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Federal Councillor Calmy-Rey visits Swisscontact project in Kosovo

Prishtina, 29 March. On the occasion of the opening of the Swiss Embassy in Prishtina, Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey was paying a visit to Kosovo. In addition to attending the inauguration, she embarked on a comprehensive programme of visits. On her agenda was a visit to the commercial college in Gjilan. It was here that her attention was particularly drawn to a teaching module; a practice company, in which business students, are learning in a permanent and realistic simulated environment. One of the students, who had lived as a refugee in Switzerland for a year, guided the Federal Councillor through the virtual enterprise. Purchasing, sales, book keeping, marketing, administration – the students are absorbing all the skills a firm needs to survive in the marketplace. Swisscontact helped to set up this firm and to connect it to a worldwide network of practice companies. Federal Councillor Calmy-Rey successfully tested the model by making an e-banking payment in its name.

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Swisscontact is the development organisation of the Swiss private sector. Through advisory services, vocational training and further education, it promotes private enterprise and social development in selected countries in the south and east. Swisscontact fights poverty effectively, alongside selected partners, applying the principle of helping others to help themselves.