

Follow-up audit of the implementation of recommendations for the Posieux construction project

Agroscope / Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics

Key facts

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted a follow-up audit at Agroscope and the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL) on the implementation of four recommendations from 2017¹. The SFAO had already classified the other three recommendations of the report as implemented based on the feedback from the auditees.

At that time, in connection with the planned combined "IFS laboratory, production and administrative building" in Posieux, the SFAO criticised in particular the Confederation's insufficient ordering from the canton of Fribourg as the project owner or future landlord and the contractual provisions regarding the agreed federal contributions. Based on this, the SFAO recommended that the project be halted for a limited period of time in order to integrate the requested needs changes into the planning and to clarify the financing and contractual issues.

The lease calculation is based on investments totalling a maximum of CHF 124.4 million financed by the canton of Fribourg. The financing had not yet been secured at the time of the follow-up audit.

For the SFAO, the four audited recommendations have been fully implemented.

Putting the project on hold provided the opportunity to subsequently align the planned construction investments with optimised user needs

With the support of the FOBL, Agroscope managed to formulate its user needs arising from reorganisation, reorientation, location optimisation and synergy utilisation, and to incorporate them into the already planned construction project via various orders. The new laboratory building, which is currently in the "construction project" planning phase – a further development of the original combined-use building – has been sanctioned by political decisions of the Confederation.

Agroscope, the FOBL and the canton of Fribourg as the project owner adapted the previous contractual situation to the new circumstances by means of a corresponding addendum. The previous payment plan, which regulates the terms for the "mobile equipment" to be financed by the Confederation to the tune of around CHF 9 million, was also updated.

In addition, Agroscope and the FOBL jointly developed an overarching business management concept that will be applied uniformly to the real estate portfolio used.

Original text in German

¹ These are the result of the audit report "Performance audit of real estate infrastructures" (audit mandate 17502). The audit report is available on the SFAO's website (www.sfao.admin.ch).