



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

## **Tajikistan to strengthen intellectual property through international cooperation project with Switzerland**

Dushanbe, 17 June, 2014

At an official signing ceremony, Mr. Sharif Rahimzoda, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan and Mr. Peter Mikula, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of a new cooperation project focusing on intellectual property.

### **Tajik-Swiss Intellectual Property Project**

Knowledge has become an important economic asset of the modern economy. Innovation and creation can be protected by intellectual property rights. A well-balanced protection of intellectual property rights such as patents, trademarks, design, copyrights and geographical indications can contribute to higher competitiveness, more value added to Tajik products and create a favorable climate for innovative activities in the country, where innovation is one of the main drivers of economic growth.

The new Tajik-Swiss Intellectual Property (TSIP) Project aims at strengthening the Tajik intellectual property rights system following the country's recent accession to the World Trade Organization. The Project's duration is three years, with a contribution by the Government of Switzerland of USD 1.2 million. It is implemented by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI). The main institutional partner and beneficiary in Tajikistan is the National Center for Patent and Information, along with other governmental entities and representatives of the Academy and the private sector. The Project is part of a broad Trade Cooperation Programme funded by Switzerland. To boost Tajik exports and the country's attractiveness for investors, the TSIP project, in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan, has a three-pronged approach. Firstly, at the policy level, it aims to promote the National Intellectual Property Development Strategy. Secondly, it shall offer capacity-building for the intellectual property enforcement entities in order that they better serve the right holders. Lastly, the Project seeks to promote IPRs among key target users, such as representatives of the private sector, universities, inventors and artists.

### **Switzerland's international cooperation with Tajikistan**

The TSIP Project is one of the many development projects supported in Tajikistan by the Government of Switzerland. The current Country Cooperation Strategy for Tajikistan 2012-2015 focuses on four sectors: Health, Rule of Law, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, and Private Sector Development. The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation in Tajikistan is to support the



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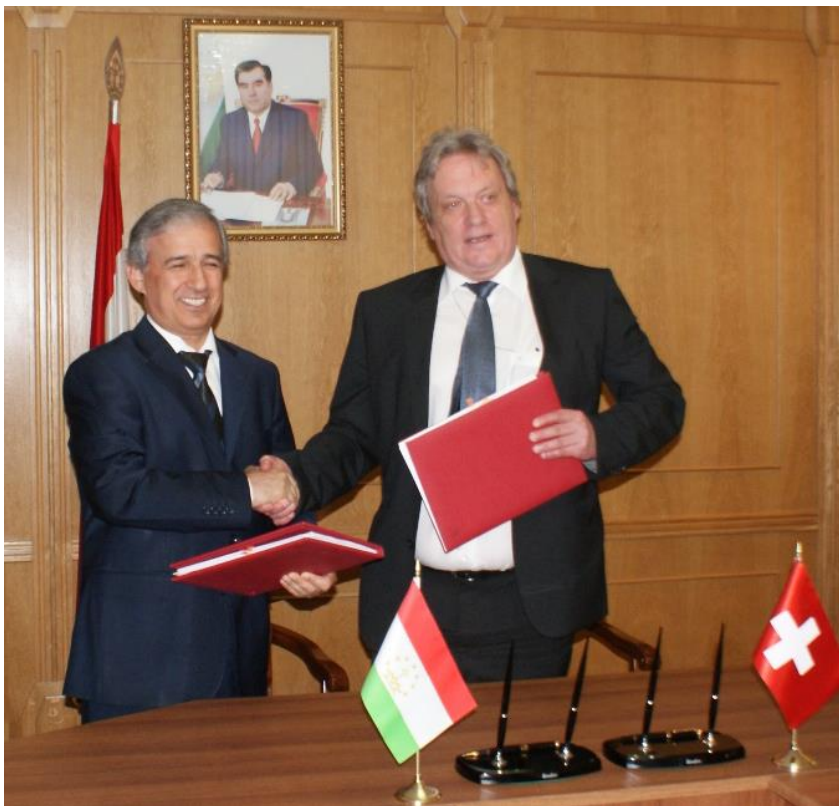


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transition process in the country through contributing to the economic development and by helping build institutions and systems which are responsive to the population's needs. Switzerland has been active in Tajikistan since 1993, when it delivered humanitarian aid during the civil war. Since opening its diplomatic representation in 1999, the Government of Switzerland has provided more than US\$200 million in programs that support Tajikistan's development and is one of the major donors in the country.

For more information and contact about the TSIP Project, please consult:

<https://www.ipi.ch/en/legal-info/international-cooperation/country-specific-projects/tajikistan.html>



Legend: Mr. Rahimzoda, Minister of Trade and Economic Development of Tajikistan, and Mr. Mikula, Director, Swiss Cooperation Office, shake hands after signing the Memorandum for the implementation of the Tajik-Swiss Intellectual Property Project. Dushanbe, 17 June 2014