



Newsletter II/2012 of the Swiss Contribution Office for Romania

Bucharest, 14 December 2012

Dear Reader,

You are receiving the 4th Newsletter on the Swiss Contribution to Romania with the latest news on the status of its implementation and development.

Thematic Fund Agreement on "Inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups" signed between Romania and Switzerland

Switzerland along with Romania signed the Thematic Fund Agreement concerning the grant for the "Reform Fund Linked to the Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups" (Roma Inclusion Fund) in Bucharest on June 13, 2012.

This fund of CHF 14 million (11.6 million Euro), part of the Swiss Romanian Cooperation Program to Reduce Economic and Social Disparities within the Enlarged European Union (from now on, known as the "Enlargement Contribution"), is dedicated to support activities promoting the inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups socially and economically. [Read more](#)

Final approval of the Metrorex project

The Final Project Proposal (FPP) "Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) and Feasibility Study (FS) for construction of Metro Line 4 (M4) extension Gara de Nord – Gara Progresu" has been approved by the Swiss State for Economic Affairs (SECO) on July 12, 2012.

The objective of the project is to support Metrorex S.A. in its decision on the planned extension of M4 metro line, between Gara de Nord and Gara Progresu, consisting of 14 km of underground metro line with 14 stations. [Read more](#)

The Seventh regular open Call for Scholarships and Results of the Second Call

The Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the EU (Sciex-NMS), part of the Swiss Contribution to the EU enlargement, aims at establishing scientific partnerships. The seventh regular open call within the framework of the Sciex-NMS was launched on 1 September 2012. Researchers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania are invited to submit their applications until 1 November 2012. [Read more](#)

The second participation of Romania had the same interest of the Romanian researchers to develop collaborations with Swiss researchers and institutions. Thirty five projects from Romanian researchers were selected for a total funding of 3'000'000 Swiss francs. [Read more](#)

For further information regarding the calls please visit <http://www.sciex.ch/> and <http://www.sciex.ro/>.

Launch of the NGO and Partnership Block Grants and the first Calls

The first call for proposals under the NGO Block Grant and Partnership Block Grant information event took place on May 29, 2012 in Bucharest. The event was organized by the [Swiss Intermediate Body](#) (SIB) and was opened by the Ambassador of Switzerland in Romania Mr. Jean Hubert Lebet. On this occasion the SIB extensively presented to the participants the call mechanisms and all the procedures for the submission of the project proposals. [Read more](#)

The call for proposals organized under the Thematic Fund Civil Society Participation - NGO Block Grant closed on July 12, 2012. Eight hundred and five project proposals (695 under the Social component and 110 under the Environment component) have been submitted and will enter the selection process, which is carried out by the SIB according to the Thematic Funds rules and regulations. [Read more](#)

The call for proposals organized under the Thematic Fund Civil Society Participation – Partnership Block Grant closed on August 23, 2012. One hundred sixteen project proposals have been submitted and will enter as well the selection process, carried out by the respective SIB. [Read more](#)

For more details and access to the call documents please click here <http://www.fdsc.ro/> and <http://www.repf.ro/>.

Energy Cities: second Conference of Covenant of Mayors

On the 22 November 2012, a delegation of the Swiss Contribution Office (SCO) participated in Brasov, in the second Conference of Covenant of Mayors Romania ([OER](#)), an European association of local authorities having as objective the increase of the energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and reduction of CO2 emissions. The meeting included an information and knowhow exchange between the Romanian cities participating at the Covenant and three of the four pilot cities, within the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation, working with [European Energy Award \(eea\)](#). The cities of Arad, Brasov and Cluj showed their experience with European Energy Award and the investment projects they intend to develop within the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation.

PMU of the Roma Inclusion Fund

The selection of a team leader of the Programme Implementation Unit (PMU) concerning the Thematic Fund “Reforms linked to the Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups” came to an end and Mr. Cristi Mihalache, project manager within Roma Education Fund, selected for the position, started the month of August. Ms. Dalma Janosi is the local expert of PMU nominated by the Romanian Department of Interethnic Relations (DIR). The PMU team is presently hosted by [DIR](#).

Information and Promotion Guidelines for the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme

In order to facilitate the proper use and to ensure minimal standards for all information and promotion activities related to the Swiss Romanian Cooperation Programme, the [SCO](#) and the [NCU](#) have jointly developed guidelines to be followed by everybody involved in the implementation of the Swiss Contribution. In this respect, a half of day presentation of the Information Guidelines was organised by SCO and NCU, on 10 December 2012, in Bucharest.

Kind regards,

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