

2007 ACTIVITY REPORT







TAIEX 2007 Activity Report

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Foreword by Commissioner Olli Rehn

2007 started by reinforcing the foundations of the EU's enlargement policy. In December 2006 the European Council renewed the consensus on enlargement, thus outlining the way forward for the coming years. This consensus builds on the consolidation of commitments made to the enlargement countries, on strict conditionality to be fulfilled by those countries and on better communication, combined with the EU's capacity to integrate new members.

Our consolidated enlargement agenda covers the Western Balkans and Turkey. The progress of each and every country on the EU road depends on their ability to fulfil the rigorous but fair accession criteria.

In 2007 there has been steady though uneven progress in the Western Balkans and the region continues to face major challenges. Croatia's accession negotiations are well on track and in 2008 should enter a decisive phase, showing to the region of the Western Balkans as a whole that the EU perspective is real. All the other countries of the Western Balkans - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina - have the potential to take further steps on their EU roads, provided they face the challenges ahead. The EU is fully committed to the political and sustained economic development of Kosovo, and ready to use all instruments to help Kosovo realise its European perspective. Turkey's accession process is on track, while there is a need to revitalise the reforms.

The enlargement process will be

pursued by making full use of all the technical assistance and institution building capabilities vis-à-vis the candidate and potential candidate countries.

In this respect, TAIEX since 1996 has become an essential pre-accession instrument, by effectively providing rapid-response technical assistance.

Since January 2006, TAIEX scope of action has been extended to the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) plus Russia. Very positive trends could be noted in 2007; 3.000 participants from these partner countries took part in 165 events. Further assistance will continue to be offered in 2008 with the aim of continuously deepening economic and political cooperation with these countries.

In general, the TAIEX instrument was available in 35 countries and organised more than 1.200 events that were attended by around 37.000 participants. More than 4.000 experts from all Member States were involved in delivery of the assistance in the form of knowledge, experience and best practice transfer.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I present you this report of TAIEX activities in 2007. This document highlights and reviews the events and services provided as well as the target audiences which have benefited from the TAIEX instrument as a platform for exchanging good practices and constructive experiences.

At the start of a new phase in the European enlargement process and in the deepening of our relations with the neighbouring partner coun-



tries, I am convinced that TAIEX will continue to play an essential role in supporting the implementation and enforcement of the EU legislation body and contribute to our common objectives.



Technical Assistance and Information Exchange

TAIEX mission

The TAIEX mission In the EU enlargement¹ context is to:

- Provide institution building support to assist the process of transposing, implementing and enforcing EU "legislation" and policies.
- Organise short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of partner administratins 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 Policy²:

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

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¹ Post accession support for Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, 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.

² Including all partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as Russia.

Introduction 2007

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. In January 2007, Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU; Slovenia adopted the euro. Enlargement has also increased the size of the internal market with more than 100 million consumers strengthening the Union's competitiveness and its weight in the world economy. Internal trade between the old and the new members has increased significantly in the last decade.

Most of the new Member States have been using TAIEX very actively during 2007 underlining the relevance and usefulness of TAIEX as a post-accession institution building tool. With financing transition naturally coming to an end, TAIEX support will be phased out for the ten "new" Member States mid-2008. These countries will nevertheless 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. 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 advancing well. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has obtained candidate status and has further worked on harmonisation with the acquis. Continuous work was carried out to ensure further progress in the potential Candidate countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244). 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.

Accession negotiations started with Turkey in 2005 and have contributed to an increase and deepening of cooperation at all levels. Last year both partners were engaged in intense political and economic dialogue. Accession negotiations will continue in the future at a pace that reflects reform progress.

As regards the Cyprus issue, the Commission is implementing the instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, facilitating future re-unification of the island.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is substantially deepening the EU's relations with its neighbours and has become a vehicle for cooperation with these countries across a wide policy spectrum. Partner countries within the ENP framework include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. 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 conceived in terms of strengthening 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 2007

The TAIEX operation continued to develop in a positive and dynamic manner in the course of 2007. The overall activity level in 2007 matched the peak level of 2005 and the number of incoming requests increased by more than 50% compared with the average of the previous 3 years.

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.

A total number of participants from all beneficiary countries reached almost 37.000. More than 1200 events involving 4500 experts and speakers primarily from Member States administrations were organised.

These positive results and the increasing demand for assistance clearly demonstrate the need and usefulness of TAIEX as an instrument of know-how transfer and exchange of best practice.

Croatia and Romania were major beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance during the last year. 2007 was the first full year where TAIEX was available to the ENP partners and Russia. TAIEX has received more than 200 applications from these countries against some 50 in seven months of operations in 2006. In the same period, over 3000 participants from the administrations of these partner countries have been trained.

Substantial assistance has been also given to the Turkish Cypriot community totalling 110 events.

As regards activity according to policy area, the largest number of activities

were conducted in the field of Justice, Freedom and Security and Internal Market.

Perspectives for 2008

By may 2008 TAIEX assistance will be phased-out for the ten Member States that joined the EU in 2004. They will remain important partners for the TAIEX instrument by providing a valuable pool of experts with substantial and recent experience with reform and integration processes and the acquis harmonisation and enforcement in their national administrations.

In the case of Romania and Bulgaria, post-accession assistance will be continued including the TAIEX instrument. In the Candidate Countries and potential Candidate Countries in the Western Balkans, TAIEX is expected 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 Map. 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 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 2007. It sums up the key information about TAIEX beneficiaries and provides a brief overview of its sectoral and horizontal activities. The report with concludes 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.

TAIEX Beneficiaries in 2007



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Assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community

Since 2006 the European Union provides support to the Turkish Cypriot community through the Financial Aid Regulation (Council Regulation N° 389/2006). The Regulation aims at facilitating the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the acquis communautaire.

Within the general Aid Regulation framework, which foresees the deployment of €259 million by 2011, €11 million have been committed to technical assistance through the TAIEX instrument. The purpose of the assistance is the preparation of legal texts aligned with the acquis communautaire and preparation for the implementation of the acquis communautaire in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Art.1 of Protocol N.10 to the Act of Accession.

TAIEX assistance in 2007

In 2007 assistance was focused on two main types of priorities. First, to provide assistance towards harmonization of legislation and administrative development strategies in several sectors and second, to prepare the launch of the Programme for the Future Application of the Acquis (PFAA).

Sectoral activities

After two years of EU support to the Turkish Cypriot administration, results start to be tangible. In particular, good progress has been achieved in the sector of environment. Assistance has comprised long-term expert support on EU environmental legislation and policy as well as medium-term expert support for specialised working groups on 4 key areas: water resources management, waste management, nature protection and environmental impact assessment. This assistance has created the basic conditions for the drafting of main framework legislation which will be supported by TAIEX from the beginning of 2008.

Another key sector of assistance is related to the Green Line Regulation (Council Regulation No 866/2004). The presence of Member States experts in the phytosanitary field has ensured the trade of potatoes across the "Green Line".

In the statistical sector, the general objective was to assist the Turkish Cypriot community to re-design the statistical system and harmonise it with EU requirements. Preparation of a statistical "Master Plan" and drafting of a statistical law has started.

In the agricultural domain, mediumterm assistance has been provided in order to advise on a strategy for the agricultural sector and assist the progress on rural development in relation to projects funded under the Rural Development Sector programme. The medium term programme focused on providing advice in the dairy, crops, citrus and potatoes sector.



Workshop on "Administrative challenges of harmonization with the acquis communautaire", 4-5 May 2007, Brussels

Assistance has also been provided in sectors such as customs. In view of the future reunification of the island and the perspective of a common customs service, TAIEX experts were given the mandate to identify needs of interoperability and prepare a strategy for the reform of the Customs system.

Programmme for the Future Application of the Acquis

After several months of preparation, the Programme for the Future Application of the Acquis (PFAA) was presented in the workshops on "Administrative challenges of harmonization with the acquis communautaire" in May and October 2007. During the discussions, twelve EU policy areas were identified, priorities highlighted and responsibilities allocated. The PFAA process will continue in the beginning of 2008 with presentations on each policy area. The PFAA will allow a better understanding of the steps needed to align Turkish Cypriot legislation to the EU legislation and policies in view of the future reunification of the island.

"It was a very good event. Above all I have learned more about how Europol can be used in order to fight financial crime. I was expecting to see more participants from EU Member States. Maybe the next time. Thank you".

Participant at the Seminar on combating financial crime (with EUROPOL) (JLS), 23-27 april 2007, Nicosia, Cyprus

Internal Market

At the time of its setting up in 1996, the TAIEX instrument had only one, specific task: assist some countries of eastern and central Europe to prepare for integration into the internal market. Although shortly after the mandate of TAIEX was extended to all areas covered by the acquis communautaire, the provision of technical assistance related to the approximation of legislation with regard to the internal market has remained at the very core of its activities.

Every would-be Member State and every country wishing to have a stake in the internal market must align the national legislation to the pertinent EU norms and standards. The process can be long and painful and each country should tackle it with an impetus matching its ambitions.

The European internal market is meant, in essence, to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. In a system governed by the rule of law and in the presence of a multiplicity of independent states, any 'free movement' must be regulated and enforced. This is the task of EU Institutions, which have defined over the years a series of norms and standards that offer to EU citizens the possibility to live, work, study and do business throughout the territory of the Union.

Also in the course of 2007 the TAIEX instrument has supported its beneficiary countries in their approximation and alignment efforts on all topics related to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. About 300 events were organised on internal market topics, a majority of which (around 60%) were single or multi-country seminars, the remaining study visits and expert missions.

For most of the year, the number of events monthly organised roughly matched the number of approved applications. In the last quarter though, a significant flow of new requests made it impossible to keep the pace. This implies that the outlook for the first months of 2008 already indicates an extremely busy schedule.

Considering the numerous policy areas falling within the scope of internal market, intense and regular contacts have been ensured between TAIEX and the concerned Commission services. This has allowed the good and coherent matching of beneficiary countries' requests with the policy lines of the European institutions. The use of officials of the Member States administrations - that also in 2007 provided the overwhelming majority of experts used in internal market related TAIEX activities - has contributed to the dynamic activation of a "free movement" of best practices and know-how.

As for the sectoral distribution of activities, it is worth underlining how all the main areas have been covered. Certain subjects are of interest to all TAIEX beneficiaries alike.

For instance, seminars on the new REACH legislation have been organised in Hungary and in Croatia, but also in Russia, while two multi-country workshops held in Prague and Bratislava brought together ten new Member States to discuss the same issue.

Similarly, occupational health and safety were the subjects of events in Serbia, Turkey, Czech Republic and Croatia (both single- and multi-country), and "rules of origin" were examined in Montenegro, in Serbia, in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), in Brussels and Bucharest (study visit of officials from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and in Lisbon (study visit of Turkish officials).



"Impact of EU Acquis on Sport" Kiev, Ukraine. 27 november 2007.

In the area of free movement of persons, events focused on mutual recognition of diplomas, on the harmonisation of qualifications in higher education, on the drafting of EU compatible legislation on aliens as well as on the regulatory impact of EU legislation on sports (seminars in Bulgaria, Serbia and Ukraine).

A significant quota of activities has been dedicated to the free movement of goods, in a large variety of subsubjects. The scope of the legislation in this field was reflected by the technicality of the topics of many events: from the directives on pressure equipments to those of the "new approach", from medical devices to detergents and cosmetics, from the standards on personal protective equipment to those on low voltage appliances. Since customs legislation can strongly influence the free movement of goods, many seminars, expertises and study visits have been organised in this area, on tariffs and on related trade mechanisms.

Besides the foreseeable attention for the new specific Service directive, a wide interest continued to be shown for many aspects of free movement of services. The norms regulating e-commerce, public procurement, insurance and the pertinent aspects of competition policy, have been popular subjects for TAIEX applications and events. The same can be said for Intellectual property rights, trade marks and copyrights.

Virtually all beneficiary countries have also marked their interest to learn more about the EU acquis on free movement of capital. Financial markets, banking and accounting standards, financial control and auditing have all been discussed at events throughout Europe.

Important areas of interest for TAIEX in 2007 have been also social policy and consumer protection. Many countries have submitted applications on these topics and the corresponding number of organised activities has been significant, both single country events and multi-country seminars. "The event was useful and fruitful personally for me and, I believe for all the participants. My view about the seminar is very positive. I would be glad if I can get more detailed understanding about the EU procurement law".

Participant at "Seminar on Public Procurement" (INT MARKT), 21-22 may 2007, Brussels, Belgium

Agriculture

The sector traditionally covers a wide range of topics related to agriculture, veterinary and food safety as well as phytosanitary sector.

In the course of 2007 the new Member States requested assistance mainly related to the implementation and enforcement of the legislation. With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, intensified assistance has been provided in the field of veterinary controls on the external borders of EU and animal diseases such as Classical Swine Fever (CSF).

The Candidate Countries were mostly interested in receiving assistance on the transposition of the EU legislation and further understanding its requirements. Priorities for them were set up on the basis of the screening outcome finalised in 2006.

A big step forward was taken in the Western Balkans countries by means of strengthening the cooperation among them in the field of animal diseases.

European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries and Russia took part in various initial multi-country events and bilateral activities.

Agriculture

In the agricultural sector, emphasis was put on the implementation and enforcement of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the new Member States. Most study visits and expert missions focused on the market management of sugar, fruit and vegetable and wine sectors in line with the new CAP reform. TAIEX assistance also covered trade mechanisms, organic farming, rural development and state aids in agriculture. In close cooperation with Eurostat, a programme of assistance has been continued in the domain of agricultural statistics with the aim to strengthen the capacity of the Western Balkans region in this field, on the basis of the findings of the last year's assessment missions.

The TAIEX instrument has also strengthened its collaboration with the Joint Research Centre by facilitating the participation of Western Balkan experts in jointly organised events covering specific technical issues in the agriculture and research sectors.

Several events were devoted to food quality topics such as traceability, labelling and EU Geographical Indications. In addition, a series of practical trainings for inspectors from the new Member States dealing with beef carcass classification were organised.

Veterinary and Food Safety

The newly adopted Animal Health Strategy in 2007 emphasized the close connections of animal health, animal welfare and food safety. Animal health is an important issue not only for animals but also for humans especially regarding diseases that are easily transmissible to humans. Topics such as Avian Influenza were one of the priorities in all beneficiary countries. Several seminars and simulation exercises on Classical Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease have been organized. Since Bluetongue disease became a new risk for all EU countries, TAIEX has been active in following the latest developments in close cooperation with the Commission services and other institutional partners such as the Institute in Teramo in Italy. Furthermore, several seminars aimed to provide information concerning the EU regulations and directives in the field of the animal welfare were organised.





TAIEX will contribute to the organisation of an in-depth presentation of a new Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 to many of its beneficiaries.

In food and feed safety, assistance was focused on the new hygiene package, residua control, food contaminants and zoonoses. The situation concerning the feed sector was assessed in detail by assessment missions in all three Candidate Countries.

TAIEX has continued intensive cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Seminars on the Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe with a high number of participants were organized in Moldova, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

Phytosanitary

Several events 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.

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. Within this framework, the TAIEX assistance was given to support the beneficiary countries with the approximation and enforcement of export obligations. "In my opinion, this was the best TAIEX event in which I took part. Speakers were very competent, and "audience friendly". Presentations were clear and rich with interesting cases and comparative best practices".

Participant at the "Seminar on Data protection under the Third Pillar: EU Information Systems and the Protection of Individual Rights" (JLS) 29-30 march 2007, Zagreb, Croatia





Freedom, Security and Justice



Workshop on "Vehicle identification and combating organised vehicle crime" 26-30 november 2007, Pristina.

One of the fundamental objectives of the European Union is to offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders.

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, i.e. 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 continues to

increase and is strengthening the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice (JLS). TAIEX has also increased assistance in this field. In 2007, 300 events were organised 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 etc.

At least half of all events (related also to the training of the judiciary in European law issues) were for the benefit of the new Member States. Assistance focused on the preparation to join the Schengen area, the implementing agreements, SIS, SIRENE, the uniform Schengen visa and police-cooperation in the Schengen area. Border control assistance was given in the area of electronic passports, false documents and document security in general.

Another focus was related to effective police-cooperation across the borders and to the training of national criminal police and law-enforcement agencies.

"I consider this event an excellent opportunity for the water resources professionals to disseminate their ideas, to share their own experiences regarding the WFD implementation process and other European directives. The meeting achieved my expectations from all points of view and I congratulate the organizers for this".

Participant at the "Seminar on Environment - Measures for Reducing the Chemical and Hydro Morphological Pressures in the River Basin"(RTP), 2-3 july 2007, Targu Mures, Romania



The Estonian Police participated among others in the workshops on management of negotiations in crisis situations involving police intervention, on the maintenance of public order during football events, on stolen vessels, on civil-military cooperation in crisis situations. The Polish police was assisted by the Belgian police on how to fight vehicle crime. The Czech Republic requested assistance for its law-enforcement agencies in the area of trafficking in human beings, the confiscation of proceeds of crime, the fight against right-wing extremism and on civil protection. Latvian officials received expertise for an efficient witness protection system. Lithuania participated in workshops on international police-cooperation and common centres, on the circulation of precursors and on the freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime.

All three Baltic countries attended workshops on computer-related crime and on negotiating in crisis situations.

Three training events on how to prepare the Presidency of the EU took place in Slovenia. The Czech Republic officials participated in a specific seminar on preparation of their Presidency in JLS matters.

A visit to EUROJUST and EUROPOL was organised for a large group of Czech judges and prosecutors.

Numerous events were organised for the judiciary on judicial cooperation in civil law matters and on the insolvency directive, on custody of children, on criminal law issues, on customs law, on cross border cooperation in civil law.

Around 100 prosecutors from all the Member States and other beneficiary countries gathered in a seminar in Dresden on the fight against organised crime. Examples of successful investigations into terrorist networks were given by top prosecutors. Multicountry events for police officials touched upon the subject of undercover activities, on police specific search activities and on combating financial crime.

Two new series of workshops were developed and offered to all beneficiary Member States. The workshop on freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime took place in Poland, Latvia, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. Another seminar concerned the Treaty of Prüm and took place in several Member States.

Many workshops and study visits were organised for the benefit of Bulgaria and Romania in field of the Schengen acquis, the Schengen facility, the establishment of a SIRENE office, 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 CAP, VAT fraud and irregularity reporting.

In Croatia 15 workshops were organised for judges on various issues of EC law, on the four freedoms of the internal market, social policy, intellectual property rights, environment, criminal and civil law. Officials of the Ministry of Interior and the police were trained on the Schengen acquis and issues of external borders.

Turkish judges discussed issues of the European Convention on Human Rights and received assistance in the area of legal aid, freedom of expression, alternative dispute resettlement in criminal matters, cross examination and investigation techniques, legal questions related to child abduction and on how to deal with children under probation.

Two major seminars were related to the political criteria. Trade union rights and freedom of assembly and association were the subjects of discussion. Assistance to Turkey also focused on police matters. Seminars covered topics such as the use of force by the police,



Workshop on "Identification in manslaughter and homicide - cross-border cooperation" 19-21 november 2007, Tallinn.

witness protection, financial investigations, confiscation of the proceeds of crime and on cyber crime and money laundering. Support was also given in relation to the cooperation with EUROPOL as well as in the area of travel documents, integrated border management and information about the Schengen acquis. A seminar for about 150 Turkish police officials was organised in Ankara together with OLAF on money forgery and specifically on counterfeiting of the Euro.

Demand for assistance from the countries of the Western Balkans in the area of JLS was limited and will be the subject of particular attention in 2008. Albania participated in a seminar organised together with EUROPOL on the confiscation of the proceeds of crime. Bosnia Herzegovina participated in workshops on illegal migration and drug abuse. Montenegro had a workshop on the freezing of assets. Serbia requested assistance in the area of asylum, the visa regime, seizure of property obtained by smugglers and criminal intelligence matters in relation to the border police. Kosovo (UNSCR1244) participated in workshops on fighting corruption, money laundering and on stolen vehicle identification.

Several multi-country regional seminars were initiated by the services of the European Commission. They covered cooperation on border management, police cooperation, drug trafficking, community policing, trafficking in human beings and legal issues for police and customs cross-border cooperation. The number of requests from ENP partner countries and Russia in the area of Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) was still limited. Prosecutors from Israel were given the opportunity to discuss extradition issues with the prosecutors at EUROJUST. A workshop on how to better fight corruption was organised for Jordan. Georgia received assistance in the area of arbitration.

A major conference in Tbilisi was organised on international drug trafficking and the fight against terrorism. Moldova was an active partner with numerous seminars taking place on fighting corruption in the judiciary, anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism, reforming the police services and on legal issues related to natural persons. In Ukraine, TAIEX organised workshops on data protection, vehicle crime and migration.

In cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Interior a first seminar on the subject of trafficking in human beings took place in Brussels. It provided the occasion for a fruitful exchange of experiences between the experts from Russia and the police of the Member States as well as the representatives of the NGO's present. "Thanks TAIEX for the opportunity to take part in this well organised conference. It took us closer to each other; it was very useful to improve the effective cooperation with other foreign associates".

Participant at "Workshop on police specific search activities"(JLS), 16-18 october 2007, Prague, Czech Republic

Environment, Energy and Transport

These sectors combine a number of activities in support of transposing, implementing and enforcing the relevant EU legislation and policies. TAIEX assistance in these three areas totalled around 150 events. Assistance to capacity building under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and cooperation with Russia continued, as these countries hosted some 10 events (4 in Moldova, 3 in Israel, 2 in Ukraine and 1 in Russia). Furthermore, civil servants from Morocco and Egypt participated in study visits in the Member States in the fields of environment and energy.

Transport

Some 50 events were organised, making up one third of the total number of "infrastructure" events organised throughout the year. Sectors covered included aviation, road, rail and maritime transport. Within these areas of activity there were notably jointlyprogrammed actions co-organised with partners such as the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the Directorate General for Energy and Transport and other partners. In particular, TAIEX supported a number of follow-up missions regarding the European Common Aviation Area (ECAA) agreement, as well as 6 meetings concerning the South East Europe _ Functional Airspace Approach. Many events were also organised in the area of rail transport: a multi-country workshop on railway safety and operability in Poland, a multi-country workshop on the improvement of the service to rail passenger in Hungary and a multi-country workshop on rail infrastructure in Poland. Aviation security was covered through workshops (notably one multi-country workshop held in Austria) and several expert missions. As regards road

transport, safe road engineering was an important subject of two multi-country workshops (in Lithuania and in the former Yuqoslav Republic of Macedonia). Social legislation in road transport was the subject of workshops in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Two workshops on intelligent transport systems took place in Israel. Maritime transport was covered through the organisation of a seminar in Turkey and civil servants from Bulgaria took part in a study visit in Finland.

Energy

17 actions were organised, making up 11% of the total number of infrastructure events organised throughout the year. Actions were organised to promote energy policy, notably through a high level multi-country conference in Turkey. Energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy was the subject of workshops in Moldova and Ukraine and of an expert mission in Israel. A workshop on energy demand was organised in Turkey and an expert mission on energy taxation took place in Croatia. A multi-country workshop entitled "Humanity of Energy/Energy of Humanity" was organised in Hungary.

Environment

Some 80 actions were organised making up just over half of the total number of infrastructure events organised throughout the year. The management of waste was a particularly important area of activity: workshops on waste shipment were organised in 3 beneficiary countries, workshops on landfill of waste were organised in 6 beneficiary countries, multi-country workshops on waste from extractive industry were held in the Czech Republic and in Romania. Other topics such as waste in electrical and electronic equipment were dealt with in Slovakia and Bulgaria. The management of water was also a popular area covered in 2007, numerous workshops on urban waste water, water modelling, drinking water were organised. The eco-management and audit schemes and environmental noise legislation were subjects of several workshops in Cyprus and Turkey.





Regional Training Programme

The Regional Training Programme (RTP) aims to ensure the smooth continuation between the three phases of the accession process: transposition, implementation, and enforcement of the acquis communautaire. By focusing its assistance at the regional and local level, RTP fosters knowledge of the acquis, in order to facilitate the correct implementation and enforcement of EU legislation.

The Regional Training Programme is based on the concept of "train the trainers," where selected public officials from the countries concerned are further trained both on content, in their respective area of the acquis' expertise, as well as in event organisation

methodologies. At the end of the training cycle, they become RTP experts and have the exclusive right to initiate RTP assistance in the form of seminars and workshops. The RTP experts have the role to identify particular EU acquis related challenges in their field of competence and address them in seminar and workshops with the help of co-

national and Member States experts. In this sense the RTP experts act as the "eyes and ears" of the programme, which allows RTP to offer

tailored assistance on the real needs of each region.

During 2007, beneficiary Member States continued to manifest a strong interest for the Regional Training Programme, which led to the organisation of a record number of RTP events across their regions. Bulgaria and Romania also continued to show a high interest for this kind of assistance, following their accession at the beginning of the year. They accounted for over a third of the total RTP events. Finally, the first events organised by RTP for the Turkish Cypriot community covered issues on environment and food safety.

As in previous years, environment and food safety subjects made up the majority of the RTP events. The topics covered on environment included air quality, biodiversity, nature protection, waste and water management. In the field of food safety regional trainings on hygiene package, hazard analysis and critical control points, food additives, animal welfare and labelling were organised.

In addition, the subjects of consumer protection, public procurement and social policy continued to be regularly covered.

Launching of RTP in Croatia & Turkey

The accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey started in 2005. Following the completion of the screening process, it was agreed that the chapter areas of environment policy and food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy had reached a sufficient degree of transposition into the national legislation to justify the extension of RTP to Croatia and Turkey.

The first step was to initiate an extensive consultation with the national administration, which included the appointment of a 'National Focal Point' in the ministry responsible for coordinating the negotiations in the given chapter areas. The outcome of this discussion was the agreement to target 8-10 counties in Croatia and 26 provinces in Turkey for the initial launch of RTP in these two Candidate Countries. The next step was to select officials employed in public authorities at the regional level, who would be offered training that would allow them to become RTP experts and proceed to organise seminars and workshops in their respective regions with the support of TAIEX.



Regional Training Programme Experts on Environment from Croatia and Turkey." 12-16 november 2007, Brussels.

The first training stages (stage 1 & 2) took place in November 2007 in Brussels. The selected RTP experts were given a comprehensive overview of the key EU legislation in their chapter area of expertise. This training was offered mainly by the respective services of the European Commission. The next training stage foreseen is for all RTP Experts to attend a study visit in a Member State. This is planned to take place in early spring of 2008.

Following the completion of all training stages it is envisaged that the first RTP events will be organised from Rijeka to Dubrovnik in Croatia and from Diyarbakir to Izmir in Turkey, by mid 2008.

Translation



The TAIEX instrument has traditionally provided assistance to the beneficiary countries that engaged in the translation of the acquis communautaire into their languages. Such assistance includes support for the establishment of Translation Coordination Units (TCUs) in the countries themselves, as well as for the cooperation and sharing of best practices among all stakeholders. Activities performed by the TCUs relate mainly to the translation of EU primary legislation (namely the Treaties), but also of the large volume of secondary legislation (i.e. directives, regulations and decisions representing around 100,000 Official Journal pages), as well as agreements, court judgements, etc.

Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in January 2007, TAIEX activities in this area focussed exclusively on the candidate countries and the other Western Balkans beneficiaries. The TAIEX CCVista database, created as a repository of translations, and whose software has been constantly updated to meet specific requirements, has continued to be uploaded with new translations from Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. By the end of the year, CCVista database contained more than 5,000 translated EU acts from Croatia and over 2,000 from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This represents over 55,000 OJ pages in the case of Croatia and almost 30,000 OJ pages in the case of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For the Western Balkans in general, the main challenge has been to encourage regional cooperation and mutual assistance. In this framework, during a Round Table on the translation of the acquis, organised in September 2007, a debate was launched on the opportunities to set up joint Translation Coordination Units for countries sharing the same language. "I think the event was well-organised. It was very fruitful for my professional development. I'm sure that the gained knowledge I'll apply in my work. The facilitators were excellent prepared. I would like to express my gratitude to all who organised the event. Look forward to participating in other TAIEX events".

Participant at the "Seminar on Maintenance of public order at sport events" (JLS), 5 june 2007, Tallin, Estonia

TAIEX Databases

TAIEX offers access to a range of databases. Some have been available for many 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 are very 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.

In November 2007 a new important feature was introduced: the possibility to download updates through a webservice. This improvement marked the end of the burdensome burning and exchanging of CDRoms. A more rapid, user-friendly and efficient updating of the databases run in the beneficiary countries is now possible.

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.

Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1st January 2007, the database is currently being used by the Candidate Countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and by other Western Balkan countries. been and are subject to repeated modifications. VetLex offers to password owners 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.

JurisVista Database

The Institution Building Unit also manages the JuristVista 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 Member State universities and others such as law firms.

In the autumn of 2007 the database was further enriched with a series of previously missing texts.

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 "I found all three speakers to be excellent and very knowledgeable, well prepared and capable of getting their message across to an audience whose mother tongue was not English".

> Participant at "Activities of Notified Bodies in the fields of the PED and SPV Directives", 3-4 september 2007, Jerusalem, Israel

Expert Database, Expert Stock Exchange and Evaluation

TAIEX Expert Database (ED) represents a key-instrument 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 involved in a large number of fields of the EU legislation body and willing to participate in TAIEX activities.

In 2007 more than 3.800 experts were present in the ED, a significant increase in comparison with 2006 (with around 2.600 public officials signed in). Additionally, more than 550 institutional contact points that play a coordination role within individual ministries of the Member States have been added into 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://taiex.ec.europa.eu/ExpertDatab ase. Once registered, every expert will be able to update her/his 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 numerous events arranged every year by TAIEX, it is important to properly evaluate the expertise delivered by TAIEX experts in order to ensure high quality on a continuous basis. After every event a message is sent to all the participants to assess the overall organisation and also the quality of its content.

So far, 95% 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 complement to 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.



TAIEX Website

The TAIEX website *(http://taiex.ec. europa.eu/)* is a direct and user-friendly instrument to get more information on TAIEX operations. It also allows the visitor to access the TAIEX databases: Expert Database, Expert Stock Exchange, Progress, CCVista, JurisVista, Avis, Vetlex and Phytolex, to apply for a TAIEX event (reserved only for beneficiary countries) and to follow the progress of Candidate Countries in the legislative approximation process. The preparation of a new TAIEX website (due in first half of 2008) is currently

under way with the aim of creating an even better and more rapid interface on all the range of TAIEX operations and information tools.



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

Financial Issues: Finance and Contracts

The European Commission has concluded a delegation agreement with the German company "Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit" (GTZ), in consortium with the Belgian company "BCD" (former TQ3 Travel solution), 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 agreement that was concluded in May 2005 covers a total period of 36 months ending in June 2008.

Several Commission Financing Decisions were adopted in 2007 to ensure the continued financing of the operation. They consisted of € 6,83 million from the Transition Facility for Bulgaria and Romania, € 9,28 million from the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and € 5,0 million from the Pre-Accession Assistance Funds for Kosovo (UNSCR 1244).

Furthermore a financing decision was made under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) for a total budget of € 3,0 million equally allocated between Southern and Eastern partner countries of the ENPI. The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is planned to provide multi-annual funding over the coming years. Further funding is also in the pipeline for the benefit of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries and Russia.

In 2007, the total budget for the TAIEX operation amounted to \notin 21, 3 million as compared to \notin 24, 1 million in 2005 and \notin 19, 1 million in 2006.



As a general comment I felt that the seminar was a very good initiative and from the opening remarks I understood that this was the first seminar of this nature on the subject matter. The idea of case studies was a great idea, giving practical ideas of how to address gender inequalities and discrimination is an excellent way of putting theory into practice. Sharing country experiences, good practices, and how countries have dealt with similar challenges in promoting gender equality and addressing discrimination is a good formula.

> Participant of the seminar on "Equal Opportunities and Gender Equality" (INT MARKT), 26-27 november 2007, Brussels, Belgium

During 2007 TAIEX organised several seminars and workshops on Anti-Corruption measures, mainly in Romania and Croatia, but also in Jordan. Mr Bryane Michel who was engaged for this training session has participated in several of the seminars on how to fight corruption. Here his view of the training session in Romania.

Sharing EU Best Practice with Romanian Law Enforcement Agencies

By Bryane Michael, Senior Public Sector Management Specialist

In the autumn of 2007, TAIEX organised four anti-corruption workshops in Bucharest. Public prosecutors, staff from police, customs and tax authorities from Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, and their EU countries presented videos and case studies – showing how they detect and prosecute corruption in their home countries. Countering with their own laws, cases and EU-sponsored projects, officials from the Romanian National Anticorruption Department (in the Prosecutors' Office), the National Agency of Civil Servants, judges, police officers and customs officials provided their unique contribution to on-going practitioner debate about the most effective ways to fight corruption.

Several concrete case studies provided practical hands-on experience that will help Romanian law enforcement agencies enforce the EU framework against corruption. In one case, a British official showed video footage from a "sting" against a corrupt officer. In another case study, an EU expert helped Romanian law enforcement agencies protect a vulnerable witness who could provide key evidence in a customs fraud case involving the payment of bribes by foreign businessmen. In a third case, an expert from the Netherlands showed how European-level networks can help Romanian law enforcement agencies track the dirty money often associated with corrupt transactions.

Romanian law enforcement officials also tackled the difficult questions related to public information, overcoming the negative images around its anti-corruption efforts and learned how to highlight their successes. According to a World Bank financed Diagnostic Survey of Corruption in Romania, more than 50% of 1,700 Romanian respondents thought that "all or almost all officials in [various law enforcement agencies] are corrupt." Such sentiments have been echoed by the European Commission, in its progress report about corruption in Romania. In order to overcome negative public perceptions of Romanian law enforcement, the TAIEX seminars have also been providing examples from EU member states about how to overcome negative perceptions by engaging in public relations and "social marketing."

Romania has joined the European Union, both in spirit and in practice. The TAIEX workshops continue to provide hands-on advice from police, customs officials and legal experts from around Europe to countries such as Romania, as they tackle corruption.

Combating organised vehicle crime

TAIEX Training in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) In the right place at the right time

In November 2007 the TAIEX instrument organised a training event on vehicle identification and combating organized vehicle crime in cooperation with Europol for the benefit of the Police in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). The training event was aimed to provide theoretical and practical information on the use of the European Vehicle Identification Database (EuVID). Apart from practical case studies, a "live" traffic control was included in the program.

In the afternoon of the training day, 30 police officers left the Kosovo Police Service School in Vushtrri and took their position at one of the biggest streets of the town. To show the participants how the database works in practise, a real traffic control was set up. Several cars were stopped, ownership papers and numbers of the engines were cross-checked with the EuVID.

Suddenly the trainers and the participants got a hit - a blue VW Golf was registered in the data base. The representatives of Europol immediately checked with the information in the Schengen Information System, and they found out that the Golf was stolen in Germany in 2003. The car was confiscated straight away and sent back to Germany.







Workshop on "Vehicle identification and combating organised vehicule crime" 26-30 November 2007, Pristina0.

Summary - Key Statistics

2007

Total number of Events

1105

2003 2004 2005 2006

1008

1500

1200

900

600

300

0

45000 1322 1282 36000 28721 27000 22778 18000

227700 22778 18000 9000

2005 2006 2007

2003 2004

41802

35685 36972

Total number of Participants

Total number of Experts



Total number of Participants per country (in 2007) - BENEFICIARY MEMBER STATES

0

Cyprus





Czech Republic



Malta

Lithuania



Estonia



Poland



28

Hungary



Latvia



Slovakia



Slovenia



Bulgaria



Romania



2003 **2**004 **2**005 **2**006 **2**007

Total 2003	20.741
Total 2004	23.979
Total 2005	31.840
Total 2006	26.687
Total 2007	21.674

Total number of Participants per country - CANDIDATE COUNTRIES



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

Albania





58

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Montenegro



774

Serbia and Montenegro

Kosovo (UNSCR1244)



1518

Total 2005	2.998
Total 2006	2.782
Total 2007	2.909



Total number of Participants per country - TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY





32

Annual breakdown of assistance per sector

187

134

227

154

298

1282

148

134

Total 2007

Agriculture

JHA

INFRA Others

Assistance to CC

Regional Training Program

Internal Market

Number of events according to host/location - MEMBER STATES



Belgium



Denmark





- Beneficiary Member States
- **Candidate Countries**
- Potential Candidate Countries and Territories
- ENPI countries



Portugal



Spain







3

4 3

Origin of requests according to country

Ireland



European Commission



France



Germany



Greece



Italy



Finland



Sweden



TAIEX (Brussels)



The Netherlands



United Kingdom



Total 2003	425
Total 2004	403
Total 2005	402
Total 2006	312
Total 2007	384

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

Cyprus





Total 2003	535
Total 2004	581
Total 2005	677
Total 2006	572
Total 2007	451
	Total 2004 Total 2005 Total 2006

Czech Republic



Poland

Slovakia

Slovenia

Bulgaria



41

45

47

48 48

41 31

42

78

81

139

127

28 31

31

Estonia



Hungary



Latvia



Lithuania



Romania



Number of events according to host/location - CANDIDATE COUNTRIES



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



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





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European Commission TAIEX Activity Report 2007

Brussels: European Commission, Enlargement Directorate-General 2007 21 x 29,7 cm - NI-AC-08-001-EN-C ISBN 92-79-08208-5 The Institution Building unit (IBU) of the European Commission is responsible for the TAIEX Instrument, Twinning and SIGMA. To know more about us:

VISIT THE INSTITUTION BUILDING WEBSITE

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/institution_building/index_en.htm

VISIT THE TAIEX WEBSITE

http://taiex.ec.europa.eu

VISIT THE TWINNING WEBSITE

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

or CONTACT THE IBU DIRECTLY

Tel.: + 32 2 296 73 07 Fax: + 32 2 296 76 94 elarg-taiex@ec.europa.eu or 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/

To know more about Enlargement of the EU:

VISIT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ENLARGEMENT WEBSITE:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/

or **CALL EUROPE DIRECT FROM ANYWHERE IN THE EU**: Tel.: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11





