



## Secure future in Switzerland

Switzerland stands for stability. The foundation of this stability is Switzerland's political and economical system with its decentralised political structure which distributes power as equitably as possible across the constituent parts of Swiss society. Decisions are therefore not easily taken, but the result of compromises that need to be reached in extensive consultation with different stakeholders. Although this process does not lend itself to rapid change, decisions when made enjoy wide support and as a result are durable.

Stability and durability as well as its neutrality earn Switzerland considerable credibility, and create for both Swiss society and individuals a high degree of secure future. Together with the high standard of living in Switzerland, these qualities are an important reason why many international organisations, sports associations, forums such as the WEF and Art Basel, as well as private companies have for decades shown their preference for Switzerland as a location.

In this respect, the well-developed system for protecting intellectual property in Switzerland is an important factor, and allows researchers and companies to reap the rewards for their inventions and discoveries.

Secure future also becomes manifest in the Swiss franc which is recognised around the world as one of the most reliable currencies, which in turn explains the high level of price stability and the low level of inflation in Switzerland. Stable and predictable conditions as well as efficient financial-market structures have made Switzerland one of the ten most important financial centres in the world – a tradition that dates back to the 18th century.

The high quality of life in the densely populated Alpine region of Switzerland is only possible as a result of careful use of scarce natural resources and intelligent innovation in the area of the environment. Swiss scientific research and technology has a leading place in the field of environmental technologies and global climate research. As a result of this high level of expertise, Switzerland can have a decisive impact on the development of international environmental treaties, and the scientific groundwork in this field carried out by Switzerland is widely recognised. It is no coincidence that the World Wide Fund for Nature WWF and the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal are based in Switzerland.

Switzerland's outstanding achievements in the field of health care is another important aspect of secure future, in particular in the areas of patient care, medicine, and the life sciences. The Swiss population has one of the highest average life expectancies worldwide.

Secure future in respect to the field of education and research in Switzerland means that researchers, teachers and students enjoy stable working conditions to a high standard over the long term. In addition, the vocational education system, with its close connections to the working world and its diversity of vocational training, universities of applied science and other universities ensures that Switzerland has the qualified specialists it needs to meet future challenges.

