



Swedish public agencies in development cooperation

Swedish public agencies have long experience in delivering Swedish aid and providing global leverage for Sweden's work to improve the living conditions of people living in poverty and oppression. They work with agencies in partner countries in a vast range of thematic areas aiming to strengthen institutions and democracy. In 2024 Sweden financed SEK 1,5 billion to development cooperation and humanitarian aid through Swedish public agencies.

AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC AGENCIES IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Swedish public agencies play a unique role in development cooperation. They have valuable expertise, experience in conducting change work in public administration, and are grounded in the state's core values. They are sought-after partners in development cooperation and work from a collegial approach that builds trust and opens doors. Public agencies contribute to development cooperation in many different ways. The programmes are often led by a long-term expert who works at sister authority in a partner country, building on the country's own objectives for capacity development and institutional strengthening of the agency.

In addition to bilateral collaborations, global ITP programmes and EU-funded initiatives are carried out, among other things, through the EU-Twinning instrument. Public agencies also contribute to the Swedish resource base through secondments to, for example, the UN system.

In 2024, the Swedish contribution to public sector reforms through Swedish agencies amounted to around SEK 1.5 billion. In addition, Swedish public agencies also participates in several EU Twinning operations to support public reform in EU partner countries.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS

Since 2024 Sida has signed cooperation arrangements with eight other Swedish public agencies to enhance the collaboration on a more strategic level, with annual meetings on a Director General level and joint work plans.

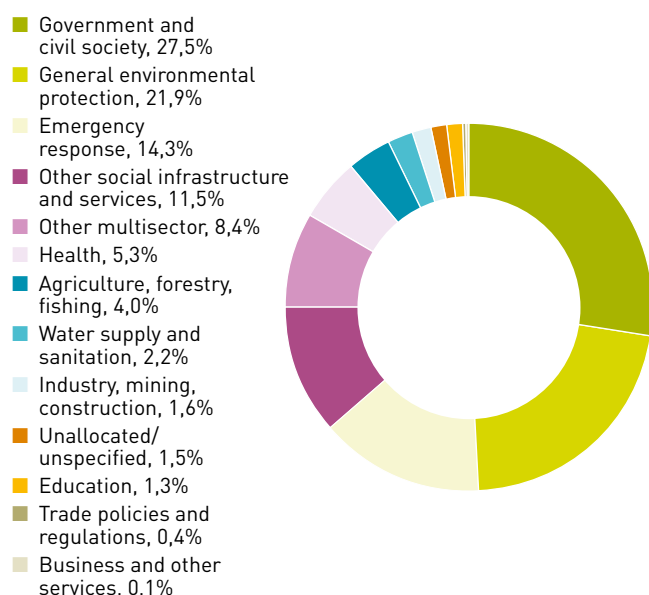
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES (ITP)

ITPs are organised by Swedish public authorities and international organisations, universities, private companies and civil-society organisations with funding from Sida. ITP is a method for capacity development by applying a system based approach to strengthen organisations and support sustainable institutional development. Based on collegial peer-to-peer learning and cooperation between stakeholders, the method incorporates change management through a practical, problem-based approach. Capacity development and institutional change takes time and requires a long-term perspective. The method strives to build a critical mass of participants from relevant organisations, who in turn may contribute towards system-wide change within a particular area.

Link to ongoing ITP:s: <https://www.sida.se/en/for-partners/international-training-programmes>

For questions regarding ITP:s contact Ingrun Hattenback Åslund, Ingrun.Hattenbach.Aslund@sida.se

FIGURE: SHARE OF FUNDING BY THEMATIC AREA (2024)



TEAM EUROPE INITIATIVES

Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) are the operational tool 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 national, regional as well as global level to mobilize the member states' resources and expertise in support of common objectives. At least three different TEIs involve Swedish agencies in 2025.

EXAMPLE OF TEI

Sweden has a leading role within the TEI "D4D for Digital Economy and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa". Together with the EU Commission and Luxemburg, Sweden, through Sida, finances the programme "ICT Policy & Regulation - Institutional Strengthening (IPRIS)" which contributes to bridging the digital divide by enhancing inclusive and meaningful digital connectivity in Africa. IPRIS is a public agency collaboration between European regulatory agencies and 43 national counterparts and regional regulatory bodies in Sub Saharan Africa. It does so by boosting the capacities of African telecom regulators through peer-to-peer learning with African and European counterparts. The program is implemented by Stockholm University (SPIDER), the The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority and Luxemburg's regulatory agency ILR.

EU TWINNING AND TAIEX

EU Twinning is an aid instrument based on peer-to-peer cooperation between public agencies. Through projects lasting between 6 and 36 months, experts from EU Member States work with public institutions in partner countries to implement reforms, adapt legislation, develop procedures and systems, and strengthen institutional capacity.

In 2025 Sweden are engaged in seven twinning operations around the world and the Swedish Migration Agency is the lead partner in an operation in Moldova.

Other Swedish agencies involved in twinning are Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, Statistics Sweden (SCB), The Swedish Tax Agency, Swedish Medical Products Agency and The Swedish Police Authority.

A Europe of Employment in Action: Four Countries Join Forces to Support Serbia At the heart of the Western Balkans, a new Twinning project illustrates the dynamism of European cooperation in the social field. This initiative aims to improve working conditions in Serbia and prepare for its integration into the EURES portal, the European network for professional mobility. The project is based on a model of exemplary partnership: Greece, France, Slovenia, and Sweden jointly lead the initiative with a clear division of responsibilities. Each country brings its own expertise - labour law, worker mobility, digitalisation, institutional coordination. The dialogue between partner administrations, with differing practices but shared goals, enhances the approach offered to Serbia.

TAIEX (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE)

TAIEX 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 TAIEX, Member States can provide expertise to help other countries address specific institutional challenges. TAIEX 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 TAIEX is Erika Nyting, Erika.nyting@sida.se

EU DELEGATED COOPERATION

Sida manages 15 EU funded programmes and projects in Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia, through EU delegated cooperation. In 2025 the Swedish agencies Folke Bernadotte Academy, The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, The Karolinska Institute, University of Gothenburg and Stockholm University (SPIDER) were involved in a number of these programmes.

For questions regarding EU delegated cooperation contact Kajsa Petersson, Kajsa.petersson@sida.se or Peter Sandén, peter.sanden@sida.se.

SIDA'S PUBLIC AGENCY FORUM 2025

On May 14th Sida hosted a meeting for all Swedish public agencies engaged in development cooperation. Over 100 persons attended from more than 40 agencies, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida and the Swedish EU Representation in Brussels. The Forum gave an opportunity to come together to identify opportunities and challenges to help increase the impact of Swedish priorities in migration, trade and aid. In a changing world where institutional strength and long-term visions are crucial to create sustainable development the meeting demonstrated the important role that Swedish agencies play by supporting capacity development in partner countries