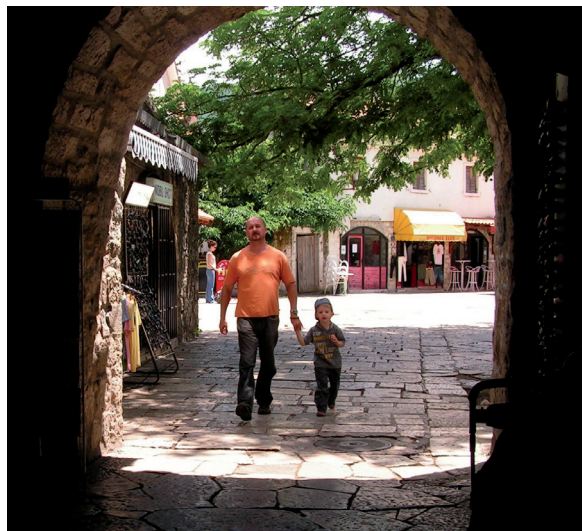


What is the Partnership Programme?

The Swedish Government has decided to establish a Partnership Programme in order to increase the participation of the most recent EU Member States as partners in Swedish development cooperation in Eastern Europe and Western Balkans. Areas and sectors for cooperation between Sweden and the most recent Member States in the partner countries will be identified, in line with the priorities of the partner country.

The knowledge that the most recent Member States possess about EU approximation processes and democratic transition is highly relevant for countries now aiming for membership. The Programme aims to strengthen contacts between the parties and in the long run contribute to increased programme cooperation. It will create a platform for dialogue and networking around international work on aid effectiveness. This, in turn, will contribute to increased effectiveness in the Swedish reform cooperation in relevant partner countries.



Father and son walking in the old parts of the town Trebinje in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Relevant Member States

Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

Relevant Partner Countries

Albania
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Kosovo
Macedonia
Moldova
Serbia
Ukraine

Methodology

The Partnership Programme will depart from the partner countries' priorities mapped out in their action plans for EU approximation and/or national development strategy. Aiming to develop a common methodology for cooperation between partner countries, relevant Member States and Sweden, the Programme will:

- Identify concrete cooperation areas and sectors in the partner countries
- Develop methods for common work on analysis and strategies
- Develop methods for common programme activities and project activities

Dialogue

The Partnership Programme builds upon mutual respect and dialogue. A precondition is that Sida understands how different Member States manage development cooperation. An overview of the practices of development cooperation in the relevant Member States will therefore be initiated and areas of interest will be mapped.

A dialogue will continuously be held with the Member States on how to build consensus for development cooperation, making the priorities of the partner country the guiding tool in line with the international agenda for aid efficiency.

Training/Networking

Training, advisory activities and networking with Member States will be carried through on a needs and request basis. Proactive seminars/trainings supporting the partner countries will be held in the partner countries themselves. Additional training might also be located in Brussels, with the aim to increase cooperation within relevant EU mechanisms.

Resources

Sida has been delegated limited resources in order to develop the necessary methodology. The Partnership Programme is not a funding mechanism, but rather a vehicle for finding more openings for joint activities between Sweden and the most recent Member States in relevant partner countries.

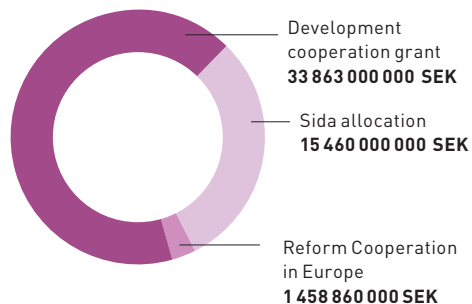
Expected Results

- Increased knowledge of EU Member States' overall management of development cooperation
- Increased dialogue on, and knowledge of, international work on aid effectiveness (e.g. the Paris Agenda and the EU Code of Conduct)
- Strengthened ownership among the partner countries through increased implementation of the above principles
- Increased dialogue with Member States in strategy processes and programming
- Increased cooperation with relevant Member States in influencing the EC instruments ENPI and IPA
- Identified contractual forms that suit possible new cooperation formats, including EU Twinning
- Identified areas of common interest and activities within the frame of the EU Eastern Partnership

The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms Gunilla Carlsson:

"The Partnership Programme will aim at pushing the cooperation from single projects towards a harmonisation of strategies and programme-based approaches geared towards sectors prioritised by the partner countries. This increases the predictability and efficiency of aid for the partner country, in line with the Paris declaration for increased aid effectiveness."

International Development Cooperation 2009



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The Partnership Programme

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