

# SWISS – CYPRIOT Cooperation Programme

7 Projects

25,2 Mio. CHF



The Swiss - Cypriot Cooperation Programme forms part of the Second Swiss Contribution, to selected EU member states. It prioritizes areas where Cyprus has significant needs for the reduction of economic and social inequalities and supports measures in the area of migration. It shares Switzerland's expertise where a meaningful added value can be provided.

The Second Swiss Contribution, amounting to CHF 1.3 billion, will remain in effect until 31 December 2029. On 30 June 2022, Switzerland and the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding on reducing economic and social disparities and cooperating on migration in the EU. The agreement defines the contribution's key parameters, such as the allocation among partner countries, thematic priorities, among others.

## Key Areas of Support

- **Reduction of economic & social inequalities**

Strengthening of social systems through health and social protection

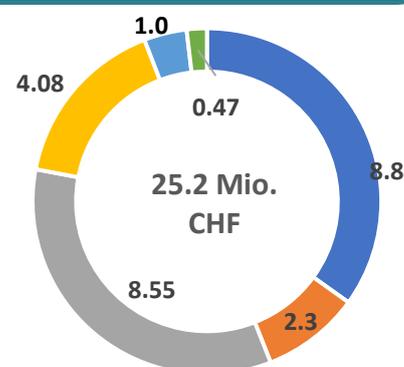
Enhancing civic engagement and transparency

- **Migration**

Implementing efficient and high-quality asylum procedures in accordance with the relevant EU laws by the Asylum Service,

Supporting Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

Provide a safe and supportive environment for unaccompanied minors in Cyprus



- Asylum
- Infrastructure
- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
- Strengthening Social and Health systems
- Civic Engagement and Transparency
- Technical Assistance



## Swiss - Cypriot Cooperation Programme

While the Second Swiss Contribution is an investment in Europe's security, stability and prosperity, it enhances and deepens bilateral relations with both EU partner countries and the European Union as a whole, while reinforcing Switzerland's commitment to supporting EU member states.

To materialise this initiative, three Framework Agreements were signed between the Republic of Cyprus and the Swiss Confederation.

The Framework Agreement on Migration (CHF 10 Mio), signed on October 31, 2022, aims to support the challenges of migration management, including enhancing the asylum procedure as well as supporting Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration.

The Framework Agreement on Cohesion (CHF 5.2 Mio) signed on December 12, 2022, focuses on providing comprehensive care for people living with rare diseases, preventing domestic violence, and supporting the Committee on Missing Persons.

The Framework Agreement on Migration (CHF 10 Mio), signed on November 21, 2025, foresees the operation of two shelters for unaccompanied minors, the continuation of support of AVRR through a return's hub for vulnerable beneficiaries, as well as the implementation of the National Integration Strategy.

The collaboratively funded programmes not only offer financial support but also foster stronger institutional cooperation and facilitate expert exchanges between Switzerland and Cyprus. These initiatives are in line with broader European migration and social cohesion policies and promote a more coordinated and sustainable response to common challenges.



## Centre of Expertise for Rare Diseases (Karaiskakio Foundation)

The Karaiskakio Foundation is a non-profit organization founded with the primary goal of establishing a volunteer Bone Marrow Donor Registry. With the Swiss contribution a.o., a multidisciplinary thematically focused Centre for Rare Diseases will be established, emphasising on the provision of psychological support and inclusion. The project involves designing and constructing cutting-edge facilities to house the Centre's team of multidisciplinary clinical and social scientists. The objective of this initiative is to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care and psychosocial support for individuals affected by rare diseases and their families.

## New infrastructures for Preventing & Handling Family Violence (ΣΠΑΒΟ)

The Swiss contribution seeks to enhance both the reach and regional availability of the support services of the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence in the Family (ΣΠΑΒΟ) for victims of domestic violence. The project foresees a twofold objective: a) the establishment of new infrastructure facilities in Nicosia, Limassol, and Larnaca in response to the growing need for support for survivors of gender-based violence and b) Capacity building activities for the dedicated personnel for upskilling the management of domestic and gender-based violence cases.

## Committee on Missing Persons (CMP)

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to restoring trust and fostering reconciliation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, through the support to the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP). This important objective will be further encouraged and promoted through the participation of bi-communal scientific teams in all stages of the process. Through its work, the CMP aims at recovering, identifying and returning the remains of missing persons to their families in a dignified manner.

## Home for Hope, Shelter for Unaccompanied Children

An initiative designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for unaccompanied minors in Cyprus. With the Swiss contribution, two age-specific residential houses will be established for children aged 11–14 and 15–17. The project promotes social inclusion by strengthening self-esteem, empowerment, and key interpersonal skills, while fostering community engagement and early integration into education and the labour market, ensuring quality living conditions and safeguarding their rights into adulthood.

## Asylum Procedures

This programme has two objectives: firstly, to assist the Cypriot Asylum Service in establishing an administrative building to enhance the efficiency of asylum procedures. The infrastructure project includes the development of suitable interviewing rooms. Secondly and as part of the initiative, relevant authorities from Switzerland and Cyprus will exchange best practices and organize expert exchanges to improve asylum processes through capacity building.

## Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Hub I & II

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) project (phase I & II) strengthens migration governance by providing safe, short-term accommodation and comprehensive support to vulnerable migrants who choose to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. A specialised facility of up to 40 places will operate to ensure dignified living conditions, basic services, and pre-departure assistance for eligible beneficiaries with vulnerabilities, including families, single parents, elderly persons, individuals with medical conditions, and other vulnerable Third Country Nationals. By facilitating safe and dignified returns and supporting sustainable reintegration, the initiative contributes to increasing the number of voluntary returns from Cyprus.

## Implementation of National Integration Strategy

The funding of the implementation of the National Integration Strategy is a sustainable, medium to long-term, multidimensional initiative designed to promote the effective integration of migrants in Cyprus. With the Swiss contribution, a centrally coordinated and locally implemented framework will deliver targeted actions in education, employment, housing, health, and culture. The project supports asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international or temporary protection, and unaccompanied minors through early integration measures, including Greek language training, up- and reskilling, and job placement, fostering social cohesion and long-term inclusion.

Further information about the Swiss-Cypriot Cooperation Programme:

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Cooperation Programme 

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