



**2008 ACTIVITY REPORT**



# TAIEX 2008 Activity Report

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# Foreword by Commissioner Olli Rehn

With the celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2009 of the fifth anniversary of the 2004 accession of the EU-10 Member States, the enlargement policy continues to be one of the EU's most powerful policy tools.

Its aims of providing stability, security, and conflict prevention continue to serve the EU's strategic interests of creating a vast zone of peace and security, helping to increase prosperity on the continent.

In this perspective, renewing the enlargement consensus is a key element of the EU priorities as defined by the December 2006 European Council, through the consolidation of commitments, by ensuring rigorous conditionality and providing a better communication with the public, combined with the EU's capacity to integrate new members.

The EU has taken steps to improve the quality of the enlargement process, considering in particular the lessons learned from previous enlargements. Greater focus is now given at an early stage to the rule of law and good governance. The pace at which a candidate or potential candidate approaches the EU reflects the pace of its political and economic reforms as well as its capacity to assume the rights and obligations of membership in accordance with the Copenhagen criteria.

The year ahead will be a crucial one in addressing challenges in the Western Balkans. The progress of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey towards EU membership can be accelerated, provided they meet the necessary conditions. Croatia is expected to reach the final phase of accession negotiations by the end of 2009 if it

has taken the necessary preparatory steps.

Further reforms in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will bring the country closer to the EU. For the potential candidates, progress could result in candidate status when they have demonstrated their readiness.

In 2008, the TAIEX instrument organised the highest number of activities ever, with more than 1500 events organised in 37 countries, including some 35.000 participants and over 5.000 experts and speakers. Assistance to the European Neighbourhood Policy countries almost doubled (157 events). A substantial increase of activity level was noted in the candidate countries (343 events) and Western Balkans (190 events). TAIEX assistance came to an end for the EU-10 beneficiaries in May 2008 and reached a total of 284 events.

It is therefore with great pleasure and satisfaction that I present this report of the TAIEX activities for 2008. It will give you a broad overview of the different range of activities, services and beneficiary groups as an indispensable platform of technical "know-how" and interchange of best-practices.

Consequently, as the continuous rise in the level of assistance demanded from partner countries shows, I am convinced that TAIEX will continue to be a highly useful and relevant institution building tool for all beneficiary countries that need assistance for the introduction, implementation and enforcement of the EU legislative body.



# TAIEX mission



The TAIEX mission in the EU enlargement context<sup>1</sup> is to:

- Provide institution building support to assist the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU legislation and policies.
- Organise short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of partner administrations and organisations, calling on public sector expertise of the Member States.
- Meet demand-driven requests for assistance from the beneficiary countries.
- Respond to priorities identified in the Enlargement Strategy, country reports and partnerships.

In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>2</sup>:

- Provide short-term targeted technical assistance in relation to the implementation of action plans and measures agreed.

<sup>1</sup> Post accession support for Bulgaria and Romania. Pre-accession support for the candidate countries, potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244) and the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of Cyprus.

<sup>2</sup> Including all partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as Russia.



# Introduction

Enlargement has been a success story for the European Union as a whole. It has helped to overcome the division of Europe and contributed to peace and stability throughout the continent. 2009 will be an historical date as it marks a double-anniversary: the fall of the Iron Curtain occurred exactly 20 years ago which has brought a major economic and political transformation of central and Eastern Europe. And in May, it will coincide with the 5th anniversary of the last 2004 Enlargement through which 10 new Member states joined the EU.

In this new economic and political context, many new Member States have been using TAIEX very actively in 2008 underlining the relevance and usefulness of TAIEX also as a post-accession institution building tool. While financing transition naturally came to an end for the ten "new" Member States in mid-2008, TAIEX continued to be available for Bulgaria and Romania. All these countries will remain important partners for TAIEX with their pool of experts providing experience in harmonisation, implementation and enforcement in various fields of EU legislation.

The countries of the Western Balkans have been given the clear perspective of becoming EU members once they fulfil the established conditions. The focus is now on preparations to ensure that these countries tackle fundamental governance and economic issues as well as issues related to EU laws and policy harmonisation.

All of them have progressed at different speeds in structuring and opening up their economies and have moved forward towards the EU.

Accession negotiations with Croatia are at an advanced stage. A "road-map" has been drawn up for the final stage of

these negotiations based on a clear set of conditions. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has achieved candidate status. Start of accession negotiations is envisaged when the political criteria have been fully met.

EU's accession negotiations with Turkey are recently proceeding at a rather slow but steady pace. Progresses on the political criteria have been accomplished, especially in the domain of freedom of expression and minorities' rights.

The signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) confirms the progress in the approaching path of Bosnia and Herzegovina, however the pace of key EU reforms has recently slowed down.

Similarly, despite Albania also signing the SAA in 2006, many challenges in the fields of the fight against organised crime and corruption are still to be addressed. Montenegro after having signed the SAA in 2007, submitted its application for EU membership in December 2008. Its progress has moved forward while more reforms are needed in the rule of law and institution building fields.

With Serbia, the full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia remains the crucial issue that once solved, would decisively accelerate the path towards EU membership.

For Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, 2008 was a decisive year with 56 states having recognized it since the declaration of independence, in February 2008. A fund of € 1.2 billion has been raised during a donor's conference last summer 2008 and now the largest EU civilian operation (EULEX), with around 2.000 police officers, judges, prosecutors and customs officials is being deployed.

As regards the Cyprus issue, negotiations between the leaders began in September to find a comprehensive settlement to the division of the island. This has given added relevance to the information and training activities provided through TAIEX to support preparations for the future application of the *acquis* following a reunification.

The use of the TAIEX instrument in European Neighbourhood Policy plus Russia has sensibly increased, starting to become a crucial tool to facilitate and intensify cooperation with these countries across a wide spectrum of policy areas.

Partner countries within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) framework include 16 countries bordering the EU to the east and south. Action Plans have been signed and are being implemented with most of them, providing a framework of cooperation with precise commitments to promote economic modernisation, strengthen the rule of law, democracy and the respect for human rights.

EU cooperation with Russia is based upon a strategic partnership. EU and Russia are cooperating on a wide range of issues, including economic and security issues, as well as justice and home affairs, environment and nuclear safety.

## Overview of TAIEX activities in 2008

The TAIEX operations continued to develop in a positive and dynamic manner in the course of 2008. The overall activity level in 2008 has resulted in going beyond its peak level of 2005, totalling an increase of 20% compared to 2007 (1542 events), despite the fact that support was phased out in May 2008 for the 10 "new" Member States. Same increasing trend (+25% compa-

red to 2007) was observed for the number of requests received in 2008. This represents TAIEX highest number ever (1697 requests).

The TAIEX instrument remained a highly responsive, fast and effective tool for short-term technical assistance for a wide range of partner countries in and around the European Union.

The total number of participants from all beneficiary countries reached 35.000 and involved a total of more than 5000 experts and speakers that were mobilised mainly from Member States administrations. These positive results and the increasing demand for assistance demonstrate the need and usefulness of TAIEX as an instrument of know-how transfer and exchange of best practice.

Turkey, Croatia and Bulgaria were major beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance during the year. 2008 was also the second full year where TAIEX was available to the ENP partners and Russia. Close to 300 applications were received from these partner countries against 200 in 2007. Over the same period, more than 3000 participants from the administrations of the ENP partner countries and Russia have been trained in the framework of TAIEX instrument.

Substantial increased assistance has also been given to the Turkish Cypriot community totalling 150 events.

In 2008, a civil society visitor's programme – the People to People programme (P2P) – was also launched under the TAIEX operations as one of the components of the new "Civil Society Facility" (CSF) of the Directorate-General for Enlargement, aiming at strengthening civil society's role in the democratic process.

This new visitor's programme was initiated in spring 2008 to support the further development of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

## Perspectives for 2009

In the case of Romania and Bulgaria, post-accession assistance will be continued until end of 2010. In the candidate countries and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans, TAIEX is ready to play an increasing role in further strengthening and assisting the institution building process.

TAIEX will also continue its cooperation with the ENP partner countries and Russia and will target its activities to help understanding, drafting and implementing legislation related to the Action Plans or Road Maps. A close cooperation and coordination of activities will be conducted with all stakeholders - Europe Aid Cooperation Office, the Directorate General for External Relations, the European Commission's Delegations as well as with National Coordination Units and Program Administration Offices in the partner countries.

As TAIEX is essentially a demand-driven instrument, a pro-active approach from both the Commission side - explaining the potential and benefits of cooperation through the TAIEX instrument and from beneficiary administrations - actively distributing information and initiating cooperation, continues to be an essential feature.

This year's Activity Report offers a summary of the TAIEX operation in 2008. It sums up the key information about TAIEX beneficiaries and provides a brief overview of its sectoral and horizontal activities. The report concludes with information on financial issues and displays key annual statistics. Feedback from beneficiaries is important for evaluation and further improvement of the instrument. Some comments and quotations from participants and experts involved in various TAIEX events are also included in the report.

<sup>1</sup> Under UNSCR 1244/99

# TAIEX Beneficiaries in 2008

## Member States (untill end of may 2008)



### **Cyprus**

Capital: Nicosia  
0.8 million inhabitants



### **Czech Republic**

Capital: Prague  
10.2 million inhabitants



### **Estonia**

Capital: Tallinn  
1.4 million inhabitants



### **Hungary**

Capital: Budapest  
10.2 million inhabitants



### **Latvia**

Capital: Riga  
2.4 million inhabitants



### **Lithuania**

Capital: Vilnius  
3.5 million inhabitants



### **Malta**

Capital: Valetta  
0.4 million inhabitants



### **Poland**

Capital: Warsaw  
38.6 million inhabitants



### **Slovakia**

Capital: Bratislava  
5.4 million inhabitants



### **Slovenia**

Capital: Ljubljana  
2.0 million inhabitants

## Beneficiary Member States



### **Bulgaria**

Capital: Sofia  
7.9 million inhabitants



### **Romania**

Capital: Bucharest  
22.4 million inhabitants

## Candidate Countries



### **Turkey**

Capital: Ankara  
68.6 million inhabitants



### **Croatia**

Capital: Zagreb  
4.4 million inhabitants



### **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Capital: Skopje  
2 million inhabitants

## ENPI countries



### **Algeria**

Capital: Algiers  
32.9 million inhabitants



### **Armenia**

Capital: Yerevan  
3 million inhabitants



### **Azerbaijan**

Capital: Baku  
7.8 million inhabitants



### **Belarus**

Capital: Minsk  
10.3 million inhabitants



### **Egypt**

Capital: Cairo  
78.8 million inhabitants



### **Georgia**

Capital: Tbilisi  
4.9 million inhabitants



### **Israel**

Capital: Tel Aviv  
6.3 million inhabitants



### **Jordan**

Capital: Amman  
5.1 million inhabitants



### **Libya**

Capital: Tripoli  
5.9 million inhabitants



### **Lebanon**

Capital: Beirut  
3.8 million inhabitants



### **Moldova**

Capital: Chisinau  
4.3 million inhabitants



### **Morocco**

Capital: Rabat  
33.2 million inhabitants



### **Syria**

Capital: Damascus  
19 million inhabitants



### **Tunisia**

Capital: Tunis  
10 million inhabitants



### **Ukraine**

Capital: Kiev  
48.7 million inhabitants



### **West Bank and Gaza Strip**

Capital: Ramallah (interim)  
3.7 million inhabitants

## Potential Candidate Countries and territories



### **Albania**

Capital : Tirana  
4.1 million inhabitants



### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Capital : Sarajevo  
3.8 million inhabitants

### **Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)**

Capital: Pristina  
1.9 million inhabitants



### **Montenegro**

Capital: Podgorica  
0.6 million inhabitants



### **Serbia**

Capital: Belgrade  
8.1 million inhabitants







**Russia**

Capital: Moscow  
1 7.075.200 km<sup>2</sup>  
1 45 million inhabitants

**The Turkish Cypriot community**



# Internal Market

With its Communication "A single market for 21st century Europe", at the end of 2007 the European Commission set out a package of initiatives to modernise the European single market and to bring more benefits to Europeans, building on past successes. In the Introduction of the Communication, the essence of the single (or 'internal') market was powerfully sketched:

*The single market is a pillar of the European Union. It has turned the free movement of people, goods, services and capital into a tangible reality, delivering real benefits for Europeans. It has created jobs and stimulated growth. It has enabled Europeans to live, work, study and retire in a different country. One and a half million Erasmus students, for example, have taken advantage of EU-wide mobility. The single market has brought consumers a wider choice of goods and services at lower prices, stimulating higher quality and better safety. It has created a common set of rules for business, as well as access to a market of 500 million consumers. The single market has been essential for the smooth functioning of Europe's economic and monetary policies and*

*served as a strong base for the launch of the Euro. The enlarged single market has made Europe more open, more diverse and more competitive - creating new opportunities, respecting social rights, and promoting high standards for health, safety and the environment.*

Open to the world, and in particular to its candidate and pre-candidate countries as well as to its closest neighbours, the EU is keen to share the benefits of its internal market with all those that wish to take a stake in it and are ready to introduce the necessary reforms. Within the limits of its mandate and capacities, the TAIEX Instrument deployed its resources in 2008 to assist and accompany partner countries in their efforts to approximate norms and standards to those of the EU internal market.

A total of 349 events were organised in 2008 consisting of 161 workshops, 84 expert missions and 104 study visits. All beneficiaries showed great interest for TAIEX assistance in this wide area of legislation, with over 500 applications globally sent over the year. The number of positive answers totalled almost 80%, clearly suggesting the good quality of a significant part of the requests.

The interests of applicants covered a large range of subjects: free movement of goods, services, people and capitals; social policy and labour law; competition; trade issues; health and consumer protection; customs and taxation; financial services and budgetary provisions; information society; regional policy, etc. More than in previous years, various applications focused also on culture and education topics.

Some countries and some administrations, that are making extensive use of TAIEX assistance, have prepared and submitted sets of applications, geared so that different aspects of the same topic could be covered by complementary requests. A special effort was made to organise some comprehensive events, during which many closely related topics could be dealt with jointly.

Besides the flow of applications from the beneficiary countries, services of the European Commission have asked for the use of TAIEX support to illustrate their policies related to the internal market to the candidate and pre-candidate countries and/or to our partners of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Russia.

TAIEX core activity with regard to internal market policies and legislation was performed in the framework of



workshops/seminars. More than 160 of these events were organised, as single-country, regional or multi-country meetings. A major multi-country conference on "Safe markets and empowered consumers in a globalised world" took place in Sofia in June with the aim of exchanging views and providing guidance for the implementation of consumer protection policies. In September 2008, an expert mission on "Company law" was organised in Skopje to the benefit of Ministry of Economy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in order to provide expertise on the EU legislation on "Cross border mergers". In Russia, last June, a workshop on "Public Procurement" was organised in cooperation with the Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service, offering an overview on the EU legislative package on public procurement.

Well known for its flexibility and capacity to adapt to circumstances, TAIEX can select the attendance to its workshops purely on the basis of the state of play in the different countries. On specific occasions, it was therefore possible to associate for instance one or more neighbouring countries to others of the Western Balkans, new Member States to candidate countries, Turkey to Mediterranean neighbours, etc.

No matter the composition of the audience or the topics discussed, events have always kept their technical character, favouring the exchange of information, expertise, know-how on many complex issues of the legal framework in which functions the EU internal market.

A significant number of applications requested the organisation of study visits. Over 100 of these applications received a positive answer and, thanks to the availability and goodwill of the Member States' administrations, these events could be successfully organised.. The possibility to have an expert at the complete disposal of a team of people working on a new legal act, on an implementing measure or on the establishment of procedures and protocols can prove extremely useful and produce great results in a limited time. The expertises on internal market related topics were much appreciated not only by the beneficiaries, but by the mobilised experts themselves, positively surprised by the good preparation and knowledge of their peers met on the occasion of TAIEX missions.

***"The event was very interesting and the objectives of the conference were clear and determined.***

***The interaction was very visible and active due to the nature of the participants' eagerness to accomplish actual results. We urge a continuation of the efforts to attain such results."***

*Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility,  
Cairo, 26 October  
(INT MARKET 3089)*





# Agriculture

The agricultural sector covers a wide range of topics related to agriculture, animal health and animal welfare, food safety and phytosanitary issues. Agriculture remains an important sector affecting a vast number of people and ensuring the availability of sufficient food of good quality and at reasonable prices. The worldwide food price increase experienced during 2008 has put agriculture back on the international agenda.

The total number of TAIEX activities in this sector reached 252 consisting of 86 workshops, 62 expert missions and 104 study visits to EU Member State countries.

In 2008 the agricultural section of TAIEX has worked on a forward planning approach through establishing training maps with the 8 Western Balkan partners and Turkey. This allowed for mid-term planning and harmonisation, as well as increased dialogue and cooperation between the different stakeholders. During a two-day workshop representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey were invited to Brussels to discuss and exchange institutional training needs related to

the relevant EU legislation body. The countries were represented by training liaison officers selected by the line ministries in their countries. European Commission experts provided immediate feedback to suggested training priorities in relation to ongoing programs on the pre-accession process. The workshop focussed on the general aspects of the TAIEX programme, a review of the *acquis communautaire* and priorities for the next year. On this basis, allowing each participating country to establish a map listing the institutional capacity building needs in the four main areas: veterinary issues, food safety, phytosanitary and animal welfare, for which applications were sent to TAIEX.

A second mapping exercise is planned for the first half of 2009

Continued assistance was provided to Bulgaria and Romania in the field of veterinary controls on the external borders of EU and animal diseases such as Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Foot and Mouth Disease and Rabies. In the field of agriculture food producing establishments and the milk sector received priority attention and this will continue in 2009.

All candidate countries as well as the potential candidate countries were mostly interested in receiving assistance on the transposition of the EU legislation and further understanding its requirements in relation to the progress already made. At each stage of the approximation either expert missions, a study visit to a Member State with similar experience or a workshop was organised. In the Western Balkan Countries cooperation in the field of animal diseases was consolidated in 2008.

European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries and Russia took part in various initial multi-country events and bilateral activities. For these countries the functioning of border inspection posts, regional animal disease programs as well as market access are of high importance. Animal diseases were the centre of attention with workshops and conferences for Classical and African Swine Fever, Rabies, Avian Influenza, Blue Tongue and peste des petits ruminant. The EU needs to ensure that its neighbours are well equipped for early detection and control of these highly infectious animal diseases which can pose a serious treat to the whole livestock sector in Europe.



In the agricultural sector, emphasis was put on the implementation and enforcement of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the new Member States and facilitating the transposition of the EU legislation in agriculture in candidate and potential candidate countries. Most study visits and expert missions focused on the market management of agricultural products especially fruit and vegetables and sugar in line with the new CAP reform. TAIEX assistance also covered trade mechanisms, organic farming, state aids in agriculture and in the fisheries sector.

Several events were devoted to food quality topics such as traceability, GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms) and geographic indicators. In addition, assistance was provided in the field of agricultural statistics.

Much attention was given to rural development. For the candidate countries a seminar was organised on assessment of requirements for monitoring and evaluation of the programmes. More specifically, the objectives included a general introduction of an on-going evaluation, presentation of a practical approach and institutional aspects of this on-going evaluation and, thirdly, a practical approach on programme management and its monitoring. For the benefit of potential candidate countries TAIEX organised a workshop on preparation for implementation of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Rural Development (IPARD). The event focussed on elaboration of relevant legislative documents, implementation structures, roles and functions, as well as procedures for fulfilment of all criteria for utilization of funds from the fifth component of IPA.

A double-workshop was organised for Croatian authorities launching the preparation phase for implementation of

the Croatian pre-accession Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013 (IPARD). The two events were attended by approximately 200 participants from different sectors and aimed at communicating the objectives and requirements of these measures to representatives of national and local authorities, NGOs, development agencies and other interested parties

### **Veterinary Issues and Animal Welfare**

The newly adopted Community Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013 "Prevention is better than Cure" puts greater focus on precautionary measures, disease surveillance, controls and research, in order to reduce the incidence of animal disease and minimise the impact of outbreaks when they occur. Additionally the close connections between animal health, animal welfare and food safety have been emphasised. The European Community stresses that all those involved in animal health have clear responsibilities in ensuring that the goals of the new strategy are met.

Animal health is an important issue not only for animals but also for humans especially regarding diseases that are easily transmissible to humans. Diseases like Avian Influenza and other zoonoses as well as animal welfare were priorities for institutional capacity building in all beneficiary countries. Seminars and simulation exercises on Classical Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease were prepared or organized. Furthermore TAIEX was active in supporting the implementation of regional disease programmes in close cooperation with concerned European Commission services and other institutional partners.

TAIEX has established longstanding and successful co-operation with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), which has proven to be very valuable for countries in the process of joining the EU as well as for neighbouring countries. Conferences, seminars and study visits contributed to a better understanding of EU rules and regulations; not only as individual legal provisions but, even more importantly, as a coherent system. In addition to the formal exchange of information, all events have been instrumental in establishing contacts and strengthening good working relations. A multi-country conference of regional cooperation on Rabies took place in Turkey with 160 participants.

Intensive cooperation existed also with the EU National Reference Laboratories. Representatives from candidate countries participated to annual meetings referring to Brucellosis, E. Coli and African Swine Fever.

Multiple seminars aimed to provide information concerning the EU regulations and directives in the field of animal welfare were also organised. TAIEX contributed to the organisation of an in-depth presentation of a new Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 to partner countries. Topics covered were animal welfare for farm animals, animal welfare during transportation and stunning and slaughtering.

TAIEX has continued close cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) with whom a seminar on Animal Welfare was organised in Cairo in October 2008 for OIE Member Countries of the European Union and other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.



## Food Safety

The EU integrated approach to food safety "from farm to fork" aims to assure a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health within the European Union through coherent measures and adequate monitoring, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market. In food and feed safety, assistance continued to focus on the new hygiene package, residue control, food contaminants and zoonoses. Two workshops on traceability from stable to table for food and feed took place for 350 participants in Croatia and this included the preparation of check-lists for the assessment of agri-food establishments in the meat, milk and fish sectors.

Also during the last months of 2008 TAIEX organised many activities linked to the food safety such as food hygiene, HACCP, food traceability and food safety control in order to facilitate the approximation of national legislation to EU standards.

A seminar was organised to explain how the National Residue Control Programme (NRCP) has to be prepared in line with EU requirements. Member

State experts presented the situation in different EU countries and highlight the difficulties and problems they faced when implementing the NRCP. specially with deciding for the proper matrix for the analyses, taking of different kind of samples, packaging and sending of samples to the laboratories.

## Phytosanitary

Several study visits, expert missions and workshops have been organised in line with the Community plant health regime in order to prevent the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants or plant products. The topics included presentations on the plant passport and the implementation of the Rulebooks under the Law of Seeds and Propagating Material.

TAIEX assistance was given to support the beneficiary countries with the approximation and enforcement of export obligations. Rights and obligations are placed upon Member States to regulate the movement of plants or plant products within their territory and their introduction into the Community from third countries.

***"I am very satisfied of the event. The programme agreed with the co-organisers was quite complex and articulated but we were able to discuss the topics into details. The participants were very motivated and gave us several opportunities to debate on the topics of the workshop. In addition the participants gave us the idea to appreciate our experts' contribution in order to implement all the directives necessary to go further in their process of harmonisation with the EU legislation"***

*Expert mission on Veterinary Medical Products: Good Laboratory and Manufacturer Practice (GLP-GMP), Ankara. 31st March - 4th April 2008 (AGR IND/EXP 25748)*



# Freedom, Security and Justice

Strengthening the area of Freedom, Security and Justice is one of the fundamental objectives of the European Union.

The main policy areas concerned are: free movement of persons, external border control, Schengen, visa policy, asylum, immigration, judicial cooperation in civil matters, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the fight against organised crime, 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, crime prevention, data protection, fundamental rights, racism and xenophobia.

European legislation in these areas has increased continuously over the recent years. TAIEX has also increased assistance in the field of Freedom, Security and Justice (JLS). In 2008, nearly 400 events were organised consisting of 156 workshops, 65 expert missions and 165 study visits, covering all beneficiary countries. The target groups included officials of the Ministries of Justice and Interior and 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, anti-corruption agencies.

Until end of May 2008, the majority of assistance given was concentrated on the 10 "new" Member States. The subjects were widespread and comprised the fight against vehicle crime, police cooperation, training of the police, football violence, common consular instructions, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime, data phishing, the European Arrest Warrant, fight against organised crime like trafficking in human beings, fight against terrorism, passenger data, issues of forensic evidence, custody of children, prison administration, etc.

Almost all of the 10 new Member States repeatedly asked for assistance in the area of Schengen, the Treaty of Prüm, document security and external border control. The Slovak Republic also concentrated very much on issues of asylum and questions of illegal immigration. Cyprus received numerous assistance in the fight against drug abuse. Estonia had workshops on environmental crime and human rights for children. Latvia concentrated on witness protection and Lithuania on several training events for the Prosecutor's office. For all of the 10 new Member States two major seminars on Asset Recovery were organised in Warsaw and Budapest.

The Czech Republic, Lithuania and Poland received several training events on how to prepare the Presidency of the EU. Workshops on the Lisbon Treaty took place in Vilnius and Valetta.

Bulgaria and Romania are not yet members of Schengen. Therefore, it is understandable that many workshops and study visits were organised for the benefit of both countries in the field of the Schengen acquis, the establishment of a SIRENE office, the Treaty of Prüm, data protection as well as police cooperation in the Schengen area. Together with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), TAIEX organised in both countries seminars on how to fight fraud in relation to the EU budget. Subjects included risk analysis in the field of own resources, fraud in Common Agricultural Policy, fraud and irregularity reporting.

Romania's judiciary was trained in numerous country wide seminars on "General Principles of EU law" and on "The Four Freedoms of the Internal Market". Other workshops in these two new Member States covered issues like fighting corruption, anti-money laundering, illicit drugs, police cooperation, fighting economic crime, trafficking in human beings and asset recovery.



***"I am pleased to be given the opportunity to attend such events and share valuable information and experience both with EU experts and regional colleagues from the Balkans.***

***Thank you!"***

*Workshop on Protection of personal data in the framework of visa liberalisation dialogue in the Western Balkans, Brussels, 28-29 January 2009 (JHA 32038)*

Croatia received training on the protection of the financial interests of the EU and irregularity reporting. Visa issues, biometric passports and SIRENE were other topics of support given. Croatian requests also focused on drug related crime and precursors as well as legal aid and probation. Other issues concerned police cooperation, compensation of crime victims and the fight against organised crime.

Turkey was very active in sending requests. Over 60 workshops, study or experts visits were organised for the benefit of the Turkish administration and judiciary. Topics comprised all subjects already mentioned for other beneficiary countries. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to highlight areas of assistance like extradition, rights of suspects, prevention of terrorism, financing of terrorism, combating money laundering, investigating child pornography and cyber crime, crime prevention, use of force by police and data protection in relation to the police. A major seminar took place on counterfeiting of the Euro.

A special focus during 2008 was the training of the Turkish National Police on various subjects. Other areas of focus were questions related to probation and issues of prison administration.

Two major seminars on the "Reorganisation of the Judicial Inspection Board with regard to the Independence of the Judiciary" took place in Istanbul and Ankara respectively and regrouped more than 400 judges who could benefit from the experience of judges from the EU Member States. The subject of judicial legal experts and law clerks was also of interest to the Turkish judiciary. Three seminars were related to the so-called political criteria: "Children's rights", "Monitoring places of detention" and "Gender equality" were the subjects of discussion. Each of these seminars presented a much appreciated forum for an extensive exchange of experience between Turkey and the EU.

Demand for assistance from countries of the Western Balkans in the area of JLS grew further in 2008.

Fighting corruption was a common topic for almost all of them. The same is true in relation to vehicle crime, other issues of organised crime and Anti-money laundering, where a particularly successful seminar took place in Belgrade. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was interested in witness protection and good cooperation with Europol; for its judiciary issues such as administrative dispute law and trials in reasonable time were of significance. Bosnia-Herzegovina concentrated amongst others on questions of asylum and illegal immigration as well as narcotic drugs and child pornography. Albania had several trainings on how to better fight trafficking in human beings.

Some multi-regional seminars concerned legal issues for police services, Community policing, Police cooperation and undercover agents. 10 judges from each of the countries met in Brussels in a workshop to learn about the aquis on judicial cooperation in civil law.



**ROUTES OF TRAFFICKING**

Around 80 prosecutors from the Western Balkan countries, several of the ENP countries and Russia gathered in a seminar in Budapest and discussed examples of successful investigations into terrorist networks and corruption cases. Another subject was the issue of violent crimes of juvenile delinquents.

The number of requests from ENP partner countries and Russia in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice increased also considerably in 2008.

Tunisia was informed about information technology in the judicial system and also on how to better fight corruption in the customs services. Egyptian judges visited commercial courts in Hungary and the Czech Republic and Cairo also had a workshop on information access and data protection. Jordan received support with regard to the question on how to handle black lists and on prison supervision. Israel asked for a 4-day workshop on combating money laundering, where policemen and officials from the Israeli tax authority exten-

sively discussed different cases with experts from the EU Member States and Europol on how to best investigate. Other assistance to Israel concerned combating serious organised crime, extradition and the use of drug sniffing dogs. A study visit to Italy gave officials and NGO's involved in fighting trafficking in human beings the opportunity to discuss issues of common interest with the Italian counterparts. An important seminar in Jerusalem covered the EU acquis in the area of asylum and migration, as the Israeli Ministry of Interior considers aligning their future legislation to EU standards. Lebanon requested assistance in information technology for the judiciary.

Ukraine had a major seminar on MTIC fraud as well as a study visit on anti-discrimination policies. Moldova was given the opportunity to discuss financial crime issues as well as problems of recognised refugees. 2 workshops took place in Chisinau on trafficking in human beings, also including participants from the Ukraine and Israel to

discuss the problems of the Moldovan women trafficked to Israel.

In Georgia, TAIEX organised several workshops on migration issues, visa facilitation as well as border management systems. Georgian judges went to Rome to learn about proper management systems in courts. Armenia received assistance in the area of biometric passports, migration, visa facilitation, data security, refugee law and AML.

Finally, Russian officials went on several study visits on the subject of biometric passports as well as to Europol to discuss common interests in better combating money laundering and better enforcing Industrial Property Rights.





# Environment, Energy and Transport

These sectors that constitute the "Infrastructure" team combine a number of activities in support of transposing, implementing and enforcing the relevant EU policies and legislation. TAIEX assistance activities in these three areas totalled 189 activities across all beneficiary partner countries.

Assistance to capacity building under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) continued, as these countries participated in 43 activities (notably 5 events for Ukraine and Morocco and 4 for Azerbaijan and Moldova). Furthermore, some 10 multi-country workshops or seminars were organised, in which most of these partner countries participated.

## Environment

More than 90 activities were organised, making up almost half of the total number of infrastructure activities organised throughout the year. Waste management was the subject of two multi-country workshops, in which the candidate and pre-candidate countries participated. Issues related to water were discussed during 6 workshops (among which one multi-country workshop in which 5 countries participated); expert missions on the same topic took place in Malta and Egypt, whereas Jordanian experts participated in a study visit in France. A workshop on aviation and environment, in which 12 countries participated, was organised in Brussels. The management of end of life vehicles was the subject of 2 workshops, one in Spain in which 10 countries participated and one in Albania. Other topics were covered through workshops, including: climate change in Romania, eco-management and audit schemes in the Czech Republic and Turkey, integrated pollution prevention and control in Serbia, Israel and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), as

well as European pollutant release and transfer register in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. More than 30 study visits were organised on various topics such as the management of waste from extractive industry, Natura 2000, zoos, chemicals, landscape policies, and environmental protection in general.

## Energy

24 actions were organised, making up some 12% of the total number of activities. More than half of the activities in the field of energy were study visits, which were organised on topics such as the supervision of the petroleum market, the security of natural gas supply, the security of electricity supply, competition in the gas sector, the production of electricity from renewable energy sources, as well as district heating and cooling. Expert missions were organised to cover subjects like energy efficiency for buildings, as well as heating cogeneration. A workshop on nuclear legislation was organised in Ukraine. Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources were covered during a workshop held in Hungary, and the reform of the electricity market was discussed during a workshop held in Belarus. An assessment mission in the field of energy took place in Croatia.

## Transport

65 activities were organised, making up one third of the total number of activities organised. In the field of air transport, a series of multi-country workshops were organised on the "South East Europe Functional Airspace Block", involving Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), Montenegro,

Romania and Serbia. Furthermore, a series of assessment missions on the European Civil Aviation Agreement were organised in Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. As regards maritime transport, a large seminar was organised in Turkey, involving around 70 participants from countries around the Black Sea, addressing the issue of maritime policy with its impact on energy and environment. Regarding land transport, Bulgaria was active through the organisation of workshops on subjects like railway safety, rail traffic management, and safe road engineering. Furthermore, 2 workshops (notably one in which 12 countries including Russia participated) were organised, as the beginning of a series of activities in the field of digital tachographs. A number of study visits, were organised in areas such as the transport of dangerous goods by rail, the single aviation market, international carriage by rail, tunnel safety, and security and facilitation in airports.





# Civil Society Facility (CSF)

## People to People Programme (P2P)

In 2008, a new activity was added to the TAIEX operation, targeted towards civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

This pilot activity came into existence in spring 2008, as part of the European Commission's action to broaden the scope of the pre-accession assistance through a Civil Society Facility (CSF). This covers three components:

- Civic Initiatives and Capacity Building
- People to People Programme (P2P)
- Partnership Actions

As a rapid, and adaptable mechanism to run the second strand of this initiative, TAIEX organised the first P2P study tour in June 2008 and continued with six others during the second half of the year.

The aim of the People to People (P2P) Programme is multi-faceted: raising the awareness on relevant EU matters among civil society; bringing the understanding of the acquis closer to the citizens, stimulating NGOs influence and advocacy capacity, fuelling inter-relationships, between NGOs and public national bodies, European institutions and sister platform organisations active at European Union level. People to People Programme is also an instrument for fostering regional dialogue and common actions between civil society organisations active in different countries, but sharing the same activity and principles.

The programme foresees three different types of actions. The most common one is organisation of multi-country study visits for representatives of civil society organisations from different countries to Brussels, on topics linked to civil society capacity building, the under-

standing of the EU structures, decision taking procedures, and main EU policies. The other two actions lines are: (i) single country, multiple beneficiaries study tour to Brussels and, (ii) in-country workshops.

The study visits usually involve 3-5 representatives of civil society from each of the countries covered by the programme and are structured in a modular manner with sessions presenting:

- I the EU institutions and their policies,
- II relevant acquis session (such as public health, rural development, inter-cultural dialogue, gender equality, etc)
- III visits to EU Institutions, such as the European Parliament, Committee of Regions, Economic and Social Committee, etc.
- IV dialogue with EU platform civil society organizations on issues regarding civil society capacity building and enforced action, and on policies' agendas, programmes and actions.

The topics selected are based on clearly identified policy priorities for each country or for the region concerned in general. In the past year the People to People study tours covered topics such as women in business, rural development, public procurement and transparency, 'the EU explained to your branches of political parties', civil society facility and enhancement policies and social dialogue and employment.

The programme addresses all active civil society organisations in the beneficiary countries, both well established and emerging organisations, as well as individuals reputed for their positive

actions in a particular field of civic action. P2P is open among others to: NGOs dealing with acquis relating to equal opportunities, non discrimination, children rights, youth; cultural foundations or organisations active in the cultural, artistic, educational and linguistic fields, teachers and academics, human rights activists, legal aid offices, representatives of regions or agriculture societies, representatives of religious groups, health related organisations and consumer protection associations.

The response to this new programme has been very positive in the pilot phase (ended in December 2008) from the side of all stakeholders involved, namely the civil society organisations themselves, but also the EU institutional partners who have the chance for direct and vivid dialogue with the citizens of the candidate and potential candidate countries, and the EU platform civil society organisations, who see in this new initiative a breaking point into the process of consulting and information exchange with the society at large.

Partnerships and networks of sectoral contacts have been emerging as a result of these study tours and it is hoped that next year with the development of both Brussels based actions and of more decentralized reach in the countries or regions, the exchange of views and of best practices will further increase.

# Regional Training Programme (RTP)

The Regional Training Programme (RTP) launched at the beginning of the decade, came into being as a response to an increasing demand from the beneficiaries to extend the geographical coverage of TAIEX assistance to the regions and local structures, in charge of the concrete implementation and enforcement of the acquis.

The programme was therefore constructed around the acquis chapters that have a high local impact such as environment, food safety, consumer protection, transport, energy, social policy and employment.

Innovative in its structure and functioning, the Regional Training Programme proved popular with the beneficiaries, due to on the one hand, its strong multiplier effect, induced by the "train the trainer" methodology and, on the other hand to the very powerful sense of local ownership that it gives to local administrations.

Following a selection procedure involving the national central administrations, RTP experts are selected from among the public officials active at regional, local and municipal levels in the countries concerned by the programme. With further training in Brussels, making use of the knowledge input of Commission officials, as well as in the administrations of the Member States, the RTP experts become centres of excellence in their fields of activity, as well as in the methodology of events' organisation. Back in their countries, the trained experts have the exclusive right to initiate RTP seminars and workshops, on the basis of in-depth assessments of the acquis implementation and the evaluation of local needs, as well as in consultation and dialogue with local stakeholders and sometimes with the central administrations.

The RTP experts remain active several years after their training, providing tailor-made technical assistance, based on both geographical identified priorities (some experts cover several counties) and on legal priorities. The RTP experts remain usually in contact creating also a national information and consultation network covering the entire territories of the countries. Networking with local communities, with the EU institutions and with the Member States officials is also part of the programmes' aim.

The first part of 2008 focused on delivering seminars and workshops for the 2004 enlargement Member States, as the TAIEX transition facility for this group of countries came to an end by May.

The subjects covered predominantly referred to environmental acquis, such as limitation of odour nuisances, polluter responsibilities, energy saving and recycling of electronic waste, waste management and Natura protection, as well as in an equal proportion on the food safety and food control standards, hygiene packages and animal protection rules.

Public procurement acquis continued to raise a great number of requests, while social policy, especially as far as its innovative social projects in the field of social inclusion and intellectual property rights were subject of other RTP seminars. Up to the last seminar, the RTP experts have been actively involved in organising effective and informative seminars, as indicated also by their later evaluation reports.

During the same period, the Regional Training Programme continued also for Romania and Bulgaria, with the environment chapter scoring the highest as the acquis chapter where assistance

was requested. This was so much so the case that in order to enlarge the choice of themes and enable the very active experts to address the acquis in its entire diversity, an update RTP training session was organised in the second part of the year for the environment experts coming from the two countries.

***"An excellent local organisation. The presence of the Minister herself was a plus. The presence of a President in the meetings was also an advantage, especially when the President was summarizing views and opinions after every session... Great hotel and great Conference venue... It was my third time in Kosovo sent by EC, and things are getting more and more improved thanks to TAIEX missions."***

*Workshop on the possibilities of ash utilisation from coal power plants, Pristina, 11-12 December 2008 (KOS 31684)*

## *A new generation of RTP Experts from Romania and Bulgaria*

The continuing diversification and development of the EU acquis, as well as the evolving needs of the Member States clearly pointed towards the need for refreshed and new training for regional experts. Therefore for the environment chapter the already active RTP experts from the 2007 enlargement countries have been offered update training, while for the public procurement field a new group of experts has been selected and trained from the very beginning.

Furthermore, in response to an increasing request for regional expertise and reach-out, a new subject was added to the traditional list of acquis chapters to which RTP is opened; that of rural development.

The training of the Romanian and Bulgarian experts in this sector (December 2008) looked at national plans for rural development, implementation structures and regulatory framework, as well as to monitoring and control requirements. The rural development training, as well as the ones on environment and public procurement was launched in the second half of 2008 with the partner Member States administrations hosting the RTP experts for study visits. All training programmes for Romania and Bulgaria are scheduled to be finalised by early 2009, with the aim of having a pool of new active RTP experts to organise workshops in their respective regions as early as the first quarter of 2009, and until late 2010, when the transition facility for the two countries will come to an end.

## *Regional Training Programme in Croatia and Turkey*

Announced already in the Annual Report of last year, 2008 was very innovative for the RTP Programme as it recorded the launch of the new RTP for the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey for the chapters relating to environment policy and food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy – sectors that had reached a sufficient degree on national transposition to make the Regional Training Programme meaningful and useful for the two countries.

Through an effective dialogue and coordination with National Contact Points and branch contact points in the competent Ministries, 22 experts from Croatia and 52 from Turkey have been trained in Brussels and in the Member States on the key EU legislation in the areas mentioned above.



Once the training was finalised, the Regional Training Programme took off at a very rapid pace in Turkey, with 12 seminars organised at regional level on the environment acquis, of which most popular topics were: water legislation and management, hazardous waste management; Natura 2000, conservation and biodiversity.

In the food safety field, 16 seminars have also been organised in the first year of RTP existence in Turkey on subjects relating to New Hygiene Package, approval of establishments, traceability and microbiological criteria for foodstuff, EU food legislation and labelling.

# Assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community

The year 2008 saw a major breakthrough in political developments in Cyprus. Since March 2008, the newly elected President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Mr. Talat have been engaged in a constructive dialogue. This resulted, in September, in the start of negotiations under UN auspices for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

Since the adoption of the Financial Aid Regulation in 2006 (Council Regulation N° 389/2006), the EU's aims have been to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by supporting economic development and integration of the Turkish Cypriot community, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU and to help the Turkish Cypriot community in the preparation for the future application of the *acquis communautaire*. TAIEX assistance has played a considerable role in helping the Turkish Cypriots prepare legal texts aligned with the *acquis* in view of the future withdrawal of the suspension of the *acquis* in accordance with Art.1 of Protocol N.10 to the Act of Accession.

€ 11 million has been allocated to TAIEX under the € 259 million budget of the Aid Regulation.

## Programme for the Future Application of the Acquis

In 2007, TAIEX launched the Programme for the Future Application of the Acquis (PFAA). The aim of the PFAA is to lead to the establishment of short-term and medium-term priorities and actions which will programme technical assistance under the Aid Regulation, with active involvement of the Turkish Cypriot community.

This year, sector presentations were completed and technical assistance provided in 12 areas of the *acquis* which were identified as priority areas in the PFAA. The process has led to a number of decisions related to administrative reform programmes, intended to improve organisational capacity of the Turkish Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriot representatives also prepared a strategy document for legal harmonisation and capacity building for the future application of the *acquis communautaire* in the identified 12 sectors. The document was confirmed by the Turkish Cypriot leadership in January 2009.

Further technical assistance will aim to ensure that the necessary steps needed for the alignment of legislation with the *acquis communautaire* are implemented. Agreement has also been reached to add a further 4 *acquis* areas to the PFAA in 2009.

## Sectoral activities

Linked to the concerns of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) about the vulnerability to money laundering and terrorism financing in the northern part of Cyprus, TAIEX provided assistance concerning international standards and their application. This led to an encouraging level of engagement by the Turkish Cypriot community including the adoption of a new anti-money laundering "law" followed by four implementing "regulations"; a new offshore banking "law" and a new "law" regulating casinos in early 2009. Better coordination in reporting, assessment and actions concerning suspicious financial activities was also established. These positive developments reflected in the FATF statement of 28 October 2008 which indicated that the vulnerability to money laundering had been

significantly reduced in the northern part of Cyprus.

TAIEX experts also provided support to prepare primary competition legislation ('law on protection of competition') which was adopted in March 2009. Four Implementing Government Regulations were also prepared for adoption in 2009

Much was achieved in the environmental domain, where TAIEX assisted the Turkish Cypriots to prepare the mapping and designation of six specially protected environmentally sensitive areas, the elaboration of a water strategy, the creation of an inventory of all water boreholes and wells and the preparation of a comprehensive waste management master plan. Another positive achievement of TAIEX assistance is the finalisation of an Environmental Impact Assessment draft "regulation".

Regarding agricultural policy, a reform strategy was developed focusing on four key sectors (dairy, cereals, potato and citrus fruit) which resulted in the introduction of free-market mechanisms for milk products and rules on organic farming as well the privatisation of some of the managing bodies.

The need for improved statistical information has also been key focus of support and has resulted in the first steps towards strengthening the rules on statistics and providing training to Turkish Cypriot representatives in order to ensure more reliable macro-economic statistical data is available.

The launch of trade across the "Green Line" in fish and citrus fruit has contributed to a positive overall trend this year. With the almost constant presence of EU Member State experts in the



phytosanitary field, the value of potato trade – the largest single export commodity and accounting for a one third of all trade – has tripled compared to 2007, reaching a value of more than € 1.9 million. As fish and citrus fruit trade becomes more stabilised, the value and volume of trade are expected to further expand in 2009.

## Perspectives

With the adoption of the Turkish Cypriot planning document, under the PFAA framework, a roadmap for more structured and long-term technical assistance will be developed for the year 2009 and beyond. With the continuing prospect for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, hopes are that TAIEX assistance will contribute positively to a successful lifting of the suspension of the *acquis communautaire* in the northern part of Cyprus, following reunification of the island.

*“The aim and the objectives were very clearly stated, the training was very well organized and the material we worked on was very well prepared. Personally I learnt valuable things for my everyday job. Thank you for organizing this training!”*

*Training for female border guards on how to fight against trafficking in human beings,  
Tirana 17-20 November 2008  
(31786 JHA)*



## Medium-term assistance Kosovo<sup>3</sup>

On 28 November 2007, the Commission adopted the 2007 annual IPA programme for Kosovo. Within the overall budget of € 62 million provided for by this decision, an amount of € 5 million is reserved for activities under the TAIEX instrument.

This specific budget is being used for "medium-term peer assistance to Kosovo", which is a new tool used for the mobilisation of Member State expertise from the public sector for medium-term assignments (a period of between one and six months duration) within Kosovo institutions to deliver technical support in a well defined context and in order to reach clearly defined results.

The first application for medium-term assistance was presented on 22 May 2008. By the end of 2008, fourteen applications were accepted. These applications related to privatisation, road traffic safety, civil aviation, fisheries, air quality, approximation of legislation, international agreements, social welfare, cultural heritage, waste management, biodiversity, geo database, protected natural areas and rural development. Once an application is accepted, an invitation letter and terms of reference are sent to the national contacts points in all Member States, with the request to designate experts for the assignment. The first medium-term experts, in the fields of air quality and international agreements, began working in Kosovo in November 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Under UNSCR 1244/99



# TAIEX Databases

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

## Progress Database

The Progress database organises all EU legislation in a format that 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 the European 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 Plans 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 the 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.

## JurisVista Database

The TAIEX programme also provides for the JurisVista database, designed to host translations into the languages of beneficiary countries of a collection of 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, academic institutions such as new Member State universities and others such as law firms.

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.

## 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 holders direct access to consolidated versions of all EU veterinary legislation, simplifying the daily tasks of veterinary inspectors, border post officials and others

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

*"Participants were very positive about the seminar. They found it extremely interesting and pertinent to their recent tasks and responsibilities related to their daily work in Hungary".*

*Workshop on Climate Change,  
Budapest, 15th-16th April 2008  
(RTP 26307)*

*"Opening TAIEX to the civil society is an excellent idea and highly beneficial to the civil society in our part of the world. Thank you for launching this initiative. Congratulations to the organisers, the organisation was flawless!!"*

*Study visit on the role of civil society  
in EU policy-making.  
Brussels, 15th-18th September 2008  
(P2Pstuds tours 30574)*

# Expert Database, Expert Stock Exchange and evaluation

The TAIEX Expert Database (ED) is an important tool in the daily work of TAIEX assistance tasks. Launched in October 2004, the ED registers public officials from all the EU Member State national administrations covering a large number of fields of the EU legislation body and willing to participate in TAIEX activities.

In 2008 more than 4.200 experts were present in the ED, a significant increase in comparison with 2007 (with around 3.800 public officials signed in). Additionally, around 570 national contact points that play a major coordination role within ministries of the Member States are included in the database. The Expert Database is contributing to a better identification of appropriate key-experts in a given field and a smoother and rapid response to beneficiaries' requests.

Registration in the ED is encouraged and possible online by following the link <http://taix.ec.europa.eu/ExpertDatabase>. Once registered, experts will be able to update their profile by accessing the ED with a personal login and password.

The Expert Database is not only an expert identification tool but also a networking and communication instrument between the European Commission and the 27 Member States by strengthening collaboration and improving transparency vis-à-vis the TAIEX activities.

## Evaluation

In the light of the high number of assistance activities arranged every year by TAIEX, it is important to evaluate the expertise delivered by TAIEX experts in

order to ensure high quality on a continuous basis. After every event, an electronic message is sent to all the participants to assess the overall organisation and also the quality of its content.

So far, an overwhelming majority of TAIEX events have received a more than satisfactory assessment. This evaluation system helps to ensure a continuous and rigorous monitoring of the quality of TAIEX actions.

## Expert Stock Exchange

As a complementary tool for the Expert Database, the Expert Stock Exchange (ESE) acts as a tool for advertising TAIEX events and attracting applications from relevant national experts. This electronic platform regularly publishes all the study visits and expert missions for which an expertise is required. In this way, a given expert that is already present in the Expert Database will automatically receive these offers and will be able to electronically manifest interest in a given seminar or expert mission.

*"I am looking forward to attend other study visits and whatever other initiative you will organise for the civil society. I would follow these events with great pleasure once again"*

*Study visit on Sustainable Rural Development, Brussels, 15th-18th July (P2Pstudies 30555)*



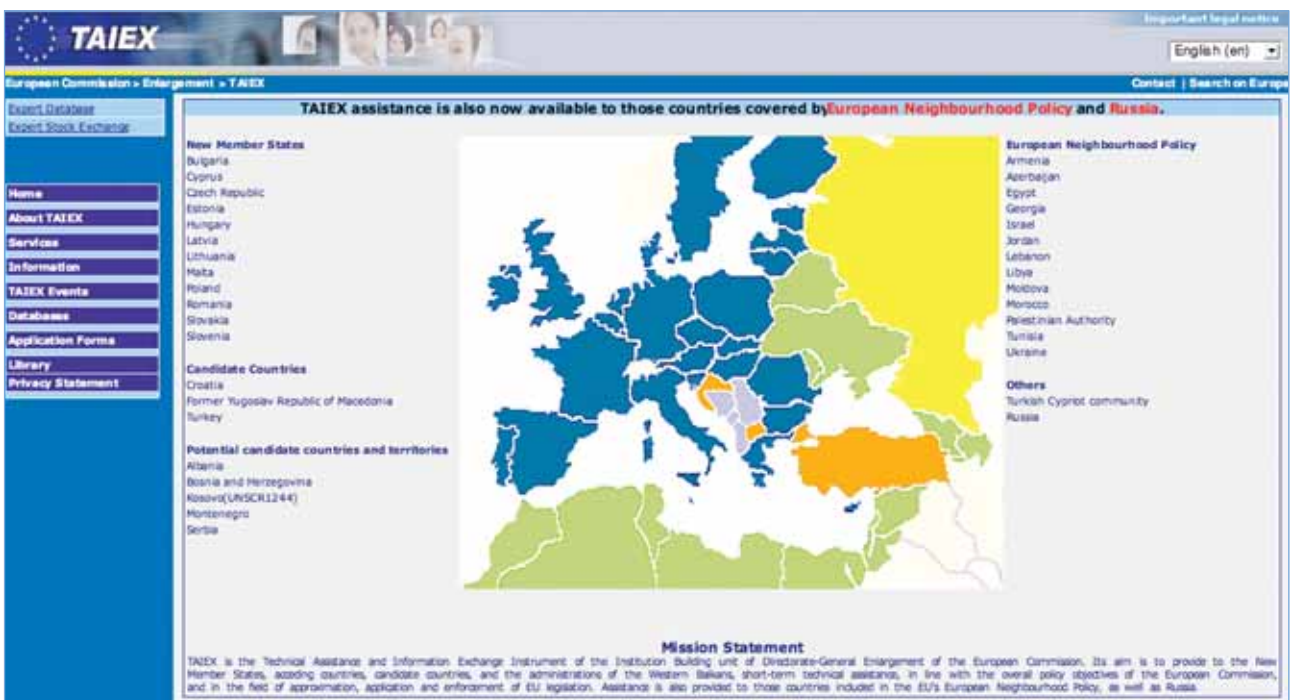
The TAIEX website (<http://taiox.ec.europa.eu/>) is a direct and user-friendly instrument to get more information on TAIEX and its activities. It also allows the visitor to have access to the TAIEX databases: Expert Database, Expert Stock Exchange, Progress, CCVista, JurisVista, Avis, Vetlex and Phytalex, to have access to the application forms to request TAIEX assistance (reserved only for beneficiary countries) to follow the progress of Candidate countries in the legislative approximation process. and

to provide updated general information on all the events that have been organised and on TAIEX organigramme and contact details..

In this respect, the visitors will be able to have access to the "library section", where they can find all experts' presentations linked to any TAIEX event. It will also serve as information platform for a vast audience of beneficiaries who may have not participated in a specific event, but who might nevertheless be interes-

ted in getting more information on it.

At the same time, preparation is under way to revamp the new TAIEX website (due in the first half 2009), with the aim of creating a more up-to-date and rapid interface on the full range of TAIEX operations and information tools.



## Financial Issues: Finance and Contracts

The European Commission concluded a service contract with the German company "Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit" (GTZ), in consortium with the Belgian company "BCD" (former TQ3 Travel solution) and the Spanish company FIAPP, for the provision of the logistical means (i.e. travel, accommodation, conference venue, interpretation, payments) and the procurement of services that are required for the implementation of the TAIEX

activities. The contract was signed in March for a duration of 3 years, renewable once for the same period.

New Commission Financing Decisions were adopted in 2008 to ensure the continued financing of the operation. They consisted of € 12.9 million from the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), and € 4.0 million from the IPA Civil Society Programme to finance the People to People initiative targeting civil society organizations.

Furthermore a financing decision was made under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument for a total budget of € 7.5 million equally allocated between Southern and Eastern partner countries.

In 2008, the total budget for the TAIEX operation amounted to € 24.65 million as compared to € 21.3 million in 2007, and € 19.1 million in 2006.

# Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)

## What TAIEX is?

TAIEX stands for the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange. Its aim is to provide to Bulgaria and Romania, candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), potential candidate countries (Western Balkans), the Turkish Cypriot community of Northern Cyprus and the Neighbouring Countries & Russia, a demand-driven and short-term technical assistance, in line with the overall policy objectives of the European Commission.

## When was TAIEX created?

TAIEX was set up in 1996 by the European Commission to support the faster implementation of the *acquis* of the EU in the Candidate Countries.

## Which is the TAIEX mission?

TAIEX supports beneficiary countries in understanding, transposing, implementing and applying EU policies, legislation, rules: the EU legislation body (*the acquis communautaire*)

## What is the EU "*acquis communautaire*"

The "*acquis communautaire*" is the body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all the Member States of the European Union. For the purpose of TAIEX assistance we mainly refer to the legislation adopted pursuant to the Treaties, particularly in the form of:

- Directives
- Regulations
- Decisions

## Which are the TAIEX beneficiary groups?

The beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance include institutions and organizations which have a role to play in the beneficiary countries in the approximation, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation.

The main target groups are:

- Public administrations and National parliaments and
- Governmental agencies
- Private sector associations with a mission of public service (mandated bodies)
- Judiciary and law enforcement bodies
- Social partners

## Which are the main forms of TAIEX assistance?

- **Expert Missions in beneficiary countries**  
Up to 5 days, to provide guidance on legislation and on the functioning of the administrative process, to advise on legislative acts and on their implementation, to explain the EU *acquis* and to present examples of good practices.
- **Workshops or seminars in beneficiary countries**  
Mostly 2 days at the most, to present and explain the EU *acquis*-related issues to a large audience (selected by the concerned beneficiary country) from the same country or from several countries, regarding issues of common interest.
- **Study Visits in Member States**  
Up to 5 days, to allow maximum 3 officials from a beneficiary country to understand how EU Member States deal with practical issues related to the implementation and enforcement of the EU *acquis*.

## How can beneficiary administrations apply for TAIEX assistance?

TAIEX assistance is mainly demand driven. It is given in response to requests sent by officials working for the administrations of beneficiary countries. The applications for assistance are available online on the TAIEX website. Applications can be sent to TAIEX through:

- **Application forms** available via the web-site <http://taix.ec.europa.eu>
- **Letter, fax, e-mail** (under the condition that the basic information requested in the application form is provided)

## How long does it take for a TAIEX action to be launched?

From the submission of the application, a minimum of 4-6 weeks for the dispatching of an expert and of about 8-10 weeks for the organisation of a seminar.

TAIEX **covers all the costs** related to the provision of its assistance.

**For further information please visit our web-site at <http://taix.ec.europa.eu> or write to [elarg-taix@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-taix@ec.europa.eu)**



# Case Stories

## Healthy Animals = Healthy People

*By Jan Vaarten, Executive Director of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe*

"Where prevention is better than cure". That is the subtitle of the new Community Animal Health Strategy, recently launched by the European Commission, DG SANCO. For sure a very valid slogan, however more easily said than done. Real prevention of animal diseases can only be achieved through good veterinary infrastructures, sufficiently staffed with well trained people. People who know and understand the rules of the game: both the national as well as the international rules and regulations.

Yet another motto related to the Community Animal Health Strategy is "Diseases don't respect borders", which also underlines the need for good international communication and cooperation in the prevention and control of animal diseases and related issues.

For these reasons the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe is very pleased with its longstanding, successful co-operation with TAIEX, which has proven to be very valuable for countries in the process of joining the EU as well as for neighboring countries. Conferences, seminars and study

visits very much contributed to a better understanding of EU rules and regulations; not only as individual legal provisions but, and that is even more important, as a coherent system. In addition to the formal exchange of information, all events have been instrumental in establishing contacts and strengthening good working relations.

Over the recent years many topics were covered, varying from prevention and control of transmissible diseases as Rabies and Foot-and-Mouth-Disease, protection of animal welfare, food safety, veterinary education, etc. Also the responsible use of medicines and the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance were addressed. More-over TAIEX facilitated the participation of delegates to international veterinary events as the EU Veterinary Week, which contributes to better understanding of the EU and its policies.

Without any doubt, the support of TAIEX has really helped to prevent animal diseases with all their consequences for animals and people.

## Coping with Migration and Asylum issues

*By Bernard Dawson, Immigration Judge in the Asylum & Immigration Tribunal UK*

Malta, Israel, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Armenia are the four destinations that I was invited to as an expert at the request of TAIEX during 2008. Migration and asylum were the principal topics for all the seminars.

Different issues arose in each country in the course of the workshops. Malta is coping with a large increase in asylum-seekers. Israel has taken in-house the administration of asylum claims which was previously the preserve of UNHCR. Similarly, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new administration has been established to deal with complex issues of nationality and a rising number of asylum claims. Armenia is in the process of introducing new asylum legislation.

Each workshop attracted a large number of attendees including senior members of the judiciary in Malta, the Minister of

Interior in Israel, the Deputy Director of Service and Foreign Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Head of Migration Agency in Armenia.

The expert speakers were from a number of member states and included judges from the administrative and immigration courts in different countries, representatives from the Ministry of Justice in the Netherlands, the Home Office in the United Kingdom, the Swedish Migration Board, the police authority in Finland and the Borders & Immigration Service in Portugal. Frontex was also represented and two judges from the European Court of Human Rights gave talks in Armenia.

The presentations were enthusiastically received in each country. The participants came away with vivid images from

the presentations on legal and illegal migration, people-trafficking and best practices for the reception and care of asylum-seekers. Human rights issues arising on deportation brought much discussion at each seminar. I found in all countries a determination to revise and review practices and legislation in order to be EU-compliant. The area of migrati-

on remains one of public focus and debate in all member states and neighbouring countries.

The professionally-arranged workshops I was privileged to attend have set a high standard for continuing discussions in the area of asylum and migration.

## Increased focus on criminals behind tax fraud

*By Rafaël Rondelez, Serious Crime Department, EUROPOL*

The TAIEX instrument, in close cooperation with Europol, organised a workshop on the subject of MTIC fraud in Kiev, on 23-25<sup>th</sup> June and another one in Bucharest, on 25-27<sup>th</sup> November. Experiences and good practices between law enforcement officers and prosecutors were exchanged with experts from the "old" EU Member States and Ukrainian and Romanian participants respectively. Representatives from Israel, Serbia, FYROM, Albania, Croatia, Moldova, Bosnia Herzegovina, Russia and Belarus were also present.

Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud (MTIC) is a crime on the rise and often orchestrated by organised crime groups. MTIC fraud is commonly referred to as VAT carousel fraud and is a sophisticated and calculated attack upon the VAT regimes of all European Union Member States. It is estimated that the annual VAT losses to MTIC fraud for the EU as a whole, are about € 21 billion.

These fraud schemes make use of structures which spread their activities over several Member States at the same time, in order to exploit the differences and weaknesses of the national tax administrations and to disguise the real links between the criminal participants. This carousel fraud involves the same goods circulating repeatedly between EU Member States, often via third countries outside the EU, with VAT being stolen on each circuit. In its most simple form, a trader collects tax on sales and then fails to remit it to the government, for example by engineering a bankruptcy or simply by disappearing.

In the past decade, a more damaging form of this fraud has arisen in the European Union. MTIC fraud is now carried out by organised criminals, from the EU as well as from third countries, who put in place a structure of linked companies

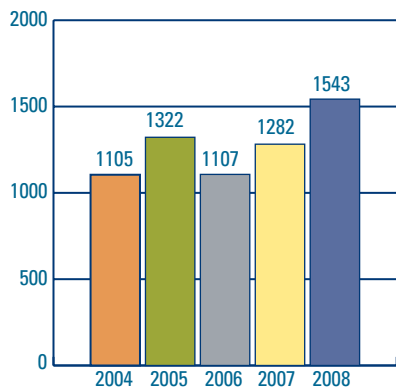
and persons with the sole objective of abusing the zero rate of taxation on intra-Community cross-border trade and to steal VAT from national treasuries. Those elements of VAT fraud schemes which are initially responsible for the tax damage, the so-called 'missing traders', only operate for a very short time before disappearing.

The cooperation with these third countries aims at addressing the fight against the resulting money-laundering associated with these frauds and at tackling the risk of their financial systems and institutions being used for the purposes of laundering the proceeds of MTIC fraud.

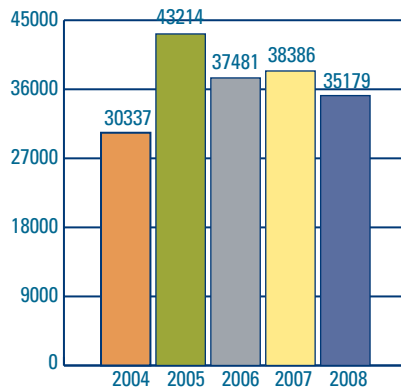
By promoting the exchange of information and best practise the participating law enforcement agencies hope to be better in eradicating MTIC fraud which is a European-wide problem and recognised a major threat by the European Commission and Europol.

# Summary - Key Statistics

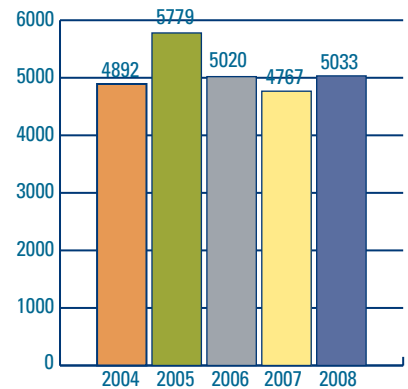
**Total number of Events**



**Total number of Participants**

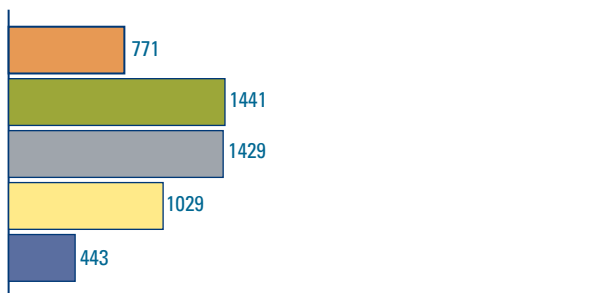


**Total number of Experts**

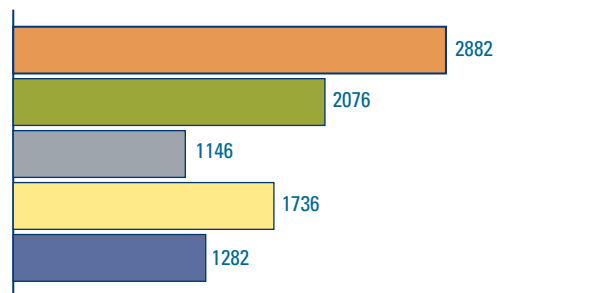


**Total number of Participants per country (in 2008) - BENEFICIARY MEMBER STATES**

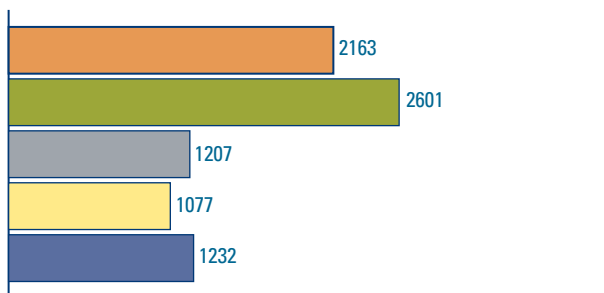
**Cyprus**



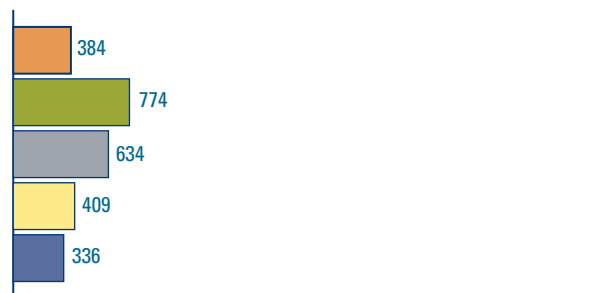
**Lithuania**



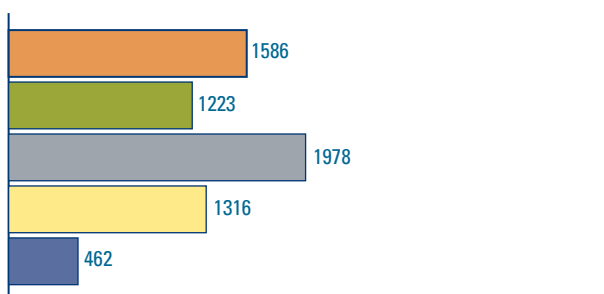
**Czech Republic**



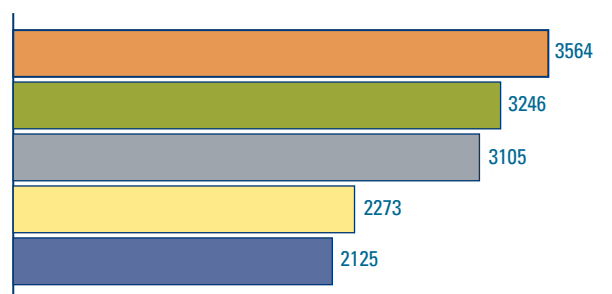
**Malta**



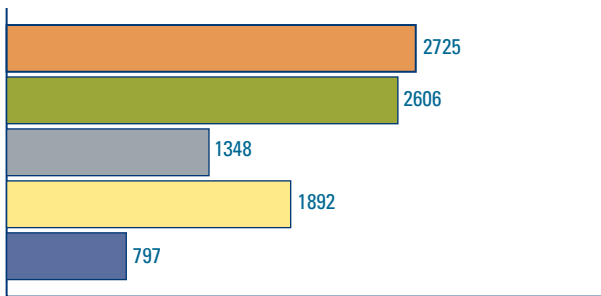
**Estonia**



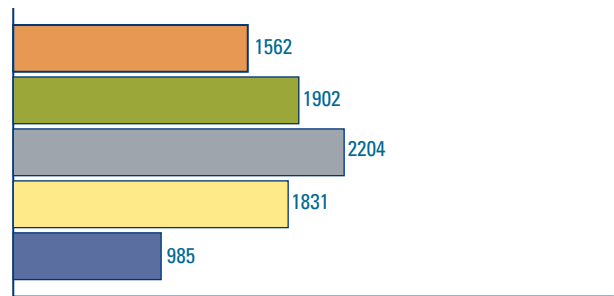
**Poland**



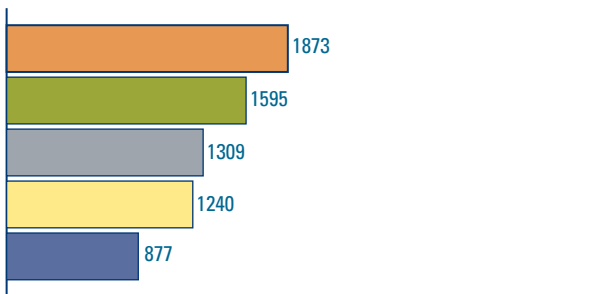
### Hungary



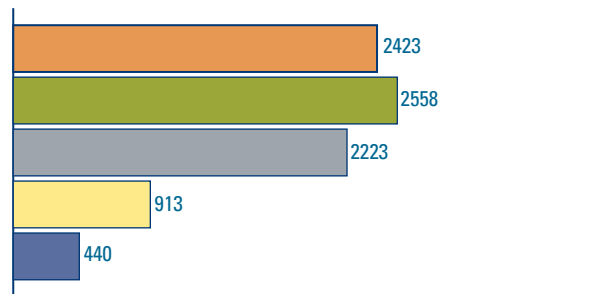
### Slovakia



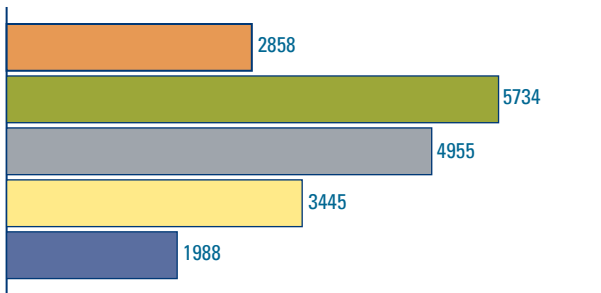
### Latvia



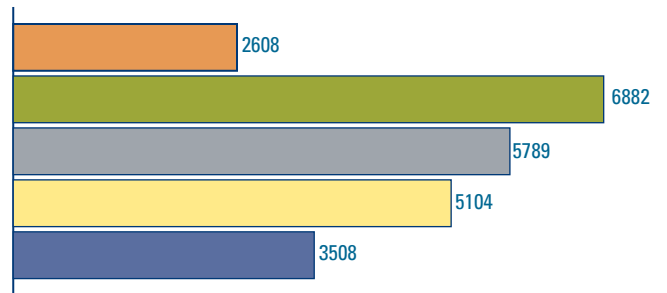
### Slovenia



### Bulgaria



### Romania

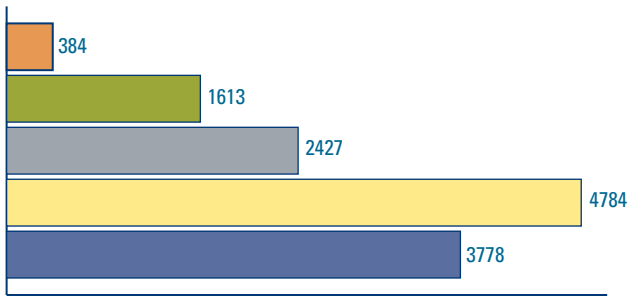


■ Total 2004	25.399
■ Total 2005	32.638
■ Total 2006	27.327
■ Total 2007	22.265
■ Total 2008	14.475

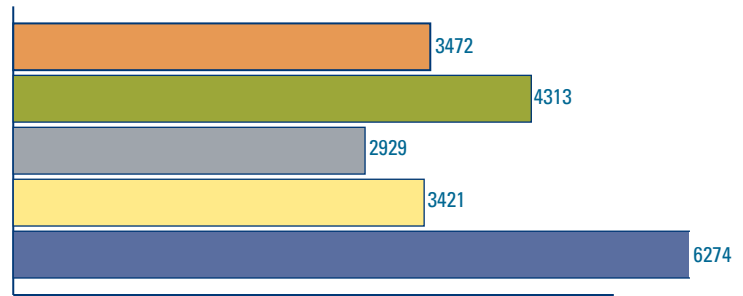


## Total number of Participants per country - CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

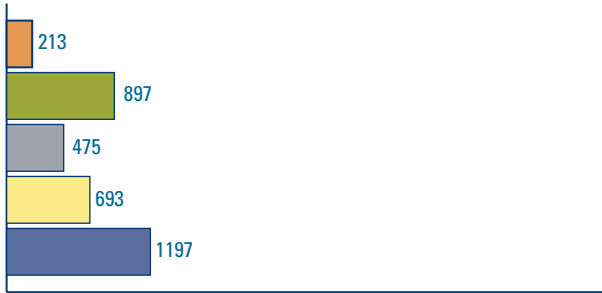
### Croatia



### Turkey



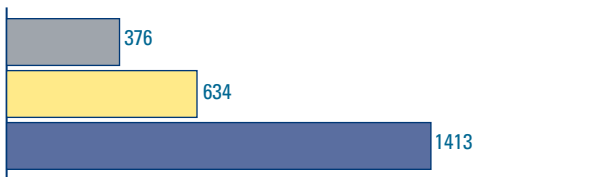
### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



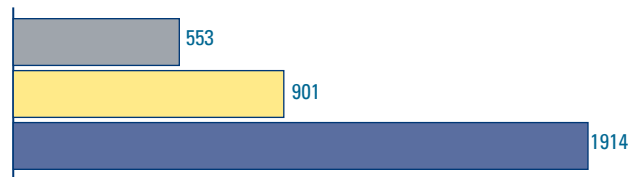
■ Total 2004	4069
■ Total 2005	6823
■ Total 2006	5831
■ Total 2007	8898
■ Total 2008	11249

## Total number of Participants per country - POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

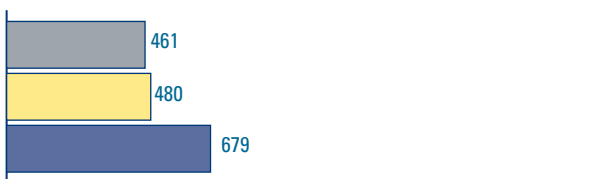
### Albania



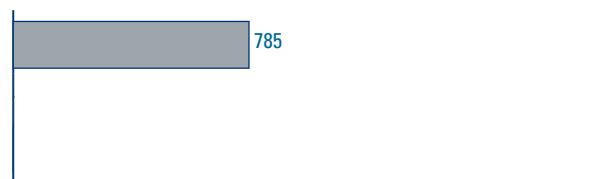
### Serbia



### Bosnia and Herzegovina



### Serbia and Montenegro



### Montenegro

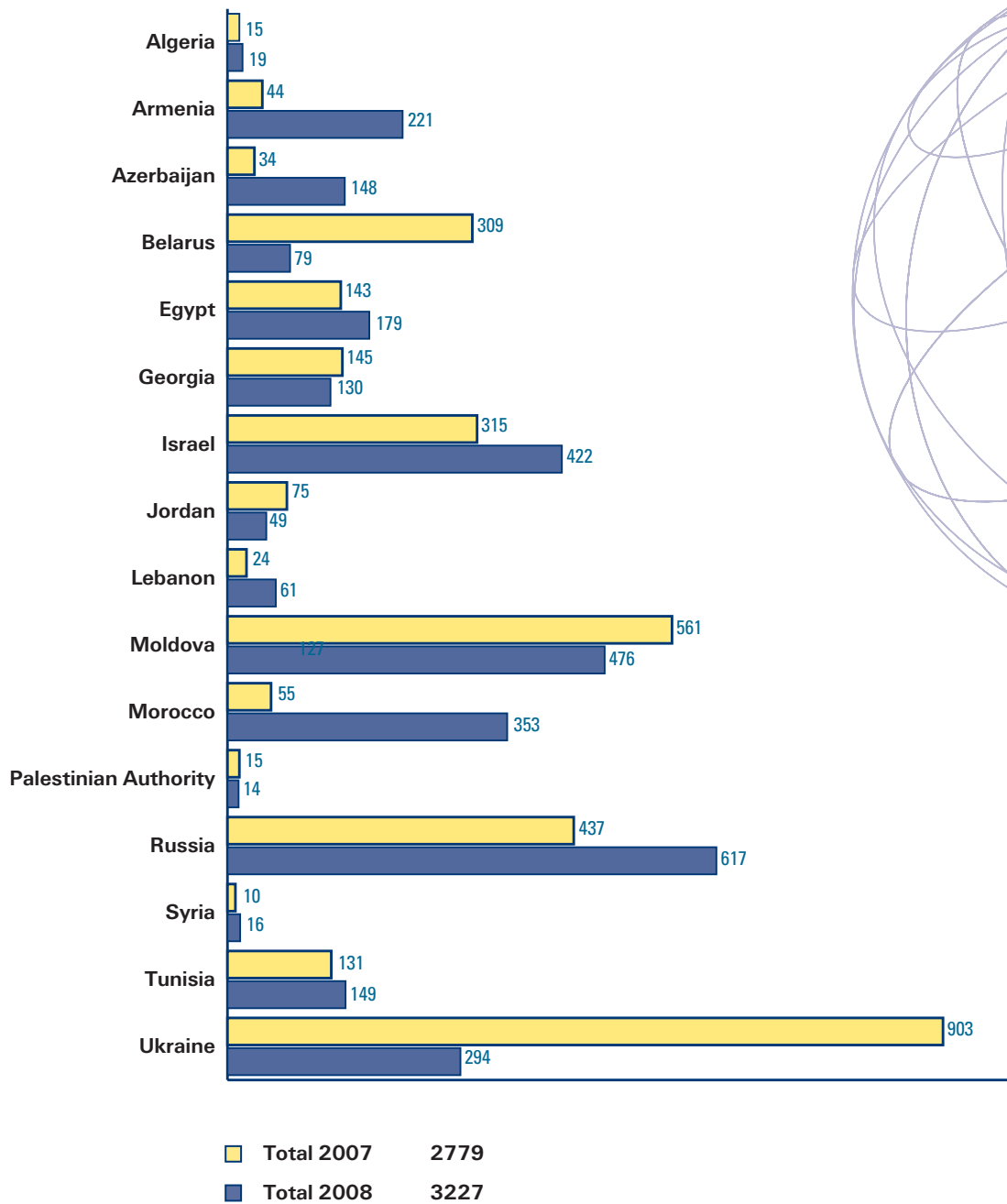


### Kosovo (UNSCR1244)

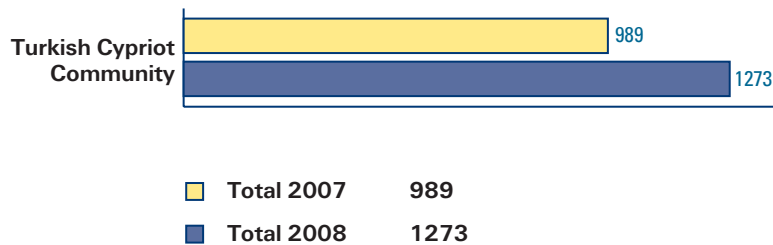


■ Total 2006	2902
■ Total 2007	2964
■ Total 2008	4952

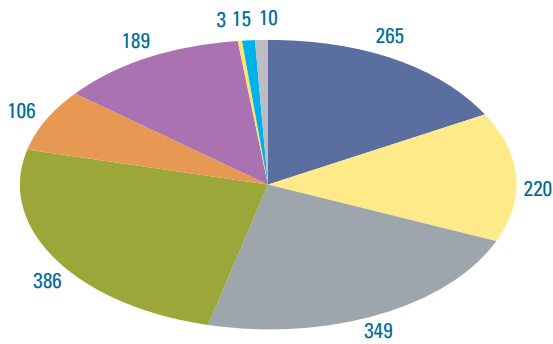
### Total number of Participants per country - ENPI COUNTRIES



### Total number of Participants per country - TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY



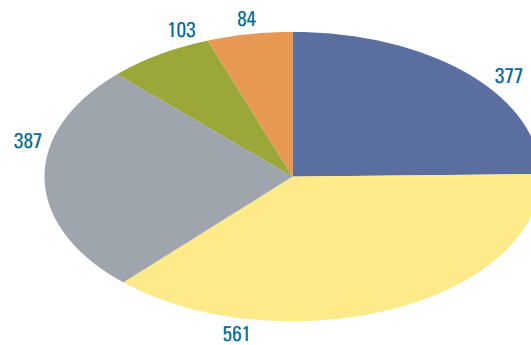
Annual breakdown of assistance per sector



Total 2008 1543

- Agriculture
- ATCC
- Internal Market
- JHA
- Regional Training Program
- INFRA
- Others
- Kosovo
- P2P

Origin of requests according to country

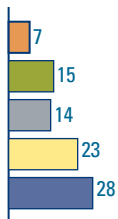


Total 2007 1512

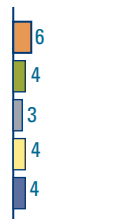
- Beneficiary Member States
- Candidate Countries
- Potential Candidate Countries and Territories
- ENPI countries
- Others / multi countries

Number of events according to host/location - MEMBER STATES

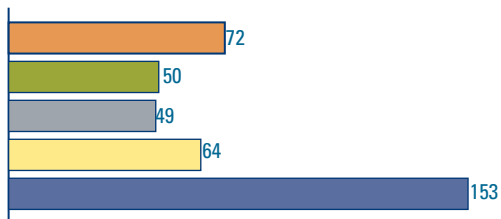
Austria



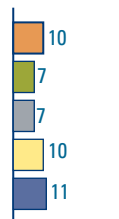
Luxemburg



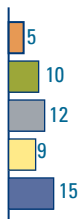
Belgium



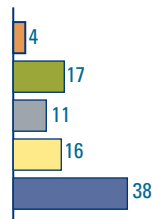
Portugal



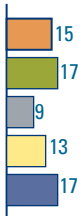
Denmark



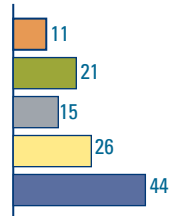
Spain



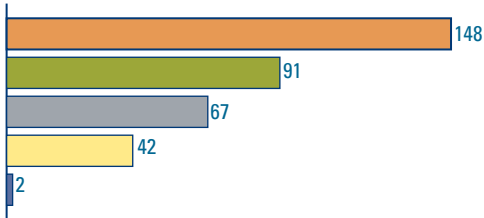
### Ireland



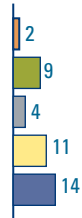
### Italy



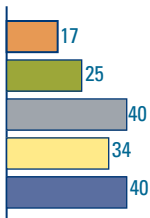
### European Commission



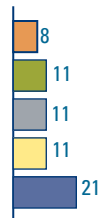
### Finland



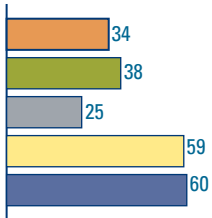
### France



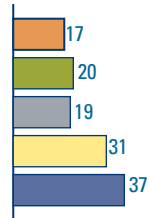
### Sweden



### Germany



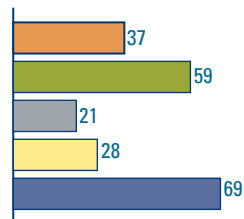
### The Netherlands



### Greece



### United Kingdom



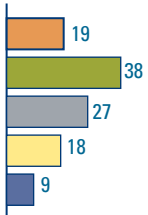
Total 2004	403
Total 2005	402
Total 2006	312
Total 2007	384
Total 2008	561



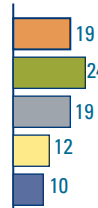
**Number of events according to host/location - BENEFICIARY MEMBER STATES**

Total 2004	581
Total 2005	577
Total 2006	672
Total 2007	451
Total 2008	364

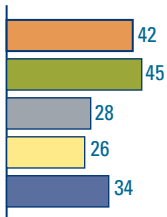
**Cyprus**



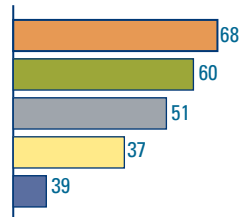
**Malta**



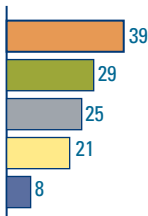
**Czech Republic**



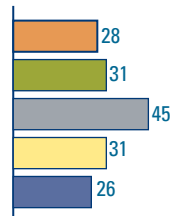
**Poland**



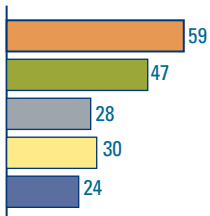
**Estonia**



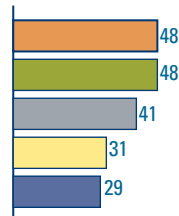
**Slovakia**



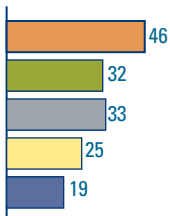
**Hungary**



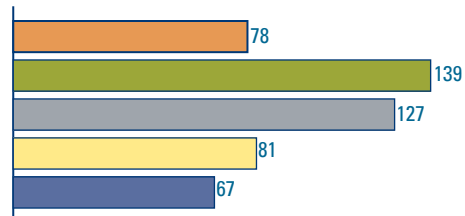
**Slovenia**



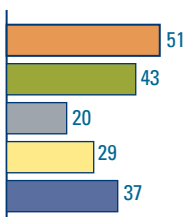
**Latvia**



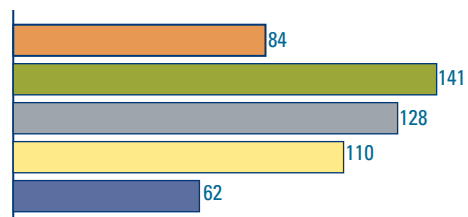
**Bulgaria**



**Lithuania**

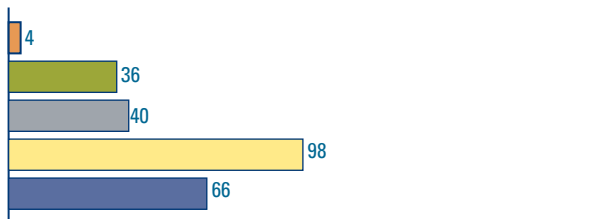


**Romania**

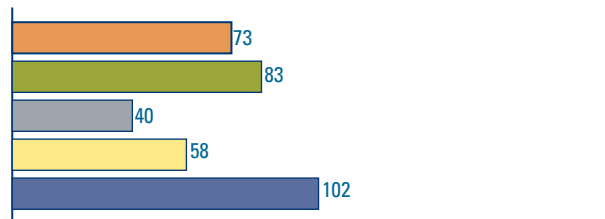


## Number of events according to host/location - CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

### Croatia



### Turkey



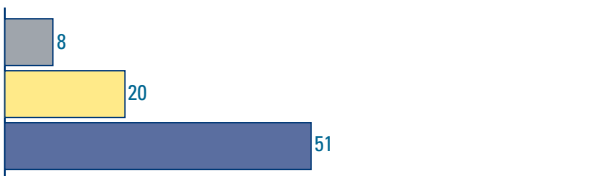
### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



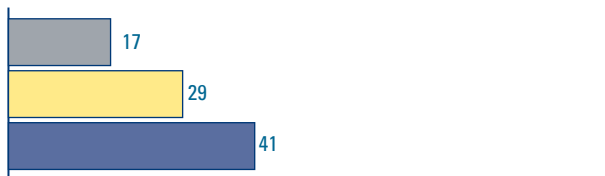
Total 2004	81
Total 2005	148
Total 2006	100
Total 2007	178
Total 2008	212

## Number of events according to host/location - POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

### Albania



### Serbia



### Bosnia and Herzegovina



### Kosovo (UNSCR1244)



### Montenegro



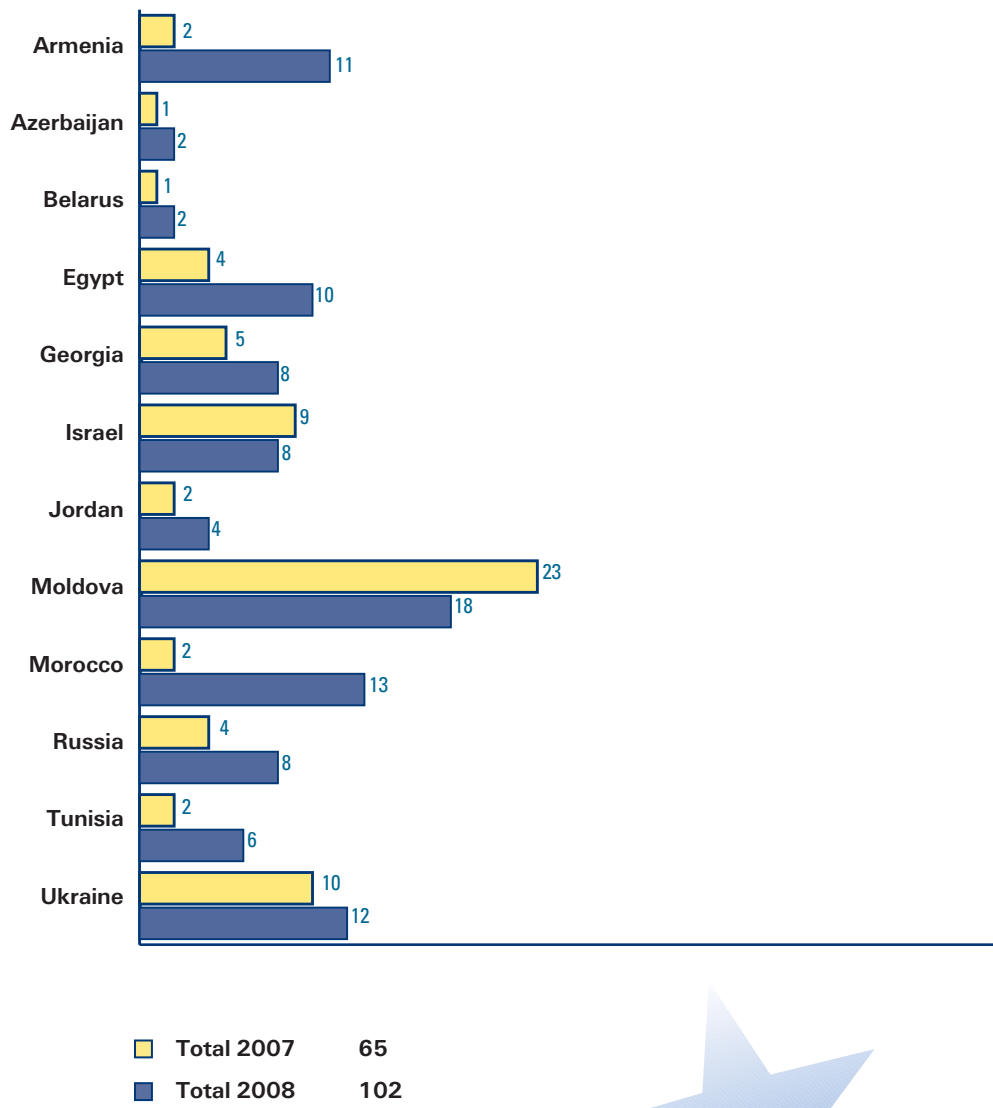
Total 2006	53
Total 2007	94
Total 2008	153

## Number of events according to host/location - TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY



Total 2007	110
Total 2008	150

**Number of events according to host/location - ENPI COUNTRIES**



# European Commission

## TAIEX Activity Report 2008

Brussels: European Commission, Enlargement Directorate-General 2009

21 x 29,7 cm - NI-AC-09-001-EN-C

ISBN 92-79-1 1488-5

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

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[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/institution\\_building/twinning\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/institution_building/twinning_en.htm)

### VISIT THE SIGMA WEBSITE

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

### or CONTACT THE IBU DIRECTLY

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Fax: + 32 2 296 76 94

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

[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://taiex.ec.europa.eu/ExpertDatabase/>

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