



The Swiss Enlargement Contribution

Activities in 2012

Annual Report



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

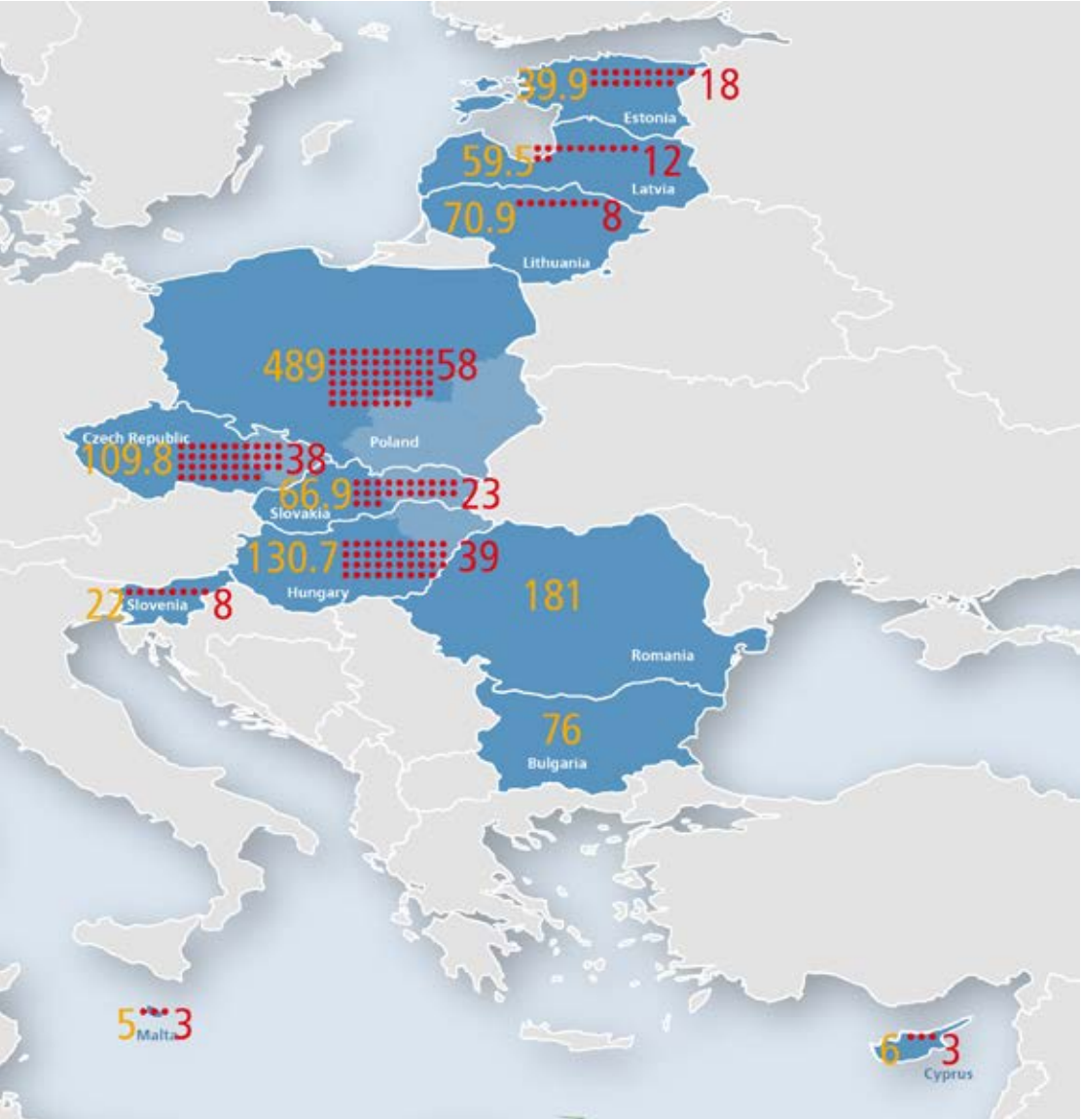
**State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs SECO**

Table of contents

General overview	3
Activities and results in 2012	5
Project objectives	6
Outlook and further information	13



General overview



On 26 November 2006, voters in Switzerland voiced their approval for the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe. In doing so, the people of Switzerland expressed their consent to a contribution in the amount of CHF 1 billion towards the reduction of economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU. Since that time Switzerland has provided support for the 10 countries that acceded to the EU in 2004: the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. These countries are often referred to collectively as the EU-10.

The Federal Act approved by the people of Switzerland in 2006 also provides the statutory basis for an additional enlargement contribution for Bulgaria and Romania, both of which joined the EU in 2007. A further CHF 257 million have been set aside for that purpose.

The enlargement contribution is administered jointly by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Support services are provided by their

offices in Warsaw, Riga, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, and Sofia. The office staffs are familiar with local conditions and have direct contacts with the population. This helps to reduce the risk of poor investments. Where there is any reason to suspect irregularities, Switzerland is entitled to stop payments and demand restitution of any funds paid out improperly.

The enlargement contribution is a token of solidarity and responsibility. It strengthens Switzerland and its relationship with the EU – the country's most important political and economic partner. The use to which the enlargement contribution is put is nevertheless autonomously decided by Switzerland, which concludes agreements on the projects it supports through direct negotiations with the partner countries. As a rule, at least 15% of the project costs are borne by the project partners.

The annual report here presented provides a more detailed look at the progress made on those projects in 2012.

210

Projects in the EU-10

11

Projects completed by the end of 2012

12

Partner countries: Bulgaria, , the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia

40%

Share of the project budget earmarked for structurally weak regions in the larger partner countries

100%

Share of the EU-10 project budget already committed

77%

Share of the Bulgaria and Romania project budget provisionally or definitively committed

1.257 billion

Amount in Swiss francs contributed for the alleviation of economic and social disparities in Europe

5

Project objectives: promotion of economic growth and better working conditions; improvement of social security services; improved environmental protection; enhanced public safety and security; strengthening of civil society

Activities and results in 2012

Switzerland's EU enlargement contribution for the EU-10

On 14 June 2012 – five years after Parliament's approval of the credit allocation – the commitment period for Switzerland's enlargement contribution for the EU-10 came to an end. During this time, Switzerland approved 210 projects with the partner countries. With that, Switzerland's contribution of one billion francs to the EU-10 has been fully committed. As of the end of 2012, a total of CHF 179.5 million had been paid out.

The projects agreed upon must be implemented by June 2017. As of the end of 2012, 11 projects had been completed. In Cyprus, for example, a centre for promoting cultural exchange between the southern and northern parts of the island has been established. In Estonia, an international conference of judges was held, and a Swiss company supplied physical therapy equipment for treating children injured in accidents. And with the delivery of 110 new school buses, children in Latvia now have a safe route to school.

Both Switzerland and the partner countries organised media events in 2012 to inform the public about the projects that had been approved. Switzerland also published a brochure, "[The Swiss Enlargement Contribution: Interim report for the end of the EU 10 commitment period, 2007 to 2012](#)", which provides an extensive account of what was accomplished in the first five years and is available for download or ordering on the Swiss enlargement contribution website.



The Swiss enlargement contribution for Bulgaria and Romania

For Bulgaria and Romania, the commitment period ends in December 2014; the implementation phase will run until December 2019. As of the end of 2012, Switzerland had given its provisional approval for five project ideas in Bulgaria and Romania, with a total budget of CHF 54.2 million; and final approval for all 13 thematic funds and 11 individual project applications, with a total budget of CHF 133.6 million. This means that 77% of the project budget for Bulgaria and Romania has been provisionally or definitively committed. As of the end of 2012, a total of CHF 19.6 million had been paid out.

Info Box 1: Reducing economic and social disparities within the partner countries

In the larger partner countries, more than 40% of the enlargement contribution is used to support structurally weaker regions. The focus is on the eastern peripheral regions in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. It is here that an exodus of skilled workers is exacerbating existing economic and social problems.

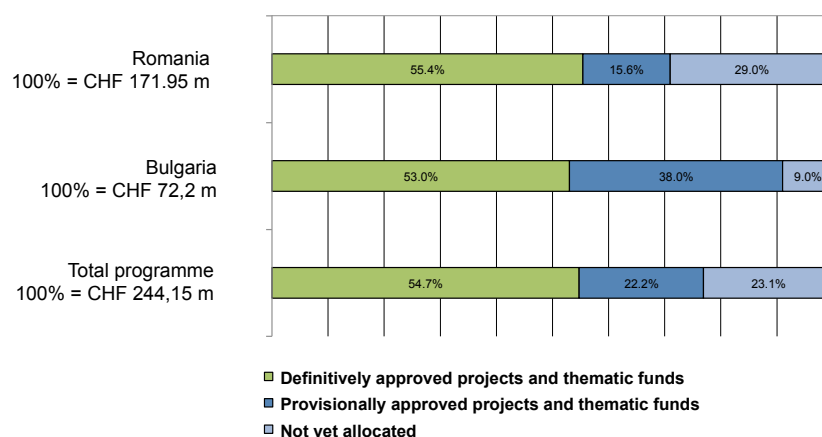


Figure 1: Bulgaria and Romania – Funding allocations and status of the two-step project approval procedure (as of 31 December 2012)

The total allocation for the project portfolio is CHF 244.15 million. An additional CHF 12.85 million has been budgeted for implementation costs in Switzerland.

Project goals

Despite the high growth rates in the years immediately following accession to the EU, the level of prosperity in the new EU member states is still relatively low. Some partner countries have been hard hit by the consequences of the debt crisis. This has only added to the importance of Switzerland's contribution. Both in economic and in social terms, the lag behind the EU average is still considerable.

Figure 2 and the pages that follow provide a glimpse of the ways in which the enlargement contribution is helping to reduce these economic and social disparities. All of the projects are designed to further at least one of the five primary project goals; these will be explained in greater detail below. The results achieved with the help of the enlargement contribution in 2012 will be illustrated by a sampling of project examples.

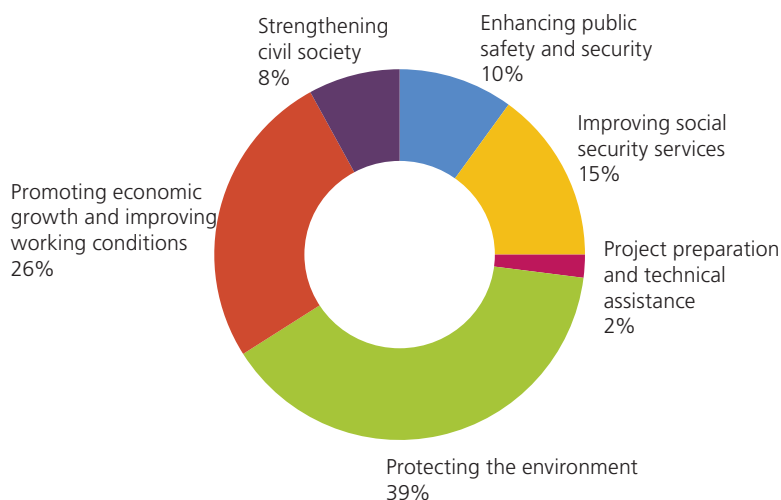


Figure 2: Breakdown of the enlargement contribution by project goals

In the EU-10, there are 210 projects receiving contributions from Switzerland in an amount totalling some 950 million francs. For projects in Bulgaria and Romania, an additional contribution of 244.15 million francs has been earmarked. Approval of the projects in these countries will be completed by the end of 2014. The diagram above shows the breakdown of the project budget for the 12 partner countries by project goals.

Info Box 2: Project monitoring and measurement of results

In order to achieve the individual project goals, on-site project monitoring plays a particularly important role. Primary responsibility for making certain that tasks are performed and the project goals achieved lies with the partner countries. For each project, an individual project agreement sets forth measurable results that are expected to be achieved. The partner countries report to Switzerland on a regular basis concerning the progress made on the various projects. In order to get a more concrete picture of the projects, however, SECO and SDC also conduct on-site visits. Support services are provided by their offices in Warsaw, Riga, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, and Sofia. The assistance of external experts with specific expertise is equally essential, not only on the project visits but also for the assessment of public tender documents. At the end of each project, if not before, a financial audit of each project is conducted by a certified auditing organisation. Switzerland is also entitled to demand an additional independent evaluation of individual projects.



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Switzerland supports projects in the EU-10 that are specifically designed to promote economic growth and improve working conditions. Switzerland's contribution for projects in this domain totals CHF 257.7 million. In Bulgaria and Romania CHF 52.3 million have been foreseen for furthering this goal. As of the end of 2012, the following results have been achieved:



Access to external financing for micro-enterprises and SMEs

The enlargement contribution provides micro-credits, venture capital, and preferential guarantees for investment loans in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, and Poland; the same is also foreseen for Romania. By 2012, Latvia had paid out 580 micro-credits, with the help of which it was possible to protect 1100 existing jobs and create some 300 new jobs (see project example). Hungary has thus far provided support for five small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and created 36 jobs for highly skilled employees through its venture capital fund, 43% of which is contributed by Switzerland.



Export promotion for SMEs

In Poland, 820 participants from regional government offices, regional economic centres and SMEs have attended training sessions to increase their familiarity with the principles of sustainability and corporate social responsibility.



Regulation of the financial sector

In the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia, Switzerland is supporting more widespread use of international financial reporting and auditing norms. Among other things, by the end of 2012, training in the use of the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) had been provided for government officials and industry associations on a total of some 28,800 participant days.

Switzerland also plans to provide support for Romania in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.



Regional development and employment

In Poland, 10 regional development projects have provided the framework for conducting various training events for over 1000 local small business owners and representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). A total of 60 local businesses and NGOs received financial support

in 2012. Over 11,000 people visited one of the 50 information events that were held on themes such as the promotion of tourism, the marketing of local products, regional cooperation, or the preservation of local culture. Each of the projects now maintains its own website.

Advisory services on the same subjects were also provided at events in Slovakia. These were attended by over 20 different organisations and a dozen local communities.

Representatives of a regional development project in Hungary visited business parks in Switzerland. They then commenced preparations for a business park in north-eastern Hungary, designed to provide support for business undertakings and thus to foster additional job creation.

In Romania, approval has been granted to a project for assisting students in making well-reasoned decisions concerning their future professional careers. In addition, the "JOBS" project will further assist in increasing the attractiveness of the regional employment market for students and future employees.



Research and development

By the close of 2012, a research scholarship programme had made it possible for 89 academics from the new EU member states to enroll as visitors at a Swiss university or other institution of higher learning. Since the beginning of the programme and up to the end of 2012, 76 researchers had completed their exchange visits and returned to their home countries to continue research in their respective disciplines there.

Within the framework of research programmes in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania over 70 research partnerships had been established by early 2013 between institutions in the different partner countries and in Switzerland. The respective research projects are now underway.

Micro-credits in Latvia

The "Rūjas" is a farm in the village of Džūkste, where grain is grown on 35 hectares of land. The harvest is sold to Latvia's leading grain processing company. Because grain cannot be planted year round, however, the owner of the farm was looking for a second line of work. As an experienced repairman and lorry driver, he had the idea of buying a tow truck. Within the framework of its micro-credit programme, Switzerland supported this project with a loan of some CHF 15,750. With the help of those funds, the farmer is no longer underemployed and is now able to provide automobile towing services for the local police and the Latvian Automobile Association.



Improving social security services

Switzerland finances a wide range of social security measures in the EU-10. Approximately CHF 145.4 million have been allocated for a total of 36 projects. Another CHF 32.9 million have been earmarked for Bulgaria and Romania. In the domain of social security services, the following results were achieved as of the end of 2012:



Basic healthcare services

A programme in the Czech Republic has been launched to improve access to better quality healthcare services for the elderly, the disabled, and the incurably ill. The Czech Ministry of Health has issued a call for tenders for the construction services and equipment supplies required for realisation of the project.

In north-eastern Hungary, a pilot project has given some 50,000 inhabitants access, for the first time, to group clinics. The institutions participating in the project have held a number of workshops in order to define the precise functions and the organisation of these group medical practices.



Hospital modernization

The public hospital "Mater Dei", in Malta, now has at its disposal its own positron emission tomograph. This facilitates access to improved cancer diagnostic technology for the entire population of this small Mediterranean island country. Healthcare disparities in Malta have thus been reduced, since it is no longer only patients in private hospitals who are able to benefit from tomographic diagnosis. In addition, in late 2012, three radiologists from Malta received advanced training in the use of the equipment at the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, in Bellinzona.



Prevention

In Poland, various prevention programs have been launched to deal with such subjects as hepatitis C, alcohol and tobacco abuse, obesity, proper nutrition, and dental hygiene. The first information events, as part of a nationwide campaign, took place in 2012. Thus, for example, some 120 severely overweight individuals are now enrolled in a certified intervention programme as a follow-up to the information campaign.



Social services for specific target groups

In Estonia, four out of a planned total of 10 new residence centres for children have now been

completed, providing 32 Estonian orphans with a new home.

In Slovakia, a project was carried out to improve the social rehabilitation and integration of disabled children (see project example). In eight local communities in the eastern part of the country, where many members of the Roma population live, support for eight community centres has rendered access to formal education possible for children from the marginalised Roma minority. Together, the two projects have created some 30 new jobs.



Miscellaneous social services

As part of a project for the optimisation of emergency services in Estonia, 120 ambulances were outfitted with radio equipment and mobile software. Another project has been launched to improve the treatment of drug-dependent criminal offenders. The team of specialists who will participate in the project has been assembled.

In Romania, an intensive training programme, carried out in cooperation with the Swiss Air-Ambulance organisation "Rega", has made it possible to improve the quality and safety of Romanian air-rescue services.

Improving the health and social integration of severely disabled children and youths in Slovakia

The project provides support - among other things - for the rehabilitation centre shown here, and for a range of other services for severely disabled children and youths in the "Stará Lubovna" region of Slovakia, with a population of approximately 20,000. Within the framework of the project a number of activities were carried out in the course of 2012. These included providing counselling for 107 young people with disabilities and for 68 families with a disabled family member. Products and services designed to help disabled children and youths to greater independence were tested. In addition, the organisation entrusted with carrying out the project paid visits to all primary schools in the region and held information events on a variety of themes. Transport services for the disabled were provided at a reduced rate to some 80 clients each month. The Swiss partner in the project, the Wagerenhof Foundation, in Uster, shared the benefit of its own experience to provide information and other support services for the realisation of the project.



Protecting the environment

The enlargement contribution provides support for numerous environmental protection projects in the EU-10. These also include infrastructure projects that help reduce risks to human health, improve living conditions, and promote economic development. Approximately CHF 371 million have been allocated for environmental protection projects in the EU-10; another CHF 92.8 million have been earmarked for Bulgaria and Romania. As of the end of 2012, the following results have been achieved:



Public transport

At the end of 2012, the Czech Republic issued the first major call for tenders for the construction of a tramway line. The project will open up access to a densely populated section of the city of Olomouc. Calls for tenders on eight additional transit projects in the Czech Republic and in Poland are expected to be issued in 2013.

In 2012, Switzerland also approved the first infrastructure project in Romania. The Romanian government would like to expand the public transit system in Bucharest and extend the metro line M4 by 14 kilometres to reach suburban areas to the south of the city. The Swiss contribution is being used to finance a study that will serve as the basis for deciding on the project, the cost of which will reach into the billions. The study includes an analysis not only of the feasibility of the expansion project, but also of the linkage to other metro and bus lines.



Drinking water supply

Switzerland is supporting four projects in Hungary designed to improve the water supply in local communities. 100 kilometres of water lines will be repaired and another 40 kilometres newly laid. The procurement procedure is now underway.



Wastewater treatment

Slovakia has prepared calls for tenders for the construction and modernisation of 55 kilometres of sewage lines and for the expansion and construction of six water treatment plants in remote areas. In Latvia, 2012 saw the conduct of the procurement procedure for remediation of the contaminated area of the industrial port of Riga.



Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Slovenia has equipped a 600 metre long highway noise barrier with solar cells. In addition, 38

public buildings – for the most part, schools and kindergartens – are now heated with renewable energy sources (see project example).

300 households and the roof of a hospital in south-east Poland have been equipped with solar panels for producing hot water.

Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania prepared calls for tenders for improving energy efficiency in public buildings.

In Romania, four medium-sized cities are to receive assistance to help them qualify for the European Energy Award. The choice of the cities was made in 2012, and a group of specialists began drafting the requisite “action plans for sustainable energy”.



Environmental monitoring

With the modernisation of the laboratories and monitoring stations of 16 inspectorates, agencies, and research institutes in Estonia and Hungary, it will be possible to more effectively monitor waste disposal sites, water and air quality, radioactivity, and natural hazards. In Estonia, the first calls for tender for the supply of modern equipment were issued in 2012.

In Romania, there are plans to establish a central information system that will make possible more sustainable forest management. The data collected will provide the means for identifying forest owners, clearly delineating hunting and protected areas, and for putting an end to illegal logging activities.

Promoting renewable energy in Slovenia

In keeping with EU targets for the year 2020, Slovenia is working to increase to 25% the share of renewable energy sources it uses in meeting its total energy needs. To do this, Slovenia is also employing funds from the Swiss enlargement contribution. The pictures below provide an illustration of some of what has been achieved so far:

- › Along Slovenia's highway towards Italy, a 600 metre long noise barrier has been equipped with solar cells. This is the longest solar noise barrier in all of Slovenia. (Picture 1)
- › 30 schools and kindergartens in the coastal region of Primorska use biomass instead of oil as an energy source. Picture 2 shows the old heating system in Cerkno, which has now been replaced by biomass heating
- › In the Alpine region of Gorenjska, in the northwest of the country, five schools and a public swimming pool have been outfitted with better insulation and are now heated using solar energy, biomass, and heat pumps. Picture 3 shows the new, energy-efficient windows that have been installed in the primary school in Gorje; picture 4 shows the construction of heat pumps at the primary school in Bled.





Waste disposal

In 2012 Poland prepared a call for tenders for the construction of a new waste disposal facility and for the reclaiming of four landfill sites. Calls for tenders for asbestos removal are also in preparation. Two information events were held to explain to the public how asbestos can be safely disposed of and neutralised.

In Bulgaria, two projects are planned for improving waste disposal methods. The first is for the environmentally safe disposal of 6400 tons of pesticides that have passed their expiration dates. In the second project, Bulgaria will use funds from the enlargement contribution to develop pilot models for the disposal of the household hazardous waste.



Biodiversity

The purchase of technical equipment has improved fundamental biodiversity data measurement in Poland. The equipment was put to use in some 850 field visits on which data was collected relating to bird populations and botanical biodiversity. Approximately one dozen information and training events for the promotion of ecologically sustainable behaviour were held.

Slovakia has acquired a modern apparatus for the production of high-quality and cost-effective digital terrain and surface models. These are being used to revise existing maps of the Slovakian forests so as to make possible the sustainable management and exploitation of existing forest reserves.

Hungary commenced implementation of six projects designed, among other things, to improve the protection of Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 is a pan-European network of protected areas within the EU dedicated to the conservation of threatened native flora and fauna and their natural habitats. Funding has also been provided to enable schoolchildren in Hungary to visit forest schools.



Enhancing public safety and security

A modern court system, improved protection along the Schengen area's external border, the combating of corruption, and emergency preparedness: The enlargement contribution is being used to carry out projects in the EU-10 to improve public safety and security in those countries. The fight against cross-border criminality is also in Switzerland's interest. Switzerland has set aside CHF 88.1 million to support projects in this domain. Another CHF 28 million have been earmarked for public safety and security projects in Bulgaria and Romania. As of the end of 2012, the following results have been achieved:



Modernisation of the judiciary

As part of a project for expanding continuing education opportunities in the court system and law enforcement agencies, the Czech Republic has carried out a survey of personnel from 23 courts on the subject of information and communication technology. The project will contribute to the better and more efficient functioning of the country's national judiciary.

Latvia has installed in courthouses nationwide a total of 81 modern video conferencing systems and some 300 new audio systems. This new communications technology, together with a reorganisation of judiciary procedures, has significantly improved the functioning of the Latvian courts.

Hungary is preparing a call for tenders for the installation of a total of 104 new metal detectors and 45 x-ray scanners in court buildings nationwide.

In Romania, a project approved in 2012 is helping to improve asylum procedures and make them more efficient. Personnel in the Romanian immigration office are being trained in keeping with European standards and two regional reception centres are being renovated and equipped with modern infrastructures. In Bulgaria, two projects are being carried out to expand the legal and institutional capacities of the judiciary for dealing with regulatory and criminal breaches of environmental regulations and for improving protection of children's rights.



Border protection

In Poland, the infrastructure and equipment at six border crossings are being optimised and upgraded to EU standards in order to improve management of border traffic and to better combat organised crime (see project example). 70 new vehicles, specially adapted for mobile opera-

tions are now in function. 50 Polish border guards have received training in Switzerland in the use of modern equipment for conducting checks on persons and vehicles.



Combating corruption and organised crime

In Poland, support is being provided not only for the border authorities, but also for the police. 500 members of the Polish police force benefited in 2012 from additional training measures.

In Hungary, community policing is being introduced in smaller cities with the help of experts from Switzerland. In November 2012, a Hungarian delegation visited the police corps of St Gallen, Zurich, and Bern, in order to learn from Switzerland's experience with community policing.

A project relating to local police forces has also been approved for Romania. Other proposals approved for Romania in this domain include two projects for the prevention of corruption; a project to improve the efficiency of operations for confiscating stolen goods; measures for the prevention, discovery, and combating of human trafficking; a project for improved international cooperation in the exchange of police data; and support for the Romanian gendarmerie in tourist areas and in the organisation of major events with the benefit of Switzerland's expertise in these domains.

In Bulgaria, approval was given for two projects, one designed to improve international cooperation in the combating of cross-border criminality, the other for improvement in the training of forensic experts.



Managing natural disasters and emergency situations

Hungary has instituted measures for improved monitoring of the water level of the Tisza and for taking effective precautions in the event of high water. It will thus be possible in the future to take measures to prevent such flooding as occurred in 2010. In addition, two monitoring stations were built and equipped, which now record water levels every five minutes. Dams are also being reconstructed, damaged drainage ditches repaired, rainwater drainage systems expanded, and mobile flood protection barriers purchased. All of these measures together will ensure that 350,000 inhabitants of north-east Hungary are better protected against floods. The execution of these projects will also benefit from knowledge gained on study visits to Switzerland: in the second half of 2012, project officers were invited to familiarise themselves with flood protection measures in Switzerland at the local, cantonal, and federal levels.

In Estonia, 200 professionals are receiving training to improve fire safety at public nursing homes and hospitals. In addition, in 2012 an analysis of security needs in public social service facilities was conducted to ensure that training is focused on what is actually needed.

Improved border protection in Poland

Poland shares a border of over 1000 kilometres with the non-EU countries of Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Since its accession to the EU in 2004 and, in particular, since implementation of the Schengen agreement in 2007, the border control challenges faced by Poland have increased dramatically. On the one hand, there has been a strong rise in the transport of both goods and persons. And, at the same time, higher standards must be enforced, since this is now one of the Schengen area's "external borders". The pictures here provide an idea of the outmoded infrastructure at the Połowce border post. With this project, Switzerland is supporting the modernisation and expansion of the border post and is also financing training and continuing education measures for the Polish border guards. The project also foresees professional exchanges between members of the Swiss Federal Customs Administration and their Polish counterparts.



Strengthening civil society

In most of the countries benefiting from the enlargement contribution, civil society following the collapse of the Soviet Union is still at the stage of a learning process. Calling on a wealth of professional expertise from government agencies, cities, communities, foundations, and other non-profit organisations, Switzerland has dedicated CHF 69.2 million to projects designed to build and develop civil society in the EU-10 partner countries. Another CHF 33.5 million has been set aside for civil society projects in Bulgaria and Romania. The following results were achieved in 2012:



Non-governmental organizations

From amongst the small projects to which Switzerland contributes funding out of the NGO budget, it was already possible to complete an appreciable number in 2012. Thus, for example, over the course of the year, a total of 69 NGO projects were successfully concluded in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

In some countries, a further selection was made of small NGO projects to which Switzerland will contribute funding. With 130 projects for a total budget of over CHF 11 million, Poland was the country with the largest number of projects approved; it was followed by Lithuania, with 87; Estonia, with 53; the Czech Republic, with 15; and Slovakia, with 10 projects. In Romania, in the first round of project applications, more than 800 ideas were submitted.

The probable number of such small projects that will be financed out of the overall NGO allocation should reach approximately 700. The projects have budgets that go as high as CHF 250,000 and contribute to the strengthening of local civil society. In approximately one out of five projects, Swiss professional know-how also plays a role.



Bilateral partnerships

2012 further saw the completion of a large number of the approximately 150 partnership projects for which funds have been allocated, also in amounts of up to CHF 250,000 per project. The transmission of professional expertise, usually through reciprocal visits, gave rise to a broad exchange of experience in various domains, which also benefited Swiss institutions. Among the achievements of small projects financed out of the partnership budget were such things as the establishment of a cultural exchange with the Hungarian city of Eger. Schools in Slovenia planted organic gardens as a step towards healthier nutrition. Or again, the Czech cable car association improved its training opportunities and its customer service (see project example). In 2012, some 50 additional projects were selected in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, for which a total of some CHF 5 million has been budgeted.

Partnership project between the Swiss and the Czech cable car associations

This partnership project, which has been funded with CHF 40,000, enabled the Czech cable car association to benefit from training opportunities available to employees of cable car companies in Switzerland. The picture shows a training instructor demonstrating a rescue operation for persons trapped in a cable car. The professional knowledge that was gained was passed on through the publication of a brochure that was distributed to the 146 members of the Czech cable car association. The project thus contributes to the promotion and development of tourism in Czech winter sport resorts.



Outlook

On 14 June 2012, with the end of the commitment period in the EU-10, the first major phase in Switzerland's enlargement contribution was successfully concluded. In 2013, the focus in the EU-10 will be on the realisation of the approved projects. This will bring an increase in the number of concrete project results to be reported upon. It is anticipated that in 2013 a total of some 20 projects, with an aggregate budget of approximately CHF 50 million, will be completed.

Also foreseen for 2013 is the definitive approval of further projects for Bulgaria and Romania. The commitment period remains as scheduled for these two countries. Projects there can be approved by Switzerland up until 7 December 2014.

Further information is available at www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch

Under the rubric "[Focus on Projects](#)", SDC and SECO regularly upload examples of projects on which first results have begun to be achieved. Under the rubric "[Projects](#)", where all projects that have been approved and implemented are listed, the results achieved on projects that have already been completed can also be found

Many projects generate contracts for the private sector. Swiss companies are also permitted to submit tenders in the public procurement procedures. Because the supply of goods and professional expertise on offer in the Swiss private sector was also taken into account when selecting the areas of cooperation for the enlargement contribution, there is also a high likelihood that Swiss companies will be successful in the tender competition. Under the rubric "Selection procedure" a link to the list of [current public tenders](#) may be found.



The 2013 Annual Conference on Swiss Cooperation with Eastern Europe will be held in Berne on 31 May 2013 and will focus on Switzerland's enlargement contribution. Further information on this event may be found on the website.

Looking for pictures to illustrate one of the projects? In 2012, SDC and SECO set up a [publicly accessible database of photos](#) for the Swiss enlargement contribution, where you can find pictures illustrating the various projects, organised by country and project goals. A short caption for each picture gives information on its content.



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