



TWINNING NEWS No 32

BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER

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MONTENEGRO AND KOSOVO* **NEW TO TWINNING**

Phasing-in of the Delegations in the Western Balkans

New Delegations and New Tasks

The European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR), responsible for managing the CARDS programme in the Western Balkans, will end its activities on 31 December 2008. In Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo the Commission Delegations and Liaison Office will be responsible for running the CARDS projects. At the moment, the transfer from the EAR to the Delegations of the different CARDS projects is taking place, in order to be concluded by the end of the year.

In Skopje and Belgrade, this means a transfer of responsibilities to the existing Delegations. In Pristina this means a great increase in tasks and responsibilities for the European Commission Liaison Office, and in Podgorica this entailed the setting up of a brand new Commission Delegation. The Commission has committed itself to recruiting in delegations EAR staff with the correct qualifications and capabilities, thus ensuring professional continuity in the delivery of assistance.

The Twinning Coordination Team in DG Enlargement has been involved in video training sessions organised for the new colleagues in the Commission Delegations who will be responsible for CARDS and IPA Twinning projects.

First Twinning projects launched in Kosovo and Montenegro

New Twinning Beneficiaries

The new Delegation of the European Commission in Podgorica and the European Commission Liaison Office in Pristina organised this spring the selection procedures for the very first Twinning projects launched in Montenegro and Kosovo.

Kosovo

Twinning was successfully introduced in Kosovo. On 22 April, the first Twinning selection meetings took place in the EC Liaison Office in Kosovo. Four Twinning proposals concerning "Meeting EU Standards in Food Safety & Veterinary Services" from the Member States Italy, Denmark, Netherlands / Bulgaria and Germany / Lithuania were presented and discussed. The beneficiary administration, Kosovo's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), finally selected for this project the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Germany with the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania as junior partner. The drafting of the Twinning project is now underway.

For the second Twinning project that was launched in Kosovo under IPA 2007 in the field of the Border and Boundary Police, the selection procedure is almost finalised.

The number of Twinning projects programmed in Kosovo under IPA 2008 (see below) shows that Twinning has a brilliant future in Kosovo.

* Kosovo under UNSCR 1244

Best practices: Preparatory Meeting by the NCP

In light of the first Twinning projects launched in Kosovo, the Agency for European Integration (AEI) in close cooperation with the European Commission Liaison Office in Pristina, have organised several meetings with the beneficiaries of the projects. The purpose of these information meetings was to inform the officers directly involved on the main principles of the Twinning projects, the challenges they might face during the implementation phase as well as their duties and responsibilities. The AEI is the coordinating body from the Kosovo Government side and acts as the National Contact Point.

At the same time, considering that the programming of IPA 2009 will start during the month of July 2008, AEI is organising workshops involving other institutions that might benefit from Twinning projects. The aim is to inform them of such projects, building on the experience of the countries of the region in implementing Twinning projects and providing guidelines on making the applications and requests for benefiting from this specific instrument.

The Twinning Coordination Team strongly recommends the National Contact Points in the Beneficiary Countries to organise such information meetings for potential and effective beneficiary administrations.



European
Commission Liaison
Office in Pristina,
Kosovo

Montenegro

Although Montenegro has already seen a small number of CARDS Twinning projects, which are projects running simultaneously in Belgrade and Podgorica, the first projects designed for Montenegro as an independent state were launched by the new Commission Delegation this year. In December 2007 the Twinning Coordination Team in DG Enlargement circulated three Twinning fiches for Montenegro in the fields of Legal harmonisation, the Fight against organised crime and corruption and Justice Reform. The Delegation received many proposals, as much as seven for one of the fiches, and successfully organised the first selection meetings in May.

At the moment, the beneficiary administrations are finalising the selection procedure, and the notification letters will be sent out very soon.

After the success of these first Twinning selections, at least three more projects are expected to be circulated for Montenegro under the IPA 2008 programme (see below).

Forecast for IPA 2008 Twinning projects to be launched in Kosovo* and Montenegro

Kosovo:

Support to Rule of Law:

- Legal Education System Reform
- EU Standards for the Ministry of Justice
- Capacity Building for Readmission and Asylum

Ministry of Interior

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008

Public Finance Administration:

- Support to the Office of the Auditor General of Kosovo to meet EU standards

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008

Rural Development:

- Institutional Support to Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER ONE OF 2009

Support to Civil Aviation:

- Support for Kosovo's Participation in the European Common Aviation Area, Civil Aviation Regulatory Office

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008

Support to Health:

- Capacity Building of the Kosovo Medicines Agency
TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008

Montenegro:

Customs

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008 OR QUARTER ONE OF 2009

Rural Development

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008 OR QUARTER ONE OF 2009

Financial Markets

TO BE CIRCULATED DURING QUARTER FOUR OF 2008 OR QUARTER ONE OF 2009

Practical Advise Final Report Evaluation

For the Twinning coordinators and task managers in the Delegations and the CFCU's: Please find on the next page for your information a template for the evaluation of a final report to a Twinning project.

Finally, remember not to hesitate to contact the Twinning and SIGMA Coordination Team for information or questions on both institution building instruments:

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

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TWINNING

GUIDANCE ON EVALUATION OF THE FINAL REPORT

NOTE TO THE FILE

Final Report "XXX"

Twining Contract BC20XX/IB/XXX

From:

Date:

Assisting MS Partner:

BC beneficiary:

Budget:

Duration: XXX months (Notification XXXX)

Period: start – end of project

General objective

Contract/project fiche

Overall context

- Political developments, restructuring of beneficiary institution, appointment of key players
- Acquis implementation

Assessment

- Overall assessment
- Impact of the twinning
- Achievement of mandatory results, overall number of people trained in the various groups of beneficiaries, etc.
- Problems/ solutions/lessons, delays, co-financing, major modifications

NB: The evaluation of the final report should include a more analytical assessment (not only a summary of the activities). The description of the impact of the twinning should go beyond simply listing the results and point out the changes that have come about in the implementation capacity of the beneficiary. Particular attention should be given to any problems that arose during the implementation of the project: the evaluation should explain the causes; how problems were addressed; whether they were resolved, and if not, why not.

Components:

- Brief overview of outcome of components (not all activities in detail)
- Benchmarks and mandatory results achieved
- Special tools developed for implementation (web-site, newsletters etc)

Recommendations by the RTA

Conclusion:

- Cooperation between the partners
- Follow-up and sustainability of the results achieved (signature of memorandum of understanding, political decision taken, etc.), outstanding issues
- Identification of further developments needed in the sector

Recommendation: Approval of the final report