



Swiss Cooperation with Eastern Europe in Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Through its cooperation with Eastern Europe, Switzerland not only contributes to the process of reform in the once Communist states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, but also promotes the stability and prosperity of states that have acceded to the EU. In the case of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina priority is being given to reform of the healthcare system, combating unemployment (notably among the young), and the promotion of local governance. Integration of the Roma and other minorities receives special attention. Below are examples of projects that provide an insight into the activities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in both countries:

[Promoting the integration of Roma and improving living conditions in Serbia](#)

It is hoped that improving the living conditions in the Roma settlements of Serbia's Vojvodina province will discourage migration or at least bring it under control. The Federal Office for Migration and the SDC are working with Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS) on a project focusing on the socio-economic integration of the Roma in Vojvodina.

[Migration management in South Serbia](#)

South Serbia is one of the country's least developed regions, where poverty still runs rife. Due to the poor living conditions, many of the young and better educated are abandoning rural communities. The SDC is supporting a UN programme designed to promote the social and economic integration of disadvantaged population groups.

[Education for Serbia's ethnic minorities](#)

Roma and other ethnic minorities continue to suffer from generalised exclusion and discrimination, notably when it comes to access to housing, healthcare and education. Hence, SDC projects in the domain of public education aim for the overall integration of minority groups and, in particular, of the Roma.

[Promoting youth employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

Almost 60% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in Bosnia and Herzegovina are unemployed. Official job placement centres are unable to offer services tailored to the needs of their clients or to provide unemployed youth with the necessary assistance. The aims of this project include building the capacities of these employment offices, modernizing vocational training, offering support to disadvantaged youth, and helping to shape the policy for combating youth unemployment.

[Adult education in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

The "Support for Adult Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina" project is aimed at people of both sexes in need of further education or retraining. Participants' qualifications often no longer match the needs of the market. State and private suppliers of education are encouraged to offer vocational conversion training, further education, and remedial classes to fill in the gaps in basic education.

Further information:

[Swiss Cooperation with Eastern Europe](#)
[Bosnia and Herzegovina Factsheet](#)
[Serbia Factsheet](#)

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