



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Welcome!

The External Newsletter of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme continues to keep you updated with the latest developments and events. This issue focuses mainly on thematic and signing events. We're looking forward to inform you again at the end of September and, until then, we wish you an excellent summer.

Thematic Event on Social Inclusion

The conference "Opportunities for Change: Practical Approaches for the Social Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups" took place in Bucharest on April 29, 2015 at the Museum of Roma Culture

The conference focused on concrete examples and good practices of how projects run at local level can improve health and educational outcomes, and strengthen intercommunity relations and local political ownership. The event consisted in a series of engaging conversations with Romanian as well as Swiss speakers and participants, based on case studies and lessons learned in projects developed within the Roma Inclusion Fund (RIF) of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme (SRCP), as well as on the personal experience and expertise of some of the guests.

The event took place back-to-back with the second Regional Seminar on Social Inclusion organised by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Bucharest from 27 to 30 April, and benefits from the presence of the Swiss ambassadors accredited to Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovakia.



Exhibition stands of RIF Line 1 projects in the hall of the museum presenting concrete examples of successful inclusion of Roma at the local level ©SCO

Magistrates trained through e-learning tools

Launch of the e-learning component, "Assistance for strengthening the training capacities for judges and prosecutors in the application of new laws" project

24 e-learning modules and manuals regarding the implementation of the new Civil and Criminal codes have been presented in the presence of the Ambassador of Switzerland and of the Vice-President of the Superior Council of Magistracy at the National Institute of Magistracy, on 22 June 2015.

The event was organized on the occasion of the successful completion of the first phase of the project " Assistance for strengthening the training capacities for judges and prosecutors in the application of new codes" financed under the Swiss Romanian Programme amounting to CHF 2'167'175.-

Since 2012, 4000 judges and prosecutors were being trained through 276 training sessions in the frame of this project, which contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of the judiciary to face the institutional and legislative challenges raised by the application of the new codes.



Ambassador Jean-Hubert Lebet addresses the participants. From left to right: Ms Nicoleta Tandareanu, Judge of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, Ms Octavia Spineanu-Matei, Director of the National Institute of Magistracy and Mr Bogdan Gabor, Vice-president of the Supreme Council of Magistracy. ©SCO

Rehabilitation of the heat transport and distribution networks in Brașov

On 25th of June 2015, the documents for financing the project "Rehabilitation of the heat transport and distribution networks in Tractorul Residential Area of Brașov" were signed at the Ministry of Public Finance. The project is part of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme

The two partner states were represented by Mr György Attila, State Secretary in

the Ministry of Public Finance, which acts as the National Coordination Unit of the Programme, His Excellency, Mr Jean-Hubert Lebet, Ambassador of Switzerland to Romania, representing the financing state, and Mrs Sevil Shhaideh, Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, as Intermediate Body for Area 4 of the of the Swiss - Romanian Programme.

The project objective regards increasing the quality and improving the performance of the transmission and distribution of heat system in the city of Braşov.

Expected outcomes of the project implementation are: to reduce total losses of energy for providing heating and hot water in the area by 50% (i.e. 9.55 GWh / year) compared to the current level; reducing CO₂ emissions by 1965.5 tons / year, while reducing during the first three years by 21.48% the operating, maintenance and repairs costs for primary transport networks and distribution networks for heating and hot water related to Thermal units 6 and 9 of Tractorul Area.

The total project value is CHF 6,346,194 of which CHF 5,142,035 eligible budget is composed of the Swiss grant amounting to CHF 4,370,730 and co-financing of 771.305 CHF from the beneficiary. The project duration is 24 months.



Complying with EU regulations in matter of automatic data transfer

Complying with EU regulations in matters of automated exchange of

dactyloscopic data and quality management system in combating terrorism and cross-border crime across Europe

The up to date methods and equipment dedicated to comply with EU regulation in automated data transfer were presented during the conference organized on 24 April 2015, on the occasion of the closing of the project “Complying with EU regulations in matter of automatic data transfer”, project through which the Romanian Police capacity will be improved and allow the automated AFIS data exchange with the 13 Prüm member states.

23,800 transactions were processed due to the AFIS system implementation, which utilizes up to date equipment.

This is a very important achievement of the Romanian police, which has now the possibility to be connected to similar offices from Europe and improve their capacity of collaboration with their peers, reinforcing thus, their fight against criminality.

The project had been implemented over 3 years period and benefited from a budget of CHF 1,500,000.-, out of which CHF 1,275,000.- were financed in the frame of the Thematic Fund Security.



The new tools of connecting the Romanian police with the European AFIS network are presented to the participants. ©SCO

Integrated Export Services for Romanian Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

On 17th of June 2015, at the Ministry of Public Finance, took place the signing event for the inter-institutional agreements for the implementation of the project "Integrated export services for SMEs in Romania" within the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme, attended by officials from Romania and the Swiss Confederation.

The two partner countries were represented by Mr György Attila, State Secretary in the Ministry of Public Finance, which acts as the National Coordination Unit of the Programme, and His Excellency, Mr Jean-Hubert Lebet, Ambassador of Switzerland to Romania. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism, as the beneficiary of the project, was represented by Mr. Cosmin Cătălin Olteanu, Secretary of State.

The main objective of the project "Integrated export services for SMEs in Romania" is to contribute to the development of two of the poorest regions in the country, namely the North-East and South, by improving local SMEs' export potential and market diversification.

The total project budget amounts to almost 3 million Swiss francs, of which the Swiss grant equals 2.5 million, the remaining amount being the co-financing provided by the Romanian state.

The project will establish two business centers, in Ploiești and Bacău respectively. Small and medium enterprises in these areas will be selected to participate in a series of trainings, seminars, workshops and customized consulting, the outcome of which will be the increase of their export capabilities and competitiveness on foreign markets. Within the same project, the SMEs will be promoted abroad generating interest for Romanian products.

The project will contribute to the implementation of the National Export Strategy of Romania 2014-2020 and will run for a period of about 4 years, until the beginning of 2019.



Mr György Attila, State Secretary in the Ministry of Public Finance, signing the Agreements. ©SCO

Improving police cooperation in the field of Trafficking Human Beings between Switzerland and Romania

A new cooperation activity between Swiss and Romanian polices have started in the field of countering trafficking in human beings in Switzerland and Romania. The fight against trafficking of human being will be strengthened both in Switzerland and Romania.

The project launched trough a National Conference, which took place on 4 June 2015, is meant to contribute to increasing the number of identified victims both in Romania and Switzerland. In this respect joint field missions will be organized. At

the same time the management capacity of the Romanian policemen will be increased. The project will be implemented over 2 year period and benefits from a Swiss contribution of CHF 732'640.-



Representatives of the Swiss and Romanian Police, addressing participants. ©SCO

A model of partnership and mobile services for poor rural communities

The National Conference organized on the occasion of the closing of the project "A model of partnership and mobile services for poor rural communities"

The national Conference "The need for developing social, medical and educational services in rural Romania", held in Bucharest on 4 April 2015, introduced the model of partnership and social services for poor rural areas to more than 100 participants from NGOs and central authorities.

On this occasion, specialists from Switzerland and Romania have exchanged the experience gained during the implementation of the project "A model of partnership and mobile services for poor rural communities", thanks to which 400 disabled children from poor rural areas benefited from mobile medico-social services. The

presentation was very well received by the participants who expressed their intention to extend this type of services in other regions of the country.

The project, implemented between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2015, was financed under the Thematic Fond Partnership with an amount of CHF 249,875.-

Info Session on the NGOs financed within the Thematic Fund Partnership

26 winners of the 2nd Call for proposals within the Partnership Block Grant presented their projects on the occasion of the event.

On 21 April 2015, at the National Library in Bucharest the NGOs selected in the second round of the Call for proposals under the Partnership Block Grant, presented their projects. This was a good opportunity for the Swiss Contribution Office to become familiar with each project and also for the projects, to be informed on each other's activity.

At the same time the Swiss Intermediate Body introduced to the participants the working procedures to be followed during the implementation of the projects.



NGOs benefiting from the Swiss grant during the information session on the reporting rules and regulations. ©SCO

University Change through Student Engagement and Exchange

The public debate on the institutionalization of good governance and performance evaluation in Romanian higher education has started on 27 May 2015 on the occasion of the initiation of the project “University Change through Student Engagement and Exchange”.

Good governance and performances standards will be monitored in 40 Romanian universities. The project, financed in the frame of the TF Partnership, is initiated by a partnership between the Romanian Academic Society, the National Union of Students of Switzerland and the national Alliance and the Student Organisation in Romania. It will be carried out for a period of 24 months and has a budget of CHF 256,778.9 out of which CHF 231.086,4 represents the Swiss Contribution.



Head of the Swiss Contribution Office, Thomas Stauffer, addresses the participants ©SCO



Senior Net project

The “Senior Net National Conference on Home Care for elderly” took place on 16 June 2015 and on that occasion 55 Romanian NGOs launched the Public policy proposal for assistance of elderly.

The results of the Senior net project were presented and offered a good opportunity for vivid exchanges between the concerned line Ministries and the civil society. It has also highlighted the constant work that the NGOs are performing for the promotion of the elderly’s rights to a decent life and a good medical care.

Senior Net project, financed under the Thematic Fund Civil Society, has assisted at the creation of a Network of 58 organisations active in home care and supported them advocating for the benefit of the Romanian elderly. It has been implemented over a 2 year period and had benefited of a contribution of CHF 223,481.25.-





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