The Triangle of Competitiveness in Switzerland

KEN Awards,
6th of June 2011
Maribor

Robert Reich, Swiss Ambassador to Slovenia
## Competitiveness: Switzerland at Top

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>EIS</th>
<th>WEF</th>
<th>IMD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Hongkong</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Singapur</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- EIS: European Innovation Scoreboard, 2010
- WEF: Global Competitiveness Report, 2009
- IMD: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2009
Keys to Competitiveness

Competitiveness:

- Research & Development
- qualified minds: intelligent skills- and grade-mix
Swiss R&D Expenditures

- 2.8% of GDP (2.14% private; 0.68% public) invested in R&D (= overall Lisbon goal reached)
- 1/3 Public R&D expenditures versus 2/3 Industry R&D expenditures
- Swiss Industry R&D expenditures in foreign countries are higher than in Switzerland.
Support from Basic Research to Innovation

Available financing

- CHF

Basic Research

Applied Research & Development

University of Applied Sciences

Market Entry

Industry

KTI/CTI

Public financing

Public-Private Co-financing

Start-up coaching

ETHs

Universities

other markets

- 10

- 3

0

+ 3 (years)
CTI- supported Start-ups: excellent success rate
Keys to Competitiveness

Competitiveness:

➢ Research & Development

➢ qualified minds: intelligent skills- and grade-mix
Quota of Students at Top Ranked Universities in Relation to the Public Expenditures per Student, 2005/07

Quota of students at Top-200-Universities (Shanghai), 2007

Public expenditures for tertiary-level A per student in relation to GDP per capita, 2005

Data: OECD, Interpretation: SKBF
Quota of students at Top 200 Universities
Educational System in Switzerland

Transition phase III: labour market

Transition phase II: labour market/ further education

Transition phase I: access to apprenticeship market & other educational programmes
Youth unemployment (under age 25)
(OECD 2010, reference year 2008 and 2009)

Switzerland 2009: 8.2%
OECD average 2009: 16.7%
Particularities and Strengths of Switzerland’s Educational System

- **Practical skills** are the main focus of both VET/PET programmes.
- **High permeability**: “no dead-end qualifications!”
- **Adaptability**: occupational profiles, VET/PET programmes are based on the needs of the labour market.
- **Profitability**: host companies offering apprenticeships attain a positive cost/benefit ratio.
- **Low (youth) unemployment**
- **Social recognition**

➤ **Overall educational system**: intelligent skills- and grade mix to strengthen competitiveness
“Recipe” for Competitiveness

In order to be among the most competitive countries, favourable general conditions must be created to:

• provide companies with incentives to invest in education, research and innovation

• enable highly qualified workers along the entire value added chain to gain the skills needed for the labour market (Skill Grade Mix)

• encourage international cooperation and interdisciplinary approaches at all levels

• foster mobility of skilled workers
Triangle of Competitiveness

- Private Sector
- International Networks
- R&D
- Skills Grade Mix

Competitiveness
Thank you for your attention!

For further information: www.bbt.admin.ch