

Federal Department
of Economic Affairs, Education and Research



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

*We are committed
to a sustainable
Switzerland.*

www.wbf.admin.ch

Welcome to the EAER

This brochure provides an overview of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER).

It is my privilege to be at the helm of such a highly diversified organisation - with two state secretariats, four federal offices and five affiliated bodies as well as three decentralised institutions. The EAER brings all federal economic and trade policy areas under a single roof. We focus on education, research and innovation as well as agriculture. Finally, our department handles issues relating to housing, national economic supply and civilian service.

The EAER employs around 2,600 people who are committed to ensuring that Switzerland is equipped for the future - and thus able to preserve our level of prosperity, both now and in the future.

This brochure will give you a brief glimpse of the wide range of tasks and challenges. Additional information and updates can also be found on our website www.wbf.admin.ch.

Guy Parmelin | Federal Councillor





The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs | SECO

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO is the federal agency responsible for core issues relating to economic policy. Its aim is to ensure sustainable economic growth, high employment and fair working conditions.

Page 6/7



State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation | SERI

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to education, research and innovation policy at national and international level.

Page 8/9



Federal Office for Agriculture | FOAG

The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) is responsible for all matters pertaining to agriculture and pursues agricultural research through its affiliated competence centre, Agroscope.

Page 10/11



Federal Office for National Economic Supply | FONES

The National Economic Supply (NES) organisation has a constitutional mandate to ensure the availability of essential goods and services in Switzerland in response to existential threats or supply shortages.

Page 12/13



Federal Office for Housing | FOH

The Federal Office for Housing (FOH) is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to housing. The FOH implements federal legislation on housing development and enforces tenancy law.

Page 14/15



Federal Office for Civilian Service | CIVI

The Federal Office for Civilian Service (CIVI) is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to civilian service. It ensures the rapid handling of applications for admission to civilian service.

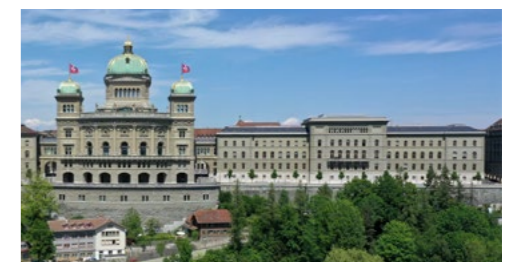
Page 16/17



General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is the main management and coordination body of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER).

Page 18/19





We ensure sustainable economic growth and fair working conditions.

www.seco.admin.ch

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is the federal agency responsible for core issues relating to economic policy.

Its aim is to ensure sustainable economic growth, high employment and fair working conditions by providing a stable environment for regulatory, economic and foreign trade policy. State Secretary Helene Budlinger Artieda heads SECO, which employs around 800 people.

SECO is comprised of four directorates and one internal services division:

- Labour Directorate: responsible for supervising, coordinating and implementing government policy on working conditions, public job placement services, unemployment insurance and compensatory measures.
- Economic Policy Directorate: identifies areas where economic policy action is needed and analyses federal legislation in terms of its macroeconomic impact.
- Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate: works to keep the Swiss economy open. It promotes the interests of our economy abroad by supporting free and fair world trade.
- Promotion Activities Directorate: helps Swiss SMEs to adapt to changing conditions and thus contributes to maintaining Switzerland's competitiveness as a business location.
- Organisation, Law & Accreditation Division: comprises the internal services that enable efficient handling of SECO activities. This internal services division is also responsible for enforcing the Unfair Competition Act (UCA) and for accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

Address

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
Holzikofenweg 36
3003 Bern

Twitter

 @SECO_CH

Website

www.seco.admin.ch

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to education, research and innovation policy at national and international level.

State Secretary Martina Hirayama is the head of SERI, which employs around 280 people in Switzerland and 60 people abroad. SERI's annual budget for education, research and innovation activities stands at CHF 4.5 billion.

As the federal government's specialised agency for the ERI system, SERI has the following remit:

- Establishing a strategic overview of the Swiss education, research and innovation system and preparing federal performance and resource plans.
- Pursuing international networking activities and ensuring that Switzerland remains involved in European and global education, research and innovation efforts.
- Fostering a broad and diverse range of education opportunities, ensuring that academic and vocational/professional pathways remain fully equivalent and compatible with one another.
- Maintaining and improving the quality and appeal of vocational/professional pathways in keeping with changes taking place on the labour market.
- Safeguarding the high quality of teaching and research at higher education institutions.
- Promoting research and innovation, coordinating tasks and measures of federal research funding institutions.
- Promoting and coordinating Swiss space research activities.
- Serving as the National Contact Point coordinating the recognition of foreign vocational and professional qualifications. SERI is responsible for the recognition of cantonal general baccalaureate qualifications, for facilitating the international comparability of Swiss and foreign vocational and professional qualifications through European and national qualification frameworks, and for the recognition of foreign vocational and professional as well as qualifications awarded by universities of applied sciences.

Address

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
Einsteinstrasse 2 | 3003 Bern

Twitter

 @SBFI_CH

Website

www.sbf.admin.ch



*We promote education,
research and innovation
in Switzerland.*

www.sbf.admin.ch

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) is responsible for all matters pertaining to agriculture and pursues agricultural research through its affiliated competence centre, Agroscope.

Christian Hofer runs the FOAG, which employs around 270 people.

The FOAG is committed to ensuring that farmers produce high-quality food in a sustainable and market-oriented manner. It works to ensure that the Swiss agricultural sector plays an important role in:

- ensuring a reliable supply of agricultural goods for the population
- maintaining natural resources and the agricultural landscape
- encouraging the decentralised settlement of land

The FOAG works with the cantons and farming organisations to implement the decisions of the Swiss population, parliament and government and plays an active role in shaping agricultural policy.

The Agriculture Act (AgricA), in effect since 1 January 1999, provides the legal basis for a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and innovative agricultural sector. The government creates incentives for the production and sale of agricultural goods both for domestic and foreign markets. It also provides direct subsidies to farmers for the services they provide to the public and to the environment.

Address

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG
Schwarzenburgstrasse 165
3003 Bern

Twitter

 @CHblw

Websites

www.blw.admin.ch
www.agroscope.admin.ch



*We preserve the natural
basis of life and cultivate
the cultural landscape.*

www.blw.admin.ch

*We ensure the supply
of vital goods and
services to Switzerland.*



www.bwl.admin.ch

Federal Office for National Economic Supply

FONES

The National Economic Supply (NES) organisation has a constitutional mandate to ensure the availability of essential goods and services in Switzerland in response to existential threats or supply shortages.

The federal government and the private sector work together through the NES. This organisation intervenes when the economy can no longer guarantee basic supply on its own. To this end, the NES has various tools at its disposal, as well as an extensive range of emergency stockpiles.

Hans Häfliger is the Delegate of the NES organisation, which is comprised of around 250 private-sector managers and government officials, as well as 40 employees at the Federal Office for National Economic Supply (FONES), the agency that implements NES policy.

Address

**Federal Office for National
Economic Supply FONES
Bernastrasse 28
3003 Bern**

Twitter

 [@WL_AEP_NES](https://twitter.com/WL_AEP_NES)

Website

www.bwl.admin.ch



Federal Office for Housing FOH

The Federal Office for Housing (FOH) is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to housing. The FOH implements federal legislation on housing development and enforces tenancy law.

The FOH also prepares policy documents aimed at increasing the supply of housing, improving the quality of housing environments and creating transparency on the housing market.

Martin Tschirren heads the FOH, which employs 36 people.

The FOH represents Switzerland in international organisations that deal with housing issues, namely in the Committee on Housing and Land Management, which is part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Address

**Federal Office for Housing FOH
Hallwylstrasse 4
3003 Bern**

Twitter

 @BWO_OFL

Website

www.bwo.admin.ch



We develop decision-making bases for improving the housing supply.

www.bwo.admin.ch

*We ensure
the economic benefits
of civilian service.*



Federal Office for Civilian Service CIVI

The Federal Office for Civilian Service (CIVI) is the federal agency responsible for all matters pertaining to civilian service.

It ensures the rapid handling of applications for admission to civilian service, the efficient deployment of civilian service personnel and the maintenance of the economic benefits of civilian service.

Christoph Hartmann is the head of CIVI, which employs around 140 people. CIVI operates three regional centres in the German-speaking part of Switzerland as well as one regional centre for the French-speaking part and one for the Italian-speaking part. Each regional centre assigns civilian service personnel to host institutions in the respective area of deployment. CIVI also operates a training centre in Schwarzsee. Its central services office is located in Thun.


CIVI carries out three main activities:

- It decides on admission to civilian service.
- It supervises and monitors civilian service personnel to ensure fulfilment of their service obligations.
- It provides guidance and support to authorised host institutions and examines applications received from prospective ones.

Address

**Federal Office for Civilian Service CIVI
Malerweg 6
3600 Thun**

Twitter

 **@ZIVI_CH**

Website

www.zivi.admin.ch

Verwaltungsstellen des WBF

Agroscope

Agroscope ist das Kompetenzzentrum des Bundes für landwirtschaftliche Forschung und ist dem Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft (BLW) angegliedert.

www.agroscope.admin.ch

Wettbewerbskommission WEKO

Die Wettbewerbskommission und ihr vollamtliches Sekretariat sind zuständig für die Bekämpfung von Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen.

www.weko.admin.ch

Preisüberwachung PUE

Die Preisüberwachung schützt die Konsumentinnen sowie die Wirtschaft vor missbräuchlichen Preisen, die bei fehlendem wirksamem Wettbewerb entstehen.

www.preisueberwacher.admin.ch

Büro für Konsumentenfragen BFK

Das Eidgenössische Büro für Konsumentenfragen ist das Kompetenzzentrum des Bundes für die Belange der Konsumenten im Rahmen der allgemeinen Wirtschaftspolitik.

www.konsum.admin.ch

Information Service Center WBF ISCeco

Das ISCeco entwickelt, integriert und betreibt als departmentaler Informatik-Leistungserbringer Fachanwendungen für die Kunden im WBF.

www.isceco.admin.ch

Innosuisse - Schweizerische Agentur für Innovation

Die Aufgabe von Innosuisse ist es, die wissenschaftsbasierte Innovation im Interesse von Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft zu fördern.

www.innosuisse.ch

ETH-Bereich

Der ETH-Bereich umfasst die beiden Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschulen ETH Zürich und EPFL, die vier Forschungsanstalten PSI, WSL, Empa und Eawag sowie unabhängige Beschwerdeorgane.

www.ethrat.ch

Eidgenössische Hochschule für Berufsbildung

Die Eidgenössische Hochschule für Berufsbildung EHB ist die schweizerische Expertiseorganisation für Berufsbildung.

www.ehb.swiss

General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is the main management and coordination body of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER).

It is run by Nathalie Goumaz and employs 115 people.

The EAER General Secretariat

- supports and advises the head of department in his daily work,
- is responsible for planning and monitoring items of business,
- monitors results and impacts of the measures taken,
- is responsible for overall coordination of departmental business,
- provides services for the whole department in terms of resources (HR, finance and logistics, IT, controlling and translations) and
- acts as IT service provider to the department through its Information Service Center (ISCeco).

Adress

**General Secretariat EAER
Federal Palace East Wing
3003 Bern**

Website

www.wbf.admin.ch



www.wbf.admin.ch



Impressum

Edition: February 2023

© Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research

Images: Markus A. Jegerlehner | fotojeger.ch

Layout: sehruum11, Langenthal | sehruum11.ch

Printing: Digital Druckcenter Langenthal AG



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

www.wbf.admin.ch