



Education, research and innovation 2008-2011

Sustainably securing and improving
quality

Increasing competitiveness and
growth

The Federal Council's proposed guidelines, goals and funding



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Guidelines and measures of the Swiss Confederation's policy on education, research and innovation 2008–2011

In the Federal Council's Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) for the period 2008–2011, the Federal Council was guided by the new constitutional provisions on education approved by a substantial majority of the Swiss population in May 2006. These provisions oblige the Confederation and the cantons to ensure Switzerland's continued development as a location for high-quality, pioneering education, research and innovation.

In the ERI Dispatch, the Federal Council formulates on the one hand the policy guidelines and measures in those areas of the Swiss education, research and innovation system for which it has responsibility under the constitution and in legislation: the Federal Institutes of Technology (FIT), vocational education and training, the Universities of Applied Sciences, the promotion of research and innovation, and international cooperation. On the other, the Dispatch also demonstrates the federal government's commitment to those parts of the system for which the cantons are primarily responsible: the universities, and grants.

The goal of all planned measures is to enable the players and institutions of the ERI sector to help extend the capacities of Switzerland as a location for thought and work.

In order to coordinate all of the planned promotional measures, the Federal Council's policy is oriented along two overarching guidelines. The following measures come under the remit of the *Education Guideline: Sustainably securing and improving quality*:

- The Confederation and the cantons are committed to a public education system that is up to date and forward-looking, and which meets the changing needs of society.
- The Confederation and the cantons are committed to providing a diverse range of educational opportunities, in accordance with the principle of individually tailored, lifelong learning that is accessible to all.

- The Confederation and the cantons are committed as partners to ensuring that the quality and diversity of educational opportunities remains a trademark of Switzerland as a place of education, and that all young people should be able to obtain a qualification in post-compulsory education.
- Young people who are weaker at school or socially disadvantaged will have increased chances for integration through low-threshold opportunities.
- The players in the field of Swiss education will further expand the international exchange of people and ideas.

The following measures come under the remit of the *Research and Innovation Guideline: increasing competitiveness and growth*:

- The Confederation will invest in basic research to foster the successful further development of Switzerland as a centre of creative thought.
- It will promote knowledge transfer from universities to business.
- It will support particularly promising application-oriented research and development projects.
- It will fund specific measures to promote young scientists.
- It will support the universities and research institutes in the FIT sector, as their quality and performance set the standard for the whole ERI system.
- It will support vocational education and training and the Universities of Applied Sciences, and thus create a strongly practice-oriented subject basis, whose graduates will form the backbone of the Swiss economy.
- It will create the best possible framework conditions for the actors of the Swiss ERI sector through membership of strategically important funding organisations and programmes at international level.

