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Organisation & management of in-service training within central government administrations:

A comparative study of Slovenia & Switzerland

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Education & Training in Public Administration

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Background & Introduction

In December 1994, the Governments of Slovenia and Switzer land entered into a bilateral cooperation agreement. The aim of this agreement was to facilitate the modernisation of administrative and management methods in Slovenia in general and to implement the transfer of know-how concerning management development and organisational consulting in specific.

To achieve these aims, a project titled "M.A.S.T.E.R." (short for Managing Administrative Systems through Training, Education and Research) was carried out in 1995-1996 in Slovenia. Goal of this MA.S.T.E.R. project was to assist the Government of Slovenia to develop its internal training and consulting capabilities to carry out the planned administrative reform and modernisation. Specifically, two new governmental units responsible for these functions were established at the end of this bilateral project and staffed with qualified personnel who were developed through a 16-month accelerated learning process.

The Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND), a non-profit foundation based in Geneva, was appointed by the Swiss Government to undertake the overall responsibility of de signing and executing this project in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration of the University of Ljubljana. Swiss and international experts from Western Europe, North America and Asia participated in this complex institution building and capacity development project.

This comparative study was undertaken in the framework of a technical cooperation project called "M.A.S.T.E.R." project which was carried out in 1993-1996. Goal of this project was to assist the Government of Slovenia to develop its own internal training and consulting capabilities and to carry out its planned administrative reform and modernisation.

In-depth country studies were carried out in Slovenia and Switzerland. Each country study documented the current state of the existing in—service training system, management structure, resources and on-going training activities. Examples of training intervention were also given to shed light on the relation between training and the need to improve administrative performance. The main research goal was to find out how the training processes were designed, managed and monitored in both countries so that experiences can be shared and progress made.