Facts and figures about the contribution to EU enlargement

More than 100 million people live in 13 member states that have joined the EU since 2004. This corresponds to one fifth of the EU population.

The Swiss contribution to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EU is CHF 1.35 billion.

The enlargement contribution supports some 300 projects.

In Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary more than 40% of the project budget flows to the structurally weak regions.

In the 13 new EU member states, one young person in four aged between 15 and 24 is unemployed.

The average purchasing power in the 13 partner countries is a little over 40% of Swiss purchasing power.

Switzerland’s enlargement contribution corresponds to approximately 0.8% of the EU contributions to promote cohesion in the 13 member states that have joined the EU since 2004.

The partner states generally contribute 15% of the project costs themselves.

The Swiss Enlargement Contribution

Switzerland’s contribution to reducing the social and economic disparities in the enlarged European Union

Why?

The Swiss enlargement contribution...

• supports EU enlargement, which constitutes a major step towards greater security, stability and prosperity on the entire European continent;
• promotes the economic and social development of the member states that have joined since 2004 and thus reduces disparities within the EU;
• is an expression of Swiss solidarity;
• strengthens bilateral relations between Switzerland and the member states that have joined the EU since 2004;
• increases the potential for Swiss companies to benefit from new business opportunities;
• promotes environmental and climate protection;
• creates and supports advisory and institutional partnerships between Switzerland and partner countries.

Further information and contacts

www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) New EU Member States Division Freiburgstrasse 130 3003 Bern Tel. +41 58 628 68 68 swiss-contribution@sdc.admin.ch

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the joint local offices in Warsaw, Riga, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava, Sofia and Bucharest provide support to the implementation of the projects.

Geographical breakdown of the enlargement contribution

What?

In November 2006 Swiss voters accepted the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe. In doing so, they signaled their approval for financial support aimed at reducing economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU. The Eastern Europe Cooperation Act, which establishes the legal basis for Switzerland’s enlargement contribution, will remain in force until the end of May 2017. The Federal Council had initiated the work needed to continue the law at the end of 2014.

The distribution of the enlargement contribution among the 13 partner states is based on a distribution formula established on the basis of population size and per capita income.

Switzerland has concluded a bilateral framework agreement with each partner state. It decides which projects it supports in consultation with the partner country and independently of the EU.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the joint local offices in Warsaw, Riga, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava, Sofia and Bucharest provide support to the implementation of the projects.

In June 2007, Parliament approved a framework credit of CHF 1 billion for ten states that joined the EU in 2004. In December 2009, it approved a second framework credit of CHF 217 million for Bulgaria and Romania, which had joined in 2007. In December 2014, Parliament approved a further CHF 45 million for Croatia, which became a member state in 2013.

In Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary more than 40% of the project budget flows to the structurally weak regions. In the 13 new EU member states, one young person in four aged between 15 and 24 is unemployed. The average purchasing power in the 13 partner countries is a little over 40% of Swiss purchasing power. Switzerland’s enlargement contribution corresponds to approximately 0.8% of the EU contributions to promote cohesion in the 13 member states that have joined the EU since 2004. The partner states generally contribute 15% of the project costs themselves.

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How?

The enlargement contribution contributes to the reduction of economic and social disparities within the EU. To achieve this, each project focuses on five overarching project objectives:

Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions
Approximately 22% of total budget
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the main engine of economic growth and employment. Research provides an important basis for innovations which, in turn, shape a country’s economic development over the long term. Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Making it easier for SMEs to obtain financing opportunities
• Promoting tourism, social responsibility and marketing of regional products
• Encouraging trade and exports
• Better regulation of the financial sector
• Supporting research scholarships and partnerships

Improving social security
Approximately 39% of total budget
Good access to modern medical care and the ability to obtain meaningful social services that meet current needs contribute to the health of the population. Prevention also plays a key role in this respect. Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Modernising hospitals and health centres
• Home nursing services and access to group clinics
• Optimising various social services, such as school transport, and modernising rescue services

Supporting the Roma population
Approximately 18% of total budget
This project supports the social and economic integration of the Roma population in eastern Slovakia. A total of three new community centres are being built and seven existing centres are being refurbished. These centres provide school and educational activities and serve as health consultations and training venues for Roma residents. Swiss contribution: CHF 1.4 million

Polish border controls have led to coping with much tougher requirements since the country joined the EU in 2004. Switzerland is supporting the modernisation and extension of a border post and is at the same time funding education and training measures for Polish border guards. This project also includes professional exchanges between the Federal Customs Administration and its Polish colleagues.
Swiss contribution: CHF 5.1 million

Improving safety in Latvia
Approximately 23% of total budget
Latvia was particularly hard hit by the global economic and financial crisis. In 2010, the unemployment rate rose to just under 20%. Switzerland is undertaking a microcredit programme in Latvia to combat this trend. With this programme, it is promoting investments and companies as well as Latvia’s entrepreneurial and economic development. Thanks to more than 1,000 microcredits, 2,500 jobs are being saved or created.
Swiss contribution: CHF 7.0 million

Slovenia

Celebrating 20 years of democracy
Approximately 10% of total budget
The project supports Slovenia’s transition to a country’s development. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and associations give voice to the people and promote local initiatives in various areas such as health, the environment and culture. Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Providing support to NGOs and strengthening their development
• Promoting and extending bilateral partnerships with Swiss institutions

Drinking water supply in Hungary
Approximately 40% of total budget
Part of the water supply infrastructure in Hungary is 50–60 years old and in a poor state of repair. Thanks to the enlargement contribution, Hungary can renovate 100 km of water pipes and lay 40 km of new pipes. Adhesive pipes are being replaced with pipes made of synthetic resin. There are fewer pipe breaks, which reduces maintenance costs. Furthermore, 200,000 residents benefit from improved water quality. Swiss contribution: CHF 14.0 million

Protecting the environment
Approximately 6% of total budget
Fit for the future—the provision of infrastructures in the areas of water, waste, energy and public transport in a green and sustainable way

• Expanding public transport
• Improving the drinking water supply and waste water treatment
• Promoting renewable energy and refurbishing buildings
• Providing modern equipment for environmental monitoring stations
• Proper disposal of toxic waste and rehabilitation of contaminated sites
• Protecting biodiversity and nature and raising public awareness of sustainability

Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Securing and modernising the border and effective judicial system: key elements of a democratic state
Swiss contribution: CHF 5.0 million

Crop protection project in Bulgaria

Improve border protection in Poland
Part of the water supply infrastructure in Hungary is 50–60 years old and in a poor state of repair. Thanks to the enlargement contribution, Hungary can renovate 100 km of water pipes and lay 40 km of new pipes. Adhesive pipes are being replaced with pipes made of synthetic resin. There are fewer pipe breaks, which reduces maintenance costs. Furthermore, 200,000 residents benefit from improved water quality. Swiss contribution: CHF 14.0 million

Elemental analysis of the soil

Improving public safety
Approximately 10% of total budget
Secure and modern external borders and an effective judicial system are key elements of a democratic state. Switzerland makes the following contributions:

• Modelling the judiciaries
• Securing Schengen borders
• Promoting road and transport safety
• Fighting corruption and organised crime
• Preventing and dealing with natural disasters such as floods

Swiss contribution: CHF 0.6 million

Improving the drinking water supply and waste water treatment
Part of the water supply infrastructure in Hungary is 50–60 years old and in a poor state of repair. Thanks to the enlargement contribution, Hungary can renovate 100 km of water pipes and lay 40 km of new pipes. Adhesive pipes are being replaced with pipes made of synthetic resin. There are fewer pipe breaks, which reduces maintenance costs. Furthermore, 200,000 residents benefit from improved water quality. Swiss contribution: CHF 14.0 million

Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Of total budget

Strengthening civil society
Approximately 10% of total budget
Civil society makes an important contribution to a country’s development. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and associations give voice to the people and promote local initiatives in various areas such as health, the environment and culture. Switzerland makes the following contribution in this area:

• Providing support to NGOs and strengthening their development
• Promoting and extending bilateral partnerships with Swiss institutions

Strengthening the environment
Approximately 6% of total budget
Fit for the future—the provision of infrastructures in the areas of water, waste, energy and public transport in a green and sustainable way

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How?