



Eurovision Song Contest 2014

Swiss Regulations

Version of 8 July 2013

New selection process

Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, together with RTS, RSI and RTR, is seeking the Swiss entry for the 2014 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 according to their own criteria.

In the second stage, the nine 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 1 February 2014. 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 artist's overall quality.

The final decision on who will represent Switzerland at the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest in Denmark 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 the 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 committed 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, youtube, etc.), 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 organisers or agencies, hinder the contractual production and use of the work/production, or its performance
6. With their submission, the performer confirms that the submitted song is an original work (composition/lyrics) and does not constitute plagiarism in any way.

Song and performer(s)

7. The submitted song may 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 2014).
9. The song may not have been published prior to 1 September 2013 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 organisations 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 may result in disqualification.
15. The entry period begins on **30 September 2013 and ends on 28 October 2013 at 8.00 am**.
16. Registering and publishing their song (video and audio) on the internet platform constitutes a binding undertaking on the part of the performer that they will take part in the Expert Check (probably on 30 November 2013) and in the live national show on 1 February 2014 and, should they win the decider show, will represent Switzerland with the same song at the Eurovision Song Contest.
The international semi-final programmes are likely to take place on 6 and 8 May 2014. The international final is likely to be held on 10 May 2014.
17. Internet users will vote for their favourites online for a defined period (probably 4-18 November 2013). Users are limited to four votes each. Manipulation of or irregularities in voting 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 **nine top 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 and possibly the decider show.
23. Should songs/performers be rated among the top nine 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 and possibly the decider show.

Selection process, stage 2: the Expert Check

24. The candidates which have qualified up to this point (9 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 without restriction on TV, radio, the internet, etc.
25. The Expert Check is likely to take place in Zurich on 30 November 2013.
26. The top performers/songs will qualify for the live show on 1 February 2014, 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 1 February 2014.

Selection process, stage 3: the live national show

27. The final participants in the live show on 1 February 2014 will be contacted by the production team following the Expert Check. Their participation will be governed by a written contract.
28. Participants in the live show will not be announced until a contract has been signed.
29. The live national show is likely to be staged in Kreuzlingen on **1 February 2014**.
30. 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 in consultation with the production team.
31. The qualifying performers declare their willingness to be available for TV recordings between 1 December 2013 and 1 February 2014.
32. The winner will be decided by means of a televote, in combination with an expert jury (50% televoting, 50% jury).

Additional provisions

33. The selected performers/songs must be of an international standard and a quality that is competitive in the European context. SRG reserves the right to make any such amendments to the selection process that may be necessary to ensure that the target level of quality is achieved.
34. The selection process will take place under legal supervision.
35. 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 2014 Eurovision Song Contest are laid down in these regulations and are binding on the winner of the national selection round.

36. Entries that violate the regulations may be disqualified.
37. SRG accepts no financial liability or obligation whatsoever to performers in connection with participation in the Swiss selection process or the Eurovision Song Contest.
38. 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.
39. The organisers' decision is final.
40. The German version of these regulations is authoritative.

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