Follow-up audit of main recommendations
Federal Roads Office

Key facts

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted a follow-up audit at the Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) on the implementation of recommendations issued in the SFAO report from 2015. The focus of the new audit was on project management, and especially project owner support. In the original audit, the SFAO had criticised the lack of a procurement strategy at FEDRO, or of any consistent description of tasks, powers and responsibilities for project owner support, including unclear rules at the branches for dealing with conflicts of interest. In addition, the SFAO requested FEDRO to introduce requirements planning at the branches, and to optimise the controlling instruments.

According to FEDRO, between CHF 40 and 65 million is invested in project owner support fees across Switzerland each year.

FEDRO was able to demonstrate that it has preventive measures in place for dealing with conflicts of interest, but there is still some residual risk

During the follow-up audit, the SFAO ascertained that FEDRO has formalised the procurement principles for project owner support in a corresponding strategy and integrated the key aspects. There was no clearly discernible document hierarchy for overarching and still applicable procurement handbook provisions or for the project owner support procurement strategy, this still needs to be defined by FEDRO.

FEDRO was able to provide an overview of preventive measures aimed at avoiding conflicts of interest and arrangements likely to affect competition in project owner support procurements. The SFAO did not assess their effectiveness during this audit.

The governance instruments for requests and controlling have been improved

The FEDRO procurement office stipulates that the branches must draw up a requirements plan for project owner support mandates. As regards project owner support fees, FEDRO has now imposed a cost ceiling on contracts. Controlling and governance of project owner support could be improved by describing the tasks, powers and responsibilities for project owner support consistently, and by optimising the controlling instruments.

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