

Foreword

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The year 2003 was a key year in the enlargement process. At the Copenhagen European Council, successful negotiations with the first ten candidate countries had just been concluded and perspectives were being developed for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. By April, the Accession Treaty with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia was signed in Athens. And in November, the final Comprehensive Monitoring Reports for the acceding countries were published, along with the Regular Reports for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.

The journey to this point however, and the steps to ensure the success of the enlargement project, began many years earlier. Even before the establishment of the TAIEX unit in 1995, the enlargement process has always been closely linked to technical assistance. Since then, TAIEX has become an integral feature of the pre-accession strategy, both by responding to requests for short term technical assistance received from beneficiary countries, as well as being a tool to support EU policy objectives by responding effectively to priority areas identified in the Commission's annual reports. These roles will remain valid as new needs are identified up to and beyond enlargement. Further, the continued rise in demand for short-term technical assistance, and correspondingly in TAIEX activities, as this 2003 report bears out, demonstrates how valuable this form of support continues to be.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I present this report on the activities of the TAIEX unit in 2003. The report provides a broad overview of the diverse range of activities, services and target groups now included within TAIEX operations. It also provides a vision and platform for the period ahead. I am sure that the experience of the TAIEX unit, gained through several years of operation, will continue to be a valuable asset and that all beneficiary countries will continue to draw on its assistance in the future.

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TAIEX

is the **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE UNIT OF DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.**

Its aim is to provide to the New Member States, Candidate Countries, and the administrations of the Western Balkans, short-term technical assistance, in line with the overall policy objectives of the European Commission, and in the field of approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.

Introduction

The Copenhagen European Council in December 2002 saw the successful conclusion of negotiations with the first ten candidate countries, confirming the target that those candidate countries which were ready to do so would be invited to become EU member states from 2004. Regarding Bulgaria and Romania, the European Council stated that 2007 would be the target for these countries to enter the Union. The Council also committed the Member States to re-examine the status of Turkey by the end of 2004. Revised Accession Partnerships for the three countries were soon to follow.

The challenge therefore in 2003 – the eighth year of TAIEX operations – has been to help contribute to further strengthening administrative capacity in the candidate countries so that this political momentum be maintained towards the first wave of accession in 2004 and beyond. This translated into increased productivity and a high level of well targeted technical assistance, using the most appropriate delivery mechanisms.

In 2003, TAIEX assistance reached far more people than ever before. Assistance – whether seminars, workshops, meetings, trainings, study visits, expert visits or exchanges – rose by over 25% compared to 2002, both in number of events and in the number of officials from the candidate countries who benefited from Member State expertise. This increase reflected a significant jump in demand from the candidate countries covering all areas of the *acquis*. The Regional Training Programme alone, in which regional administrations are trained in the implementation and enforcement of important sectors of the *acquis* at the local level, served over 10,000 local officials.

Assistance was also aimed at the training of those officials involved in the enforcement of European legislation. Training reached groups such as maritime safety inspectors ensuring the safety of vessels operating in European waters, local inspectors monitoring the application of legislation in veterinary establishments, environmental inspectors checking the running of waste management plants, or indeed money laundering investigators working in Financial Intelligence Agencies.

TAIEX assistance is not only demand-driven, but has also been targeted in order to help support broader policy objectives. In the field of justice & home affairs for example, more focus was placed on assistance in the field of criminal judicial co-operation and fighting organised crime, including combating terrorism. In the area of food safety, TAIEX has also helped create working groups to oversee the preparation and implementation of national training programmes in each country.

Another key aspect of the work of the TAIEX unit in 2003 relates to its central co-ordinating and organising role in the Peer Review process, whose overall objective is to ascertain whether adequate administrative infrastructure and capacity are in place in order to ensure implementation of the acquis. The results of this exercise formed a key contribution to the Commission's monitoring of the candidate countries' progress towards accession.

For 2004 and in the short to medium term after accession, TAIEX will continue to serve the new Member States (through the Transition Facility) as well as the remaining candidate countries. For the most part, TAIEX will retain a focus on acquis relevant actions, characterised by short-term, fast mobilisation. This will respond to beneficiary countries' needs and requests, using both the multi and single country approach. However the trend, already visible in 2003, to lend greater emphasis to technical training on implementation and enforcement, also availing of Member State institutes, will accelerate. Peer co-operation will form a central part of this training.

One major prospect in 2004 will be the widening of TAIEX's geographical coverage to the administrations of the Western Balkans, preparations for which already began in 2003. General introductory seminars on topics such as the fight against organised crime, food safety and public procurement legislation, are set to begin in Brussels in a multi-country format, but will eventually give way to a wider range of more detailed tailored seminars in the future, with a greater focus on the individual needs of the beneficiary administration.

Concerning financial matters, € 35.2 million was contracted in late 2002 to cover the following 15 months period of activity for the assistance to Phare beneficiary countries and to Turkey. This amount was supplemented in June by € 0.9 million to cover activities for Cyprus and Malta. In late 2003, a further € 36.1 million was contracted until mid-2005. These resources for 2004 activities will be complemented by funds from the Transition Facility funds for new Member States, Pre-Accession funds for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and an allocation of necessary resources in relation to the countries of the Western Balkans. In this way, overall funds for TAIEX activity should be assured until end 2005.

TAIEX ACTIVITIES BY SECTOR AND BY COUNTRIES

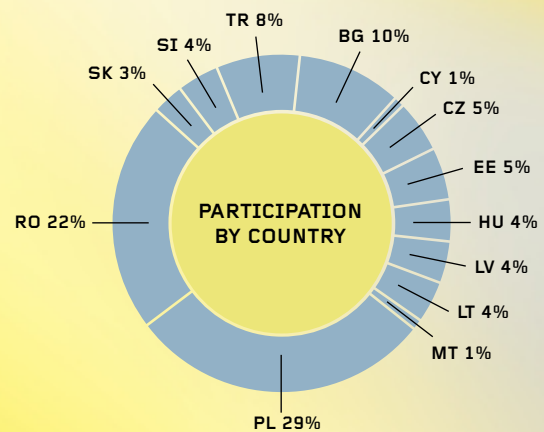
Port Authorities & Border Management
Regional Training Programme
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Individual mobilisations - Experts & Study visits
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Social Partners
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Budget and contracts

PORT AUTHORITIES & BORDER MANAGEMENT

The TAIEX Port & Border Management support covers all aspects of border management and controls (excepting Agricultural and Immigration Controls) and also encompasses matters relating to transport, customs and taxation. Since its introduction in June 2001, activities have expanded in both the range and scope of the type of targeted assistance it provides.

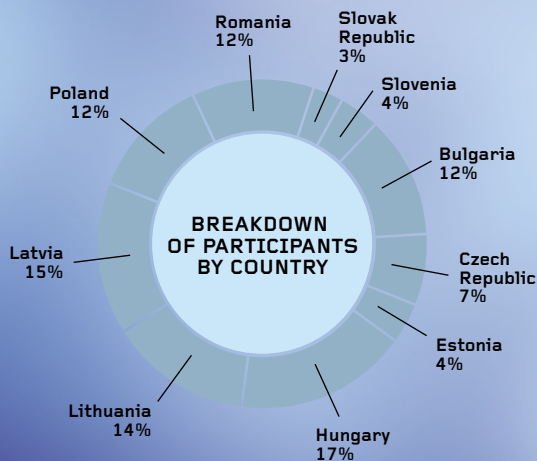
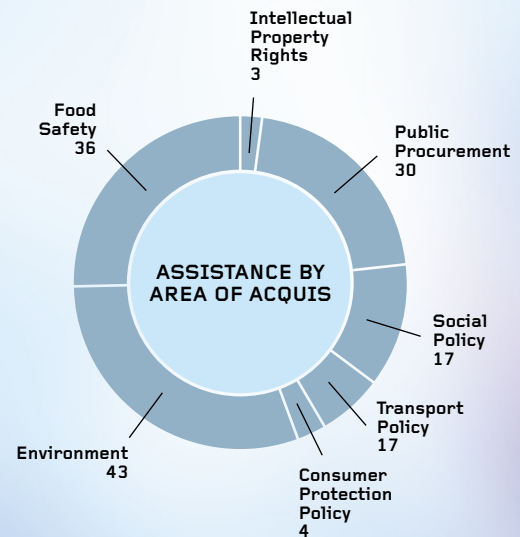
For the sectors related to maritime, inland, airports and road transport issues, the target groups in 2003 included ministries, port and transport terminal authorities, and service providers, shipping lines, hauliers and coach operators, and trade unions and social partners. For these areas, technical assistance was focussed on topics such as port policy, planning, development and market access, port management, port environment and waste, port safety, and welfare of seafarers and port workers. For sectors related to customs and taxation, the target groups were ministries, and specifically customs and taxation departments, airports, border guards, police, customs brokers/agents, freight forwarders and shipping lines.

In 2003, TAIEX brought assistance to these groups through 47 events on all areas of the Community customs *acquis*, and taxation *acquis* (including excise, VAT, direct tax and mutual assistance and the fight against fraud), as well as on controls enforced by customs on behalf of other agencies (e.g. cities, Intellectual Property Rights, various prohibitions etc.). Assistance was also organised on the Schengen *acquis*, with a view to encouraging cross border and cross agency co-operation.



REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Regional Training Programme (RTP) is based on the 'train the trainers' concept, and aims to train individuals from the regions of each of the beneficiary countries to become experts in their chosen field of the *acquis communautaire* including its practical implementation and enforcement. Further the programme promotes the establishment of networks of expertise both at an intra-regional level and also intra-EU level. The programme envisages five stages from initial selection (1), and training in Brussels by the institutions (2/3) to study visits in Member States (4), and eventually to the organisation by the experts of events in their home country (5).



In 2003, TAIEX continued the training programme into Stages 4 and 5. RTP Experts from nine countries participated in study visits throughout the EU to enhance their experience of the practical implementation and enforcement of the EU *acquis*. Following this, each RTP Expert organised technical training in their own country to share their knowledge and experiences. In total, more than 10,500 participants attended over 140 seminars across the regions of the 10 countries participating in the programme. A wide range of topics were covered, with a particular focus on EU Environment policy, Food Safety issues and Public Procurement policy.

PEER REVIEWS

PEER REVIEWS

In line with the Commission's 2002 strategy paper and the Action Plans on Administration and Judicial capacity, TAIEX continued to carry out Peer Reviews. The overall objective of the Peer Review programme is to ascertain whether adequate administrative infrastructure and capacity are in place in order to ensure effective implementation of the acquis. In concrete terms, Peer Reviews serve to assist acceding countries by pinpointing areas that require further strengthening of the administration; by making recommendations on how such strengthening could be achieved, helping to target the use of subsequent technical assistance; and, as an additional information input to the Commission's on-going monitoring exercises. In particular, the results of the peer review exercise contributed to the Comprehensive Monitoring Reports for the ten acceding countries, and the Regular Reports for Bulgaria and Romania, published in November 2003. They were also made available to the Enlargement Group of the Council in December 2003.

Peer reviews co-ordinated and implemented by TAIEX involved the full participation of the concerned countries' administrations, Commission Services and experts from Member States. Each peer review team consisted of a small group of highly experienced experts from different Member States.

The main basis of each mission was a factual questionnaire or checklist that enabled the reviews to be as efficiently undertaken as possible and to assure objectivity, consistency and comparability. The questionnaire included a request for general background information, a short description of the latest or planned national institutional framework, information about the current state of the transposition process and any relevant statistics and budgetary details, provided these were not already available to the Commission services. The results of the evaluation mission were presented in a report in which the current situation in the country concerned in the relevant sector was assessed, potential problem areas highlighted and recommendations for further action given.



In 2003, a total of 147 peer review missions were organised covering 12 countries and 21 sectors within 10 different chapters of the accession negotiations. A total of 452 experts were mobilised from all Member States for these reviews.

PARLIAMENTS

Parliaments and legislative councils play an important role in adopting Community legislation and thus in preparing the country for accession. In 2003, TAIEX assistance to Parliaments and Legislative Councils intensified, with almost 50 training opportunities for Members of Parliament and permanent staff of national parliaments and legislative councils. The service has taken a flexible approach in providing technical assistance and has been both demand-driven and based on initiatives emanating from the Commission.

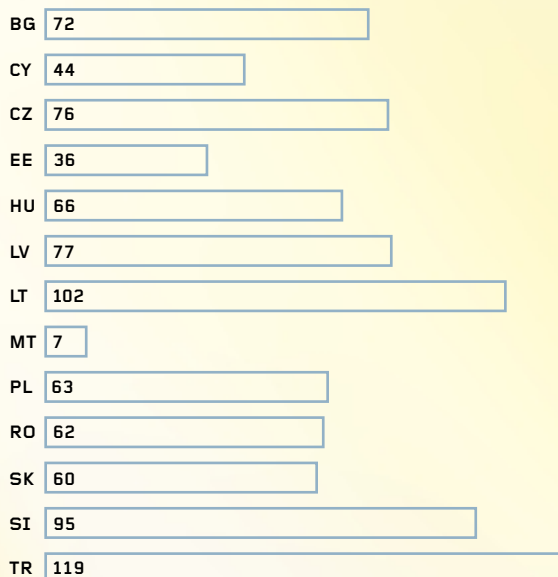
A new feature of the parliamentary programme was the organisation of multi-country seminars. These events covered for the first time a wide-range of topics of the *acquis communautaire* and touched upon many subject matters like organised crime, financial services, development policy, water management, aviation and intellectual property rights to name just a few examples. They brought together Members of Parliament of all 13 candidate and acceding countries and allowed them to exchange views with experts mostly coming from the European Commission.

The parliamentary programme also expanded around the Question & Answer Sessions with an emphasis on environmental topics and issues related to justice and home affairs as well as employment and social affairs. The issue of non-discrimination was added to the topics of these sessions. The purpose of the sessions is to not only provide participants with an explanation of the *acquis* but to offer also discussion opportunities related to the on-going national legislative programme.

Some seminars dealt with the very practical question regarding the role of national parliaments in the EU legislative procedure, the work of individual committees and relations with the European Parliament. The European Parliament was closely associated to these events.

Bilateral co-operation between parliaments was carried on by enabling parliamentary officials to visit Member States parliaments for study purposes for up to three days. This form of technical assistance aims at helping permanent staff to understand the mechanisms and procedures established by other parliaments and it gives them a practical insight into the day-to-day work of other parliaments.

ORIGINS OF PARTICIPANTS



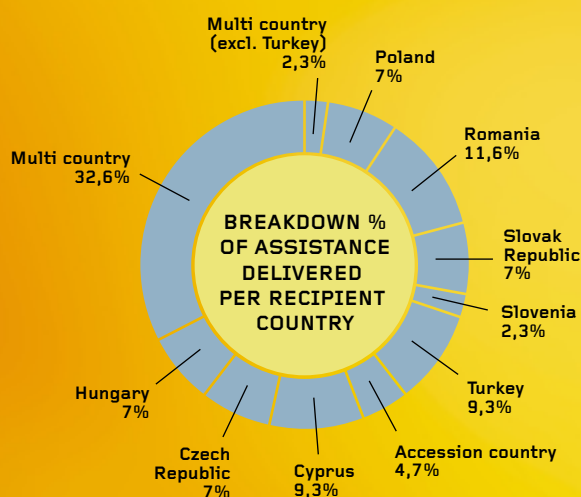
JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS

Justice and Home Affairs is a fast evolving area of the *acquis communautaire*, currently accounting for some 40% of new legislation. During 2003, TAIEX had to respond not only to the changing legislative environment, but also to changing operational practices and cross-border co-operation, fast developing in parallel. Furthermore, the target audience for such assistance is varied and diverse, broadly under the responsibilities of both the Ministries of Justice and the Ministries of Interior, often working in the same areas but distinct groups requiring a distinct approach: judges, prosecutors, police, other law enforcement agencies, border guards, migration officers, customs, as well as Ministry officials.

More focus was placed in 2003 on assistance to relevant ministries/agencies in the field of criminal law and fighting organised crime, including broad seminars on combating terrorism. More specific actions were organised on economic crime and money laundering, both in terms of legislative requirements but also in terms of practical cases for investigators working in Financial Intelligence Agencies. TAIEX co-operated with EUROPOL to organise a one-week training on measures to prevent counterfeiting of the euro. Candidate countries were also kept abreast of latest developments in cross-border judicial co-operation, for example of the European Arrest Warrant. On the Schengen *acquis*, all candidate countries were implicated on technical trainings on the EURODAC system, the Dublin Regulation and the day-to-day working of a SIRENE Office. The fast evolving area of civil law was not neglected, with several actions in the field of judicial co-operation in civil and commercial issues.

TAIEX also addressed for all candidate countries the important issue of representation of a Member State before the European Court of Justice. Moreover, assistance was organised on how Member States deal with the infringement procedure, and this topic, as well as the question of the preliminary ruling procedure, will continue to be an area for further assistance in 2004.

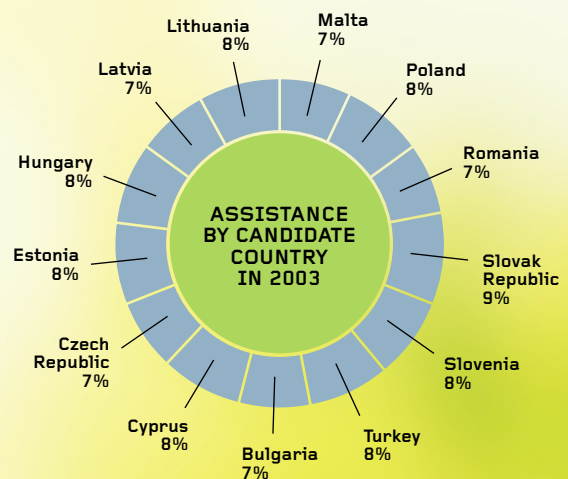
In 2003 a total number of 43 events reached almost 2,000 officials. The majority of assistance was tailored to the specific needs of a country, reaching a large number and variety of officials in one administration, while there were also ample opportunities to bring together all, or nearly all, candidate countries in so-called multi-country workshops.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD SAFETY

The number of activities in this sector more than doubled during 2003 to 128 technical assistance events, of which 52 were multi-country seminars. This volume of activity reflects the importance of the sector and the political attention given to the need for the new Member States, in particular, to have put in place by their accession the necessary legislation and administrative structures and procedures.

In 2003, continuing emphasis was given to food safety and supporting the alignment of veterinary and phytosanitary legislation through consultations on draft texts prior to adoption. TAIEX also helped create a working group to oversee the preparation and implementation of national training programmes for food safety in each country and financed activities to support these programmes along with other identified priorities. At a more strategic level the existence of the TAIEX working group of chief veterinary officers and sub-groups on individual technical issues has helped to place such assistance within the overall planning of the Ministries' work.



In the agricultural sector, technical assistance was delivered through multi-country seminars and bilateral workshops, aimed at developing key areas which for the countries concerned were highlighted in the Commission's monitoring reports as requiring further action and support, namely administrative capacity for the implementation of the CAP, for example on IACS, financial control, state aid and trade mechanisms. With regard to Turkey, assistance continued along the line of technical examination of the *acquis*. This has taken the form of a series of tailor made 'Agriculture weeks' focusing on different areas of the *acquis*, e.g. fisheries policy, agricultural markets, food, veterinary and phytosanitary legislation etc.

PRIVATE SECTOR

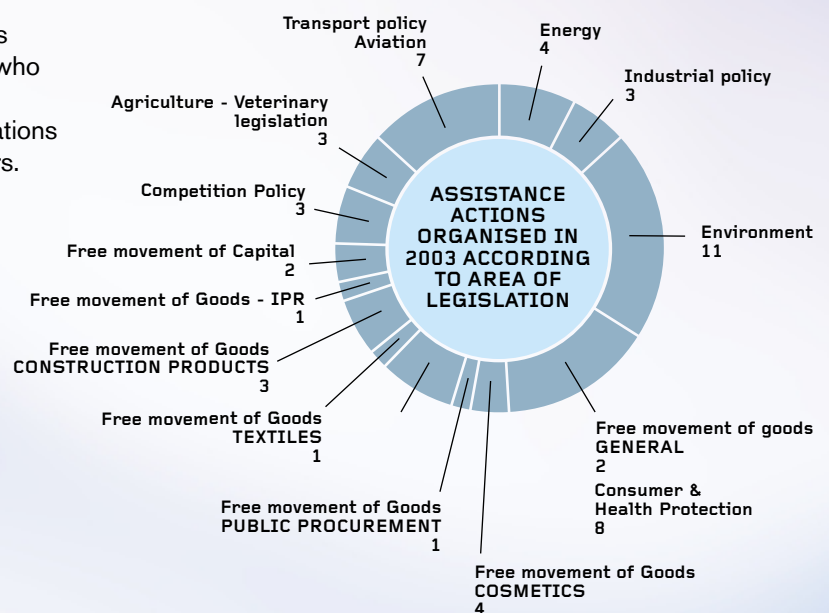
PRIVATE SECTOR

While a key feature of the enlargement process is that domestic legislation needs to incorporate community legislation, and institutional structures may need to change, effective application depends essentially on the full and working involvement of the private sector and all concerned economic operators. The objective of support to the private sector is to provide information and examples of best practices to the business sector concerning implementation of EU legislation and its implications for the private sector in terms of enforcement. Of particular importance is the management, production methods and product specifications within industry, which is regulated by the *acquis communautaire*, in particular by single market legislation and standards.

The guiding question to assistance delivered in this area is: how will EU legislation affect my business/sector and what needs to be done to be in line with EU requirements? To reach this objective, TAIEX brings together those who request assistance with those who can best supply it. Furthermore, this private sector support is designed to encourage business associations to develop links with the EU private sector operators.

In 2003, a total of 53 events was organised for the benefit of 2,356 participants from all candidate countries. The selection of assistance was based on a combination of requests from candidate countries, the Commission's own initiative, as well as offers from Member States. The key areas of the *acquis communautaire* dealt with in 2003 are to be seen in the table, reflecting the priorities of the economic operators in order to comply with implementation requirements of EU legislation.

Close co-operation with the Commission services such as Enterprise, Energy & Transport, Environment, and Health & Consumer Protection ensure that activities undertaken reflected priority training needs. In addition, co-operation with European umbrella business associations, Member States and candidate countries' private sector associations has been further strengthened and extended.

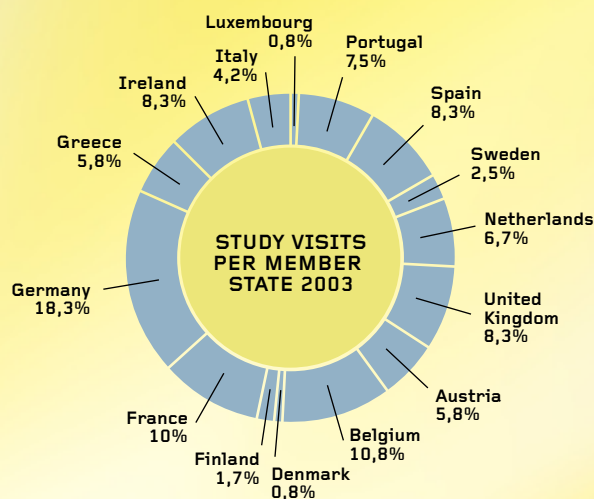


INDIVIDUAL MOBILISATIONS

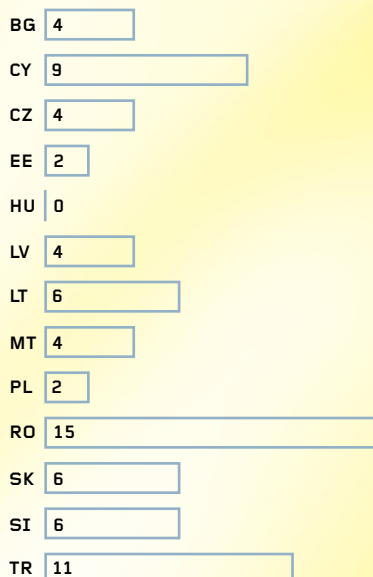
Individual Mobilisations provide an important service to the candidate countries, not only because the assistance is flexible and targeted, but also as it encourages the development of networks through close working relationships. Officials from the candidate countries are able to work closely alongside colleagues for up to one week in a Member State administration with a view to discussing legislation, or experiencing first-hand administrative procedures and infrastructure, or seeing examples of best practices. Alternatively, TAIEX can facilitate the presence of Member State officials in a beneficiary country also, for up to a week, to discuss legislative drafts, present examples of best practices or lend assistance where requested.

The range of sectors and institutions involved in such exchanges is broad and in many cases the issues on which technical assistance has been requested could not have been foreseen or planned within other assistance instruments. Indeed, the selection of assistance actions is fully demand driven with activities entirely dependent on requests received from the beneficiary countries. The added-value of this form of quick delivery, as well as of the more intimate working format, is the delivery of technical assistance tailor-made to specific short-term needs.

In 2003, 237 events were organised of which 75 were expert mobilisations and 162 were study visits. In the last two years of preparation, the candidate countries have especially requested expert missions in the field of agriculture, justice and home affairs, environment, free movement of persons and consumer and health protection.

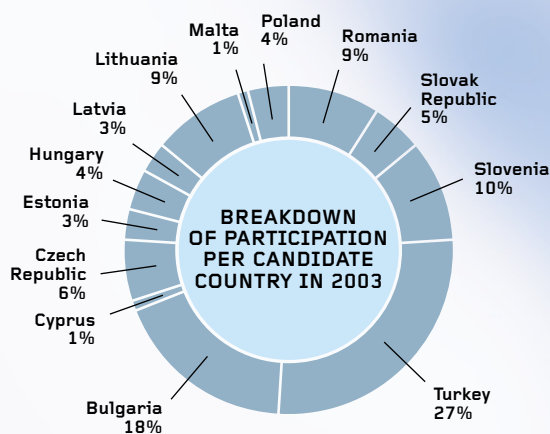


EXPERT VISITS BY BENEFICIARY COUNTRY



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONS

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONS



As TAIEX is organised largely along the lines of sectoral teams in wide ranging areas of the *acquis*, this assistance targeted officials from the central administrations not otherwise covered by TAIEX. Over the year, there was a marked increase in more focussed requests for assistance responding to very specific individual country needs, leading to the organisation of more tailored, specialised and country specific workshops. TAIEX organised a total of 41 workshops: 22 of them were country specific (so-called single country workshops) and 19 were for the benefit of all candidate countries (so-called multi-country workshops). An increasing number of requests were addressed from the administrations of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in particular in the area of Transport policy, Telecommunications policy, Consumers and Health Protection policy and Financial Control policy.

In other areas, some technical assistance actions are acquiring an annual status, such as the yearly Joint-Training sessions on Antitrust and State Aid in co-operation with the Competition services of the European Commission; and the continuous co-operation with Internal Market services on events on internal market legislation. Such workshops were organised on a multi-country basis. While other Commission services represented over a third of the speakers used in Central Administration events, the main contribution came from the Member States administrations who offered expertise to explain their own experiences in adjusting and applying their legislation to the *acquis communautaire*.

SOCIAL PARTNERS

The dynamics of the European social model and the ways it is reflected in EU legislation is another issue that deserves great attention. Social partners are willing to explore new patterns of dialogue and agreement both in the present and in the future Member States. At EU level a wide range of legislation already exists – European Works Council, collective redundancies, transfer of undertakings, the European company statute, the Directive on information and consultation of workers. Whenever a need to better understand and implement such legislation arose in the candidate countries, TAIEX, in close co-operation with the Directorate General for Employment, continued in 2003 to provide the competent and tailor-made assistance.

Over the year, the TAIEX programme for social partners organised 16 seminars, bringing together officials from the national administrations of the candidate countries and representatives of the two sides of industry, both employers and the trade unions, and also sectoral umbrella organisations. The main topics covered in this area included labour law, anti-discrimination and equal opportunities legislation, social dialogue, sustainable pension systems, including pension rights, and worker consultation.

As an example, socio-professional integration for the disabled was a subject of focus at a multi-country seminar in Vienna aimed at administration officials, all social partners as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Or a major multi-country seminar with the Economic and Social Committee on the Lisbon Strategy, a commitment to bring about economic, social and environmental renewal in the EU, to discuss a more inclusive European Union as an essential element in achieving the Union's ten year strategic goal of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

Applications for technical assistance came from different organisations representing industry, ministries and DG Employment, on whose suggestion in particular, TAIEX organised two successive events on the very complex legislation in the area of workers' involvement, for a total duration of five full working days.

TRANSLATION

TRANSLATION

As enlargement came ever closer, the acceding countries became ever more aware of the need to place importance on the task of ensuring full, complete and accurate translation of the *acquis*. Thus, in the year preceding the accession of ten countries, activities related to the co-ordination of its translation were intensified. Globally, some 30 events were organised in the course of 2003.

These included regular technical meetings with the Legal Services of the Commission and of the Council, held almost monthly in Brussels, for the harmonisation of the efforts of the so called Translation Coordination Units (TCUs) in the candidate countries, the legal revisers ('finalisers') recruited by the Institution to vet translations provided by the TCUs and of course the Office for Official Publications.

Other assistance on topics directly related to the preparation of the acceding countries to use their languages as official languages of the EU implied the training of lawyer-linguists at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, the training of specialised revisers at the European Agency for Evaluation of Medicinal Products in London and the training in the use of IT tools (computer assisted translation software; terminology databases; etc).

Building on the experience gained over the years in the management of the flow of translations, TAIEX agreed in 2003 with the Secretariat General of the Commission that it would also assist acceding countries with regard to the notification of national measures implementing EU Directives. A dedicated database was consequently established by TAIEX to this end and various meetings were organised to familiarize officials of the national administrations with notification rules, infringement procedures, etc.

TAIEX DATABASES

As an information broker for the candidate countries by gathering and making available information on the community *acquis*, TAIEX has always been active in using latest technologies. This includes providing a wide range of database tools for facilitating and monitoring progress in legislative approximation. The main elements are:

The TAIEX Website

provides up to date information on all TAIEX activities through its events calendar. It also enables potential beneficiaries to download application forms for requests for assistance and to obtain material presented at TAIEX events or to see some of it directly. Access to all the other TAIEX electronic systems (see below) is also possible. The introductory page is displayed in English and in all the languages of the beneficiary countries. In 2004, it is expected that this will be fully integrated into the Commission's EUROPA service with the new address: <http://taiex.cec.eu.int>

The Pre-Notification Database

was launched in 2003 to help new Member States meet their obligations with regard to the formal notification procedure. The number of directives whose provisions were to require notification to the European Commission before May 1st exceeded 1,700. This tailor-made database helped facilitate that process ahead of accession, and avoid dramatic bottlenecks on the eve and in the wake of enlargement. At the end of April 2004, the whole content of the database was successfully handed over to the Secretariat General, the service responsible for the receiving notification of new legislation, and whose own new database has now been remodelled on this TAIEX database.

The Progress Database

is widely used both in the candidate countries and in the Commission. It is regularly updated with newly adopted EU measures and with information on the transposition of the *acquis* into national legislation by the Candidate Countries. For some time, the Progress Database has also contained information on the translation of the *acquis communautaire* into the languages of Candidate Countries.

The Legal Administrative Services System

is a TAIEX provided web based service, containing links to the websites of all the ministries and other government agencies and infrastructure bodies as well as semi-public institutions and trade associations of each of the candidate countries and Member States.

CCVista is an electronic database

of all EU legislation (almost 100,000 translations) translated into the official languages of the candidate countries, a tool compatible with other systems available within the Translation Service, Legal Service and Publications Office. Any user can freely download texts judged of convenient quality (i.e. "revised") by the Candidate Country translation centres. While these texts are useful as working documents, they have no legal value as only *acquis* as printed in the Official Journal is deemed authentic. **JurisVista** is a similar database where selected translations of jurisprudence of the Court of Justice in the official languages of the candidate countries are stored.

Celex & EurLex

are well known databases of the Office for Official Publications, containing EU legislation. The TAIEX webpage offers a direct link to Celex. Although the link only gives access to a reduced version of Celex, in special, justified cases TAIEX can pay the fee requested for access to the full database.

TAIEX offers a page of links to National Legislative Databases.

As the name indicates, the page offers a series of links to sources of legislation into Member States and candidate countries, indicating whether those sources are authoritative and whether access to the web pages is free.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'CCVista Translation Database' website. The browser's address bar shows 'CCVista'. The website has a blue header with the European Union flag and the text 'Enlargement - TAIEX'. Below the header is a navigation menu with options like 'Log In', 'Download', 'Upload', 'View Full Priority List', 'Receive Full Document List', 'Priority List Version Comparison', and 'Log Out'. The main content area is titled 'CCVista Translation Database' and includes a 'Warning' section with text regarding the authenticity of EU legislation and the availability of translations for public information.

The Law Approximation Database

gives an updated (5 times a year) overview of the legislation adopted by each candidate country in their transposition of the *acquis communautaire*.

The information is detailed, based on the whole corpus of secondary binding legislation published by the Office for Official Publications, and gives a clear indication of work accomplished by each candidate country in transposing the *acquis* into their national legislation.

This database has increasingly been used by candidate country administrations as a planning tool.

Avis (animal diseases), **Vetlex** (veterinary legislation) and **Phytolex** (phytosanitary legislation) are databases developed as commercial products covered by a licence agreement. TAIEX offers free access to a limited number of officials in the competent ministries.

FINANCIAL ISSUES: BUDGET & CONTRACTS

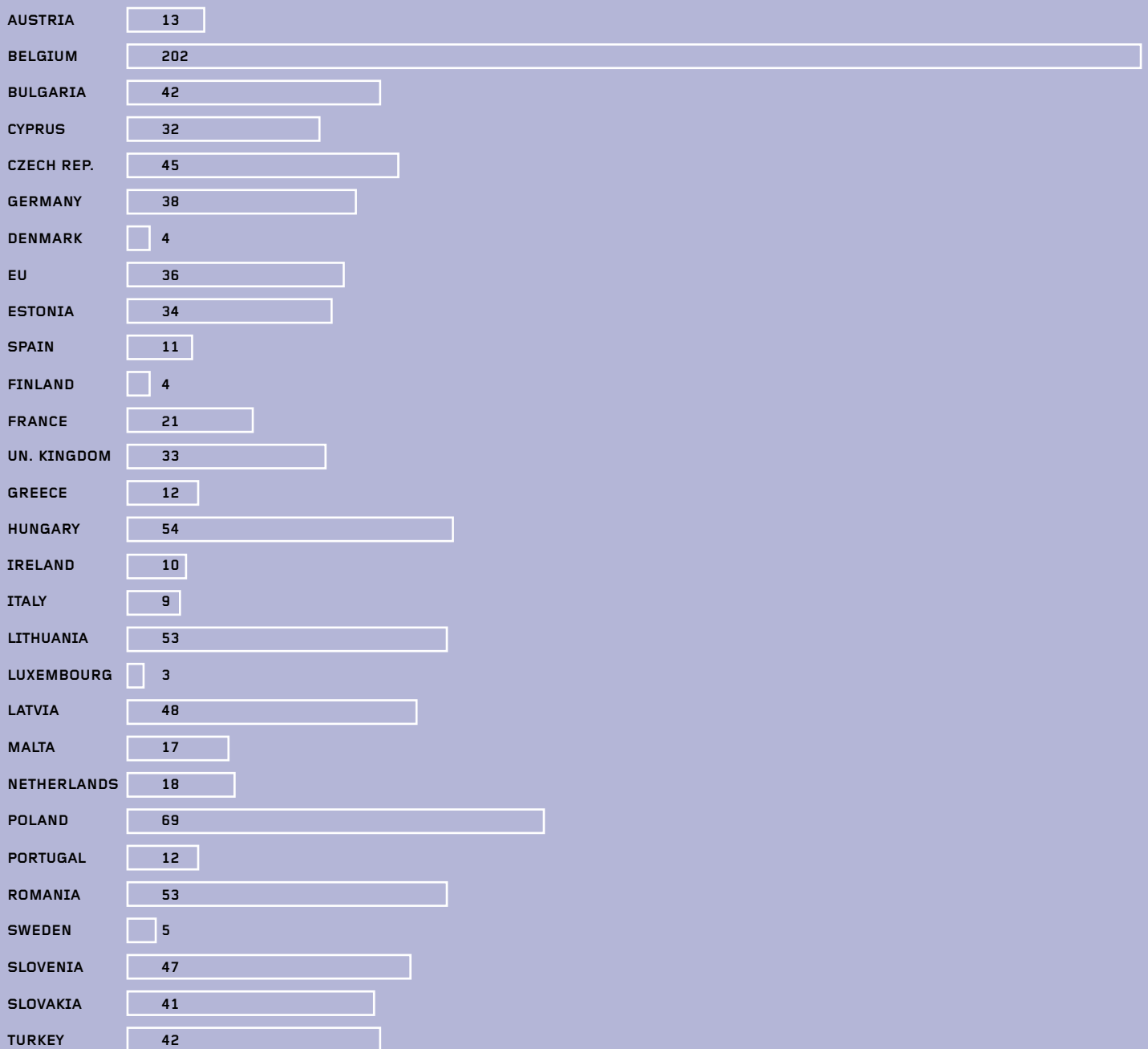
2003 was a year of intense activity for the Budget and Contract Team, starting with the signature in December 2002 of the TAIEX logistical support service contract with the German company Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in consortium with the Belgian company TQ3 Travel solution, awarded following an open tender procedure. This contract initially amounting to € 35.2 million for the assistance to Phare countries and to Turkey was extended in June 2003 to Cyprus and Malta, thus increasing the amount of the contract by respectively € 0.5 and € 0.4 million for the two countries.

The first 12 months of this contract showed a substantial growth of activity levels compared to 2002, the number of events increased by 25.9% while the number of participants from beneficiary countries rose by 25%. By sector, the most important growth in the number of events was registered in the Regional Training Programme (+213.2%), Study Visits (+92.9%), and Port & Border Management Programme (+76.0%).

Resources for 2004/2005 activities will amount to € 34.5 million from the Phare 2002 budget, to be completed by the Transition Facility funds for new Member States, and Pre-Accession funds for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. One major prospect in 2004 is the extension of the TAIEX programme geographical scope to Balkan countries and to northern Cyprus. Some € 4 million will be allocated for the Western Balkan countries, and € 0.5 million has initially been allocated to assist northern Cyprus.

STATISTICS

Number of events by COUNTRY

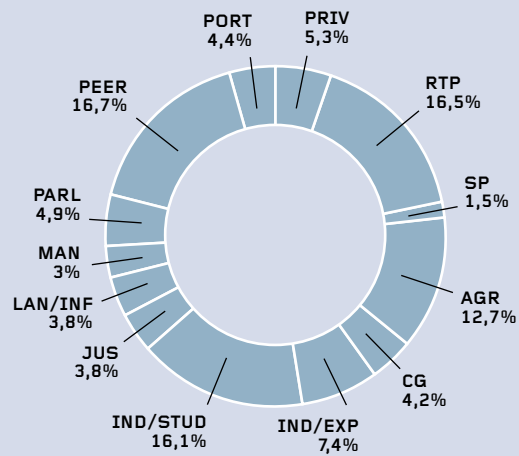


TOTAL

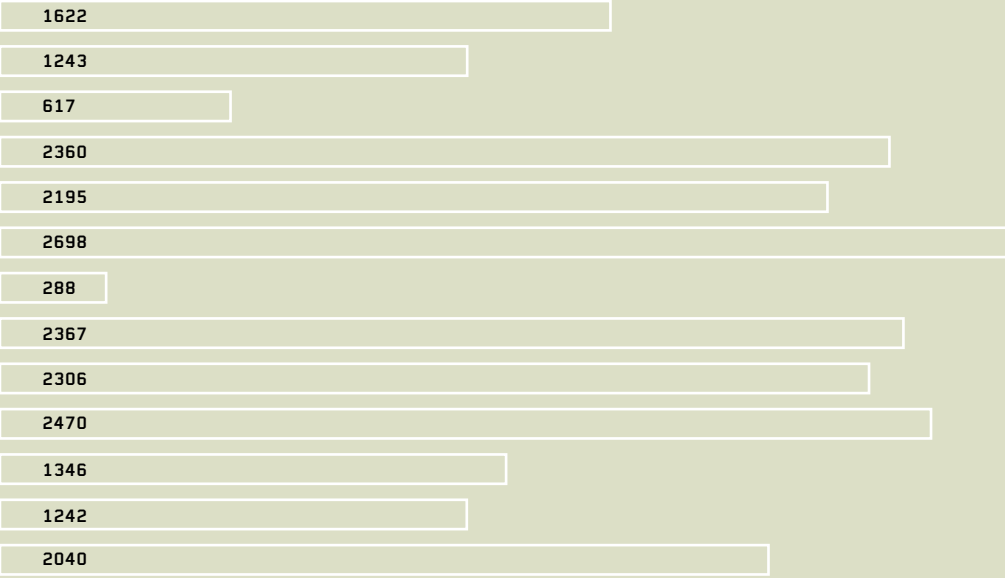
1008

Number of events by TEAM

AGR	128
CG	42
IND/EXP	75
IND/STUD	162
JUS	38
LAN/INF	38
MAN	30
PARL	49
PEER	168
PORT	44
PRIV	53
RTP	166
SP	15
TOTAL	1008

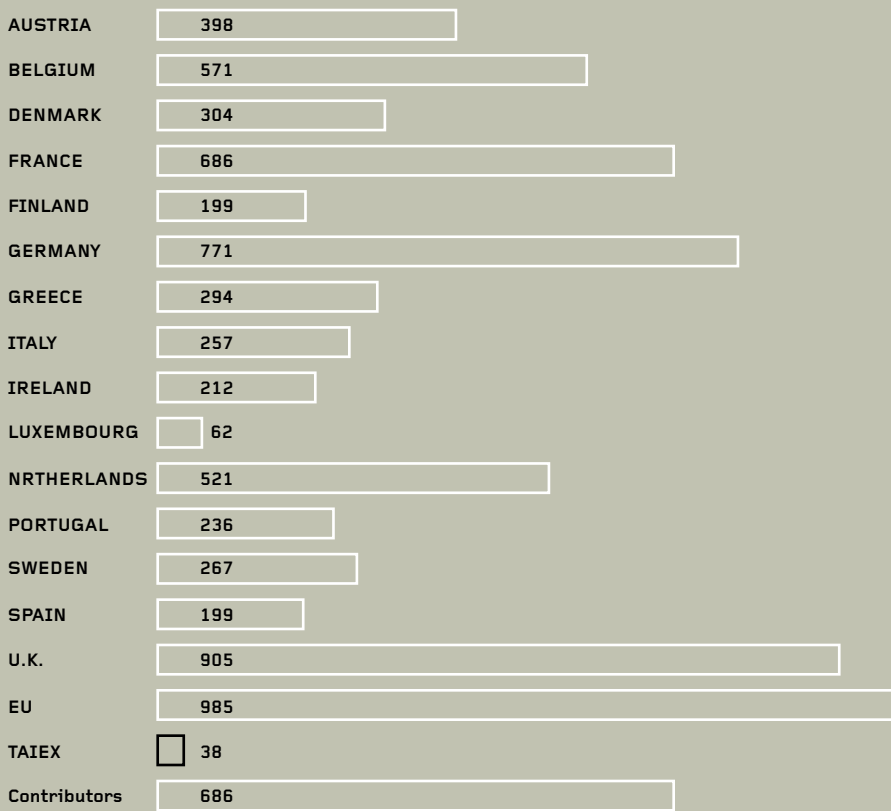


Number of participants by CANDIDATE COUNTRIES



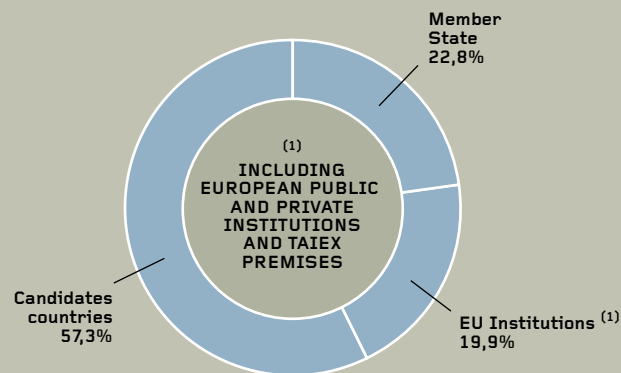
CZECH REP.	1622
ESTONIA	1243
CYPRUS	617
LATVIA	2360
LITHUANIA	2195
HUNGARY	2698
MALTA	288
POLAND	2367
BULGARIA	2306
ROMANIA	2470
SLOVENIA	1346
SLOVAKIA	1242
TURKEY	2040
TOTAL	22794

Number of EXPERTS



TOTAL 7591

Share of host countries
in the total
of events in 2003





TAIEX BENEFICIARIES

THE FUTURE MEMBER STATES



¹ as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999.

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