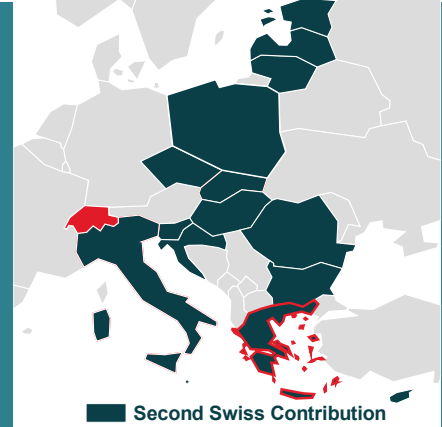


# SWISS – GREEK Cooperation Programme



Second Swiss Contribution

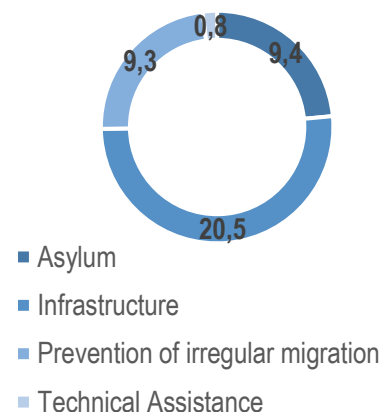
The Swiss - Greek Cooperation Programme forms part of the Second Swiss Contribution, Framework credit migration, to selected EU member states. It prioritizes areas where Greece has significant needs in the area of migration management and where Switzerland's expertise can provide meaningful added value. Accordingly, the programme focuses on implementing support measures in key areas such as asylum procedures, infrastructure, integration, and voluntary return and reintegration.

The Second Swiss Contribution, amounting to CHF 1.3 billion, will remain in effect until 31 December 2029. On 30 June 2022, Switzerland and the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding on reducing economic and social disparities and cooperation on migration in the EU. The agreement defines the contribution's key parameters, including its total amount, allocation among partner countries, thematic priorities, and principles for implementation.

## Key Areas of Support

- **Asylum**  
Implementing efficient and high-quality asylum procedures in accordance with the relevant EU laws
- **Infrastructure**  
Contributing to the improvement of infrastructure, in particular as far as reception conditions are concerned
- **Prevention of irregular migration / AVR**  
Supporting early integration measures and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration.

Cooperation Programme in Mio. CHF



## Swiss - Greek Cooperation Programme

The Second Swiss Contribution is an investment in Europe's security, stability and prosperity. The Second Swiss Contribution strengthens and deepens bilateral relations with the EU partner countries and the EU as a whole.

On 14 October 2022, an agreement was formalised between Switzerland and Greece, establishing a framework for the implementation of migration-related projects. These initiatives focus on key areas including asylum procedures, infrastructure development, prevention of irregular secondary migration and voluntary return and reintegration. The agreement was signed during a Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs in Luxembourg, reinforcing Switzerland's commitment to supporting EU member states experiencing significant migratory pressures. This CHF 40 million contribution is designed to provide targeted assistance where structural needs are most pressing. The programme's implementation phase began in 2023 and is scheduled to continue until the end of 2026. In April 2024, Switzerland and Greece agreed to adjust and refine aspects of the Country-Specific Set-Up of the framework agreement, which compiles all planned support measures. This revision was undertaken to better respond to unforeseen emerging needs within the volatile migration sector and ensure that the allocated resources effectively address new challenges and evolving priorities.



## Asylum Procedures

The respective Support Measures enhance the efficiency and quality of asylum procedures in Greece by reinforcing institutional capacities, optimizing processes, and improving access to asylum services. Investments focus on modernizing Regional Asylum Offices (RAOs), streamlining case processing, and expanding specialized asylum units to handle vulnerable applicants, including unaccompanied migrant children and individuals with specific protection needs.

Capacity - building initiatives include training asylum officers, knowledge transfer on best practices, and digitalization of asylum systems to improve decision-making and reduce case backlogs. The programme also strengthens asylum support mechanisms by enhancing legal aid, documentation services, and psychological assessments to ensure that applicants receive timely and fair decisions. By increasing asylum processing capacity and improving applicant reception conditions, the projects contribute to a faster, more effective, and rights-based asylum system in Greece.



## Reception Infrastructure

Ensuring safe, dignified, and well-managed reception conditions is a key priority. The projects target improving reception facilities, emergency accommodation, and specialized protection for vulnerable groups, particularly unaccompanied migrant children and asylum seekers with particular needs.

Infrastructure improvements focus on expanding and maintaining accommodation facilities and enhancing access to essential services such as healthcare, legal aid, and psychosocial support. Additionally, efforts are made to improve reception capacity on the Greek islands and facilitate better coordination between national and local authorities to ensure an effective and sustainable reception system. By enhancing living conditions and service provision, the programme helps reduce pressures on local communities, strengthen public safety, and support the early integration of asylum seekers into Greek society.

## Prevention of irregular migration / AVR

The projects in this area provide targeted support to facilitate early integration, social inclusion and access to essential services, ensuring that migrants can actively participate in Greek society, lowering secondary migration to other countries. A key challenge in migration governance is ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees have access to early integration measures.

The Swiss -Greek Cooperation Programme has established collaborations with national and local authorities, civil society organizations, and international partners to develop comprehensive early integration strategies. Through these partnerships, the programme promotes education, skills development, and social participation as key factors for successful integration. Efforts focus on facilitating access to vocational training, language education, and employment opportunities. At the same time, cooperation with municipalities and community organizations enhances local-level integration efforts, fostering social cohesion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

Furthermore, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVR) remains a key component of migration governance, providing a humane and structured alternative for those who do not qualify for asylum. For migrants who opt to return to their countries of origin, the programme ensures that returns are dignified and sustainable, offering reintegration assistance such as vocational training, business start-up support, and employment opportunities. Strengthening cooperation with countries of origin is also a focus, ensuring that returnees have access to social and economic services upon their arrival.



Further information about the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme:

**SWISS – GREEK**  
Cooperation Programme



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