



European Commission

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# TWINNING

**Twinning:  
Building institutions -  
learning from  
each other**





# Twinning: building institutions through administrative cooperation

## What is Twinning?

Twinning is the European Commission's key instrument to help beneficiary countries reinforce their administrations by providing on the ground co-operation between their public administrations and EU Member States.

It does so by matching experts from Member States with their respective peers, playing "host" to the former on a medium-term basis.

## What areas are covered by Twinning?

For candidates and potential candidates for EU accession, the themes covered are linked to the Union acquis. Harmonising EU and domestic legislations is instrumental to become a fully-fledged member of the European Union.

For the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, Twinning is used as a means of bringing countries closer to EU norms and standards, for instance within the framework of cooperation agreements signed with the EU.

In both cases, the sharing of EU best practice constitutes a key aspect Twinning activities.

## What needs to be done to put a Twinning project in place?

- ✓ Once a beneficiary country has decided that a Twinning project can provide clear added value in its modernisation process it can ask for Twinning assistance. As a first step, a beneficiary submits a request for a Twinning project which is circulated amongst the 28 EU Member States. Whichever Member State finds it useful, responds to the request with a Twinning offer.
- ✓ Once all offers are in, a selection committee – on which the beneficiary and the EU delegation are represented – awards the project to either one or a consortium of Member States. The project, which can last one to two years, begins with the arrival of the Member State expert – the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) –, in the beneficiary country.
- ✓ Twinning's success is due to the fact that for the entire length of a project, the RTA is seconded to assist the beneficiary administration in achieving its goal of capacity building.

## Who are the beneficiaries and partners?

- ✓ Under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), Twinning is used as a means of providing assistance to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
- ✓ Under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), Twinning assistance is available for the following countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence



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