**Swiss- Croatian Cooperation Programme**

Swiss enlargement contribution has been established in 2006 with intention to contribute to reducing the economic and social disparities within the enlarged EU. The enlargement contribution is a gesture of Switzerland’s sense of solidarity and shared responsibility. It also strengthens Switzerland’s rela­tionship with the EU – its most important political and economic partner.

On 11 December 2014, the Swiss Parliament approved the addition of CHF 45 million to its enlargement contribution, for Croatia. With this contribution Swit­zerland is also supporting the youngest EU member state in reducing economic and social disparities in the EU.

A framework for utilization of Swiss contribution amounting CHF 45 million is defined in the Framework Agreement between The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Croatia which has been signed in the Zagreb on 30 June 2015.

**Subheading: Projects within the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme**

* Demining and socio-economic integration, consisting of demining of a protected forest area and the socio-economic integration of mine victims. For these purposes, a grant of 3m CHF has been provided.
* Improvement of the water supply infrastructure as well as waste water management on several locations in Gorski kotar. The implementation of these projects will depend on the final approval of the project documentation. Since the project value is limited to 21,5 million CHF, the Framework Agreement defines the financing of the projects according to a priority rule from one to six, until the funds have been exhausted. Activities concerning the preparation of the project documentation represent eligible costs and are valued at 1,07 million CHF of the whole grant. The cities/municipalities covered by the Framework Agreement are:
	+ Priority 1: Delnice and Fužine,
	+ Priority 2: Brod Moravice,
	+ Priority 3: Mrkopalj,
	+ Priority 4: Lokve,
	+ Priority 5: Skrad
	+ Priority 6: Ravna Gora.
* Providing for a favourable career environment for researchers in Croatia through cooperation with a Swiss partner (Ecole polyethnique fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL). For this project 4 million CHF were granted.
* Providing preconditions for successful scientific and research projects which aim at establishing close cooperation links between Croatia and Switzerland as well as enabling transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies. The value of this grant is 4 million CHF and it will be implemented by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).
* Support of future EUROSTARS projects with a grant of 1 million CHF. EUROSTARS is a publicly financed programme, currently supported by 34 EUREKA member countries. It aims at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, active in the research field and striving to develop innovative products, processes and services.
* Promoting the contribution of the civil society to the economic and social cohesion through a grant of 4,8 million CHF.
* Promoting the partnership and bilateral cooperation of the Croatian and Swiss non-profit organisations. The value of the grant is 2 million CHF.
* The rest of the grant is dedicated to the support of the effective and competent management of the Swiss-Croatian cooperation programme within the Framework Agreement.

**Subheading: National co-financing**

The Government of the Republic of Croatia will provide for a national co-financing of the projects in covering 15% of the total project amount.

Duration of the programme ends in December 2024.