



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
State Secretariat for Education and Research SER

Swiss public higher education and research system

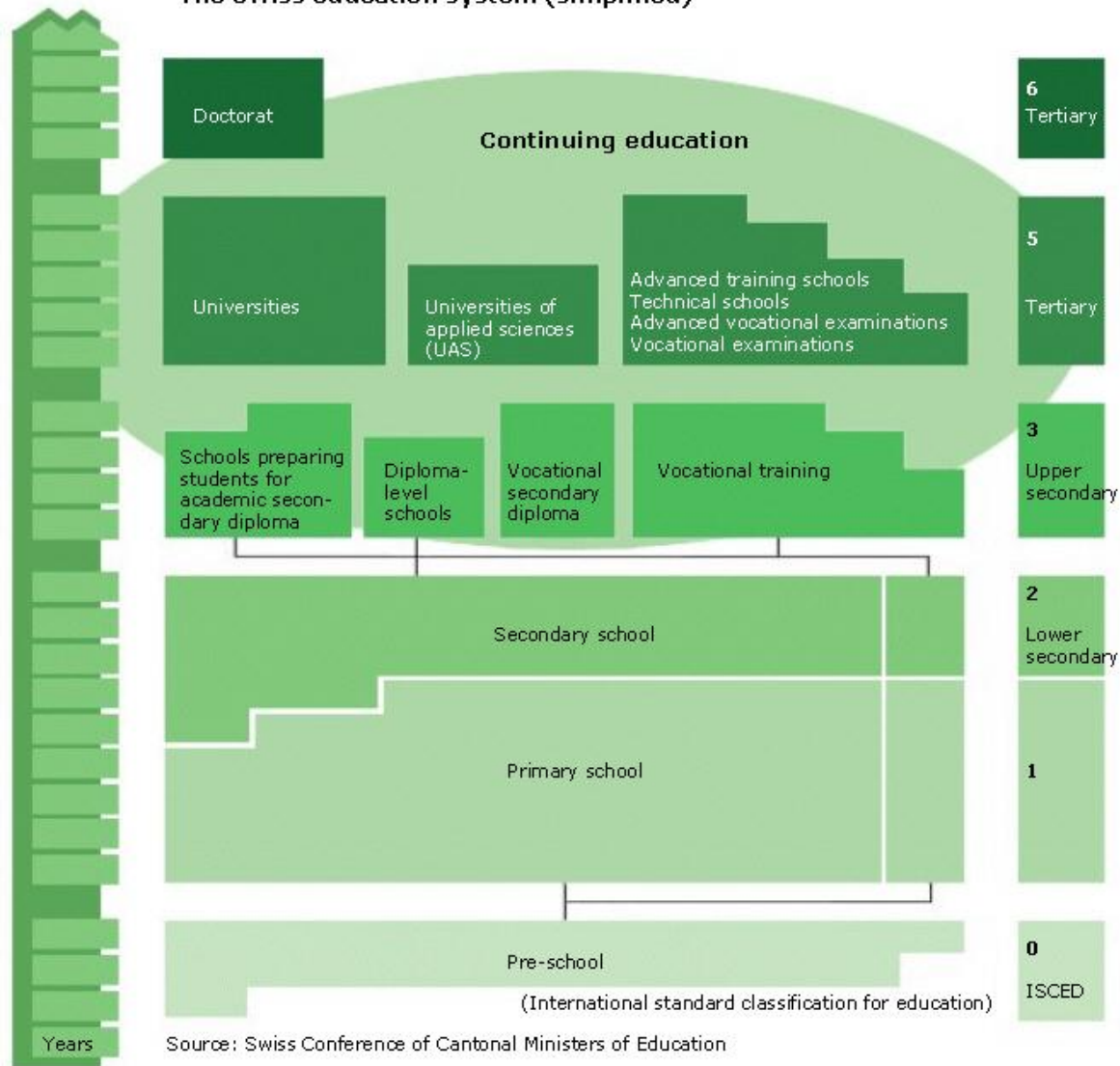
Bern, 29th October 2012





Swiss Educational System

The Swiss education system (simplified)



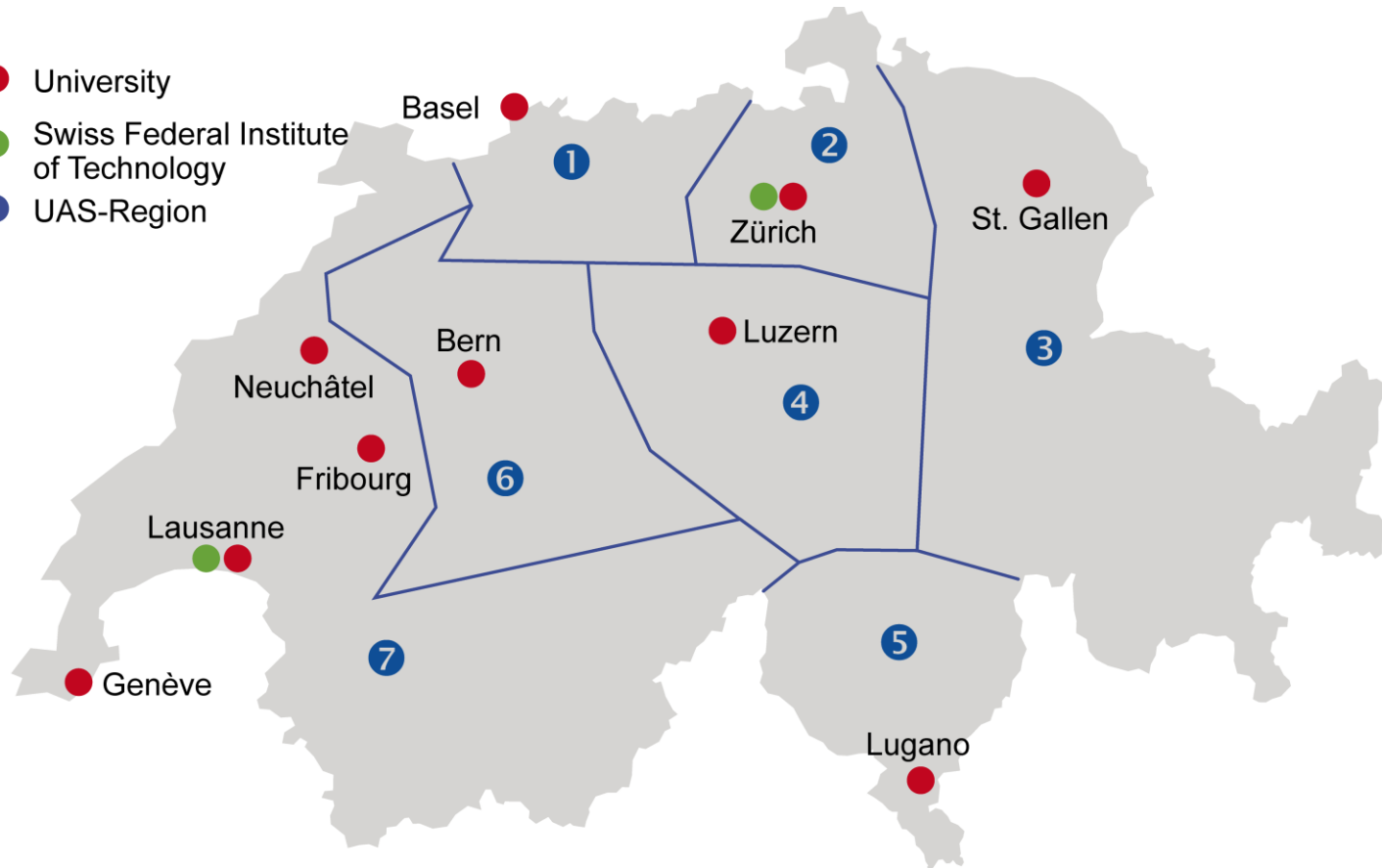


Swiss University Landscape

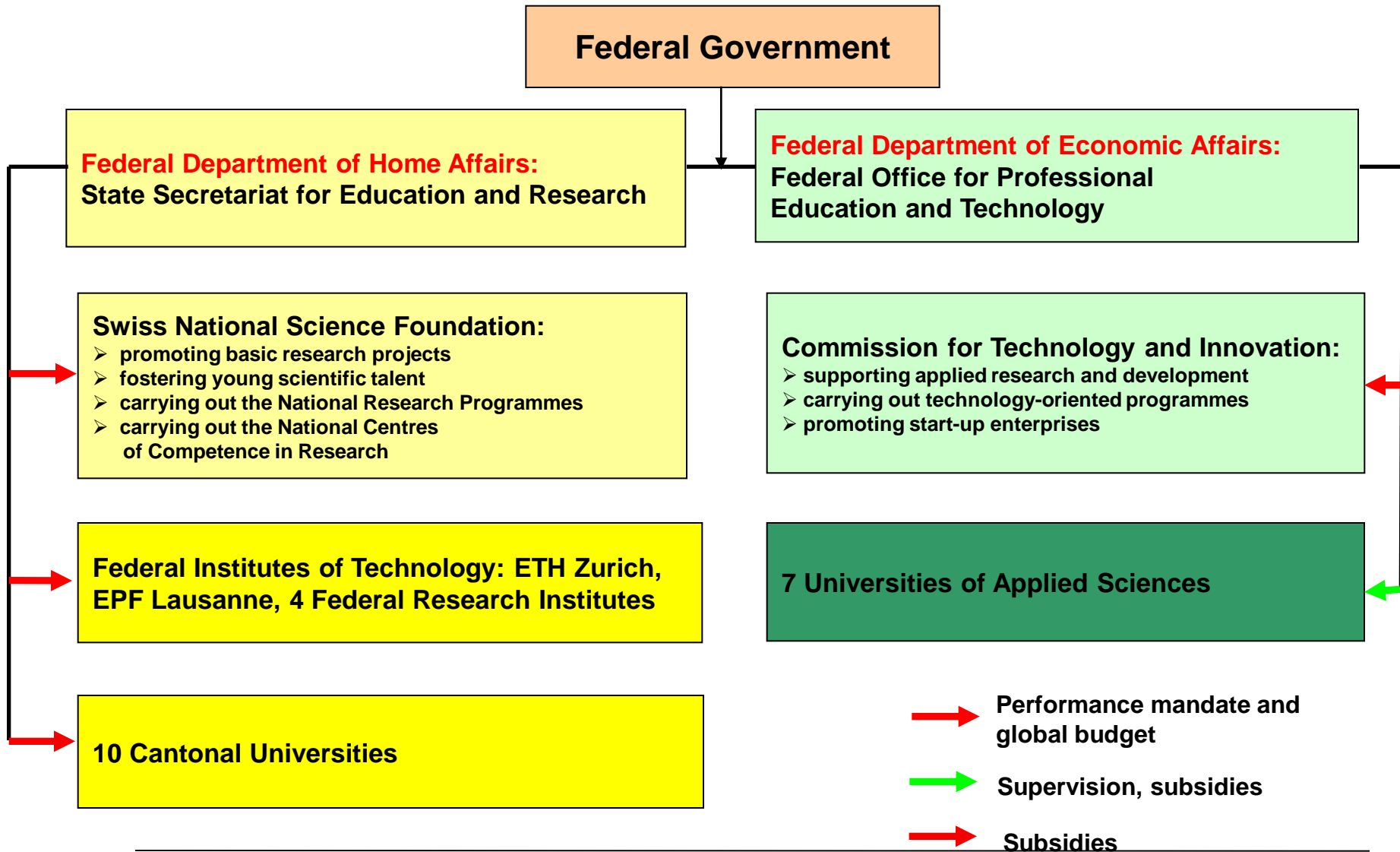
● University

● Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

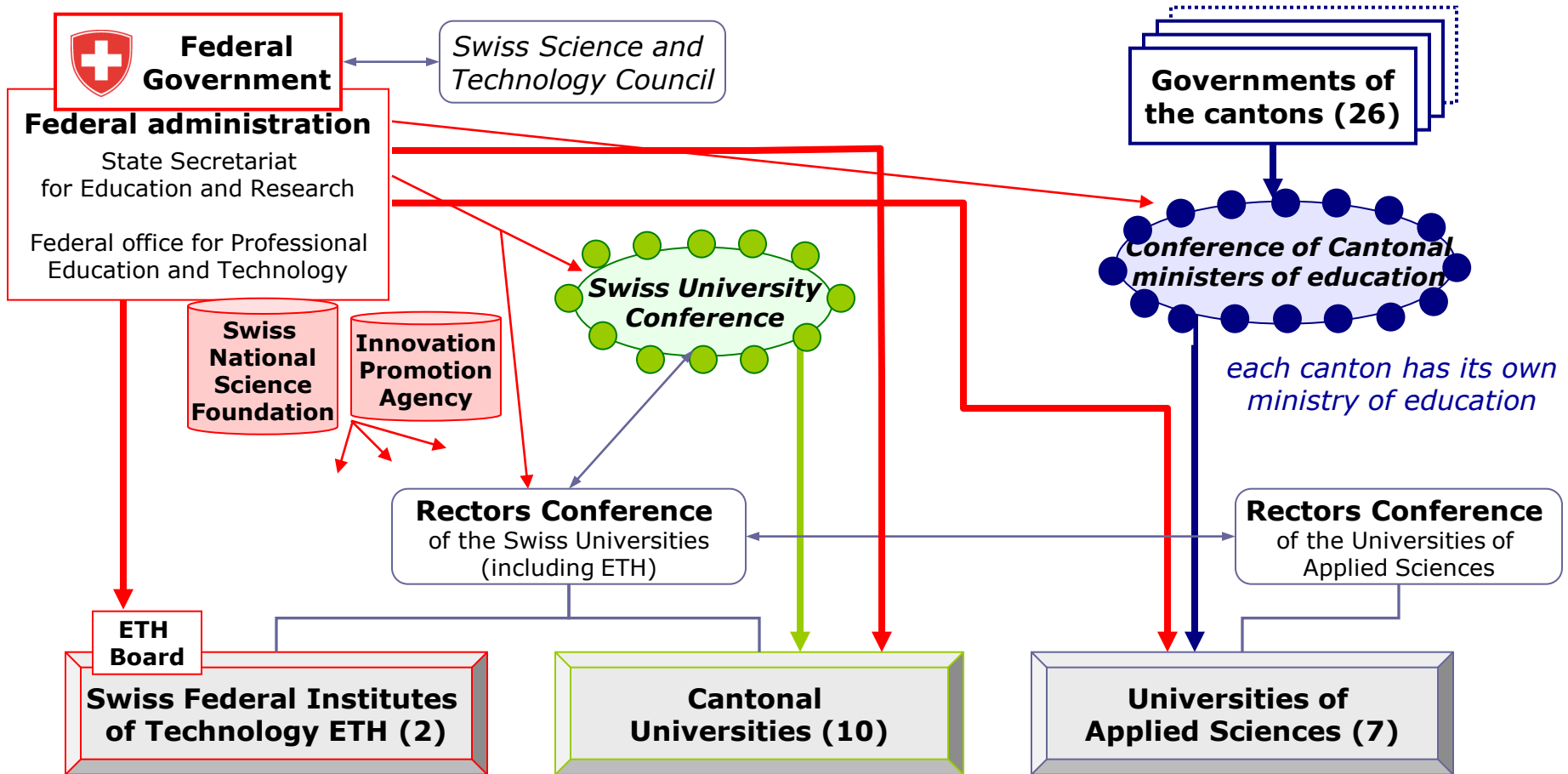
● UAS-Region



The system at a glance

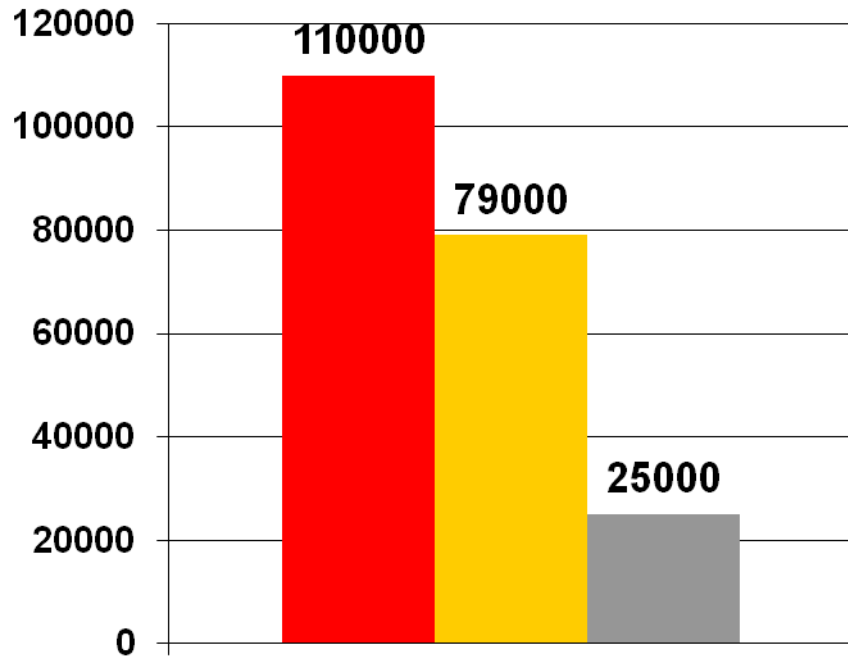


Cantonal and Federal Competencies





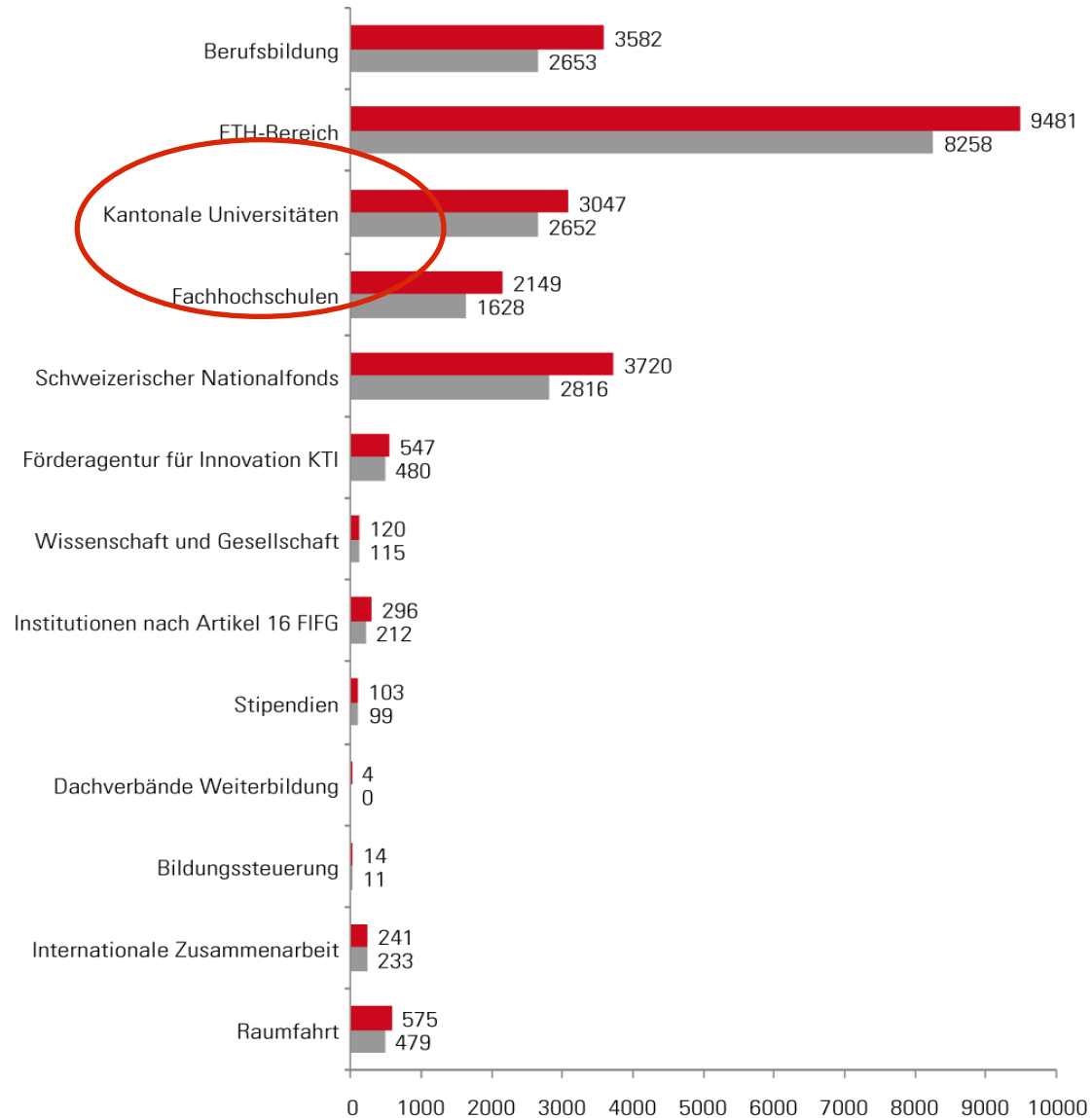
Universities and Students (2011, total 214'000)



- **Cantonal Universities:**
- **Universities of Applied Sciences**
- **Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH)**

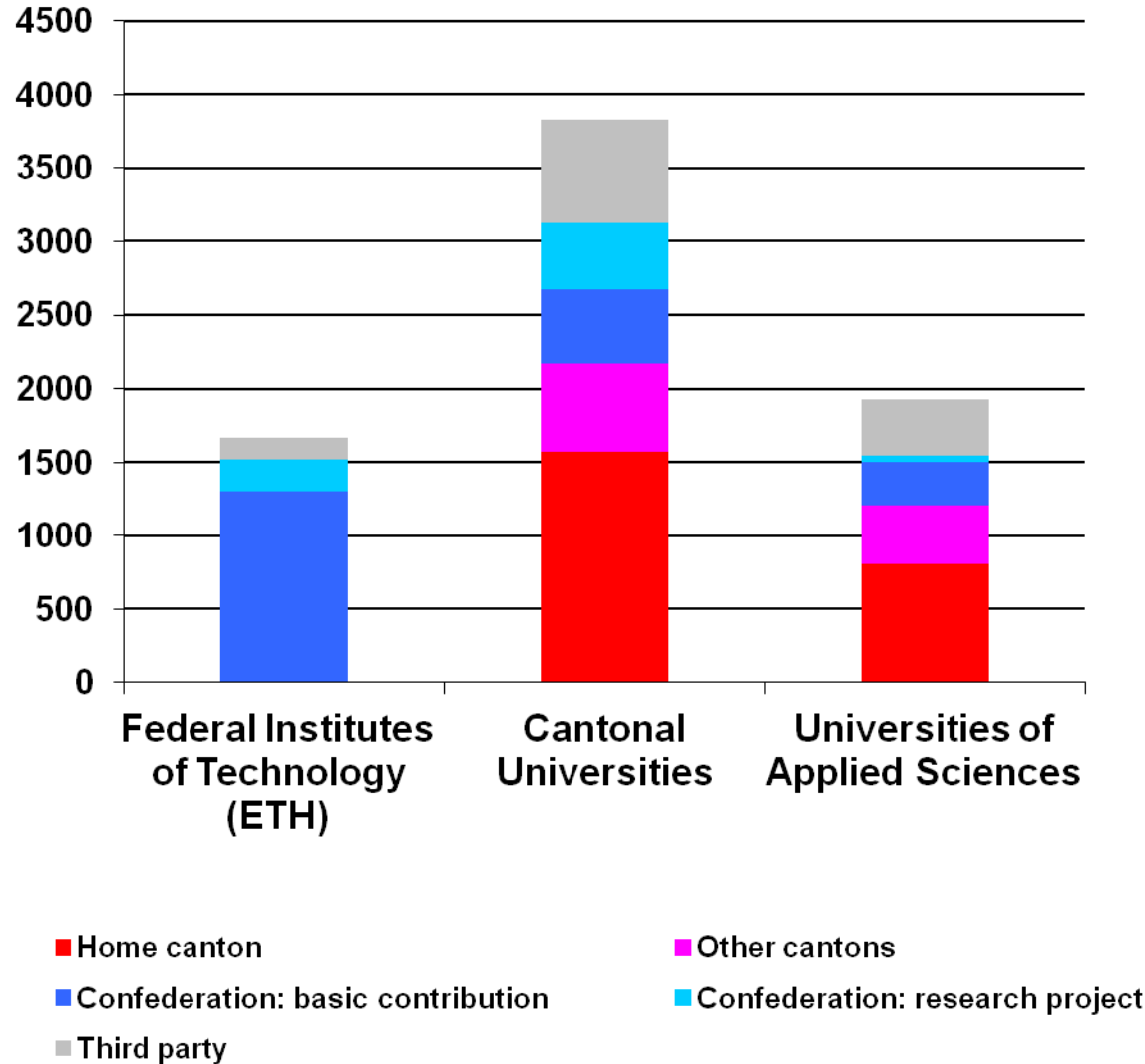


Subsides 2008-2011 and 2013-2016 (Mio. CHF)





Financial Aid to Universities: different sources (Mio. CHF)





Financial Aid to Cantonal Universities

University Cantons
50%

All Cantons
15%

Confederation
25%

Global budget

Number of
students and
faculties

Number of students
and research
projects

Students Fees 2%

Private Sector 8%

Federal Financial Aid to Cantonal Universities 2008-2011

3 instruments

Basic contributions

Performances in teaching (number of students) and in research (projects funding)

2'272 millions CHF

Investment contributions

Buildings, scientific instruments, IT

290 millions CHF

Project-related contributions

Innovation and cooperation projects of national importance

250 millions CHF

Swiss University Conference SUK-CUS

The CUS is the joint organization of the cantons and the Confederation for university politics: www.cus.ch

- University-cantons (10)
- Cantons without university (2)
- Swiss Confederation (2)

Tasks:

- Issuing recommendations on the length of studies and recognition of previous studies and qualifications binding on the partners to the agreement.
- Awards project-specific grants.
- Periodical assessment of how National Centers of Competence in Research are allotted with respect to distribution of tasks among universities.
- Recognition of academic bodies and programs.
- Issuing recommendations on evaluation of teaching and research.
- Issuing recommendations on knowledge transfer in research.

Rectors Conference of the Swiss Universities CRUS

The CRUS is the joint organization of the leaderships of the Universities: www.crus.ch

- Universities Rectors (10)
- ETH's Directors (2)

Tasks:

- Development of the strategy for the Swiss Universities.
- Academic issues about studies, programs and recognition of diplomas.
- Informations and recommendations about recognition's matters (Swiss ENIC).
- Coordination of the Bologna Process.

Swiss Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education OAQ

The OAQ is the National Agency responsible for the quality assurance and the accreditation in the Swiss Universities: www.oaq.ch

Tasks:

- Promotion and assurance of the quality of teaching and research at Swiss academic institutions.
- Quality evaluations for the accreditation's decisions.
- Guidelines for internal quality assurance.
- Guidelines and quality standards for academic accreditation in Switzerland and carries out accreditation procedures.



Hochschulförderungs- und koordinationsgesetz HFKG

**Loi fédérale sur l'encouragement des hautes
écoles et la coordination dans le domaine suisse
des hautes écoles LEHE**

**Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and
the Coordination of the Swiss University
Landscape**

30th September 2011



Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and the Coordination of the Swiss University Landscape

- **Coordination**
 - framework for high quality education and research
 - **unify 3 types of higher education institutions:**
universities including Cantonal Universities and Institutes of Technology ETH,
universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education
in one single higher education landscape
 - **facilitate mobility between the 3 types**
 - **common bodies of the Confederation and the Cantons:**
to coordinate priorities and investment in cost-intensive fields



Common Bodies Confederation and Cantons (Art. 7-22)

Swiss Higher Education Conference
- Plenary Meeting
- Higher Education Institutions Council

**Rector's Conference
of the Swiss
Higher Education Institutions**

**Swiss Council for
Accreditation**

**Swiss Agency
for Accreditation**



Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and the Coordination of the Swiss University Landscape

- **Accreditation and quality assurance**
 - institutional accreditation (mandatory)
 - programme accreditation (optional)
- **Financing**
 - common criteria for financial support: performance oriented
 - 3 instruments for cantonal universities and universities of applied sciences: basic – investment – project-related contributions
- **Next steps:**

Cantons have to decide on higher education institutions agreement and collaboration agreement:
consultation procedure (2013),
ratification (2014),
Federal Act to come into force/become operative (2014/2015)



**Swiss Confederation:
Federal Act**

regulates:

- competences of common bodies
- principles of organisation

delegates:

- jurisdiction of and implementation by the bodies

**Cantons:
Concordat /Agreement**

accepts:

- competences of common bodies
- principles of organisation

delegates :

- jurisdiction of and implementation by the bodies

decides:

- cantonal delegates in the Higher Education Institutions Council

Agreement for Collaboration Confederation and Cantons

to create common bodies, to delegate their competences, to regulate the decision process and cost transfers (equalization payment), and so forth.