Swiss participation opportunities in Erasmus+ cooperation projects 2026

Since 2014, Switzerland has no longer been associated with Erasmus+. However, Swiss institutions still have the opportunity to participate in Erasmus+ cooperation projects (under Key Actions 2 and 3) as an institution of a 'non-associated third country' for certain funding instruments.

The following table provides an overview of participation opportunities for Swiss institutions (green = eligible).

If Swiss institutions are eligible to participate, there are basically two options for how they can join:

1. As 'full partners', Swiss institutions must significantly add value to the project, but in return they can apply for EU funds (symbol: E+). With the 2025 call for projects, this option for Swiss institutions was severely restricted.
2. As 'associated partners', Swiss institutions present their participation in the project in the EU application, but finance their participation with funds outside Erasmus+. For certain funding instruments, they can apply for funding through the Swiss Programme for Erasmus+ (symbol: SPE+). Swiss institutions can otherwise participate with their own funds or funds from other funding institutions.

Swiss Programme for Erasmus+: If the requested contributions exceed the available funds, the applications - together with applications for cooperation projects under the 'International Programme' - will be considered according to the following criteria in the following order of priority:

a. Contribution of the individual cooperation projects to the further development of the Swiss education system and its stakeholders in an international context, taking into account the geographical framework as defined in Article 2 of the Ordinance on International Cooperation and Mobility in Education (VIZMB);
b. Benefit of the individual cooperation project for the specific needs of a particular education sector;
c. Degree of commercialisation of the institution or organisation, prioritising non-commercial institutions and organisations.

Erasmus+ funding instrument 2026	School education	Adult education	Vocational education and training	Youth work	Higher education and higher vocational education
Key Action 2 – Partnerships for Cooperation					
Cooperation Partnerships	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+
Small-scale Partnerships					
European Partnerships for School Development					
Key Action 2 – Partnerships for Innovation					
Alliances for innovation – Lot 1			SPE+		SPE+
– Lot 2			SPE+		SPE+
– Lot 3			SPE+		SPE+
Forward-looking projects	No call for projects 2026				
Capacity building in the field of youth					
Capacity building in higher education					
Capacity building in the field of vocational education and training (VET)					
Capacity building in the field of sport					
Not-for-profit European sport events					
Leitaktion 2 – Partnerships for Excellence					
European Universities					SPE+
European Degree Exploratory Action	2026 call for projects pending[3]				
Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)			SPE+		(SPE+[1])
Erasmus+ Teacher Academies	No call for projects 2026				
Erasmus Mundus Actions – Lot 1 (EMJM)					E+[2]
– Lot 2 (EMDM)					
Jean Monnet Actions					
Jean Monnet Actions higher education					E+[2]
Jean Monnet Actions in other areas					
Jean Monnet Policy Debate					
Key Action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation					
European Youth Together					
European Policy Experimentations - Topics 1-10	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+	SPE+
European Policy Experimentations - Scholarships					

Participation opportunities based on project call

Participation for Swiss institutions possible
Participation for Swiss institutions not possible
Funding instrument is not intended for this field of education

E+ Funding possible through EU grants

SPE+ Funding possible through Swiss programme for Erasmus+ grants
(SPE+) Initially, Swiss institutions should seek funding through Erasmus+. If the project is funded under Erasmus+ but without their participation as a full partner, they may then proceed to submit a bid to the Swiss Programme for Erasmus+.

1 CoVEs are intended for organisations providing vocational education and training at all EQF levels from 3 to 8, including tertiary level (e.g. universities of applied sciences, polytechnic institutes, etc.). However, applications cannot only include activities aimed at tertiary level students.
2 Possible as coordinator/applicant
3 Participation possible, but no E+ or SPE+ funding envisaged.