



Press release

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Promoting international mobility in education 2018–2020

In a dispatch presented on 26 April, the Federal Council has requested Parliament to back a Swiss solution for promoting international mobility in education from 2018 to 2020 and to approve the necessary budget. This will put concrete form to the Confederation's and cantons' declared wish to encourage greater mobility and exchange in this field at international level. The highest priority will be given to promoting international mobility for young people in education.

The promotion of international mobility in education is a major factor in the federal government's long-term education policy. For over twenty years, Switzerland's policy in this field has been largely aligned to the EU's education programmes. Since negotiations on association to the Erasmus+ programme were broken off in February 2014, the government's interim solution, which runs until the end of 2017, has enabled Swiss people in all areas of education to continue to go abroad to study.

The Federal Council's current dispatch requests a budget of CHF 114.5 million to promote international mobility in education between 2018 and 2020. This will allow Swiss students to continue to take part in key, well established mobility and cooperation activities that are compatible with Erasmus+. At the same time, this autonomous solution allows Switzerland greater flexibility to involve national players and so be able to optimise its funding activities. The national agency Movetia, which is funded by the federal government and the cantons, will primarily be responsible for implementing the funding measures and for supporting ongoing strategic development in this area.

The Federal Council will address the question of renewed association to the follow-up programme to Erasmus+ for the new programme period starting in 2021, and is continuing discussions with the European Commission to this effect.

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Relevant Department:

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Link: <https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbf/en/home/themen/internationale-bildungszusammenarbeit/erasmus.html>