



Last Saturday marked the 10th year of TAIEX operations in the Neighbourhood

25th January 2016

Ten years ago, on 23rd January 2006 exactly, the European Commission extended its TAIEX operations to the Neighbourhood. Since then TAIEX has organised more than 3000 activities helping our partners in the South and in the East to bring their national laws and standards closer to those of the EU – in areas as varied as the fight against corruption, food safety standards or energy efficiency.

Over the years, our partners in the East made particular good use of the instrument. Since then three of them signed Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements, and TAIEX also intervenes to help implementing them.

Maryna Kanavets, Director of Twinning Programme Administration Office in Ukraine looks back on this fruitful cooperation: *"TAIEX became a powerful asset for Ukraine in the context of public administration reform. Since 2006, 583 events took place in which more than 13,000 representatives from public authorities participated. Many normative legal acts and amendments to the national legislation were adopted thanks to TAIEX assistance."*

So does Roman Kakulia, Head of the EU Assistance Coordination Department in Georgia: *"Back in 2006, even though the Twinning instrument was open to Georgia, the administration lacked ownership and capacity to use it efficiently. Thanks to its flexibility, TAIEX played an important role notably in drafting concrete legal initiatives as well as in preparing for effective implementation of future Twinning projects."*

On the Commission side, Mrs Christiane Kirschbaum, team leader for Justice and Home Affairs in TAIEX, remembers: *"Trafficking of human beings, drug trafficking or terrorism do not know borders. These were the first areas for which our partners sought TAIEX support. Lately, further issues came up – among them asylum, migration as well as refugee law. In parallel, the visa liberalisation process is an area where we increasingly intervene. Since 2006 we organised more than 900 events in the sector of Justice and Home Affairs! And since then we built a strong relation of trust with our partners; I am happy we continue to exchange EU best practices with them."*

In the South, TAIEX has been present for those administrations which needed quick assistance especially in the reconsolidation phase after the Arab spring. Many activities implemented in this region are related to security, migration or the reform of the justice sector, and TAIEX is keen to step up its efforts there in particular when it comes to security sector, including counter-terrorism and fight against radicalisation, and civil protection.