

Newsletter I/2012 of the Swiss Contribution Office for Romania

Bucharest, 7 Mai 2012

Dear Reader,

You are receiving the 3rd Newsletter on the Swiss Contribution to Romania with the latest news on the status of its implementation and development.

The First Annual Meeting of the Swiss Contribution

Switzerland and Romania met in Sinaia on 27 – 29 March 2012 for the first Annual Meeting of the Swiss Contribution to Romania. The meeting was held with participation from Berne of Ambassador Beatrice Maser Mallor - Head Economic Development and Cooperation within the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs, Head of the Swiss delegation, and of representatives of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. The Romanian delegation was led by Secretary of State in the Ministry of Public Finance, Dan Tudor Lazar, and it comprised members of the National Coordination Unit in charge of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme and of the Paying Authority.

The annual meeting proved to be an important step in the implementation of the Swiss Contribution to Romania and a timely opportunity to take stock of the progress already achieved and discuss the work plans for the coming period, in order to ensure a continuously good implementation in the future as well as good cooperation at all levels.

Thematic Funds “Reform linked to Civil Society participation” and “Partnership and Expert Fund”

On 25 October 2011, Marc Bruchez, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Switzerland and the Secretary of State Dan Tudor Lazar of the Ministry of Public Finance, signed the Thematic Fund Agreements - “Reform Fund linked to Civil Society participation” and “Partnership and Expert Fund” respectively - laying the foundation for the upcoming programme implementation. [Read more](#)

A two-day workshop with the participation of the Head of the SCO, the NCU staff in charge with the monitoring of the two Thematic Funds and the members of the Swiss Intermediate Body took place in late November, with a view to define all parameters and to fine tune their implementation mechanism.

Thematic Fund "Security": first and second Steering Committee meetings

The meetings took place in Bucharest, the first one on 9 November 2011 and the second by 25 January 2012, and recommended for approval eleven, out of the thirteen project proposals.

At the same time, the Steering Committee approved the guidelines for the development of the conceptual frame for project identification and selection of the activities to be defined at a later stage. It also provided its input on management issues related to the Activity Agreements to be concluded between the SIB and the Executing Agencies. For information regarding the recommended projects please follow [this link](#).

Thematic Fund Health

On 19 December 2011 the Ambassador of Switzerland to Romania, Jean-Hubert Lebet, the Secretary of State Dan Lazar of the Ministry of Public Finance and the Under-State Secretary Raed Arafat of the Ministry of Health, signed the Thematic Fund Agreement for the Reform Fund linked to Health Issues. The main objectives of the Thematic Fund Health are the widening of access to health and social services as well as their improvement. Priority will be given to activities in primary health care, in emergency medicine and in perinatology. [Read more](#)

Second Call for Scholarships and Results of the first Call

The Scientific Exchange Programme between the New Member States of the European Union and Switzerland (Sciex NMS Scholarship Programme) is unfolding within the Swiss- Romanian Cooperation Programme. An Info-day on the Sciex NMS Scholarship Programme took place at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest on 17 January 2012. Representatives of the Rectors' Conference of Swiss Universities and of the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding presented the programme and the conditions for the participation of the Romanian researchers in the second call for fellowships. [Read more](#)

The first call, closed on 1 November 2011, invited Romanian researchers to participate for the very first time and its results were made public in March 2012. There were 171 eligible proposals submitted, out of which were selected 58 projects. Out of the selected projects, seven belonged to

researchers from Romania. The amount allocated for Romanian researchers' projects is of 640'000 Swiss francs. For further information regarding the calls please visit <http://www.sciex.ch/> and <http://www.sciex.ro/> .

Project Preparation Facility Agreements for Energy Cities

The Project Preparation Facility Agreements with cities of Arad, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca and Suceava were signed on 12 March 2012 by their respective mayors, the Ministry of Public Finance, Ministry of Administration and Interior and the Swiss Contribution Office in Bucharest.

These agreements comply with the bilateral Framework Agreement and the subsequent documents. The cities will start to use instruments of the "European Energy Award" related to the preparation or to the review of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan. It will include specific energy actions and projects identified as priority, to be further financed from the Swiss Contribution, in view of implementing a sustainable energy management in cities. For further information regarding Energy Cities please follow [this link](#).

Hiring of a Team Leader for the Roma Inclusion Fund

The Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme is implemented among others through the Thematic Fund "Reforms linked to the Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups". In this respect, the Embassy of Switzerland intends to hire a Team Leader for the Fund's Programme Implementation Unit to be hosted by the Romanian Department of Interethnic Relations. If you are interested please follow this [link](#).

Kind regards,

Swiss Contribution Office
Embassy of Switzerland in Romania
16-20, Grigore Alexandrescu Street, 010626 Bucharest 1
Tel.: +40 21 206 16 80
Fax: +40 21 206 16 20
bukarest@eda.admin.ch
www.swiss-contribution.ch/romania