

TWINNING NEWS No. 52



17 February 2014

PER DIEMS EuropeAid, which sets per diem rates to be used in the framework of European Commission funded external aid, is in the process of re-thinking the pertinent methodology. Until further notice, the rates in use since July 2013 remain applicable.

New management of Unit D2

As of 1st January 2014, Daniel Hachez has taken up duties as Head of the Institution Building Unit – TAIEX, Twinning of Directorate General (DG) Enlargement. Having lead the Unit Finance & Contracts of our DG for many years, Daniel is



Daniel Hachez

indeed familiar with the activities and the mission his new Unit.

Changes in the Twinning Coordination Team

The Twinning Team has also witnessed some changes with Raluca Moldovan joining on 15 November last year. More recently, we welcomed the arrival of Aline



Raluca
Moldovan

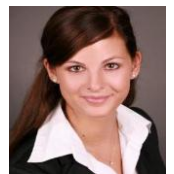
Krugler, a French stagiaire who joined



Aline Krugler

the Team for a six-month internship. Shortly before Aline started, we had said goodbye to Kerstin Schrader,

seconded from the German Administration also for an internship in the Twinning Team (September- December 2013).



Kerstin Schrader

IBU missions in the Western Balkans

In order to present directly to all local Twinning stakeholders the changes brought about by the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation in 2013, Paolo Gozzi carried out missions to Pristina, Skopje and Sarajevo at the end of November 2013 and to Tirana in January 2014. These missions were a good opportunity to discuss also the new flexibility introduced in Twinning procedures and to have an open and useful dialogue with colleagues, Resident Twinning Advisers (RTAs) and local officials. On the occasion of his presence in Pristina, Paolo intervened at the closing ceremony of a Twinning project implemented by Italy and France for the benefit of the Ministry of Environment.



Final Conference: "Results and achievements of the Twinning Project- Future challenges of Environmental Protection in Kosovo*", with the presence of Mr. Shpetim Rudi – Deputy Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, November 2013

RTAs training and possibility for the beneficiary country project leaders (BC PL) to attend

The 52nd Basic Training course for Resident Twinning Advisers is planned for 6 and 7 March 2014. If the opportunity to attend (at their own costs) had already been offered to MS PL, for the first time now also BC Project Leaders will be able to attend the training, together with the Member State (MS) RTA of the same project. Costs for travel and per diems can be financed by the budget of the project as for the MS RTA. Attendance of the BC PL cannot be deputised to a third person, except the BC RTA Counterpart. The choice of the participant (BC PL or BC RTA Counterpart) should take into consideration the fact that the whole training is given in English and whoever is not fluent in that language should refrain from attending.

Participation of the BC PL or of the BC RTA Counterpart must be agreed with the Lead MS Project Leader, who will be responsible for the logistical arrangements of such participation and will include the corresponding costs in the budget according to the same provisions applicable to the MS RTA.

The participation of BC PL (or RTA Counterpart) can be budgeted only in Twinning contracts for which the Project Fiche has been circulated after 1 January 2013.

Some 25 participants are expected to participate to Training programed for March 2014 in Brussels.

Mandated Bodies Review 2013 and future approach

Following the periodic update of the list of Mandated Bodies carried out in 2013 with the fundamental support of MS National Contact Points, some adaptations to the principles governing the contribution of Mandated Body (MB) to the implementation of Twinning projects will be introduced in a new revision of the Manual. The purpose of these adaptations is to reinforce the sectorial specialisation of MB contributing to Twinning. In particular, this will imply that the sector or sectors in which a MB is authorised to contribute to the implementation of a Twinning Project are going to be specified in the list of MB published by the Commission.

Anticipating the introduction of these provisions in the Manual, as of January 2014 the attribution of Mandated Body status will be associated with the indication of the sector of competence.

More and more Twinning Review Missions (TRM)

The preparation for the regular implementation of Twinning Review Missions foreseen for Projects under the 2009 and 2012 Manuals is now reaching cruising speed. After the first TRM took place in Turkey in December 2010, more than 10 TRM took place already, namely for projects:

HR 06 IB OT 01	Strengthening the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
HR 07 IB OT 01	Health and Safety at Work
KS 08 IB JH 02	Legal education System reform
MK 07 IB EN 01	Institutional Strengthening of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)
MK 08 IB EN 01	Strengthening the central and local level capacities for environmental management in the area of air quality
MK 08 IB FI 02	Supporting the Process of Fiscal Decentralization through Strengthening the Capacities for Sound Financial Management and Internal Financial Control on Local and Central Level
MK 08 IB JH 01	Support to the Ombudsman
SR 06 IB FI 01	Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of International Economic Relations (MIER) in formulation, negotiation and implementation of trade policy and negotiation of trade agreements
TR 06 IB JH 05	Support to the Turkish National Police in the Enforcement of Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights
TR 06 IB JH 05	Support to the Turkish Police in the Enforcement of Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights
TR 08 IB JH 03	Strengthening the Investigation Capacity of Turkish National Police and Gendarmerie Against Organised Crime
TR 08 IB SO 01	Promoting Gender Equality in Working Life

We kindly remind the importance of receiving copy of the TRM report. It shall be addressed to the TAIEX Task manager with copy to the Brussels Twinning team elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu

Good Practices: Twinning Fiches – Experience required for RTAs and ST experts and Description of Activities

Twinning fiches submitted to Brussels HQ for circulation to MS sometimes contain experience requirements for the RTA and the short-term (ST) experts which appear to be highly ambitious. While proven competence and experience of the RTA and of key STE are fundamental for the successful implementation of a project, setting the bar very high can be counterproductive. On the one side MS could find difficult to identify suitable candidates, with the consequence that the call receives only a limited number of proposals. On the other, the risk could materialise of a "professionalization" of RTA, which is something that the Commission wants to avoid.

When drafting Twinning Fiches, it is important to pay due attention to this aspect and properly evaluate what can be considered reasonable experience. The Twinning Manual 2012 provides guidance on this issue, under section 2.2.2 - Qualification of RTAs *"To qualify for secondment, RTAs must have at least three years' experience in activities related to the implementation of the EU acquis in the area covered by the Twinning project fiche, to the pertinent legislative process or to other actions referred to by the Twinning project fiche covering their secondment."*

Also, in line with the Twinning Manual 2012, Twinning fiches do not need to list all activities in detail; it is more important to thoroughly define Mandatory results. This shall reduce length and simplify Twinning fiches while giving more freedom to MS' in preparing original proposals with specific methodologies. In turn, it would probably result in an increased differentiation amongst written proposals for which the most common criticism is that they are often a "copy paste" of the Twinning fiche and hence result in better quality.

Success story selected for Activity report 2013



Steering Committee meeting project HR 08 IB SPP 02
The Twinning Team Brussels requested EU Delegations and Central Financing and Contracting Entities (CFCEs) to propose a project to be mentioned as a "Twinning Success Story" in the 2013

Activity Report of the Institution Building Unit, to be released soon. We want to thank all colleagues for their contribution, since it was not easy to choose amongst the many very successful projects submitted. The "Beauty contest" was won by project "Enhancement of Capacity for Effective Management of EU Cohesion Policy Funds" implemented in Croatia by Lithuania with Hungary. This exercise allowed us to collect a number of project website links and other related links that we are pleased to share with you:

Twinning Project websites

<http://www.cta-twinning.eu/index.php/news>

<http://www.auv-ks.net/>

<http://twinningvet-ks.eu/>

<http://policedirectoratebih.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.shipemission.org/index.php?dil=ing>

<https://twitter.com/shipemissions>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Control-of-Ship-Sourced-Emissions-in-Turkey/182665848530325>

www.kzk.gov.mk/sa

<http://twinningvet-ks.eu/index.php>

Other Twinning related links

http://www.bmelv.de/DE/Ministerium/IntZusammenarbeit/Twinning/twinning_node.html

<http://www.mrrfeu.hr/default.aspx?id=866>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr0ZY YOJmG0>

Good Practices

If you have examples of "good practices" used in your project to share, please send your contribution (maximum 300 words) to the functional mailbox elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu.

Twinning Community Tool

The Twinning Community Tool (TCT) is based on Circa BC and provides a collaboration tool that allows users (from within and outside the Commission) to exchange files, comments and links on a unique platform.

The main purpose of TCT is to create a virtual network of Resident Twinning Advisers, National Contact Points, EU Delegations and other relevant stakeholders of Twinning.

If you belong to one of the above categories and wish to participate to the network, please send a mail with your name, role, organisation and a valid e-mail account to the address:

ELARG-TWINNING@ec.europa.eu

Frequently Asked Questions in Twinning Community Tool

There is a Frequently Asked Questions document in Twinning Community Tool platform that aims to help Twinning stakeholders to clarify usual questions on most common topics.

A broad range of questions are included, like RTA salary, RTA Assistant situation or visibility costs among many others. The document is available in the Library of the TCT.

The Registration process to access TCT is always opened to all Twinning stakeholders for projects in the IPA region. (See box above).

DG Enlargement

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Functional e-mail boxes:

elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu - for proposals sent by the National contact points for Twinning to the Twinning co-ordination team

elarg-twinning-stc@ec.europa.eu - for sending draft Twinning contracts and draft Twinning contract addenda to be examined by the Twinning steering committee

elarg-twinning-reports@ec.europa.eu - for sending all Twinning quarterly and final reports

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/twinning/>

Fax numbers of the Twinning Team:

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