

What we also want to do

In order to continue to protect the interest of the canton as far as possible, the government has defined three strategic goals.



Setting territorial and thematic priorities

The focus here is on the North-South axis, which includes Central Switzerland and the Canton of Aargau, and the Lucerne-Zug-Zurich axis as a part of the metropolitan area of Zurich.

The cooperation with the **cantons** of Central Switzerland has grown historically, and has a high priority. Lucerne is at the heart of Central Switzerland, and is a leading force in many areas. The areas of priority within this cooperation are health, university, safety, the environment, tourism and social counselling.

Cooperation with the neighbouring **Canton of Aargau** to the north is being continually developed. Strategic cooperation projects are in the foreground on the one hand, as well as the exchange of experiences and cooperation in the area of administrative services on the other. Great importance is placed on the cooperation in cross-border living, working and natural space in the fields of transport, environment, flood protection, regional location development and regional planning.

As a result of social and economic dynamics, a functional area has arisen on the Lucerne-Zug-Zurich axis over the last few years, as a part of the **metropolitan area of Zurich**. Lucerne positions itself as an active partner, and makes use of this opportunity to help shape trans-regional developments in the fields of economy, traffic and living space, and to thereby strengthen its own position.



Strengthening presence at the national and international level

The Canton of Lucerne actively safeguards its outward interests and strengthens its national and international presence. Participation in trans-cantonal bodies will be continued. In addition:

- > a targeted **advocacy** will be built up with the target groups of the Confederation and federal parliamentarians.
- > the **Interregional participation** will be continued, in order to facilitate cooperation with European regions for the SMEs, and to promote exchanges with these regions in the fields of regional development and transport (North-South axis).
- > through specific contacts with partners in Europe, the United States and China, access to these markets will be made easier for Lucerne business.



Streamlining and optimising cooperation

The cooperation in the many inter-cantonal cooperation bodies is promoted wherever it achieves effect. Duplications are detected and removed, and participation in committees that achieve no detectable results is eliminated.

- > Participation in the multitude of existing cooperation bodies is subject to an effectiveness audit in all departments. The criteria must be defined in advance.
- > The reciprocal flow of information between departments regarding the activities in the inter-cantonal or international bodies is assured.
- > The parliamentary commissions are informed at an early stage, and are included in the inter-cantonal cooperation.



**Strategy
external relations**

Why external relations?

External relations means networking and coordination beyond the borders of the canton, and form an integral part of the work of the government and the administration. Their goal is to provide optimal services for the local population and the local economy, and to ensure that the voice of the Canton of Lucerne will be heard.



Historically developed living areas

Historically developed living areas such as Central Switzerland overlap cantonal borders. This therefore calls for concerted action.



Complex tasks

Many tasks have become more complex and more demanding. Cooperation thereby makes efficient and cost-effective solutions possible.



Cost-intensive equipment

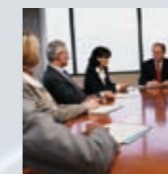
Costly equipment becomes affordable if several cantons can work together (e.g. universities, prisons).



Implementation of federal regulations

The cantons can make use of their joint know-how in the implementation of federal regulations. In this way, they can preserve some of their own resources while still achieving high quality solutions.

What we are already doing



Intensive cooperation between the cantons

Cooperation between the cantons is heavily institutionalised. So regional inter-government conferences have been set up. The Canton of Lucerne is involved in the Central Switzerland inter-governmental Conference, which is divided up into the different Cantonal Director Conferences (Fachdirektorenkonferenzen).

All the cantons are brought together in the Conference of the Cantonal Governments. It is above all questions of federalism and and foreign policy issues that are dealt with here. The policy with regard to Europe and the Bilateral Agreements, which can have a major impact on the cantons, is also of central importance here.

At the national policy level, the department heads take part in the Cantonal Director Conferences.

A large number of workgroups or committees are assigned to these conferences, and are made up of members of the cantonal administrations.

The cantons implement federal law in many areas. A large number of agreements between the federal and cantonal authorities, as well as between the cantons, are necessary for this. Examples are the Road Traffic Law, the Law on Foreigners, the social services sector or agriculture.

In addition to the institutionalised cooperation bodies, cooperation projects can also arise with individual cantons or with groups of cantons when interesting or cost-effective solutions can be achieved. This diverse network of relationships also includes contacts with European regions.