



30.05.2011

### **Swiss funding granted for youth centres and experience exchange among researchers**

On Monday, May 30, Swiss Confederation Ambassador in Latvia Gabriela Nützi Sulpizio and Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Aleksandrs Antonovs signed Latvian-Swiss cooperation programme project agreements on granting 4.5 million Swiss francs to establishing of youth centres in Latvia and short-term grants for Swiss researchers to lecture and exchange experience in Latvian universities and scientific institutions.

*“I am satisfied that Latvia has established very good cooperation with Switzerland and utilizes Swiss funding to finance projects which are important for the society. Swiss contribution to youth and scientific work is especially important because Latvia treasures its people – their abilities, knowledge and skills,”* emphasised A. Antonovs after the signing of agreements.

Within the project “Support for the development of youth initiatives in peripheral or disadvantaged regions” it is planned to establish 17 multifunctional youth centres in various municipalities of Latvia, as well as organize seminars, conferences and forums for youth and persons involved in youth work. In general, it is planned to complete the project by 2017, but the youth centres will be established already in 2013. The project is being implemented by the Agency for International Programs for Youth. Total project funding is 4.7 million Swiss francs, including 0.7 million Swiss francs Latvian national co-financing.



The agreement of the block grant “Swiss researchers activities in Latvia” was also signed by the Director of the State Education Development Agency Dita Traidas. The block grant is aimed at developing and strengthening potential in Latvian universities and scientific institutions by increasing availability of high quality education and science. It total seven calls are planned where Latvian universities and research institutions will be able to apply for short-term grants in order to invite Swiss researchers to lecture and exchange their experience in Latvia. Within the framework of this project it is planned to

grant at least 45 scholarships to Swiss researchers. It is planned to complete the project in 2015. Total project financing is 588 thousand Swiss francs, including 88 thousand Swiss francs Latvian national co-financing.

Swiss programme funding in amount of 56.88 million Swiss francs is available to Latvia from 2007 till 2012. In total it is planned to implement ten projects with Swiss financial assistance. By signing of the above said two projects already nine projects will be in progress. The project “Micro lending programme” is also planned to be launched in 2011.