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Photo credit: Circular farm Gralo

UNDP Partnership with Switzerland in Serbia

June 2025



The long-standing and strong partnership between Switzerland and UNDP in Serbia has contributed to the parliamentary reform, migration management, and acceleration of the green transition in the country. In the early days of cooperation, Switzerland's support has helped improve the Serbian National Assembly's oversight function, transparency, and cross-party dialogue, while enhancing the quality of the legislative process and citizen participation. Later on, Swiss support to the Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (2019 to 2023), brought insights on the capacity, motivation and readiness of the private sector in Serbia to participate in migration management processes and explore the possibilities of employing foreign workers, as well as to help establish a Diaspora Business Council. In recent years, Switzerland is one of the key partners to UNDP in advancing a sustainable green transformation in Serbia, within the framework of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

Focus areas:



GREEN TRANSITION

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation
- Digital & Green tools



GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Parliamentary Strengthening
- Citizen participation

UNDP projects supported by Switzerland

▼ PROJECT TITLE	▼ FUNDING SOURCE	▼ PERIOD	▼ TOTAL BUDGET USD
GREEN TRANSITION			
Green Agenda in Serbia	Contributions by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)	Aug 2022 – Dec 2026	\$7.1M
GOOD GOVERNANCE			
Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Inclusive Political Dialogue	Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO)	January 2020 – December 2023	\$2M

EU for Green Agenda in Serbia

Photo credit: Jakov Simović,
Visit to Papir Print company

This USD 18.1 M, five-year initiative is implemented with technical and financial support of the European Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection by UNDP, in cooperation with Sweden and the European Investment Bank (EIB), with additional funding from the governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Serbia. The project organized Challenge Calls and established a Green Incubator, offering expert mentorship to develop innovative green ideas and concepts and prepare them for practical implementation. These cost-effective solutions, technologies, and business models are improving social, economic, and environmental conditions for citizens in Serbia, in line with the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Government of Switzerland contributed USD 7.1 M to the project, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).



GREEN TRANSITION

Key Project Results:

Green innovations supported

- 89 pilot and scale up projects contributing to decarbonization, circular economy, cleaner air, biodiversity conservation and sustainable food production supported (4 in the area of decarbonization, cofinanced by SECO; and 22 in the areas of circular economy, cleaner air, biodiversity conservation and sustainable food production, cofinanced by SDC).
- 4 local governments supported to implement air protection measures.
- 9 civil society organizations supported to implement local initiatives for biodiversity conservation.

Policy and institutional support

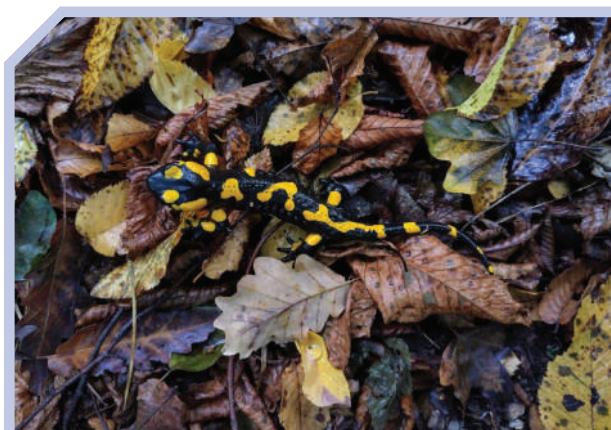
- Environmental Protection Strategy and Low-carbon Development Strategy drafted.
- Waste Management Law amended, and more than 10 bylaws drafted, in cooperation with ministries for environment, energy and agriculture.
- Supported drafting two national reports under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: the Biennial Updated Report and the 3rd National Communication.
- Developed the National Programme for Industrial Safety and Circular Economy Development Programme.

Trainings and expert support

- Almost 2.000 public servants from relevant ministries and agencies as well as professional Integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) and Emissions Trading System (ETS) operators, trained in the areas of GHG emission and pollution reduction, waste management and nature protection.
- More than 100 experts engaged to provide technical support for policy and regulatory improvements and the development of innovative green projects.
- 11 applications for IPPC permits prepared.

Digital solutions

- IT system for monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions developed (e-GHG platform).
- Pilot online platform for traceability of food products from producers to consumers developed - to promote short supply chains and domestic food production and improve consumer information.



Salamander in Gradac River Gorge, Serbia
Photo credit: Pavle Jovanović, UNDP Serbia

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Inclusive Political Dialogue

Photo credit: UNDP Serbia

UNDP was one of the first development partners of the **National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (NARS)** since 2004, **introducing public hearings and mobile committee sessions** in addition to various oversight tools. Building on these results, the Swiss Government started supporting UNDP in 2012 to **advance the parliamentary reform and transfer best practises from NARS to local assemblies**.

With Switzerland's continuous support over 12 years UNDP **assisted the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia to strengthen its oversight function, transparency, and cross-party dialogue**. Together, we also helped the National Assembly to exercise **greater scrutiny over public expenditures**, strengthen the legislative process' quality, and **ensure citizens' participation**. This initiative also resulted in the **establishment of Women's Parliamentary Network**, as well as **use of digital tools** in the work of National Assembly and many local assemblies in Serbia.

The project "Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Inclusive Political Dialogue" ran from 2020 to 2023 with the aim to improve the oversight, transparency and representative function of assemblies in Serbia at the national, provincial and local levels. It was designed to strengthen the legislative branch at national and local level and thus contribute to strengthening the separation of powers in line with Serbia's EU integration path.



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Key Results

- The National Assembly supported in organizing 21 public hearings, with the participation of CSOs, experts, media, and citizens.
- E-parliament software customized for 5 local assemblies (Assembly of Vojvodina, assemblies of Leskovac, Nis, Kraljevo, Cacak).
- Six different parliamentary committees supported in organising 25 mobile sessions at the local level, with participation of CSOs and citizens in live broadcast.
- Over 20 informal forums for dialogue, debates, and consultations at the local level, with around 900 participants and over 40 CSOs were held on various topics of public interest (environment, SDGs and development, anti-corruption, gender equality).
- The Women's Parliamentary Network supported in advocating for the adoption of the new Law on Gender Equality and organizing two conferences and workshops on its effects at the local level with participants from 14 municipalities.
- Local assemblies supported in establishing its Network of Secretaries under the umbrella of the Association of towns and municipalities in Serbia.
- Open Government Partnership obligations of the NARS completed, including the interactive map of all its sittings organised by locations and topics.
- The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption branch in Serbia supported in lobbying for the anti-corruption legislation recommended by the GRECO.



Photo credit: UNDP Serbia



Conference of the Women's Parliamentary Network
Photo credit: UNDP Serbia



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Photo credit: Bratislav Grubač
European bee-eater near Slankamen, Serbia