As we already announced early this year, our government extended in September 2016 the Swiss interim solution for Erasmus+ for a further year. As in the past three years, Switzerland remains a "partner country"¹ of Erasmus+. Despite these challenges, I am pleased to inform you, that we will be able to continue funding student mobility (study periods SMS and traineeships SMT) as well as staff mobility (teaching STA and training periods STT) for both outgoings and incomings.

Please refer to the table below for the grant level for **incoming students and staff for the Swiss Call 2017** (in Swiss francs and the approximately corresponding amounts in EUR):

Home country	Student mobility for studies (per month)	Student mobility for traineeships (per month)
AT, DK, FI, FR, IE, IT, LI, NO, SE, UK	CHF 360 (EUR 335)	CHF 420 (EUR 395)
BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, HR, HU, IS, LT, LU, LV, MK, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, TR	CHF 420 (EUR 395)	CHF 420 (EUR 395)

Home country	Staff mobility teaching assignment/training (per day)		
AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LI, LT, LU, LV, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, UK	1 st to 14 th day	15 th to 60 th day	
	CHF 170 (EUR 160)	CHF 80 (EUR 75)	
Travel costs: effective costs, max. CHF 600 (EUR 560)			

You will find the grants table also on our website.

As we had many **questions concerning traineeships in Switzerland,** I would like to clarify a few details: in order to be eligible for funding, students have to apply at a Swiss HEI (usually a partner institution of the student's home institution) even if the traineeship will take place at an enterprise or another organisation. However, it is the Swiss HEI in question that makes the grant award decision – according to their resources and priorities.

For Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Alliances: Swiss HEI or organisations can participate in two ways: either as **full partners** under the condition that they bring an added value to the project (and on top of the minimum number of partners from programme countries) or within the framework of the Swiss interim solution (as an **associated partner** with national funding). You will find additional information on our website.

As many of you may already know, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation has mandated a new National Agency to implement the interim solution for Erasmus+. The name of the new Swiss National Agency is "Movetia exchange and mobility

".

Thank you very much once again for your support and as the year is slowly drawing to a close, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Amanda

¹ After the acceptance of the anti-immigration initiative in 2014, no agreement on the Swiss participation in the new Erasmus+ programme generation (2014-2020) could be reached with the European Commission. To ensure the continuity of mobility activities with the Erasmus+ programme countries, the Swiss government decided to develop an <u>Interim Solution for Erasmus+</u> supported by Swiss funding. The Interim Solution for Higher Education is called Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP) and follows the principles of <u>Erasmus+</u>.