



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 in the world. 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, excluding humanitarian aid and support to the EU pre-accession process. Efforts are made to help partner countries respond to development challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, under a Team Europe approach.



THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

In 2019, Sweden contributed around SEK 2.5 billion to EU's development cooperation budget. Sweden supports EU development cooperation and humanitarian assistance through its annual fee.

In addition, Sweden has provided 3 million euro to EU's regional fund for the Syria crisis (the Madad Fund) and 3 million euro to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), or the Valletta Fund).

NATIONAL EXPERTS PROGRAMME AND JUNIOR PROFESSIONALS IN EU DELEGATIONS (JPD)

Sida's programme for Seconded National Experts has increased over the years. In 2020 a total of 18 senior experts were seconded to the EU and EU delegations. The JPD programme funded by Sida and introduced in 2014, has also continued to grow and develop. These programmes contribute to the Swedish resource base and to Sweden's development cooperation with the EU, and provide expertise to EU institutions. The JPD programme also provides an opportunity for young Swedish professionals to start a career in the EU. Both programmes will expand even further in 2021.

EU POLICY AND FUNDING

The overarching policy for EU development cooperation is defined in the new 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 poverty in the world, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights. The purpose is also to increase the benefit of aid through improved coordination between EU Member States and EU institutions.

For the current EU budget cycle 2021–2027, a new integrated instrument; the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), also called *Global Europe*, will replace most of the previously existing financial instruments for EU's development cooperation.

The humanitarian aid and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) will however 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+). Global Europe is expected to be effective from mid-2021.

A new and broader agreement between the EU and 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region was agreed upon in April 2021 (the Post-Cotonou-agreement). It is expected that all parties will sign the new agreement in Samoa towards the end of 2021.

A new European architecture for development finance is currently being discussed, in close cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



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).



Photo: Sida

In March 2019, the first bilateral High-Level Strategic Dialogue between Sweden and the EU Commission was held in Brussels.

JOINT PROGRAMMING – WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

The Lisbon Treaty foresees more joint cooperation between the EU and its Member States and a “whole of Europe” approach, including on development policy. Joint Programming and the concept of Working Better Together forms part of the aid effectiveness commitments of the EU and its Member States and is enshrined in the new European Consensus for Development. Joint Programming and the Team Europe Approach aims at improving coherence and coordination of EU support to partner countries in order to provide a more effective and impactful contribution to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Joint Programming is the preferred approach to EU programming under the new instrument Global Europe. As from March 2020 EU and its Member States promote a Team Europe approach to the COVID-19 response as well as to international development cooperation in general.

SWEDISH PARTICIPATION

Sweden participates, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in multiple 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 participates in expert groups that align 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 several EU Member States. The purpose of the network is to improve aid effectiveness and promote closer cooperation and exchanges of experiences between development agencies in Europe.

In March 2019, Sweden and the EU Commission held a bilateral High-Level Strategic Dialogue on Development Cooperation. The meeting identified new opportunities for strengthening the EU-Swedish partnership, i.a. through Joint Programming and thematic cooperation at country level. This dialogue and close cooperation continues, in various operational fora.

SIDA AND THE COOPERATION WITH THE EU

Sida is currently implementing programmes with funding from the EU under delegated agreements in countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. In some cases, Sida has also delegated funding to the EU through so called transfer agreements.

Examples

1. Delegation from Sida to the EU – a Marine Partnership

The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP) is an extensive multi-sectoral programme that supports sound ocean and coastal governance, with a focus on biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of fisheries and other marine resources. Gender and Human Rights Based Approaches are integrated across the programme in 15 Pacific states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (PACPs). The EUR 45 million PEUMP programme is financed by the EU (EUR 35 million) and Sida (EUR 10 million). The delegated agreement with the European Commission is managed by the EU Delegation in Suva, Fiji. The programme will run from the 1 July 2018 until the 31 March 2023. Among various issues, the Programme focuses on gaps in fisheries science and illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing.

2. Delegation to Sida from the EU – in Ukraine

Sida, the EU, Germany, Denmark, Poland and Estonia are working together under a Team Europe approach to support the Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme in Ukraine. For the period 2016–2021, the EU Commission has delegated EUR 34.2 million to Sida for support to strengthen Ukraine's decentralization process and local governance system. To date, about five million Ukrainian citizens have benefitted from access to improved services from local governments. About 12 million citizens are expected to have been reached by the end of the programme. Sida is co-financing the programme together with the European Commission.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's cooperation with the EU, please contact Sida's focal points for the EU: marie.bergstrom@sida.se and mikael.elofsson@sida.se.