



Second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states

January 2023

The second Swiss contribution helps to reduce economic and social disparities in the EU, promoting European stability as a whole. The contribution strengthens bilateral relations with partner states and is part of the Federal Council's European policy agenda with a view to pursuing the bilateral path. On 30 June 2022, Switzerland and the EU signed the legally non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the second Swiss contribution. The MoU contains the parameters of the contribution and thus forms the framework for concluding the necessary bilateral implementation agreements with the partner states.

Chronology

Second Swiss contribution

- from 09.2022 Signing of the bilateral implementation agreements with the partner states
- 30.06.2022 Switzerland and EU sign legally non-binding MoU on second Swiss contribution
- 30.09.2021 Parliament releases second Swiss contribution (removal of non-discrimination condition)
- 11.08.2021 Adoption by Federal Council of dispatch to release second Swiss contribution (removal of non-discrimination condition)
- 03.12.2019 Parliamentary approval of cohesion and migration framework credits (containing non-discrimination condition)
- 28.09.2018 Adoption of dispatch on second Swiss contribution by Federal Council

First Swiss contribution (contribution to enlarged EU)

- by 2024 Project implementation in Croatia
- 07.12.2019 Completion of implementation in Bulgaria and Romania
- 31.12.2017 Completion of EU-10 project implementation
- 30.06.2015 Signing of bilateral implementation agreement with Croatia
- 11.12.2014 Approval by Parliament of framework credit for Croatia (CHF 45m)
- 01.07.2013 EU accession of Croatia
- 07.09.2010 Signing of bilateral implementation agreements with Bulgaria and Romania
- 07.12.2009 Approval by Parliament of framework credit for Bulgaria and Romania (CHF 257m)
- 20.12.2007 Signing of bilateral implementation agreements with EU-10
- 01.01.2007 EU accession of Bulgaria and Romania
- 14.06.2007 Approval by Parliament of framework credit for EU-10 (CHF 1bn)
- 27.02.2006 EU and Switzerland sign legally non-binding MoU on enlargement contribution to EU-10
- 01.05.2004 EU accession of EU-10 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

State of play

On 3 December 2019, Parliament approved a second Swiss contribution to selected EU member states in the form of two framework credits for cohesion and migration. The goal of Switzerland's contribution is to help reduce economic and social disparities and to better manage migration flows in selected EU member states up to 2029. However, due to a non-discrimination condition introduced by Parliament, the contribution's implementation was blocked.

In the context of its decision to end the negotiations on an institutional agreement with the EU, the Federal Council stated on 26 May 2021 that it would work to have the second contribution released swiftly and would seek to finalise, with the EU, a legally non-binding MoU on the second Swiss contribution.

On 11 August 2021, the Federal Council adopted a dispatch on amending the federal decrees on the second Swiss contribution to selected EU member

states. On this basis, Parliament lifted the non-discrimination condition on 30 September 2021 and released the contribution. On 30 June 2022, the EU and Switzerland signed a legally non-binding MoU on the second Swiss contribution. The MoU sets out key elements such as the amount of the contribution, the distribution among the partner states, the thematic priorities and the principles for cooperation. The MoU also forms the framework for the bilateral implementation agreements with the partner states.

Second Swiss contribution

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. The funds do not flow directly into the budgets of the partner states or the EU and implementation of selected projects and programmes is carried out bilaterally between Switzerland and the respective partner state. Switzerland's contribution is not part of the EU's cohesion policy, but Switzerland is careful to allocate the funds in a way that complements the EU cohesion funds.

- 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 (EU-13). This contribution is intended to strengthen cohesion, with a particular focus on the priority of vocational education and training. The funding will also be invested in other areas such as research and innovation, welfare and healthcare systems, public safety, civic engagement and transparency, environmental and climate protection and SME financing, in line with the priorities set by the partner states and Switzerland.
- CHF 200 million will be used for migration-related measures in states which are particularly affected by migration flows. The contribution can therefore also benefit EU member states outside the EU-13, and will be used by Switzerland to support measures to improve the management of migratory flows.

The Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe (SR 974.1) continues to serve as the legal basis for Switzerland's contribution in the area of cohesion. The legal basis for the migration framework credit is the Asylum Act (SR 142.31).

First Swiss contribution (enlargement contribution)

Since 2007, Switzerland has contributed CHF 1.302 billion to numerous projects to reduce the economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU. The EU-13 are Switzerland's partner states for this enlargement contribution.

All projects under the enlargement contribution for the EU-10 (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 states 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.

Relevance

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

In implementing the second Swiss contribution swiftly, Switzerland underscores its commitment to remaining a reliable partner of the EU and its member states.

Link to PDF

www.eda.admin.ch/europa/en/home/weitere-dossiers/beitrag.html

Further information

Swiss enlargement contribution and its implementation:
www.eda.admin.ch/schweizerbeitrag/en/home.html

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