



# Swiss contribution (enlargement contribution) to selected EU states

January 2020

Through its enlargement contribution, Switzerland has been helping to reduce economic and social disparities in the European Union (EU) since 2007. Switzerland's contribution is an investment in Europe's security, stability and prosperity. At the same time, Switzerland is establishing an important basis for solid economic and political relations with the EU and partner countries. On 3 December 2019, Parliament approved the framework credits for a second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states. Parliament criticises, however, the EU's discrimination against Switzerland with regard to the stock exchange equivalence. It therefore decided that no commitments would be entered into with respect to the framework credits if and for as long as the EU applies discriminatory measures against Switzerland.

## Chronology

### Second Swiss contribution

- 03.12.2019 Approval by Parliament of cohesion and migration framework credits
- 28.09.2018 Adoption of dispatch by the Federal Council

### Contribution to the enlarged EU

- 07.12.2019 Completion of implementation in Bulgaria and Romania
- 31.12.2017 Completion of EU10 project implementation
- 30.06.2015 Signing of the bilateral framework agreement with Croatia
- 11.12.2014 Approval by Parliament of the framework credit for Croatia (CHF 45m)
- 01.07.2013 EU accession of Croatia
- 07.09.2010 Signing of the bilateral framework agreements with Bulgaria and Romania
- 07.12.2009 Approval by Parliament of the framework credit for Bulgaria and Romania (CHF 257m)
- 20.12.2007 Signing of the bilateral framework agreements with the EU10
- 01.01.2007 EU accession of Bulgaria and Romania
- 14.06.2007 Approval by Parliament of the framework credit for the EU10 (CHF 1bn)
- 26.11.2006 Adoption by the Swiss electorate of the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe as legal basis (53.4% in favour); entry into force: 1 June 2007, expires after 10 years
- 01.05.2004 EU accession of the EU10 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

## State of play

On 3 December 2019, Parliament approved the framework credits for a second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states in the form of two framework credits for cohesion and migration. The Swiss contribution is intended to reduce economic and social disparities and to help selected EU member states to better manage migration.

Parliament also decided that no commitments would be entered into with respect to the framework cred-

its if and for as long as the EU applies discriminatory measures against Switzerland. This means that Switzerland will not sign bilateral agreements with partner countries to implement the second Swiss contribution as long as discriminatory measures by the EU exist. The Federal Council views the EU's refusal to extend Swiss stock exchange equivalence as discriminatory.

The second contribution matches the value of the enlargement contribution, i.e. CHF 1.302 billion, or

an average of CHF 130 million a year over a ten-year period.

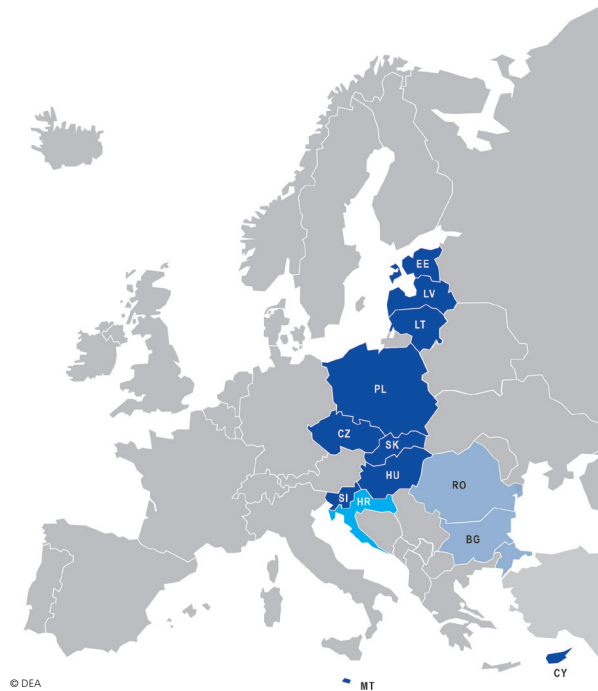
- Switzerland has earmarked CHF 1.102 billion for the 13 states that have joined the EU since 2004 – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (EU13). This contribution is intended to strengthen cohesion, with a particular focus on the priority area of vocational education and training. The funding may also be invested in other areas such as research and innovation, welfare and healthcare systems, public safety, civic involvement and transparency, environmental and climate protection and SME financing, in line with the priorities set by the partner countries and Switzerland.
- CHF 200 million will be used in countries particularly affected by migration movements. The contribution will therefore also benefit EU member states outside the EU13. Switzerland will use it to support measures to improve the management of migratory movements.

On 30 September 2016, the Swiss Parliament adopted the renewed Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe within the framework of the Federal Council Dispatch on International Cooperation 2017–2020. In addition to providing the basis for the ongoing transition cooperation with the eastern European countries outside the EU, the renewed federal act – which came into force on 1 June 2017 – continues to serve as the legal basis for the Swiss contribution to strengthen cohesion. The legal basis for the migration framework credit is the Asylum Act.

### Context

Since 2007, Switzerland has contributed CHF 1.302 billion to numerous projects to reduce the economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU. The EU13 are Switzerland's partner countries for this enlargement contribution.

All projects under the enlargement contribution for the EU10 (those countries that joined the EU in 2004) were successfully completed by the end of 2017 following a ten-year planning and implementation phase. An independent evaluation published in 2016 confirmed that the vast majority of the projects achieved their objectives, in some cases even exceeding the expected results. The projects have made a positive contribution to promoting social and economic development in the partner countries and have made a lasting impact. In Bulgaria and Romania, the implementation phase



ended in December 2019. The enlargement contribution in Croatia runs until the end of 2024.

Switzerland's contribution is not part of the EU's cohesion policy. Implementation is carried out bilaterally between Switzerland and the partner country in question. Switzerland is careful to allocate the funds in a way that complements the EU cohesion funds.

### Relevance

Switzerland's autonomous contribution is an investment in Europe's security, stability and prosperity and is thus in Switzerland's interest. With the second Swiss contribution, Switzerland is strengthening and deepening bilateral relations with its partner countries and the EU as a whole. By focusing on vocational education and training and on migration, the second Swiss contribution can help to address challenges Europe is currently facing – challenges which also affect Switzerland.

#### Link to PDF

[www.fdfa.admin.ch/europe/contribution\\_en](http://www.fdfa.admin.ch/europe/contribution_en)

#### Further information

Swiss enlargement contribution and its implementation:  
[www.erweiterungsbeitrag.admin.ch](http://www.erweiterungsbeitrag.admin.ch)

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