



## EU ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR POLAND 489 MILLION FRANCS



**Population:** 38.2 million

**Swiss imports from Poland:** 1,372.5 million francs

**Swiss exports to Poland:** 1,974.2 million francs

**Real GDP growth rate:** 4.3 percent

**Purchasing power in relation to EU-Ø (2010):** 63.0 percent

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

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

58 projects, accounting for some 464.6 million francs, have been approved in Poland. Approximately 40 percent of this funding will benefit the structurally weak regions of South-Eastern Poland. All projects further one of the following objectives:

#### ■ Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

##### *Promoting the social responsibility of SMEs and sustainable development*

This project is directly aimed at improving awareness and know-how in the field of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. In addition, pilot projects are being initiated to support approximately 100 SMEs implementing specific measures in these areas. Publications and public events are being used to draw attention to these pilot projects.

##### *Promoting local companies and products in structurally weak regions, and the provision of training opportunities for young people in particular*

Switzerland is using these projects to promote tourism and the marketing of regional products in structurally weak regions of Poland. During the course of these 10 projects, about 5,000 people will receive training, around 250 companies will be set up and approximately 750 jobs created, on top of which a further 900 local small business owners and agricultural enterprises are also receiving support. The majority of these activities are being accompanied by promotional campaigns, advanced training and consulting services. Moreover, local structures to promote regional development are being set up or supported, such as tourist information systems and the renovation of local tourist accommodation.

##### *Training in accounting and auditing regulations*

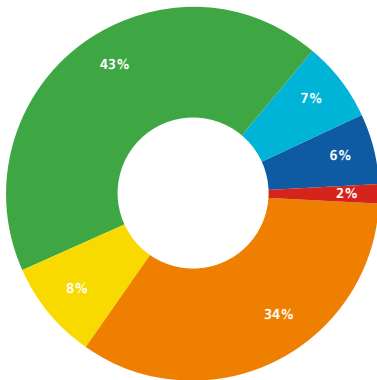
The application of international standards to accounting and auditing practices improves the investment climate and helps prevent financial crises. This is why Switzerland is supporting Poland in its efforts to implement EU laws governing company financial reporting and audits.

##### *Provision of venture capital for SMEs*

This project facilitates access to long-term financing for SMEs, and creates many new jobs, particularly in structurally weak areas. Venture capital, i.e., investment in a company's equity, can be used to finance the growth of these SMEs. Thanks to the supplementary technical support, management methods are also being modernised.



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



**Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions**

15 Projects  
CHF 157,765,719

**Improving social security**

9 Projects  
CHF 39,479,938

**Protecting the environment**

23 Projects  
CHF 198,726,913

**Improving public safety and security**

7 Projects  
CHF 32,000,000

**Strengthening civil society**

2 Projects  
CHF 28,101,153

**Project preparation + technical assist.**

2 Projects  
CHF 8,496,277

**Total CHF 464,570,000**

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

**Scholarship and research programme**

With the support of the research fund, around 40 projects of Polish and Swiss research institutes in the areas of 'information and communication technology', 'renewable energy', 'nanotechnology', 'healthcare', and the 'environment' will be able to be jointly conducted.

The scholarship programme enables around 300 academics from Poland to conduct research at a Swiss university. This promotes and intensifies relationships between Swiss and Polish universities and strengthens research in Poland.

**Improving social security**

**Improving basic medical care and preventive medicine**

Three projects for the prevention of obesity, hepatitis C and reducing the use of tobacco, alcohol and psychotropic substances have been approved. As part of these projects a broadly based media campaign targeting in particular pregnant women, drug-addicts and school children is raising awareness of the dangers associated with the use of these substances. An additional, nationwide project is also focusing on healthy eating and better oral hygiene for small children.

Measures to improve infrastructure and training in around 50 care homes and institutions in the four structurally weak regions of Poland should help to improve the quality of life of the residents. The programme focuses on the elderly and disabled, and children and young people from difficult family backgrounds and helps to integrate the residents of these homes in society. As part of the project, around 1,500 staff will receive additional training.

**Protecting the environment**

**Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy**

The use of renewable energy is being encouraged in more than 16,000 households and around 250 public buildings. Moreover, energy efficiency is being increased in around 700 households and approximately 20 public buildings. In addition, a biomass power plant is being built.

**Waste disposal**

31,000 inhabitants stand to benefit from the construction of a new waste disposal facility. Four disposal sites are to be reclaimed. Switzerland is also helping Poland to introduce an asbestos monitoring and disposal system, remove asbestos waste from illegal disposal sites, and renovate the roofs of around 14,000 homes and eleven public buildings. Around 70,000 tonnes of asbestos waste are to be disposed of by professionally recognised methods.

**Improving the safety and reliability of local and regional public transport**

Thanks to the acquisition of four modern, low-emission diesel locomotives, transport services on the public transport network of the 60 kilometre long stretch between Malbork and Grudziadz in the north of Poland are being improved. In addition, six traction units with electric engines are being purchased for an important commuter line in Warsaw's south-western commuter belt. In the town of Legionowo, situated in the northeast of Warsaw, the railway station, which was built in the 1970s as a temporary solution, is being entirely rebuilt. The project will be supplemented by two new passenger information systems.

**Promotion of biodiversity and nature conservation**

This project will result in revitalisation and protection measures for over 1,500 hectares in areas that are particularly species-rich, accompanied by the recording of basic data across an area of more than 0.5 million hectares and the development of monitoring systems in an area that also covers half a million hectares. Furthermore, the project will encourage ecologically and socially sustainable economic development by promoting eco-tourism in 35 municipalities and providing basic and advanced training for municipality staff, farmers and forest owners. This will be further supported by a broad-based campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of ecologically sustainable behaviour.



## ■ Improving public safety and security

### *Support for migration and crisis management*

As part of a single project, intensive cooperation has been agreed with Poland regarding migration. An additional project is providing local authorities with training on how to deal with emergency and crisis situations.

### *Improvement of border security and modernisation of border crossings*

At six border crossings, the infrastructure and equipment is being significantly upgraded in order to optimise border traffic operations and combat organised crime. As part of one project, mobile task forces are being equipped with 70 special vehicles to improve surveillance along the 1,200-kilometre-long external Schengen border.

### *Improving traffic safety*

National and local authorities are receiving training to help improve road safety.

## ■ Strengthening civil society

### *Promotion of civil-society initiatives in the social domain*

The fund for NGOs will help strengthen civil society in Poland. A total of over 200 small projects are being implemented, many of them in collaboration with Swiss institutions.

### *Partnerships between Swiss and Polish municipalities and public institutions*

The partnership fund will help extend and intensify mutual cooperation between Swiss and Polish municipalities and cities. Overall 30 small projects are being implemented on the basis of knowledge transfer.

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