

## Information on the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Program

In the form of the second edition of Swiss Contribution, carried out between 2022 and 2029, Switzerland has offered financial assistance amounting to CHF 1.3 billion to 13 selected EU countries with the aim of reducing socio-economic disparities within the European Union.

On December 5, 2022, Minister Grzegorz Puda signed **the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Swiss Confederation** regarding the implementation of the Second Swiss Contribution. The Framework Agreement established the **second edition of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme (SPCP), under which Poland will receive 320.1 million Swiss francs.**

There are two programmes to be implemented in Poland. Both Programmes agreements were signed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Currently, Polish and Swiss sides are cooperating in regards of announcement of call for proposals within both programmes:

- **Programme for Development of Towns (DoT)**, for which Switzerland is providing the majority of funding - CHF 278.7 million (with additional Polish contribution of CHF 49.182, making a total of CHF 327.882 million)
- **Research and Innovation Programme** with a total budget of CHF 41.176 million, including CHF 35 million from Switzerland and an additional CHF 6.176 million from the national contribution

### ***Development of Towns Programme (DoT)***

The programme for towns is targeted **towards medium-sized cities identified as being at risk of losing their social and economic functions.** It will serve purposes such as promoting economic growth and social dialogue, reducing unemployment, managing migration and supporting integration, enhancing public safety, environmental and climate protection, strengthening social systems, civil society, and transparency.

The Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (MDFRP) serves as the National Coordinating Unit for the SPCP, overseeing the overall implementation of the programme and achievement of its goals, acting at the same time as the Operator of the DoT Programme.

Towns selected in the application process will receive support under the DoT Programme, allocated for **various developmental actions and investments in areas including energy efficiency, public transportation, water and sewage management, waste management, environmental protection, healthcare, vocational education, security, migration, and social integration.**

### ***Research and Innovation Programme***

The programme aims to **enhance the quality of applied research in Poland by strengthening scientific research cooperation between Poland and Switzerland.** The programme also includes an element focused on **internationalizing basic research, involving multilateral cooperation** (the planned Multilateral Call for Joint Research Projects will involve entities from Poland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Hungary, forming partnerships with Swiss entities).

The **National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD)** will be responsible for the part of the programme related to applied research, collaborating with the **Swiss Innovation Agency - Innosuisse.** The part concerning internationalizing basic research will involve the **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)**, which will cooperate with the **Polish National Science Centre (PNSC).**