

## Supervision of Cinémathèque suisse credit lines Audit at the Federal Office of Culture

### Key facts

---

As the national film archive, Cinémathèque suisse (CS) is in charge of a major collection of films, photographs and posters. It is a private-law foundation under the Film Act, and has a national mandate for the archiving and restoration of films. This mandate is funded mainly by the Confederation, the Canton of Vaud and the City of Lausanne. The Confederation provides around two-thirds of the budget for CS.

In 2014 the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted an audit into “selected aspects of the construction and refurbishment works in Penthaz and of the strategy of the Federal Office of Culture regarding CS”<sup>1</sup>. The aim of this audit was to assess the supervision of the federal funding during the 2016–2020 funding period. It was carried out against the backdrop of the 2014 audit and the findings of the follow-up process, which examined how the recommendations had been implemented.

According to the service level agreement for 2016–2020, financial assistance amounting to approximately CHF 37 million is available from the Confederation. Additional government funding of around CHF 13 million is being applied in the current period for investment in the data centre together with follow-on costs as well as for structural alterations and the completion of construction work at the archives centre in Penthaz. The Federal Office of Culture (FOC) is responsible for supervising the government funding used for investment in the new CS data centre and its operation. The government funding used for structural alterations and the completion of construction work at Penthaz is supervised by the Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL).

### **Credit application via the Real Estate Dispatch not required and tighter supervision by the FOC**

The above-mentioned additional government funding was provided by the FOC via compensation payments and by the BBL via the remainder of the credit line for the archives centre in Penthaz. A credit application for around CHF 6 million had originally been submitted as part of the 2015 Real Estate Dispatch, but this was not required in the end.

The objectives specified in the Culture Dispatch have been carried over to the service level agreement for 2016–2020, with the exception of a few areas where plausible reasons were given. The tasks assigned to the performance objectives, costing a total of some CHF 37 million, are aligned with the aim of collecting “Helvetica” and include measurable performance indicators. Although it is not yet clear how this will be evaluated, it has led to tighter supervision.

### **The recommendations from 2014 have been implemented**

Since the last audit, it is pleasing to note that both the FOC and CS have initiated and/or implemented a number of basic measures which will support further development as part of the future collaboration. Establishing strategies for the digitisation and permanent preservation of films at the archives centre in Penthaz was of central importance. Under the leadership of the General Secretariat of the Federal

---

<sup>1</sup> The audit report PA 13386 is available on the website of the SFAO.



Department of Home Affairs (GS FDHA), the specific details of the future focus have been defined and transferred to the planned data centre, taking due account of the Confederation's interests. In particular, these include investment protection and permanent preservation at another location.

Furthermore, investments have ceased at Penthaz, as requested, because of the lack of a "Helvetica" concept and the absence of digitisation/archiving strategies for 2015.

**Original text in German**