

**DESPERATE OR COLLABORATE!**  
**SwissMedEL, A SWISS MEDICAL E-LEARNING COLLABORATION**

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Switzerland is only twice as big as New Jersey, has 4 official languages, 5 medical faculties (schools) and a population of 7.2 Million “cheese-eaters”. Every faculty develops its own e-learning courses. A federal granting program started in 2001, boosted the collaborative production of e-learning among Swiss Universities. At SOL 2004 in the Netherlands, the Dutch COO-group inspired a bunch of Swiss participants to move to the next level of collaboration: SwissMedEL (**Swiss Medical E-Learning**), the Swiss interuniversity network of medical e-learning coordinators and producers.

Founded in December 2004, SwissMedEL defined the following objectives:

- Exchange of information, contacts and experiences
- Cooperation and joint initiatives (evaluation, el-programs, symposia, study-trips)
- Representation of our interest in institutions, groups etc.
- Quality assurance of e-learning
- Stay in touch with e-learning people of other fields and countries

In this short presentation, we will give an overview on the current state, the future developments and plans (and dreams) of SwissMedEL.