



To Higher Education Institutions involved in European cooperation in education

Our reference: wjj/la
Bern, 7 September 2016

Renewal of the Swiss interim solution for Erasmus+

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The negotiations on Switzerland's participation in the European education programme Erasmus+ were suspended in February 2014 following the adoption of the popular vote against mass immigration. Switzerland now 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 Federal Council has approved a Swiss-funded interim solution for Erasmus+ 2014-16. The Federal Council is currently elaborating a proposal covering the following years. In the meantime, on 7 September 2016, it has approved the renewal of the interim solution to cover 2017 as well.

For higher education mobility projects the main features of the interim solution 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 2016, the amount awarded to students coming to Switzerland for study purposes is between CHF 360 and CHF 420 (approx. EUR 330-380), for traineeships CHF 420 (approx. EUR 380). Although the amount for 2017 has not yet been set, no substantial changes are to be expected.

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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 other education sectors please consult the website of the ch Foundation, the agency currently in charge of implementing the Swiss interim solution for Erasmus+ (www.ch-go.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