



TAIEX

**2006 ACTIVITY REPORT**



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## TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2006

# FOREWORD

The accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007 completed the European Union's historic, fifth enlargement, peacefully reuniting Western and Eastern Europe after decades of division. Bulgaria and Romania follow the ten countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Following the successful completion of this round of enlargement, the European Union keeps its doors open to South-East Europe. This door is open to enter for Turkey, Croatia and other Western Balkan countries, once each of them satisfies the conditions laid down for membership.

Turkey and Croatia started accession negotiations in October 2005, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became candidate for EU membership in December 2005. The other countries of the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, including Kosovo<sup>1</sup> - are currently at different stages in their European integration.

In 2006, the TAIEX instrument mobilised more than 4,000 experts from all Member State Administrations to participate in more than 1,000 events attended by above 35,000 officials from all beneficiary countries. These activities - seminars, workshops, study and expert visits and peer reviews - facilitate an exchange of best practices and experiences across the entire spectrum of the EU's legal order.

2006 marked the 10th anniversary of TAIEX and saw, since June, the opening of the instrument to the European

Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries and Russia. The ENP's objective is to bring partner countries closer to the European Union, aiming at gradual economic integration and a deepening of political cooperation.

TAIEX activity in the European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries and Russia has also proved very successful in its first months of existence, with almost 50 requests from all beneficiary countries received in the second part of 2006. About 11 events already took place in 2006 with above 800 participants. Applications are currently being processed by the Commission services for further assistance to take place in 2007.

I therefore present this report on TAIEX activities in 2006 with great pleasure and satisfaction. The results underline the increasing importance of the TAIEX instrument as a platform for the constructive interchange of ideas and expertise across the European Union. Ten year after its establishment, TAIEX continues to prove an essential instrument to support the implementation of the EU's legal order by the new Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries and other beneficiary countries to pursue peace, prosperity, liberty and democracy.



Olli Rehn  
Commissioner for Enlargement

<sup>1</sup> Under UN Security Council Resolution 1244

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For the new Member States, the accession countries, the candidate countries and the potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans and the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of Cyprus:

- to provide institution building support with the view to assisting the process of transposing, implementing and enforcing the EU *acquis communautaire*
- to organise centrally managed short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of EU partner administrations calling on public sector expertise in the Member States
- to meet demand-driven requests for assistance from the beneficiary countries, and also respond to priorities identified by the Commission and Member States.

For the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as Russia:

- to provide targeted technical assistance in understanding and drafting legislation related to the action plans and to help them with implementation and enforcement.

## INTRODUCTION

Enlargement has been at the heart of the EU's development over several decades. The very essence of European integration is to overcome the division of Europe and to contribute to the peaceful unification of the continent. Politically, EU enlargement has helped respond to major changes such as the fall of dictatorships and the collapse of communism. It has consolidated democracy, human rights and stability across the continent. Economically, enlargement has helped to increase prosperity and competitiveness, enabling the enlarged Union to respond better to the challenges of globalisation. This has brought direct benefits for Europe as a whole. Enlargement has increased the EU's weight in the world and made it a stronger international player.

2006 was an important year for the enlargement process. Bulgaria and Romania undertook final preparations for joining the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007. Turkey and Croatia also intensified their integration efforts as did the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Continuous work was carried out to ensure further progress with the potential candidate countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (UNSCR1244).

In February 2006 the EU adopted a Financial Aid Regulation to encourage the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community. The overall objective of the financial assistance is to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the gradual

adoption of the European Union's legal order. Moreover, in 2006 the TAIEX instrument became available to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and Russia. The ENP aims to enhance prosperity, stability and good governance in the countries neighbouring the EU through a deeper political relationship and economic integration. Bilateral Action Plans mutually agreed between the EU and the partner countries set out in practical terms how to reach this aim.

### Overview

The technical assistance provided by the TAIEX instrument is largely demand driven.

In 2006, a total of 35,685 participants from all beneficiary countries participated in 1,106 events involving 5,144 experts and speakers primarily from Member States administrations. These positive results and the constant demand for assistance demonstrates the usefulness of TAIEX as an instrument of know-how transfer and exchange of best practice for introduction and application of the *acquis communautaire*.

Bulgaria and Romania were major beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance in the run up to their accession to the European Union. In these two countries a total number of 255 events were organised and around 10,000 participants were trained. The other Member States of the fifth enlargement were also very active users. While more specialised requests were received from their administrations, the new Member State officials also participated in

the TAIEX events organised for the Western Balkans and ENP countries as experts and speakers. Bilateral assistance to the potential candidate countries and territories reached 140 events, including assistance to newly-independent Montenegro. For the first time, the TAIEX instrument was available to the ENP countries and Russia. TAIEX has received more than 50 requests since September 2006 from these countries. In the same period around 800 participants from the administrations of the ENP partner countries have been trained. Substantial assistance has been also given to the Turkish Cypriot Community totalling 57 events.

Following the trend of previous years, the policy areas with the largest number of activities were: Justice, Freedom and Security (183), Internal Market (143) and Agriculture (130). Study visits were also a very popular form of assistance (144) as well as the Regional Training Programme (153). TAIEX has, over its first decade, become an integral and proven tool for the implementation of the pre-accession process and post-accession institution building. It has remained a highly responsive, fast and effective tool for short-term technical assistance.

### Prospects

The European Commission will continue its efforts to provide pre and post-accession assistance through the TAIEX instruments during 2007. It is expected to play an important role in strengthening and assisting the institution building process in all beneficiary partners - the new Member States, candidate countries and potential candidate countries and territories from the Western Balkans. TAIEX will also continue









with the introduction of assistance in the ENP partner countries and Russia and will target its activities to help understand, draft and implement legislation related to the Action Plans or the National Indicative Programs. To do so effectively, a close coordination of activities has been put in place within the European Commission including EuropeAid Cooperation Office, the Directorate General for External Relations and the European Commission's Delegations in partner countries. As TAIEX is essentially a demand-driven instrument, a proactive approach from the beneficiary administrations is essential.

The demand for short-term technical assistance over the last ten years and the increased number of beneficiary partners demonstrates that TAIEX is well placed to be a valuable and efficient instrument of delivery in relation to the strengthening of the institution building and administrative capacity of the beneficiary countries for the coming years.

The Activity Report 2006 offers an annual summary of the TAIEX operation. It includes an introduction of the new beneficiaries, an overview of sector and horizontal activities and key annual statistics. Moreover, it includes some direct feedback from beneficiaries, particularly their quotations and comments from participating in various TAIEX events organised in the course of 2006.

# TAIEX BENEFICIARIES IN 2006

## The New Member States

-  Cyprus  
Capital: Nicosia  
9.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
0.8 million inhabitants
-  Czech Republic  
Capital: Prague  
79.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
10.2 million inhabitants
-  Estonia  
Capital: Tallinn  
45.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
1.4 million inhabitants
-  Hungary  
Capital: Budapest  
93.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
10.2 million inhabitants
-  Latvia  
Capital: Riga  
65.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
2.4 million inhabitants
-  Lithuania  
Capital: Vilnius  
65.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
3.5 million inhabitants
-  Malta  
Capital: Valetta  
315 km<sup>2</sup>  
0.4 million inhabitants
-  Poland  
Capital: Warsaw  
313.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
38.6 million inhabitants
-  Slovakia  
Capital: Bratislava  
49.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
5.4 million inhabitants
-  Slovenia  
Capital: Ljubljana  
20.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
2.0 million inhabitants

## Candidate Countries

-  Bulgaria  
Capital: Sofia  
111.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
7.9 million inhabitants
-  Romania  
Capital: Bucharest  
238.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
22.4 million inhabitants
-  Turkey  
Capital: Ankara  
775.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
68.6 million inhabitants











-  Croatia  
Capital: Zagreb  
56.594 km<sup>2</sup>  
4.4 million inhabitants
-  The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Capital: Skopje  
25.713 km<sup>2</sup>  
2 million inhabitants

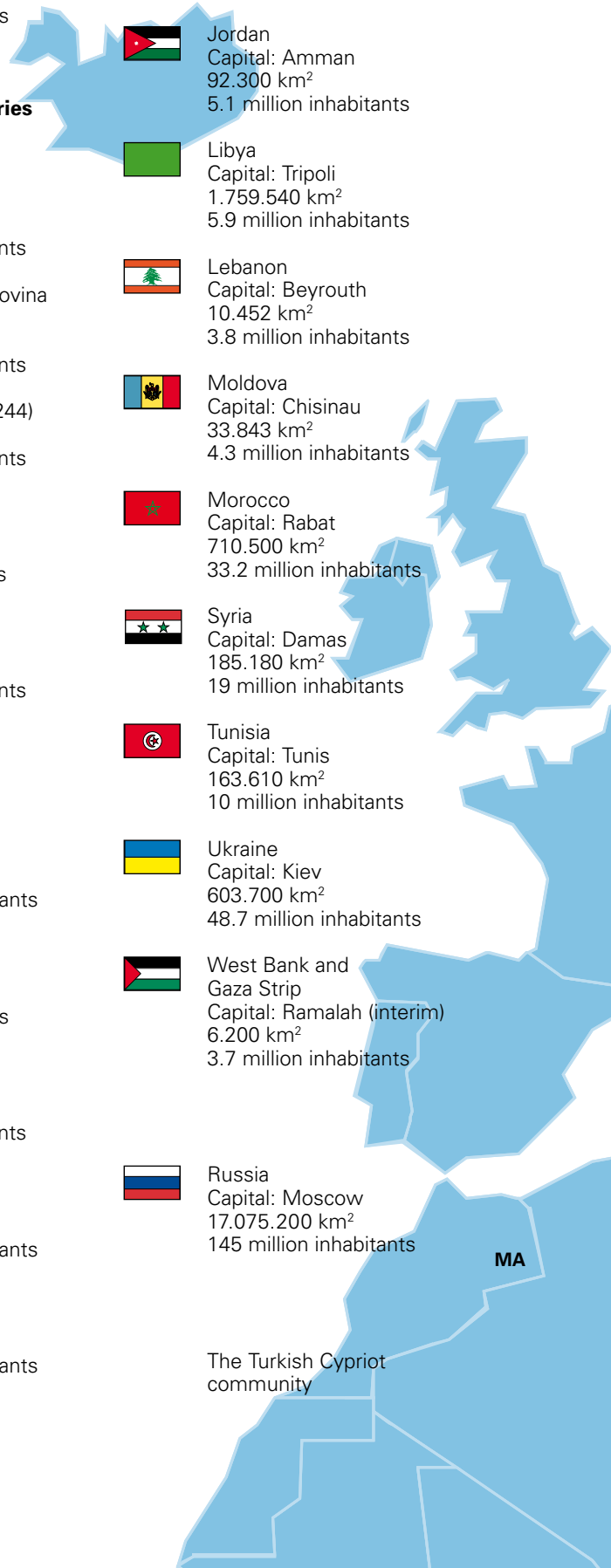
## Potential candidate countries and territories

-  Albania  
Capital: Tirana  
28.748 km<sup>2</sup>  
4.1 million inhabitants
-  Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Capital: Sarajevo  
51.209 km<sup>2</sup>  
3.8 million inhabitants
-  Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)  
10.887 km<sup>2</sup>  
1.9 million inhabitants
-  Montenegro  
Capital: Pristina  
13.812 km<sup>2</sup>  
620.145 inhabitants
-  Serbia  
Capital: Belgrade  
102.173 km<sup>2</sup>  
8.1 million inhabitants

## ENP countries

-  Algeria  
Capital: Alger  
2.381.741 km<sup>2</sup>  
32.9 million inhabitants
-  Armenia  
Capital: Erevan  
29.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
3 million inhabitants
-  Azerbaijan  
Capital: Bakou  
86.100 km<sup>2</sup>  
7.8 million inhabitants
-  Belarus  
Capital: Minsk  
207.600 km<sup>2</sup>  
10.3 million inhabitants
-  Egypt  
Capital: Le Caire  
995.450 km<sup>2</sup>  
78.8 million inhabitants

-  Georgia  
Capital: Tbilissi  
69.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
4.9 million inhabitants
-  Israel  
Capital: Jérusalem  
20.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
6.3 million inhabitants
-  Jordan  
Capital: Amman  
92.300 km<sup>2</sup>  
5.1 million inhabitants
-  Libya  
Capital: Tripoli  
1.759.540 km<sup>2</sup>  
5.9 million inhabitants
-  Lebanon  
Capital: Beyrouth  
10.452 km<sup>2</sup>  
3.8 million inhabitants
-  Moldova  
Capital: Chisinau  
33.843 km<sup>2</sup>  
4.3 million inhabitants
-  Morocco  
Capital: Rabat  
710.500 km<sup>2</sup>  
33.2 million inhabitants
-  Syria  
Capital: Damas  
185.180 km<sup>2</sup>  
19 million inhabitants
-  Tunisia  
Capital: Tunis  
163.610 km<sup>2</sup>  
10 million inhabitants
-  Ukraine  
Capital: Kiev  
603.700 km<sup>2</sup>  
48.7 million inhabitants
-  West Bank and Gaza Strip  
Capital: Ramalah (interim)  
6.200 km<sup>2</sup>  
3.7 million inhabitants
-  Russia  
Capital: Moscow  
17.075.200 km<sup>2</sup>  
145 million inhabitants
-  The Turkish Cypriot community







'MK: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: provisional code that does not affect the definitive denomination of the country to be attributed after the conclusion of the negotiations currently taking place in the United Nations.

## WELCOME TO NEW BENEFICIARIES EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY PARTNER COUNTRIES AND RUSSIA

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) offers new perspectives to the partner countries sharing borders with the European Union, inviting them to closer political and economic cooperation in more areas than ever before. TAIEX is one of the first instruments introduced within this policy framework to improve and strengthen relations between the Union and its neighbours.

Implemented with the support of EuropeAid Co-operation Office, the TAIEX instrument became available to the ENP partner countries and Russia following the adoption of Council Decision 2006/62/EC of 23 January 2006. Since then it has been gradually introduced to the partner countries. Almost 50 requests for TAIEX assistance were received during second half the year.

The first events took place in September for Jordanian authorities – EU expertise in Amman in the field of Internal Market on trade issues and a study visit in the EU in the field of Justice and Home Affairs on counter terrorism. The first bilateral workshop covered the topic of waste packaging and took place in Kiev in November 2006. In the following month, TAIEX organised the first multi-country

seminar, in Brussels on Intellectual Property Rights.

TAIEX is an effective tool assisting dissemination of know-how and good practices in various fields, primarily for the approximation of the *acquis communautaire*. Vis-à-vis the new beneficiaries in the neighbourhood, the task of TAIEX is to deliver short-term technical assistance and expertise helping to implement commitments made in the Action Plans and National Indicative Programmes. In that framework, the TAIEX instrument can in particular provide targeted assistance to aid the partner countries in understanding and drafting legislation, and supporting them with implementation and enforcement.

The opportunities offered by TAIEX are many and far reaching. TAIEX can quickly and flexibly assist the partner administrations in their efforts to understand, harmonise or implement various fields of the *acquis* and related areas and offer a platform for exchange of information and best practice between EU Member States and ENP partner countries and Russia. TAIEX can also be used to identify possible issues for future Twinning projects. It is mainly a demand-driven instrument and it is up to the ENP partners

and Russia to submit requests for assistance.

TAIEX is expected to play an increasing role in facilitating the institution-building efforts in the neighbouring countries in the years ahead, as part of the implementation of the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in force since the 1 January 2007.



*Seminar on Dialogue and common activities between the OEI Member States, October 2006, Baku, Azerbaijan*

## ASSISTANCE TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

2006 saw the first real steps in implementing the Financial Aid Regulation following its adoption by the Council in February. Whilst the emphasis in financial terms will be towards investment in infrastructure (e.g. water supplies and waste management) some €11 million has been committed to technical assistance to be provided through the TAIEX programme. The purpose of this assistance is:

«Preparation of legal texts aligned with the *acquis communautaire* for the purpose of these being immediately applicable upon the entry into force of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem»; and «Preparation for implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol N° 10 to the Act of Accession.»

In order to facilitate the implementation of the total aid programme of €259 million by 2011, an EU Programme Support Office was established in the northern part of Cyprus in September. This will support a more comprehensive approach to technical assistance delivery, as well as enhanced monitoring of the assistance carried out. It will provide the opportunity for improved contacts with the local community and for more effective co-ordination between donors and understanding of local needs.

### Priorities

During 2006 the main priorities continued to be to support the creation and development of coordination structures contributing towards harmonisation and administrative development strategies consistent with the aid programme's aims. Particular progress has been achieved in the area of environment where

a new environment police strategy was adopted in April with the help of medium term experts following a TAIEX sponsored Environment Congress. The pursuit of this policy strategy is also expected to be helped by the reorganisation in September of administrative structures responsible for environment matters.

Medium term expertise has also been provided in the agriculture and veterinary areas where agreement was reached to prepare new strategies for the future application of the *acquis* and the strengthening of the economic prospects of the related industries. Support was given to help manage the outbreak of avian influenza in the northern part of Cyprus in January 2006. The veterinary contingency plans prepared by Turkish Cypriot veterinarians with TAIEX support were an important factor in the successful management of the outbreak. A follow-up simulation exercise was also supported in December to ensure that lessons learnt from the outbreak had been taken on board and that the various stakeholders were well aware of procedures to be followed.

Another priority has continued to be the support to the implementation of the «Green Line» Regulation. Following the completion of training for the Chamber of Commerce on rules and certification for goods traded across the line, emphasis has been placed on continued surveillance of citrus and potato production by Commission appointed independent experts from Member States. Following such surveillance and testing of potatoes over two years, the health status of potatoes grown from EU originated seeds has been confirmed and the first consignments of potatoes were successfully traded across the «green

line» in August 2006. It is expected that this will now lead to increasing and stable trading patterns in potatoes in the coming growing seasons.

Towards the end of the year first steps were taken towards the preparation of a «Programme for the Future Application of the *Acquis*» (PFAA). This programme will help to structure and target the prioritisation of technical assistance under the TAIEX programme with a view to supporting a successful reunification. It is expected that a first version of the «PFAA» will be completed in 2007.

### Perspectives

Overall, the assistance provided in 2006 has demonstrated the means to allow the delivery and absorption of increased technical assistance. This will require a continued commitment by the Turkish Cypriot leadership. With these challenges successfully managed, it is expected that a comprehensive programme of assistance should be established with the Turkish Cypriots in 2007 using the preparation of the PFAA as the guideline. Such a long term and sustained assistance programme will only be possible with the willingness of Member States to make experts available on a medium to long term basis. The year ahead should therefore see a much more intensive use of experts over a wider number of areas than has so far been possible but this will be based on the successful ground-work made in 2006.



TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2006  
**TAIEX ACTIVITIES IN 2006**



Workshop on the preparation of the Presidency, October 2006, Prague



Training on Witness protection, February 2006, Budapest



Annual meeting of TAIEX National contact persons, June 2006, Brussels



Seminar on Application of Community law, October 2006, Bucharest



Peer Review on Food processing establishments, February 2006, Sofia



Seminar on Dialog and common activities between OEI Member States, October 2006, Armenia



Seminar on Fight against fraud in CAP matters (structural funds), March 2006, Bratislava



Workshop on the preparation of the Presidency, May 2006, Ljubljana









*Seminar on Rules of origin, October 2006, Belgrade*

The single market is at the core of the European Union (EU). The creation of the internal market is supported by policies and measures at an EU level that Member States have adopted and are implementing in order to ensure free trade and free movement within the Union. For this reason, assistance that relates to the internal market is of importance, not only for the direct beneficiaries of assistance, but also for the continued and improved functioning of the EU as a whole.

It is to be expected that a topic as broad as internal market encompasses a broad range of issues. More than 140 events organised in 2006 clearly indicate this diversity. Beneficiaries' requests for assistance during last year also reflected the scope of issues covered by the internal market – new approach directives, financial market regulations, chemical legislation, procurement policy, employment, health and safety, social and labour policy issues and many others.

### **Consumer Protection**

TAIEX organised several series of thematic training events on different aspects of the consumer policy. The

Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products (RAPEX) has been one of the core topics for assistance, with the aim of enforcing the right of the citizens to being informed about and protected from dangerous products that may be commercialised on the market. TAIEX also contributed to strengthen the role of consumer organisations in public awareness campaigning, consumer education and safety control. Education of traders in order to rebalance the power weight between consumer organisation and businesses have been topics largely debated in the consumer protection seminars in 2006, while more specific sectoral events have been earmarked for 2007.

In the field of public health three major multi-country events took place in Brussels. A number of workshops was also organised in the areas such as disease prevention policies, the creation of synergies between relevant national bodies for disease control, blood and organ transplants and European biomedical ethics.

### **Financial Services**

Particularly active in this field was Turkey where a series of events covering issues such as insurances, securities or outsourcing of financial services were organised. Similar events have been organised in Bulgaria and Romania and the Western Balkan countries.

The Member States preparing for adoption of the Euro requested assistance on introduction of the Euro. During various workshops a strategy of communication to the public on the benefits of the single currency and on the issues to be aware of during the transitional period was presented to countries including Slovenia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

### **Other areas**

In response to an increasing demand especially from the accession countries a series of technical events were organised in cooperation with the national authorities on competition



*Seminar on Application of Community Law, October 2006, Bucharest*

and state aid. A number of workshops were held in the area of Intellectual Property Rights and related topics.

In the field of copyright protection and trademarks a new range of beneficiaries have been included such as right holders association and

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***"Interesting speakers and a reactive audience. Enjoyable + informative."***

*Participant in the seminar on Data protection under the Third pillar: EU Information systems and the protection of individual rights, 21-22 September 2006, Budapest*

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coalitions, collective management societies and representatives of IT and cultural industries.

To facilitate the preparation of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (eventually signed by Prime Ministers of South Eastern European countries and territories in December 2006), TAIEX organised four multi-country Round Tables in Brussels between June and October.

The Western Balkans in general were given substantial assistance in 2006. Besides a considerable number of events specifically devoted to this region, often officials from the administrations of these countries were associated to events organised mainly for new Member States or candidate countries. Also, TAIEX continued the series of seminars on

European integration for the National Assemblies of the Western Balkans for the benefit of the civil servants of the assemblies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia.

Health and safety at work constitutes an important part of the European Union's social policy and accounts for a substantial *corpus* of the European legislation. In October 2006, a high level seminar on Occupational Health and Safety was organised in close co-operation with the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and hosted by the Ministry of Labour of Croatia for the benefit of all ministries of Social Affairs and Labour of the Western Balkans. High level speakers from the Commission and from the Member States contributed to the exchange of

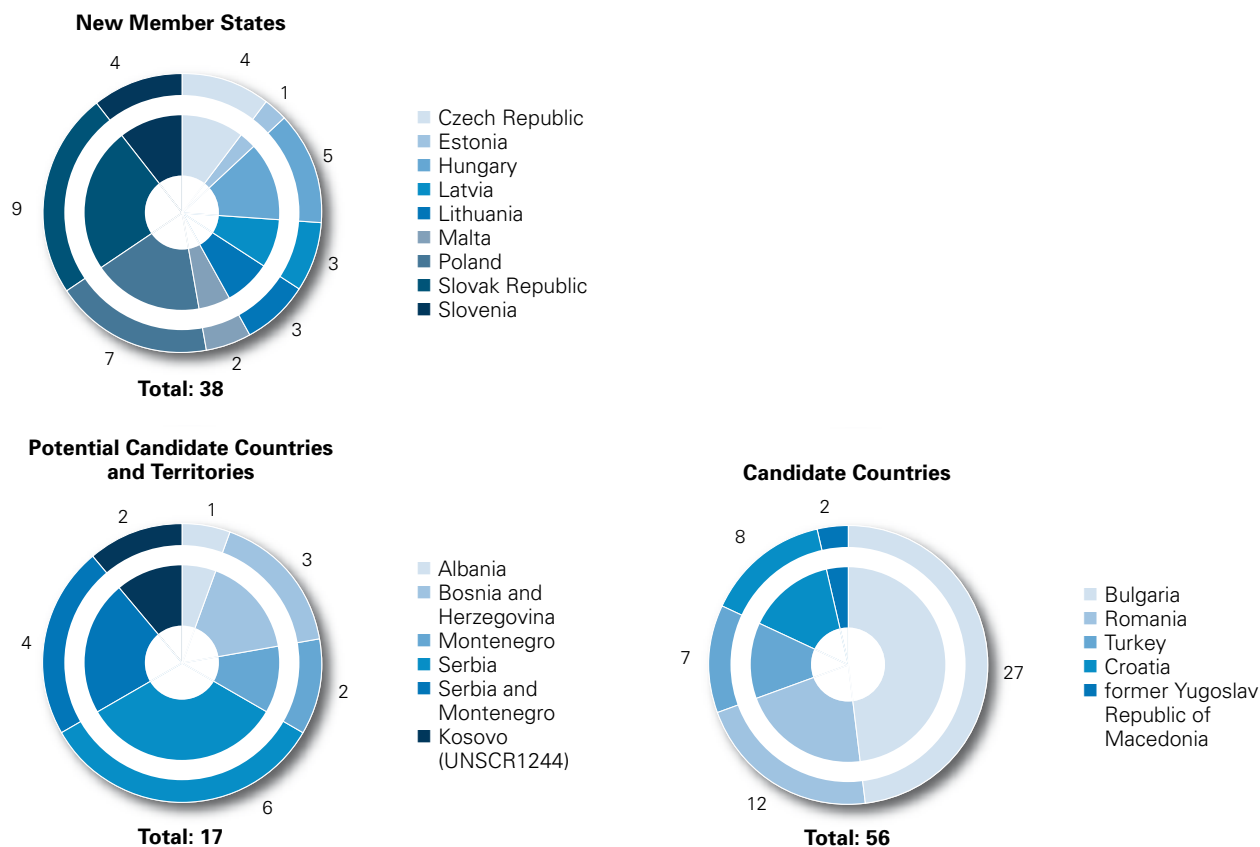
good practices.

Major topics of the assistance in the area of social affairs in 2006 were labour law, equal opportunities, social dialogue and social security schemes.

The inclusion of the ENP partner countries and Russia among the beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance is a significant step in the area of the internal market, as it forms a key element of their closer cooperation with the European Union.

It is expected that an increasing number of informative events will be organised for these partner countries to assist in the implementation of the Action Plans and of the National Indicative Programmes.

**Number of events per country according to host / location**



***"Thank you for the possibility to meet real practitioners! It was very useful to have together the representatives from the municipalities (ones who purchase) and from the enterprises (suppliers)!"***

*Participant in the workshop on EU Public procurement procedures, 25-26 September 2006, Dangavpils, Latvia*

## AGRICULTURE VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

In preparation for the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, intensified assistance was provided throughout the agriculture, veterinary and phytosanitary sectors.

### Agriculture

In the domain of agriculture, emphasis was on implementation and enforcement of the Common Agricultural Policy through Peer Reviews of integrated administration and control systems (IACS) and market management of the beef, dairy, wine and fruit and vegetable sectors. Actions also covered trade mechanisms, organic farming, rural development and state aids in agriculture.



*Seminar on Dialog and Common activities between the OEI Member states, October 2006, Tbilisi, Georgia*

Sound agricultural statistics methodologies are essential for candidate and potential candidate countries alike in their formulation of agricultural and trade policies.

A programme of assistance has been initiated in this domain in association with Eurostat with follow up actions foreseen in each beneficiary through 2007.

In view of the preparations required for

their impending first EU Presidencies, support was provided for the agriculture and environment ministries of the Czech Republic and Slovenia to guide them on administrative requirements and policy issues likely to be on the agenda in 2007-2008. Other new Member State actions covered practical training on beef carcass classification, fruit and vegetable marketing standards, forestry policy, audit of farm payments and implementation of rural development programmes.

TAIEX has strengthened its collaboration with the Joint Research Centre by facilitating the participation of Western Balkan experts in jointly organized events covering specific technical issues in the agriculture and research sectors.

### Veterinary

A host of priority actions were delivered to Bulgaria and Romania in the veterinary sector in close cooperation with the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), not least in the fight against animal diseases such as Classical Swine Fever.

In 2006 TAIEX strengthened its collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and its member countries through a series of seminars including opening events in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the collaboration was extended to the Council of Europe for workshops on animal welfare.

Activity in the Western Balkans centred around the implementation

of actions recommended in the 2005 veterinary assessment missions. In the new Member States actions mainly focused on implementation of animal health *acquis*, including avian influenza and foot and mouth disease, as well as the training of border inspection post staff.

### Phytosanitary

Following last year's assessment missions in the phytosanitary and veterinary sectors to the Western Balkans. 14 reports with extensive information on the future needs in the sectors have been finalized. A series of follow-up meetings or video conferences took place to discuss the future plan of activities for each of these countries/entities. They constitute the basis of the technical assistance programme for 2006, 2007 and beyond.

For the new Member States, Romania and Bulgaria, a series of seminars in the field of active substances were initiated (comprising general issues, assessment of identity, physical & chemical properties, analytical methods, toxicology, residues, assessment of fate and behaviour in the environment and assessment of ecotoxicology).

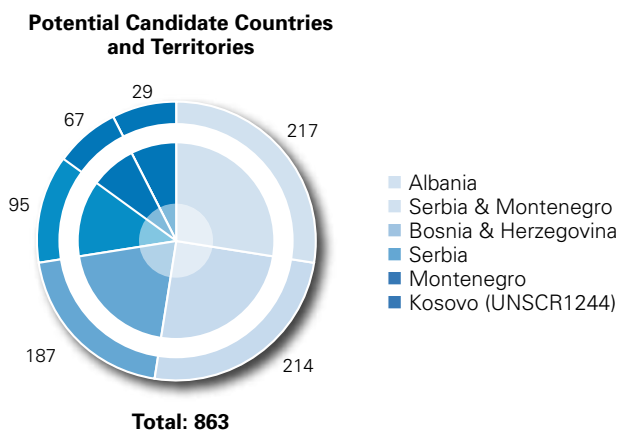
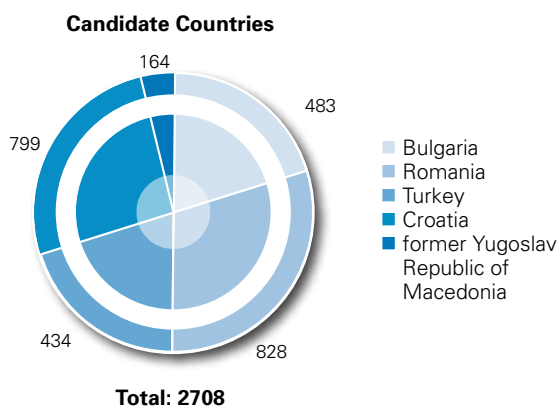
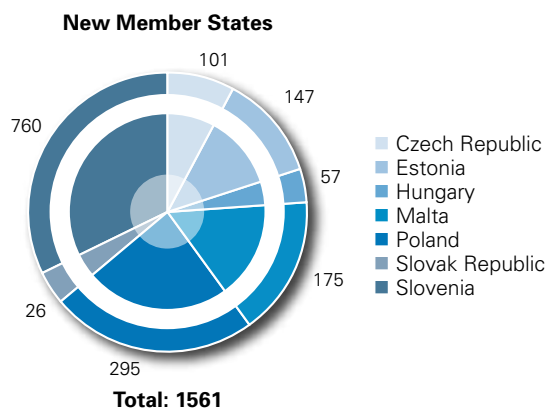
There was close collaboration with DG SANCO in the fields of phytosanitary sector, in particular for Romania and Bulgaria in view of their accession to the EU (registration of plant varieties in the national catalogues). Furthermore, activities for Croatia and Turkey were intensified (assessment missions on food and feed).

***"The event would be on the highest rating from professional view. Excellent event programme, practice and event overall time schedule. Thanks for TAIEX support."***

*Participant in the workshop on Medical devices, 8-10 June 2006, Warsaw*



**Number of participants per country (participants origine)**



Assessment Mission in veterinary sector, May 2006, Albania

**"I find the seminar extremely useful. Two comments for further improvement: much time was devoted to well known cases and there was no coordination between some of the lectures."**  
 Participant in the seminar on Application of Community law in Bulgaria, 11 October 2006, Sofia



The Infrastructure sector combines a number of activities in support of transposing, implementing and enforcing the *acquis communautaire* for our beneficiaries in the areas covered by transport, energy and environment.

By the end of 2006, TAIEX assistance in these three sectors involved some 111 separate technical assistance actions. A new dimension was also added to the operation by TAIEX instrument support with capacity building under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). In 2006 3 events in ENP countries were organised in the infrastructure sector: one in Ukraine on waste packaging in November; one in Israel on environmental risks by financial institutions in December and one in Morocco on afforestation and reforestation also in December. ENP participants also attended at 4 other multi-country aviation safety events co-organised with the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).

### **Transport**

With the mid-term review of the White Paper on Transport Policy in 2006, transport was brought very much to the fore in moving mobility to the heart of the Lisbon Strategy. Some 50 technical assistance actions were organised by TAIEX in 2006 making up 45% of the total number of infrastructure events organised throughout the year. Sectors covered included maritime, inland transport and aviation. Within these areas of activity were also jointly-programmed actions co-organised with partners such as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and EUROCONTROL. TAIEX collaborated closely throughout the year with the Air Transport Directorate of Directorate General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN). In particular, this meant support for a number of multilateral follow up meetings in implementing the European Common Aviation Area (ECAA) agreement. The agreement itself rests on the two indivisible pillars of aligning aviation security and safety standards and regulations and the creation of a single market for aviation by opening up market opportunities for the aviation industry in the Balkans region. 7 assessment missions were organised to Western Balkan civil aviation administrations complementing the work of the 9 Working Group meetings held throughout the year with 9 more to follow in 2007. Whilst aviation took the lion's share of transport events, Rail was also an important

contributor. Seminars on the big trans-European rail network projects (TENs) were organised in Bulgaria in March and one on the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) in Poland in January to support the implementation and enforcement of the *acquis* in the increasingly liberalised rail sector market. A number of Road events were also organised by TAIEX reflecting a modal shift on the part of transport policy towards a more competitive and efficient transport policy including Road. In total, 5 Rail and 6 separate Road events were organised including the first ever TAIEX event in newly-independent Montenegro in June 2006.

### **Energy**

Some 11 technical assistance actions were organised in 2006 making up 10% of the total number of Infrastructure events organised throughout the year. Energy policy has gained an increasingly prominent role throughout 2006 be it on supporting actions to promote renewable sources of energy to market liberalisation in the oil, gas and electricity sectors and issues on security of supply. In particular, TAIEX was called upon to assist in organising a series of multilateral events in support of implementing the Energy Community Treaty signed in Athens last year. Under the Treaty, signed between the European Union and 9 partners (all TAIEX beneficiaries) in South-East Europe<sup>1</sup> a legal framework was created for an integrated energy market. To help prepare for this, TAIEX

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***"I intend to question by email the lecturers, who encouraged the audience to do so. The Bulgarian Public Procurement Agency personnel are helpful also."***

*Participant in the workshop on EU legislation in public procurement and proposed amendments in the Bulgarian Public procurement law, 7-8 June 2006, Sofia*

***"In spite of some organizational misunderstandings before the seminar, it was in the end very fruitful event with excellent speakers from the Czech Republic, the other EU countries as well as the EC also allowing for open debate on the euro introduction topic. Thank you."***

*Participant in the seminar on Introduction of the Euro, 2-3 October 2006, Prague*

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria and UNMIK/Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). Negotiations with Turkey are still ongoing.

was requested to organise workshops in Bosnia-Herzegovina in February and in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) in March 2006.

In order to facilitate Turkey's eventual membership in the Energy Community, Taiex has been requested to support a big EU-Turkey Energy Conference in mid 2007.

**Environmental Policy**

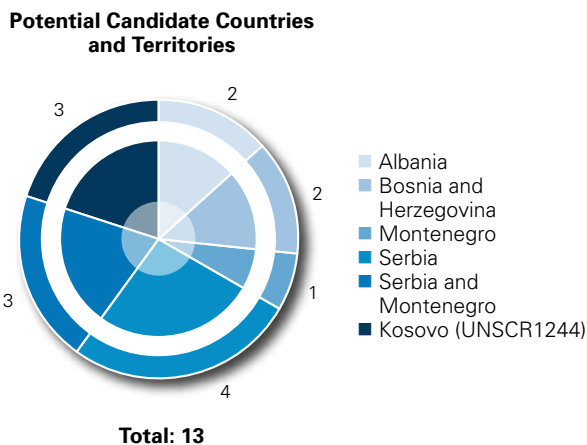
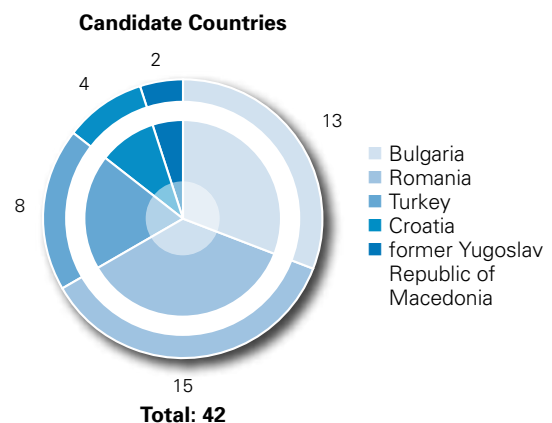
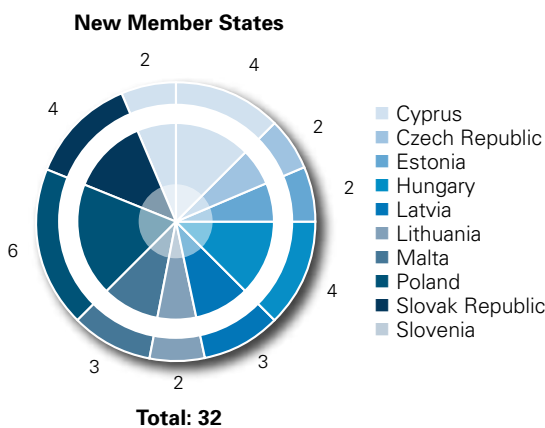
Some 50 technical assistance actions were organised in 2006 including many programmed actions in close co-operation with the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) and one

with the Joint Research Centre (JRC). This level of activity is set to continue in 2007. Areas of activity covered included seminars to support the implementation for ratifying the Basel Protocol; groundwater modelling under the Water Framework Directive (WFD); the Directive covering the prevention of accidents involving dangerous substances (SEVESO II); the Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC); support in the proper enforcement of the EU Drinking Water (DW) and Urban Waste Water Directive (UWWD) amongst others. Waste and waste shipment featured heavily in requests for TAIEX support, including the mining

sector, with a multi-country workshop organised in Estonia in December and a single-country event in Romania in March. Bulgaria and Romania were the largest beneficiaries preparing for EU accession on 1 January 2007.

Following on an initiative to support green public procurement co-organised with the European Commission's Directorates General for Environment and Internal Market & Services in Brussels in September 2005 for the 10 new Member States, successful single-country follow up events were held in both Cyprus in September and Lithuania in November.

**Number of events per country according to host/location**



Free movement of persons, external border control, Schengen, visa policy, asylum, migration, judicial cooperation in civil matters, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the fight against organised crime, i.e. the fight against money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs, the fight against corruption and fraud, the fight against terrorism and a closer cooperation between police forces are only some of the subjects dealt with in Title VI of the EU Treaty - Articles 29 to 42 and Title IV of the EC Treaty - Articles 61 to 69. European legislation continues to develop and evolve towards strengthening the European Union as an area of Freedom, Security and Justice (JLS).

TAIEX has also increased assistance in this field. In 2006, 183 events were organised covering all beneficiary countries. The target groups included not only officials of the Ministries of Justice and Interior, but also to an even larger extent those who have to apply the *acquis* in their daily work: judges, prosecutors, police officials, officials from other law enforcement agencies, border guards, the migration and asylum authorities, customs departments.

### **New Member States**

With regard to the new Member States assistance focused very much on the preparation for entering the Schengen area. About 1600 police officers were trained in Latvia and Estonia to be able to cope with the requirements of the Schengen agreement. Numerous seminars related to Schengen as well as the implementing agreements, SIS, SIRENE, the Uniform Schengen



Visa took place in the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, in Estonia and Latvia. Training for trainers of narcotics search dogs was delivered as well as information about drug scanners.

The Czech Ministry of Interior asked for assistance in the area of biometric E-passports, asylum law including the country of origin rules, the fight against trafficking in human beings, the fight against terrorism, the Schengen air borders, the fight against corruption and the topic of seizure of proceeds of crime. A visit to the Belgium Child Focus Centre was organised to learn about the Belgian experience with missing and sexually exploited children.

Data protection under the third pillar: EU Information Systems and the protection of individual rights was the title of a seminar organised together with the Academy of European Law (ERA). The seminar took place in all the new Member States.

Police cooperation was a major issue for all. Topics included the fight against organised crime, how to better investigate and combat motor vehicle crime and how to correctly check documents during police controls. Other issues were the electronic monitoring during probation, forensic expertise, criminal analysis and crime prevention.

Assistance was also given for several countries in the area of fight against drug abuse and precursors.

A seminar on the European arrest warrant was held in Malta and one workshop on seizure of property in criminal proceedings and confiscation in Prague. Three workshops on fight against fraud in the area of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy), organised together with OLAF (the European Anti-Fraud Office) took place in Bratislava.

To explain the nature of the specific legal acts of the third pillar a series of seminars were organised in several capitals. A workshop for prosecutors on the principles and instruments of the third pillar, including the work of EUROJUST and EUROPOL was held in Bratislava. Prosecutors from several new Member States met in Warsaw to discuss how to improve the fight against cross-border crime. Estonian prosecutors



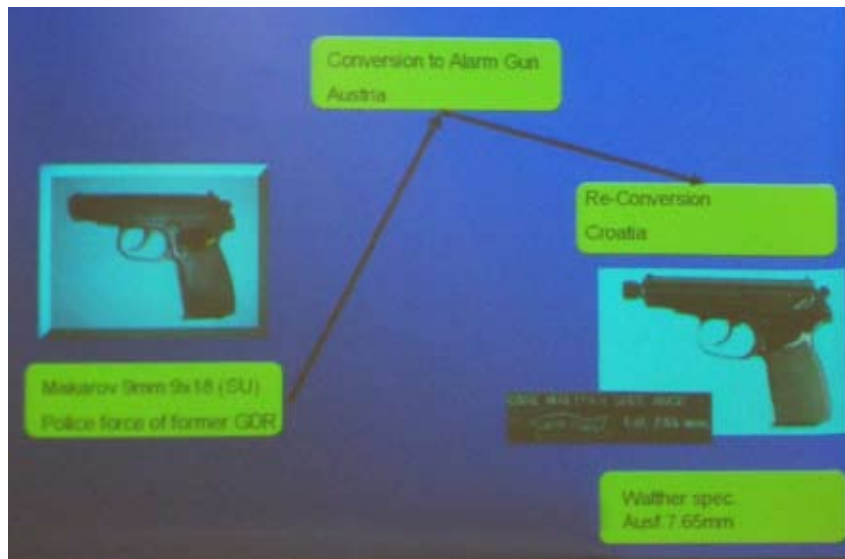
had an interesting workshop on how to best investigate environmental crime. Latvian prosecutors learnt about pre-trial investigation and proceedings concerning road traffic accidents. Slovak and Czech judges and prosecutors visited Brussels and The Hague to get acquainted with the *acquis* in the area of JLS.

***“There is a lot to be done in the sector of road safety in Poland, therefore further workshops should be organised in order to give all possible help and guidance to the local governments.”***

*Participant in the workshop on Road safety in the region of Warmi and Mazury, 19-20 October 2006, Stare Jablonki, Poland*



In the area of civil law, a programme on the *acquis* and international conventions in the area of custody of children was received with interest by family law judges in Vilnius, Nicosia, Bratislava, Budapest and Tallinn. Nicosia also had a general seminar on all the *acquis* in civil law. A workshop on problems of cross-border insolvency took place in Tartu, Estonia. In Kromeriz, numerous Czech judges came together to learn about the European Enforcement Order, the European Order for Payment and the issue of small claims.



Workshop on Firearms, May 2005, Prague

Slovenia and the Czech Republic received repeated assistance to prepare their first Presidencies of the EU.

**Candidate countries**

In 2006 the acceding states Romania and Bulgaria, particularly Romania, asked for support. Subjects concerned the country of origin rules, the integration of biometrics in travel documents, European standards of identity cards, forgery of documents, police and judicial cooperation in relation to Schengen, SIRENE and risk analysis for the border police. Workshops took also place in relation to witness protection, fighting drug criminality, fighting corruption, joined investigation teams, free movement and the right of residence.

The Romanian Supreme Court judges were introduced to the *acquis* in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal law matters.

Bulgaria benefited from a series of events on police and judicial cooperation in relation to Schengen, visa regulations and the Common Consular Handbook as well as about

problems concerning the rights of residence. Seminars on constitutional matters as well as on the nature of the legal instruments of the third pillar were also organised.

A joint seminar on fighting corruption for officials of both countries took place in Rome.

Croatia as a candidate country asked for assistance in the area of drug policy, money laundering and the requirements for controlling the external borders as well as CEPOL.

In Turkey, the other candidate country, a series from the year 2005 to inform lawyers about the European Convention on Human Rights continued in several cities. Judicial cooperation in family law matters was the issue at a workshop for judges in Istanbul while the *acquis* in the area of asylum and migration was the topic of a seminar in Ankara. Support was given on the topics of financing of terrorism, crime prevention, preventing corruption, EUROPOL and EUROJUST (CARIN) and to prosecution of cyber criminality. Three major seminars were related

to the political criteria. Themes were combating ill treatment and torture, improving women’s rights and fighting domestic violence as well as freedom of expression. Numerous judges and prosecutors and representatives of NGOs attended these events.

**Western Balkans**

In relation to the Western Balkans, Macedonia as well as Montenegro asked for assistance in the field of anti-money laundering. Representatives from all Western Balkan countries met in Brussels to learn about biometrics in travel documents. In Belgrade a seminar on border management took place and another one in Subotica on border control issues. Again all countries were represented at a seminar in Skopje on drug policy and in Dubrovnik on the independence of the Judiciary. In Skopje, a workshop for all Western Balkan countries was held on the role of the Ombudsman. A first event in Kosovo for the legal community presented the EU legal system.

***“The practice in the field of copyright and related rights in Bulgaria meets different problems and seminars like the one you organised are a step toward a better understanding of the matter.”***  
*Participant in the seminar on Copyright and related rights, 19 September 2006, Sofia*



*Workshop on the preparation of the Presidency, October 2006, Prague*

### **ENP and Russia**

Activities for the European Neighbourhood Policy countries and Russia started with assistance given to Jordan concerning the fight against corruption and financing of terrorism (establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit). Israel had a first seminar on fight in trafficking in human beings. This was also the topic at a three day conference for high police officials coming from several of our beneficiary countries (new Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Western Balkans, ENP countries and Russia that took place in Athens.

### **European Law & Training of the Judiciary**

The Justice, Freedom and Security team of TAIEX also organised assistance on more traditional issues of European law.

A seminar was organised for Slovakia on the Infringement Procedure (Article 226 EC Treaty) informing ministry officials how the European Commission proceeds against non or

false implementation of a legislative measure.

A «train-the-trainers» approach was established together with the National Institute of Magistrates (NIM). A selected group of seven judges, with sound-knowledge in EC law, had on several occasions intensive two days discussions with EC law experts from the old Member States on topics such as: Art. 234 EC Treaty, intellectual property rights, trademark law, competition law, civil and criminal law, anti-discrimination law. These judges will in the future train the Romanian judiciary. Romanian Supreme Court judges received support to inform them about substantive EC law (i.e. contract law, company law).

Training of judges started in cooperation with the Croatian Judicial Academy. 10 seminars took place in five different cities each on general principles of Community law and on the procedures before the ECJ. This cooperation will continue in 2007.

Czech judges had a seminar on general principles of EU law and the role of the national judge. The preliminary ruling procedure was the subject of a seminar for the Superior Council on Magistracy in Bucharest. The same subject was dealt with at a seminar for representatives from all the highest Administrative Courts of the ten new Member States. Administrative judges also met on two other occasions to discuss their role as a national judge for the EU. Latvian judges attended a training in general EC law and civil and criminal law in Brussels.

A seminar on access to justice was organised in Malta, a project which is planned to be offered to all new Member States in the course of 2007.

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***“I was very satisfied, but the topics were very extensive and it would be maybe better to leave more time for discussion.”***

*Study visit to The Netherlands on Judicial review in the area of asylum, 21 September 2006, The Hague*

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## INDIVIDUAL MOBILISATION - EXPERT MISSIONS AND STUDY VISITS

Study Visits and Expert Mobilisation are tailored instruments designed for the training needs of the beneficiary authorities. Visits to a Member State or the mission of a Member State expert are short term activities (one week maximum) and they focus on the implementation of very specific aspects of the EU *acquis* such as the revision of a draft legislation, requests of training on the spot or familiarisation with the best practices in a Member State administration. The large majority of requests are made directly by the beneficiary authorities.

In 2006, the focus was on further improvement of quality of activities and their coordination with the other EU instruments. As a consequence the quality and the impact of assistance in the beneficiary countries has increased. For this reason the total number of events slightly decreased to 250. The two instruments were very highly rated by the beneficiaries in terms of usefulness and relevance. Assistance in 2006 continued to

focus on the acceding and candidate countries which represented more than the half of the activity (137). Bulgaria was the first beneficiary with 54 followed by Romania 39 events and Turkey with 21 events. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia increased their participation in the program with respectively 13 and 10 events. The participation of the new Member States slightly decreased in comparison with the figures of 2005 (from 38% to 36%). The smaller new Member States seem to appreciate the flexibility of the instruments. Cyprus was the most active beneficiary (13 events) followed by Slovenia (11 projects), Estonia (10 events) and Lithuania (9 events). Participation of the Western Balkan countries increased from 6% to 9%. The participation of the ENP countries and Russia is also expected to increase in 2007.

As regards expert and speaker participation, the larger Member States have provided the most of the

expertise in 2006. France is leading with 40 % of the events, followed by the United Kingdom with 32%, Germany 28% and Italy 18%. A second group of Member States is quite active with Denmark (14%), the Netherlands (14%), Slovenia (13%) and Spain (9%). 14% of the experts come from the EC Community institutions or organisations.

In terms of projects according to areas of assistance, the main pattern remained the same as for 2005. The main areas of assistance were the agriculture, veterinary and fisheries sectors with 30% of the projects. It was followed by projects in the field of environment 13%, free movement of goods 12% and transport 11%. Besides these main sectors, activity increased in the field of telecommunications and in the field of competition law especially in the Western Balkans. This structure of assistance is expected to continue in 2007.



Training of trainers, RTP Nikosia, November 2006

***"We just had some problems with check in to the hotel - the reservation was not done properly, but after some assistance from TAIEX the problem was solved. Otherwise everything was perfect."***

*Czech participant in the study visit to Berlin in the area of the fight against corruption, 19-20 September 2006, Berlin*

## PEER REVIEWS AND PEER-BASED MISSIONS

Throughout the accession process, peer reviews have served as an important tool for acceding countries and the European Commission. This has remained the case in 2006 during the final phase of the accession process for Bulgaria and Romania.

The overall objective of a peer review is to determine whether adequate administrative infrastructure and capacity are in place in acceding countries in order to ensure full implementation of the *acquis*. The resulting reports are used to better target further assistance with the goal of timely and complete implementation of the *acquis*.

Peer reviews have also played a key role in providing additional information for the Commission's ongoing monitoring activities for acceding countries. During 2006 they played a crucial role in the intensified monitoring process for Bulgaria and Romania.

Between January and March 2006 a total of 36 peer reviews were conducted in Bulgaria (19) and Romania (17). These peer reviews concentrated on the so called «red areas» that were highlighted in the 2005 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports for both countries.

The peer review reports served as key contributions to the monitoring reports that were published in May 2006 for both Bulgaria and Romania.

Based on the conclusions of the May reports a further 7 peer reviews (4 for Bulgaria and 3 for Romania) were organised in the areas of key concern. These final peer reviews contributed to the conclusions of the final monitoring reports for Bulgaria and Romania that were published in September 2006.

Three important peer assessment missions in the Justice, Freedom and Security field to Turkey, Croatia and Kosovo were organised in June and July 2006. Though not formal peer

reviews, these missions nonetheless contributed to the annual reporting of the European Commission regarding Justice Freedom and Security in the countries concerned and provided it with up-to-date information.



Assessment Mission in Veterinary sector, May 2006, Albania

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***“Bearing in mind that Kosovo is in the beginning of this process in my view we will need further assistance for translation of the *acquis*.”***  
 Participant in the Technical meeting on translation of the *acquis* into Albanian language, 30 June 2006, Pristine

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## TAIEX ACTIVITIES

# SCREENING

Accession negotiations represent a long and complex process and it is important that they are concluded on a well informed basis. To provide all negotiating sides with a sound and trustworthy basis, the first act of this process consists of an exhaustive analysis of the legal framework which regulates all issues to be tackled. This first step has become known as screening.

For the purpose of screening, the *acquis communautaire* has been divided into chapters reflecting the broad sectors coming under the European Union's policy framework. For each chapter, two meetings are convened. The first is an explanatory screening meeting, during which Commission officials present to the candidate countries the existing legislative acts and explain their meaning and implications. The second, usually taking place four to six weeks later, is a bilateral screening meeting, involving separately each country, whose officials have the opportunity to inform the Commission about their national legislation linked to the same chapter. These meetings aim to evaluate the degree of compatibility of each candidate country's legislation with the *acquis communautaire* and provide therefore a common basis for future negotiations.

The TAIEX instrument has been involved from the very beginning in the screening process with Croatia and Turkey, as it had been in similar activities conducted with the countries which eventually acceded the EU in 2004 and 2007. In close cooperation with all Commission services involved, one hundred screening meetings were organised between October 2005

and October 2006. In addition to 99 meetings foreseen for the 33 chapters to be analysed (33 explanatory and 66 bilateral), one meeting was added during which the Commission explained the «Lisbon process» and its progress and challenges.

Falling somehow outside the normal framework of activities performed by the TAIEX Instrument, the organisation of 100 screening meetings imposed a supplementary effort, rewarded by the general appreciation expressed by the two candidate countries as well as the Commission services.

## REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The rationale behind the Regional Training Programme (RTP) is to ensure the smooth continuation between the three phases of the accession process: transposition, implementation, and enforcement of the *acquis communautaire* by focusing assistance at the regional and local level in order to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation in the areas where sub-national stakeholders play an important role.

In order to accomplish its task, the RTP employs a bottom-up-approach designating local and regional public officials from beneficiary countries to be trained in Brussels. Through this concept of «training the trainers,» the selected public officials become RTP experts, and thereafter act as centres of excellence in a particular area of the *acquis* in their region. The RTP experts fulfil their role by co-organising seminars or workshops on a subject identified as a matter of priority in their region. The RTP experts are particularly well-placed to identify and highlight the specific challenges facing their respective regions, allowing for tailored assistance on the actual needs of each region. In addition, with around 200 RTP experts spread throughout the new Member States including Bulgaria and Romania, an extensive network of experts encompassing both the regional and local level has been established.

### Learning with impact

The format of the assistance is usually given in the form of a discursive workshop, which will include case studies or site visits to ensure that the participants receive practical training

as well as updates on the legislation at both the EU and national level. Through this approach the exchange of best practises from and between Member State experts is made more effective. Equally important, these workshops also contribute in building networks between the different stakeholders in the regions and beyond.



*Seminar on Air quality prognosis, November 2006, Piresti, Romania*

To illustrate the activities and success of the Regional Training Programme (RTP), three concrete examples have been included, covering different subjects and countries.

1. In 2006, an RTP expert identified the especially high mortality rate of motoring accidents in the Polish region of Warmia and Mazury and set up a workshop targeting the relevant stakeholders on the implementation and enforcement of the related EU legislation (Directive 91/67/EEC and the European Road Safety Action Programme). The workshop brought together 120 representatives from the local and regional police, Road Traffic Centre, driving schools, and education institutions to collectively tackle this problem. An exchange of best practices with Member State

experts led this workshop to be one of the first steps to be taken in the reduction of the fatalities in this region.

2. In Stara Zagora (Bulgaria), a workshop on animal welfare during transport and the conditions at slaughterhouses was organised together with the local veterinary service. Combining presentations with a site visit to a local poultry slaughterhouse, the various representatives of the regional veterinary services and the local association of meat processors were able to observe how the EU legislation was being applied in practice. The development of a performance assessment checklist during the site visit ensured a more thorough evaluation, which is of future use in this region.

3. A high-level seminar on air quality was organised in Sovata (Romania) with participants from across the regions of Romania. The Member State experts that contributed to this event came from five different Member States and provided the audience with a wide set of different examples of good practices and established the initial contacts for a geographically broad network. This seminar also tied in with an ongoing Twinning project in Romania, «*Implementation and Enforcement of the Environmental Acquis Focused on Air Quality*», between the Romanian and German administration.

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**“Presentation of the latest situation of EU and Lithuanian policy in air pollution protection, as well as exchange of practical experience with Lithuanian colleagues and experts from Germany and Greece were the most useful outcomes of the seminar. New professional cooperation contacts were established. Very good solution - participants representing different levels (national, regional, local, NGOs, business).”**

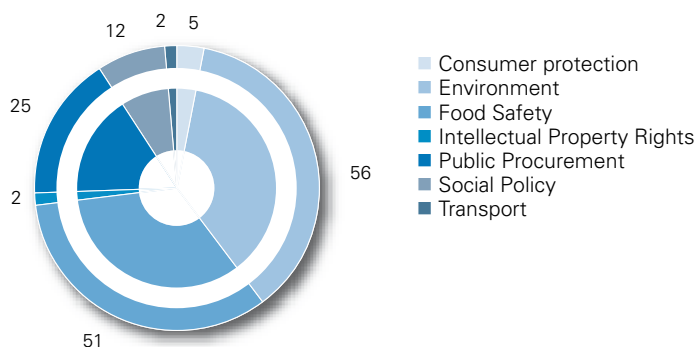
*Participant in the RTP workshop on Implementation of EU's air quality directives at the regional and local level, 18-19 June 2006, Klaipeda, Lithuania*

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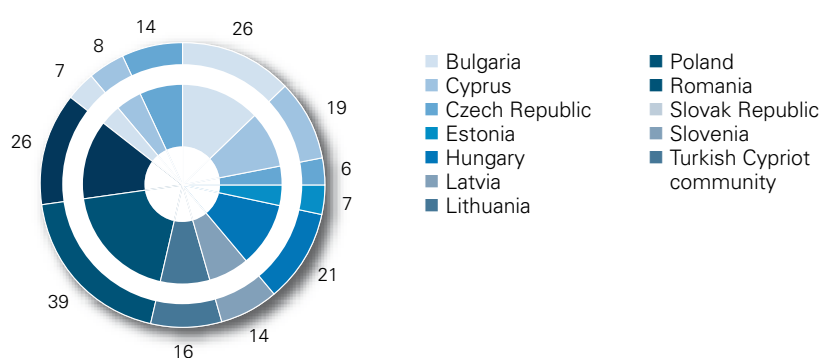
### In numbers

In 2006, over 8,500 relevant stakeholders in the various *acquis* chapters participated in at least one RTP event. As in previous years, the environment and food safety chapters made up the majority of these events, finding especially a great deal of demand in both Bulgaria (18 events) and Romania (21 events). The technical assistance provided through RTP increased in both of these countries during 2006, in the run up to their successful accession in 2007.

### Number of events by subject



### Number of RTP Experts



### Prospects for 2007 and beyond

The Regional Training Programme will continue to be fully operational in the new Member States that joined the EU in 2004. Cooperation will also continue with Bulgaria and Romania. Preparation will be started for the possible extension of the programme to both Croatia and Turkey, extending the RTP network even further.



Study visit on Air quality, January 2006, Athens

***“It was my first experience with a workshop like this. I think it was very interesting and useful. Not only for the participants but also for the invited experts”***

*Participant in the seminar on Implementation and enforcement of the end-of-life vehicles directive (2000/53/EC) in the Zachodniopomorskie Region, 20-21 April 2004 Miedzyzdroje, Poland*

## TAIEX ACTIVITIES

# TRANSLATION

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Since it was set up ten years ago, the TAIEX instrument has provided assistance to the beneficiary countries which engaged in the translation of the *acquis communautaire* in their languages. Such assistance included support for the establishment of Translation Coordination Units (TCUs) in the countries themselves, as well as for the cooperation and sharing of best practices among all stakeholders. Activities performed by the TCUs relate mainly to the translation of EU primary legislation (namely the Treaties), but also secondary legislation (i.e. directives, regulations and decisions), as well as agreements, court judgements, etc.

In this area the initiatives sponsored by the TAIEX instrument have been during 2006 directed towards two main groups of beneficiary countries,

Bulgaria and Romania on one side, the Western Balkans on the other.

With regard to Bulgaria and Romania, the basic aim has been to ensure a steady flow of translations from the TCUs in Sofia and Bucharest to the EU Institutions' departments responsible for the vetting and publication of the new linguistic versions of the *acquis* in the wake of accession. The TAIEX CCVista database, created as a repository of translations and which software has been constantly updated to meet specific requirements has once again been instrumental to the success of the operation.

In the case of the Western Balkans, the main challenge has been favouring regional cooperation and mutual assistance. In this framework, a Round Table on the translation of the *acquis*

organised in June 2006 offered to all participants the opportunity to inform their counterparts in other countries about their progress, challenges, problems and envisaged solutions.

In order to tackle the issue of trans-border cooperation among countries and communities sharing the same language in a more direct and practical way, two meetings were organised to prepare the way for a possible collaboration among translation departments of Albania, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



***"I think these round tables should take place more often, because they represent the opportunity for countries to share experiences and learn from each other."***

*Participant in the Round table on the translation of the acquis, 29 June 2006, Brussels*

## TAIEX DATABASES

# TAIEX DATABASES

TAIEX offers access to a range of databases. Some have been available for very long time, while others were developed more recently. The number of databases accessible is limited, but the high level of visits per day suggests that they are still very popular among users.

### Progress Database

The Progress database organises all EU legislation in a format which allows a continuous exchange of up-to-date information on newly adopted acts and on the harmonisation of national legislations. All data collected via the Progress Database are shared with Commission Services and Delegations, country Missions and the concerned national authorities.

The structure of the database has been used by a variety of beneficiaries as a model to structure their National Plan for the Approximation of the *acquis*.

### CCVista Database

CCVista constitutes a repository of all translations of EU legislation produced by the Translation Coordination Units of the beneficiary countries. It is a vital source of information to all internet users who wish to consult legislation translated into various languages of the beneficiary countries. Access to the database and download of available translations is completely free. The texts in the database, although revised, have no legal value (only those printed in the Official Journal of the European Union have legal value) but can serve

as useful working documents.

In preparation for their accession on 1st January 2007, during 2006 Bulgaria and Romania uploaded into CCVista all their translations of existing EU acts. Furthermore, the database is currently being used by the candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and by other Western Balkan countries.

### JurisVista Database

The Institution Building Unit also manages the JurisVista database, designed to host translations into the languages of beneficiary countries of a collection of the historical judgments of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance. The database is a library of translations of key judgements of EU jurisprudence; it is mainly used by the judiciary, by academic institutions such as new Member State universities, by law firms, etc.

The TAIEX instrument offers to some categories of officials (in particular staff of the veterinary and phytosanitary services of the beneficiary countries) free access to some databases developed as commercial products covered by a licence agreement. The Institution Building Unit supplies the pertinent passwords upon justified request.

### VetLex

Notwithstanding the efforts deployed in recent years by the European Union to codify and reduce its legislation, existing directives, regulations and

decisions in the veterinary area have been and are subject to repeated modifications. VetLex offers to password owners direct access to consolidated versions of all EU veterinary legislation, simplifying the daily tasks of veterinary inspectors, border posts' officials, etc.

Similarly, **PhytoLex** offers consolidated versions of EU phytosanitary legislation, while **Avis** is a database dedicated to animal diseases.

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***"I think that there was too much topics for one event. If it is possible, you should organize seminars for one or two related topics."***

***"It was quite a unique complexity of topics; some of the participants were experts in certain areas which automatically excluded the option of their wide knowledge in the other areas. Personally, I liked the diversity of the issues tackled as I am covering the area of public health in general, so I found the variety of information very useful."***

*Two participants in the Seminar on European health policy, legislation and tools, 4-5 April 2006, Brussels*

***"In general sense it was a valuable meeting. Communication between the speakers and the participants was fine. A detailed seminar on Investment Company will be welcomed since it is a new issue to be introduced in Turkey as for implementing the relevant EU Directive. Thanks."***

*Turkish participant in the Undertaking collective investments in transferable securities, 9-10 March 2006, Ankara*

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**Expert Database**

The TAIEX expert database registers public sector experts with experience in the field of the *acquis* coming from the 25 EU Member States. In 2006 around 2600 experts covering all the fields of the EU legislation could be found in the database. Moreover, a new category of institutional contact points was developed in 2005. Since then 400 institutional contact points have been registered. They play the role of entry points within each ministry of the Member States.

The Expert Database has largely contributed to increase TAIEX capacity to identify quickly the experts needed for assistance. The objective is to increase the database next year and especially to increase institutional contacts in ministries and public agencies. A network among the old Member States has been developed, while a stronger network in the new Member States would be useful. The accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU has brought the opportunity

to the officials from these countries to be eligible to register in the expert database and participate as experts and speakers in TAIEX events.

An important evolution of the TAIEX expert database was to give access to representatives of the 25 Member States in compliance with the EU regulation 45/2001 on protection of personal data. Since June 2006, national contact persons of the Member States have had access to the list of experts registered in the TAIEX expert database. The database is not only a tool to help selection of experts but it is also a communication tool between the Commission and the administrations of the 25 Member States. This policy of transparency should strengthen the relationship with the national public authorities and further develop operational co-operation.

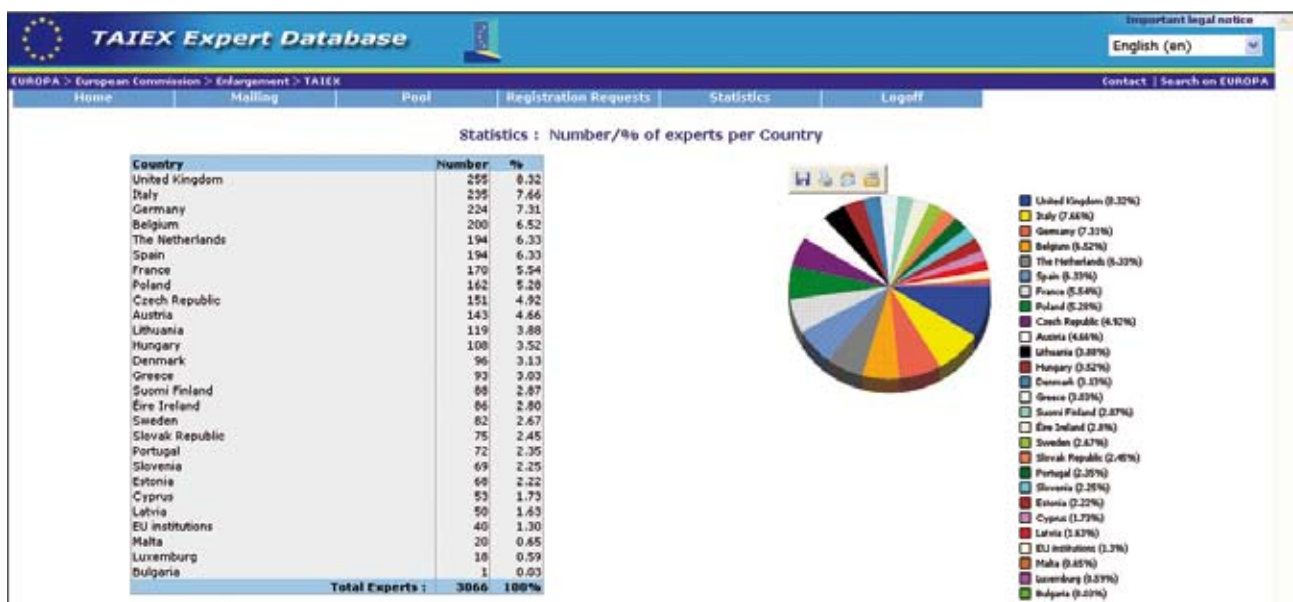
**Evaluation**

Another remarkable progress was the setting up of an evaluation tool that

allowed TAIEX to assess the quality of experts used from the database. After each event a message is now sent to participants and evaluators to assess the overall organisation of a seminar and to assess the quality of the experts. In 95% of TAIEX events experts were considered by the beneficiary participants to have provided good expertise. The evaluation system has become a means to ensure feedback and quality control on an ongoing basis.

**Expert Stock Exchange**

Besides the TAIEX expert database, the Expert Stock Exchange (ESE) plays an important role in advertising the events developed by the TAIEX instrument. The TAIEX ESE is an electronic platform that publishes all the Study Visits and Expert Missions for which an expertise is required. Experts who registered in the TAIEX expert database have access and can offer their expertise on-line.



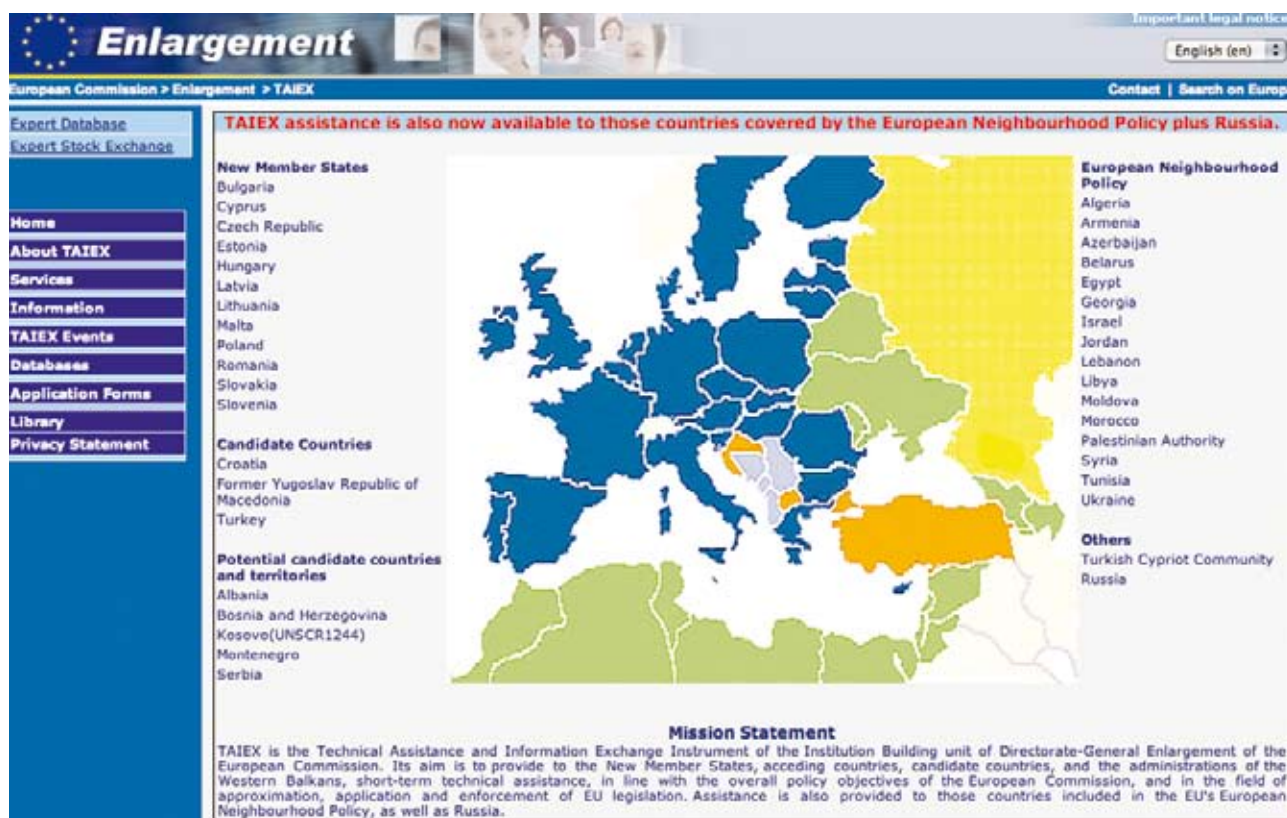
**“Excellent meeting to learn best practices in lake management from Denmark, Germany and Latvia both from practitioners as well from theoretical point of view. For me personally (I have attended all previous TAIEX seminars organized in Limbazi Distr), it was the best, showing that our audience becomes mature both in legal aspects as well in their capacity to participate in discussions as well transfer knowledge to their respective fields of activities.”**  
 Regional expert's in the workshop on Lake management: best available practice to achieve good ecological condition of lakes, 11-12 October 2006, Pales Parish, Latvia

## TAIEX DATABASES

# TAIEX WEBSITE

The TAIEX website ([http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index_en.htm)) is the simplest and most straightforward interface for current and potential beneficiaries of the short-term technical assistance made available. The aim is to describe the scope and mandate of the TAIEX instrument, provide the application forms that should be used to require assistance, provide constantly updated information on all events being organised and give the opportunity to download all presentations of past events. Via the main menu available on the home page it is also possible to access all TAIEX databases.

Separate links direct interested visitors to the TAIEX Expert Database, reserved for Member State experts who wish to register and offer their services, and the TAIEX Expert Stock Exchange, a tool accessible only to TAIEX contact points in Member States and beneficiary countries, where information on assistance requests and subsequent offers is openly shared.



The screenshot shows the TAIEX website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'Enlargement' logo and a language selector set to 'English (en)'. Below the navigation bar, a banner reads: 'TAIEX assistance is also now available to those countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy plus Russia.' The main content area features a map of Europe with countries color-coded according to their status. To the left of the map is a vertical menu with links: 'Expert Database', 'Expert Stock Exchange', 'Home', 'About TAIEX', 'Services', 'Information', 'TAIEX Events', 'Databases', 'Application Forms', 'Library', and 'Privacy Statement'. To the right of the map are lists of countries categorized by status:

- New Member States:** Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
- Candidate Countries:** Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.
- Potential candidate countries and territories:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo(UNSCR1244), Montenegro, Serbia.
- European Neighbourhood Policy:** Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.
- Others:** Turkish Cypriot Community, Russia.

Below the map, there is a 'Mission Statement' section:

**Mission Statement**  
TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the Institution Building unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission. Its aim is to provide to the New Member States, acceding countries, 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. Assistance is also provided to those countries included in the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as Russia.

**"People are coming and leaving and it is an important reason to repeat similar workshops."**  
Participant in the workshop on RAPEX-Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products, 28 April 2006, Prague

**FINANCIAL ISSUES: FINANCE AND CONTRACTS**

The Commission has concluded a delegation agreement with the German company Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), in consortium with the Belgian company BCD (former TQ3 Travel solution), for the provision of the logistical means (i.e. travel, accommodation, conference venue, interpretation, equipment etc..) and the procurement of services that are required for the implementation of the TAIEX activities. The agreement concluded in May 2005 covers a total period of 36 months ending in June 2008.

Several Commission Financing Decisions were adopted in 2006 to ensure the continued financing of the opera-

tion. They consisted of €4,15 million from the Transition Facility, €12,28 million from the Pre-Accession Funds, €3 million from CARDS and €4,2 from the Special Aid Package for the Northern Part of Cyprus. It also included €1,6 million from the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Programme (MEDA) and €1,6 million from the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme (TACIS) in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy MEDA and TACIS beneficiary countries.

The forthcoming application in 2007 of the new Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the Transition Facility for Bulgaria and Romania

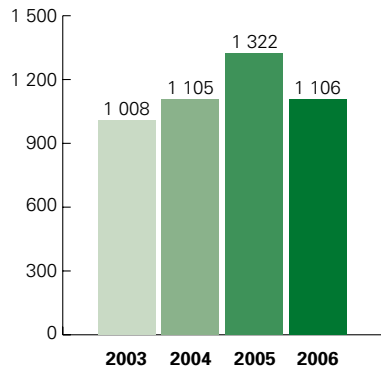
as from 2007, will become important funding sources for the coming years. In 2007, another positive perspective of the TAIEX programme is the further involvement of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries in the programme.

In 2006, the total budget for the TAIEX operation amounted to €19,1 million as compared to €23,2 million in 2004 and €24,1 million in 2005.

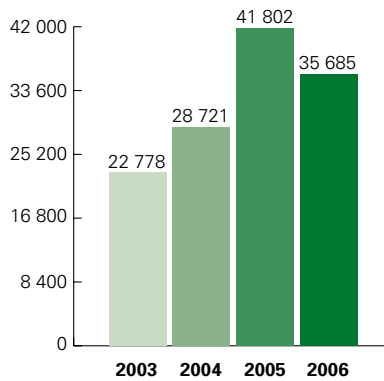


# SUMMARY - KEY STATISTICS

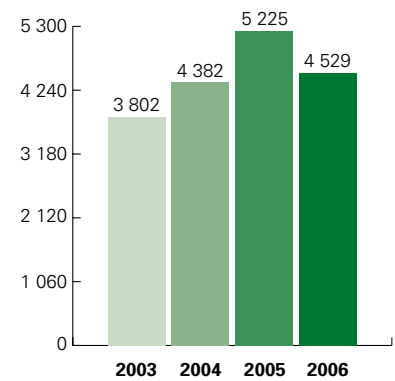
**Total number of Events year-on-year**



**Total number of Participants year-on-year**



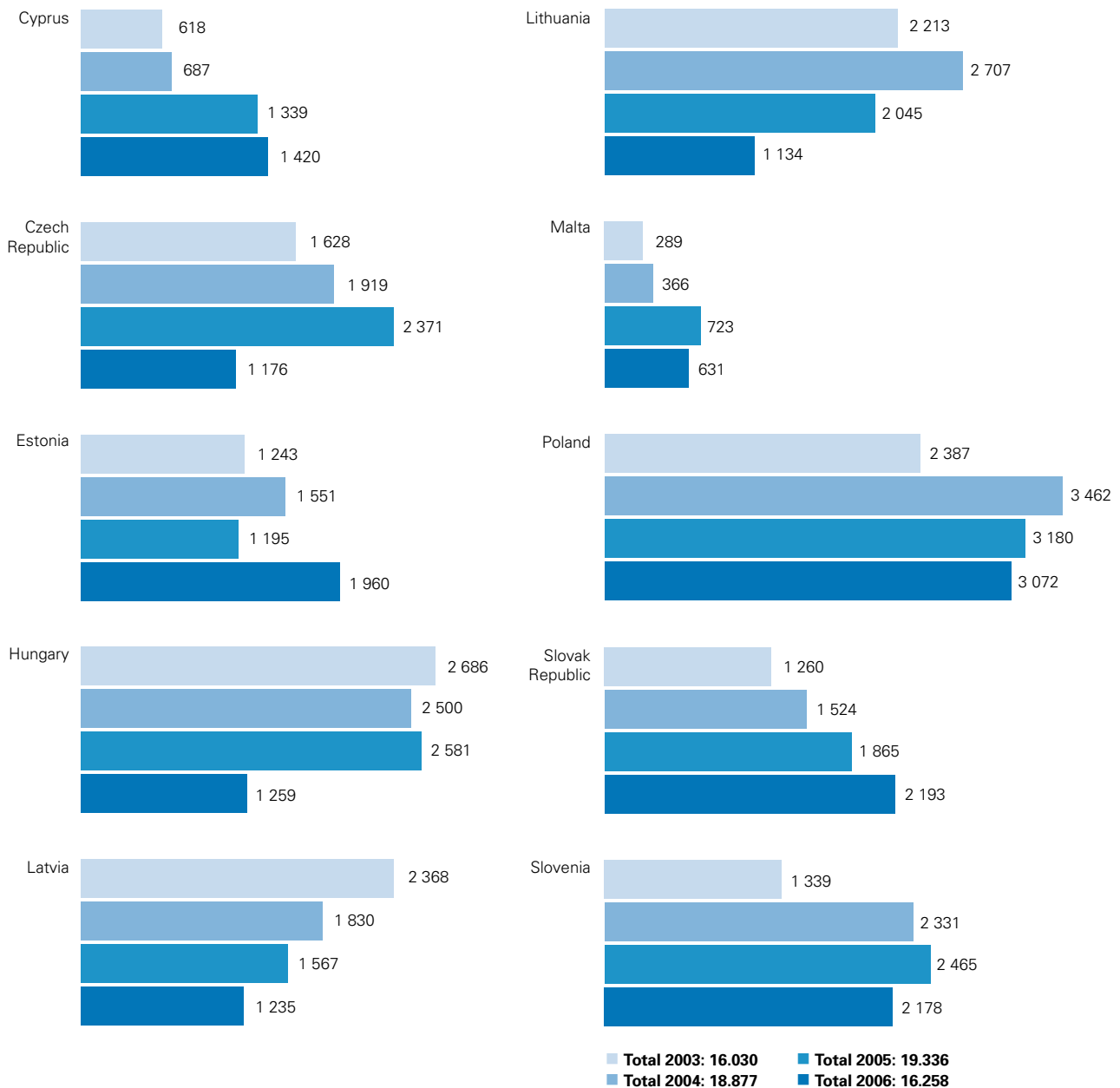
**Total number of Experts year-on-year**



**Total number of participants year-on-year per country**

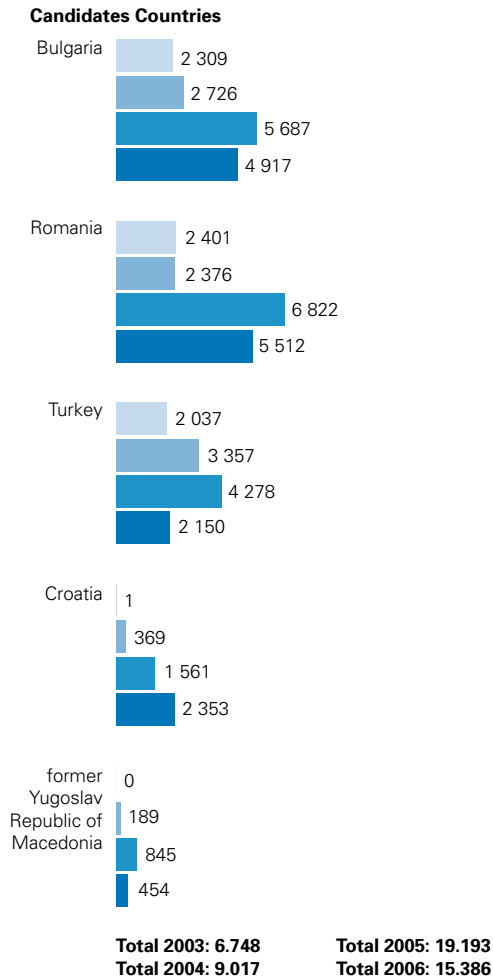
2003 2004 2005 2006

**New Member States**



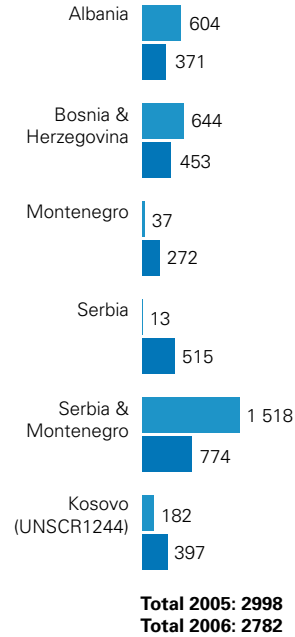
TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2006  
**SUMMARY - KEY STATISTICS**

**Total number of participants year-on-year per country**

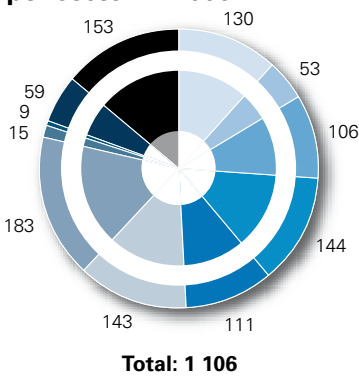


2003 2004 2005 2006

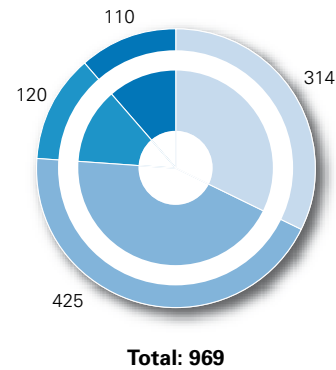
**Potential Candidate Countries and Territories**



**Annual breakdown of assistance per sector in 2006**



**Origin of request according to country**

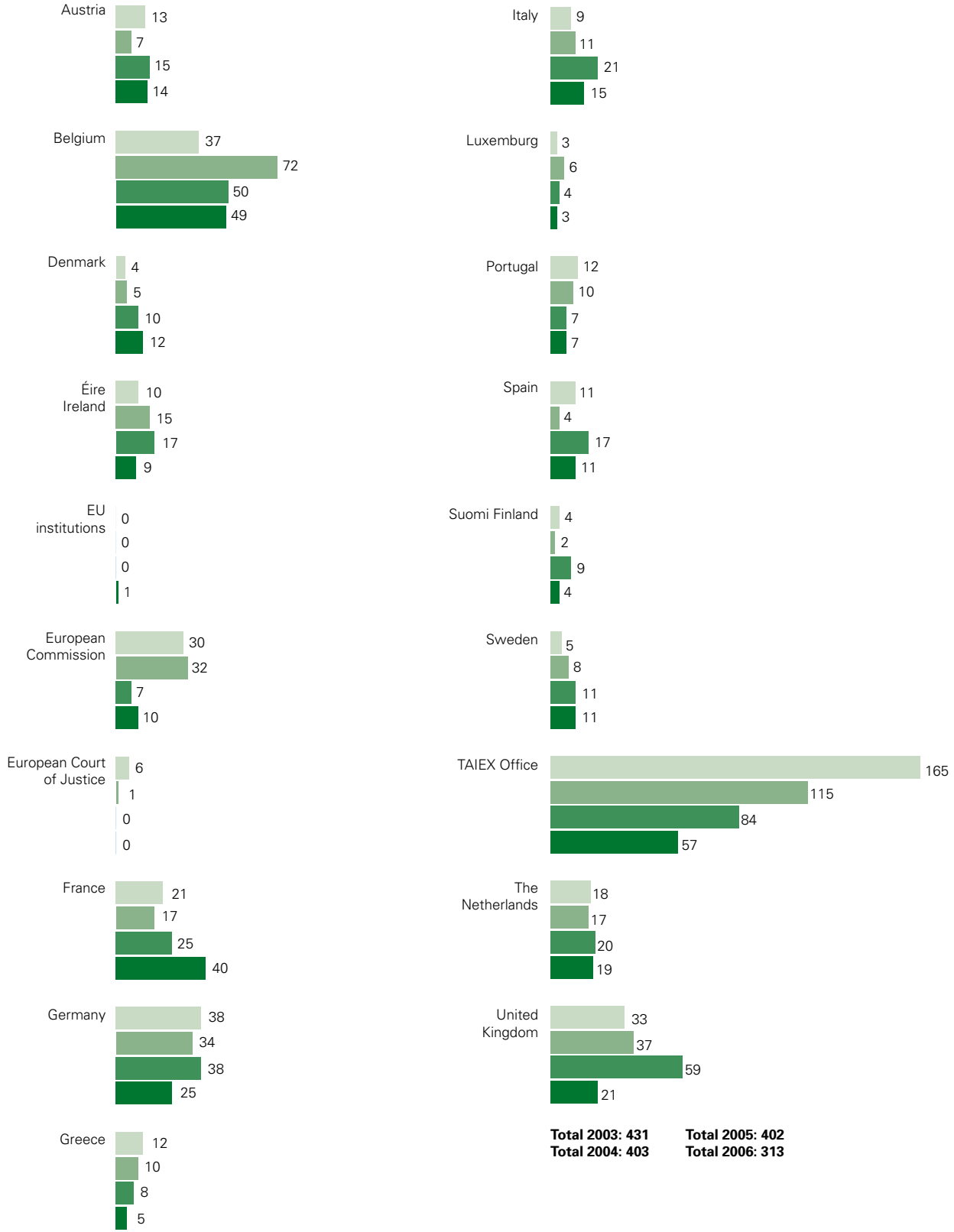


- Agriculture
- ATCC
- Individual mobilisation/Expertise
- Individual mobilisation/Sudy visits
- Infrastructure/Environment, Energy, Transport
- Internal market
- Freedom, Security, Justice
- Languages/Informatics
- Parliaments
- Peer reviews
- Regional Training Program

- New Member States
- Candidates Countries
- Potential Candidate Countries & Territories
- Others

**Number of events according to host/location** 2003 2004 2005 2006

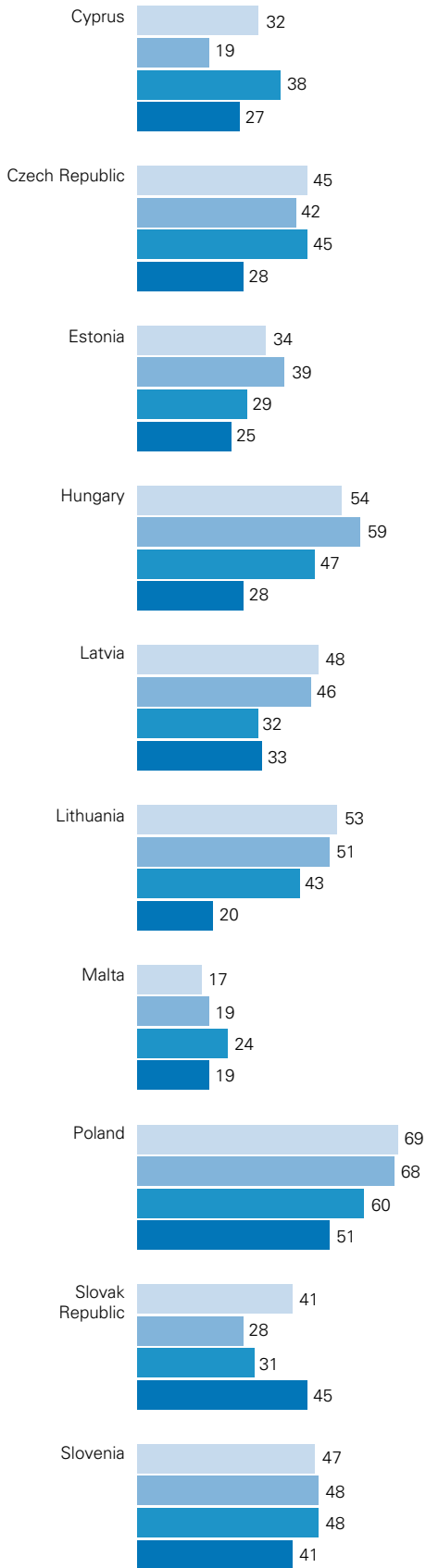
**Member States**



TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2006  
**SUMMARY - KEY STATISTICS**

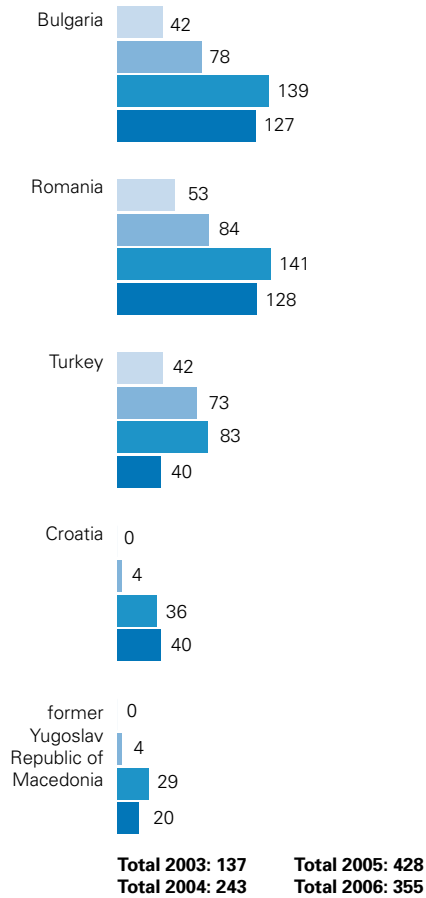
**Number of events according to host/location** 2003 2004 2005 2006

**New Member States**

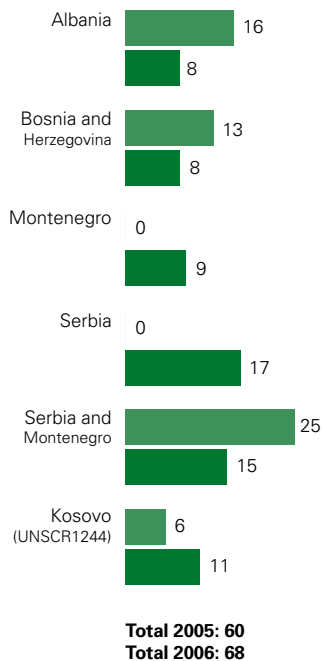


**Total 2003: 440**    **Total 2005: 397**  
**Total 2004: 419**    **Total 2006: 317**

**Candidates Countries**



**Potential Candidate Countries and Territories** 2005 2006



**NOTES**

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2006**

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The Institution Building unit (IBU) of the European Commission is responsible for the TAIEX Instrument, Twinning and SIGMA. To know more about us:

**VISIT THE INSTITUTION BUILDING WEBSITE**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial\\_assistance/institution\\_building/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/institution_building/index_en.htm)

**VISIT THE TAIEX WEBSITE**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index_en.htm)

**VISIT THE TWINNING WEBSITE**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/twinning/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/twinning/index_en.htm)

**VISIT THE SIGMA WEBSITE**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/sigma/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/sigma/index_en.htm)

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[elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu)

If you are a Member State public official with expertise in specific areas of the *acquis communautaire*, whether the legislation itself or its implementation or enforcement, and you wish to co-operate with the TAIEX instrument, we invite you to register in the Expert Database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/ExpertDatabase>

To know more about Enlargement of the EU:

**VISIT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ENLARGEMENT WEBSITE:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/>

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