

Executive summary

Following conclusion of the negotiation process between Swiss Government led by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and Croatian Government led by Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds, mutually supported by the Embassy of Switzerland, Framework Agreement concerning the implementation of Swiss – Croatian cooperation programme to reduce economic and social disparities within enlarged European Union has been signed in Zagreb on 30 June 2015 by H. E. Stefan Estermann, Ambassador and Mr. Branko Grčić, prime minister and minister of regional development and EU funds.

The Swiss – Croatian Cooperation Programme thus represent set of activities through which relation among two countries will be supported by promotion of the social and economic development in Croatia. Support will be provided through **following projects**:

- 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 3 million 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 polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne*, EPFL). To this project an amount of 4 million CHF was allocated.
- Providing for 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.
- Modernization of the Vocational Educational and Training programmes for crafts in the amount of 2 million CHF
- 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 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 for the competent authorities in line with article 9 of the Framework Agreement.