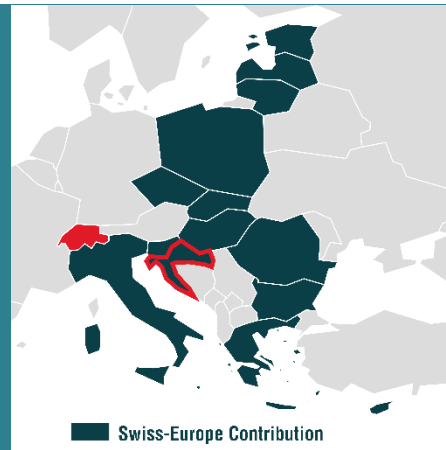


# SWISS – CROATIAN Cooperation Programme



4 Programmes

45.7 Mio. CHF



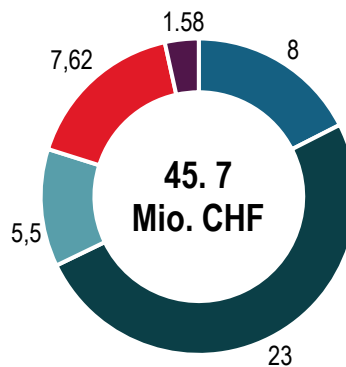
The second Swiss Contribution for Croatia amounts to 45,7 million CHF, and is to be spent in the fields of research and innovation, water and waste-water management, palliative care and civic engagement.

In parallel with the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution, the projects financed through the first Swiss Contribution are still operational up to 10 December 2024.

The Second Swiss Contribution has a total value of CHF 1.302 billion and a duration of ten years until 3 December 2029. On 30 June 2022, Switzerland and the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Brussels, specifying key parameters of the contribution, such as the amount, its distribution among the partner countries, thematic priorities and principles for cooperation and implementation

### Key Areas of Support

- Research Programme Croatia
- Water and waste-water management
- Palliative Care Programme
- Civic Engagement



- Promoting economic growth and social partnership and reducing (youth) unemployment
- Protecting the environment and climate
- Strengthening social and health systems
- Promoting civic engagement and transparency
- Project preparation and technical assistance



## Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme

On 18 October 2022, the Swiss Ambassador Urs Hammer and the Croatian Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds Nataša Tramišak signed the Framework Agreement between Switzerland and Croatia on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution for Croatia. The signing of the Framework Agreement marked the 30 years of good relations between Switzerland and Croatia which was celebrated throughout the year 2022.

- [Bilateral Framework Agreement with Croatia](#)
- [NCU website](#) in Croatia



## In Focus

### Research Programme Croatia

The Programme contributes to the economic growth and competitiveness of Croatia by strengthening research excellence and innovation capacities of Croatian research organisations, universities and enterprises and by facilitating research and innovation cooperation with international partners.

The Programme will be implemented through two components:

1) MAPS for researchers in selected Central and Eastern European Countries: The multilateral call for research projects (MAPS: Multilateral Academic Projects) supports projects devised and conducted by researchers in Switzerland together with researchers in a minimum of two up to a maximum of all five of the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania and Hungary.

The projects will run for up to four years, and each team from each country will be funded with a maximum of 350,000 francs. The call was opened from April till July 2024.

2) EUROSTARS aims at improving the innovation capacities and international competitiveness of Croatian SMEs by strengthening their participation in the EUROSTARS Programme.

Eurostars, a programme under the Eureka Network, is the largest international funding initiative for SMEs collaborating on research and development (R&D) projects to create innovative products, processes, or services for commercialization, thereby gaining a competitive advantage.

The Swiss Contribution will ensure co-financing of approved projects and support activities to increase the SMEs' success rate at applying to EUROSTARS, such as the allocation of vouchers for writing project applications, and workshops and guidance for Croatian companies participating in matchmaking events.

The value of the Swiss Contribution is CHF 8 million.

It is implemented by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Croatian Sciences Foundation and the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments - HAMAG-BICRO.

### Water and waste-water management

The Programme contributes to the environmental protection of the groundwater and surface water as well as to sustainable

economic development by i) improving the municipal drinking water supply and waste-water infrastructure in the area of Gorski Kotar including increasing its energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources; and by ii) improving professional skills in the water and waste-water sector.

The specific locations the Programme will be targeting will be selected based on the Feasibility Study implemented through the Support Measure Preparation Fund.

The value of the Swiss Contribution is CHF 23 million.

The Programme is implemented by Croatian Waters.

### Palliative Care Programme

The Programme aims at ensuring equity and access to palliative care services in Croatia by promoting palliative care among medical and non-medical staff, improving the coordination and integration of all levels of palliative care, and by improving the quality of palliative care at the national level.

It will put special focus on ensuring appropriate home-based care.

The value of the Swiss Contribution is CHF 5,5 million.

The Programme is implemented by the Ministry of Health, which also uses the Support Measure Preparation Fund within the Technical Support in order to further develop the Programme.

### Civic Engagement

The overall goal of the Civic Engagement Support Measure Programme is to strengthen democratic processes through civic engagement to reduce economic and social disparities in Croatia.

The Programme shall finance activities selected under Calls for proposals that empower partnerships of civil society organisations and local stakeholders as well as provide capacity building and management support to civil society organisations within four Components:

Component 1: Sustainable Development Education

Component 2: Strengthening Volunteering

Component 3: Micro Projects

Component 4: Service-Learning Programmes

The value of the Swiss Contribution is CHF 7,62 million.

The Programme is implemented by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Croatian Government.

