



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC 110 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 10.5 million

Swiss imports from the Czech Republic: 2,128.7 million francs

Swiss exports to the Czech Republic: 1,565.3 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 1.7 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 80.0 percent

(Source: Eurostat, Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

38 projects, accounting for some 104.3 million francs, have been approved in the Czech Republic. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions in the east of the country. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Training in accounting and auditing regulations

The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting the Czech Republic in its efforts to implement EU laws governing corporate financial reporting and audits.

Guarantees for investment credits to SMEs

Thanks to credit guarantees provided by Switzerland, approximately 120 secured loans to innovative start-up companies can be made, giving a boost to competitiveness in the private sector in two structurally weak regions and creating much-needed jobs.

Scholarship programme

The scholarship programme allows doctoral and post-doctoral students from the Czech Republic to conduct research in Switzerland for a limited period. This helps extend cooperation between Swiss and Czech research institutes and to promote the Czech Republic as a research location.

Improving social security

Improving health care provision for the benefit of the old and the terminally ill

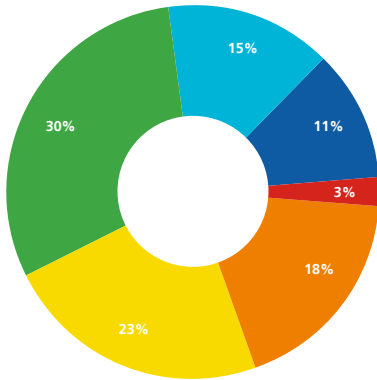
Thanks to this project, three health centres in the Czech Republic for the treatment of people with chronic and terminal illnesses are being renovated and equipped. In addition, homecare services (Spitex) are being introduced or expanded in approximately 15 locations, and NGOs active in the healthcare field are receiving additional support.

Improved access and better quality healthcare services for the elderly, disabled and terminally ill

These ten projects enable or guarantee construction measures, increased bed capacity and up-to-date care and equipment for ten centres and homes for the old and sick, thus ensuring that the latter can be provided with high-quality services.



Figure: Allocation of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU by project goal



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

3 Projects
CHF 19,000,000

Improving social security

11 Projects
CHF 24,232,423

Protecting the environment

7 Projects
CHF 31,532,063

Improving public safety and security

13 Projects
CHF 15,093,485

Strengthening civil society

2 Projects
CHF 11,635,564

Project preparation + technical assist.

2 Projects
CHF 2,786,465

Total CHF 104,280,000

The remaining amount covers expenses for administrative costs on the Swiss side.

Protecting the environment

Safety and reliability of local and regional public transport

Around twelve million passengers stand to benefit from three new transport terminals, one tram line and one trolley bus line, as well as from better transportation network connectivity.

Fund for environmental studies to support the Czech authorities

The environment expertise fund supports small projects and helps to extend the planning capacity of the public administration and to facilitate knowledge transfer in the fields of nature conservation, landscape protection, environmental protection, climate and air protection, and economic and environmental policy.

Improving public safety and security

Combating corruption and organised crime; training and equipment for the police

Ten projects are providing the Czech police authorities with support in protecting the population from terrorism and organised crime, in the fight against illegal weapons and international drug trafficking, and in the detection and prosecution of financial crime. The measures include advanced training programmes, the creation of a rapid response unit and a central firearms register, modernisation of the Czech infrastructure and information systems, strengthening of international cooperation, and the enhancement of capacity in a counter-terrorism unit.

Dealing with natural disasters, identification of victims

This project is helping to create, equip and train a Czech team for the identification of disaster victims in the Czech Republic and abroad, in addition to which it is also providing support for international cooperation.

Reforming the judiciary: training for court staff, rehabilitation of offenders

The project increases the efficiency of the judicial system in the Czech Republic by improving the standard of qualifications held by the professional staff working in the judicial sector. This is being done through the development of a standardised training system and by providing e-learning courses for basic and advanced training.

An additional project is improving the quality and availability of probation and rehabilitation programmes for offenders.

Strengthening civil society

Civil-society initiatives in the social and the environmental domains

The funds for NGOs in the Czech Republic strengthen civil society and promote their active participation in social, political and economic life. As a rule, financing is provided for small projects that NGOs conduct in social or environmental fields, in part in cooperation with Swiss organisations.

Knowledge transfer through partnerships with Switzerland

The partnership fund promotes and intensifies cooperation between Swiss and Czech cities, municipalities and institutions. In total, over 100 small projects are being implemented on the basis of knowledge transfer.

You can find additional information at

<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/czechrepublic/>