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## Interim solution for Switzerland's participation in Erasmus<sup>+</sup> activities in 2015 and 2016

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Following the decision of the Swiss Federal Council on 19th September 2014 to pursue the interim solution for Switzerland's involvement in the European education programme "Erasmus+", we would like to inform you about its main features. As the negotiations on Swiss participation in Erasmus+ were suspended in February 2014, 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. Switzerland contributes substantially to the positioning of European education and research as a whole and is willing to ensure that this success continues. The stated aim remains a full association to "Erasmus+".

This interim solution has been put into place for 2014 and it has now been confirmed that it will be further applied in 2015 and 2016 unless Switzerland's status in "Erasmus+" changes. Priority is given to mobility (key action 1) in school education, vocational education, higher education, adult education and youth. Swiss institutions participating in cooperation projects which correspond to Switzerland's political objectives in the area of education will also be supported.

For the **higher education sector** the main features are:

- Swiss higher education institutions (HEIs) can apply for Swiss funding of outgoing and incoming mobility activities (key action 1) with any Erasmus+ programme country;
- These activities include all types of mobility (for study or traineeships, for teachers and staff). Traineeships in Switzerland can only be funded if they are coordinated by a Swiss HEI;
- Student mobility for studies and staff mobility for teaching are based on inter-institutional agreements between Swiss and European HEIs;
- Contact person for further information: Karin Christen, k.christen@chstiftung.ch, +41 32 346 18 64.

For **school and adult education sectors** the main features are:

- Swiss schools and organisations active in adult education can apply for Swiss funding of outgoing and incoming mobility activities (key action 1) with any Erasmus+ programme country;
- These activities include teaching, job shadowings and continuous professional development mobilities;
- Contact person for further information: Matthias Christen, m.christen@chstiftung.ch, +41 32 346 18 58.

For the **VET sector** the main features are:

- Swiss vet education institutions can apply for Swiss funding of outgoing mobility activities (key action 1) with any Erasmus+ programme country;
- In addition, some funds have been reserved for incoming mobilities. Since these funds are limited, they will be used to support mobilities which are part of a reciprocal project, i.e. where partners host each others' trainees.
- Applications for such incoming mobilities can be submitted by the Swiss vet institution who hosts the European trainees from partner organisations.
- Contact person for further information: Henriette Graf, h.graf@chstiftung.ch, +41 32 346 18 71.

For the **youth sector** the main features are:

- Swiss youth organisations can apply for Swiss funding of activities taking place in Switzerland (EVS, youth exchanges and youth worker mobility). In this case the whole project will be funded by the Swiss interim solution.
- If a mobility project has been approved by one of the European NAs, Swiss organisations can apply for funding in order to participate in the project. In this case, the Swiss interim solution will only cover the funding of the Swiss partner.

- Contact person for further information: Barbara Schmitt, b.schmitt@chstiftung.ch, +41 32 346 18 67 or Hafid Derbal, h.derbal@chstiftung.ch, +41 32 346 18 68.

For **cooperation projects** (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances, Transnational Youth Initiatives), Swiss institutions can participate in two ways:


- Either within the framework of the interim solution, i.e. Swiss institutions can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances as “associated partners” and apply for national funding.
- Or Swiss institutions can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances as official partners (benefiting from funding from Erasmus+) on condition that they bring an added value to the project.

For other information and more details please consult the website of the ch Foundation, the agency in charge of implementing this solution: [www.ch-go.ch](http://www.ch-go.ch).

ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation  
Dornacherstrasse 28A  
PO Box 246  
CH-4501 Solothurn

Phone +41 32 346 18 00  
Fax +41 32 346 18 02  
info@chfoundation.ch  
www.chfoundation.ch



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