

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 31 (2004)
Heft: 3

Artikel: Education : "A great deal of work"
Autor: Eichenberger, Isabelle / Rapp, Jean-Marc
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-906813>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

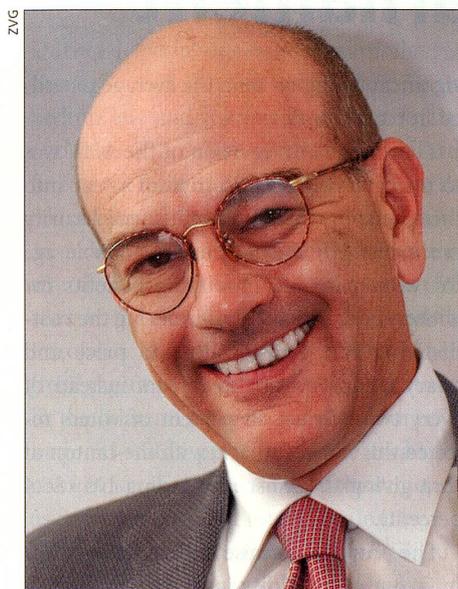
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

"A great deal of work"

Jean-Marc Rapp, rector of the University of Lausanne and President of the Conference of Swiss University Rectors (CSUR) commissioned to implement the Bologna Process, is enthusiastic about developments to date. But he, too, is concerned about funding.



Convinced by the Bologna Process: CSUR President Jean-Marc Rapp.

"Swiss Review": Initially you were very critical about the Bologna Process. Now you are President of the CSUR. Why the change of heart?

Jean-Marc Rapp: Certainly I had my initial doubts, but these were allayed by the solutions proposed by CSUR and the Conference of Swiss Universities (CSU). For example, the CSU Directives clearly state that bachelor's and master's degrees correspond to the current degree or licentiate courses of study. I firmly believe that a scientific education must be completed by a master's degree and not just a bachelor's.

Is this process obligatory for universities?

The philosophy is universal. Bologna is neither a cosmetic makeover nor a formal re-christening of courses of study. Rather, it is an opportunity to rethink university education in its entirety, examine learning objectives and improve the quality of education in Switzerland and Europe.

Do you agree with Federal Councillor Couchepin's aim of unifying "university governance"?

That term can cover a multitude of sins! In my opinion, a good system must allow sufficient autonomy in terms of curriculum structures and effective, rapid strategic

planning. I am very much in favour of scientific rivalry in the field of research, but I am against competition at the teaching level. Our country is too small. Remember: the total number of students at all Swiss universities is equivalent to the number enrolled at Toulouse University in France. Our universities must work together if Switzerland is to enhance its international competitiveness. In the "Triangle d'Azur", for instance, we have merged the theological faculties of Vaud, Geneva and Neuchâtel in order to concentrate specific resources and strengths. We have also decided to implement the Bologna reforms simultaneously in the same areas. But we need sufficient funding to do so.

Bologna will cost universities an estimated 10 to 15 percent of their budget. Where is this money to come from?

Firstly, from the 4.75 percent increase in government contributions announced for the 2004-2007 period. We have recommended that most of the extra funds be assigned to human sciences faculties, which are currently too understaffed to comply with the Bologna Directives. We are impatient to see whether the funds will actually be released. I see no other difficulties: the enthusiasm and will to reform are in place. A great deal of work has already been completed, and it would be a pity if these efforts were wasted.

Students are worried about equality of treatment. What do you say to this?

Their concern about equality of treatment is a legitimate one, but it is not linked to the Bologna Process. In principle, students will benefit from the Bologna Process since it creates the preconditions for mobility, comparability of academic qualifications and improvements in curricula. Equality of treatment can be dependent on financing, students' social situations and, above all, the type of grants system to be developed. IE

Translated from German.

INTERNET

www.ch.ch/urn:ch:de:ch:ch.01.03.05:01
Living abroad: educational information

www.cus.ch/Home/Home.html
Conference of Swiss Universities (CUS)

www.crus.ch/deutsch/CRUS
Conference of Swiss University Rectors (CSUR)

www.vss-unes.ch
Association of Swiss Student Unions

www.swissup.com/r2k3_swissup.cfm?upid=DE
Swissup Ranking