

News **SER** February 2009

Statistics for the 2004-2007 university funding period

In accordance with the University Funding Act (SR 414.20), basic subsidies are paid to cantonal universities and qualifying university institutions on a retroactive basis for activities carried out during the previous year. At the end of 2008, the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) spent a total of CHF 524.9 million in university subsidies for the year 2007. This was the final payment for the 2004-2007 university funding period. A statistical overview of this funding period can be found here.

Read more in [german](#) or [french](#).

OECD portrait of the Swiss education system

Each spring, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) releases its "Education at a Glance" report, a comprehensive 800-page review of education system developments worldwide. What information can Switzerland glean from this study and how does the Swiss education system compare with those of other OECD member countries? Dr. Stefan Wolter, Director of the Swiss Coordination Office for Education Research (SKBF) in Aarau discusses these questions in SER NEWS.

Read more in [german](#) or [french](#).

An international showcase for Swiss scientific activities

Swiss Ambassador Urs Ziswiler considers "putting Switzerland on the map" to be the single most important objective for Swiss diplomatic/consular missions in the USA. Education, research and innovation are playing an ever-increasing role in strengthening Switzerland's presence in other countries. Over the past decade, foreign and science policies have converged significantly. A meeting was held in the first week of December 2008 to take a closer look at this development.

Read more in [german](#) or [french](#).

Large number of proposals for new national research programmes

Over half of the 57 national research programme proposals received by the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) during the 2008/09 selection round came from university circles and federal agencies. Other proposals came from groups/committees, independent research institutes, public institutions/organisations and individuals.

Read more in [german](#) or [french](#).

Free movement of persons and CH-EU research cooperation

The CH-EU bilateral agreements include a research agreement that has enabled Swiss researchers to take part in projects sponsored by the 6th and 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development without any restrictions since 2004. The research agreement also provides Switzerland will full access to the world's largest intergovernmental research network and has brought economic benefits.

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