School partnership, Rudolf Steiner School Lausanne

The Rudolf Steiner School in Lausanne has set up a two-year school partnership with the Waldorf School Windhoek in Namibia. The two schools will work on the theme of water: the contrast between Switzerland, water tower of Europe, and Namibia, semi-desert region, could not be greater. By using new communication technologies, the partnership envisages getting all the pupils from both schools to take part in the debates and discussions planned during the project. Two study trips, one to Switzerland and the other to Namibia will help to increase the intercultural exchange and enable concrete projects to be put in place, namely getting a spring working in Namibia and constructing a biotope in Switzerland.

ICT project weeks in Shanghai

Vocational Education & Training Mobility, Consortium MBA ZH

Organised in the form of a public consortium promoted by the canton of Zurich and bringing together those of Lucerne, Zug and Schaffhausen, this project enables 30 trainee computer scientists to go to Shanghai to discover the exciting and fast-moving world of Chinese start-ups. In this constantly changing major city, the participants will, of course, gain specialist professional skills as well as a whole host of other intercultural and social skills that are extremely sought-after in an increasingly globalised market.

Winter School: Teaching and Learning in Switzerland

Intensive programme Higher education, Universities of Teacher Education Zürich and Grisons

The project is a three-week intensive programme (IP), in which 20 students from the Zürich and Grisons Universities of Teacher Education take part with partner universities/HEIs from Australia, the USA and Brazil in the field of teacher training. The project aims to supplement the semester offerings in English language and to increase the school children's motivation to learn a foreign language. It is an internationalisation "at home" practice, in which the Swiss students experience international professional exchange directly in the Swiss classroom. As far as the methodology of the joint practical training/work placement is concerned, the cooperation promises a broad benefit and clear added value for the Swiss education system.

The inclusive school: from local realities to shared issues

Open Project Fund, HEP (University of Teacher Education) Vaud

The aim of inclusive education is to expand access to compulsory schooling to pupils with special needs. What is Switzerland doing to guarantee greater equality of opportunities and rights for those pupils? The aim of the PEERS project (Student and Teacher Researchers in Social Networks Projects) of the University of Teacher Education of Vaud Canton is to improve inclusive education by strengthening the link between teacher training and needs on the ground. The project provides for research in groups in order to create teaching tools as regards inclusive education, in collaboration with the University of Montréal.

Virtual Student Hackathon

Open Project Fund, Birkenvale GmbH

Birkenvale, a service company, will cooperate with partners from Switzerland, India and Austria, in a virtual form, with the aim of facilitating and measuring more effectively the potential for young people to be integrated into the labour market. The pilot programme is envisaged in the form of a Virtual Student Hackathon lasting 6 weeks. The groups will present the result of their work to a panel of experts that will be able to assess and evaluate the results of the project. The pilot programme should make it possible to test a virtual form of exchanges and how well it is embedded during learning. So, for example, a project library and platform will be set up to enable schools or associations, depending on their needs, to use this model or even to pursue other Hackathon sessions.

Educational Leadership: Capturing Global Knowledge

Open Project Fund, Fribourg University

The Department of Educational Sciences of Fribourg University is examining the latest effects of globalisation on education. In the light of new, globally emerging education guidelines, best practices are being recorded and exchanged for the first time by means of this project. In cooperation with the participating partner universities/HEIs from Azerbaijan, Mongolia and Australia, content is being developed, via a digital online laboratory, to build leadership skills for teachers. For the Swiss educational landscape, an important contribution is being made to the subject of international education policy, in terms of the circulation and production of knowledge.

Voluntary work placements for people with a hearing impairment

Open Project Fund, ICYE and SGB

ICYE Switzerland has been organising intercultural voluntary work placements abroad since 1960. Now, as from 2019, ICYE will, in cooperation with the Swiss Federation of the Deaf (SGB/FSS) and Swiss Deaf Youth (SDY), be making these well-known voluntary service periods accessible, for the first time, to young people with a hearing impairment. Furthermore, besides the conceptual groundwork, ten grants are being funded for hearing-impaired young people. The project will increase the equal opportunities of young people with special needs, including as regards the demands of the world of work. In two years' time, voluntary service opportunities should be established among the target group and be self-sustaining.

Overview partner countries

