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Swiss Confederation

Federal Departement of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

FACTSHEET

Swiss PartnershIP – Intellectual Property Cooperation Programme

Country/region
Global and selected SECO partner countries

Executing agency
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

Duration
2026 - 2030

Total budget
CHF 8,000,000

SECO contribution
CHF 8,000,000

IGE | IPI
Eidgenössisches Institut für Geistiges Eigentum
Institut Fédéral de la Propriété Intellectuelle
Istituto Federale della Proprietà Intellettuale
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property

Swiss PartnershIP
Intellectual Property Cooperation Programme

The Swiss PartnershIP Programme supports developing countries in building efficient and effective Intellectual Property (IP) protection in order to strengthen innovation ecosystems and promote sustainable development.

Rationale
The Swiss PartnershIP is a cooperation programme between the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI). The programme is funded by SECO and implemented by the IPI. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to an improved IP system in partner countries. Switzerland is widely recognized as a leading innovative country and well known for its expertise in the area of IP.

Having a strong IP system is fundamental to creating sound framework conditions for sustainable trade. IP systems are central in promoting innovation and the development of new goods, services and production methods. IP provides the incentive necessary to invest in and pursue further research and development, and creative works. An IP-friendly environment constitutes not only one element for a sound foundation for a successful private sector but is also helpful for attracting international investors and protecting local knowledge.

IP is a central element of today's world-trade system. Under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is the dedicated agreement to creating a level playing field for all actors involved, and to ensure that pirated goods do not use legitimate trading channels. In order to facilitate the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, developed countries like Switzerland commit to provide technical and financial cooperation. Swiss PartnershIP is Switzerland's response to this commitment.

Objectives and Activities
The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to an improved IP regime in partner countries. While IP offices may be the programme's main direct beneficiaries in most cases, other stakeholders, such as ministries, customs and police agencies, judicial institutions, research institutions or SME, also benefit from its interventions. Swiss

PartnershIP can offer support related to the following IP rights and related topics: trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, geographical indications, technology transfer, IP enforcement, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. It offers demand- and need-based support, for example, to:

- advise on IP policy, strategy and legislation for all IP rights;
- improve IP administration and good governance;
- enable owners in the use of IP rights;
- improve enforcement of IP rights; and
- facilitate knowledge and technology transfer.

Governance structure

The IPI's Sustainable Development & International Cooperation team in Bern plans, implements and monitors Swiss PartnershIP's projects and activities. A local project associate ensures implementation and monitoring on the ground. SECO governs the Swiss PartnershIP through a Steering Committee. Specific country-level steering arrangements are established for each individual project.

Results so far

The Swiss PartnershIP Programme has active projects in: Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Morocco, Peru, Serbia, South Africa and Tunisia. Examples of past results include:

- Indonesia: capacity built in the area of IP policy-making, patent examination and counterfeiting and piracy; a postgraduate course on GI developed; 4 products registered as a GI and supported by obtaining market access; copyright organisations strengthened; and IP capacity of polytechnic institutes built.
- Ghana: IP policy formulated and promoted; national IP legislation modernised; and enforcement of IP rights strengthened through capacity building at the police, customs and judicial levels.
- Colombia: capacity built in the area of trademarks, patents, GI, industrial designs, technology searches and a training academy at the industrial property office; national copyright system supported; national policy on knowledge and technology transfer developed; national intellectual property strategy supported and creation of regional innovation clusters supported, leading to an improved innovation capacity of the country.

How to get involved

The IPI can be contacted via www.ipi.ch. Where available, the Swiss cooperation offices (as part of the Swiss Embassies abroad) can also follow up on requests regarding Swiss PartnershIP.

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Rules-based trade system

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