



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

Higher education in Switzerland

Muriel Meister-Gampert

60th BFUG meeting, Sofia, 25 April 2018





Switzerland at a glance

Population > 8'000'000

Politics:

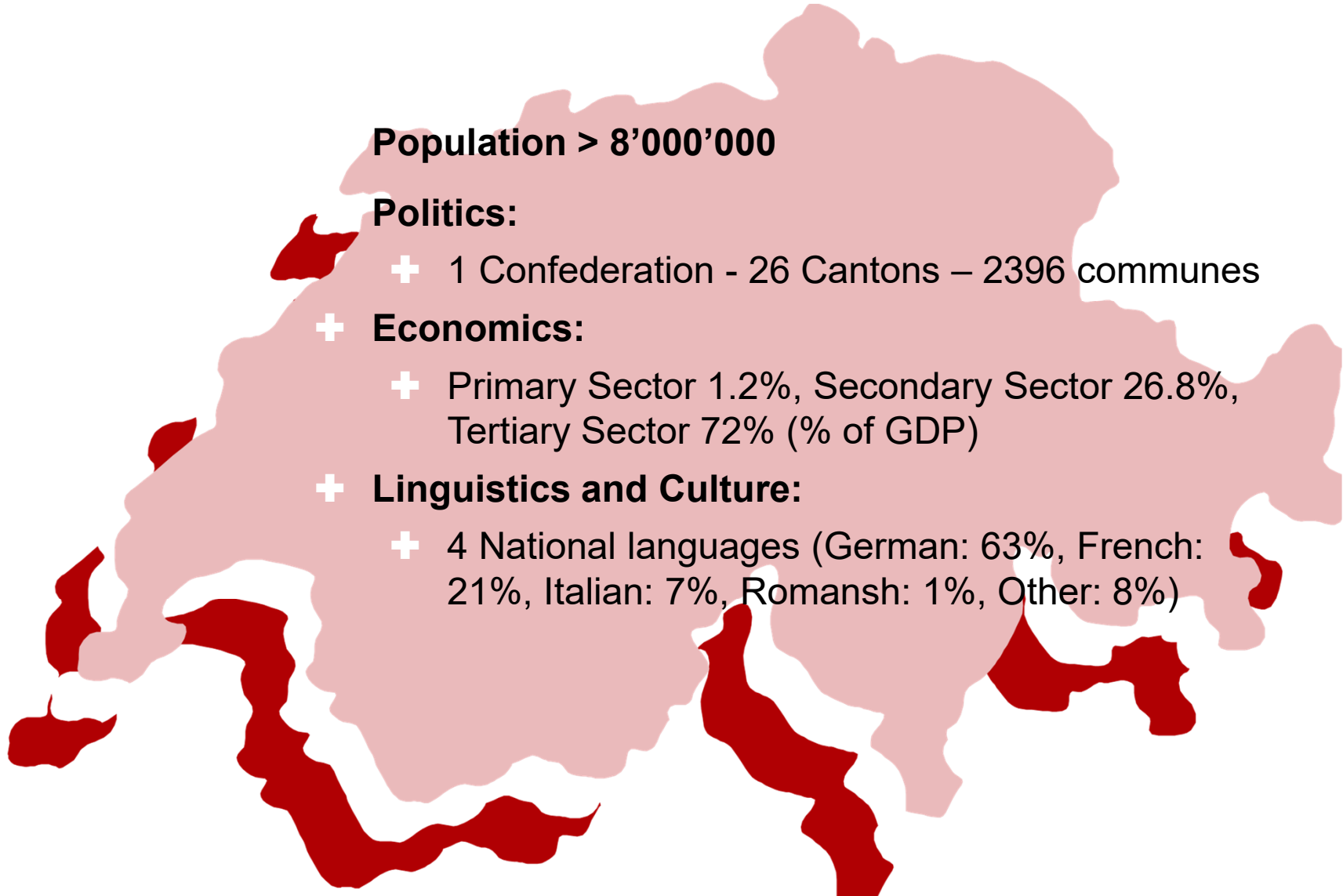
+ 1 Confederation - 26 Cantons – 2396 communes

+ Economics:

+ Primary Sector 1.2%, Secondary Sector 26.8%,
Tertiary Sector 72% (% of GDP)

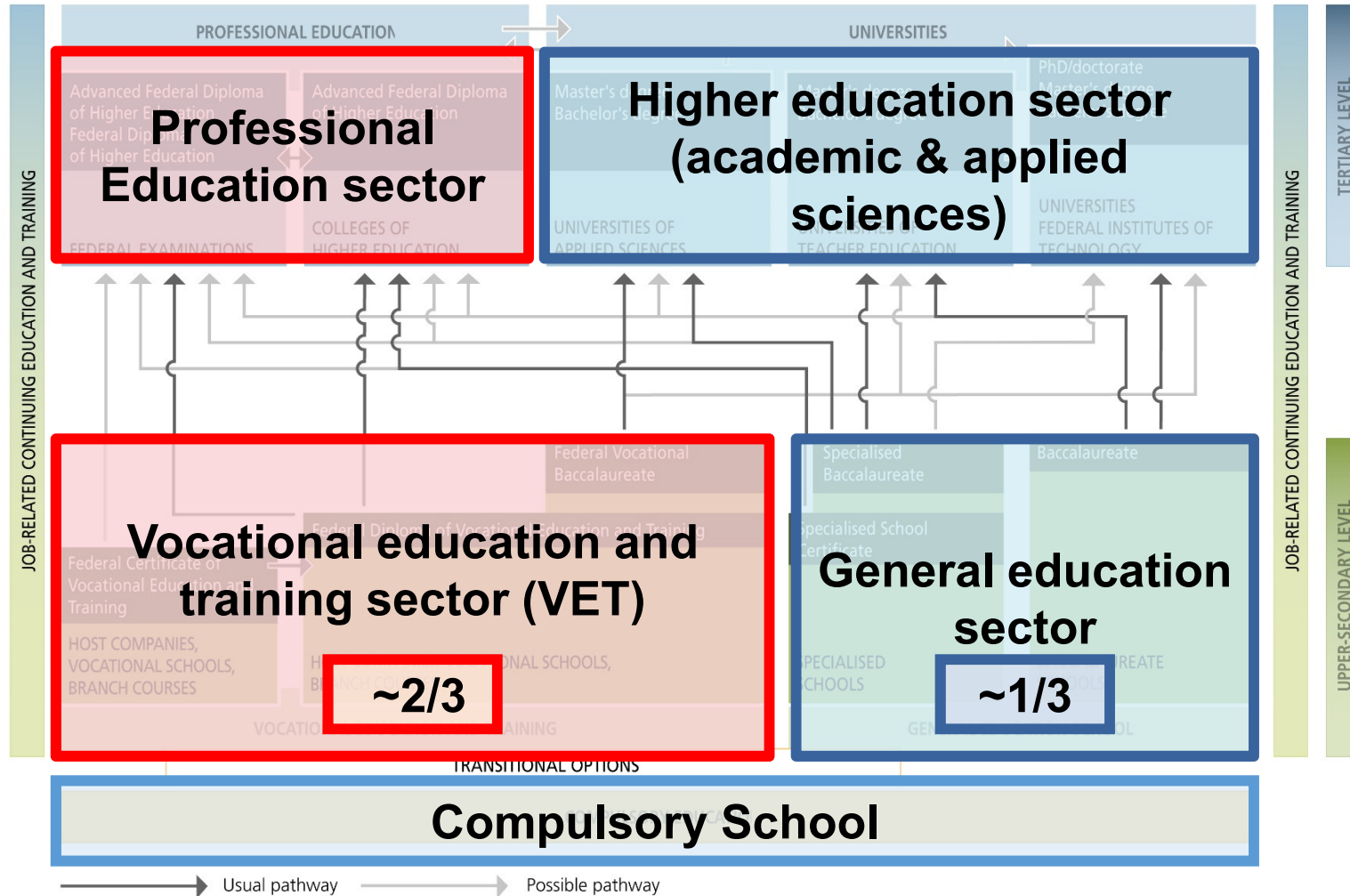
+ Linguistics and Culture:

+ 4 National languages (German: 63%, French:
21%, Italian: 7%, Romansh: 1%, Other: 8%)





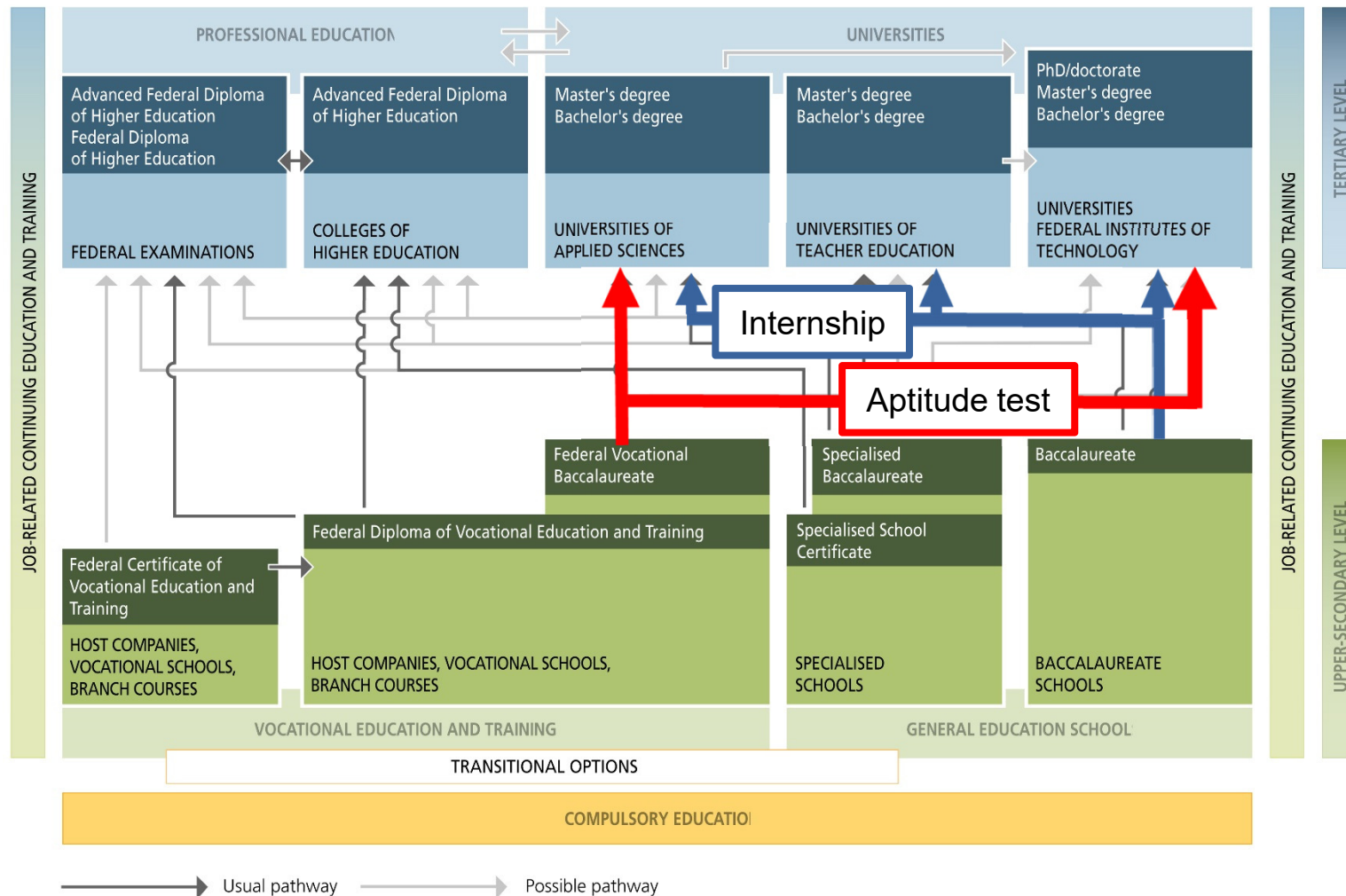
Swiss education system





Swiss education system

High level of permeability





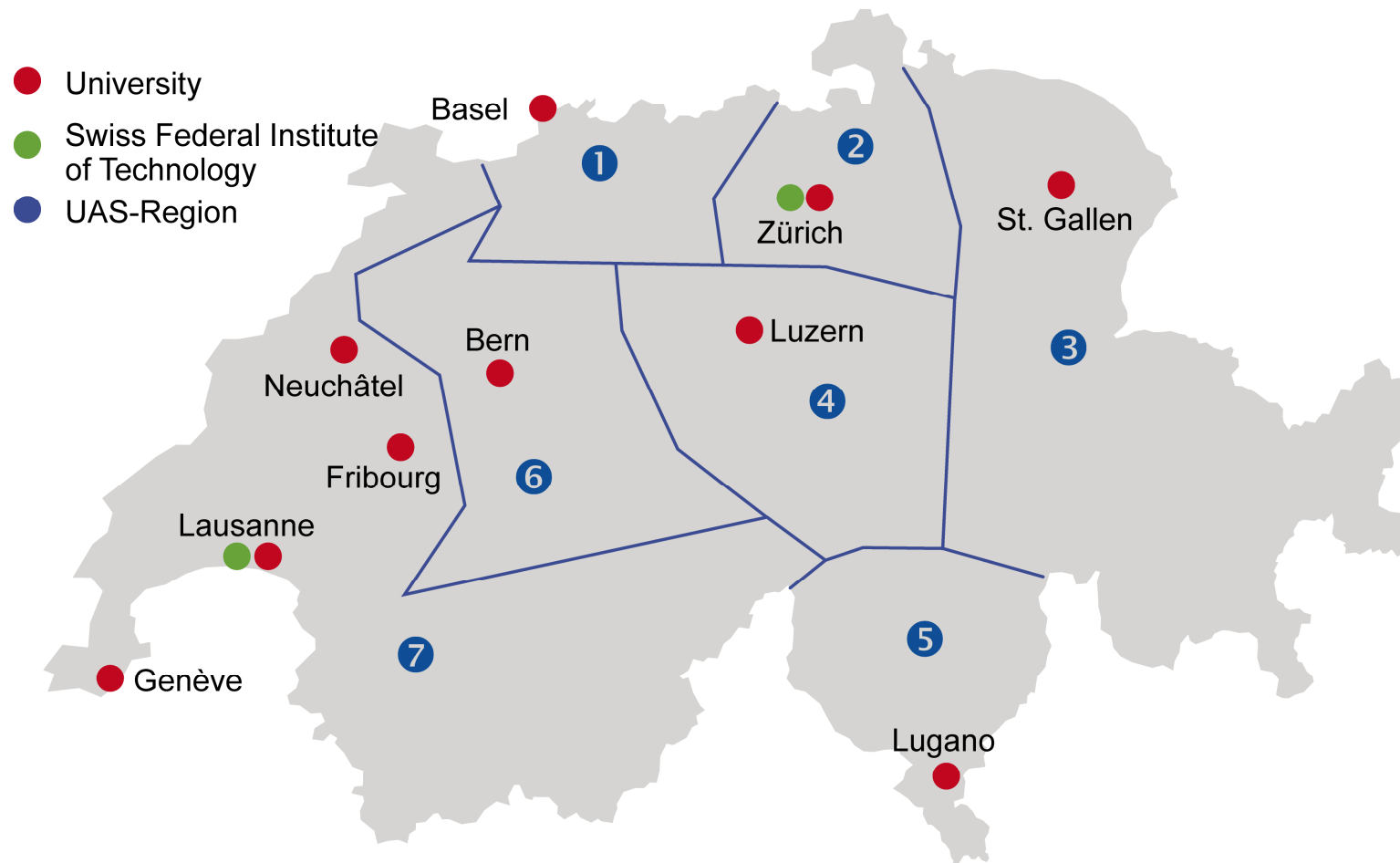
Swiss higher education landscape

Overview

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Academic universities | Federal Institutes of Technology (FITs) ETH Zurich EPFL Lausanne | Bachelor Master PHD Continuing education and training | Engineering University teaching Fundamental research Services |
| | 10 Cantonal Universities | | University teaching Fundamental research Services |
| UAS and UTEs | Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) 7 public UAS, 1 private UAS | Bachelor Master Continuing education and training | Practical teaching Applied research Services |
| | Universities of Teacher education (UTEs) 14 UTEs | | Initial and continuing training of teachers (ISCED 0-4) Applied research Services |



Swiss Higher education landscape





Key figures

Higher education: qualifications awarded in 2016

| | Academic universities (i.e. cantonal universities and FITs) | | | Universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTEs) | | |
|--|---|-------------|------------|---|-------------|------------|
| | Total | Foreign (%) | Female (%) | Total | Foreign (%) | Female (%) |
| All qualifications | 33,114 | 29% | 53% | 22,910 | 17% | 54% |
| Bachelor's degrees | 14,319 | 12% | 53% | 16,240 | 13% | 56% |
| Master's degrees | 13,852 | 24% | 52% | 3,972 | 33% | 59% |
| PhDs | 3,936 | 55% | 44% | - | - | - |
| Continuing education and training | 2,007 | 55% | 46% | 2,698 | 17% | 35% |

Source: Federal Statistical Office (2017)



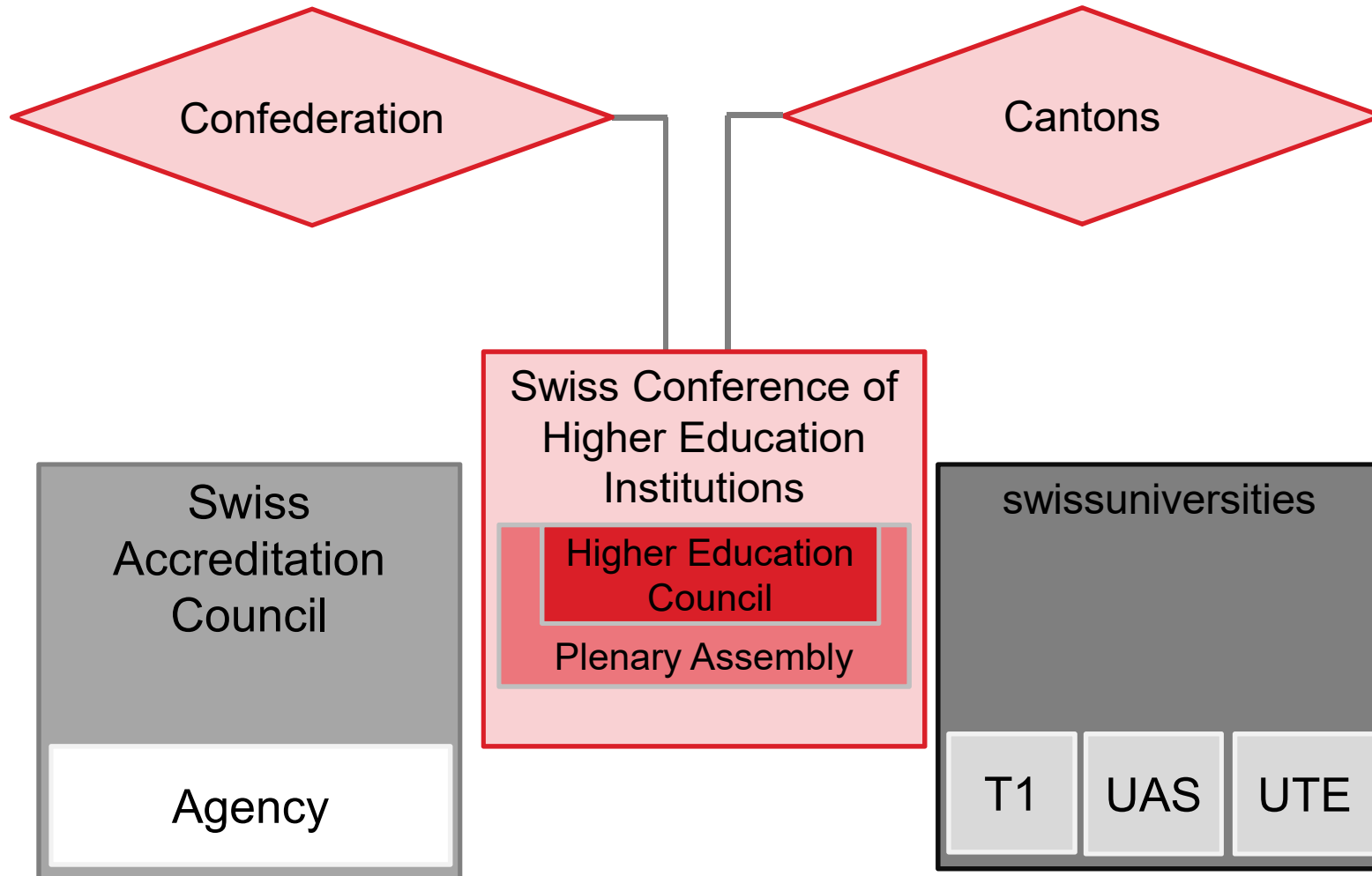
Federal Act on Funding and Coordination of the Swiss Higher Education Sector (Higher Education Act, HEdA)

Framework for high quality education and research came into force on the 1st January 2015.

- **3 types of higher education institutions in one single higher education landscape**
 - Cantonal Universities and Institutes of Technology ETH
 - Universities of Applied Sciences
 - Universities of Teacher Education
- **facilitates mobility between the 3 types**
- **created joint bodies of the Confederation and the Cantons:**
to coordinate priorities and investment in cost-intensive fields



Coordination and quality control





Accreditation

Institutional Accreditation is mandatory

- for institutions wishing to use the reserved designations «university», «university of applied sciences» or «university of teacher education» or derived designations such as «university college» or «UAS college»
- for public universities in order to be eligible for federal contributions
- for programme accreditation

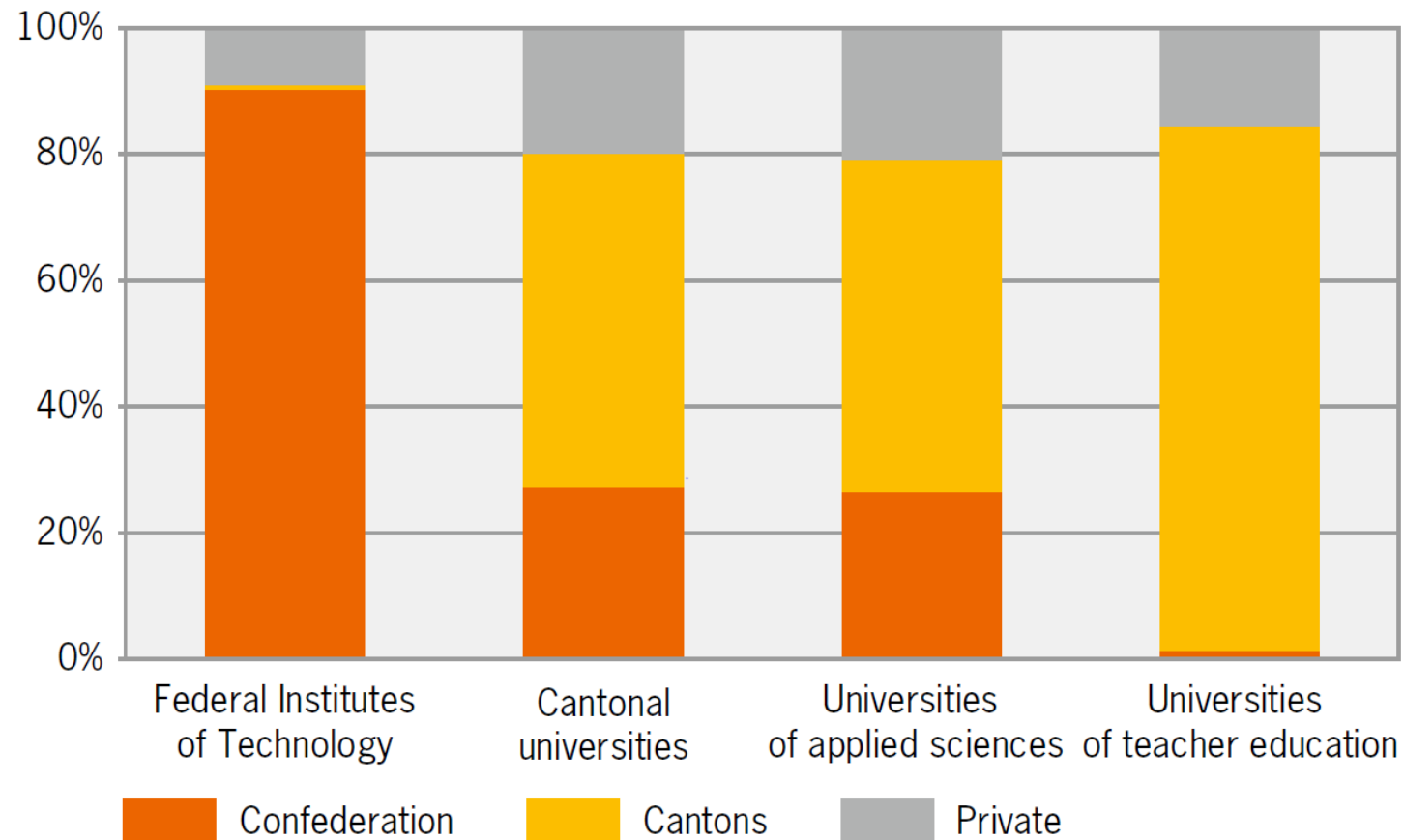
Programme Accreditation is voluntary

Validity of the accreditation: seven years



Higher education

Funding of higher education institutions by funder in 2014



Source: Federal Statistical Office, Education finance 2016



The Bologna Process and Switzerland

- Switzerland signed the Bologna Declaration in 1999
- Responsibility for the implementation by the Rectors' Conferences (closer to the field)
- This has led to:
 - a structural reform
 - from one cycle to two cycles (BA/MA with ECTS)
 - national qualification framework
 - development of the quality assurance system
 - compulsory accreditation
 - ...



Meeting in Switzerland

- Committed to give a good impetus for the start of the new working period 2018-2020 after the Ministerial Conference
- Board meeting in Zürich: Tuesday 3rd of July
- Welcoming dinner on Monday evening



Photo: City of Zurich



Additional information

State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation:

www.sbf.admin.ch

Rectors' Conference of Higher
Education Institutions :

www.swissuniversities.ch

Swiss Agency of Accreditation
and Quality Assurance AAQ:

www.aaq.ch

Federal Statistical Office:

www.bfs.admin.ch

