

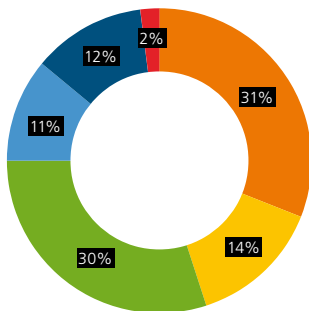
The enlargement contribution in Romania



Population: 19.6 million
Swiss imports from Romania: CHF 643 million
Swiss exports to Romania: CHF 745 million
Real GDP growth rate: 6.9%
Purchasing power relative to EU average: 63%
(Source: Eurostat, Swiss foreign trade statistics, 2017)

In Romania, Switzerland is contributing CHF 172 million to support 17 projects and seven thematic funds (with 44 sub-projects) up to 2019. Two projects and two thematic funds have now ended. The following are the results achieved by the end of 2018.

Breakdown of the enlargement contribution for Romania by project objective



- Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions**
10 (sub-)projects CHF 53 352 250
- Improving social security**
11 (sub-)projects CHF 24 257 382
- Protecting the environment**
14 (sub-)projects CHF 52 169 669
- Improving public safety and security**
22 (sub-)projects CHF 17 999 999
- Strengthening civil society**
(sub-)projects CHF 21 166 970
- Project preparation and technical assistance**
2 (sub-)projects CHF 3 003 730

Total CHF 171 950 000

Not including the implementation costs on the Swiss side.

■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Vocational orientation for schools and businesses

Taking part in teaching modules geared towards the job market has helped over 9,000 students and apprentices at 180 schools assess their skills and get to know the real working world. More than 900 instructors received training to improve their career guidance and student-centred teaching skills. In addition, new interdisciplinary course content responding to job-market requirements has been integrated into school curricula nationwide.

Research

Scholarships have enabled 88 PhD students and postdoctoral researchers to complete a research residency at a Swiss university. Also, 27 research partnerships have been established as part of a research fund for joint Romanian-Swiss projects. Researchers have published 137 articles in scientific journals and presented their findings at over 170 conferences.

Support for SMEs

Many Romanian SMEs lack the collateral needed to qualify for a loan. Switzerland is therefore contributing CHF 24.5 million to a fund which enables creditworthy SMEs in eight selected sectors to access the finance they need to grow. With the fund as collateral, one of Romania's leading commercial banks is offering secured loans of up to CHF 300,000 to help SMEs invest in their business and improve their competitive standing. By the end of 2018 it had financed over 460 loans, securing some 3,000 jobs to date.



Switzerland provides support to help farms market their products in Bucharest and Ploiești. © SECO

Export promotion

Although Romania has a long tradition of commercial farming and timber processing, these industries have traditionally mainly served only the domestic market. However, longer-term growth will require trade and the ability to compete internationally. A Swiss project is now addressing this need, helping SMEs in organic farming and wooden furniture production prepare for the export market and increasingly take over more of the lucrative production steps along the value chain. To date, 82 SMEs have received training in marketing and management at two export business centres, in central and north-eastern Romania. As part of this training, their products were analysed, quality assurance criteria such as organic certification were introduced, and business clusters were formed so as to produce the quantities and quality required for export. A total of 30 SMEs from both sectors presented their products at two international exhibitions in Budapest and Dubai.

Improving social security

A better and safer air rescue service

As part of a partnership, Swiss Air-Rescue Rega organised and coordinated training courses for Romanian helicopter pilots. 34 pilots upgraded their flight techniques in 47 training modules. Another 30 aircraft maintenance and flight mechanics also received basic safety training.



With many years of valuable know-how, Swiss Air-Rescue Rega is helping to improve Romanian rescue services. © SDC

Inclusion of Roma and other minorities

More than 4,000 members of the Roma community benefit from better access to public institutions and services in education and health, including over 1,700 children who can now attend kindergarten or after-school programmes. Health projects include vaccination campaigns, medical assistance and training of professionals.

■ Protecting the environment



By promoting electromobility, Suceava can save on energy costs and reduce air pollution and noise in the city. © SECO

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

With Swiss cooperation, Romania has selected four pilot energy cities: Arad, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca and Suceava. Based on the action plans jointly developed with these cities, Switzerland is supporting a number of infrastructure projects for a more sustainable use of energy. Three cities have installed a total of around 7,500 new energy-efficient street lights. In two cities, the refurbishment of four schools to make them energy efficient is practically complete. The first 11 of Romania's new electric buses are circulating in Cluj-Napoca, running on electricity from 13 charging stations. Suceava has purchased 16 electric buses and installed 28 charging stations for electric vehicles. The city has also introduced an e-bike rental scheme. Meanwhile, smaller towns with less financial means are also receiving support for some less complex infrastructure projects.

Public transport

In Bucharest, the urban metro system is in need of investment. The metro operator's plans include extending line 4 to better connect the outskirts of the city with the centre. Switzerland is supporting this project by co-financing various studies, which are a prerequisite for funding the implementation stage of the project. A Swiss company is part of the consortium undertaking the studies.

■ Improving public safety and security

Combating corruption and organised crime

The Romanian judicial office has trained around 10,000 judges and prosecutors in the application of new criminal laws. Training manuals to help implement the laws have also been distributed throughout the country.

Prevention and security

Switzerland is supporting the reform of the Romanian police. Around 2,500 police officers took part in training courses on communication and mediation, both of which are indispensable skills for community policing. In addition, 240 officers took a course in Romani to learn the language of the Roma. This is helping to improve security in rural areas. Furthermore, a workshop has been set up in which offenders perform services in communities. Replacing prison sentences by community service increases the chances of reintegration.



Training in Roma culture and language is helping police officers to build trust among the Roma community. This makes it easier to solve problems at local community level. © SDC

■ Strengthening civil society

Around 40 projects in Romania are promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience between Swiss and Romanian civil society organisations. This has benefited some 200 experts in fields such as environmental protection, social welfare and health. In addition, around 100 Romanian NGOs active in these areas have also received financial contributions to build their institutional capacity. As the mouthpiece of civil society, they actively participate in political decision-making processes.



Many skilled workers leave Romania due to a lack of prospects. That is why social institutions are being given support to help create job opportunities and social prospects for the local population. © SDC