

# swissuniversities

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## Strategic planning 2021-2024 of swissuniversities

### Executive Summary

The contribution of swissuniversities to the ERI Dispatch 2021-2024 is focused on the movement of Switzerland towards a knowledge-based society. For this reason, high quality, international competitiveness and the regional anchoring of education, research and innovation continue to be some of the most important and urgent issues to be addressed in Switzerland. In view of the future challenges and the forecast of rise in student numbers, it is essential to secure the future basic funding of higher education institutions.

For the years 2021-2024, Swiss higher education institutions are jointly placing a strong focus on measures for addressing the full range of opportunities and challenges posed by the digital shift. The measures apply to digitalisation in teaching and research but also on how the institutions themselves are organised. Shared services for establishing various open science practices in the higher education institutions will also be launched. swissuniversities is applying for additional basic contributions and project-related contributions to ensure implementation of these measures and the corresponding infrastructures.

Creating the ideal conditions for supporting young researchers is essential and a key factor for Switzerland assuming a leading position and maintaining its prosperity. Measures for providing this support and university personnel policies will therefore be developed and re-launched from 2021-2024. In this regard, swissuniversities intends to launch several programmes and projects financed by project-related contributions. These contributions will support the higher education institutions in their collaborations on doctoral programmes across all types of higher education institutions, in developing a dual competencies profile of young academics in universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, as well as in subject-specific didactics. They will also support the training of teachers in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), diversity in teaching, research and organisation and the mobility of doctoral students. Furthermore, higher education institutions are planning a wide range of measures to support the career of researchers and to better structure the postdoctoral phase, for which swissuniversities is applying for additional basic contributions.

Developing the healthcare system continues to be very important for higher education institutions. This is only possible by coordinating and collaborating with actors from the healthcare sector (Federal Office of Public Health, hospitals etc.). Universities and universi-

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ties of applied sciences are continuing to develop their student capacities in an effort to reduce the shortage of specialists in health professions. They are financing this effort from their ordinary budget. However, swissuniversities is applying for project-related contributions to ensure the establishment of the Swiss Learning Health Systems centre of competence

Higher education institutions are committed to deploying cantonal and federal funds responsibly and sustainably while maintaining their autonomy. They are therefore coordinating their activities in many areas or sharing tasks. For this reason, coherent planning with determination of joint strategic focus and measures for the next ERI period is highly relevant for Switzerland as a university centre.

To implement the corresponding measures, swissuniversities is applying for the following federal funds as per the Federal Act on Funding and Coordination of the Swiss Higher Education Sector:

- Annual growth in the basic contributions of 3.13% for the cantonal universities and universities of applied sciences;
- CHF 125 million of project-related contributions; and
- CHF 2 million for a shared scientific information infrastructure facility.