



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN SWITZERLAND

Name of national urban policy	<i>Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+</i>
Date of national urban policy	2015
Explicit or partial	Partial
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Adopted by the Federal Council
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Federal Agglomeration Policy (2001)</i>
Stage of development	Implementation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	National administration in co-operation with local and regional bodies and actors
Implementing body	Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), in association with other federal offices
Government system	Federal
Type of national urban agency	<i>Bundesverwaltung</i> (federal administration)
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	Financial support for specific tasks in different sectoral and intersectoral policies (e.g. co-ordination of transport and urban development, economic activities at regional level), and implementation based on regulations issued at the national, regional (<i>cantons</i>) and municipal (<i>communes</i>) levels

Current national urban policy

Switzerland's national urban policy has been in place since the 2001 *Federal Agglomeration Policy*. On 18 February 2015, the Swiss Federal Council adopted the new strategy for the coming ten years (*Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+*). In order to ensure coherent spatial development, this policy has been put in place in parallel with the policy on rural space. Common strategies and tools have been defined for both policies. The updated version was developed by the federal administration based on a common strategy developed by the federal government, *cantons*, cities and municipalities (*communes*). It longs for concrete results and improves collaboration between cities, towns and rural areas (OECD, 2015).

The overarching objectives of the *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* are higher quality of life, higher economic attractiveness, quality urban developments, and efficient collaboration. These are operationalised through six themes:

1. **political governance in a functional space**, which includes strengthening vertical, horizontal and multi-sectoral collaboration;
2. **co-ordination of urbanisation and transport**, which focuses on efficient co-ordination and development;

3. **sustainable urbanism and sustainable development of open spaces**, which recognises the importance of open space to urban quality of life;
4. **reinforcement of social cohesion**, which promotes integration of different groups of the population;
5. **reinforcement of competitiveness**, which recognises the importance of agglomerations offering framework conditions to foster a diversified and competitive economy; and
6. **financing and compensation of special charges**, which recognises that urban centres provide services and activities that benefit their regions, and seeks to compensate them appropriately (Swiss Federal Council, 2015).

Previous national urban policy and developments

The Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+ has replaced the 2001 Federal Agglomeration Policy.

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+</i>
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Moderate

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	X

Bibliography

OECD (2015), “Regional Outlook Survey Results: Switzerland”, unpublished.

Swiss Federal Council (2015), *Politique des agglomérations 2016+ de la Confédération: Pour un développement cohérent du territoire suisse*, 18 February 2015, Swiss Federal Council, Berne,

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