
SCALE (141-024)

Swiss Cloud for Academic and Learning Experts

The application is based on the SUC P-2 White Paper for a Swiss Information Provisioning and Processing Infrastructure 2020 and in particular on recommendation CC-1:

“The development of cloud services on a national level (service description, SLA, marketing, advisory board). However, the infrastructure costs must be paid by the service users (business case).”

These cloud services were planned in the White Paper as part of the first project phase and assigned the highest level of priority.

To this end, SWITCH intends to create services according to an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) model. The following services will be provided under the project covered by this application:

- 1a) Construction and operation of virtual machines
- 1b) Construction and operation of storage resources
- 1c) Monitoring, reporting and billing for these infrastructures
- 1d) Construction and operation of academic software
- 2) Training for users of these infrastructures

SWITCH is primarily targeting the key user segment of small and medium-sized institutions, i.e. the “long tail”. These will thus be given the opportunity to receive services of this kind within the community in line with their needs, while at the same time benefiting from economies of scale. SWITCH will use proven open-source technologies (OpenStack, Ceph) for this purpose so as to avoid a vendor lock-in, ensure scalability and offer the services at a moderate cost.

Approved projects in the SUC P-2 program can use the cloud resources created by this project free of charge. Projects can be accommodated within the limits of available capacity. Resources will be split by agreement between the program managers and SWITCH.

SWITCH has proven in the past with other infrastructure services (SWITCHlan, SWITCHaai, etc.) that it has the capabilities needed to set up such services on a sustainable basis, to continue developing them and to operate them in the community’s interests. This applies to all aspects of product development from clarifying needs within the community to billing and long-term funding.