

Construction of federal asylum centres audit

State Secretariat for Migration, Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics

Key facts

On 5 June 2016, the Swiss people accepted the draft on an accelerated asylum procedure. 18 federal asylum centres housing 5000 beds and creating 630 jobs in six regions in Switzerland are to be built with a cost ceiling of CHF 583 million.

Against this background, the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) audited the planning and realisation of the federal asylum centres, aspects of economic efficiency and the cooperation between the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL). The results of the audit's focal areas varied. While the cooperation works well and the requirements for the federal asylum centres are comprehensively defined and accordingly considered during project planning, there is still room for improvement in the project implementation.

Civil engineering standards are not yet monetised

In order to reduce planning costs and to take future operating requirements into account, the SEM and the FOBL jointly developed new standards for the federal asylum centres and adopted these at the end of 2017. The cost ceilings for creating beds and jobs are set out in the dispatch on the Asylum Act (3 September 2014). This determines that the cost of a bed may not exceed CHF 120,000 and a job no more than CHF 100,000. At the time of the audit, the costs of the new standards had not been published. This means that it cannot be ensured that by applying these standards the agreed costs targets will be met.

Project-specific economic efficiency indicators must be specified

In addition to overarching indicators (cost per bed and job), the FOBL wants to evaluate and compare project-specific economic efficiency. The project indicators and their target values required for this were under revision at the time of the audit. It should set out the finalised indicators so that the FOBL can compare and optimise the investment and operating costs.

Informative value of the strategic project management instruments can be improved

In order for the accelerated asylum procedure to begin, 80% of the beds and 100% of the jobs must be in place by February 2019. This puts the FOBL under significant deadline pressure with regards to the planning and realisation of the federal asylum centres. The FOBL's portfolio management supports the steering committee in managing the overall federal asylum centre project.

The FOBL should improve the quality of data and information and, in turn, the informative value of the strategic project management.

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