How TAIEX and Twinning support the adoption of Eurocodes in the Balkans

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The peer-to-peer assistance instruments

TAIEX

Technical Assistance and Information EXchange

Mission: support beneficiary countries in understanding, transposing, implementing and applying EU policies, legislation, rules: the acquis
Peer to Peer: what, what for

Nearly all experts mobilised under TAIEX / Twinning are public sector officials from EU Member States’ national administrations

- Commission officials and officials from other EU Institutions sometimes involved
- Private experts rarely involved

Information just flows better between peer practitioners!
Beneficiaries of TAIEX/ Twinning under Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA)

- **New Member State:** Croatia
- **Candidate Countries:** Iceland, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
- **Potential Candidates:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence*
TAIEX / Twinning: beneficiary groups

- Central Governments, Ministries, Government bodies, Regulators
- National Parliaments
- Judiciary

  - Social Partners*
  - Professional associations*

* Only exceptionally if actors play a clear role in the implementation of the EU acquis
TAIEX / Twinning: main areas covered

- Justice and Home Affairs
- Internal Market, Customs, Employment, Social Policy
- Agriculture and Food Safety
- Environment, Energy, Transport, Telecommunications
TAIEX: an unusual assistance instrument

- **Ownership**
- *demand-driven*, beneficiary requests as needed, sometimes requests from other Commission services are also considered
- "Gap-mindedness"
  - Focus on gaps to EU *acquis*
- **Responsiveness**
  - *short-term*, flexible, quick delivery;
  - expert mission 6-8 weeks, 10 weeks for a workshop
- **Peer-to-peer**
  - expertise comes from EU Member States’ administrations
TAIEX types of activities
TAIEX events: who decides?

- Requests usually submitted by beneficiary administration

- All applications submitted for opinion to
  - a National Contact Point (NCP) in the beneficiary administration (usually Foreign Ministry),
  - the EU Delegation to the beneficiary country, and
  - the competent Commission specialised service.

- Commission TAIEX service (IBU) takes final decision
Relevance to EU legislation (the acquis)

- The acquis is the body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all Member States of the European Union

Fitness for TAIEX (short-term, pinpoint?)

Overlap?

Priority and timeliness
TAIEX: what it covers

- TAIEX covers all costs related to provision of assistance
- TAIEX arranges logistics through a contracted service provider
- e.g. for Workshops:

  ✓ Hotel and travel costs for EU MS experts
  ✓ Meeting room rental (if in hotel)
  ✓ Interpretation (including equipment)
  ✓ Catering (lunch, coffee)
TAIEX Events
Total, IPA

* 2013: projected, based on data to October

ADOPTION OF THE EUROCODES IN THE BALKAN REGION
5-6 December, 2013
Participants in TAIEX activities

* 2013: projected, based on data to October
Experts mobilised to TAIEX activities

* 2013: projected, based on data to October
Events breakdown per IPA beneficiaries

* 2013: projected, based on data to October
TAIEX events on Eurocodes (since 2009)

- IPA
- ENPI

Workshop
Expert Mission
Study Visit

ADOPTION OF THE EUROCODES IN THE BALKAN REGION
5-6 December, 2013
Participants in TAIEX events on Eurocodes (since 2009)

- **IPA**
  - Workshop: 12
  - Expert Mission: 13
  - Study Visit: 6

- **ENPI**
  - Workshop: 496
  - Expert Mission: 28
  - Study Visit: 3
TAIEX events on Eurocodes in IPA countries (since 2009)

In detail:

- **Workshop** on "Transposition of EU Legislation on Construction Products" – FYROM, 05/2013
- **Study Visit** on "National Determination Parameters" – FYROM, 3/2013
- **Expert Mission** on "National Determination Parameters" – FYROM, 10/2011
- **Expert Mission** on "Compliance with EU legislation on construction" – Montenegro, 9/2009
- **Study Visit** on "Laboratory and research studies for the development of Eurocodes for construction works and structural construction products" – Turkey, 10/2009
TAIEX evaluation system
"instant" and six month-after feedback

Feedback questionnaires
→ sent to participants/speakers/co-organisers one day after end of event
→ gather feedback on events' quality and logistics

Impact feedback
→ from co-organisers ("evaluation correspondent")
   6 months after end of event
→ gathers feedback on events' quality and longer term impact
Impact of TAIEX

data gathered six months after (140/550 co-organisers – end February 2012)

Organisational changes - creation of new departments/units/positions

- Yes: 27%
- No: 72%
- Partially: 1%

Improved internal working procedures

- Yes: 77%
- No: 22%
- Partially: 1%

Draft of a new law/act or modification of an existing one (either presented or adopted)

- Yes: 52%
- No: 47%
- Partially: 1%

In your opinion how useful was the TAIEX assistance?

- Poor: 0%
- Satisfactory: 32%
- Good: 66%
- Very good: 0%
- Excellent: 0%
TAIEX: How to apply?

Online application form via website

http://taiex.ec.europa.eu
What is Twinning?

Launched in May 1998, Twinning

- aims to help beneficiary countries develop modern public administrations able to implement EU acquis to same standards as Member States (MS).

- provides framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts (twins) in EU Member States.
**Twinning basics**

Project-based mechanism for assisting Beneficiaries in adopting, implementing and enforcing the EU acquis or other policy objectives.

A Twinning is a grant to the winning Member State(s) administration

A Twinning has mandatory results and follows a work plan

On the Commission side, a Twinning is owned / monitored by EU Delegation

Twinning relies entirely on efficient administrative co-operation between MS public administrations (or mandated bodies) and their counterparts ("twin") in the beneficiary country.

**Project Leader, Resident Twinning Advisor and short-term experts are made available by MS administrations or mandated bodies to counterparts in BCs through EU funding.**
Twinning Timeline

Programming

Circulation of Twinning Fiche

Selection Meeting

Drafting the contract

Implementation of the project
Twinning projects: the actors

LINE DG

TWINNING TEAM

DG ELARG

DELEGATION/CFCU

MS NCP
MINISTRY/
IMPLEMENTING
AGENCY

BC NCP
MINISTRY/
IMPLEMENTING
AGENCY

Twinning Contract
Twinning projects: the areas

IPA Twinning projects per sector (2007-2013)

- 08-Justice and home affairs: 36%
- 05-Social sector projects: 8%
- 07-Telecommunications: 0%
- 06-Energy: 2%
- 04-Transport: 5%
- 03-Environment: 9%
- 02-Internal market and Economic criteria: 8%
- 01-Agriculture and Fisheries: 12%
- 12-Other projects: 6%
- 11-Standardisation and certification: 1%
- 10-Structural funds: 1%
- 09-Finance: 10%
- 13-Statistics: 2%
Number of Twinning projects launched under IPA by programming year (2007-2013)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Twinning projects: who bids?
Twinning projects: who wins?

Success rate for proposals by MS as lead partner for IPA projects until September 2013
Twinning project on Eurocodes
Montenegro

• 2010 - "Achieving highest safety and technical quality of construction"

• **Beneficiary country:** Montenegro

• **Twinning MS administration:** Austria as lead Member State with France

• **Project purpose:** To create prerequisites for the harmonization of national regulations and standards for structural analysis and design with the regulations and standards of EU and for building capacities for their successful adoption, implementation and use.

• **Budget:** € 700,000

• **Main results expected:**
  
  1) action plan for adoption of the Eurocodes;
  
  2) action plan for implementation of the Eurocodes;

  3) national annex to Eurocode 8 part 1.
IBU Management, Team Leaders

- **Head of Unit:** Adriano Zilhão
- **Deputy Head of Unit:** Michael Voegele
- **Team leader Twinning:** Paolo Gozzi
- **Team leader Internal Market:** Lazar Todorov
- **Team leader JHA:** Chrstiane Kirschbaum
- **Team leader ETT:** Jean-Marie Gobeaux
- **Team leader Agriculture:** Dieter Goertz
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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