



Sweden's and Sida's Partnership with the EU

The EU and its Member States are the world's largest aid donor, accounting for around 42 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2024. EU aid aims to reduce global poverty and ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development. In addition, the EU aims to promote democratization, gender equality, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. The EU is an important channel for Swedish aid and a strategic partner to Sida, that provides global leverage for Sweden's work to improve the living conditions of people living in poverty and oppression.



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 primary development objective is to reaffirm poverty eradication, but the consensus also integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The EU's 2021–2027 budget (the multi-annual financial framework), has three main aid instruments:

- Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument-Global Europe (NDICI-GE): €79.5 billion for thematic and geographic development programs globally.
- Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA-III): €14.2 billion to support political, economic, and institutional reforms in countries preparing for EU membership.
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO): €11.57 billion for humanitarian aid, disaster preparedness and response, and civil protection.

In addition, the EU has off-budget funding mechanisms that provide flexible, rapid, and targeted support, especially in response to crises like Russia's war on Ukraine.

THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

Sweden supports EU development cooperation and humanitarian assistance through its annual fee. In 2024, the Swedish contribution to the EU's joint aid amounted to SEK 5.4 billion, which corresponds to about 2.6 per cent of the EU's total joint aid budget.

TEAM EUROPE AND GLOBAL GATEWAY

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. Team Europe consists of the EU and its MS, including their implementing agencies and development financing institutions - as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The EU's geopolitical strategy, Global Gateway, marks an effort to position the EU as a strong and reliable global partner. The strategy has five key areas of partnerships; the digital sector, climate and energy, transport, health and education and research. It aims to mobilize up to €300 billion in investments by 2027, focusing on sustainable and high-quality projects. Global Gateway provides direction and a brand for the EU's relations with the world through a value-based offer, emphasizing democratic values, good governance, and equal partnerships to address global challenges and promote development. The Team Europe Approach is the preferred methodology to deliver on Global Gateway. Learn more about Global Gateway here:

http://commiss-ion.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en

TEAM EUROPE INITIATIVES

Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) are the operational tools to coordinate funding around common challenges in partner countries and regions. This approach enhances the effectiveness and visibility of EU development cooperation, promoting the "Team Europe" brand globally.

TEIs are implemented on a national, regional and global level to mobilize the member states' resources and expertise in support of common objectives. TEIs 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.



Photo: European Union 2018

Cooperation

Sida is engaged in around 40 Team Europe Initiatives in Africa, Eastern Europe, MENA, Asia and Latin America in thematic areas such as environment/climate, employment, trade, digitalization, health, education, peace and security. Besides financial commitments, Sida engages in dialogue, development of methods and by contributing with expertise.

EU TWINNING AND TALEX

EU Twinning is an aid instrument based on peer-to-peer cooperation between authorities. Through projects lasting between 6 and 36 months, experts from Member States work with public institutions in partner countries to implement reforms, adapt legislation, develop procedures and systems, and strengthen institutional capacity. As of 2025, Sweden is engaged in seven twinning operations around the world and the Swedish Migration Agency is the lead partner in an operation in Moldova.

TALEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) is a flexible technical assistance tool. It is suitable for short-term interventions - such as expert missions, workshops or study visits - and responds directly to requests from partner countries. Through TALEX, Member States can provide expertise to help other countries address specific institutional challenges. TALEX is often used as a complement to Twinning and other forms of assistance such as budget support, investment and technical assistance.

Sida's National Contact Point for EU Twinning and TALEX is Erika Nyttning, erika.nyttning@sida.se

SIDA'S EU DELEGATED COOPERATION

Sida manages 15 EU-funded programmes and projects in Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia, so called EU delegated agreements. This includes managing both grant funds and guarantees. EU delegated agreements provides an opportunity for co-financing and increasing leverage for Swedish priorities, whilst strengthening Sida's implementation of development cooperation strategies. For questions regarding EU delegated cooperation contact: Kajsa Petersson, kajsa.petersson@sida.se or Peter Sandén, peter.sanden@sida.se

PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK

Since 2015, Sida is a member of the Practitioner's Network for European Development Cooperation (PN). PN is a platform of 25 European organisations from 19 countries which supports knowledge exchange, joint action and strategic dialogue among members and with EU institutions, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and promoting synergies and efficiency in the implementation of the collective development cooperation of Team Europe. On 1st of May,

2025, Sida took over the one-year presidency together with the Belgian development agency Enabel.

The strategic priorities for the presidency of Practitioners' Network for Sida and Enabel are to strengthen the internal structure and strategic role of the PN including Global Gateway and its 360° approach, encourage the Team Europe approach and joint implementation and strengthen the visibility and partnerships of the PN. Strategic priority issues for the presidency are energy, critical raw materials, migration and digitalisation, and to enhance coordination between financial and technical cooperation and with the private sector.

NATIONAL EXPERTS PROGRAMME

Sida's programme for Seconded National Experts (SNE) has increased over the years. In 2024, a total of 23 senior experts were seconded to the EU institutions in Brussels and EU delegations around the world. This programme contributes to strengthening the Swedish resource base and the impact of Sweden's development cooperation priorities within the EU, while providing expertise.

ANNUAL MEETING ON SWEDISH AND EU'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Between February 13-14 2025 in Brussels, the fifth meeting of the Swedish Development Report on Sweden's development policy and the EU's development cooperation was held. Nearly 100 people attended from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida, the EU Representation and other foreign agencies, as well as from the European Commission, Business Sweden, the business community and the EIB. Despite the dramatic changes in the world, the meeting was characterized by high energy and a willingness to adjust the work to a new aid policy context.

In light of the US aid shortfall, the meeting was a good opportunity to identify possibilities for increasing the impact of Swedish priorities in EU development policy. Some of the issues that were discussed were support to Ukraine and the neighbourhood, synergies between trade and aid, Global Gateway, migration and digitalization.

It is clear that Sweden and the European Commission are like-minded in large parts of development policy. A recurring theme was the EU's central role in defending a rule-based world order and the rule of law. Sweden was described as a valued Member State, encouraged to be even more active in relation to EU development policy, and engage earlier for better results.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's cooperation with the EU, please contact: Maria Liungman, maria.liungman@sida.se, or Sida's representative at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU Joanna Athlin Villa, joanna.athlin.villa@gov.se