



The Swiss Enlargement Contribution

Interim report for the end
of the EU 10 commitment
period

2007-2012 



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

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Dear Reader,

What do the operational headquarters of the Estonian rescue services have in common with a meeting centre in Cyprus or the asbestos clean-up operations in the Polish province of Lublin? What links hundreds of Latvian schoolchildren with children born in a new maternity ward in Lithuania? Why are we hearing of the inauguration of a soundproof wall equipped with solar cells along a road in Slovenia, or of the new water supply control system in the Hungarian municipality of Ózd?

You've guessed it – all this is thanks to Switzerland's support with its enlargement contribution. By voting in favour of the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe on 26 November 2006, Swiss voters cleared the way for a billion-franc investment in the ten countries which joined the European Union in 2004. Following Parliament's approval of the relevant framework credit on 14 June 2007, the enlargement contribution finally came into being. Five years on, the initial project approval phase has been completed. These projects will be implemented over the course of the next five years, up to 2017.

You can find out more about the distinctive features and achievements of the enlargement contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). It is now time to make an initial assessment of the declared aim to reduce the economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union.

This brochure provides a host of interesting facts and background information on the projects and the countries in which these projects are being implemented. Voices from the partner countries round out the Swiss experts' assessment of the approval process. The benefits for Switzerland, as well as the various challenges and opportunities, are also highlighted. In addition, we answer questions on how the quality of the projects and the correct use of funds are being guaranteed.

We trust you will enjoy reading this report.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ineichen-Fleisch'.

Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch
Secretary of State
SECO Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Dahinden'.

Martin Dahinden
Ambassador
SDC Director-General

Key points in brief



Who, what and when?

In November 2006, within the context of the Federal Act on Cooperation with the Countries of Eastern Europe, the Swiss electorate approved the so-called enlargement contribution.

By mid-June 2012, all projects had been approved in a two-stage procedure in Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (EU 10). All projects will be implemented by June 2017. Switzerland has also been supporting Bulgaria and Romania since 2009. The projects in these two countries are to be approved by December 2014.

How many?

210 projects totalling some CHF 950 million (Swiss contribution) are being implemented in the EU 10. This corresponds to 100% of the designated project budget for the EU 10. The Swiss are also bearing their own implementation costs of around CHF 50 million. In general, at least 15% of the project costs are being funded by the partner countries.

An additional CHF 257 million have been made available for Bulgaria and Romania.



Why?

Through the enlargement contribution, Switzerland is helping to reduce the economic and social disparities within the EU and is thus contributing to the costs of EU enlargement in the spirit of solidarity. The funded projects are helping to fulfill the following objectives, in particular:

- Economic growth and improved working conditions
- Social security
- Environmental protection
- Public security and safety
- Strengthening civil society

The enlargement contribution is also in Switzerland's own interests. The projects promote numerous partnerships. Through this collaboration, Switzerland is not only cementing relations with the new EU member states, but also with the EU as a whole. The enlargement contribution is an important part of Swiss foreign policy in Europe and reinforces Switzerland's image abroad. As a result, Swiss entrepreneurs have a greater chance of winning public tenders in the EU. Furthermore, the enlargement contribution offers brighter prospects locally and should thus reduce immigration pressure on Switzerland.

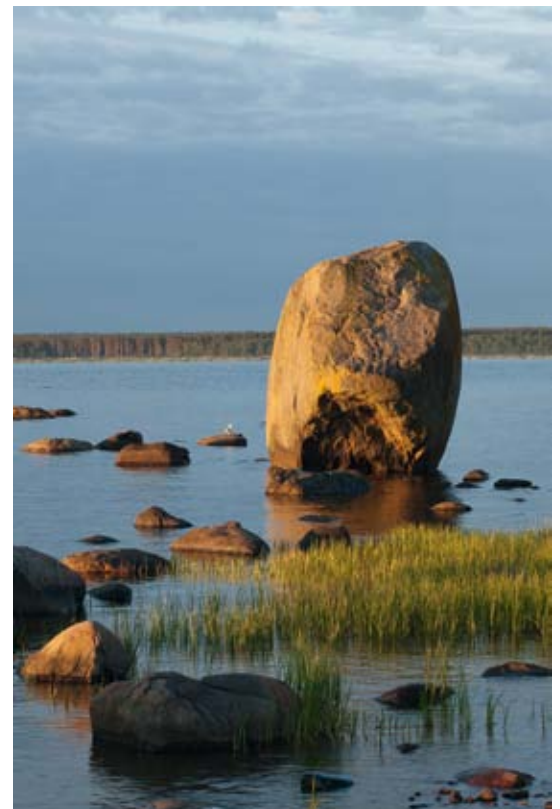
How?

The project proposals are submitted by the partner countries and reviewed and approved by Switzerland.

Contracts are put out to public tender in the respective country as part of project implementation. The relevant national legislation on public procurement and the guidelines of the EU and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) apply.

In order to also reduce economic and social disparities within the countries, lesser developed regions are being specifically promoted in the larger partner countries. In the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, more than 40% of the contribution is being passed on to structurally weak priority regions.

Switzerland is taking various measures to ensure that the funds are used correctly. It reviews both the tenders and the contracts. The partner countries report regularly on project implementation and a financial audit is carried out by a certified organisation upon conclusion of a project, at the latest. The way in which the funds are paid out also offers a certain amount of security. The partner countries pre-finance the payments; if irregularities are suspected, Switzerland can halt repayments.



The enlargement contribution

Ten countries joined the European Union (EU) in 2004 – Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (EU 10). Three years later, Bulgaria and Romania also became members. These twelve states are the youngest members of the EU. With the exception of Cyprus and Malta, Switzerland has been supporting these countries with political, economic and social transition as far back as the 90s.

Despite joining the EU, major economic and social disparities still exist between the older and these more recent members of the EU. For this reason, the EU is continuing to support the development of these countries in order to promote solidarity within the community (cohesion policy).

Switzerland recognises the expansion of the EU as a major step towards greater security, stability and prosperity on the European continent. Through the enlargement contribution, it is therefore helping the EU – Switzerland's most important political and economic partner – with its goal to reduce economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU. Switzerland's contribution of CHF 1 billion for the EU 10, plus a further CHF 257 million for Bulgaria and Romania, is not just a sign of solidarity, but also serves to strengthen the country's bilateral relations with the EU. Switzerland decides autonomously which projects it will support and agrees this directly with the partner countries.

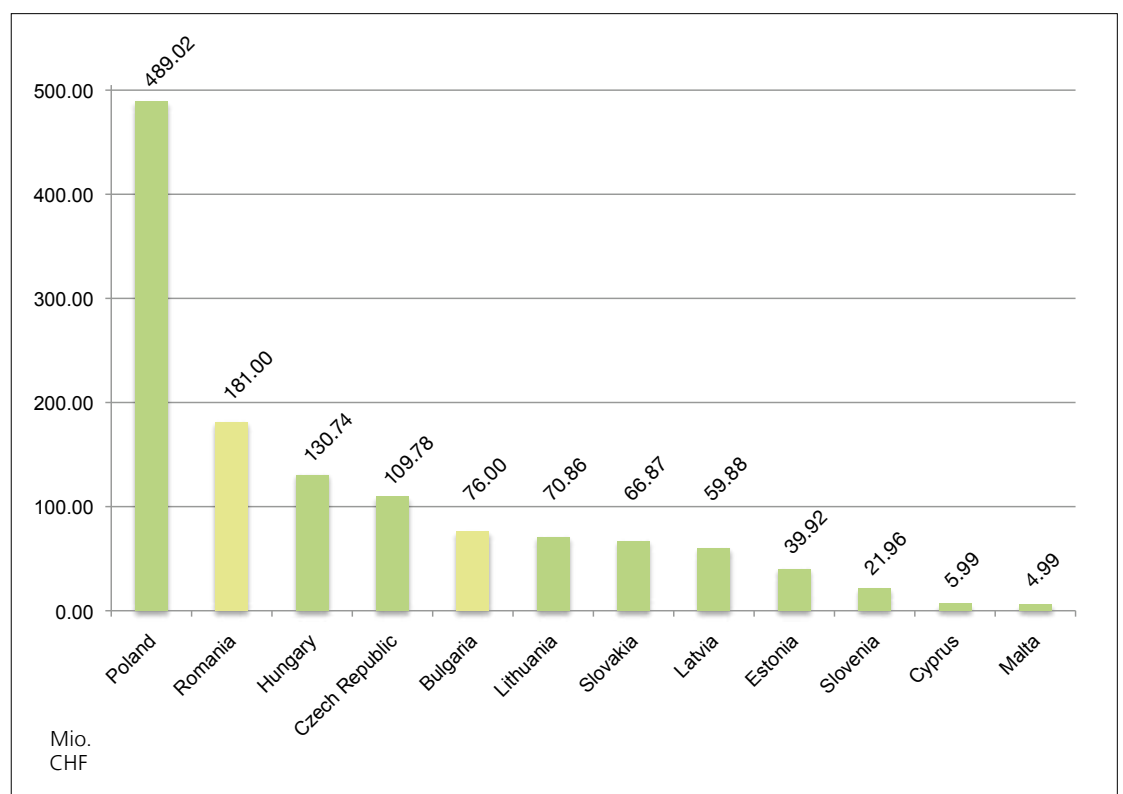


Figure 1: Geographical breakdown of the enlargement contribution

The distribution of the enlargement contribution among the twelve partner countries is based primarily on the size of the population and the income per capita.



The Federal Law on Cooperation with the Countries of Eastern Europe, which was approved by Swiss voters (53.4%) on 26 November 2006, forms the legal basis for the enlargement contribution. Parliament approved the respective framework credit on 14 June 2007 (and on 7 December 2009 for Bulgaria and Romania). Switzerland has concluded a bilateral framework agreement with each of the twelve partner countries. These agreements govern the various procedures and commitments.



The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the joint local offices in Warsaw, Riga, Prague, Budapest and Bucharest provide support to the implementation of the projects. All projects will be completed by June 2017 (and December 2019 in the case of Bulgaria and Romania). The projects are approved in the first five years following the authorisation of the framework credit. These five years elapsed on 14 June 2012 for the EU 10. On the following pages, you will find an overview and background information on the projects approved in the EU 10.

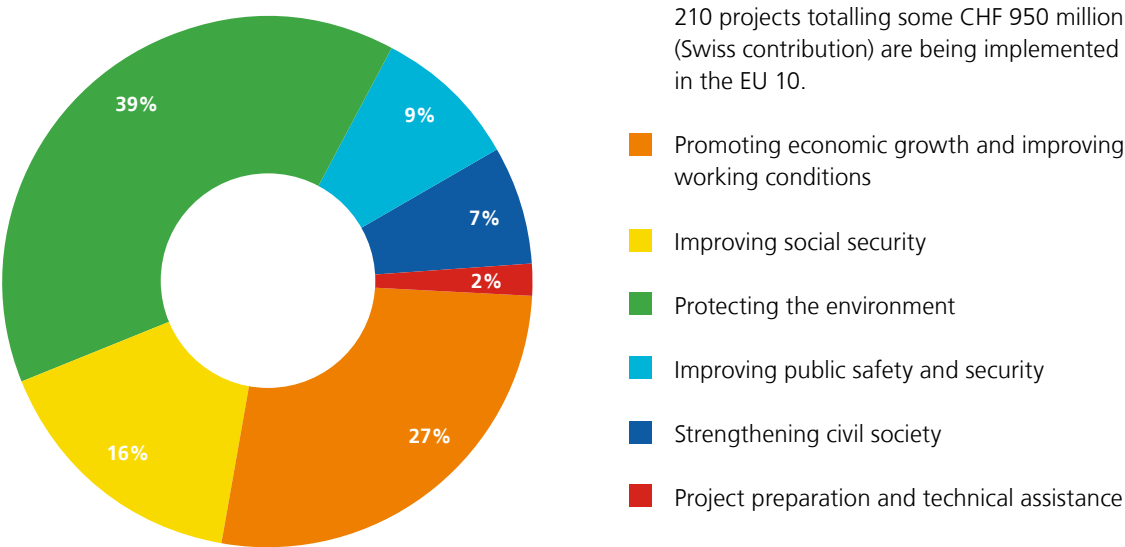


Project goals



Despite having experienced significant growth and considerable progress since joining the EU, the EU 10 still face some major challenges. Economic, social and environmental indicators reveal the largely ongoing significant shortfall compared to the EU average (see tables 1, 2 and 3 in Annex 3). The purpose of the enlargement contribution is to help reduce these economic and social disparities. To achieve this, the funded projects are creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Social security is being improved and the environment better protected. Particular attention is also being paid to public security and safety and strengthening civil society. As such, Switzerland is creating brighter prospects locally and is also combating the causes of migration. This should tend to reduce immigration pressure on Switzerland.

Figure 2: Breakdown of the enlargement contribution among the EU 10 by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Switzerland is investing CHF 257.7 million in projects to promote economic growth and improve working conditions. This includes access to long-term funding for small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), export promotion, applying international norms in accounting, promoting structurally weak regions, research and scholarship programmes, and vocational training.



Access to external financing for micro-enterprises and SMEs

Thanks to the enlargement contribution, around 800 companies in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia and Poland are receiving micro-credits, venture capital and investment loans backed by preferential guarantees. This is resulting in the creation or the maintenance of around 2,000 jobs.

Contribution: CHF 86.1 million.



Export promotion for SMEs

Pilot projects in some 100 Polish SMEs are increasing companies' social responsibility. In Hungary, tourism is being promoted in structurally weak regions. Thanks to training measures and targeted marketing, the number of visitors is expected to rise by five percent.

Contribution: CHF 7 million.



Regulation of the financial sector

The enlargement contribution is funding advanced training for authorities and associations with regard to applying international standards in accounting and auditing. Internationally comparable accounts and credible audits are improving the investment climate and the stability of the financial sector in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia.

Contribution: CHF 16.8 million.



Regional development and employment

Switzerland is promoting tourism and the marketing of regional products in structurally weak regions of Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The development of sports and cultural facilities is making these regions more appealing to tourists. During the course of these 15 projects, more than 6,000 people are receiving training, around 250 companies are being set up and just under 1,000 jobs created, while a further 1,000 local small business owners and agricultural enterprises are receiving support. The majority of these activities are being accompanied by promotional campaigns, advanced training and consulting services. In order for the promotion of regional development to have a lasting impact, locally established structures must be set up and fostered. Such structures include tourist information systems, travel agencies and centres for regional business development, through to vocational training institutions.

Contribution: CHF 64.2 million.



Research and development

In selected scientific fields (e.g. democracy and federalism, renewable energies, environment and health), a long-term knowledge transfer has been established with the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Various research grants are providing some 750 young scientists with the opportunity to spend several months researching in Switzerland between 2011 and 2017. Switzerland is also funding the development of 100 research partnerships in the higher education domain which will, in many cases, extend beyond the duration of the projects.

Contribution: CHF 83.5 million.

Improving social security

Around CHF 145.4 million is being invested in a wide range of social security measures. The focus is on old and ill people, as well as youth welfare. The 36 projects focus on five main areas – basic health services, hospital upgrades, prevention, social services for specific target groups and various social services such as improving medical emergency services and facilitating access to schools in rural areas.



Basic healthcare services

Switzerland is funding the renovation and outfitting of three health centres in the Czech Republic which treat people suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses. Furthermore, in-home nursing services are being introduced or expanded in around 15 locations. In north-east Hungary, one project is enabling around 50,000 people to access group clinics for the first time.

Contribution: CHF 24.2 million.



Hospital modernisation

Switzerland is equipping 22 maternity clinics in Lithuania with new, modern equipment. Furthermore, three special transport vehicles are being provided for newborn babies, and staff are undergoing advanced training. Funds have been invested in modern equipment for radiotherapy and diagnosing cancer in Slovenia and Malta, and in kinesiotherapy facilities for injured children in Estonia. Partnerships with physicians and hospitals in Switzerland are important for exchanging and transferring knowledge.

Contribution: CHF 35.3 million.



Prevention

400,000 infants and their parents are being introduced to preventive activities relating to dental hygiene in Poland and 28,000 young mothers are being taught about healthy eating. 25,000 people are being tested for Hepatitis C, while 7,000 medics and 500 physicians are receiving further training in this field. The problem of tobacco and alcohol abuse is being addressed nationwide with the help of 1,000 physicians and a public awareness campaign.

Contribution: CHF 17 million.



Social services for specific target groups

The renovation of centres and homes for elderly or ill people and the actualisation of modernised care in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia form an important part of the programme. The quality of life in around 50 homes is being improved and well over 1,000 professionals are receiving further training. Furthermore, ten community centres are being funded for the Roma minority in Slovakia, and ten contemporary residence centres developed for orphans in Estonia.

Contribution: CHF 49.9 million.



Various social services

New school buses are set to provide 9,000 Latvian schoolchildren living in sparsely populated rural areas with transport to and from school. Switzerland is modernising the emergency services in Estonia in order to improve response times and the quality of patient care throughout the country. Swiss experts are also helping to improve the Estonian way of dealing with drug-dependent offenders. In Hungary, Switzerland is supporting a scholarship programme for secondary schoolchildren from disadvantaged population groups.

Contribution: CHF 19 million.

Protecting the environment

Around CHF 371 million of the enlargement contribution is being invested in environmental protection projects. These include infrastructure projects which promote public transport, the drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, energy efficiency, the use of renewable energies, the disposal of hazardous waste and environmental monitoring. These projects not only contribute to the protection of the environment, but also reduce health risks to humans, improve the living conditions of the population and promote economic development. In addition to these infrastructure projects, Switzerland is also backing projects aimed at nature conservation and preserving biodiversity.



Public transport

With the help of the enlargement contribution, around 23 million passengers in the Czech Republic and Poland stand to benefit from three new bus terminals and a new train station, one new tram and one new trolley bus line, additional transport connections, four diesel trains, six traction units, two passenger information systems and a railway infrastructure that is suitable for people with disabilities. This transition to public transport will result in a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Contribution: CHF 68.6 million.



Drinking water supply

In Hungary, 100 kilometres of pipeline are being renovated and a further 40 kilometres added. 200,000 residents stand to benefit from improved water quality and lower maintenance costs.

Contribution: CHF 24.9 million.



Wastewater treatment

Only around 60% of households in Slovakia are connected to the sewer network. With the help of the enlargement contribution, 55 kilometres of sewer network are being built or modernised. 10,000 inhabitants are being connected to the sewer network. In addition, in nine Slovakian municipalities over four times more wastewater can be treated thanks to the expansion and construction of waste water treatment systems. This will not only help to prevent water pollution, but also improve living conditions within the communities. In Latvia, contaminated waterfronts are being cleaned up in order to stop the pollution of the Daugava River which flows into the Baltic Sea. In Cyprus, a wastewater treatment plant is being built to treat industrial sludge and household sewage.

Contribution: CHF 43.9 million.



Energy efficiency and renewable energy

In Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovenia, the use of renewable energies is being encouraged in more than 16,000 households and around 300 public buildings, and increased energy efficiency is being facilitated in some 700 households and approximately 50 public buildings. A biomass power plant is being built in Poland and a 600-metre-long soundproof wall equipped with solar cells in Slovenia. All of these measures are expected to reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by a total of around 70,000 tonnes per year.

Contribution: CHF 155.4 million.



Environmental monitoring

Thanks to the modernisation of the laboratories and monitoring stations of 16 inspectorates, agencies and research institutes in Estonia and Hungary, waste disposal sites, water, air, radioactivity and natural disasters will be more effectively monitored in future. Reliable, nationwide environmental data are not only required to implement various EU directives; they also allow the authorities to make informed and effective decisions regarding environmental protection.

Contribution: CHF 19.3 million.



Waste disposal

In Poland, 31,000 inhabitants stand to benefit from the construction of a new waste disposal facility. Four disposal sites are to be reclaimed and restored to their pristine state. Switzerland is also helping Poland to introduce an asbestos monitoring and disposal system, remove asbestos waste from illegal disposal sites and renovate the roofs of around 14,000 homes and eleven public buildings. Some 70,000 tonnes of asbestos waste are to be disposed of by professionally recognized methods. Asbestos dust not only contaminates the air and groundwater, it also carries health risks for the population. Contribution: CHF 35.8 million.



Biodiversity

The main focus of the various measures in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia is the protection and promotion of natural biodiversity. The 16 funded projects have four main priorities: firstly, revitalisation and protection measures over 4,000 hectares in particularly species-rich areas; secondly, recording basic data over more than 1.6 million hectares and developing monitoring systems in an area spanning some 22,000 km² (half the size of Switzerland); thirdly, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable economic development with green tourism in 45 municipalities, including the basic and advanced training of officials, farmers and forest owners; and fourthly, broad-based awareness-raising campaigns which are intended to reach 1.5 million people and encourage environmentally sustainable behaviour. Numerous school projects are also receiving support in Hungary with the goal of certifying more than 600 schools for their sustainability-fostering teaching and further educating 200,000 schoolchildren about environmental issues. The involvement of the local population and authorities is deemed a top priority in all projects. Numerous projects are located in the catchment area of the Carpathian Mountains which are comparable to the Alps in many respects. As such, it is possible to refer to knowledge and experience gained by Swiss institutions for many of these projects. Contribution: CHF 23.1 million.

Improving public safety and security

Just under CHF 88.1 million is being provided for border protection measures, modernising the judiciary, combating organised crime and corruption, and managing natural disasters.



Modernisation of the judiciary

The Swiss contribution is helping to speed up judicial procedures and thus reduce the costs of proceedings. In the three Baltic States and in Slovakia, more than 180 courts and prisons are being equipped with modern video conferencing and audio recording technology. Hungarian court buildings are set to receive modern IT equipment, 104 metal detectors and 45 x-ray scanners.

Contribution: CHF 20.7 million.



Border protection

The infrastructure and equipment are being significantly improved at six border crossings in order to optimise border traffic operations and combat organised crime. In Poland, mobile task forces are being equipped with 70 special vehicles to improve surveillance along the 1,200-kilometer-long external Schengen border. Intense cooperation has also been agreed with Poland regarding migration. National and local authorities are receiving training as part of an additional major project to improve road safety.

Contribution: CHF 35 million.



Combating corruption and organised crime

In addition to the border authorities, the police authorities are also receiving support and reinforcement. A total of 500 members of the police force stand to benefit from advanced training measures. At the same time, the technical equipment used by police forces is being updated, and IT systems funded for the purpose of investigation and analysis. Most of the projects promote cooperation between the national judicial and law-enforcement authorities, and their integration into the European networks. Cooperation with the Swiss authorities is also being encouraged. In Hungary, community policing is being introduced in small towns in collaboration with Swiss experts.

Contribution: CHF 16.5 million.



Managing natural disasters and emergency situations

Projects to protect against flooding are being funded in Hungary, in particular in the catchment area of the Theiss. Around 350,000 inhabitants in north-east Hungary are to be better protected against flooding thanks to improved flood forecasts and reconstructed dams. In the Czech Republic and Poland, authorities are receiving support in dealing with emergency and crisis situations. Finally, in Estonia, 200 experts are receiving further training to improve fire safety in public nursing homes and hospitals, and fire safety is also being improved in Latvia through the training of those responsible and through additional equipment for 140 schools.

Contribution: CHF 16 million.

Strengthening civil society

To this end, the Swiss contribution is financing projects in the amount of CHF 69.2 million. They are designed to strengthen civil society and to foster partnerships between Switzerland and local institutions. The projects are individually supported by Swiss contributions ranging from between CHF 10,000 and CHF 250,000.



Non-governmental organisations

In all countries except Malta, a fund has been set up allowing local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to receive contributions for around 700 projects. The projects fall predominantly into the fields of social services and environmental protection. The social projects are aimed at marginal groups, e.g. children who are subjected to violence at school or at home, and older people living in poverty. The environmental protection projects are geared towards combating environmental pollution, preserving biodiversity and protected areas endangered by human activities. With the help of these projects, the NGOs are promoting the balanced development of their region. At the same time, the rules and requirements of the projects mean that the NGOs are in a position to improve their working method and also strengthen their own financial base.

Contribution: CHF 53.2 million.



Bilateral partnerships

The exchange of knowledge and expertise between communities and other institutions and organisations in Switzerland and the partner countries is being supported and expanded through the partnership funds. Around 150 projects are planned in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Valuable partnerships are being established in a wide range of areas, including non-motorised traffic, waste management, environmental education in schools and the social integration of minorities. This will enable small, high-profile projects to be implemented as part of existing or new partnerships, thus strengthening the cooperation.

Contribution: CHF 16 million.





Focus on lesser developed regions in the partner countries

Major social and economic disparities also exist within the individual new EU member states. In the eastern peripheral regions, the quick transformation to a market economy and the lack of compensatory social insurance systems has led to social problems which are being further intensified by the departure of qualified work forces. In order to also reduce economic and social disparities within the countries, lesser developed regions are being specifically promoted in the larger partner countries. It was thus acknowledged in the agreement with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia that at least 40% of the contribution would be invested in structurally weak regions (see light-yellow areas on the map). This goal has been achieved in all four countries.



Correct use of the funds

The funds must be used correctly in all countries in order for the cooperation to be successful. Switzerland has taken various measures to ensure this is the case.

Project selection

The projects are proposed by the partner countries. The correct allocation of funds is already taken into consideration during the project selection phase. Independent bodies featuring the relevant ministries and NGOs, etc., review the selection criteria and selection procedure. Switzerland may take part in meetings between these bodies in an observational capacity.

Switzerland is responsible for deciding whether or not a project shall receive funding. Risks relating to misappropriation and corruption are addressed during the project review stage.

Awarding contracts

Supply and service contracts are awarded in accordance with WTO, EU and national law. The partner country must comply with the applicable rules and must confirm in writing the independence of all involved in each public tender. The tender documents also include an integrity clause. In one pilot project in Hungary, those involved also signed an integrity pact (see info box 1).

Switzerland has access to all documents relating to the awarding of the contract.

Info box 1: Integrity pact to reduce corruption risks in public procurement

The integrity pact is a tool developed by Transparency International, a globally operating NGO committed to combating corruption. The pact has been developed to combat corruption in public procurement procedures. The client must indicate in the tender that he wishes to use the integrity pact and that all bidders must adhere to it. Both the client and the potential contractors are subject to severe sanctions if they use unlawful methods in the course of the project. The entire project, from the public call to tender through to completion, is monitored by independent experts.

Implementation phase

Regular reports and audits

The responsibility for reviewing the services provided is borne by the body which has submitted the project. It reports back to Switzerland on the progress of the project and the services billed at least every six months. The partner country checks and confirms to Switzerland that the reimbursement claims are correct. Switzerland has access to all relevant documents.

The partner countries must inform Switzerland of any suspected irregularities. The partner countries will look into the suspected cases and ensure criminal prosecution under national law, where necessary.

A certified organisation will carry out a financial audit upon conclusion of each project, at the latest. Switzerland will be notified of all audits performed and will receive the respective summary reports along with the conclusions and recommendations.

Close monitoring locally

The SDC and SECO have set up offices for the EU 10 in Warsaw, Riga, Budapest and Prague. These support and review the projects at the local level. They are part of the Swiss embassies and receive their support. Employees in these offices are familiar with the local conditions and have direct contacts.

Switzerland also awards contracts to external experts. These experts use their specific specialist knowledge to review feasibility studies and tender documentation. They visit project sites to review the services provided.

Payments stopped in case of suspicion

All contributions to projects are usually made in advance from the partner country's purse. Only once Switzerland has received and reviewed the reimbursement claims previously reviewed and confirmed by the partner country will it release the payments. If irregularities are suspected, Switzerland is entitled to stop payments and claim back any wrongfully attributed contributions.

Info box 2: Corruption perception index – Transparency International (2011)

Since 1995, Transparency International has been classifying countries all around the world according to their level of corruption in the public sector, as perceived by the civil population. Based on surveys, this index evaluates the countries on a scale of 0 (very corrupt) to 10 (not corrupt). The EU states averaged a score of 6.3 in 2011. The results of the EU 10 were between 6.4 and 4 points. The subjective perception of the general risk of corruption is thus slightly stronger in the EU 10 than in most of the older EU states. In a global comparison, around two thirds of the 183 countries under review received a lower score than the EU 10.



Benefits for Switzerland



The enlargement contribution is Switzerland's contribution to a secure, stable, prosperous and democratic European continent. This support and solidarity benefits the partner countries. However, Switzerland also benefits from the enlargement contribution in several respects.

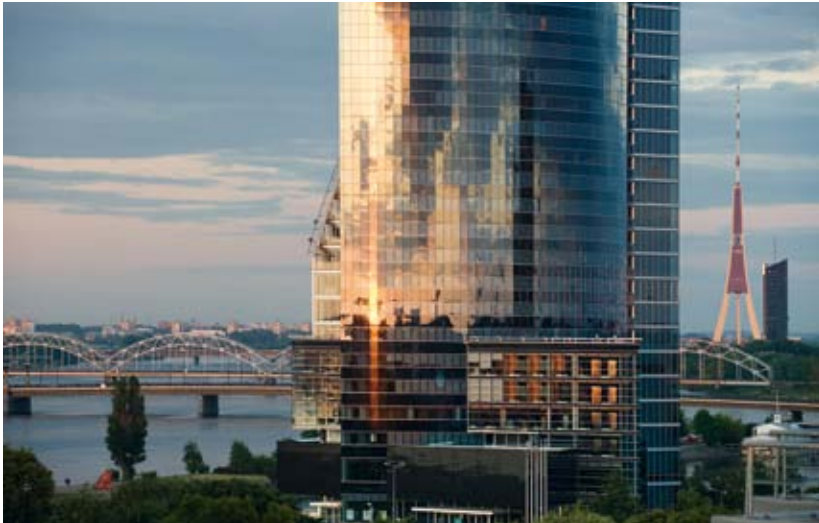
A successful European policy also relies on Switzerland being perceived as a responsible partner who helps overcome major challenges on the continent. Good relations and cooperation with the EU are crucial for Switzerland as roughly one out of every three francs it earns is generated from exports to the EU.

Strengthening relations with the EU

The enlargement contribution is an important part of Swiss foreign policy in Europe and enhances Switzerland's image abroad. Switzerland's contribution to EU enlargement consolidates bilateral relations not only between Switzerland and the new EU member states, but also between Switzerland and the EU as a whole.

Opportunities for the Swiss economy

EU enlargement has brought many benefits to Switzerland and offers considerable export and investment opportunities. Rapidly growing purchasing power is turning these new member states into interesting markets for Switzerland's export industries. The Swiss economy and industry is benefiting from the development of Eastern Europe's growth mar-



kets and the creation of an attractive environment for developing new business relations. This directly helps to secure jobs in Switzerland.

Despite the collapse in economic growth caused by the economic and financial crisis in 2008, the debt crisis in the EU, and the strong appreciation of the Swiss franc, the balance of trade with the EU 10 showed a surplus of CHF 360 million in 2011. Swiss direct investments in these countries have more than doubled since the first eastward enlargement in 2004.

The enlargement contribution only accounts for around 0.8% of the EU resources available to the ten partner countries. Projects implemented successfully as part of the enlargement contribution help to promote a positive image of Switzerland in the new EU countries (and in the EU generally), and thus improve the opportunities for Swiss companies in these countries. A recent survey revealed that small and large Swiss enterprises have received 341 contracts worth around CHF 576 million from EU-funded projects in the twelve newest EU countries in recent years. However, the actual contracts placed with Swiss firms from EU funds are likely to be well in excess of this amount.

The Swiss economy also benefits directly from the enlargement contribution in the form of mandates for Swiss companies, consultants, organisations and associations. At the end of 2011, the total value of these project and assessment mandates in the twelve newest EU countries stood at approximately CHF 23.5 million. Now that the commitment period in the EU 10 has been completed, the next priority is project implementation. Most public tenders are still to come. As the products on offer in Switzerland and Swiss economic expertise were taken into account in choosing the areas of collaboration for the enlargement contribution, it can be expected that Swiss companies will also qualify.

Reduced immigration pressure and the environmental impact

The enlargement contribution also enables Switzerland to improve future prospects at the local level. It should help combat the causes of migration and reduce immigration pressure on Switzerland. Furthermore, environmental pollution does not stop at the border. The environmental projects – many of which contribute to climate protection – are thus also in Switzerland's interests.

Promoting transnational partnerships

The enlargement contribution is designed to provide partner countries with access to Swiss experience and specialist knowledge that is not available through commercial channels. Switzerland, therefore, establishes advisory and institutional partnerships between government authorities, non-profit organisations, trade associations, interest groups and social partners from Switzerland and partner countries. Around one third of the projects have Swiss specialist institutions as consulting partners. These may be government offices, cantonal offices and institutions (e.g. hospitals, fire insurance firms, traffic police), federations, clubs and other institutions (e.g. Spitex nursing services, National Park, BirdLife Switzerland, tourism schools).

Research funds in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania are also facilitating institutional partnerships between Swiss research institutions and those in partner countries. Furthermore, a scholarship fund has been established to provide young academics from the new member states with the opportunity to join a research group at a Swiss university. Finally, the larger countries have also established partnership and NGO funds which facilitate partnerships between municipalities, government authorities, NGOs, associations and foundations, with contributions of up to CHF 250,000. These various tools allow for around 300 new institutional partnerships to be created or existing partnerships to be renewed and promoted.

Six questions for SECO and the SDC

Both Directors jointly take a stand

1. Which project had a particular impact on you? Or to put it another way, where did you particularly enjoy lending a helping hand?

We funded a piece of equipment in a children's clinic in Estonia which helps rehabilitate children whose mobility has been severely impaired following an accident. It is a highly complex piece of technical equipment and a speciality of Switzerland. A private Estonian association proposed and helped fund the acquisition of this equipment. Its founder is a grandfather who wanted to see his granddaughter walk again. The equipment is used on a daily basis and provides dozens of children with excellent rehabilitation training. We are especially delighted that we were able to give a large number of Estonian children the chance to regain their mobility through a relatively modest contribution.

2. What impact has the current debt crisis had on the implementation of the enlargement contribution?

As of 2010, all partner countries were faced with some major budget cuts and were forced to rethink their priorities. As a result, staff expenditure has been reduced and investments put on hold. Increasing numbers of personnel left the government agencies responsible for the enlargement contribution and key individuals were replaced. For a short time, the collaboration became more difficult. Of particular concern was the fact that several large projects, which had already been approved, had to be withdrawn because co-funding of at least 15% could no longer be guaranteed. In Poland, this related to a total of more than CHF 100 million, for which reserve projects with secured co-funding had to be identified and subsequently fleshed out under considerable time pressure.

3. What image do you have of the EU 10 following your travels in recent years? How significant are the disparities and how great is the need?

When visiting the partner countries, it is very important to get to know not only the big towns, but also the rural and mountain areas. There are major differ-

ences between the capitals' modern grid-like streets and pretty shopping precincts on the one hand, and the modest housing and living conditions in some rural areas and small towns on the other hand. This is not just due to material need, but the lack of future prospects in some areas. Investments are rarely made under such circumstances and those who can move away from these neglected regions do so. This dichotomy within the countries is unfortunate and must be tempered.

4. How are Swiss firms informed about the business opportunities associated with the enlargement contribution?

Since 2007, we have been carrying out a series of events together with OSEC (Business Network Switzerland), providing information about both the enlargement contribution and the business opportunities surrounding the EU funds. Swiss firms can participate in all public tenders in the context of cohesion and other projects. Naturally, there is no guarantee that Swiss bids will be accepted. As we seldom receive requests from company representatives any more, we believe that interested Swiss companies now have a good understanding of the conditions of the enlargement contribution and the EU funds, or consult our website for the necessary information www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch. This website provides details of both planned and approved projects, and companies are also referred to ongoing tender procedures.

5. Why does it take such a long time for a project to be approved?

When we first started out, we too imagined that this process would be quicker. However, the competitive project selection process in the partner country alone often took longer than a year. The priorities and criteria for project selection have been identified in the framework agreement with the respective partner country. On this basis, the partner countries generally organised the calls for project submission, assessed the incoming proposals and then informed Switzerland of the best projects for funding. The SDC or SECO then assessed the proposed projects. In the event of a positive first assessment, the project organisers were given a green light to develop the projects in detail, taking into consideration the requirements set out by Switzerland. In the case of

larger projects, it took more than a year and a half to produce all the necessary project documentation, have the project officially approved by Switzerland, and have planning applications, etc., authorised. It was always essential for us to guarantee the high quality of these projects through systematic reviews by Swiss experts and close contact with local project managers. To a certain extent, the relatively long approval process is therefore one more price we had to pay for high-quality projects.

6. Compared to the EU funds required to implement the cohesion policy, the Swiss enlargement contribution is relatively small. Is Switzerland's contribution to enlargement of any real intrinsic value? Is it appreciated in the individual countries?

It goes without saying that the countries receive far more money from the EU as part of the cohesion policy than they do from Switzerland. We should not overestimate the impact of our contribution. However, in addition to the considerable support from the EU, Switzerland can definitely make a difference with its bilateral cooperation programmes. Swiss institutions are involved in many projects and thus facilitate

the exchange of experiences, thereby strengthening bilateral relations. For example, partnerships exist with Swiss hospitals, federal agencies such as the Customs Administration and the Federal Supreme Court, and also numerous Swiss NGOs. We make sure that the projects we help fund are publicised in the media and among the general public in the respective country. We cannot fundamentally change the economic and social conditions in the partner countries on our own; however, we can provide solutions to problems which will be seen as positive contributions from Switzerland.



Dr. Hugo Bruggmann, Head of the Enlargement Contribution/Cohesion Section at SECO



Dr. Ulrich Stürzinger, Head of the New EU Member States Division at the SDC

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 EU 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 CHF 130 million 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's.

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

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 EU (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 Krak, 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 EU 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 Rojs, MSc, State Secretary

Outlook

Now that all projects in the EU 10 have been approved, it is essential that they are all successfully completed by 14 June 2017. The implementation of these 200-plus projects will be closely monitored by the SDC and SECO. Most of these projects will be implemented in a difficult environment, and external factors, such as a deterioration in the economic situation and personnel changes on the partners' side, could have a negative impact on project implementation in certain cases. However, there is every reason to be confident that the selected projects will meet the high-level quality requirements and expectations. Regular project reports and visits will provide opportunities for ongoing risk assessment. There will also be a focus on measures to reduce the risk of improper use and corruption.

The anticipated outcome of the many projects – as summarised in this brochure – will make a substantial contribution to improving and further developing various sectors in the new member states. This contribution from Switzerland will become clearly visible over the coming years.





Annex 1: Overview of the individual partner countries



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR CYPRUS 6 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 0.8 million
Swiss imports from Cyprus: 8.5 million francs
Swiss exports to Cyprus: 70.7 million francs
Real GDP growth rate: 0.5 percent
Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 99.0 percent
(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

3 projects, accounting for some 5.7 million francs, have been approved in Cyprus. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Modernise vocational training in technical fields

In Cyprus, Switzerland is supporting a project on modernising vocational training in technical fields. The aim is to help young people enter professional life, minimise the social marginalisation of unemployed people, and create and ensure opportunities for employees to improve their occupational skills in the long run.

Protecting the environment

Construction of a new water purification plant to treat industrial and household sludge

One project supports the construction of a modern water purification plant for the purpose of raising the quality of water in the Polemidia reservoir to the required level. The plant treats sludge from septic tanks and polluted water flowing from a large rubbish dump - two sources of uncontrolled water pollution - preventing the sludge and waste products entering the reservoir. In this way the project contributes to eradicating a serious environmental problem in Cyprus.

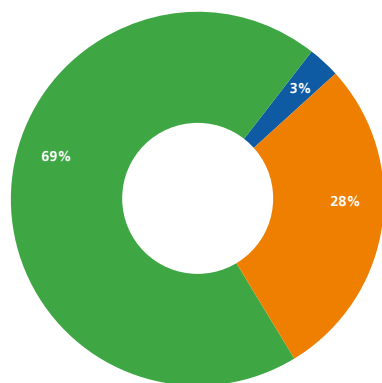
Strengthening civil society

Centre to promote cultural interaction in Cyprus

With the help of other donor countries participating in this project, an abandoned house in the Cypriot buffer zone could be acquired, completely renovated and transformed into a meeting place and cultural centre. The centre was opened in May 2011 and since then has been used to promote dialogue between the population groups. The project is making an important contribution to reconciliation and peacebuilding in Cyprus.

You can find additional information at
www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/cyprus

Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

1 Project
CHF 1,599,700

Protecting the environment

1 Project
CHF 3,935,150

Strengthening civil society

1 Project
CHF 153,150

Total CHF 5,688,000

The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC 110 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 10.5 million

Swiss imports from the Czech Republic: 2,128.7 million francs

Swiss exports to the Czech Republic: 1,565.3 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 1.7 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 80.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

38 projects, accounting for some 104.3 million francs, have been approved in the Czech Republic. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions in the east of the country. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting the Czech Republic in its efforts to implement EU laws governing corporate financial reporting and audits.

Guarantees for investment credits to SMEs

Thanks to credit guarantees provided by Switzerland, approximately 120 secured loans to innovative start-up companies can be made, giving a boost to competitiveness in the private sector in two structurally weak regions and creating much-needed jobs.

Scholarship programme

The scholarship programme allows doctoral and post-doctoral students from the Czech Republic to conduct research in Switzerland for a limited period. This helps extend cooperation between Swiss and Czech research institutes and to promote the Czech Republic as a research location.

Improving social security

Improving health care provision for the benefit of the old and the terminally ill

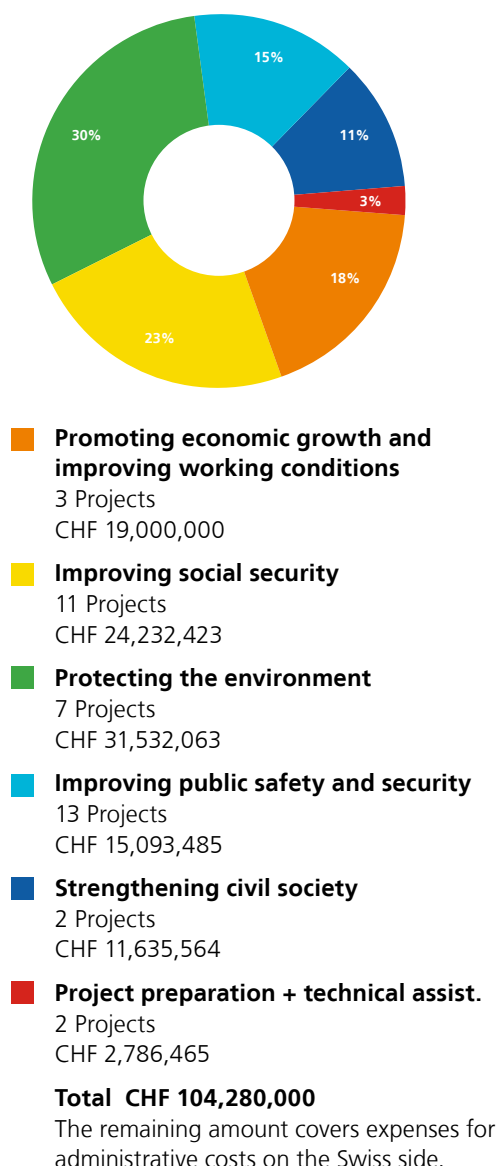
Thanks to this project, three health centres in the Czech Republic for the treatment of people with chronic and terminal illnesses are being renovated and equipped. In addition, homecare services (Spitex) are being introduced or expanded in approximately 15 locations, and NGOs active in the healthcare field are receiving additional support.

Improved access and better quality healthcare services for the elderly, disabled and terminally ill

These ten projects enable or guarantee construction measures, increased bed capacity and up-to-date care and equipment for ten centres and homes for the old and sick, thus ensuring that the latter can be provided with high-quality services.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Protecting the environment

Safety and reliability of local and regional public transport

Around twelve million passengers stand to benefit from three new transport terminals, one tram line and one trolley bus line, as well as from better transportation network connectivity.

Fund for environmental studies to support the Czech authorities

The environment expertise fund supports small projects and helps to extend the planning capacity of the public administration and to facilitate knowledge transfer in the fields of nature conservation, landscape protection, environmental protection, climate and air protection, and economic and environmental policy.

Improving public safety and security

Combating corruption and organised crime; training and equipment for the police

Ten projects are providing the Czech police authorities with support in protecting the population from terrorism and organised crime, in the fight against illegal weapons and international drug trafficking, and in the detection and prosecution of financial crime. The measures include advanced training programmes, the creation of a rapid response unit and a central firearms register, modernisation of the Czech infrastructure and information systems, strengthening of international cooperation, and the enhancement of capacity in a counter-terrorism unit.

Dealing with natural disasters, identification of victims

This project is helping to create, equip and train a Czech team for the identification of disaster victims in the Czech Republic and abroad, in addition to which it is also providing support for international cooperation.

Reforming the judiciary: training for court staff, rehabilitation of offenders

The project increases the efficiency of the judicial system in the Czech Republic by improving the standard of qualifications held by the professional staff working in the judicial sector. This is being done through the development of a standardised training system and by providing e-learning courses for basic and advanced training.

An additional project is improving the quality and availability of probation and rehabilitation programmes for offenders.

Strengthening civil society

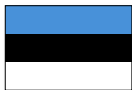
Civil-society initiatives in the social and the environmental domains

The funds for NGOs in the Czech Republic strengthen civil society and promote their active participation in social, political and economic life. As a rule, financing is provided for small projects that NGOs conduct in social or environmental fields, in part in cooperation with Swiss organisations.

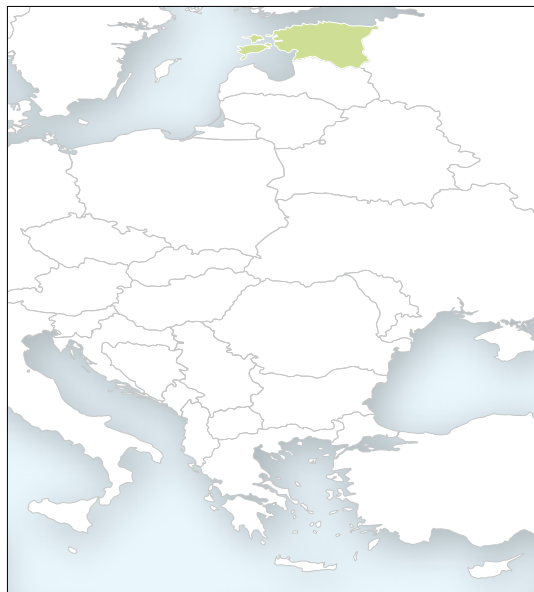
Knowledge transfer through partnerships with Switzerland

The partnership fund promotes and intensifies cooperation between Swiss and Czech cities, municipalities and institutions. In total, over 100 small projects are being implemented on the basis of knowledge transfer.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/czechrepublic/>



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR ESTONIA 40 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 1.3 million

Swiss imports from Estonia: 45.7 million francs

Swiss exports to Estonia: 101.9 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 7.6 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 64.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

18 projects, accounting for some 37.9 million francs, have been approved in Estonia. All projects further one of the following objectives:

■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting Estonia in its efforts to implement EU laws governing corporate financial reporting and audits.

Scholarship and research programme

The scholarship programme enables doctoral and post-doctoral students from Estonia to conduct research in Switzerland for a limited period. This helps extend cooperation between Swiss and Estonian research institutes and to promote Estonia as a research location.

An additional project supports the Estonia research landscape in the area of nanotechnology through the purchase of a specific microscope and the provision of training on how to use it.

■ Improving social security

Improving conditions for orphans living in children's homes

The project supports the building of ten children's homes in three Estonian municipalities. These new children's homes, which provide about 80 children without parental care with a new home in which to grow up in, also serve as a model for the construction of future children's homes in Estonia. Thanks to a maximum occupancy of ten children per home, it is possible to create a family environment for these teenage children.

Therapy for drug-dependent offenders

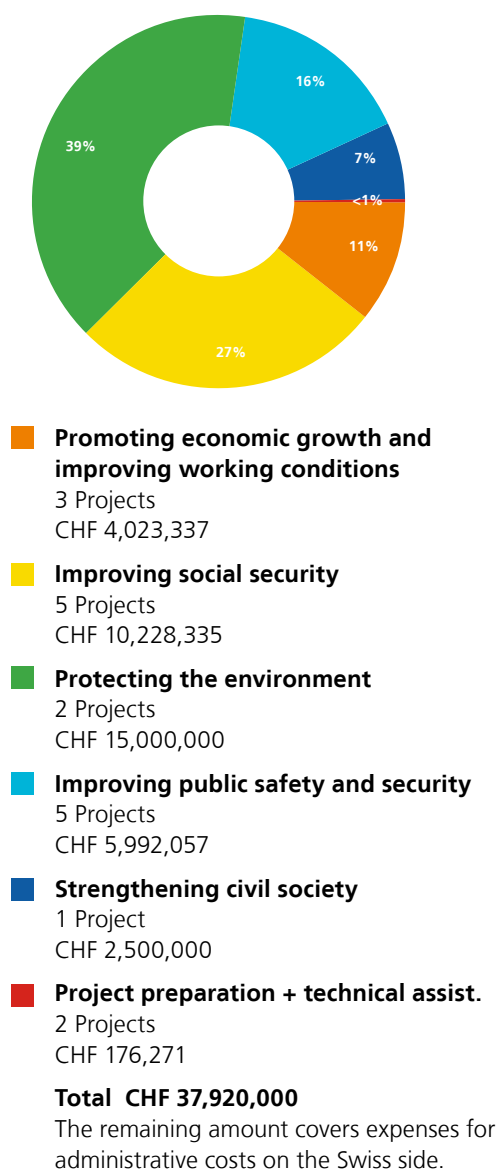
The project aims to provide therapeutic treatment for drug-dependent offenders in prison or on parole; it will provide them with drug rehabilitation treatment and support measures to reintegrate them into the community, thus helping to reduce drug-related crime in the country.

Enhancing of the efficiency of the emergency services and the national ambulance service

By financing two projects tailored to one another, Switzerland is making a contribution to the technological optimisation of the operations centres and the provision of emergency services in Estonia. The aim of the project is to signifi-



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



cantly reduce the time between receipt of an emergency call and the arrival of emergency services on the scene, and to substantially improve the quality of the Estonian rescue and care services.

Movement therapy for injured children

Thanks to this project, a piece of equipment for a children's clinic is being purchased; this will support the rehabilitation process for children suffering from severe mobility problems as a result of accidents.

Protecting the environment

Modernisation of environmental monitoring systems

Switzerland is equipping Estonian laboratories and monitoring stations with modern devices and financing the training of personnel. This should ensure that in future Estonia has comprehensive, reliable environmental data on water, air, radioactivity and natural disasters.

Promotion of energy-efficient construction methods and corresponding new building standards

Buildings in Estonia consume approximately 20-30% more energy than similar buildings in other EU countries. Therefore the enlargement contribution is being used to support the development, implementation and use of energy-efficient standards. As part of pilot projects, three kindergartens and an old-age home will be built or renovated on the basis of energy efficient criteria.

Improving public safety and security

Judicial reforms: international judges conference, improved court proceedings

A judges conference held in September 2010, alongside the video conferencing facilities being provided for 15 courtrooms, 5 police prisons, and 2 prosecutor's offices, is helping the Estonian judiciary to conduct court proceedings more efficiently and cheaply than was previously the case.

Improvement of fire safety in hospitals and nursing homes

As a result of this project, improvements to fire safety are being made in over 200 nursing homes and hospitals in Estonia. To achieve this, guidelines and safety legislation are being drawn up and medical staff trained in their use.

Modernisation of the National Forensic Institute

To combat crime in Estonia more effectively, the purchase of modern equipment and the introduction of training programmes for the Estonian Forensic Institute and other authorities tasked with fighting crime is being financed.

Border security: installation of license plate recognition systems at Estonia's external border

This project aims to equip Estonian seaports with automatic license plate recognition systems and to integrate these recognition points into the national automatic license plate recognition system in order to create an efficient system for combating tax fraud and smuggling.

Strengthening civil society

Support for civil-society initiatives at local level

The funds for NGOs in Estonia strengthen civil society and promote their active participation in social, political and economic life. As a rule, financing is provided for small projects that NGOs conduct in social or healthcare services in cooperation with municipalities.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/estonia/>



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR HUNGARY

131 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 10 million

Swiss imports from Hungary: 852.4 million francs

Swiss exports to Hungary: 942.9 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 1.7 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 65.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

39 projects, accounting for some 124.2 million francs, have been approved in Hungary. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions of Northern Hungary and Northern Great Plain. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Venture capital for SMEs

Up to eight Hungarian SMEs are receiving access to long-term financing, which will, amongst other things, create jobs for highly qualified workers. Venture capital, i.e. participation in the equity of companies, can be used to finance the growth of SMEs in sectors that offer great promise for the future. The accompanying technology will also allow management methods to be modernised.

Tourism and the promotion of exports

Better marketing is being introduced to promote structurally weak regions as tourist destinations, and targeted training is being used to raise the quality of tourist services. The aim is to increase visitor numbers by 5%.

Regional development: promotion of the local economy in disadvantaged micro-regions (incl. tourism)

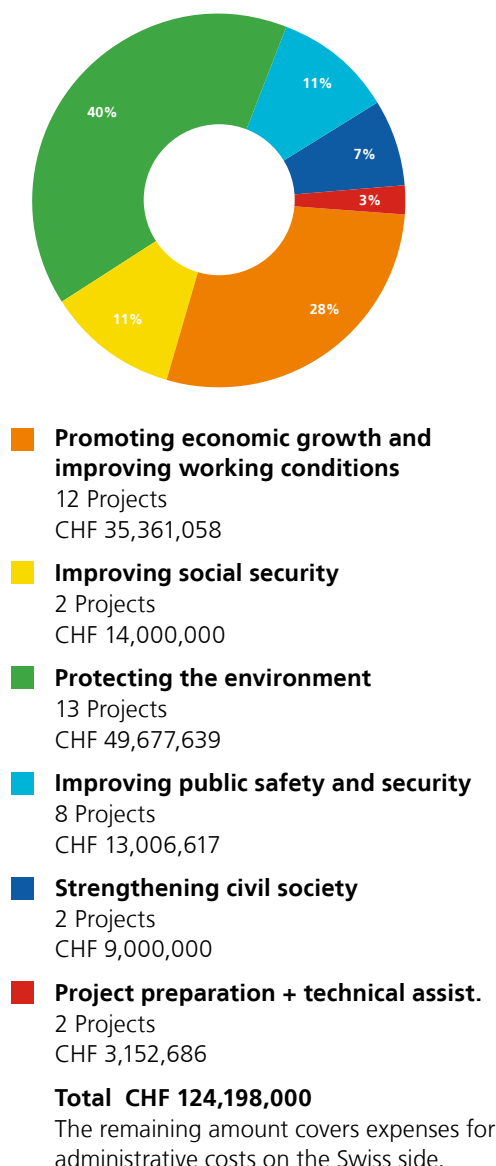
Two projects in the structurally weak regions of Hungary are helping promote tourism and the marketing of regional products. Thanks to these projects around 150 jobs will be created.

Scholarship and research programme

The scholarship programme enables around 60 academics from Hungary to conduct research at a Swiss university. This promotes and intensifies relationships between Swiss and Hungarian universities and strengthens research in Hungary. The research programme in Hungary encompasses six projects. In one project, for example, the only German-speaking university in Hungary is being supported by Swiss expertise. Another project focuses on the development of devices for visual recognition to help blind people cope with everyday life. Additional projects include the development of medication for better treatment of chronic pain, the safe disposal of radioactive waste, new methods for the treatment and utilisation of toxic waste water, and a project to increase the yield of photochemical energy conversion.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Improving social security

Improved basic healthcare provision and scholarships for certain groups of the population

As the result of newly set-up general practitioner teams, a pilot programme is providing a broader scope and better quality of health services for 50,000 people in the disadvantaged regions of North-Eastern Hungary. Supported by accompanying research, the results of this pilot programme serve as the basis for this model to be introduced nationwide.

In addition to this, a further project is providing a scholarship programme to help over 900 secondary school pupils from marginalised groups successfully complete their studies and make the transition to further studies.

Protecting the environment

Improving water supply and water quality

Approximately 100 kilometers of pipeline are being renovated and 40 kilometers of new pipeline laid. Thanks to these construction measures water quality is improving and maintenance costs falling.

Modernisation of environmental monitoring systems

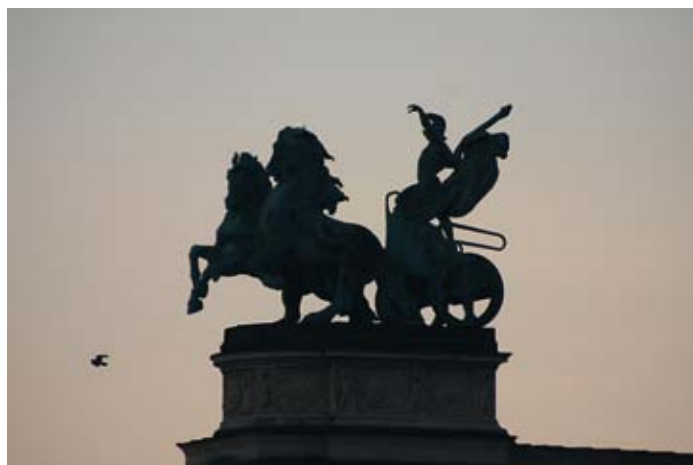
The inspectorate responsible for monitoring waste disposal sites is being equipped with mobile measurement and analysis devices. On top of this, Switzerland is helping to improve the national air quality monitoring network by providing funding for the modernisation of regional laboratories and the purchase of two mobile monitoring stations.

Improvements to energy efficiency

Energy consumption is to be reduced by 50% in ten immigration centres and police stations, thereby helping to reduce maintenance costs.

Promotion of biodiversity and nature conservation

The six projects being funded involve revitalisation and protection measures for over 2,700 hectares in areas that are particularly species-rich, accompanied by the recording of basic data across an area of more than one million hectares and the development of monitoring systems in an area spanning some 12,500 km². This basic data will form part of another project that will employ a wide-ranging information campaign to raise public awareness about environmental protection and thereby contribute to the conservation of the protected areas, parts of which have been newly designated as such. In addition, numerous school projects are also receiving support with the goal of certifying more than 600 schools and kindergartens that promote sustainability in their teaching programmes, and providing 200,000 schoolchildren with education about environmental issues.





■ Improving public safety and security

Improvements to public security thanks to a pilot approach to police work

To solve today's security problems and improve the security situation, the police increasingly need to work together with other public and private organisations. In collaboration with specialists from Switzerland, one project introduces the concept of community policing into four Hungarian cities while also laying the foundation for its implementation across the country.

Coping with natural disasters: flood protection along the Tisza River in north and north-eastern Hungary

Several projects, in particular in the drainage basin of the Tisza River, are increasing protection against flooding in Hungary. More accurate flood forecasts and the renovation of dams mean that around 350,000 inhabitants in North-Eastern Hungary will enjoy better flood protection.

Improvements to equipment in courthouses

104 new metal detectors and 45 x-ray scanners will improve security in Hungarian courts, whilst 1,000 new computers will increase the efficiency of court staff.

■ Strengthening civil society

Civil-society initiatives in the social and the environmental domains

The fund for NGOs will help strengthen civil society in Hungary. In total over 250 small projects in areas such as sustainability, the involvement of NGOs in political decision-making processes and improved social services are being implemented, many of these with the involvement of Swiss institutions.

Partnerships between Swiss and Hungarian municipalities, associations, NGOs and other non-profit organisations

The partnership fund helps extend and intensify mutual cooperation between Swiss and Hungarian municipalities and other public authorities, as well as between associations and charitable bodies. The fund is being used to implement up to 45 partnership projects designed to improve the living conditions of local people.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/hungary/>



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR LATVIA 60 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 2.2 million

Swiss imports from Latvia: 42.2 million francs

Swiss exports to Latvia: 200.6 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 5.5 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 51.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

12 projects, accounting for some 56.9 million francs, have been approved in Latvia. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting Latvia in its efforts to implement EU laws governing company financial reporting and audits.

Micro-credit programme

The unemployment rate in Latvia rose dramatically as a result of the world's economic and financial crises. The microcredit programme makes it easier for micro enterprises and the self-employed to obtain start-up loans, and should result in the creation of up to 900 new jobs.

Scholarship and research programme

The scholarship programme enables doctoral and post-doctoral students from Latvia to conduct research in Switzerland for a limited period. This helps extend cooperation between Swiss and Latvian research institutes and to promote Latvia as a location for research.

An additional project is helping to improve Latvian university education and increase its international competitiveness by making it possible for Swiss professors, researchers and staff of educational institutions to visit Latvia for a brief period to give lectures, hold research colloquia or to exchange views about the development of new academic courses.

Improving social security

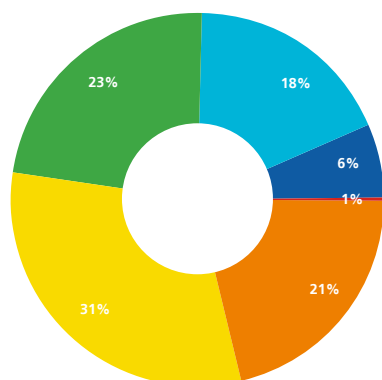
Regional development: school buses for rural areas and the establishment of youth centres

This project has improved the transport system for schoolchildren in rural and disadvantaged regions of Latvia. Thanks to the 110 school buses supplied to 60 municipalities, today 9,000 school-children are able to benefit from safer travel to and from school and thus enjoy easier access to education.

Thanks to an additional project, eleven new youth centres will be built and six existing ones renovated, on top of which support will be provided for regional activities for young people living in the remote and disadvantaged regions of Latvia. As a result of these projects young people will have the opportunity to become socially engaged.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

4 Projects
CHF 11,956,905

Improving social security

2 Projects
CHF 17,769,767

Protecting the environment

1 Project
CHF 13,000,000

Improving public safety and security

2 Projects
CHF 10,379,730

Strengthening civil society

1 Project
CHF 3,500,000

Project preparation + technical assist.

2 Projects
CHF 273,598

Total CHF 56,880,000

The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.

Protecting the environment

Restoration of the polluted industrial harbour in Riga

Since 1872, the Sarkandaugava region has been used for the transport and storage of petroleum products. The Swiss contribution is being used to fund a project to decontaminate the soil and water, and to remove dangerous waste matter. This should also put a halt to the pollution of the River Daugava which flows into the Baltic Sea.

Improving public safety and security

Improved fire prevention in public schools

This project will improve fire safety for children in 138 schools in peripheral and disadvantaged regions of Latvia. In addition, Switzerland's experience in this area will be utilised and awareness of fire-protection will be raised.

Judiciary reform: video conferencing in courts and the optimisation of court proceedings

The aim of the project is to increase the quality and efficiency of court proceedings. This is being achieved by introducing new communication technologies (audio, video conferencing, Internet) and newly designed court procedures.

Strengthening civil society

Civil-society initiatives to help young people and the elderly

The NGO fund should help to improve the quality of life of children, young people and the elderly. The fund supports NGOs that work together with these sections of the population. Thanks to partnerships with public institutions and Swiss NGOs, it should be possible to fulfil these goals.

You can find additional information at
www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/latvia





EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR LITHUANIA 71 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 3.2 million

Swiss imports from Lithuania: 47.3 million francs

Swiss exports to Lithuania: 133 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 5.9 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 57 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

8 projects, accounting for some 67.3 million francs, have been approved in Lithuania. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions.

Scholarships and research programme

The grant enables doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from Lithuania to carry out research in Switzerland for limited periods, in this way strengthening relations between research institutions in the two countries.

Switzerland strengthens Lithuania's research capacities with a comprehensive research programme and through this the country's economic competitiveness. Swiss-Lithuanian research projects of top quality and joint scientific events in the natural, environmental, health and bio-sciences contribute to this objective, creating many new scientific partnerships between the two countries.

Improving social security

Modernisation of medical equipment in maternity wards and training of healthcare staff

The project improves "Mother and Child" health services throughout the country. Switzerland is supporting professional training for medical personnel and the modernisation of antiquated hospital infrastructures in 22 Lithuanian hospitals. These measures will greatly improve overall conditions for women in childbirth and their newborn babies.

Protecting the environment

Heat insulation and energy-efficient equipment in public hospitals

Energy efficiency will be improved in at least 16 of the above-mentioned 22 hospitals. Thanks to improved building insulation, women in childbirth and their newborn babies enjoy better conditions, hospital operating costs are reduced and environmental protection is promoted.

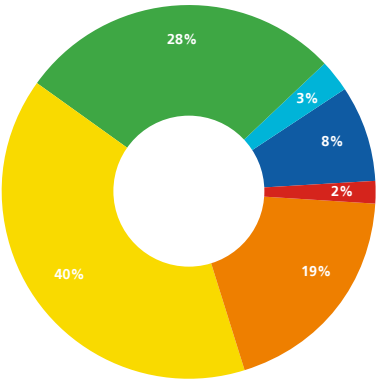
Improving public safety and security

Judiciary reform: video conferencing in courts and the optimisation of court processes

Court procedures are optimised through new communications technologies, in this way contributing to a more efficient court system in Lithuania.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



- Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions**
2 Projects
CHF 13,052,000
- Improving social security**
1 Project
CHF 26,600,000
- Protecting the environment**
1 Project
CHF 19,000,000
- Improving public safety and security**
1 Project
CHF 1,771,032
- Strengthening civil society**
1 Project
CHF 5,552,775
- Project preparation + technical assist.**
2 Projects
CHF 1,342,193
- Total CHF 67,318,000**
The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.



Strengthening civil society

Initiatives to strengthen collaboration between civil society and municipalities

The fund for NGOs in Lithuania strengthens civil society and promotes their active participation in social, political and economic life. The fund finances small, concrete projects carried out by NGOs active in social and health services in collaboration with local councils and in part by Swiss NGOs as partners.

You can find additional information at <http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/lithuania/>





EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR MALTA 5 MILLION FRANCS

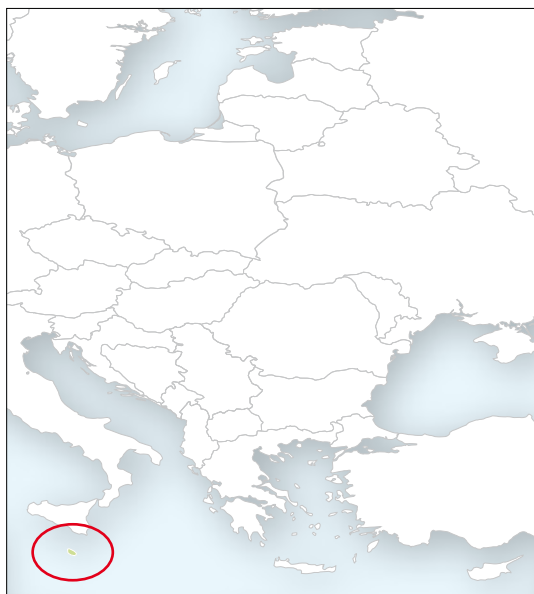
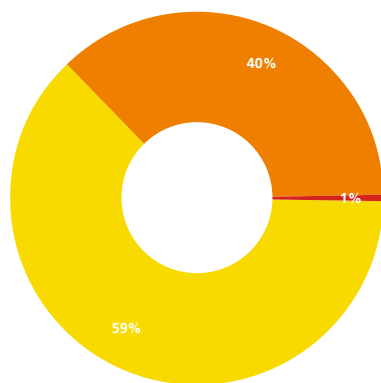


Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

1 Project
CHF 1,900,000

Improving social security

1 Project
CHF 2,794,000

Project preparation + technical assist.

1 Project
CHF 50,000

Total CHF 4,744,0000

The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.

Population: 0.4 million

Swiss imports from Malta: 14 million francs

Swiss exports to Malta: 60.1 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 2.1 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 83.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

3 projects, accounting for some 4.8 million francs, have been approved in Malta. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training for diplomats in the Mediterranean region

Switzerland finances scholarships for young diplomats from North Africa and the Middle East which enable them to take Master's courses at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC). This represents a continuation of the many years of partnership between Switzerland and Malta to promote peace and stability in the Mediterranean area. A Swiss professor teaches at MEDAC and there is close cooperation with specialist Swiss institutes and the Swiss diplomatic service.

Improving social security

Prevention and diagnosis of cancer

An up-to-date infrastructure for cancer diagnosis is necessary if cancer is to be treated efficiently and effectively. Thanks to this project, a Positron-Emissions-Tomograph (PET-Scanner) is being installed in the public Mater Dei Hospital in Malta, which will provide access to modern cancer diagnosis for Malta's entire population. In addition, support is also being provided for an independent oncology centre within the hospital, which will involve working together with the Oncological Institute of Southern Switzerland (IOSI) in Bellinzona. The project is a step towards reducing inequalities in the Maltese health service.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/malta>





EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR POLAND 489 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 38.2 million

Swiss imports from Poland: 1,372.5 million francs

Swiss exports to Poland: 1,974.2 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 4.3 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 63.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

58 projects, accounting for some 464.6 million francs, have been approved in Poland. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions of South-Eastern Poland. All projects further one of the following objectives:

■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Promoting the social responsibility of SMEs and sustainable development

This project is directly aimed at improving awareness and know-how in the field of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. In addition, pilot projects are being initiated to support approximately 100 SMEs implementing specific measures in these areas. Publications and public events are being used to draw attention to these pilot projects.

Promoting local companies and products in structurally weak regions, and the provision of training opportunities for young people in particular

Switzerland is using these projects to promote tourism and the marketing of regional products in structurally weak regions of Poland. During the course of these 10 projects, about 5,000 people will receive training, around 250 companies will be set up and approximately 750 jobs created, on top of which a further 900 local small business owners and agricultural enterprises are also receiving support. The majority of these activities are being accompanied by promotional campaigns, advanced training and consulting services. Moreover, local structures to promote regional development are being set up or supported, such as tourist information systems and the renovation of local tourist accommodation.

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

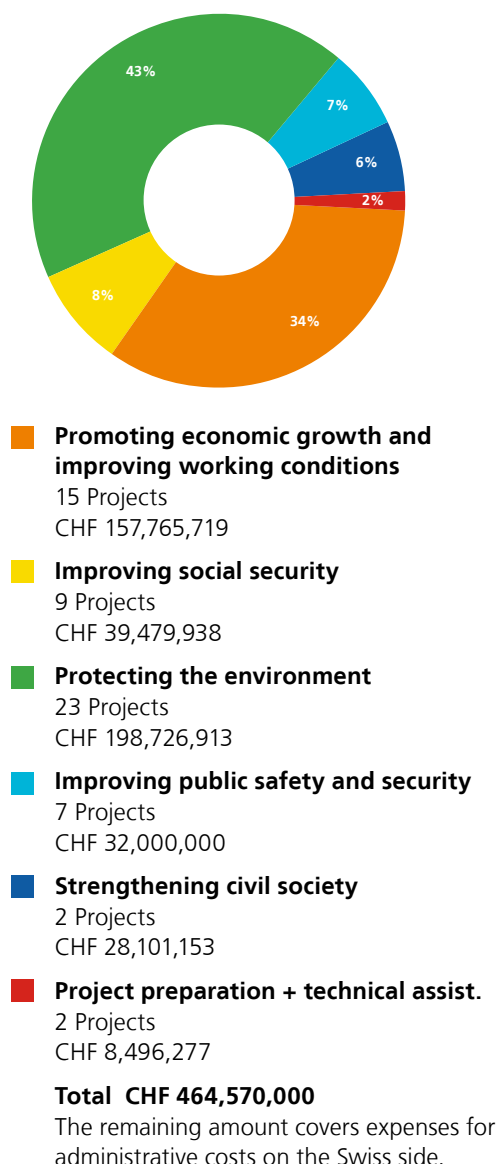
The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting Poland in its efforts to implement EU laws governing company financial reporting and audits.

Provision of venture capital for SMEs

This project facilitates access to long-term financing for SMEs, and creates many new jobs, particularly in structurally weak areas. Venture capital, i.e., investment in a company's equity, can be used to finance the growth of these SMEs. Thanks to the supplementary technical support, management methods are also being modernised.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Scholarship and research programme

With the support of the research fund, around 40 projects of Polish and Swiss research institutes in the areas of 'information and communication technology', 'renewable energy', 'nanotechnology', 'healthcare', and the 'environment' will be able to be jointly conducted.

The scholarship programme enables around 300 academics from Poland to conduct research at a Swiss university. This promotes and intensifies relationships between Swiss and Polish universities and strengthens research in Poland.

Improving social security

Improving basic medical care and preventive medicine

Three projects for the prevention of obesity, hepatitis C and reducing the use of tobacco, alcohol and psychotropic substances have been approved. As part of these projects a broadly based media campaign targeting in particular pregnant women, drug-addicts and school children is raising awareness of the dangers associated with the use of these substances. An additional, nationwide project is also focusing on healthy eating and better oral hygiene for small children.

Measures to improve infrastructure and training in around 50 care homes and institutions in the four structurally weak regions of Poland should help to improve the quality of life of the residents. The programme focuses on the elderly and disabled, and children and young people from difficult family backgrounds and helps to integrate the residents of these homes in society. As part of the project, around 1,500 staff will receive additional training.

Protecting the environment

Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy

The use of renewable energy is being encouraged in more than 16,000 households and around 250 public buildings. Moreover, energy efficiency is being increased in around 700 households and approximately 20 public buildings. In addition, a biomass power plant is being built.

Waste disposal

31,000 inhabitants stand to benefit from the construction of a new waste disposal facility. Four disposal sites are to be reclaimed. Switzerland is also helping Poland to introduce an asbestos monitoring and disposal system, remove asbestos waste from illegal disposal sites, and renovate the roofs of around 14,000 homes and eleven public buildings. Around 70,000 tonnes of asbestos waste are to be disposed of by professionally recognised methods.

Improving the safety and reliability of local and regional public transport

Thanks to the acquisition of four modern, low-emission diesel locomotives, transport services on the public transport network of the 60 kilometre long stretch between Malbork and Grudziadz in the north of Poland are being improved. In addition, six traction units with electric engines are being purchased for an important commuter line in Warsaw's south-western commuter belt. In the town of Legionowo, situated in the northeast of Warsaw, the railway station, which was built in the 1970s as a temporary solution, is being entirely rebuilt. The project will be supplemented by two new passenger information systems.

Promotion of biodiversity and nature conservation

This project will result in revitalisation and protection measures for over 1,500 hectares in areas that are particularly species-rich, accompanied by the recording of basic data across an area of more than 0.5 million hectares and the development of monitoring systems in an area that also covers half a million hectares. Furthermore, the project will encourage ecologically and socially sustainable economic development by promoting eco-tourism in 35 municipalities and providing basic and advanced training for municipality staff, farmers and forest owners. This will be further supported by a broad-based campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of ecologically sustainable behaviour.



■ Improving public safety and security

Support for migration and crisis management

As part of a single project, intensive cooperation has been agreed with Poland regarding migration. An additional project is providing local authorities with training on how to deal with emergency and crisis situations.

Improvement of border security and modernisation of border crossings

At six border crossings, the infrastructure and equipment is being significantly upgraded in order to optimise border traffic operations and combat organised crime. As part of one project, mobile task forces are being equipped with 70 special vehicles to improve surveillance along the 1,200-kilometre-long external Schengen border.

Improving traffic safety

National and local authorities are receiving training to help improve road safety.

■ Strengthening civil society

Promotion of civil-society initiatives in the social domain

The fund for NGOs will help strengthen civil society in Poland. A total of over 200 small projects are being implemented, many of them in collaboration with Swiss institutions.

Partnerships between Swiss and Polish municipalities and public institutions

The partnership fund will help extend and intensify mutual cooperation between Swiss and Polish municipalities and cities. Overall 30 small projects are being implemented on the basis of knowledge transfer.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/poland/>



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC 67 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 5.4 million

Swiss imports from the Slovak Republic: 668.5 million francs

Swiss exports to the Slovak Republic: 496.4 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 3.3 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 74.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

23 projects, accounting for some 63.5 million francs, have been approved in the Slovak Republic. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions of Eastern Slovakia. All projects further one of the following objectives:

■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Regional development in the area of tourism

Three projects are mobilising the considerable tourism potential available by setting up regional tourism organisations and information centres, by marketing local products, and providing other tourist services. In addition, both public and private local actors are being trained in effective tourism marketing.

Promoting vocational training

This project enhances cooperation between the main actors in the vocational and educational training system (VET), and especially between employers and secondary VET schools, in order to ensure that vocational education is better suited to meet the demands of the labour market in the Slovak Republic. In addition, the attraction of vocational education in general is being increased through promotional work and publicity.

Scholarship programme

The scholarship programme enables doctoral and post-doctoral students from the Slovak Republic to conduct research at a Swiss university for a limited time. This promotes and intensifies relationships between Swiss and Slovak universities and strengthens research in the Slovak Republic.

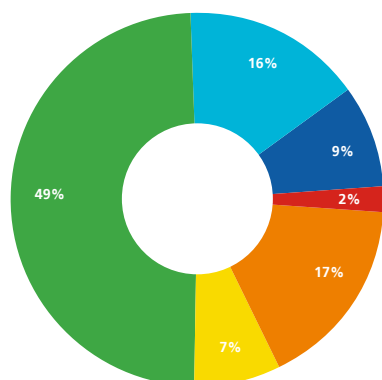
■ Improving social security

Improving social services in Eastern Slovakia for disabled children and minorities

Four projects are improving the quality of life of people in social institutions. One project is financing the modernisation and expansion of a home for disabled children and adults, whilst two further projects are helping to improve the quality of care in homes for disabled children and their families. In addition to this, measures are being implemented to improve the social integration of residents and to this end, staff in various homes are being provided with additional training. Furthermore, another project is providing support for ten community centres for Roma minorities.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

5 Projects
CHF 10,566,000

Improving social security

4 Projects
CHF 4,814,000

Protecting the environment

8 Projects
CHF 31,169,879

Improving public safety and security

3 Projects
CHF 9,903,150

Strengthening civil society

1 Project
CHF 5,510,901

Project preparation + technical assist.

2 Projects
CHF 1,552,070

Total CHF 63,516,000

The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.

Protecting the environment

Waste water disposal

A total of 55 kilometres of sewage network is being built or modernised. This means that 10,000 inhabitants in structurally weak regions are being connected to the public sewage network. In addition, in nine Slovakian municipalities over four times more wastewater can be treated thanks to the expansion and construction of waste-water treatment systems.

Promotion of biodiversity and nature conservation

Switzerland is financing two biodiversity projects in Slovakia for the protection of endangered ecosystems. One project supports monitoring and researching forests, while a second aims to preserve and protect natural areas and habitats in the Slovak Carpathian Mountains. The two projects will help preserve a large number of Slovakian ecosystems and consequently ensure the long-term protection of these endangered natural areas.

Improving public safety and security

Combating corruption and organised crime

This project improves the analytical information system of the Slovak police force in order to enable them to deal with organised crime more effectively.

Coping with natural disasters

This project provides the Slovak authorities with training and equipment to enable them to deal better with natural disasters and other real life emergencies.

Extension of the electronic databases of the judiciary

This project improves the IT system of the Slovak judiciary. As a result, decision-making is being simplified and sped up, which in turn is leading to increased transparency.

Strengthening civil society

Promoting civil society and knowledge transfer through partnerships with Switzerland

Thanks to the fund for partnerships and NGOs, civil society in the Slovak Republic is being strengthened and cooperation between Swiss and Slovakian municipalities, institutions, associations and charitable bodies is being extended and intensified. Overall around 10 partnership projects are being implemented with Swiss know-how, as well as at least another 10 NGO projects in the social and environmental areas.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/slovakia/>





EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR SLOVENIA 22 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 2 million

Swiss imports from Slovenia: 321.9 million francs

Swiss exports to Slovenia: 315.9 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: -0.2 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 85.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

8 projects, accounting for some 20.9 million francs, have been approved in Slovenia. All projects further one of the following objectives:

■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting Slovenia in its efforts to implement EU law governing corporate financial reporting and audits.

Scholarship programme

The "Scientific Exchange Programme between the New Member States and Switzerland", or Sciex-NMS.ch for short, enables doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from Slovenia to work in Switzerland for limited periods. This helps extend cooperation between Swiss and Slovenian research institutes and to promote Slovenia as a location for research.

■ Improving social security

Prevention and diagnosis of cancer

This project finances two modern linear accelerators for radiation therapy in the University Hospital of Maribor, in this way increasing its radiation therapy capacity for the treatment of cancer. For the people of Northern Slovenia, waiting times for treatment have been reduced due to this facilitated access to treatment and in particular the shorter transport distances.

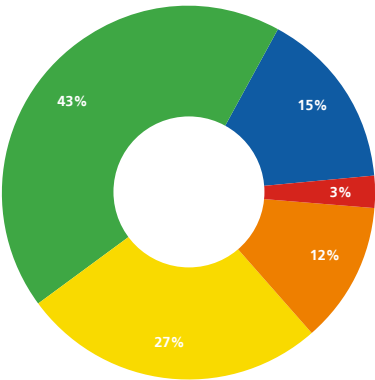
■ Protecting the environment

Energy efficiency, renewable energies and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

A noise barrier along a motorway is equipped with solar panels. In the near future, 38 public buildings will be heated with solar energy, biomass and heat pumps. The buildings include schools and kindergartens, a swimming pool as well as two information centres in Triglav National Park. In addition, public buildings will be better insulated and various information events, brochures and training programmes on the subject of renewable energy sources will be organised to raise awareness among the general public, local business people, teachers and pupils.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



- Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions**
2 Projects
CHF 2,500,000
 - Improving social security**
1 Project
CHF 5,526,200
 - Protecting the environment**
2 Projects
CHF 8,973,800
 - Strengthening civil society**
1 Project
CHF 3,226,000
 - Project preparation + technical assist.**
2 Projects
CHF 630,000
- Total CHF 20,856,000**
The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.



Strengthening civil society

Promotion of civil society and knowledge transfer through partnerships with Switzerland

The fund for partnerships and NGOs will provide the resources to strengthen civil society in Slovenia, and partnerships will be developed between Swiss and Slovenian municipal authorities, institutions, associations and foundations. Overall, about 50 NGO and partnership projects will be carried out within the framework of the fund.

You can find additional information at <http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/slovenia/>



Annex 2: Overview by project objective and partner country

Amount in millions CHF	PL	HU	CZ	LT	SK	LV	EE	SI	CY	MT	TOTAL
Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions											272.72
Access to external financing for micro-enterprises and SMEs	53.00	15.22	10.00			7.92					86.14
Export promotion for SMEs	4.87	2.15									7.02
Regulation of the financial sector	10.00		2.00			1.53	1.80	1.50			16.83
Regional development and employment	47.70	7.38			7.57				1.60		64.25
Research and development	42.20	10.61	7.00	13.05	3.00	2.50	2.22	1.00		1.90	83.48
Improving social security											145.43
Basic healthcare services		13.00	11.18								24.18
Hospital modernisation				26.60			0.34	5.53		2.79	35.26
Prevention	17.05										17.05
Social services for specific target groups	22.43		13.05		4.81	4.00	5.64				49.93
Various social services		1.00				13.77	4.24				19.01
Protecting the environment											371.02
Public transport	38.03		30.53								68.56
Drinking water supply		24.91									24.91
Wastewater treatment					27.01	13.00			3.94		43.95
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	115.13	5.77		19.00			6.50	8.97			155.37
Environmental monitoring		10.83					8.50				19.33
Waste disposal	35.75										35.75
Biodiversity	9.82	8.17	1.00		4.16						23.15
Improving public safety and security											88.15
Modernisation of the judiciary		4.23	2.84	1.77	3.21	8.00	0.64				20.69
Border protection	30.99						3.96				34.95
Combating corruption and organised crime		2.00	11.18		3.37						16.55
Managing natural disasters and emergency situations	1.01	6.78	1.08		3.32	2.38	1.39				15.96
Strengthening civil society											69.18
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)	24.70	5.00	6.59	5.55	5.51	3.50	2.50	3.23	0.15		56.73
Bilateral partnerships	3.40	4.00	5.05								12.45
Project preparation and technical assistance	8.50	3.15	2.79	1.34	1.55	0.27	0.18	0.63		0.05	18.46
TOTAL	464.54	124.20	104.29	67.31	63.51	56.87	37.91	20.86	5.69	4.74	950.00

Annex 3: Development of the partner countries

Table 1: Economic development

Country	Real GDP growth rate ¹			Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø ²	Unemployment rate ³	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (%) ⁴
	2009	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
Bulgaria	-5.5	0.4	1.7	44	11.3	41.6
Cyprus	-1.9	1.1	0.5	99	7.8	24.0
Czech Republic	-4.7	2.7	1.7	80	6.7	14.4
Estonia	-14.3	2.3	7.6	64	12.5	21.7
Hungary	-6.8	1.3	1.7	65	10.9	29.9
Latvia	-17.7	-0.3	5.5	51	15.4	38.1
Lithuania	-14.8	1.4	5.9	57	15.4	33.4
Malta	-2.7	2.3	2.1	83	6.5	20.6
Poland	1.6	3.9	4.3	63	9.7	27.8
Romania	-6.6	-1.6	2.5	47	7.4	41.4
Slovakia	-4.9	4.2	3.3	74	13.5	20.6
Slovenia	-8.0	1.4	-0.2	85	8.2	18.3
EU-27	-4.3	2.0	1.5	100	9.7	23.5
Switzerland	-1.9	2.7	1.9	147	-	17.1

Source: Eurostat May 2012

1 Gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure for the economic activity. It is defined as the value of all goods and services produced less the value of any goods or services used in their creation. The calculation of the annual growth rate of GDP volume is intended to allow comparisons of the dynamics of economic development both over time and between economies of different sizes. For measuring the growth rate of GDP in terms of volume, the GDP at current prices are valued in the prices of the previous year and the thus computed volume changes are imposed on the level of a reference year. Accordingly, price movements will not inflate the growth rate.

2 The volume index of GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) is expressed in relation to the EU (EU-27) average set to equal 100. If the index of a country is higher than 100, this country's level of GDP per head is higher than the EU average and vice versa. Basic figures are expressed in PPS, i.e. a common currency that eliminates the differences in price levels between countries allowing meaningful volume comparisons of GDP between countries.

3 Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were: a. without work during the reference week, b. currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week, c. actively seeking work, i.e.

had taken specific steps in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of, at most, three months.

4 This indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are: at risk of poverty or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. At risk-of-poverty are persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions severely constrained by a lack of resources. They experience at least 6 out of the 9 following deprivations items: cannot afford i) to pay rent or utility bills, ii) keep home adequately warm, iii) face unexpected expenses, iv) eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, v) a week holiday away from home, vi) a car, vii) a washing machine, viii) a colour TV, or ix) a telephone.

Table 2: Human and social development

Country	Human Development Index (HDI) ⁵		Corruption Perceptions Index ⁶		Gini Coefficient ⁷	Life expectancy (at the age of 1 year) ⁸		Infant mortality ⁹	
	2011		2011		2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank					
Bulgaria	0.771	55	3.3	86	33.2	73.4	73.5	9.0	9.4
Cyprus	0.840	31	6.3	30	29.1	80.4	80.8	3.3	3.2
Czech Republic	0.865	27	4.4	57	24.9	76.6	76.9	2.9	2.7
Estonia	0.835	34	6.4	29	31.3	74.5	75.2	3.6	3.3
Hungary	0.816	38	4.6	54	24.1	73.8	74.1	5.1	5.3
Latvia	0.805	43	4.2	61	36.1	72.8	73.1	7.8	5.7
Lithuania	0.810	40	4.8	50	36.9	72.5	72.8	4.9	4.3
Malta	0.832	36	5.6	39	28.4	79.8	80.9	5.3	5.5
Poland	0.813	39	5.5	41	31.1	75.3	75.8	5.6	5.0
Romania	0.781	50	3.6	75	33.3	73.3	73.5	10.1	9.8
Slovakia	0.834	35	4.0	66	25.9	74.7	75.0	5.7	5.7
Slovenia	0.884	21	5.9	35	23.8	78.5	79.0	2.4	2.5
EU-27	-	-	6.3	-	30.5	79.0	-	4.2	-
Switzerland	0.903	11	8.8	8	29.5	81.7	82.0	4.3	3.8

5 The Human Development Index (HDI) measures the quality of life and the level of development in a given country. The HDI takes three main factors into account: life expectancy, education and income. (Source: UNDP)

6 Since 1995, Transparency International has been classifying countries all around the world according to their level of corruption in the public sector, as perceived by the civil population. Based on surveys, this index evaluates the countries on a scale of 0 (very corrupt) to 10 (not corrupt). (Source: Transparency International)

7 The Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality in a population (salary, income, standard of living, etc.). Its value ranges from 0 to 100. In the case of entirely equal distribution, the index value is 0. In the case of entirely unequal distribution – i.e. all income – except for one – is zero – the index value is 100. (Source: SILC)

8 Source: Eurostat May 2012

9 The ratio of the number of deaths of children under one year of age during the year to the number of live births in that year. The value is expressed per 1 000 live births. (Source: Eurostat May 2012)

Table 3: Environment and Energy

Country	Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%) ¹⁰	Greenhouse gas emissions. Kyoto base year = 100 ¹¹	Population connected to public water supply (%)	Population connected to urban wastewater treatment (%)	Sufficiency of sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive (%) ¹²
	2010	2009	2009	2009	2010
Bulgaria	13.8	-	99	45	94
Cyprus	4.6	-	100	-	40
Czech Republic	8.5	68	-	-	60
Estonia	22.8	40	80	80	98
Hungary	7.7	58	95	-	86
Latvia	34.3	41	-	-	95
Lithuania	17.0	44	76	71	66
Malta	0.2	-	100	48	98
Poland	8.9	67	87	64	78
Romania	23.4	-	55	29	82
Slovakia	10.3	60	86	-	74
Slovenia	16.9	95	-	52	74
EU-27	11.7	-	-	-	89
Switzerland	-	98	-	-	-

Source: Eurostat May 2012

10 Renewable energy sources cover solar, thermal and photovoltaic energy, hydro (including tide, wave and ocean energy), wind, geothermal energy and biomass (including biological waste and liquid biofuels). The contribution of renewable energy from heat pumps is also covered for the member states for which such information was available.

11 This represents annual total emissions in relation to "Kyoto base year". In general, the base year is 1990 for the non-fluorinated gases and 1995 for the fluorinated gases. The "Kyoto basket" of greenhouse gases includes: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and the so-called F-gases (hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)). These gases are aggregated into a single unit using gas-specific global warming potential (GWP) factors. The aggregated greenhouse gas emissions are expressed in units of CO₂ equivalents.

12 The index of sufficiency of member states proposals for sites designated under the Habitats Directive, measures the extent to which Sites of Community Importance proposed by the member states adequately cover the species and habitats listed in Annexes I and II to the Habitats directive. 100% indicates sufficiency of proposals for all Annex I terrestrial habitat types and Annex II terrestrial species of Community Importance occurring in member states' territories.

Annex 4: Additional information



Information on the enlargement contribution is available in English, German, French and Italian at www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch. Simply click on the “Projects” tab to see how the enlargement contribution is helping to fund a host of different projects.

Websites of the National Coordination Units in the partner countries:

- Bulgaria: www.swiss-contribution.bg
- Czech Republic: www.swiss-contribution.cz
- Cyprus: www.swiss-contribution.gov.cy
- Estonia: www.swiss-contribution.ee
- Hungary: www.swiss-contribution.hu
- Latvia: www.swiss-contribution.lv
- Lithuania: www.swiss-contribution.lt
- Malta: www.swiss-contribution.gov.mt
- Poland: www.swiss-contribution.pl
- Romania: www.swiss-contribution.ro
- Slovakia: www.swiss-contribution.sk
- Slovenia: www.swiss-contribution.si

Websites of the Swiss Contribution Offices:

- Bulgaria: www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/bulgaria/
- Czech Republic: www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/czechrepublic/
- Cyprus: www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/cyprus/
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