



CRITERIA FOR NEW SWISS VIRTUAL CAMPUS PROJECTS, THIRD CALL

The sketches (deadline: **November 28th, 2003**) and the invited detailed proposals (invitation: **February 5th, 2004**, deadline: **March 15th, 2004**) must address the aims set out for the program (see “**Ausführungsplan**” in German or “**Plan d’exécution**” in French) and will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Important Selection Criteria

1. Network of at least three partners from institutions of higher education. Partners from foreign universities and from other institutions in the relevant area may also participate, but will not receive SVC funding.
2. The partner institutions confirm by their support that the course will be integrated in a curriculum, and that ECTS points will be attributed.
3. The project must be significant and effective. The new online course must be complementary to existing online courses (not be a new version of an existing SVC supported course from the Impulse Program).
4. The project must be based on clear and well defined objectives, and it must have a convincing exploitation and / or dissemination plan.
5. The new online course must bring an evident added value for students and lecturers, and its pedagogical aims must be clearly defined.
6. The course architecture must be based on modules or learning objects that can be re-used.
7. The project must receive financial support from the institution (matching funds according to LAU).

Further Selection Criteria

- a. Number of target students (critical mass / efficiency)
- b. Competences of consortium members (well balanced network of committed partners)
- c. Project management (plan, e.g. phases, check points, dead lines, etc., with an evaluation concept)
- d. Adequate overall financial plan
- e. Inter-institutional cooperation backed by letters of understanding or signed contracts
- f. Use of existing platforms
- g. Multi language support
- h. Innovative media design
- i. New approach to enhancing knowledge acquisition and transfer
- j. Possibility to adapt the course and to split it up for continuing education

Special Criteria for Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

- I. Matching funds of 50% as a general rule
- II. Special concept for Competence/Service/Production Centre (“Competence Centre”)
- III. Number of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points, number of students per year
- IV. Blended learning preferred
- V. Usefulness for continuing education preferred
- VI. Integration in bachelor / master system (Bologna) preferred

Further Informations on the Call

The **Project Leader** should be a professor.

Courses of “mise à niveau” (to prepare for certain studies) are also possible.

First possible project **start**: July 1, 2004; **duration**: two years as a general rule.

The **selection procedure** may include a discussion with the authorities of the institutions concerned (members of rectorates, deans), before the final decision of the SVC SC.

As a general rule, applications should be **in English**, the language used in the SVC SC.

Informations on the New SVC Project Funding Method

SVC support: approx. CHF 300'000 per project (approx. CHF 150'000 for UAS projects), paid to the rectorate (institution for UAS) of the Leading House.

As a principle, the development of the courses will be done by the Competence Centres in tight collaboration with the project leaders. A “mediator” financed by the program is in charge of the link between the “content owners” (the teaching partners) and the professional production team at the Competence Centre of the Leading House (i.e. at the university of the Project Leader).

Distribution of SVC support:

- CHF 100'000: for the Competence Centre of the Leading House (“overhead”), for the production of the course. (UAS: special concept for Competence Centres, not one at each UAS. CHF 50'000 per project)
- Approx. CHF 200'000: for the Project Leader, mainly to pay the “mediator”. This sum may be partially distributed among the partners (Approx. CHF 100'000 for UAS projects).

Matching Funds:

- at least 50% of total costs for universities and UAS, as a rule.

Contributions from institutions:

Real Money: paid additionally, cash for the SVC project

Virtual Money: contributions in kind, e.g. a professor’s time (and salary), used for the SVC project

Abbreviations:

FOES Federal Office for Education and Science

SUC Swiss University Conference

SVC Swiss Virtual Campus

SVC LC SVC Local Coordinator

(one per institution of higher education, contact person for all SVC issues)

SVC SC SVC Steering Committee