



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.

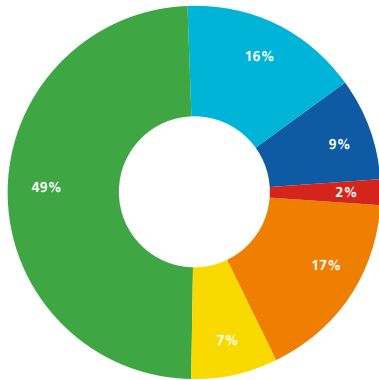
■ Improving social security

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/>



Photos: SACR