

Swiss NatCat Scheme(s)

Swiss Re Public Sector Solutions – WB MENA Executive Education



Swiss Scheme Overview

In Switzerland there are two separate pools in the market available depending on the region

Interkantonale Rückversicherungsverband (IRV)

For 19 out of the 26 Swiss cantons, each has its own monopoly property insurer covering natural catastrophe risks¹. These insurers pool their risks in the IRV and jointly purchase reinsurance.

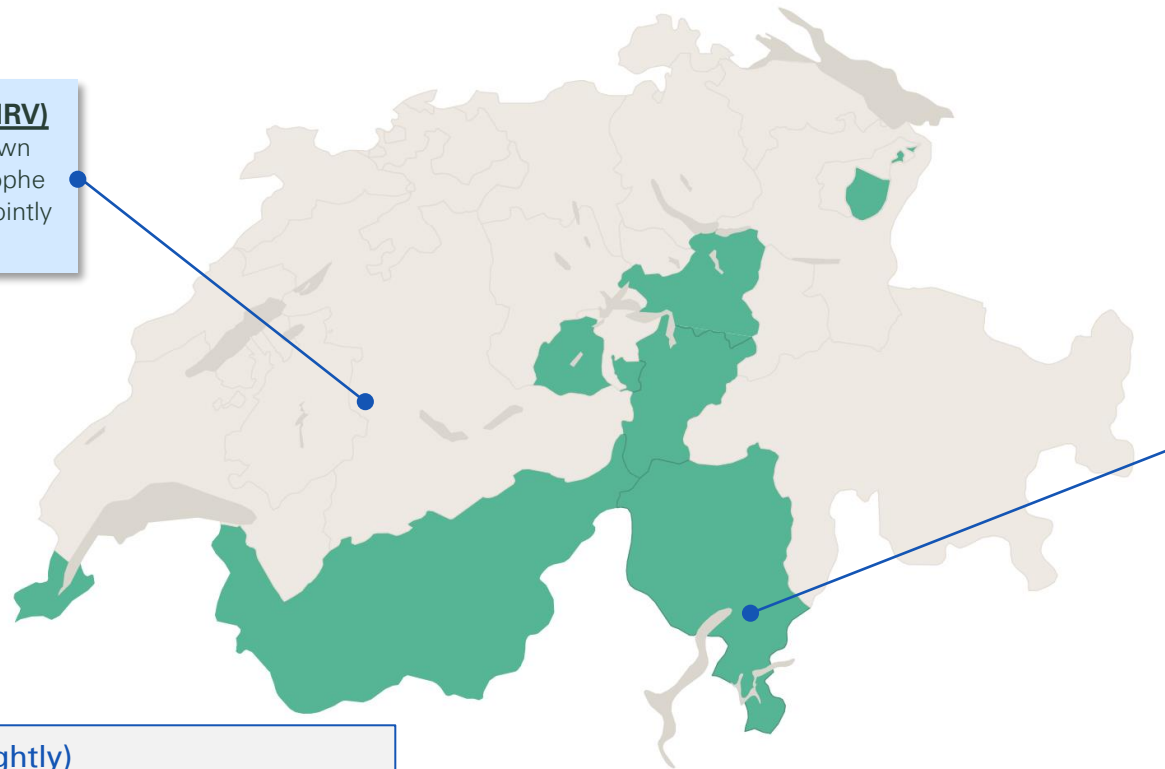
- ✓ Compulsory property cover
- ✓ Compulsory NatCat cover: (except EQ)

GENERAL CONDITIONS (might vary slightly)

Covered perils: floods, windstorms, hail, avalanches, excessive snow pressure, rockfall, and landslides

Level of coverage: variable deductible and limits (reconstruction)

Covered assets: residential + commercial buildings, content (ES)



Insurance penetration of scheme

~99%

Elementarschadenpool (ES-Pool)

For the remaining 7 cantons (GUSTAVO), property insurance including natural catastrophe coverage is provided by private insurers² that pool the natural catastrophe risks in the ES-Pool, which also purchases reinsurance.

- ✗ Property cover not compulsory
- ✓ Compulsory extension of NatCat to fire policies
- ✓ Compulsory NatCat cover for mortgages

¹This applies to the insurance of building. In 2 out of the 19 cantons, the cantonal monopoly property insurer also covers content.

²This applies to the insurance of building. In 24 of 26 cantons, private insurers provide content insurance.

Source (map): https://www.sv.ch/sites/default/files/2021-07/Broschu%CC%88re_Elementarschaden-Versicherung_DE_2021%E2%80%9307%E2%80%9315_ES.pdf

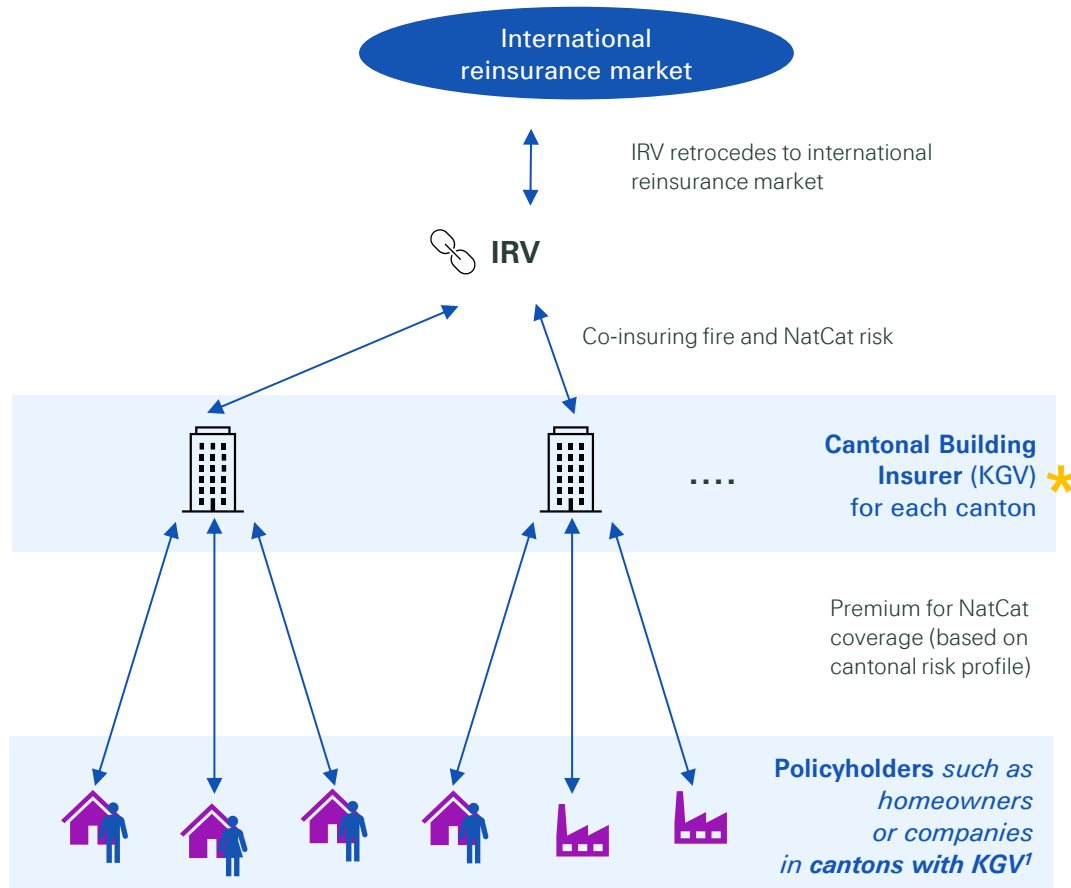


Illustration of pool/scheme set-up

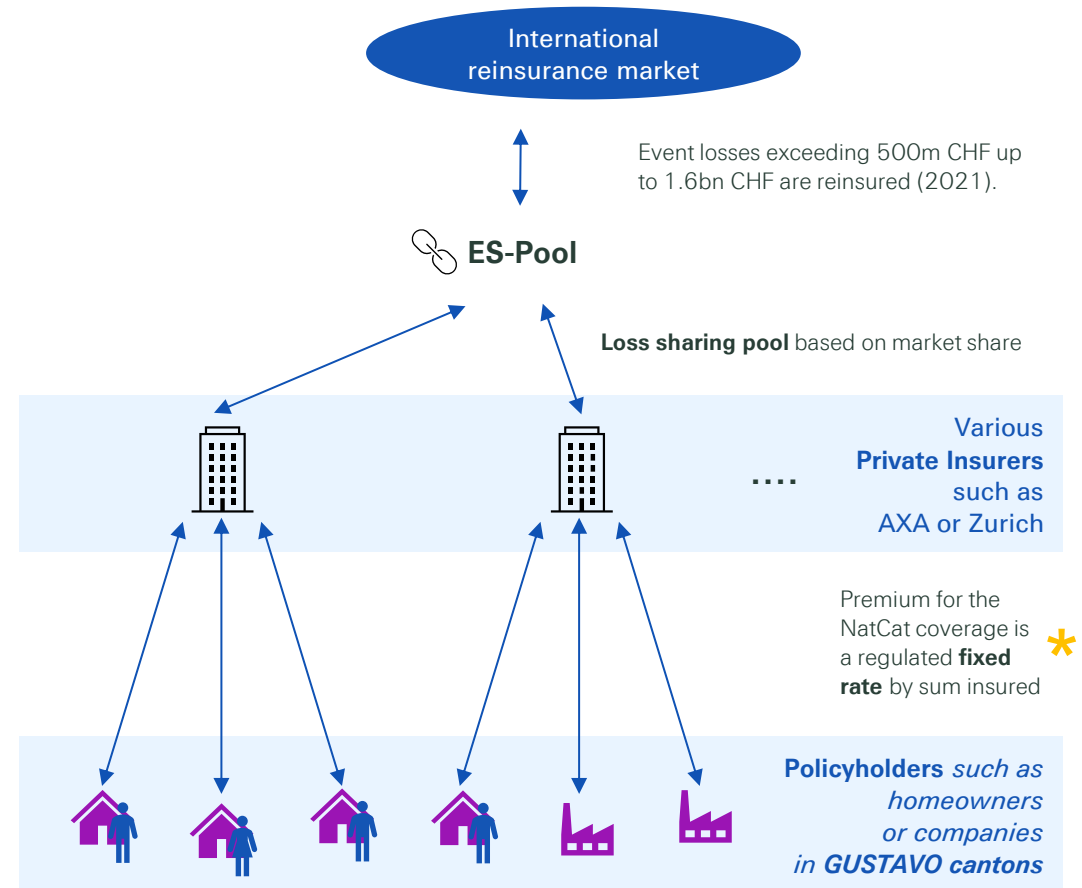
Two separate pools in the market available with similar set-ups

***State involvement**

Interkantonale Rückversicherungsverband (IRV)



Elementarschadenpool





Market dynamics

Dual Swiss set-up positively contributes to the efficiency of the pools

What is working well

- ✓ High penetration rate: ~99%
- ✓ Incentives towards prevention and mitigation
- ✓ High societal acceptance through multi-peril structure
- ✓ Stable and affordable pricing

Key current topics

- Elevated degree of complexity
- Solution for earthquake
- Quickly changing risk landscape
- Leverage available resources in case of event

Collaboration with private market

- Insurers embedded into both schemes
- Clear responsibilities
- Financially sustainable schemes
- De-risking through international reinsurance
- Collaboration on risk knowledge and operations

Thank you!

Contact us



Fedra De Angelis Effrem

Senior Client Manager

Fedra_Deangeliseffrem@swissre.com

+41 43 285 10 00

Follow us



Legal notice

©2025 Swiss Re. All rights reserved. You may use this presentation for private or internal purposes but note that any copyright or other proprietary notices must not be removed. You are not permitted to create any modifications or derivative works of this presentation, or to use it for commercial or other public purposes, without the prior written permission of Swiss Re.

The information and opinions contained in the presentation are provided as at the date of the presentation and may change. Although the information used was taken from reliable sources, Swiss Re does not accept any responsibility for its accuracy or comprehensiveness or its updating. All liability for the accuracy and completeness of the information or for any damage or loss resulting from its use is expressly excluded.