



eduhub days, Bern, 14 February 2019

Federal project contributions: strengthening digital skills in teaching (P-8)

Antoine Maret

Scientific Collaborator in the Division Teaching & Studying
Programme Coordinator

Political context

July 2017: SERI report & action plan for the attention of the Swiss Federal Council

- Identification of 'digital skills' as a priority field of action
- **Invitation to swissuniversities** to submit short-term proposals to strengthen digital application skills in the Swiss universities

These measures – which started in January 2019 – are financed by **project-related contributions from the Confederation.**

Inclusion of all Swiss universities

Starting point:

The Board of swissuniversities regards digitalisation as a challenge for **all universities**

- All universities should be given the opportunity to initiate projects according to their needs and framework agreements.
- **No competitive project bidding**, no selection applicable.

Opting-in process

Impulse programme

Objectives:

- Supporting all universities in their adaptation to the challenges of digitalisation
- Promoting and implementing projects aimed at strengthening the digital skills of teachers and students
- Incentive for internal adjustments and development within Swiss universities
- Promoting the exchange of good practices and lessons learned

CHF 30 millions for the period 2019–2024
(10 millions for the years 2019–2020 and 20 millions for the ERI period 2021–2024)

Three basic principles of the programme

1. A group of experts appointed by the Board of swissuniversities has identified **three target groups**:
 - Students
 - Faculty
 - Institutions (institutional, strategic, didactic, etc. framework conditions)
2. The projects submitted by the universities must promote **digital skills** among these three target groups.
 - The digitalization of teaching is not the main objective.
3. The projects must be related to **teaching**.
 - No research projects, no pure administrative projects, etc.

«Opting-in»: two-stage procedure in summer/autumn 2018 (1/3)

The individual universities (or several universities in a network) had to explicitly declare their interest in these funds («**opting-in**»).

1. Sampling

- Collection of preliminary concepts by mid-July 2019: one-page paper
- Each university could submit one or more projects on different topics.

→ Objectives:

- To gain an impression of the needs and interests of the Swiss universities
- To create a basis for the distribution of the funds

→ **Great interest** on the part of the universities: more than 300 projects proposals totalling CHF 34 millions.



«Opting-in»: two-stage procedure in summer/ fall 2018 (2/3)

2. Distribution of the funds

- **Review** of the projects by the expert group: IN or OUT
- **Mechanism for allocating the resources**: distribution key based on the size of the institutions (number of students) + basis
- **Reference document** for the elaboration of the projects – positive and negative aspects

→ The distribution mechanism and the reference document were approved by the Board of swissuniversities.

«Opting-in»: two-stage procedure in summer/ fall 2018 (3/3)

3. Elaboration of the final projects

- **End of September 2018:** notification to the university of the allocated funds:
 - Confirmation of interest to participate
 - Submission of the final projects by November 15, 2018.
 - Final review by the expert group
 - Validation by the Board of swissuniversities on December 12, 2018.
- **Exactly 100 projects**
- **Projects start on: January 2019**

www.swissuniversities.ch

Thank you for your attention !