



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Welcome!

With 2015, the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme has officially entered a new phase after the full commitment of its funds at the end of last year.

By the end of 2014, the funds allocated to Romania under the Swiss financial contribution, amounting to 181 million Swiss francs, were committed 100%, within the deadline set by the bilateral agreement to this effect.

The commitment of the entire Swiss contribution is the basis for ensuring a high degree of absorption. The decisive factor in the success of full commitment of funds consists in the excellent cooperation between Romanian and Swiss authorities and between authorities and nongovernmental sector. Romanian and Swiss authorities will pursue the compliance with the commitments undertaken through projects so that the implementation phase to bring concrete progress for the development of areas receiving funding.

Over 200 projects were approved during the commitment period. Areas and projects were selected in terms of their relevance for Romania's development: promoting economic growth and business support, improving working conditions, promoting sustainable energy management, improve public safety and security, education, research and strengthening the civil society.

The External Newsletter of the Programme will continue to keep you updated with the latest developments and events.

Visit of Swiss Journalists to Romania

The Swiss Contribution is of great interest to the Swiss media; 14 journalists visited last month six projects implemented through the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme to inform themselves on how the Swiss funds are used. They were impressed by the good work done, but also noticed the many challenges Romania still faces.

Fourteen Swiss journalists from the press, radio and TV visited Romania in March by invitation of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs but at their own cost. The group represented well the diversity of Switzerland by working for Italian, French and German language media. Their number attests to the great interest in Switzerland for the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union in general and the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme in particular.

The journalists were impressed by the quality of the projects presented. The articles and broadcasts published until now gave a positive view of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme without ignoring the many challenges. For most of them it was their first visit to Romania and so they delighted in the friendliness of its people and the beauty of its landscape; taking home a different image of the country.

During their visit four day visit the journalists visited the projects in Bucharest, Slatina, Gradinari, Tirgoviste and Vizuresti, for example:

Metrorex

- Global project amount: CHF 12'400'000
- Swiss contribution : CHF 8'500'000
- Project duration: 2013-2016

Bucharest faces increasing difficulties in providing good quality public transport for its citizens. The improvement and extension of the metro network is therefore imperative. Through the Metrorex project Switzerland supports the elaboration of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for the extension of the M4 line from the

North railway station to Progresu South railway station, which will link the city centre to the South of Bucharest.



Metrorex, "Extension of line 4 Gara de Nord – Gara Progresu": the Swiss journalists visiting a construction site of the line 5 at Drumul Taberei. ©SCO

Community policing

- Global project amount: CHF 2'320'000
- Swiss contribution : CHF 1'970'000

Since 2000 Switzerland has supported the Romanian Police in introducing community policing in the towns and cities; the present project aims at extending this approach to rural areas by providing the necessary training and logistical support to its introduction in 97 poor communes. Special attention is given to improving the understanding between the police and disadvantaged population groups, such as the Roma minority.



Roma language class at Nicolae Golescu Police Training Centre in Slatina. ©SCO

Programme for Small and medium-sized enterprises

- Global project amount: CHF 35'000'000
- Swiss contribution : CHF 24'500'000

Small and medium-sized enterprises play a key role in Romania's economic development. However, the difficulty to access long-term investment capital at reasonable conditions restricts their ability to realise their potential. This projects provides through CEC Bank loans of up to 100'000 Swiss francs to SMEs in the manufacturing industry as well as the tourism, health and cleantech sectors.

At home with your community

- Global project amount: CHF 180'280.30
- Swiss contribution : CHF 164'915.61

"At home with your community" is a community development project and a responds to the problems faced by ten Roma or mixed communities southern

Romania. The communities are supported in identifying their own needs in view of improving their individual and communal living spaces and for developing a sustainable entrepreneurial activity.

Look at abilities, forget the incapacity

- Global project amount: CHF 292'709.55
- Swiss contribution : CHF 249'974

There are more than 137'000 Romanians with physical disabilities including wheelchair users and they remain one of the most vulnerable social groups. The goal of the project is to support Romanian practitioners through a partnership with a specialised Swiss institution to incorporate ability-oriented principles into the services provided for those with physical disabilities.

zefiR - Together for Empowerment

- Global project amount: CHF 3'397'216
- Swiss contribution : CHF 3'000'000

In Romania, one of the most vulnerable groups in terms of social exclusion and discrimination are the Roma. Through the zefiR project selected communities in the Dolj, Gorj and Olt counties received improved access to quality education in kindergarten and primary schools as well as health services. Through the project they are empowered to identify and address problems facing the community themselves.



After-School activities provided by zefiR Project in Gradinari, Olt county. ©SCO

New public lighting system in Suceava

The quality and performance of the public lighting system in Suceava municipality will be significantly improved through a project from the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union.

The project aims the installation of more than 3800 lighting units with LED technology, coordinated through a specialized telemanagement system.

In addition to improving the appearance and safety of traffic in Suceava, the project is estimated to reduce the maintenance costs with more than 1,000,000 lei, to reduce the energy consumption by more than 60% and to reduce the pollution, compared to the present system, with more than 1,400 tons of CO2 every year.

The project will run for a period of 18 months, with a total budget of CHF 6,417,314, of which CHF 5,238,108 represents the Swiss grant.

Thus, on the 2nd of April 2015, the Project and Implementation Agreements of the project "Modern and efficient public lighting management in Suceava Municipality" have been signed in Bucharest by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland, through the Swiss Embassy, together with the Ministry of Finance, as National Coordination Unit, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRPA), as Intermediary Body, and Suceava Municipality, as the Beneficiary.



April 2nd, 2015, Ministry of Finance headquarters, Bucharest. *Representatives of the Swiss Embassy in Bucharest, of the National Coordination Unit, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration and Suceava Municipality participating at the signing ceremony. ©SCO*

European Energy Award brought in Romania

On 2nd of April 2015, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the Romanian Government signed the Project Agreement for the Institutionalization of European Energy Award in Romania.

The objective of this project with a budget of 411,765 CHF (out of which 350,000 represent a Swiss grant) is to set up, through an institutional partnership with a Swiss Organisation, a Romanian entity (ROEEA) that will implement the concept of European Energy Award (EEA) at the national level, according to the European Energy Award Forum practices and procedures.

The ROEEA, among others, will support the Romanian cities in managing their energy and climate change policies using the EEA instruments, will facilitate international exchange of experience with European Cities with an active energy policy, will enable partnerships on urbanization and energy issues between Swiss and Romanian energy cities and will support capacity building for Romanian consultants and city administrations in the terms of sustainable development in energy related issues.



At the EEA Project Agreement signing protocol, from left to right: Mr. Gyorgy Attlia, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Finance in charge with the coordination of the SRCP, Mrs. Sirma Caraman, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Regional Development (MDRPA) in charge with the Intermediary Body and H.E. Mr. Jean-Hubert Lebet, the Ambassador of Switzerland. ©SCO



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