

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

between

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

and

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BULGARIA**

on

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND SWISS
CONTRIBUTION TO SELECTED MEMBER STATES OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION TO REDUCE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DISPARITIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as 'Switzerland')

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA (hereinafter referred to as 'Bulgaria'),

hereinafter collectively referred to as the 'Parties' and individually as the 'Party'

- NOTING the solidarity of Switzerland with the endeavours of the European Union (EU) to reduce economic and social disparities within the EU;
- COMMITTED to further reducing the economic and social disparities within the EU and within Bulgaria;
- BUILDING upon the successful cooperation between the Parties during Bulgaria's transition process leading to its accession to the EU and within the framework of the Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU;
- SHARING AND PROMOTING the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law and political pluralism;
- RESPECTING AND DEFENDING human rights, human dignity and fundamental freedoms;
- REFERRING to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- HAVING REGARD to the friendly relations between the Parties;
- DESIRING to further strengthen these relations and the fruitful cooperation between the Parties;
- REFERRING to the 'Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Switzerland on a contribution by Switzerland towards reducing economic and social disparities and for cooperation in the area of migration in the European Union' signed on 30 June 2022 for a total amount of CHF 1'302'000'000 (one billion three hundred and two million Swiss francs) to selected EU Member States for cooperation in the areas of cohesion and migration (hereinafter referred to as the 'second Swiss Contribution');
- NOTING the cooperation in the area of migration of up to CHF 200'000'000 (two hundred million Swiss francs) under the second Swiss Contribution;
- IN VIEW of the cooperation in the area of cohesion of up to CHF 1'102'000'000 (one billion one hundred and two million Swiss francs) under the second Swiss Contribution,

hereby agree as follows:

Article 1 – Definitions

For the purposes of this Framework Agreement:

'Contribution' means the maximum non-refundable financial contribution granted by Switzerland to Bulgaria under this Framework Agreement;

'Country-Specific Set-Up' (Annex 1) means the thematic and geographical allocations of the Contribution and specific rules agreed between Switzerland and Bulgaria as well as the attribution of responsibilities and tasks to entities involved in the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme and in Support Measures respectively;

'Memorandum of Understanding' means the 'Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Switzerland on a contribution by Switzerland towards reducing economic and social disparities and for cooperation in the area of migration in the European Union' signed on 30 June 2022 for a total amount of CHF 1'302'000'000 (one billion three hundred and two million Swiss francs) to selected EU Member States for cooperation in the areas of cohesion and migration;

'National Coordination Unit' means the national public entity of Bulgaria designated to act on its behalf for the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme;

'Programme' means a coherent set of Programme Components carried out in line with national priorities, policies or strategies of the Partner State with the support of the Contribution comprising a single comprehensive implementation and budget framework with overarching goals. A Programme may be accompanied by a policy dialogue;

'Project' means an indivisible series of activities, carried out with the support of the Contribution, which is aimed at achieving agreed objectives and outcomes and is not part of a Programme;

'Regulations' means the Regulations on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution in the area of cohesion issued by Switzerland and containing the general rules and procedures on the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme;

'Support Measure' is used as generic term and means a specific Project, Programme or Technical Support within the framework of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme;

'Support Measure Agreement' means an agreement between the Parties and, if need be, additional contracting parties, on the implementation of a Support Measure;

'Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme' means the bilateral programme for the implementation of this Framework Agreement;

'Technical Support' means part of the Contribution provided under the Cooperation Programme for the preparation of Support Measures and for the efficient and effective implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

Article 2 – Legal Framework

1. This Framework Agreement, together with the following documents, constitutes the legal framework of the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution in the area of cohesion:

- a) the Regulations and subsequent amendments thereof;
- b) Support Measure Agreements, or other agreements between the Parties, resulting from the Framework Agreement; and
- c) any operational procedures or guidelines adopted by Switzerland after consultation with Bulgaria.

2. In the event of conflicts or inconsistencies between the provisions of these instruments, the aforementioned order of precedence shall apply.

Article 3 – Objectives and Principles

1. The overall objective of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme is to contribute to the reduction of the economic and social disparities within the EU and within Bulgaria, building upon and further strengthening the bilateral relations between Switzerland and the EU and its Member States.

2. The Parties shall select Support Measures that contribute to the achievement of the overall objective and which, with the exception of Technical Support, contribute to at least one of the five objectives of the second Swiss Contribution, which are:

- a) promoting economic growth and social dialogue, reducing (youth) unemployment;
- b) managing migration and supporting integration. Increasing public safety and security;
- c) protecting the environment and the climate;
- d) strengthening of social systems;
- e) civic engagement and transparency.

3. Support Measures, with the exception of Technical Support and unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties, shall be assigned to at least one thematic area of cooperation, as set out in the Regulations. The Parties shall achieve a thematic focus for the Contribution. Therefore, the Parties shall mutually agree on a limited number of thematic areas to receive support under the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme, as set out in the Country-Specific Set-Up.

4. The Parties shall encourage partnerships and the exchange of expertise between actors from Switzerland and Bulgaria.

5. Support Measures shall respect social inclusion and ensure environmental sustainability.

6. All actions under the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme shall be implemented in line with the objectives, principles, strategic directions, and geographical and thematic focus as outlined in the Country-Specific Set-Up and the Regulations.

Article 4 – Financial Framework

1. Switzerland agrees to grant a Contribution to Bulgaria of up to CHF 92.5 Mio. (ninety-two point five million Swiss francs) with reference to the agreed thematic areas and geographical allocation and according to the indicative allocation defined in the Country-Specific Set-Up.
2. The Contribution in paragraph 1 does not include expenditures by Switzerland on the management costs of the 'Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme' and on the 'Swiss Expertise and Partnership Fund Cohesion'. The latter is a fund administered by Switzerland, aimed at making Swiss expertise available to selected EU Member States, ensuring the quality and sustainability of Support Measures, strengthening bilateral relations and fostering partnerships between Switzerland and Bulgaria.
3. The period of eligibility of expenditures from Support Measures, as defined in Chapter 6 of the Regulations, ends on 3 December 2029, inclusive. Funds not used by this date shall no longer be available to Bulgaria.
4. Under the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme, with the exception of the amounts reserved for Swiss management costs and the Swiss Expertise and Partnership Fund Cohesion, the Contribution should be provided in the form of non-refundable grants or concessional financial facilities such as credit lines, guarantee schemes, equity, debt participation, and loans.
5. The financing from the Contribution shall not exceed 60% of the eligible expenditures from the Support Measure, except for:
 - a) Projects or Programmes receiving additional financing in the form of budget allocations from national, regional or local authorities, in which case the financing from the Contribution may not exceed 85% of the total eligible expenditures;
 - b) Projects or Programmes implemented by non-governmental organisations, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or fully by the Contribution;
 - c) Technical Support, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or fully by the Contribution;
 - d) Support Measures in the form of credit lines, guarantee schemes, equity and debt participation and loans to the private sector, which may be financed to a degree higher than 60% or even fully by the Contribution.
6. Bulgaria shall ensure compliance with applicable rules on state aid and public procurement.

Article 5 – Principles for Support Measures

1. Support Measures shall be implemented in accordance with the legal framework pursuant to Article 2.
2. Bulgaria is responsible for the identification of Support Measures, which are:
 - a) relevant and in line with national priorities;

- b) effective in addressing the identified needs;
- c) feasible and efficient to implement;
- d) expected to have impact;
- e) designed to create sustainable benefits.

3. Bulgaria shall avoid any duplication of and/or overlap with any part of a Support Measure which is receiving support from any other structural and/or cohesion funds, such as the European Funds, the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism or the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, as the case may be.

4. Each Support Measure shall be approved first by Bulgaria and then by Switzerland.

5. Each Support Measure shall be subject to a Support Measure Agreement.

6. The Parties attach high importance to the monitoring, evaluation and auditing of the Support Measures and the Contribution. Each Party shall share, without delay, any useful information requested by the other Party. The Parties shall ensure effective coordination and monitoring of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme.

7. Switzerland, or any third party appointed to act on its behalf, shall have the right to visit, monitor, review, audit and evaluate all activities and procedures related to the implementation of the Support Measures, as deemed appropriate by Switzerland. Bulgaria shall provide any and all information, assistance and documentation, which may be requested or useful, to allow Switzerland to exercise such right.

8. In order to ensure effective implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme, the competent authorities referred to in Article 6 shall hold annual meetings. The purpose of such meetings shall be to review the progress achieved in the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme, agree on any necessary measures to be taken, and provide a forum for discussion of issues of bilateral interest.

Article 6 – Competent Authorities

1. Bulgaria has authorised a national public entity to act on its behalf as the National Coordination Unit (see Country-Specific Set-Up). The National Coordination Unit shall have overall responsibility for reaching the objectives of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme as well as for its implementation in accordance with this Framework Agreement.

2. Switzerland has authorised the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, acting through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), to act on its behalf for the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme. Support Measures are assigned to either the SDC or SECO in line with their respective fields of competence.

Article 7 – Liability

The responsibility of Switzerland with regard to the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme is limited to providing funds in accordance with the relevant Support Measure Agreements. No liability to Bulgaria, to any public or private entity involved in a Support Measure or to any third parties is or will be assumed by Switzerland.

Article 8 – Common Concern

The Parties share a common concern to prevent and fight against corruption, which jeopardises good governance and the proper use of resources needed for development, and, in addition, endangers fair and open competition in procurement procedures based upon price and quality. The Parties therefore agree to combine their efforts to fight corruption and, in particular, agree that any offer, gift, payment, remuneration or benefit of any kind whatsoever, made to whomsoever, directly or indirectly, with a view to being awarded a mandate or contract under this Framework Agreement, or during the performance hereof, will be construed as an illegal act or corrupt practice. Any act of this kind constitutes sufficient grounds for terminating this Framework Agreement and the relevant Support Measure Agreement, cancelling the procurement or resulting award, or taking any other proportionate corrective measure laid down by applicable law. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any well-founded suspicion of an illegal act or corrupt practice.

Article 9 – Amendments

1. Any amendment to this Framework Agreement shall be made in writing with the mutual agreement of the Parties.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the Country-Specific Set-Up may be amended by mutual agreement of the competent authorities referred to in Article 6 through an exchange of letters between them.

Article 10 – Final Provisions

1. The Country-Specific Set-Up (Annex 1) shall form an integral part of this Framework Agreement.
2. This Framework Agreement shall enter into force, after its signature, on the date of receipt of the last notification confirming the completion by both Parties of their respective approval procedures. It applies until both Parties have fulfilled all their obligations. The Parties shall provisionally apply this Framework Agreement and the Annex hereto commencing on the date on which this Framework Agreement is signed by both Parties.
3. Any dispute which may result from the application of this Framework Agreement shall be resolved by diplomatic means.

4. This Framework Agreement may be terminated at any time by one of the Parties giving six months' prior written notice. Prior to making such a decision, the Parties shall enter into consultation regarding the reasons for the termination.

5. In the event of termination of this Framework Agreement, its provisions shall continue to apply to the relevant Support Measure Agreements concluded before the termination of this Framework Agreement. The Parties shall decide by mutual agreement on any other consequences of the termination.

Signed in Sofia on September 20, 2022, in two original copies in the English language.

For the Swiss Federal Council

For the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria



Raymund Furrer

Ambassador of Switzerland to Bulgaria



Atanas Pekanov

Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds Management

Annex 1

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SET-UP

to the

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

between

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

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**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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THE EUROPEAN UNION TO REDUCE ECONOMIC AND
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1. General provisions

1.1 This Country-Specific Set-Up is an integral part of the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council (hereinafter referred to as 'Switzerland') and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as 'Bulgaria') on the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution to selected Member States of the EU to reduce economic and social disparities within the EU (hereinafter referred to as the 'Framework Agreement').

1.2 For the purposes of this Country-Specific Set-Up, the definitions in the Framework Agreement shall apply.

1.3 This Country-Specific Set-Up lays down the thematic and geographical allocations of the Contribution and the specific rules agreed between Switzerland and Bulgaria, as well as the attribution of responsibilities and tasks to entities involved in the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme and in Support Measures respectively.

1.4 For specific rules and procedures not provided in the Country Specific Set-Up, the provisions of the Regulations shall apply.

2. Roles and responsibilities for the Swiss – Bulgarian Cooperation Programme

2.1. National Coordination Unit

The Partner State has authorised the Central Coordination Unit Directorate at the Council of Ministers Administration to act on its behalf as National Coordination Unit of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme.

The role and responsibilities of the National Coordination Unit are set out in the Regulations.

2.2. Intermediate Body

No Intermediate Body for the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme is envisaged.

2.3. Paying Authority

The Paying Authority is the National Fund Directorate within the Ministry of Finance. The roles and responsibilities of the Paying Authority are set out in the Regulations.

2.4. Audit Authority

The Audit Authority is the Executive Agency Audit of European Union Funds (EA AEUF). The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are set out in the Regulations.

3. Parameters of cooperation

3.1 Thematic allocation

Specific objective & thematic area	Indicative Swiss allocation of the Contribution [in CHF millions]
1. Promoting economic growth and social dialogue, reducing (youth) unemployment	
(i) Vocational and professional education and training	5
(ii) Research and innovation	10
(iii) Financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	0
2. Managing migration and supporting integration. Increasing public safety and security	
(iv) Providing support to migration management and promoting integration measures	3.7
(v) Improving public safety and security	5.5
3. Protecting the environment and the climate	
(vi) Energy efficiency and renewable energy	15
(vii) Public transport	0
(viii) Water and waste-water management	0
(ix) Waste management	15
(x) Nature conservation and biodiversity	15
4. Strengthening of social systems	
(xi) Health and social protection	3.5
(xii) Minorities and socially disadvantaged groups	8
5. Civic engagement and transparency	
(xiii) Civic engagement and transparency	10
6. Technical support	
(xiv) Technical Assistance Fund	1.3
(xv) Support Measure Preparation Fund	0.5
Total allocation	92.5

Any unused balances in all the Support Measures of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme may be transferred to any other approved Support Measure provided the feasibility is ensured until the end of the eligibility period, by mutual agreement (e.g. confirmed in the

minutes of meetings or by correspondence) between the competent authorities mentioned in Article 6 of the Framework Agreement in the course of the implementation of the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme. For the consequent modification of the Support Measure, Article 4.12 of the Regulations shall apply.

3.2 Geographical allocation

Less-favoured regions shall receive at least 50% of the Contribution.

3.3 Pre-specified parameters per thematic area

(i) Vocational and professional education and training

Support Measure name	Mainstreaming dual vocational education and training (DVET) in Bulgaria ("DOMINO 2")
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Economic growth and reduced youth unemployment through mainstreaming dual education principles in vocational education and training (VET) schools.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National but also regional and local partnerships and cooperation between the different stakeholders in VET, including formal education (schools) and business (employers), are sustainably established; • Quality assurance mechanisms are mainstreamed throughout the DVET system; • The active inclusion of vulnerable groups, incl. through career guidance, is piloted; • To contribute to innovation-oriented and research-based VET.
Strategic Focus	The Programme focuses on continuing Swiss support for the modernisation and integration of Bulgaria's DVET system, with a strong emphasis on building sustainable capacity at every level, both in the public and private sector.
Swiss indicative Commitment	5 Mio. CHF
Programme Operator	External European Programs Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Public and private organisations, like universities and schools, business and professional associations in dual education and Swiss authorities involved in VET
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Programme will promote policy dialogue and participatory implementation at national and regional level (e.g. through consultative councils). • The Programme will realise synergies with and leverage other initiatives supporting (D)VET

	<p>reforms (by EU and others) as well as other Support Measures in the social inclusion area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Programme and the distribution of centres of excellence will be geographically focused in line with the demonstrated ownership of regional actors at district level (NUTS 3).
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(ii) Research and innovation
Description of thematic area

Objective	Scientific cooperation and exchange between Bulgarian and Swiss researchers is encouraged with a view to strengthening international research networks.
Strategic Focus	The programme will be implemented through three programme components (Multilateral Research Programme, SCIEX and PROMYS).
Programme Operator	Shall be determined in the Support Measure Agreement
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss research institutions and agencies, research infrastructures

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Multilateral Joint Research Projects to strengthen sustainable partnerships between persons and institutions in the field of research and innovation ("MJRP")
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objective	Multilateral relations and long-lasting networks in the field of research are established between Switzerland, Bulgaria and the other EU-13 member states.
Strategic Focus	To leverage the successful bilateral research projects from the first Swiss contribution through regional research networks as engines of economic growth.
Swiss indicative Commitment	6 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and Science Directorate, MoES

Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss research institutions and agencies, and researchers
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The Swiss Programme Component Operator will apply specific rules, deviating from the Regulations, e.g. on selection, financial flows, audit and reporting will be further defined in the Support Measure Agreement.

Support Measure name	Mobility Programme enabling Bulgarian researchers to visit a Swiss research institution ("SCIEX")
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objective	The aim of this support measure is to increase the performance of Bulgarian universities and research institutions by developing the scientific potential of promising young researchers.
Strategic Focus	To strengthen the bilateral relations and establish long-lasting networks between Switzerland and Bulgaria in the field of research.
Swiss indicative Commitment	2 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	SNSF and Science Directorate, MoES
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss research institutions and agencies, research infrastructures
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The Swiss Programme Component Operator will apply specific rules, deviating from the Regulations, e.g. on selection, financial flows, audit and reporting will be further defined in the Support Measure Agreement.

Support Measure name	Swiss Support for Promotion of Young Talents ("PROMYS")
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objective	Early career researchers (ECR) from the EU-13, who have studied or worked in Switzerland, are supported in continuing their careers in one of the EU-13, aspiring a position as a professor.

Strategic Focus	To increase the performance of universities and research institutions by supporting the scientific establishment of young and promising researchers in the EU-13.
Swiss indicative Commitment	2 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	SNSF and Science Directorate, MoES
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss research institutions and agencies, research infrastructures
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The Swiss Programme Component Operator will apply specific rules, deviating from the Regulations, e.g. on selection, financial flows, audit and reporting will be further defined in the Support Measure Agreement.

(iv) Providing support to migration management and promoting integration measures

Objective	To return and (re-)integrate victims of trafficking and other migrants
Strategic Focus	To support Bulgaria in the implementation of its National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2017 – 2021) as well as its National Strategy for Integrated Border Management (2020 – 2025) and its National Strategy on Migration (2021 – 2025), and to address related challenges posed by the war in Ukraine.
Programme Operator	International Projects Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	C.f. below “Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)” for each directly selected or pre-identified Support Measure.

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objectives	Overall objective: The number of victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is reduced and they are protected, supported and sustainably reintegrated.

	<p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general public is aware of the risks and prevention of THB and (potential) victims of THB are actively addressed through low-threshold support services; • Victims of trafficking receive integrated assistance for recovering, returning to Bulgaria and reintegrating into society to help them to escape from THB networks; • The capacity of national THB system and civil society organisations for building in the field of preventing THB as well as identifying and supporting victims is increased.
Strategic Focus	To support a holistic approach to the prevention of THB and to the safe return, continuum of care (social, medical, psychological, legal counselling etc.) and sustainable reintegration of its victims.
Swiss indicative Commitment	1.7 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	International Organisation for Migration in Bulgaria (IOM)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Competent public and private entities as well as NGOs.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention will be paid to strengthening and empowering national actors, like the National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and specialised CSOs. • The Support Measure Agreement between the competent authorities and the corresponding Support Measure Implementation Agreement with IOM may provide for exceptions in favour of IOM from the relevant provisions of the Regulations, including but not limited to payments, procurement, audits/verification, evaluation, reporting and irregularities.

Support Measure name	Integration of Migrants
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Migrants provided with international protection in Bulgaria receive comprehensive integration services and support in the initial months of independent living.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A centre for the integration of migrants based on 'one stop shop' principle is established in Sofia and operational; • The capacity of local authorities and other public and civil society organisations in the field of integration of migrants and persons provided with international protection is strengthened; • The awareness of the positive aspects of inclusion of migrants in the labour market is increased and xenophobic behaviour in the Bulgarian society is reduced.
Strategic Focus	To contribute to the integration of people who have received international protection in Bulgaria and to change the perception for Bulgaria as a transit country, and the potential of migrants to contribute to the development of Bulgaria is unlocked.
Swiss indicative Commitment	2 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	International Organisation for Migration in Bulgaria (IOM)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Competent public and private entities as well as NGOs
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	The Support Measure Agreement between the competent authorities and the corresponding Support Measure Implementation Agreement with IOM may provide for exceptions in favour of IOM from the relevant provisions of the Regulations, including but not limited to payments, procurement, audits/verification, evaluation, reporting and irregularities.

(v) Improving public safety and security

Objective	Public safety and security in Bulgaria are improved.
Strategic Focus	To contribute to a more holistic approach to public safety and security in Bulgaria by strengthening capacities to repress and, in particular, to prevent certain crimes.
Programme Operator	International Projects Directorate, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	C.f. below 'Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)' for each directly selected or pre-identified Support Measure.

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Public safety and security through community policing ("SafeTogether")
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Public safety and security in selected regions are improved through community policing (CP).</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CP concept is developed based on a thorough assessment of the Bulgarian situation and good international practices; • The CP concept is piloted in selected regions; • The capacity of the police authorities in the pilot regions is increased.
Strategic Focus	To formally introduce CP in the Bulgarian police system by piloting it in selected regions.
Swiss indicative Commitment	2 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	National Police General Directorate, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Federal and especially cantonal police forces as well as other institutions with strong community policing capacities and/or know-how. Swiss partnerships will be solicited before the second level approval.

Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention will be paid to the inclusion of marginalised groups. • Both in the selection of the pilot regions and the set-up of the Support Measure, attention will be paid to the realisation of synergies with other Support Measures in the social inclusion, health and migration management thematic areas.
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Support Measure name	Improving child protection and prevention of juvenile delinquency ("Path2Safety")
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Children and youth in Bulgaria know about risky behaviour, and grow up safer and more secure.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youth are more aware of the risks of delinquent behaviour and better equipped to make decisions; • The capacity and facilities for dealing with juvenile delinquency and protecting its victims are strengthened and enhanced.
Strategic Focus	The Support Measure will further improve the capacity of the Bulgarian police to fulfil its mandate for preventing juvenile delinquency and for ensuring child protection.
Swiss indicative Commitment	2 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	National Police General Directorate, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss police forces as well as other institutions with strong capacities and/or know-how in the prevention of juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice and in child protection. Swiss partnerships will be solicited before the second level approval.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention will be paid to the inclusion of marginalised groups. • In the set-up of the Support Measure, attention will be paid to the realisation of synergies with other

	Support Measures in the social inclusion and health thematic areas.
Support Measure name	Fighting corruption and promoting integrity
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: The Support Measure aims at strengthening the Bulgarian institutional integrity and transparency mechanisms necessary to curb corrupt practices and increase citizen trust in public institutions.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal and institutional anti-corruption and public integrity framework is strengthened; • Capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption and recover stolen assets is increased; • A transparent two-way communication with citizens on public integrity and corruption is taking place.
Strategic Focus	Lack of public trust has been identified as both a principal root-cause and result of corruption. This Support Measure thus focuses on moving Bulgaria through the establishment and promotion of an integrity framework towards high trust/low corruption equilibrium.
Swiss indicative Commitment	1.5 Mio. CHF
Programme operator	Ministry of Justice
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Basel Institute on Governance (BIG) or other Swiss institutions with strong capacities and/or know-how in combatting corruption and/or promoting integrity.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the funding from the second Swiss contribution and the corresponding co-financing by the Bulgarian government, co-funding from other donors might be included, subject to non-objection by the two parties. • Notwithstanding, the Support Measure will be implemented in conformity with the Regulations applicable to the second Swiss contribution. • Switzerland may commit additional funds from the Swiss Expertise and Partnership Fund (SEPF) for

	analytical works conducted by the Basel Institute on Governance (BIG) in the preparatory stage of the Support Measure.
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Protecting the environment and the climate thematic area

Objective	Protecting the environment by supporting targeted transformative measures (including infrastructure), policy dialogue and exchange of best Swiss practices.
Strategic Focus	<p>The Swiss-Bulgarian programme in the area of environment will consist of three components with a focus on air quality, waste management as well as energy efficiency, nature conservation and biodiversity (see below under vi, ix, x). While geographic concentration will be considered at the level of individual measures, policy relevant outputs will be taken up at national level by the respective Bulgarian authorities. Swiss know-how and scientific expertise will be mobilised to provide support on air quality, sustainable use of national parks and compliance with international treaties related to hazardous substances as well as air quality.</p> <p>The Support Measures address priorities of the National Programme on Environment 2030 and intervenes in niches where Bulgaria sees added value of the Swiss experiences.</p>
Programme Operator	Co-ordination of EU Affairs and International Co-operation Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Due to the highly specific subjects, Swiss Support Measure Partner(s) will be solicited for each of the three components during the second loop approval procedure.

(vi) Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Improved air quality through a modernised and recognised national air quality measurement system and scientific partnerships (ModAIRn)
Support Measure type	Programme component

Objectives	<p>Overall objective: The national air quality monitoring system contributes to better air quality.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national air quality monitoring network is modernised and recognised as compliant with national and EU standards; • High-quality data and information on air quality are disseminated through scientific partnerships like the Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure (ACTRIS) ; • An Environmental Data Hub (EDH) is conceptualised and successfully piloted with respect to air quality data; • Public authorities, civil society organisations and the general public trust the air quality information provided through the EDH; • Information available through the EDH informs air quality policies at the national level and is leveraged through innovative measures for reducing air pollution at regional and local level.
Strategic Focus	<p>Within the overall climate policy of Bulgaria, the strategic focus is the collection, processing, reporting and disseminating of climate relevant environmental data in the air quality field, and by using the data for policy shaping and implementation.</p>
Swiss indicative Commitment	<p>15 Mio. CHF</p>
Programme Component Operator	<p>Executive Environmental Agency (EEA) / Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)</p>
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	<p>They will be defined before the second level approval. Two types of Swiss expertise will be looked at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On technical know-how on air quality monitoring; • At research performing organisations in the field of air quality (e.g. members of the Swiss ACTRIS consortium like the Paul Scherrer Institute and Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science EMPA).
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ModAIRn will be complementary to other support instruments on air quality at the regional/municipal level (in particular by EU and through the WB).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful public consultations will be compelling.
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(ix) Waste management

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Monitoring, control and disposal of obsolete pesticides and prevention measures
Support Measure type	Programme Component
Objectives	<p>General objective: To significantly and sustainably reduce the risks from obsolete pesticides and other plant protection chemicals for people and the environment.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national system for the control and monitoring of hazardous substances is reinforced and operational; • Stored obsolete pesticides and other plant protection chemicals are disposed according to their relative risk to humans and the environment; • Control and other capacities of the relevant authorities are strengthened, e.g. through trainings; • Prevention is reinforced; • Lessons learned are jointly shared in international fora.
Strategic Focus	Obsolete pesticides and other chemicals for plant protection are still kept in abandoned or unsafe deposits. The related risk to humans and the environment will be reduced and if possible removed.
Swiss indicative Commitment	15 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	Waste Management Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss partnership(s) in the context of the international conventions on hazardous substances will be solicited before the second loop approval.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bulgarian party commits to further remediate treated sites.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on previous experience, international expertise regarding the disposal of hazardous substances may be mobilised to mitigate specific risks. • National co-financing for this Programme component will be 50%; the parties may agree to lower national co-financing for specific activities. • Capacity building and training activities may also involve institutions and organisations outside the MoEW (e.g. customs, agricultural authorities, municipal authorities etc.).
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(x) Nature conservation and biodiversity

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Visitor infrastructure and sustainable use of a national park (ProPark)
Support Measure type	Programme component
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Rila National Park is managed sustainably and the protection of biodiversity in Bulgaria is strengthened.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concept for resource efficient management and sustainable use is developed and piloted in Rila National Park; • Concrete measures are defined in order to reduce energy and water use as well as waste and sewage in view of protection of the environment and sustainable tourism; • Selected partners are supported in the implementation of concrete measures, including but not limited to the enhancement of infrastructure such as the visitor centre and selected mountain huts; • Swiss experience and good practices, in particular related to the re/construction of mountain huts, are valorised and disseminated nationally.
Strategic Focus	Pilot model demonstrating a resource efficient management and sustainable use of a national park and other high nature value territories for recreational

	purposes, including standards for the construction and operation of huts and other visitor facilities.
Swiss indicative Commitment	15 Mio. CHF
Programme Component Operator	Rila National Park Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss universities of applied science, Swiss specialized associations (e.g. Swiss Alpine Club (SAC)) or similar; to be solicited during the second loop approval process.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This concept will figure as a showcase model for the other national parks. • Based on co-financing and policy commitments and convincing links to the objectives of the support measure, support both to national and privately managed infrastructure will be considered.

(xi) Health and social protection

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Health Prevention and Promotion
Support Measure type	Programme
Objective	The health literacy of a specific population segment, be it adolescence and children or elderly persons, is increased.
Strategic Focus	Promote healthy lifestyles and contribute to health literacy and behaviour changes for a healthy life throughout the life course by prevention and health promotion activities and offers.
Swiss indicative Commitment	3.5 Mio. CHF
Programme Operator	Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Public health actors and experts; Swiss partnerships will be solicited before the second level approval.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	An assessment might be needed.

(xii) Minorities and socially disadvantaged groups

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Health and Education for All ("ZOV II")
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: Health and education needs of vulnerable groups and the excluded ethnic minorities in particular are met.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable and excluded communities have better access to and improved achievement at all levels of the education system;• Vulnerable children including those of excluded ethnic minorities and their families in selected municipalities receive integrated social and health services in view of better access to the education system.
Strategic Focus	To support the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma 2021-2030 through the improvement of social services and the empowerment of stakeholders at local level, including also smaller locations and disadvantaged regions, which have difficulties to access funding from EU instruments or the national budget.
Swiss indicative Commitment	8 Mio. CHF
Programme Operator	Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)
Programme Component Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities (CEICSEM)• Bulgarian municipalities (3 to 5) will be identified during second loop approval process based on economic and demographic indicators as well as demonstrated commitment to the proactive integration of their Roma communities.
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss Partners will be identified in the preparation phase
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Support Measure will realise synergies with other Support Measures in the VET area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities with a high burden of excluded groups, in the NUTS 2 regions lower than the national average will be invited to apply in a call for proposal.
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(xiii) Civic engagement and transparency

Directly selected or pre-identified Support Measures

Support Measure name	Swiss-Bulgarian Civic Engagement and Transparency Facility
Support Measure type	Programme
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: More Bulgarian citizens are actively engaged and participate in a more transparent and inclusive public debate regarding decisions that affect them.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of Bulgarian citizens, which actively support or participate in CSO, is increased; • The quality and transparency of the public debate at national or local level is improved; • The potential for reducing economic and social disparities within Bulgaria and in relation to other European countries is demonstrated through selected lighthouse projects.
Strategic Focus	<p>Civic engagement is at the core of every democracy as people need to be involved in the political decisions that shape their lives. This means that the citizens have not only rights that need to be respected but also that they must be aware and empowered to advocate for respect, protection and fulfilment of their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Support Measure shall focus on areas particularly relevant for and/or effective in strengthening civic engagement and transparency in Bulgaria (e.g. management of natural resources and biodiversity, media quality and transparency, democratisation & good governance, or civic education). • The Programme will be set-up as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two to three lighthouse projects (4.5 Mio. CHF in total) addressed to establish CSOs with a track record in project implementation, which

	<p>will be predefined with regard to implementers, scope, objectives and means of action at the level of second loop approval;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A small grants fund (4.5 Mio. CHF in total) addressed to CSOs with limited capacities and experience in project implementation in less developed regions through calls; 3. Support for and training of (participating) CSOs as well as management of the facility (1 Mio. CHF). <p>All supported projects will reserve between 10% and 30% of their budget for organisational development and the enlargement of their membership base; innovative approaches like matching grants, paying for results etc. will be considered.</p>
Swiss indicative Commitment	10 Mio. CHF
Programme Operator	To be contracted by Switzerland based on a call for a Bulgarian (lead) organisation.
Swiss Support Measure Partner(s)	Swiss public or private non-profit organisations able to contribute with knowledge and experience to civic engagement and/or capacity building of civil society organisations.
Other specificities related to the Support Measure	Rules and processes will differ from the Regulations set out for the second Swiss contribution and will be specified in the Support Measure Proposal and Agreement.

4. Partner State specific rules and procedures

Switzerland and Bulgaria agree to the following specific provisions in derogation / modification / complement / specification of the regulations:

- No derogations or modifications needed.