



Switzerland's participation in Erasmus+

Information dated 30 September 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, a Swiss solution provides legal and planning certainty for Swiss participants. Parliament approved funding for this programme 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 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.**
- **The departure of the UK from the EU has no direct impact on mobility between Switzerland and the UK until the end of the 2020/2021 academic year. Additional hurdles can be expected for future exchange and mobility activities with the UK, mainly in terms of entry and stay requirements.**

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 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.
- Funding for international exchange and mobility activities in education from 2021 will be available, regardless of whether and when full association becomes possible. Official negotiations with the EU on full association can only start from the time when the conditions for association have been definitively established and as soon as the general relations between Switzerland and the EU permit them.
- 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 expected that the revised law will come into force sometime in the first half of 2022.

Mobility exchanges between Switzerland and the UK in place before Brexit and carried out in the 2021/2022 academic year will not be affected.. **Starting from 1 January 2021, additional hurdles apply for future exchange and mobility activities with the UK, mainly in terms of entry and stay requirements**

E. Swiss participation in Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme

The EU adopted its budget for the years 2021-2027 in December 2020 and the Programme Decision for Erasmus+ 2021-2027 in May 2021.

The Federal Council is committed to securing Switzerland's full-fledged association to the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 and intends to start negotiations on this as soon as the state of general relations between Switzerland and the EU permits this. Contrary to the situation under the current dispatch, Swiss full-fledged association to the successor programme of Erasmus+ would require commitments and budget allocations running until 2027. For this reason, the Federal Council would need to submit a separate decision to the Swiss Parliament.

SERI has held various informal meetings with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) since May 2019. The main aim of these discussions has been to gather as much information as possible on the conditions for future association:

- The Commission has confirmed that no in-depth discussions on the budget or the exact association conditions are possible at the moment. However, it was possible to discuss initial details on the requirements and terms of possible Swiss association with the successor programme to Erasmus+.
- DG EAC has clarified that, in principle, the same regulatory and financial conditions for association of third countries will apply from 2021 as those established under the current programme.

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

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

- Media enquiries:
SERI, Communication Section
Martin Fischer, Head of Communication Section
Tel. +41 58 462 96 90, medien@sbfi.admin.ch