

**+** Switzerland - Important policy document

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Country	Switzerland
Produced by	Federal Council
Keywords	Basic research; applied research; valorisation of knowledge; innovation; co-operation university-industry; international co-operation
Legal basis/ Type of document	
Type	Official government policy document: discussion/strategy document
Purpose/Rationale	
Overview	This document is the government's proposal for mid-term policy measures to the parliament; i.e. its four-year plan for education, research and technology at the federal level.
Overview	The proposed strategy is expressed (a) through a number of concrete measures to be undertaken in the period 2004-2007, including a detailed budget proposal, e.g. for financing the institutions of the ETH-domain (federal institutes of technology and other federal research institutions), (b) through a number of law proposals that are necessary in order to realize the policy measures, e.g. a new law for the promotion of the co-operation among universities and a new law for international co-operation in education and the promotion of international mobility of students and researchers. Concretely, it contains proposals for 10 government decisions ("Bundesbeschlüsse") and 2 federal laws ("Bundesgesetze"). The promotion of the co-operation both at the national and the international level, particularly with the European Union, is a goal of high priority. Social sciences, whose funds are stagnating in the last years, have to be stronger promoted. New National Research Programmes (NRP) have to be developed. A stronger focussing on university-industry technology transfer and a better promotion of young researchers has to be pursued. Further, the Universities of Applied Sciences have to clarify their profiles as institutions of applied research.
Research policy priorities	More effective and efficient public expenditure on R&D; Grants to public sector research institutions; Strengthen and create centres/networks of excellence; Improving R&D co-operation and technology transfer; Grants to support business R&D, and R&D collaboration; Enhancing the mobility of researchers
Audience	
Main audience	Policy makers
Policy context	The document contains the rationales for proposing certain policy measures and the respective budgets for realising these measures. The parliament may change the plan, mostly through cutting or reducing the respective budget positions. Even after these modifications the document remains a quite reliable guide of the policy measures that are going to be realised. There is no follow-up document containing all modifications undertaken by the parliament because these modifications take the form of specific government decisions ("Bundesbeschlüsse") or laws ("Bundesgesetze").
In German	<a href="http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2003/2363.pdf">http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2003/2363.pdf</a>

language	
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