Financing Higher Education in Switzerland

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Tertiary Education in Switzerland

Tertiary B

Higher vocational education

- Professional examinations / Advanced professional examinations
- Higher professional schools

Tertiary A

University level

- Universities of applied sciences
- Universities

Secondary Level II

Vocational schools, schools of handicraft or applied art, business schools

Vocational training in a enterprise

Mandatory school

Gymnasium with Matura (University Entrance Certificate)

Practical training
Higher Vocational Education

• Federal certificate exam and federal Diploma exam of advanced VET
• colleges of advanced VET

• links solid practical skills with established theoretical expertise ⇒ management posts
University sector

• Universities:
  – Cantonal universities
  – Federal Institutes for Technology

• Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS):
  – Technology, Management and Economics, Design and Arts (Theatre, Music incl.), Health, Social Work
  – Teacher Training Institutions
University sector - some figures, 2003

• Universities:
  – 12 Universities
  – 109'333 students
  – 9,980 diploma
  – 1'704 Postdiploma
  – 2'685 PhD
  – 28'896 staff members (FTE)
  – 4'734.8 Mio. CHF

• UAS:
  – 7 UAS (T, M, D, H, S)
  – 43'624 students
  – 6'050 diploma
  – 2'638 Postdiploma
  – 7'646 staff members (FTE)
  – 897.8 Mio. CHF
Public expenditure on education, 2002

- Non-attributable tasks: 424.4
- Higher education institutes: 5'977.1
- Higher vocational training: 247.6
- General education schools: 1'994.7
- Vocational education and training: 3'405.8
- Compulsory schooling: 10'944.5
- Special schools: 1'098.9
- Primary school: 916.0
Public expenditure on education, 2002
Public expenditure on Tertiary Education

- 25% of total public expenditure on education
- 46% out of public expenditure on Tertiary Education by Federal Government

- Total public expenditure on Education = 5.8% of GDP
Public funding of advanced VET

• Social partners organizing exams, paid mainly by candidates
• VET colleges: 100 out of 300 institutions have a public / semi-public status
Funding Instruments for Universities

- Fixed contributions per student
- Contributions depending on results of R&D-Activities
- Special measures to promote collaboration or specific goals
- Project funding by Research Funding Agencies
- Cohesion fund and special funding for foreigns students (cantonal universities only)
Funding of Universities

The diagram illustrates the funding distribution among various universities in Switzerland. The categories include Confederation, Cantons, and Third Parties. Each university is represented with a bar chart showing the percentage of funds received from each category. The universities listed are:

- Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
- Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
- Uni Svizzera italiana
- Uni Zürich
- Uni St.Gallen
- Uni Neuchâtel
- Uni Luzern
- Uni Lausanne
- Uni Genève
- Uni Freiburg
- Uni Bern
- Uni Basel

The chart shows the proportion of funding from each category for each university, allowing for a comparison of how each institution is supported financially.
Ongoing University Sector Reform

- System Steering
- Funding
- Strategy for overall system
- Quality Assurance
Unify and simplify regulations concerning financing of performance and results

- Same financing regulations for all universities
- Basic subsidies depending on standard costs per student paid by Confederation and cantons to ensure stability
- Competitive financing by project for basic and applied research (progressive increase)
- Financing by project to strengthen national and international cooperation