



COPERNICO PROGRAM

TICINO: A SWISS BUSINESS LOCATION

Ticino's main features

Ticino is Switzerland's Italian-speaking region with a wide array of business activities. It is geographically close to the Northern Italian regions ranking among Europe's most dynamic in terms of industrial and commercial activities. More marked economic integration with the latter, which follows as a consequence of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the European Union, brings additional benefits in terms of market access and supply of skilled labor force. Simultaneously, Ticino has all the typical characters associated with Swiss quality, reliability, preference for decentralized structures and knowledge-based economy. Doing business in Ticino means operating in an international environment, from a stable and efficient base that is well connected with Europe's large and growing markets, established as well as new one.





Attractions and Advantages

Ticino's main charms are thus corporate tax advantages combined with a well-developed infrastructure, central location, quality of life, support by the authorities and a large, well-qualified and motivated human resources pool. These features will be even more relevant in the future, given the trend toward lean headquarters, virtual and distributed organization and value creation through shared services. Other issues linked to the existence of specific industry clusters make it particularly attractive for business activities linked to:

- Fashion and luxury goods
- Electronics and electrical engineering
- Logistics, trading and supply chain management
- Design and new materials
- Drugs and life sciences, chemicals
- Banking and financial services
- Trading and distribution across Europe



Strong Industries

Services account for three quarters of regional GDP: banks, insurance, corporate consultancy services, commerce and logistics as well as tourism attract new customers and businesses from all corners of the globe each year. Strong expertise and support is available thanks to the large presence of national and international financial companies, whose services include loans to finance local projects as well as international financial advisory and management services. Ticino's exports also include highly specialized machine tools, electronic components, chemicals, medical equipment, as well as luxury and fashion goods. Annual exports of goods and services amount to almost 8.5 billion Swiss francs, 70% of which go to the European Union, 10% to the USA and Canada and another 10% to Asia.

An ideal Tax System

On the basis of an overall index for the year 2006 combining sub-indices for personal and corporate income taxes as well as taxes on motor vehicles, the Ticino has the third-lowest tax burden in Switzerland, corresponding to 74.3% of the Swiss national average. In terms of personal and corporate income taxes, the Ticino's tax levy is only 64.6% (incl. wealth tax) and 96.7%, respectively of the national average. Companies registered in the Ticino as well as residents benefit from Switzerland's comprehensive network of double taxation treaties encompassing more than 60 countries.



Copernico in Figures

Copernico Regional Marketing Program (from 1997 until 2010)

Copernico 1997 - 2010	
New Companies created in Ticino	219
Country of origin of the new companies	
Italy	99
Germany	9
United States of America	8
Other countries	32
Switzerland	11
Ticino	60
Sectors of activity of the new companies	
Electronics	32
Metallurgy and fine mechanics	22
Chemistry, Pharmaceutical, Medical	27
Plastic Materials	18
Precious Metals	6
Industry of wood, glas, iron, ...	3
Nutrition	5
Informatics	23
Shared Services, Logistics	26
Others	57

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