

Swiss Cooperation Programme North Macedonia 2021 - 2024



Three Thematic Priority Areas



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Strong civil society

Transparent, effective and inclusive governance

Free and fair democratic elections



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business ecosystem development

Skills development and decent employment

Stable macroeconomic conditions



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

Sustainable use and protection of natural resources

Reliable public utility services

Communities resilient to floods



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

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Switzerland's Engagement for the People Living in North Macedonia

Switzerland has been supporting the political, social and economic transition of North Macedonia since 1992. The new Swiss Cooperation Programme 2021 – 2024 demonstrates Switzerland's commitment to continue this support. The Programme is closely aligned with North Macedonia's reform processes to continue the Euro-Atlantic integration and its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The identified thematic priority areas for joint cooperation are:

- **Democratic Governance**
- **Sustainable Economic Development**
- **Environment and Sustainable Public Utility Services**

The Swiss Cooperation Programme will further support core themes such as gender equality, social inclusion and digitalisation. The programme was prepared in close coordination with partners in North Macedonia.

The main implementation modalities are contributions to government and multi-donor programmes and mandates to Macedonian, Swiss and international civil society organizations, consultancies and private sector entities. Particular efforts will be made to leverage private sector engagement and funding.

All interventions aim at the same final goal: contributing to improve the lives and prospects of all people living in North Macedonia.

Thematic Priority Areas

Democratic Governance

In the area of democratic governance, the focus of the Swiss Cooperation Programme lays on increasing the democratic capacities of executive and legislative institutions as well as empowering civil society of North Macedonia. Therefore, Switzerland supports the central and local institutions to become more accountable, transparent, and inclusive. Switzerland remains dedicated to encouraging citizen participation in a local and regional decision making.

Sustainable Economic Development

North Macedonia has great entrepreneurial potential and is aiming at developing a solid entrepreneurship ecosystem. At the same time, enhancing the involvement of the private sector in vocational education and training remains a key priority. Swiss supported interventions will provide relevant assistance to these areas and directly contribute to the creation of more formal and decent jobs.

Environment and Sustainable Public Utility Services

Supporting the management and preservation of natural resources in North Macedonia is of highest importance. The Swiss Cooperation Programme provides support to improve the capacities of relevant national and local authorities and stakeholders to manage natural resources in an evidence-based and sustainable manner to conserve the country's natural capital for future generations.

Transversal Priorities and Guiding Principles

The Swiss Cooperation Programme 2021-2024 promotes the **social inclusion** of vulnerable people and of the different ethnic communities. The engagement is based on human rights and inclusiveness and the universal principles to leave no one behind.

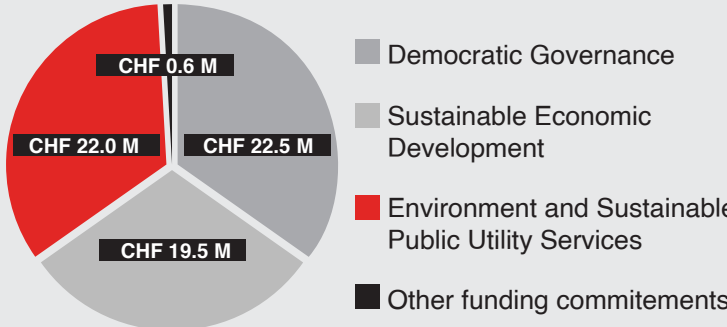
The Programme also supports the **digitalisation** of the country by promoting digital innovations with the potential: 1) to significantly improve institutional transparency and access to services; 2) to develop smart policies and sustainable, human rights-based services; and 3) to contribute to increased productivity and economic growth.

An additional focus lays on the risks emanating from **climate change**, environmental degradation and natural hazards. Measures to lower these risks are systematically integrated in all project designs to strengthen the resilience of communities in North Macedonia.

Furthermore, Switzerland continues to share experience on **good governance** with the key principles of citizen participation, transparency and accountability across the entire Programme. **Gender equality** will be systematically integrated in all Swiss supported projects in North Macedonia. This includes dedicated measures to empower women, strengthen their roles and increase their presence in governance, politics and the economy.

Funding Commitments for the Period 2021-2024

The tentative budget of in the Swiss Cooperation Programme 2021 - 2024 is 65 million Swiss francs and allocated to the thematic priority areas as follows:

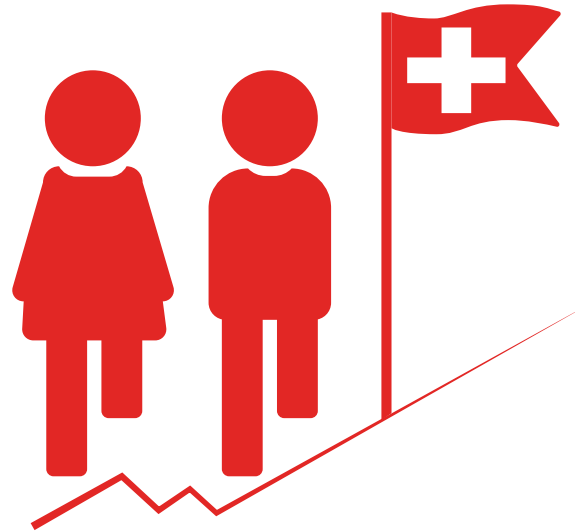


Significant Progress Achieved Already

Active **citizen participation and demand-driven policy** making thanks to increased competence of citizen representatives and municipal institutions.

Strengthened and **empowered civil society** organisations fight for social change and act in a more coordinated way.

Established access to new markets and additional sales of MKD 1 billion in four years by local companies thanks to the **improved local business ecosystem** and targeted assistance.



Strengthened **independence, accountability and effectiveness of the Parliament** due to the establishment and increased capacity of the parliamentary institute.

The surface of **nature protected areas in North Macedonia increased** by 20% covering now 11% of the territory.

Thousands of **newly employed youth** after having obtained the right skills and competencies.

230'000 **citizens connected to wastewater treatment services** and 120'000 benefit from **improved water quality** due to Swiss investments.

QUESTIONS?

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