



Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Swiss Regulations

Status as at: 13 July 2015

Selection process

Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, together with RTS, RSI and RTR, is seeking the Swiss entry for the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest.

The first stage of the selection process will be an Internet vote that is open to performers from throughout Switzerland and abroad. RTS and RSI will also search for candidates in their own parts of Switzerland.

In the second stage, the 10 top performers from the Internet vote, six candidates from RTS and three candidates from RSI will present their song live in front of a panel of experts. This round is intended to test their live performance skills (singing and stage presence). The three top SRF performers, the two top RTS candidates and the top RSI candidate will qualify to take part in the big national decider show, to be broadcast live from Kreuzlingen on 13 February 2016. As part of this show, they must perform not only their own song, but also a cover version of another song, to give viewers a comprehensive impression of the artists' overall quality.

The final decision on who will represent Switzerland at the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest in Sweden will be split 50/50 between the audience televote and the opinions of an expert jury.

General conditions of entry

1. SRF, RTS, RSI and RTR (referred to in these regulations as "SRG") are looking for a strong song of an international standard. The song will be performed by one or more singers. No more than six people in total (including dancers and backing vocalists) may appear on stage.
2. The final performers of the songs in question are responsible for entering them in the preliminary round. A song cannot be submitted if it does not have a definite performer at the time of entry. Lyricists and composers who do not have a performer for their song cannot enter themselves.
3. Provided they are not asserted by a performing rights association such as SUISA, all rights to the song (rights of use protected under copyright, and related rights) are transferred upon submission to SRG for use, free of charge, in the context of the Eurovision selection process on all vectors (multimedia, radio, TV, CD, DVD and YouTube), and in connection with any entry in the international final.

4. The performer undertakes to acquire, in full and in legally valid form, all of the rights (including related rights) that are required for the contractual production and use of the work/production, as well as its performance, and for third-party inputs, from the rights-holders, specifically the exercising artists (studio musicians, etc.) and to grant SRG such rights without any condition or proviso whatsoever.
5. The performer guarantees that no agreements of any nature with third parties, such as record labels, event organizers or agencies, hinder the contractual production and use of the work/production, or its performance.
6. By submitting their song, the performer confirms that it is an original work (composition/lyrics) and does not constitute plagiarism in any way.

Song and performer(s)

7. The submitted song must be no longer than three minutes and no shorter than two minutes, 50 seconds.
8. Performers must be at least 16 years of age (as at 1 May 2016).
9. The song may not have been published prior to 1 September 2015 on the radio, TV, Internet, by public performance or any type of audio medium, etc.
10. There are no requirements as to language, but the content of the song may not be political or racist in nature, neither may it glorify violence.
11. According to European Broadcasting Union rules, performers, lyricists and composers do not need to be Swiss citizens or even resident in Switzerland.
12. Entries will not be accepted from commercial, religious or non-profit organizations and foundations.

Selection process, stage 1: Internet platform (SRF/RTR)

13. The selection process is public. Interested performers must place their songs (both video and audio) on a defined Internet platform.
14. Performers register by completing an electronic form and agreeing to be bound by all rules and regulations connected with the Eurovision Song Contest. Missing documents and/or incomplete information in the registration process may result in disqualification.
15. The entry period begins on **28 September 2015 and ends at 8 a.m. on 26 October 2015**.
16. Registering and publishing their song (video and audio) on the Internet platform constitutes a binding undertaking on the part of the performer that, should they win the decider show on 13 February 2016, they will represent Switzerland with the same song at the Eurovision Song Contest.
The international semi-final programmes are likely to take place on 10 and 12 May 2016. The international final is likely to be held on 14 May 2016.
17. Internet users will vote for their favourite songs online for a defined period (probably 2-16 November 2015). Users are limited to four votes each. Any voting manipulation or irregularities may result in the exclusion of the song/performer.

18. An expert jury, composed of independent professionals from different fields, will also rate the songs that have been submitted. Their opinion carries a 50% weighting.
The top **10 performers** that emerge from the final evaluation (50% Internet/50% expert jury) qualify with their songs to take part in the Expert Check.
19. The detailed results of the preliminary selection process (Internet/jury) will not be published.

Selection process, stage 1: RTS/RSI

20. Applying its own criteria, RTS will select six songs and performers to participate in the Expert Check.
21. Applying its own criteria, RSI will select three songs and performers to participate in the Expert Check.
22. Should RSI or RTS fail to submit any songs/performers, or submit too few, the next-rated entry from the final Internet evaluation (50% Internet/50% expert jury) will move up into the line-up for the Expert Check.
23. Should songs/performers be rated among the top 10 after the final Internet evaluation (50% Internet/50% expert jury) and also have been chosen for one of the dedicated RSI or RTS places, the next-rated entry from the final Internet evaluation (50% Internet/50% expert jury) will move up into the line-up for the Expert Check.

Selection process, stage 2: the Expert Check

24. The candidates who have qualified up to this point (10 SRF, 6 RTS, 3 RSI) will present their songs in front of a panel of experts at the Expert Check. These experts will assess the candidates' live performance skills, voice quality and stage presence. Excerpts from the Expert Check may be used on TV or the Internet.
25. Participants in the Expert Check will be contacted by the production team. Their participation will be governed by a written contract.
26. The Expert Check is likely to take place in Zurich on 6 December 2015.
27. The top performers/songs will qualify for the live show on 13 February 2016, with places allocated as follows: three performers/songs from the Internet selection process, two performers/songs from the selection made by RTS, and one performer/song from the selection made by RSI. This will give a total of six performers and songs to be presented in the live show on 13 February 2016.

Selection process, stage 3: the live national show

28. The live national show is likely to be staged in Kreuzlingen on **13 February 2016**.
29. In the live show, the six qualifying performers will present their own song, plus a cover version of another song. This song will be selected on consultation with the production team.
30. The qualifying performers declare their willingness to be available for TV recordings between 6 December 2015 and 13 February 2016.
31. The winner will be decided by means of a televote, in conjunction with an expert jury (50% televoting, 50% jury).

Additional provisions

32. The selected performers/songs must be of an international standard and a quality that is competitive at a European level. SRG reserves the right to make any amendments to the

selection process that may be necessary to ensure that the required level of quality is achieved.

- 33.** The selection process will take place under legal supervision.
- 34.** The EBU will produce a set of international regulations. Should the international regulations differ from the national regulations, the international regulations will apply. All rules concerning participation in the semi-final and final of the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest are laid down in these regulations and are binding on the winner of the national selection round.
- 35.** Entries that violate the regulations will be disqualified.
- 36.** SRG accepts no financial liability or obligation whatsoever to performers in connection with participation in the Swiss decider or the Eurovision Song Contest.
- 37.** SRG reserves the right at any time to amend the present regulations or bring them into line with the international regulations. Where appropriate, the participants concerned will be informed. Changes to the regulations do not give rise to any form of claim on the part of participants.
- 38.** The organizers' decision is final.
- 39.** The German version of these regulations is authoritative.

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