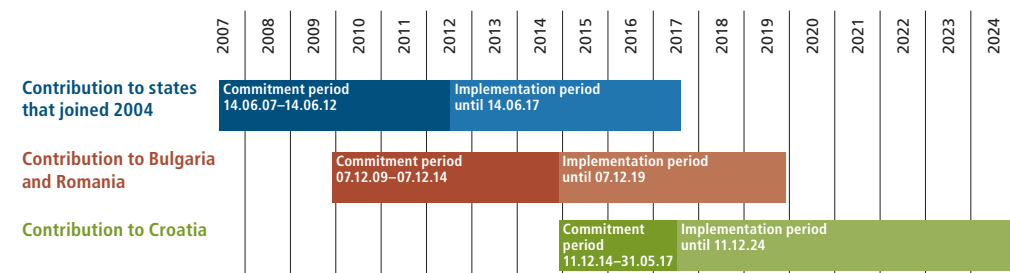


## Time frame of the enlargement contribution



## 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;
- ...reinforces relations with the EU, which is Switzerland's most important political and economic partner;
- ...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.

## 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 1.302 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's 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.

## Further information and contacts

[www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch](http://www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch)

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March 2015



# The Swiss Enlargement Contribution

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

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

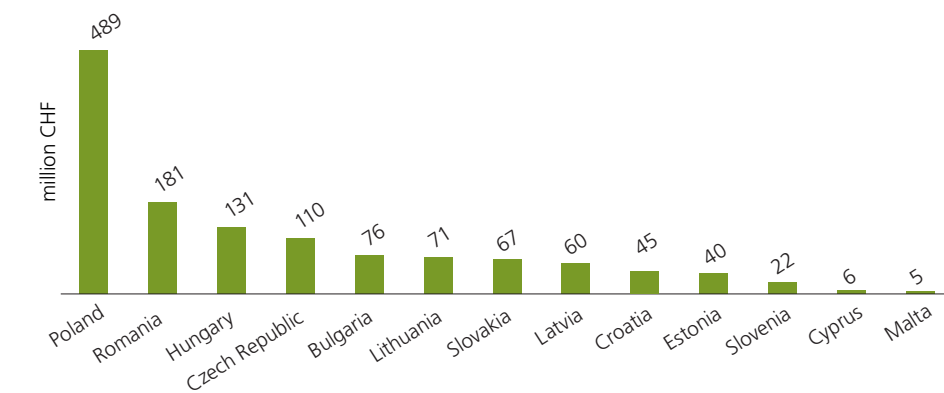
## What?

In November 2006 Swiss voters accepted the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe. In doing so, they signalled 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.

## Geographical breakdown of the enlargement contribution



## Who?

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 257 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.

- 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 countries 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.



## How?

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



### Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

Approximately 25% 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



### Microcredits against unemployment in Latvia

Latvia was particularly hard hit by the global economic and financial crisis. In 2010, the unemployment rate rose to just under 20%. Switzerland is underwriting a microcredit programme in Latvia to counter 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 7.9 million

### Improving social security

Approximately 15% 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
- Launching preventive health campaigns
- Improving the quality of life in homes and community centres
- Optimising various social services, such as school transport, and modernising rescue services

### Supporting the Roma population in Slovakia

This project supports the social and economic integration of the Roma population in eastern Slovakia, which is often socially marginalised. A total of three new community centres are being built and seven existing centres are being refurbished. These centres provide school and vocational education and training as well as health consultations to some 12,000 Roma. The project thus improves Roma people's chances on the labour market. Swiss contribution: CHF 1.4 million



### Improved border protection in Poland

Polish border controls have had to cope 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 15.9 million

### Drinking water supply in Hungary

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. Asbestos pipes are being replaced with pipes made of synthetic materials. There are fewer pipe breaks, which reduces maintenance costs. Furthermore, 200,000 residents benefit from improved water quality. Swiss contribution: CHF 24.9 million



### Improving public safety

Approximately 10% of total budget

Secure and modern external borders and a transparent and effective judicial system are key elements of a modern democratic state. Switzerland makes the following contribution:

- Modernising the judicature
- Securing Schengen borders
- Promoting road and transport safety
- Fighting corruption and organised crime
- Preventing and dealing with natural disasters such as floods

### Protecting the environment

Approximately 40% of total budget

Fit for the future – the provision of infrastructures in the areas of water, waste, energy and public transport is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Switzerland makes the following contribution:

- Expanding public transport
- Improving the drinking water supply and waste water treatment
- Promoting renewable energies and refurbishing buildings in an energy-efficient way
- Providing modern equipment for environmental monitoring stations
- Proper disposal of toxic waste and rehabilitating contaminated industrial sites
- Protecting biodiversity and nature and raising public awareness of sustainability

### 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 a voice to the people and promote local regions 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

