



Swedish Public Agencies in Development Cooperation

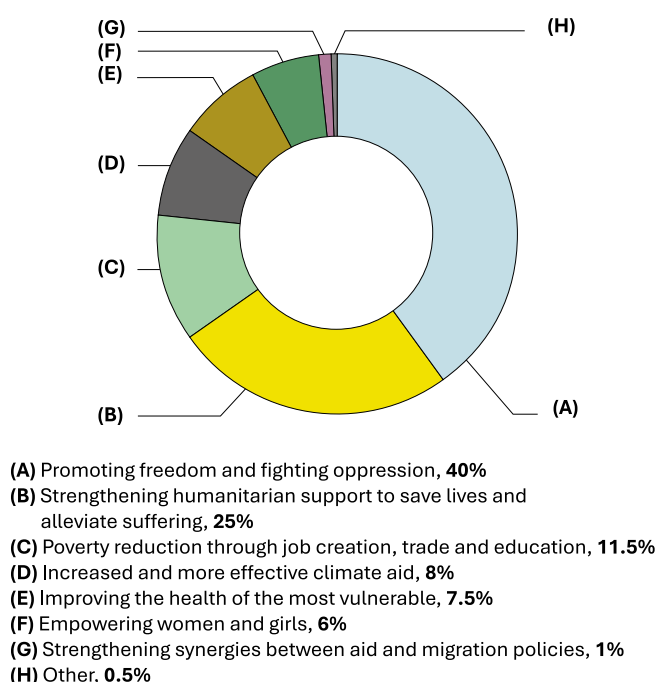
Swedish public agencies have long experience in development cooperation. They work with agencies in partner countries to support capacities for inclusive, effective and accountable public governance. In 2025, Sweden's development cooperation through Swedish public agencies amounted SEK 884 million.

AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC AGENCIES IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Swedish public agencies play a unique role in development cooperation. They have valuable specialised expertise and experience in institutional development within public administration. They are anchored in the fundamental values of central government as formulated in the Swedish constitution - democracy, legality, objectivity, freedom of opinion, respect for human rights, and efficiency and service. They are often preferred partners in development cooperation because of their collegial approach which builds trust and opens doors in peer-to-peer cooperation.

Public agencies engage in development cooperation in many different ways. Their development programs are often led by a long-term expert who works at a sister agency in a partner country, building on the country's own objectives for capacity development and institutional strengthening of the agency.

FIGURE: SHARE OF FUNDING BY THEMATIC AREA (2025)



In addition to bilateral collaborations, global International Training Programmes (ITPs) and EU-funded initiatives are carried out, among other things, through the EU Twinning and TAIEX instruments. Public agencies also contribute to the Swedish resource base through secondments to, for example, the UN system.

In 2025, the Swedish contribution to public sector reforms through Swedish agencies amounted to around SEK 900 million. In addition, Swedish public agencies also participate in several EU Twinning operations to support public reform in EU partner countries.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS

Since 2025, Sida has cooperation arrangements with ten 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.

DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

ITPs are organised by Swedish public authorities and international organisations, universities, private companies and civil society organisations with funding from Sida. ITPs are 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.

For ongoing ITPs, see: <https://www.sida.se/en/for-partners/international-training-programmes>

EU TWINNING AND TAIEX

EU Twinning is based on peer-to-peer cooperation between authorities. 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.

As of 2026, Sweden is engaged in nine Twinning operations. For instance, the Swedish Migration Agency is the lead partner in a Twinning operation in Moldova. Other Swedish agencies involved in Twinning are the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, Statistics Sweden (SCB), the Swedish Tax Agency, the Swedish Medical Products Agency and the Swedish Police Authority.



A Europe of Employment in Action: Four countries join forces to support Serbia – 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 Serbia's integration into the EURES portal, the European network for professional mobility. The project is based on a model of 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) is a flexible, short-term technical assistance instrument. Through TAIEX, EU Member States provide technical expertise from government agencies to EU accession countries, addressing specific institutional challenges or legislative procedures. TAIEX consists of short-term expert missions to partners, and/ or workshops and study visits in response to requests from partner countries. TAIEX is often used as a complement to Twinning and other forms of EU assistance such as budget support, investment and technical assistance.

EU DELEGATED COOPERATION

As of March 2026, Sida manages 18 EU-funded programmes and projects in Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia, so called EU delegated agreements. EU delegated agreements provide an opportunity for increasing leverage for Swedish priorities in synergy with Sida's implementation of development cooperation strategies.

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SIDA'S PUBLIC AGENCY FORUM 2026

In May 2026, Sida hosted its annual meeting for all Swedish public agencies engaged in development cooperation. Over 100 persons attended from 50 public agencies, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida and the Swedish EU Representation in Brussels. The forum provides an annual opportunity to come together to exchange experience and identify opportunities and challenges to help increase the impact of Swedish aid. This year's forum highlighted the central role of Swedish authorities in a rapidly changing aid landscape, with a particular focus on institution-building and EU development cooperation.