



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**28.04.2011**

**Switzerland confirmed a new Latvian project on implementation of fire safety measures in Latvian schools**

On Thursday, April 28, in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) the third Latvia-Swiss cooperation programme Annual meeting was held where Swiss representatives supported a new idea of Latvian project on implementation of fire safety measures in Latvian schools within the priority “Security, stability and support for reforms”.

In the meeting MoF representatives together with the representatives of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and Swiss Confederation Embassy in Latvia discussed the progress of the cooperation programme in the time period from April 2010 till March 2011.

Till April, 2011 Swiss competent authorities have confirmed nine out of ten planned Latvian projects in total amounting to 49.4 million Swiss francs, which makes 87% of total Swiss funding available to Latvia.

56.88 million Swiss francs shall be granted within the framework of the Latvian-Swiss cooperation programme in the time period from 2007 till 2012, however the project implementation and funding acquisition period is till June 2017. Therefore with the Swiss financial support it is planned to implement 11 projects in Latvia. The contract concluded on remediation of polluted areas in Sarkandaugava was the seventh (the second biggest) project already launched.

Within the framework of the Swiss programme projects are approved in two rounds – in the first round project outlines are approved (ten Latvian project descriptions were approved till the end of 2010); however the next round after positive decision of Swiss competent institutions is development of final project proposal.

Up to date the project on school bus procurement for local governments has been completed (110 busses have been procured for 59 local governments), the court modernisation project is in process (it is planned to install 81 video conference equipment in all courts and prisons, in all court rooms – 295 audio recording equipment), as well as “NGO Fund” aimed at supporting non-governmental activities to improve living standards for youth and children from unfavourable families, with special needs, orphans and seniors (56 sub-projects have already been approved and are being implemented).

“Financial Reporting Technical Assistance Project” is also in progress aiming at ensuring compliance of Latvian legislation on accounting and audits of commercial entities with EU requirements, as well as at improving and building administrative capacity in accounting and auditing policy development field. “Scholarship Fund” is also in progress aimed at building scientific capacity of Latvian researchers and promotion of sustainable scientific cooperation between Latvia and Switzerland (3 scholarship holders have already been approved in the first call).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

The project “Technical Assistance Fund and Project Preparation Facility” is also in progress aimed at provision of support to ensure effective implementation of Latvia-Swiss cooperation programme and supporting development of project applications.

In July, 2011 it is planned to launch the project “Swiss Researchers Activities in Latvia” within the framework of which Latvian universities and research institutions will have a possibility to invite researchers from Switzerland.

Another two projects “Support for the development of youth initiatives in peripheral or disadvantaged regions” (it is planned to establish 17 multifunctional centres and organize 100 youth training seminars) and “Micro Lending Programme” (it is planned to support ~650 micro enterprises and self-employed persons) will be launched in 2011.

Within the framework of the Annual meeting project site visits in Madona will also be organized when Swiss delegation will be introduced with activities of three Swiss supported projects: reconstruction of premises for youth centre, procured school buses and sub-project “Promotion of cooperation between generations for people subject to social exclusion and poverty risks in Madona region” implemented by the society “NGO “Ozols”” within the framework of the NGO Fund.