1470 experts and 9141 participants

92% satisfaction rate

#TeamEurope
This year is a year of celebration for the institution building community.

Grounded in a peer-to-peer approach connecting public sector experts, the sudden COVID-19-caused standstill of much of the international activity in spring 2020 was a challenge to both TAIEX and Twinning. Together, we faced an unprecedented task: the redesigning of peer-to-peer exchanges in a digital format.

This report is a testimony to our success. Our virtual offer has engaged as many participants and experts as it did before the pandemic. So far, over 12 000 participants and 2000 experts have taken part in virtual TAIEX, while most of the Twinning projects have continued online. The successful digital leap has made these two instruments more flexible. We believe that in the future, online and hybrid options can continue to complement efficiently the in-person offer.

The pandemic tested our ways of delivery and set new requirements for its content. In 2020, both instruments supported EU partners in addressing the consequences of the pandemic and in preparing for the recovery. Whether tackling economic challenges, increased domestic violence or curbing the citizens’ exposure to cybercrime, Member State experts were quickly mobilised to share best practice as part of the Team Europe approach.

The digital transition has enabled us to continue with the implementation of President von der Leyen’s ambitious political agenda focusing on the green and digital transition, as well as advancing Europe’s global regulatory leadership.

The expansion of the two instruments to countries and territories covered by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships last year was a significant milestone. Not only did it make Twinning a global instrument, it also crowned the successful geographical and thematic expansion of TAIEX since 1996. On its 25th birthday, TAIEX today covers all EU legislation and exports EU standards worldwide. Since its inception, we have mobilised over 40 000 experts in more than 20 000 TAIEX events.

As we prepare for a post-pandemic world, I am confident that TAIEX and Twinning will continue to provide Member States and partner countries with fast and unique learning opportunities. We will continue to deepen cooperation with partners beyond the enlargement and neighbourhood regions, while expanding the scope of available expertise. Our ambition is to play a role in designing post-COVID-19 policies. Looking back at all that we have done so far, I have no doubt that the next 25 years will bring challenges but also bright opportunities for the institution building instruments of the European Union.

Olivér Várhelyi
European Commissioner for Neighbourhood & Enlargement
TAIEX and Twinning
in brief

TAIEX

TAIEX – Technical Assistance and Information Exchange – offers peer-to-peer technical assistance and policy support from public experts in EU Member States to beneficiaries in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions.

TAIEX assistance is also available to countries covered by development policies and the Partnership Instrument worldwide, as well as to the EU Member States to support structural reforms and better regional and environment policies.

TAIEX assistance can be requested either by beneficiaries (classic) or EU services (strategic).

The instrument targets primarily public administrations, but also judiciary and law enforcement authorities, parliamentary administrations, representatives of social partners, trade unions and employers’ associations.

TAIEX is funded from the EU budget and managed by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations in the European Commission.

Twinning

Twinning is a policy-driven instrument supporting institutional cooperation between public administrations in EU Member States and partner countries.

It brings together public sector expertise in order to achieve concrete and operational results through peer-to-peer exchanges.

Twinning relies on a network of stakeholders in EU Member States, partner countries and EU Delegations.

The instrument is funded from the EU budget (national development aid allocations) and jointly implemented by Member States and administrations in the partner countries.
Peer-to-peer support and cooperation through TAIEX and Twinning have been an important part of the EU’s global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when face-to-face interaction is discouraged, innovative solutions were required. This has been an opportunity to embrace new ways of working.

The transition of TAIEX into a fully virtual instrument has enabled us to continue to provide support to our partners and their citizens throughout the crisis and in preparing for the recovery in Team Europe approach. This has not only made the TAIEX offer even more flexible, but has also made the instrument more resilient to ongoing and future disruptions.

For virtual events, the TAIEX budget covers the cost of digital facilities to make the conferences resemble regular events as much as possible, including such features as simultaneous interpretation in multiple languages and rental of videoconferencing equipment. Online tools have also played an increasing role in Twinning, and additional flexibility has been introduced to facilitate remote implementation of ongoing projects.

While face-to-face interaction is – and will continue to be – a key strength of our instruments, innovative, digital tools offer advantages also for the post-pandemic institution building activities. Their flexibility, increased accessibility and contribution to greening of our activities are key advantages to be retained.
An increasingly global reach

Digital TAIEX events feature more experts and attract larger audiences. In 2020, events had on average 24% more attendees and 21% more experts participating in each conference than in 2019. In addition, 2020 also saw an increase in the share of events in EU Member States and with partner countries outside the enlargement and neighbourhood regions. These events accounted for 42% of TAIEX activities. In the enlargement region, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the overall frontrunner. Armenia and Egypt were most active TAIEX partners in ENI East and ENI South, respectively.
TAIEX in Member States and across the globe

**TAIEX-REGIO** supports the implementation of regional and urban policy in EU countries. It provides expertise to public bodies responsible for managing and implementing the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. In 2020, TAIEX activities were implemented in areas such as green public procurement with Lithuania and research and innovation with Bulgaria.

**TAIEX-Technical Support Instrument (TSI)** (formerly TAIEX-SRSP) helps EU Member States in the design and implementation of institutional, administrative and growth-enhancing reforms to build up more effective institutions, stronger governance frameworks and efficient public administrations. In 2020, TAIEX-TSI supported EU Member States through activities in areas such as improving public financial management, spending review and budget preparation with Estonia and coastal protection with Spain.

**TAIEX-Partnership Instrument (PI)** supports the alignment of countries worldwide with EU standards, norms and regulatory frameworks. It allows the EU to establish wider political dialogues, promotes EU’s visibility and reinforces the profile of the EU as a key global actor. In 2020, activities were funded by TAIEX-PI in the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in areas such as data protection with Barbados, combating hate speech with the Republic of Korea, competition policy with Peru and fighting human trafficking with Hong Kong.
TAIEX-Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) facilitates peer-to-peer learning between Member State environmental authorities in order to address challenges in the implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation. TAIEX-EIR restarted virtually in August and held online events in areas such as sustainable finance and environmental governance with the Slovak Republic and Italy, respectively.

TAIEX assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community supports the preparation of legal texts aligned with the EU acquis and the community’s ability to apply the acquis upon the entry into force of a comprehensive settlement on the island.

TAIEX and Twinning INTPA (International Partnerships) have been available for developing countries since 2019. This newest TAIEX strand supports partner countries in strengthening their national development policy and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, TAIEX-INTPA successfully mobilised expertise from EU Member States during its first full year of operation. This included events with the Dominican Republic, in the provision of online services in the judicial sector; with Uganda, in the use, analysis and interpretation of pesticide residues data in the food sector; and with Uzbekistan, in consolidating its legislation through regulatory impact assessment in the public administration sector.
Expanding horizons

TAIEX-TSI online workshop on building sustainable e-health services during the COVID-19 pandemic
Croatia, 15 September 2020

TAIEX-REGIO online workshop on simplified cost options
France, 6-10 July 2020

TAIEX-INTPA online workshop on transition from face-to-face to virtual customer services in the justice system
Dominican Republic, 22-23 July 2020

TAIEX-EIR online multi-country workshop on sustainable finance to help reduce environmental pressure and allow transition to a low carbon economy
Slovak Republic and Latvia, 26 November 2020

TAIEX-TCc online workshop on health protection and COVID-19 support
Turkish Cypriot community, 28 April-27 May 2020

TAIEX-PI online workshop on fighting trafficking in human beings
Hong Kong, 17-18 December 2020
Trade in agricultural and food products plays an important role in the small open economy of Kyrgyzstan. Through this virtual TAIEX workshop, our team has gained a better understanding of the requirements set by the conditions of the EU’s Generalized System of Preferences (GSP+). The virtual workshop facilitated the exchange of information between experts and government agencies, enhanced cooperation in the field of agri-food exports and supported the export-oriented producers in the Kyrgyz Republic. We have established tighter cooperation with the EU and gained a good understanding of EU requirements. We are grateful for such a great opportunity and hope we can continue our fruitful cooperation in the future.

Following successful application of Uganda for TAIEX assistance, two virtual training workshops were organized by TAIEX INTPA in collaboration with the Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory. Over 80 participants from different institutions involved in pesticide residue monitoring, inspection and analysis appreciated the EU’s experience and journey on sustainable use, analysis and risk assessment of pesticides. Several recommendations are being adopted to guide on national pesticide legislation, development of residue monitoring plan and accreditation of a national reference laboratory for pesticide residue analysis aimed at promoting food safety.

Zulaika Anvaberkova, State Inspectorate on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

TAIEX-PI online workshop on trade development between European Union and Kyrgyz Republic on 28 September – 2 October 2020.

Kepher Kuchana Kateu, Director, Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda.

TAIEX-INTPA online workshop on pesticides residue certification on 24-25 September 2020.
Green public procurement is a powerful tool for achieving environmental policy goals related to tackling climate change, resource management, and sustainable consumption and production. The TAIEX-REGIO webinars provided us with a good opportunity to learn best practices of the Netherlands and Finland. Also, the events provided a platform for the responsible entities of Lithuania to sit together and discuss how to deal with challenges related to the development of legislation and capacity building of contracting authorities in the field of green procurement.

Ignotas Šalavėjus, Environmental expert from Lithuania.
TAIEX-REGIO online workshops on green public procurement on 1-2 July and 12-13 November 2020.

Peer-to-peer exchanges among national, regional and local authorities in Member States are important for the sharing of knowledge and good practice in environmental policies. Through the TAIEX-EIR peer-to-peer tool the Commission is supporting physical and online expert missions, study visits and workshops in areas such as air pollution, public procurement or waste management. I strongly believe that the TAIEX-EIR peer-to-peer is effectively helping Member States to improve their implementation of EU-based environmental policy and law, including tackling the administrative root causes, inspired by the implementation challenges indicated in the Environmental Implementation Review. The EU is a global leader in sustainable finance and the COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that we need to deliver to a just and environment friendly transition as foreseen in the European Green Deal.

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for the Environment.
TAIEX-EIR online workshop on sustainable finance on 26 November 2020.
The outbreak of the pandemic posed a significant challenge to the ongoing peer-to-peer exchanges between EU and partner country experts. TAIEX quickly adapted to the new conditions and continued to bring people together virtually. Jointly with Member States, digital solutions have made it possible to continue delivering EU expertise also in such critical areas as health and security. These sample stories illustrate the tangible positive impact of TAIEX to beneficiary administrations and citizens across the enlargement and neighbourhood regions in 2020. They are focused on events involving numerous countries to demonstrate the areas of shared importance. However, the majority of TAIEX events continue to take place at national level catering for the specific needs of each country in each step of the reform processes.
A tragic side effect of the COVID-19 lockdown measures was the increased domestic violence experienced by women and girls around the world. Against this background, DG NEAR and DG JUST together with EU Member State experts from France, Lithuania and Spain quickly put together a multi-country TAIEX workshop to share innovative practices to address the risk of domestic violence in the pandemic context. Many EU countries mobilised additional resources to ensure the continued provision of victim support services and adapted them for social distancing. Several countries have also invested in innovative ways to reach the women confined at home. The workshop demonstrated the unique flexibility of the TAIEX instrument in reacting rapidly to the challenges caused by the pandemic.

The adjustment of human life to the pandemic exposed the increasing interdependency between the physical and digital worlds. The use of digital technologies ensured business continuity in several sectors and kept public services running despite the outbreak. At the same time, the increased reliance on digital systems provided an unprecedented opportunity for criminals, who quickly adapted to exploit the global health crisis. The majority of cyber incidents involved ransomware attacks against the healthcare sector, such as hospitals and healthcare organizations. In this virtual flagship event, public sector experts from Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania and Spain, together with experts from DG NEAR and Europol, shared their best practises on the investigation, prosecution and prevention of cybercrime.
In a time of socio-economic and health crisis, labour inspections remain fundamental as they can improve working conditions and boost competitiveness amid the difficult conditions. The informal sector represents a high proportion of economic activity in the Mediterranean region and labour inspectorates are important allies in tackling undeclared work. Equipping the inspectors with necessary tools and resources is key to prevent, identify and remedy undeclared work. In this virtual workshop, public sector experts from 

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helped partner countries take stock of their national systems of labour inspections not only in the context of the immediate health crisis, but also to prepare for the green and digital transitions.

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.
Twinning activities in 2020

Thanks to the joint work between DG NEAR and DG INTPA, the first two calls for proposals for Twinning projects in Zambia were launched in December 2020. The two projects, one in support of the Anti-corruption Commission and the other in support of the Auditor General, are the first outcomes of the series of pilot projects that will make Twinning available beyond the enlargement and neighbourhood regions.

Twinning goes global

Twinning is an inclusive instrument widely used by Member States. In 2020, 20 out of 27 Member States were involved in Twinning projects either as a Lead Member State or as Junior Partner. France, Italy, Lithuania, Germany and Spain were the more active Member States in the instrument. Some Member States participate mainly or exclusively as Junior Partners, like Estonia, Slovenia, the Netherlands or Croatia. More than 60% of the Twinning projects are implemented by more than one Member State, which also shows how much Twinning contributes to strengthening the work between Member States.

Member States participation in ongoing Twinning projects in 2020
Once a partner country and the Commission decide that a Twinning is the appropriate instrument to support reform within the public administration, a Twinning fiche is prepared and a call for proposals is launched to all EU countries. After receiving the proposals, a selection committee awards the project either to a single Member State or a consortium. This committee also includes representatives from the partner country. Two project leaders, a Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) and an RTA counterpart in the partner administration are responsible for the implementation. The RTA is seconded to the partner institution for the full duration of the project and all Twinning projects are reviewed 6-12 months after their implementation.

**How does it work?**

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136 Twinning projects were ongoing in 2020. In 2020, the distribution between the enlargement and neighbourhood regions slightly changed in favour of the latter, with 60% of all Twinning projects taking place in the eastern and southern neighbourhood, and 40% among candidates and potential candidates for EU membership.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

*** Following the October Council conclusions on Belarus (11660/20), the EU has recalibrated its assistance to the maximum extent away from supporting the central authorities. As a consequence, all Twinning projects have been suspended until conditions allow them to restart.
Western Balkans and Turkey enjoy the largest diversity of Member States participating in Twinning. 20 countries contribute to twinning activities as either lead or junior partners. **Italy**, **Germany** and **Croatia** are tied at the top with engagement in nine projects each, closely followed by **Austria**, **Lithuania** and **Spain**.

**France** concentrates most of its twinning activities in the South, with participation in 23 projects, followed by **Italy**, **Spain** and **Belgium**. Also other Member States are contributing to projects in this part of the world.
Although Western Balkans and Turkey overall benefit from more Twinning projects, the highest engagement of Member States in Twinning is in Neighbourhood East. Many Twinning projects are implemented through consortia of two or sometimes three countries. Lithuanian is active in all three regions, but especially in the East with contribution to 20 Twinning projects. While Poland mainly engages in the East, Austria and Germany have similar participation rates in both Neighbourhood East and Western Balkans and Turkey.
At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, Twinning was equipped with a package of flexibility arrangements. Virtual means were quickly introduced to enable the Twinning stakeholders to continue working together from their homes. These arrangements allowed more than 70% of projects to continue remotely, progressively moving towards in-person activities when the sanitary situation allowed.

Thanks to the joint efforts of experts from Member States, partner countries’ administrations and EU Delegations, at the end of 2020 more than 90% of all Twinning projects were up and running.

Project teams in North Macedonia successfully took on the challenge arisen from the crisis. The Twinning project was launched in January 2020 and implemented by Austria and Croatia. In addition to improving administrative capacities of the key institutions in revenue forecasting and economic analysis, the project contributes to simplifying tax and customs rules. Activities were soon hit by the pandemic, but the project continues to deliver results through a combination of online, in-person and hybrid activities. “Due to the flexibility and motivation of everyone, we managed to start with all activities. Each week up to 4 workshops with a total of 70 or more participants have been held using Skype, Teams or Webex and are managed by the RTA project office team in Skopje.” (Werner Thury, MS Project Leader)
Georgia successfully managed the digital transition and continued Twinnings with none of the 13 projects suspended in 2020. The Twinning project on collaboration between research and industry, which started in April 2020, is a great example of the digital leap. The project is bridging a gap between science and business and lays ground for sustainable economic development in Georgia. In spite of the COVID-19 outbreak, the project started on time thanks to the agile consortium of Member States, namely Austria, Germany and Latvia, and the Georgian counterparts. Despite not having face-to-face activities, both parties evaluate positively the work done. In the words of the Resident Twinning Adviser, Inese Gavarane, “important drivers during such crisis situation are enthusiasm, sense of humour, creativity and flexibility.”

Algeria initially suspended some of its Twinning operations due to the pandemic outbreak. One of these projects was the Twinning project with the Algerian Forensic Police, carried out by France and Spain. Despite the suspension in May 2020, the Resident Twinning Adviser and Algerian counterparts kept the communication ongoing and, little by little, they started to gain confidence in the new way of working. The specifics of the project, namely the accreditation of the police of Algiers into norm ISO 17025, required experts’ physical presence, but in September 2020 the project team agreed to resume the activities in a hybrid format. Member State experts would work from their countries and their Algerian colleagues would gather in a physical location when allowed by the sanitary situation. The French-Spanish consortium and Algerian counterparts are now progressing towards a successful accreditation of the laboratories and, hence, improved quality of scientific police investigations in Algeria.
Since its creation in 1996, the scope of TAIEX has expanded significantly. The instrument was initially set up for a two-year period to support the then candidate countries for EU accession with the focus on the EU’s single market. At the time, it was also tasked with maintaining knowledge databases on EU legislation and monitoring candidate countries’ progress.

By 2004, the instrument’s core task was consolidated to provide demand-driven assistance across all EU acquis. It would remain so until 2018 and the introduction of additional “strategic” TAIEX events, which can be requested by Commission services. Most recently in 2020, such strategic events have evolved into TAIEX flagships bringing together all enlargement and neighbourhood countries.

The instrument’s geographical scope has also expanded. After it was set up as an instrument for candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe, it first expanded to encompass Cyprus and Malta. Between 2004 and 2006, TAIEX was extended to Turkey and the Western Balkans, and then to the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. TAIEX support to the Turkish Cypriot community has been in place since 2006.

The next phase of expansion took place between 2014 and 2020 with the introduction of five new forms of TAIEX. All EU Member States became beneficiaries of TAIEX with the introduction of TAIEX-REGIO in 2015, TAIEX-TSI in 2017 and TAIEX-EIR in 2018. This has enabled Member States to benefit from peer-to-peer support in the areas of cohesion policy, structural reforms and environmental policy. The further expansion to countries and territories covered by the Partnership Instrument and EU development policies in 2016 and 2019 finally made TAIEX the truly global instrument it is today.
Original TAIEX beneficiaries include Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The objective of TAIEX is their alignment with the EU’s internal market in the areas of competition, social and environmental policy. For this purpose, a dedicated “one stop shop” is established to match requests for assistance with expertise available in the Union.

**1996**

**Creation of TAIEX**

TAIEX milestones timeline 1996 - 2021

**2006**

**TAIEX in support of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Turkish Cypriot Community**

TAIEX expands to all countries in the EU’s eastern and southern neighbourhood as well as the Turkish Cypriot community.

**1998**

**The mandate expands**

TAIEX mandate expands to cover technical assistance for all EU legislation. In the first two years of TAIEX, over 1500 requests are received. Over 3500 civil servants attend sessions organised by TAIEX.

**2000**

**The first expansion**

TAIEX expands to Cyprus, Malta and the Baltic States.

**2004**

**TAIEX in the Western Balkans and Turkey**

**2007**

**10 years of TAIEX**

An evaluation report on TAIEX concludes that “TAIEX is an important instrument in supporting the accession process that has performed well in providing short-term, demand-driven assistance and a large number of outputs.”

**2021**

TAIEX milestones timeline 1996 - 2021

**TAIEX mandate expands to cover technical assistance for all EU legislation. In the first two years of TAIEX, over 1500 requests are received. Over 3500 civil servants attend sessions organised by TAIEX.**
TAIEX in support of structural reforms in EU Member States

In cooperation with the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support of the European Commission, the TAIEX-SRSP (now TAIEX-TSI) is launched as an instrument to implement the Structural Reform Support Programme. The instrument supports Member State experts in building up more effective institutions, stronger governance frameworks and efficient public administrations.

TAIEX goes global

The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the European Commission’s Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) decide to open up TAIEX to other regions around the world. This allows EU to promote its standards and legislation with third countries worldwide.

TAIEX global reach is reinforced

TAIEX-INTPA is launched and geographically extends TAIEX to countries and territories covered by Directorate-General for International Partnerships. TAIEX-INTPA supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of our partners in line with the EU commitments to the Agenda 2030.

TAIEX digital leap and pandemic response

From April 2020 onwards, all TAIEX events are held virtually. Adjusting quickly to the pandemic conditions, EU expertise is quickly mobilised for a range of events all over the world in support of our partners’ efforts to tackle the pandemic and prepare for the recovery.

TAIEX in support of environmental policy in EU Member States

TAIEX-EIR is launched to provide peer-to-peer sharing opportunities to participants from local, regional and national environmental authorities of EU Member States. The expert exchanges can address issues such as circular economy and waste management, nature protection, biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Every week, several TAIEX events enable the exchange of technical assistance and best practices across the world and in different EU Member States. Taking advantage of the lessons of the pandemic, in the future our partners will have even more choice. While many TAIEX events will continue to take place virtually, physical and hybrid events will remain possible, making TAIEX more environmentally friendly and flexible in Team Europe approach.
TAIEX

key statistics

1996 - 2021

**500+ events in EU Member States between 2015 and 2020**

**26,000+ events in total**

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Events and top 5 topics per region

9,600+ events in enlargement countries (2004-2020)

01 Justice and home affairs
02 Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
03 Judiciary and fundamental rights
04 Environment
05 Agriculture and rural development

2,600+ events in Neighbourhood East (2006-2020)

01 Justice and home affairs
02 Judiciary and fundamental rights
03 Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
04 Customs Union
05 Environment

1,300+ events in Neighbourhood South (2006-2020)

01 Justice and home affairs
02 Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
03 Free movement of goods
04 Environment
05 Judiciary and fundamental rights

5,200+ events in former candidate countries

95 beneficiary countries
The TAIEX experts were of incredible help and without hesitation I can say that without their expertise I doubt we could have succeeded in the implementation of the digital tachograph on time.

Jovan Jancevski
Ministry of Transport and Communications

In all candidate countries, TAIEX helped thousands of civil servants to a better understanding of Community legislation and the issues related to its transposition, implementation and enforcement. As a result, it was instrumental in getting a faster and sustainable adjustment to the “acquis communautaire.”

Jan Truszczyński
Poland’s Ambassador to the EU (1996-2001)
Chief Negotiator for Poland’s EU Accession (2001-2003)

TAIEX support in setting up an effective emergency call number “112” helped us significantly in the preparations for EURO 2012, an extremely important happening for the whole country. In particular, the emergency call number “112” is important because it will mean ensuring timely and adequate help to guests, fans and the population in case of emergency.

Svitlana Sinelnik
Ministry of Health

I’ve been cooperating with TAIEX since 2004. This valuable instrument ensured the sustainable progress of our work and the development of innovative approaches in responding to drug abuse. Today, we have the pleasure of transferring the same knowledge and best practices to current TAIEX beneficiaries (...) Working with the TAIEX team has always been a professionally rewarding experience.

Lidija Vugrinec
Office for Combating Narcotic Drugs Abuse

Approximating Lebanon’s food safety requirements with EU and international standards is key to ensuring higher hygienic control standards and more stringent inspection procedures, and in turn eliminating technical trade barriers between the EU and Lebanon. TAIEX has paved the way for increased food exports from Lebanon to the EU, reinforcing the close cooperation outlined in our Association Agreement.

Lina Assi
Ministry of Industry
The future of TAIEX

The fact that TAIEX celebrates a quarter of a century speaks for itself. Often perceived as the fastest and most flexible EU technical assistance instrument, it has adjusted to the evolving conditions and needs both within and outside the EU. Clearly, the positive gains from peer-to-peer exchanges between civil servants know no borders.

TAIEX today does much more than supporting partner countries’ public administrations in the approximation, application and enforcement of EU law. It is increasingly used as a policy support tool for reforms in partner countries within and far beyond the EU neighbourhood. It is also available for public sector cooperation between the Member States in highly specialised policy areas. Finally, it can be used strategically as a policy-driven instrument in the EU’s external relations toolbox.

Looking ahead, the successful digitalisation of the TAIEX offer will enable faster and more flexible responses. Combining the best elements from virtual and physical means will allow for additional fine-tuning of the instrument to the needs of the beneficiaries. It will also make the instrument greener. Despite exhausting options for further geographical extension, consolidating the newer TAIEX strands and completing the transition to post-COVID delivery of technical assistance will occupy the institution building community in the coming years.

And what is your view on the future of TAIEX? Please do not hesitate to contact us at NEAR-Taix@ec.europa.eu.