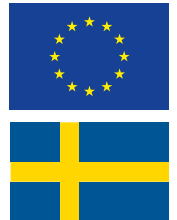




Sweden's and Sida's Partnership with the EU

The EU member states and the EU institutions contribute to more than half of the world's development assistance and are collectively the largest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds globally. Under the EU's budgetary framework 2021–2027, the EU Commission will allocate a total aid budget of approximately EUR 79.5 billion in current prices to thematic and geographical programmes. In addition, the EU Commission provides EUR 14.2 billion for the same period to the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) to support reforms in the enlargement region (the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighbourhood) and approximately EUR 2 billion in humanitarian aid decided on an annual basis. Efforts are made to support partner countries respond to development challenges, including support to Ukraine and the wider consequences of the war under a Team Europe approach.



EU POLICY AND FUNDING

The overarching policy for EU development cooperation is defined in the European Consensus on Development, signed by the EU and member states in June 2017. The Consensus aligns the Union's development policy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The purpose of EU's development policy is to reduce global poverty, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. One important effectiveness objective is to increase the impact of aid through improved coordination between EU member states and EU institutions.

For the current EU budget cycle 2021–2027, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), also called Global Europe, has replaced most of the previous financial instruments for EU's development cooperation. The humanitarian aid and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) remain outside NDICI. The new instrument also includes an expanded component for guarantees, loans, blended financing and technical assistance, called the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+).

A new and broader agreement between the EU and 79 countries in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region was signed in Samoa in November 2023, succeeding the Cotonou agreement. The agreement aims to strengthen the capacity of the EU and its partner countries to address human rights and sustainable development in the region. It lays down common principles and covers the following **six priority areas**:

- democracy and human rights
- sustainable economic growth and development
- climate change
- human and social development
- peace and security
- migration and mobility

GLOBAL GATEWAY AND TEAM EUROPE

The Team Europe Approach aims at improving coherence and coordination of EU support to partner countries in order to provide a more impactful contribution to achieving the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The EU's geopolitical strategy, Global Gateway, marks an effort to raise the EU as a global partner. The strategy focus on digital sector, Climate & energy, Transport, Health and Education & research. Global Gateway provides direction and a brand for the EU's relations with the world through a value-based offer. The Team Europe Approach is the preferred methodology to deliver on Global Gateway. Learn more about Global Gateway here: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en

Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) are the operational tool to coordinate funding around common challenges and increase the EU's impact globally. The approach was established through the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Build-Back-Better strategy, and also to respond to the external dimension of EU's Green Deal.



Photo: European Union 2018

Cooperation

IMPLEMENTING DIRECTORATES

EU's development cooperation is managed by two Directorates. The Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) is responsible for programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is responsible for assistance provided in Europe's Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, with a focus on reforms and democratic consolidation. Humanitarian assistance is managed by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

TEIs are implemented on national, regional as well as global level to mobilize the member states' resources and expertise in support of common objectives. They also involve the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as the Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) of member states.

Sida contributes to approximately 60 TEIs. Besides the financial commitments, Sida engages in dialogue, development methods, and by contributing with expertise.

SWEDISH PARTICIPATION

Sweden participates, through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), in a number of EU committees and expert groups linked to development cooperation. A key group for policy development is the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV). The MFA and Sida participate in expert groups in line with Swedish thematic and policy priorities.

Since 2015, Sida is a member of the European Practitioners' Network, a network based in Brussels consisting of development cooperation agencies from 23 EU member states. The purpose of the network is to improve aid effectiveness through closer cooperation and exchange of experiences between development agencies in Europe.

THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

Sweden supports EU development cooperation and humanitarian assistance through its annual fee. In 2023, this figure was around SEK 4.2 billion.

NATIONAL EXPERTS PROGRAMME

Sida's programme for Seconded National Experts (SNE) has increased over the years. In 2024, a total of 20 senior experts were seconded to the EU institutions in Brussels and EU delegations around the world. These programmes contribute to the Swedish resource base and to impact for Sweden's development cooperation priorities with the EU while providing expertise to EU institutions.

SIDA AND THE COOPERATION WITH THE EU

Sida is engaged in over 60 Team Europe Initiatives as described above. In addition, Sida is currently implementing 10 programmes with delegated funding from the EU in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. There are also a few cases where Sida is delegating funds to the EU for the implementation of Sida projects.

Examples

1. Investing in Young Businesses in Africa

This TEI seeks to support entrepreneurs and businesses that are in their early stage of business development, particularly female or young entrepreneurs and acting managers. By achieving this, this TEI aims to improve the possibilities to grow strong and sustainable businesses that will create job positions on the local job market. This TEI also seeks to strengthen the 'entrepreneurship ecosystem' removing obstacles for new businesses to launch onto the market, e.g. promoting young business-friendly regulations and policies in partner countries. Team Sweden is one of the member of the Core Team Europe partners for this TEI.

2. Team Europe Democracy

Team Europe Democracy aims to enhance networks among the EU, the Member States, Think Tanks and CSOs to strengthen the support for democracy and human rights through spreading awareness of democratic backsliding and by delivering a pool of experts to selected partner countries. These experts support EU delegations by strengthening the coordination of European democracy support. This TEI will also support research on the most effective tools and policies to counter democratic backsliding worldwide, for example research support on democracy enhancement and delivering a pool of experts. Sweden, together with 14 other Member States, is a contributing part of this Team Europe Initiative.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's cooperation with the EU, please contact Sida's focal points for the EU: karin.mcdonald@sida.se, maria.liungman@sida.se

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