The Monitoring Review of Switzerland: Issues for discussion

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For more information, please contact Olaf Merk: Tel.: +33 (0) 1 45 24 16 60; E-mail: olaf.merk@oecd.org
OECD MONITORING REVIEW OF SWITZERLAND

KEY FACTS

• Regions in Switzerland show impressive economic performance, with high GDP per capita, strong export performance and highly educated population compared with OECD average. [Chap. 1.3]

• Development challenges of Swiss regions are relatively modest: e.g. interregional disparities and the challenges of de-population, access to services and ageing are relatively limited [Chap. 1.3.3]

• However, labour productivity growth in several cantons has been lagging over the last decade, contributing to flat productivity growth at the national level. [Chap. 1.3.4]

• Switzerland is a leading country in science, technology and innovation, but R&D and innovation activities have tended to stagnate. [Chap. 3.1.1]

• Barriers to entrepreneurship and limited diffusion of innovation across regions and sectors leave some growth opportunities untapped. [Chap. 3.1.1]

• Although cantons play a key role in regional policy, commuting flows and business cycles suggest that functional areas often go beyond cantonal boundaries, sometimes even beyond the Grandes Régions in terms of economic specialisations and co-patents. [Chap. 1.4]

KEY POLICY ISSUES

• Coverage of regional policy: lagging regions or other regions as well? [Chap. 2.2.1]

• How to make sure that cantons design policies that correspond to functional realities (exceeding cantonal boundaries)? [Chap. 2.2.2]

• How could regional and sectoral policies be co-ordinated more effectively? [Chap. 2.2.3]

• What should be the role of regions and cantons in innovation policy? [Chap. 3.2]

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Extend the coverage of NRP from rural, mountains and border regions to all types of regions [Chap. 2.2.1 and Chap 3.3.4]

• Improve incentives for inter-cantonal collaboration [Chap. 2.2.2 and Chap 3.3.3]

• Formally link (or merge) NRP and agglomeration policy, and better align NRP and agricultural policy [Chap. 2.2.3]

• Build strategic management and evaluation capacity at federal and cantonal levels [Chap. 2.2.4]

• Clarify the articulation and ensure complementarity between innovation promotion at federal and regional levels [Chap. 3.2 and 3.3.1]

• Further exploit the cross-border dimension of innovation [Chap. 3.3.3]

• Ensure transparency and performance-based NRP funding for innovation; implement better evaluation mechanisms and involve businesses [Chap. 3.3.2]

Contacts: Olaf Merk (email: olaf.merk@oecd.org; tel: +33 (0)1 4524 1660)
Soo-Jin Kim (email: soo-jin.kim@oecd.org; tel: +33 (0)1 4524 1313)
Claire Nauwelaers (email: claire.nauwelaers@oecd.org; tel: +33 (0)1 4524 9611)