



Kosovo Conflict: Switzerland

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1 The Swiss Stance on the Kosovo Conflict

Switzerland was one of the first countries to recognize Kosovo's Independence in 2008 and till this day has remained one of its staunchest allies. It has been involved in all kinds of political, financial, cultural and even peace keeping events to help the country stabilise. [1]

Just in the 2017-2020 timeframe, Switzerland donated over 80 million CHF to various Kosovan Development Programs, mainly aimed at improving democratic governance, employment among the youth and human security. Other than economic investments, Switzerland has made various programs to facilitate educational exchange between the two countries with the hopes of spurring on research and innovation in the new-born Republic. Kosovar researchers and artists can even apply for Swiss Research Grants. [2]

It is important to note that 190 Swiss staff are a part of Kosovo Force, a NATO led peace keeping initiative in Kosovo. They garrison the country and provide the much needed security! [3]

In conclusion, Switzerland is a supporter of Kosovo's independence and has supported it from the beginning. The initiatives mentioned in this guide are just a small part of the Kosovo-Swiss relations. The reader can easily find the rest with a google search, which will lead to results spanning from directly investing in Kosovar owned businesses to training 20000 young Kosovars in needed professions.



Fig. 1: Geographical Locations of Kosovo and Switzerland

2 References

- 1 Wikipedia: 'Swiss-Kosovo Relations'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_Switzerland_relations
- 2 EDA: 'Bilateral Relations'
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/kosovo/en/home/switzerland-and/bilateral-relations.html>
- 3 Swissinfo: 'Decades after the war'
https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/far-to-go_decades_-_after_the_war_-_kosovo_-_shapes_up_with_swiss_support/44965982