

Executive summary

Ratification of the Framework agreement for the implementation of Swiss - Croatian Cooperation Programme took place of 15 December 2016. Following the ratification, Croatia sent a diplomatic note to the Swiss Confederation informing them of the agreement entering into force on 9 January 2017.

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

- Demining and socio-economic integration, consisting of demining of a protected forest area and the socio-economic integration of the mine victims. For these purposes, a grant of 3 million CHF has been provided.
- Improvement of the water supply as well as waste water infrastructure on several locations in Gorski kotar. The implementation of these projects will depend on the final approval of the Final Project Proposals. Since the financial allocation 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 are exhausted. Preparatory activities are supported through the Project Preparation Facility, financed with the 1,07 million CHF of the Swiss 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 the researchers in the Croatia through a cooperation with a Swiss partner (*Ecole polyethnique fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL*). To this project an amount of 4 million CHF is allocated.
- Providing for a preconditions for a successful scientific and research projects which aim at the establishing of a close cooperation links between Croatia and Switzerland as well as enabling the 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 the article 9 of the Framework Agreement.

Year 2016 has been dedicated to the preparatory activities in relation to the Final Project Proposals as well to the implementation of Project Preparation Facility through which preparation of Feasibility Study and corresponding documents are prepared with the purpose of submitting the Final Project Proposals for infrastructure projects in Gorski kotar area.