Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences

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President of ZHAW
1. Swiss Education System
2. New Higher Education Bill (LEHE)
3. UAS (Universities of Applied Sciences) – Mission, Facts and Figures
4. Research
THE SWISS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Source: Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK)
BASIC VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

• Two-thirds of the young people in Switzerland benefit from the solid foundation provided by basic professional education and training.

• The federal government, cantons and professional associations all contribute to the high standard of professional education and training and strive to provide an adequate number of apprenticeships.

• Basic professional education and training is the basis for life-long learning and the doorway to numerous occupations.
TWO DIFFERENT PILLARS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

• Qualification for a practice-oriented career
  – Basic professional education \(\Rightarrow\) professional maturity certificate \(\Rightarrow\) UAS
  – Access to UAS also via general maturity certificate plus 1 year of professional practice

• Qualification for a science-oriented career
  – Academic upper secondary school \(\Rightarrow\) general maturity \(\Rightarrow\) traditional university
FEDERALISTIC ORGANISATION (1)
FEDERALISTIC ORGANISATION (2)

• Competence at the tertiary level is shared by the Confederation, the cantons
  • The Confederation:
    – supervises and funds the federal institutes of technology
    – is responsible for promotion of research
    – legislates on higher vocational education and training and the universities of applied sciences
    – funds vocational education and training, the universities of applied sciences and cantonal universities.
  • The cantons:
    – are responsible for the universities and are their main source of financial support
    – run the universities of applied sciences and many colleges of higher vocational education and training
    – supervise the universities of applied sciences.
HIGHER EDUCATION BILL

- Loi fédérale sur l'encouragement des hautes écoles et la coordination dans le domaine suisse des hautes écoles LEHE – Hochschulförderungs- und -koordinationsgesetz HFKG
- The Confederation and the cantons are jointly responsible for ensuring the competitiveness and quality of Switzerland’s higher education sector, which is comprised of
  - federal institutes of technology
  - cantonal universities
  - universities of applied sciences
  - universities of teacher education and
  - other tertiary A level institutions.

- The legal basis for this is firmly established by the approval of the Higher Education Bill by the Federal Parliament in autumn 2011.

- The Federal Act probably enters into force in 2015.
HIGHER EDUCATION BILL: MAIN OBJECTIVES

• Joint coordination of the whole Swiss higher education landscape by the Confederation and the cantons.

• High-level quality assurance through the introduction of a new accreditation system for the higher education institutions.

• Common national strategic coordination and a clear task sharing in all very cost-intensive domains and thereby optimising the use of public funds.

• Uniform, transparent and performance-based financing of the higher education sector.
UNIVERSITIES IN SWITZERLAND

- 10 Traditional Universities (cantonal)
- 2 Federal Institutes of Technology (ETHs)
- 9 Universities of Applied Sciences
- 16 Universities of Teacher Education
SWISS UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES
HISTORY OF THE UAS

• The creation of the Universities of Applied Sciences in the past decade led to a new type of university.

• The UAS have become firmly established as part of Switzerland's higher education system in a very short time.

• The UAS offer practical university-level education and training and are in great demand with both students and employers.

• The foundation of the UAS increased the status of professional education because they provided the opportunity for qualified people to continue their studies at university level.
4-FOLD MANDATE FOR THE UAS

• Education
  – Bachelor's and Master's programmes

• Application-oriented research

• Continuing education

• Services, knowledge and technology transfer
UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES
ADDRESSING MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

• Programmes geared to the needs of industry; learning is focused on specific topics and takes place in groups of a manageable size
• Studies focus on the requirements of professional life
• Full-time or work-study programmes
• Applied research as part of the service mandate
• Degrees
  – Bachelor, as a general qualification
  – Master, as a specialised qualification for professionals
ENROLLED STUDENTS AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES


Source: Swiss Statistics
ENROLLED STUDENTS AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES 2012

Source: Swiss Statistics
ADMISSIONS AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES 2012

Universities 19,203

UAS/UTE 21,390

Source: Swiss Statistics
R&D EXPENDITURES IN % OF THE GDP 2009

Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2011
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH: FUNDING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Basic Research
- Career funding, young academics
- SNSF professorship programme facilitates the return of promising young researchers to Switzerland.

Commission for Technology and Innovation
- funds applied research, fosters entrepreneurship, and supports start-ups
- Knowledge and technology transfer

Swissnex: Switzerland’s knowledge network
- Bangalore, Boston, San Francisco, Singapore, Shanghai

Photos: Presence Switzerland
Thank you for your attention!