



# Swiss Enlargement Contribution



## Swiss Contribution Workshop: from commitment to implementation

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# Priorities of the implementation period

- Communication
- Procurement
- Monitoring





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



## The Swiss Enlargement Contribution

Interim report for the end  
of the EU 10 commitment  
period  
2007-2012 ■



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## Voices from the partner countries



### Cyprus

*Cyprus benefits from Switzerland's Contribution to EU Enlargement with an amount of CHF 5.7 million to be used towards the improvement and upgrading of the environmental conditions, and the technical and vocational training system in Cyprus. Considering the positive and fruitful cooperation between the two countries so far, all three projects will have a direct and substantial, positive impact on sustainable environmental and/or social development in Cyprus.*

Mr. George Georghiou,  
Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau



### Czech Republic

*Switzerland is to make a non-reimbursable contribution of more than CHF 100 million to the Czech Republic. The Programme will support many projects in various fields such as larger infrastructure and transport projects, social care, health and research. A focus on areas such as the judiciary, NGOs, and the fight against corruption and organised crime, will be not omitted either. We appreciate its complementarity with other sources of financing as well as the partnership approach, which brings and, in many cases, further develops a potential for future bilateral cooperation.*

Ms. Eva Anderová,  
Director International Relations Department



### Estonia

*The Estonian-Swiss Cooperation Programme has been a great support for Estonia in creating a healthier living environment for people here. To describe our experience in only a few keywords: we have purchased forensic equipment for the Estonian Forensic Science Institute, built children's homes, and procured walking robots. Several substantial projects are currently in progress, and we already hope to present the outcomes in a couple of years.*

Mr. Ivar Sikk,  
Deputy Secretary-General for State Fiscal Policy



### Hungary

*For Hungary, it is of the utmost importance to have access to funds provided by the Swiss-Hungarian bilateral relationship. This programme also makes it possible to cooperate with the donor by establishing the practice of thinking together, supporting the real demands of the applicants, and implementing creative and useful projects.*

*The funds of the Swiss-Hungarian Cooperation Programme play a significant role among the different grants and European Union funds available for Hungary. This opportunity offers development possibilities in such areas and for such project ideas which otherwise could not be supported from other sources. The priority areas are very varied – without covering all of them – from regional job-creation initiatives through to flood-prevention management, as well as the development of infrastructure services, promoting environmental protection by helping forest-school services, medical tourism, and venture capital investments. These areas have been formed in line with the needs of the applicants. The programme provides 130 million Swiss francs and supports almost 40 projects.*

Mr. Balázs Simó, Head of Department for  
International Cooperation Programmes



### Latvia

*Switzerland's contribution is highly appreciated in Latvia because it has made possible the implementation of projects that contribute greatly to making improvements in crucially important areas for Latvia such as environmental protection, school transportation, the modernisation of courts, youth initiatives in rural areas, NGO activities, scholarships and research, and stimulation of the private sector through the provision of micro-credits. Already now, society is benefiting from the far-reaching results of these investments which were achieved in fruitful collaboration and in mutual understanding with Switzerland. We look forward to the successful continuation of the existing bilateral cooperation.*

Mr. Aleksandrs Antonovs, Deputy State Secretary  
in European Union Structural Funds and Cohesion  
Fund Affairs of the Ministry of Finance





#### Lithuania

*We are pleased that Lithuania has completed the implementation stage of the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme. The enthusiasm of both parties indicates that cooperation will be fruitful. I would use three words to describe it: inspiration, partnership and success. I would like to say that Lithuania is not only receiving material incentives, our country is gaining much more: it is learning about the creation of long-term added value. Solid economic and political relations between Lithuania and Switzerland are a broad step in eliminating disparities in public services and social development between the new and old European states.*

Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Vice-minister of Finance



#### Malta

*For Malta, in concrete terms the Swiss contribution means improved healthcare for oncology patients and cooperation with a Swiss centre of excellence like the Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana in Bellinzona. The Swiss contribution is also helping strengthen the strategic partnership between Switzerland and Malta, and enhancing their visibility in the Mediterranean region through continuing Swiss support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC). This cooperation is yielding positive results and has given rise to a very strong working relationship. The method of implementation is lean and flexible – which is very important for a small administration like Malta.*

Mr. Stephen Calleja, Director (Programmes and Projects), Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister



#### Poland

*We are making steady progress in implementing the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme and this has been possible thanks to successful co-operation between Poland and Switzerland. The Programme is becoming increasingly important as an arena for dialogue and concrete cooperation. These projects cover a wide range of areas, for instance, regional development, environment and infrastructure, scientific research, as well as health and social services, involving local authorities, public institutions, universities and NGOs. They differ in size and scope ranging from major infrastructural projects, e.g., supporting public transport for an amount of CHF 20 million, to small projects aimed at fostering civil society and co-financed with grants of CHF 10,000. Not only the variety of projects, but also the enthusiasm, competence, and commitment of beneficiaries are worth underlining. I am confident that the Programme will contribute to positive effects that extend beyond the projects themselves. Poland has been developing rapidly, but there still exists the need of strengthening socio-economic coherence. I would like to convey my appreciation to the Swiss government and the Swiss people for supporting this process through the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme.*

Mr. Paweł Orłowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development of Poland



#### Slovakia

*The Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme complements in a very appropriate way the structure of supportive programmes financed for instance by the EU Structural Funds, by granting assistance to areas which, from the national, regional or local point of view, are important for the development of Slovakia and contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities within Slovakia as well as between Slovakia and more developed members of the European Union (e.g. in assistance to the social services for children and youth). The Programme excels especially through its flexibility and result-orientation, while taking into consideration the possibilities and capacities of the beneficiaries of its assistance. Cooperation with our Swiss partners is constructive and in most cases also very dynamic. The weak point of the Programme is the lengthy two-stage (Slovak Republic - Swiss Confederation) and two-loop (Project Outline - Final Project Proposal) approval of the projects and the loss of flexibility in utilising unused balances from supported projects after the end of the commitment period.*

Mr. Jan Kráľ, Director General, Section of International Cooperation



#### Slovenia

*Implementation of the projects in the framework of the Slovenian-Swiss Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union is currently in its most intensive phase. The Slovenian public is anticipating with great interest the first concrete results of the projects. Special emphasis should be placed on projects whose objectives are to improve energy efficiency and introduce renewable energy systems, modernise medical equipment for treating cancer, promote civil society – which is an important development factor – and, last but not least, to promote and strengthen partnerships between municipalities and regions in Slovenia, and Switzerland. In order to reduce economic and social differences among the EU member states, it is important for Slovenia that the selected projects are not only implemented in the less developed parts of the country, but that the projects include a number of Slovenian enterprises. Cooperation with Switzerland in the implementation of the so-called Swiss Contribution has been very fruitful especially with the Swiss Embassy in Ljubljana. This is why we would also welcome such cooperation in the future.*

Ms. Monika Kirbiš Roj, MSc, State Secretary