



Sweden's and Sida's Partnership with the EU

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are the world's largest provider of official development assistance. EU development cooperation aims to advance sustainable development, strengthen resilience, promote peace and stability, and address global challenges through international partnerships. The EU is an important channel for Swedish aid and an increasingly strategic partner to Sida, providing global leverage for Sweden's work to improve the living conditions for people living in poverty and oppression.

EU POLICY AND FUNDING

The overarching framework for EU development cooperation is defined in the European Consensus on Development, adopted by the EU and its Member States in June 2017. The Consensus aligns the EU development policy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While poverty eradication remains the primary objective, EU development cooperation increasingly addresses global challenges such as peace, security and climate change through partnerships, trade and investment.

The EU's 2021–2027 budget, the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), 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.



Photo: European Union 2018

In addition, the EU has off-budget funding mechanisms that provide flexible, rapid, and targeted support, especially in response to crises like Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The EU's 2028–2034 MFF budget is presently under negotiation. The current proposal aims to strengthen EU resilience, competitiveness, cohesion and external action, including through a new Global Europe Instrument of around €200 billion for external funding. One major proposed change is designating up to €100 billion for supporting Ukraine.

THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

Sweden contributes to EU development cooperation and humanitarian assistance through its annual fee. In 2025, the Swedish contribution amounted to SEK 4.6 billion, which corresponds to about 2.5 per cent of the EU's development budget. In addition, Sweden contributed about SEK 270 million to the European Development Fund (EDF) and about SEK 200 million to interest subsidies on loans issued by the EU for the benefit of Ukraine.

GLOBAL GATEWAY AND THE TEAM EUROPE APPROACH

In 2021, the EU launched its Global Gateway (GG) strategy to position itself as a reliable global partner while advancing EU strategic interests. The GG aims to strengthen sustainable connections and investment partnerships worldwide, while focusing on five priority areas: digital, climate and energy, transport, health, and education and research.

With its so called *360-degree approach*, the GG offers a comprehensive and value-oriented approach. It is organised around six principles: green and clean transition, security, democratic principles, high standards, sound governance, and equal partnerships supported by private-sector investment. Through a Team Europe approach, the EU and its Member States, together with development actors such as Sida, development finance institutions and credit agencies, work together to deliver results at scale. Learn more about Global Gateway here: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/international-partnerships/global-gateway_en.

TEAM EUROPE INITIATIVES

Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) are a key implementation modality of the Global Gateway strategy. They bring together the EU, Member States, development finance institutions and implementing partners to coordinate investments, policy dialogue and technical expertise around shared development objectives.

Sida is engaged in around 44 Team Europe Initiatives in Africa, Eastern Europe, MENA, Asia and Latin America in thematic areas such as environment/climate, employment, trade, digitalisation, health, education, peace and security. Besides financial commitments, Sida engages in dialogue, development of methods, and by contributing with expertise.

EU TWINNING AND TAIEX

EU Twinning is an aid instrument based on peer-to-peer collaboration between authorities. Through projects lasting between six 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. As of 2025, Sweden is engaged in nine Twinning operations around the world.

TAIEX is a flexible technical assistance tool that Swedish public authorities can use to provide expertise

and support partner countries in addressing specific institutional challenges. It is suitable for short-term interventions, including; expert missions, workshops and study visits. TAIEX is often used as a complement to Twinning and other forms of assistance such as budget support, investment and technical assistance.

For questions regarding EU Twinning and TAIEX, please contact Sida's National Contact Point at twinning@sida.se.

EU, SIDA AND INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

Sida manages EU-funded programmes and projects in Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia, so-called indirect management or EU delegated cooperation. In 2026, Sida is responsible for 18 such agreements. EU delegated agreements provide an opportunity for co-financing and increased leverage for Swedish priorities, whilst contributing with Swedish expertise to the implementation of EU development cooperation strategies.

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

PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK

Since 2015, Sida has been a member of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN), which consists of 28 organisations from 21 European countries. The PN supports knowledge exchange, joint action and strategic dialogue among members and with EU institutions, aiming to strengthen cooperation and efficiency in the implementation of a wider Team Europe development cooperation.

In 2025-2026, Sida, together with Belgian Enabel, held the one-year co-presidency of the network, focusing on strengthening the internal structure and strategic role of the PN, including in regards to the Global Gateway and its 360-approach, encouraging the Team Europe approach and joint implementation while enhancing the visibility and partnerships of the PN.

NATIONAL EXPERTS PROGRAMME

Sida's programme for Seconded National Experts (SNEs) is an important tool to strengthen the cooperation between Sweden and the EU. This programme contributes to strengthening the knowledge of the EU within the administration while contributing with Swedish expertise to EU institutions in Brussels and EU delegations around the world.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's cooperation with the EU, please contact Ylva Sahlstrand at ylva.sahlstrand@sida.se, Karin Metell Cueva at karin.metellcueva@sida.se or Joanna Athlin Villa, Sida's representative at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU, at joanna.athlin.villa@gov.se.