

**General description of the content of the framework agreements between Switzerland
and the new Member States of the European Union**

(hereinafter referred to as Partner States)

Each of the ten Framework Agreements will contain the general principles of the co-operation between Switzerland and the Partner State in question. Project agreements, which will cover technical points concerning the project, will be concluded on the basis of these framework agreements.

The standard content of a Framework Agreement can be summarised as follows:

1. A reference to the Memorandum of Understanding;
2. The aims of the co-operation between Switzerland and the Partner State;
3. The start and completion dates of the co-operation between Switzerland and the Member State;
4. The total amount of the Swiss contribution, and the review process between Switzerland and the European Community;
5. The conceptual framework (priority funding areas, principles, partners) for the co-operation between Switzerland and the Partner State;
6. Procedures and criteria for selection (including communication and co-operation with the European Commission), approval and implementation of the projects and programmes;
7. Forms of financing for projects and programmes;
8. Principles concerning the use of the funds that are made available, contribution ceilings, management costs (maximum 5%), payment, audit and administration arrangements;
9. Competences and co-ordination regarding the implementation of the framework agreement.