



# Internationality and internationally competitive

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The meaning of internationality

Is an 'international' University more competitive?

Strategies to find international partners

Special role of Switzerland

Merci à Ed Constable



# Internationality

Collaboration with foreign researchers

Foreign students/faculty

Agreements with foreign Universities

International grants (ERC)

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## Rankings count....

International collaborations (co-authorship)

International students and faculty

But many other things too....



## International collaborations and staff

### **Collaborations:**

Facilitate travel, short sabbaticals, guest rooms, MOU's...

### **Staff:**

English courses, simple visa formalities,  
Attractive working conditions, build reputation in hospitality



# What are tools needed for?

Identifying partners

Approaching partners

Financing partnerships

Easing beaurocratic hurdles

Sharing experience

Embodying transnational partnership into sustainable structures





## Agreements with foreign universities

Select carefully a few partners according to principles (e.g. equality, complementary...) and criteria like ranking, size, subject portfolio, finance, language, research and teaching needs, political priorities

Conclude as many agreement as possible (but with low obligations): Memoranda of understanding MOU

Become part of an exclusive club: LERU, IDEA League..



## **MOU – good, but irrelevant?**

### **Positive aspects**

Chances of success are statistically good

Unsuccessful or unused partnerships can be allowed to die without intervention

Success is usually bottom-up and need-driven

Relatively few resources needed to establish and maintain

### **Negative aspects**

Reason for success is not always clear

Strategically important partnerships cannot be protected

Success is not linked to strategic benefit

The resource investment can be disproportionately high for the return



## Swiss advantages and problems

Salaries, well supported universities, nice buildings etc are internationally attractive and continue to be top

Exclusion from European programs: less money, less attractive for foreign top people, less internationally visible

Too small thinking (everyone needs everything) instead of fewer and more visible centers

Too much embedding in politics (difficult to build supra-cantonal institutions, laws)