



EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR HUNGARY 131 MILLION FRANCS



Population: 10 million

Swiss imports from Hungary: 852.4 million francs

Swiss exports to Hungary: 942.9 million francs

Real GDP growth rate: 1.7 percent

Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010): 65.0 percent

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

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

39 projects, accounting for some 124.2 million francs, have been approved in Hungary. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions of Northern Hungary and Northern Great Plain. All projects further one of the following objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Venture capital for SMEs

Up to eight Hungarian SMEs are receiving access to long-term financing, which will, amongst other things, create jobs for highly qualified workers. Venture capital, i.e. participation in the equity of companies, can be used to finance the growth of SMEs in sectors that offer great promise for the future. The accompanying technology will also allow management methods to be modernised.

Tourism and the promotion of exports

Better marketing is being introduced to promote structurally weak regions as tourist destinations, and targeted training is being used to raise the quality of tourist services. The aim is to increase visitor numbers by 5%.

Regional development: promotion of the local economy in disadvantaged micro-regions (incl. tourism)

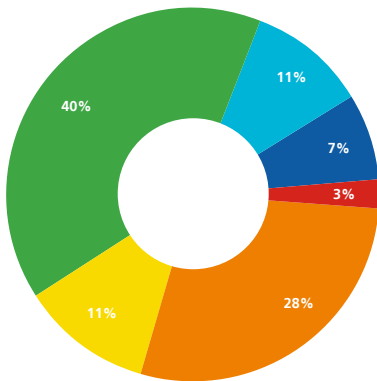
Two projects in the structurally weak regions of Hungary are helping promote tourism and the marketing of regional products. Thanks to these projects around 150 jobs will be created.

Scholarship and research programme

The scholarship programme enables around 60 academics from Hungary to conduct research at a Swiss university. This promotes and intensifies relationships between Swiss and Hungarian universities and strengthens research in Hungary. The research programme in Hungary encompasses six projects. In one project, for example, the only German-speaking university in Hungary is being supported by Swiss expertise. Another project focuses on the development of devices for visual recognition to help blind people cope with everyday life. Additional projects include the development of medication for better treatment of chronic pain, the safe disposal of radioactive waste, new methods for the treatment and utilisation of toxic waste water, and a project to increase the yield of photochemical energy conversion.



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



Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

12 Projects
CHF 35,361,058

Improving social security

2 Projects
CHF 14,000,000

Protecting the environment

13 Projects
CHF 49,677,639

Improving public safety and security

8 Projects
CHF 13,006,617

Strengthening civil society

2 Projects
CHF 9,000,000

Project preparation + technical assist.

2 Projects
CHF 3,152,686

Total CHF 124,198,000

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

Improving social security

Improved basic healthcare provision and scholarships for certain groups of the population

As the result of newly set-up general practitioner teams, a pilot programme is providing a broader scope and better quality of health services for 50,000 people in the disadvantaged regions of North-Eastern Hungary. Supported by accompanying research, the results of this pilot programme serve as the basis for this model to be introduced nationwide.

In addition to this, a further project is providing a scholarship programme to help over 900 secondary school pupils from marginalised groups successfully complete their studies and make the transition to further studies.

Protecting the environment

Improving water supply and water quality

Approximately 100 kilometers of pipeline are being renovated and 40 kilometers of new pipeline laid. Thanks to these construction measures water quality is improving and maintenance costs falling.

Modernisation of environmental monitoring systems

The inspectorate responsible for monitoring waste disposal sites is being equipped with mobile measurement and analysis devices. On top of this, Switzerland is helping to improve the national air quality monitoring network by providing funding for the modernisation of regional laboratories and the purchase of two mobile monitoring stations.

Improvements to energy efficiency

Energy consumption is to be reduced by 50% in ten immigration centres and police stations, thereby helping to reduce maintenance costs.

Promotion of biodiversity and nature conservation

The six projects being funded involve revitalisation and protection measures for over 2,700 hectares in areas that are particularly species-rich, accompanied by the recording of basic data across an area of more than one million hectares and the development of monitoring systems in an area spanning some 12,500 km². This basic data will form part of another project that will employ a wide-ranging information campaign to raise public awareness about environmental protection and thereby contribute to the conservation of the protected areas, parts of which have been newly designated as such. In addition, numerous school projects are also receiving support with the goal of certifying more than 600 schools and kindergartens that promote sustainability in their teaching programmes, and providing 200,000 schoolchildren with education about environmental issues.





■ Improving public safety and security

Improvements to public security thanks to a pilot approach to police work

To solve today's security problems and improve the security situation, the police increasingly need to work together with other public and private organisations. In collaboration with specialists from Switzerland, one project introduces the concept of community policing into four Hungarian cities while also laying the foundation for its implementation across the country.

Coping with natural disasters: flood protection along the Tisza River in north and north-eastern Hungary

Several projects, in particular in the drainage basin of the Tisza River, are increasing protection against flooding in Hungary. More accurate flood forecasts and the renovation of dams mean that around 350,000 inhabitants in North-Eastern Hungary will enjoy better flood protection.

Improvements to equipment in courthouses

104 new metal detectors and 45 x-ray scanners will improve security in Hungarian courts, whilst 1,000 new computers will increase the efficiency of court staff.

■ Strengthening civil society

Civil-society initiatives in the social and the environmental domains

The fund for NGOs will help strengthen civil society in Hungary. In total over 250 small projects in areas such as sustainability, the involvement of NGOs in political decision-making processes and improved social services are being implemented, many of these with the involvement of Swiss institutions.

Partnerships between Swiss and Hungarian municipalities, associations, NGOs and other non-profit organisations

The partnership fund helps extend and intensify mutual cooperation between Swiss and Hungarian municipalities and other public authorities, as well as between associations and charitable bodies. The fund is being used to implement up to 45 partnership projects designed to improve the living conditions of local people.

You can find additional information at
<http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/hungary/>