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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE  
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

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**The Monitoring Review of Switzerland: Issues for discussion**

**8-9 June 2010  
OECD Conference Centre, Paris**

*This document is submitted to Delegates of the Territorial Development Policy Committee for DISCUSSION at the 23rd Session.*

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## 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]

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