



The Swiss Cooperation Programme in Macedonia



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



Switzerland's Engagement for the Citizens of Macedonia

Switzerland has supported Macedonia's political, social and economic transition processes since 1992. This cooperation is grounded in Switzerland's tradition of solidarity and responsibility, and reflects the importance that Switzerland places on the stability and the prosperity of the Western Balkans. Today Switzerland ranks among Macedonia's largest bilateral cooperation partners.

The current goals, themes and working modalities of the Swiss engagement in Macedonia are defined in a document titled *Swiss Cooperation Strategy Macedonia 2017-2020*. This strategy was prepared in close coordination with our partners in Macedonia and approved by the Swiss government. The financial commitments for the period 2017 to 2020 amount to 76 million Swiss francs.

The overall goal of Switzerland's cooperation for the period 2017 to 2020 is to support Macedonia in its reforms to meet European standards and to build a socially-inclusive democracy and market economy, while ensuring sound governance of natural resources.

This goal is closely aligned with the priorities and national development policies of Macedonia, with the reforms required for Macedonia's accession to the EU, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Swiss cooperation for the period 2017 to 2020 focuses on three priority themes:

- Democratic Governance
- Employment and Economic Development
- Infrastructure and Environment



Democratic Governance

Democratic governance and a culture of dialogue with citizens are crucial to build a socially-inclusive democracy in Macedonia. Switzerland supports central and local legislative bodies to practice accountable and inclusive policy processes. We also foster a vibrant civil society and citizen participation in local and regional decision-making.

Employment and Economic Development

Inclusive employment and sustainable economic growth are critical for creating a more prosperous society in Macedonia. Switzerland helps job seekers find a job and acquire the skills needed for it. We support start-ups and SMEs to grow and create new jobs. Our work with institutions contributes to ensuring effective macroeconomic and fiscal management.



Infrastructure and Environment

To secure the long-term development prospects of Macedonia requires safeguarding its natural capital – water, land, biodiversity. Switzerland helps communities use more sustainable production methods. We support central and local authorities integrate environment into their development plans. We invest in water supply, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure and support utilities in providing better public services.





Working Modalities

Switzerland's work is grounded in formal agreements with the Macedonian authorities and requires co-funding wherever possible. Civil society organizations are important partners for Switzerland, as they represent the needs and aspirations of the people. Partnerships with the private sector are also cultivated as vectors for development and innovation, especially in the field of economic development.

Our support is mainly provided through projects executed by local and international implementers. In both our programming and operations, particular attention is given to transversal themes: gender equality, good governance, social inclusion and conflict sensitivity.





Contact

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The *Swiss Cooperation Strategy Macedonia 2017-2020*
is available at:
[www.eda.admin.ch/countries/macedonia/en/home/
international-cooperation/publications-multimedia.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/macedonia/en/home/international-cooperation/publications-multimedia.html)