



Newsletter I/2013

Bucharest, February 2013

Dear Reader,

You receive the 4th Newsletter of the Swiss Contribution Office for Romania with an overview of the good progress made by the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme. More and more projects are not only planned, discussed and approved but actually implemented.

Roma Inclusion Fund

Switzerland and Romania signed the Thematic Fund Agreement concerning the grant for the “Reform Fund Linked to the Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups” (Roma Inclusion Fund) in Bucharest on June 13, 2012. This fund of CHF 14 million (around 11.6 million Euro) will support activities promoting the social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups, mainly in health and education ([Read more](#)).

A Programme Implementation Unit (PMU) has been established and is hosted by the Romanian Department of Interethnic Relations ([DIR](#)). Mr. Cristi Mihalache, before project manager at the Roma Education Fund, has been selected as Team leader; Ms. Dalma Janosi was nominated as local expert and Project manager by the DIR.

Based on a restricted call, four Swiss-Romanian NGO consortia have submitted project proposals for improving living conditions through integrated projects in health and education. Three of them have been retained for further development and are planned to be definitively approved in spring 2013.

Extension of Metrorex line 4

The Final Project Proposal (FPP) “Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) and Feasibility Study (FS) for construction of Metro Line 4 (M4) extension Gara de Nord – Gara Progresul” has been approved by the Swiss State for Economic Affairs (SECO) on 12 July 2012. The negotiation of the corresponding project agreement is about to be concluded and we expect project implementation to start this year.

The objective of the project is to provide the necessary basis for the future extension of M4 metro line, between Gara de Nord and Gara Progresul, consisting of 14 km of underground metro line with 14 stations. Optional (out-put) multimodal motion study and security study for Bucharest are also included as a SECO recommendation to improve the whole project’s sustainability. [Read more](#)

Sustainable Management of the Forestry Ecosystem

On the 12 December 2012, the Project Outline (PO) “Implementing an informational system, at the central public administration level, to support the strategic decision-making process in order to sustainably manage the forestry ecosystem in RO” submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, was approved with conditions in the first loop procedure.

Scholarships and Research

The seventh regular open call within Sciex-NMS (a programme for supporting scientific exchange and progress through scholarships at the doctoral and post-doctoral level) was launched on 1 September 2012. Researchers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania were invited to submit their applications until 1 November 2012 ([Read more](#)).

The participation of Romania in the previous call demonstrated the strong interest of Romanian researchers for the opportunity to work with Swiss colleagues and scientific institutions: Thirty five projects from Romanian researchers were selected for a total funding of 3'000'000 Swiss francs ([Read more](#)).

For further information regarding the calls please visit <http://www.sciex.ch/> and <http://www.sciex.ro/>.

NGO and Partnership Block Grants

The call for proposals under the NGO Block Grant and Partnership Block Grant has been launched during an information event for the interested organisations. On this occasion the Swiss Intermediate Body presented in detail the call mechanism and all the procedures for the submission of the project proposals ([Read more](#)).

The call for proposals for the NGO Block Grant closed on 12 July 2012. Eight hundred and five project proposals (695 under the social component and 110 under the environment component) have been submitted and entered the selection process. Due to the large number of submissions, the evaluation is still ongoing with the selection to be made public early April 2013 ([Read more](#)).

The call for proposals for the Partnership Block Grant closed on 23 August 2012. One hundred sixteen project proposals have been submitted and evaluated ([Read more](#)). The quality of the submitted projects was generally high and 27 projects were recommended for financing. However, due to the limited funds available, only 11 could be retained for funding.

For more details please visit the SIB's websites at <http://www.fdsc.ro/> and <http://www.repf.ro/>.

Energy Cities

On the 22 November 2012, a delegation of the Swiss Contribution Office participated in Brasov, in the second Conference of Covenant of Mayors Romania ([OER](#)), an European association of local authorities having as objective the increase of the energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and reduction of CO2 emissions. The meeting included an information and knowhow exchange between the Romanian cities participating at the Covenant and three of the four pilot cities, within the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation, working with [European Energy Award \(eea\)](#). The cities of Arad, Brasov and Cluj showed their experience with European Energy Award and the investment projects they intend to develop within the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation ([Read more](#)).

Information and Promotion Guidelines

In order to facilitate the proper use and to ensure minimal standards for all information and promotion activities related to the Swiss Romanian Cooperation Programme, the Swiss Contribution Office and the Romanian National Coordination Unit have jointly developed guidelines to be followed by everybody involved in the implementation of the Swiss Contribution. In this respect, a half of day presentation of the Information Guidelines was organised, on 10 December 2012, in Bucharest ([Read more](#)).

Kind regards,

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