



TWINNING NEWS No 47

BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER

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Twinning Review Mission – first test concluded

The preparation for the regular implementation of Twinning Review Missions foreseen for Projects under the 2009 Manual started successfully with the first test that took place in Turkey last December, as a follow-up of the project TR 06 IB JH 05 " Support to the Turkish National Police in the Enforcement of Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights". More tests are envisaged in the months to come in order to fine-tune procedures. More information will be provided in a special issue of your *Twinning News*.

43rd RTA Training Session

The 43rd Resident Twinning Advisers' training session will take place in Centre Albert Borschette on 17th and 18th February. This is the first training of 2011, to which around 30 RTAs are invited. The next RTA Training session is scheduled for June.

Eligible as Mandated Bodies

An Institution has to fulfil five cumulative criteria in order to be considered as eligible for the Mandated Body status. For two of them (Public Ownership of the institution and the Legal Status) a partial fulfilment can be considered acceptable, but in this situation would lead to the awarding of a restricted Mandated Body status that would prevent the application for commercial tenders up to 2 years after the end of the Twinning Project.

The remaining three criteria have to be necessarily satisfied: proven competence in the field of expertise, sufficient and proportionate level of permanent staff and permanent and structural

supervision of a Government authority.

'Sufficient and proportionate level of permanent staff' means that an institution should be able to carry out more the twinning assignment without renouncing to its normal activities due to a lack of human resources.

By 'permanent and structural supervision of a government authority' it should be understood that there are representatives of the Public Administration in the decision making process of the institution.

Please, bear in mind that the institution has to be granted the Mandated Body status BEFORE the proposal is submitted.

Best practice: Electronic versions

Except when explicitly requested by the Twinning Manual, the circulation of hardcopies of documents should be replaced by the circulation of electronic versions.

Exchanging electronic documents you limit shipping costs, reduce the use of paper and can easily enhance the availability of information.

Please add always elarg-twinning-reports@ec.europa.eu among the addressees of all quarterly and final reports of Twinning or Twinning Lights projects.

Side letters: date of entry into force

According to Annex C14 of the Twinning Manual 2009, a Side Letter can enter into force the day the Contracting Authority receives the hardcopy signed by both parties.

Twining Projects 2010 in the Pipeline

After the circulation of 2010 projects for Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Serbia and Turkey, more fiches will follow, concerning the remaining Twining projects approved by the IPA Committee. Here is an overview of what can be expected in the next months (figures are in € Million):

Albania

Strengthening the Assembly of Albania	TW	1.50
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Croatia

Strengthening of the existing Department for regulations of enforcement law (within the Directorate for Civil, Commercial and Administrative Law) with respect to its legal and institutional set up, management, operational organisation and human resources	TW	1.30
Strengthening the Efficiency of Judiciary in the Republic of Croatia	TW	1.20
Enhancement of the CTA administrative and institutional capacity in the field of application of VAT EU common system	TW	0.80
Integrated Border Management	TW	0.50
Support to the National Visa System	TW	0.30
Development of Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps	TW	1.10

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Further strengthening of the organisational and institutional capacities for the accession negotiation process	TW	2.10
Support to efficient prevention and fight against corruption	TW	1.42
Technical assistance to institutions in charge of implementation of the civil service and public administration reform	TW	1.80
Strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of freedom of movement for workers	TW	0.95
Institutional strengthening of the capacities of Competent Authorities for implementation of the acquis for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy	TW	1.35
Improving of the Public Revenue Office (PRO) taxpayers services	TW	0.80
Strengthening the administrative capacities at central and local level for implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis.	TW	1.00
Harmonise legislation and procedures with the Acquis and EU best practice related to excise	TW	0.95
Finalise the preparation for the accession to the Convention on Common Transit Procedures and to the Convention for simplification of formalities in trade in goods	TW	0.95

Montenegro

Strengthening border control, criminal intelligence and fight against drugs I	TWL	0.25
Strengthening border control, criminal intelligence and fight against drugs II	TWL	0.15

Support the implementation of the anti corruption strategy and action plan	TWL	0.70
Strengthening administrative capacities in information society	TWL	0.50
Achieving highest safety and technical quality of construction	TW	0.70
Strengthening the Phytosanitary Directorate	TW	0.70

Best Practices

If you have a "best practice" from your project to share, please send your article (maximum 300 words) to the functional mailbox elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu. All the suggestions are welcome.

Twining Community Tool

The Twining Community Tool (TCT) is based on CircaBC and provides a collaboration tool that allows users (from within and outside the Commission) to exchange files, comments and links on a unique platform.

The main purpose of TCT is to create a virtual network of Resident Twining Advisers, National Contact Points, EU Delegations and other relevant stakeholders of Twining.

If you belong to one of the above categories and wish to participate to the network, please send a mail with your name, role, organisation and a valid e-mail account to the address: elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu.

New life for the Twining Community Tool

TCT was launched in January 2010 upon request of some RTAs and Twining coordinators, but has been used so far only by a limited number of people. Convinced that it can be a very useful tool to exchange direct experiences and best practices, as well as a source of information, we have decided to add new content, and in particular a (live) list of frequently asked questions, with answers and references to the Twining Manual.

The Registration process to access TCT is always opened to all Twining stakeholders for projects in the IPA region. (see box above).

You can always contact the Twining Coordination Team in Brussels, should you or your staff require additional information:

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Functional e-mail boxes:

elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu - for proposals sent by the National contact points for Twinning to the Twinning co-ordination team

elarg-twinning-stc@ec.europa.eu - for sending draft Twinning contracts and draft Twinning contract addenda to be examined by the Twinning steering committee

elarg-twinning-reports@ec.europa.eu - for sending all Twinning quarterly and final reports

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/technical-assistance/twinning_en.htm.

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