

TAIEX and Twinning Highlights

ANNUAL ACTIVITY
REPORT 2020

1470 experts and
9141 participants

92% satisfaction rate

#Team**Europe**



*Dear Friends of TAIEX and
Twinning,*

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 practise 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.

Happy Anniversary!


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.

Digital Leap

Taking TAIEX and Twinning online

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.

TAIEX numbers in 2020



1470
experts



9141
participants



92%
of participants rated TAIEX experts in 2020 as excellent or good

38%

green and digital transitions, connectivity

15%

farm to fork

Policy areas

23%

rule of law, migration and security

23%

stronger society and inclusive economy

42%

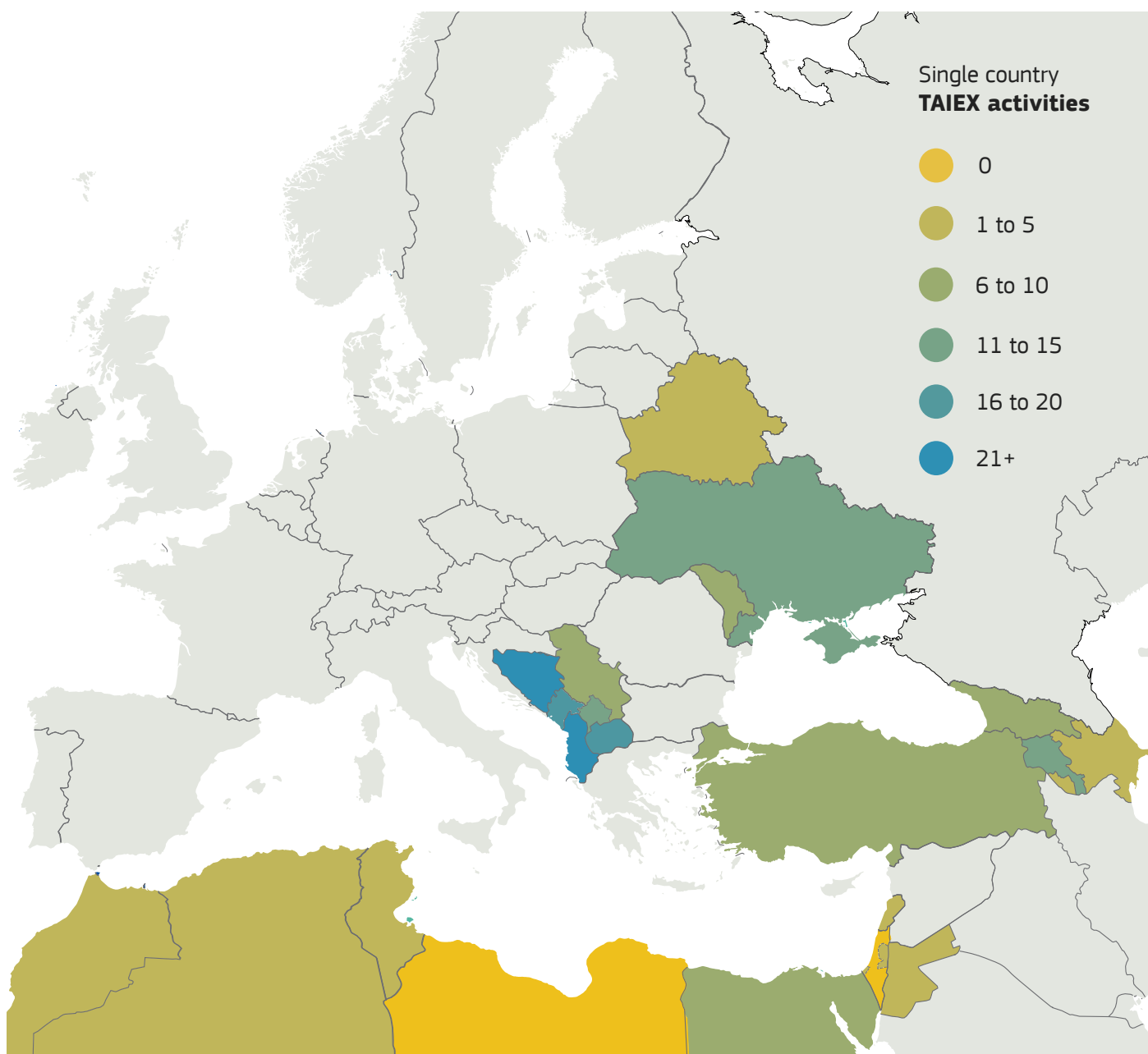
in other countries

58%

in enlargement and neighbourhood regions

TAIEX activities

TAIEX events in **enlargement** and **neighbourhood** regions



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 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.

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.



Expanding horizons



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-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-TCc online workshop on health protection and COVID-19 support

Turkish Cypriot community, 28 April-25 May 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-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.



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.



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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.

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.



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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.



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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.

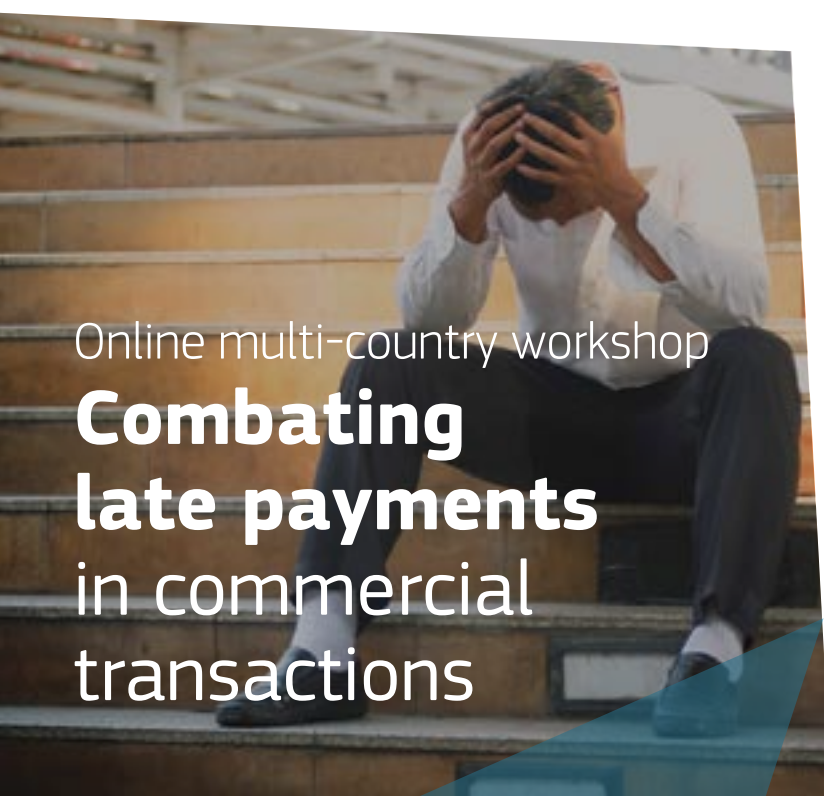
Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's
 Directorate-General for the Environment.
TAIEX-EIR online workshop on sustainable finance on 26 November 2020.



2020 TAIEX success stories

Stronger together as Team Europe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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.



Online multi-country workshop

Combating late payments in commercial transactions

WHEN

9-10 September 2020

WHERE

Western Balkans and Turkey

The pandemic brought many economies to a halt and put the prospects of small and medium-sized enterprises at risk. Identified as a key challenge for our partner countries, the TAIEX instrument was mobilized to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payments at a moment when many companies were struggling. Public sector experts from **Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy** and **Slovenia**, together with speakers from DG GROW, shared their experience on how alternative dispute measures and mediation, such as the use of an “SME Ombudsman”, could be used to alleviate the situation.

WHEN 25-26 June 2020

WHERE All enlargement countries

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.



Online flagship event
Innovative practices to prevent domestic violence in the context of COVID-19



Online flagship event
Security threats amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

WHEN 17-18 November 2020

WHERE All enlargement & neighbourhood countries

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.

WHEN

9-10 September 2020

WHERE

Armenia

This virtual expert mission provided advice and guidance to the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia on the EU legislation pertaining to road freight transport. Two public sector experts from **Poland** supported their Armenian counterparts in harmonising the regulatory framework of the transport sector under the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

Online expert mission

Harmonisation of international road freight regulations with EU requirements

WHEN

10 December 2020

WHERE

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine**, Tunisia and Turkey

Online multi-country workshop

Labour inspections in the Mediterranean region amidst COVID-19

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 **Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and Spain** 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.

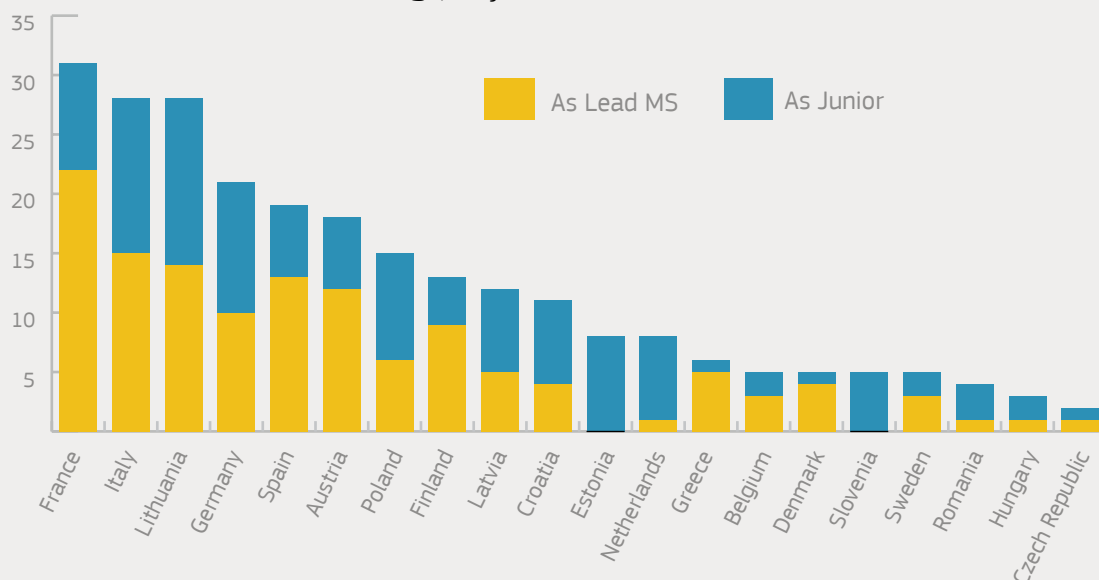
Twinning activities in 2020

Twinning goes global

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 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.

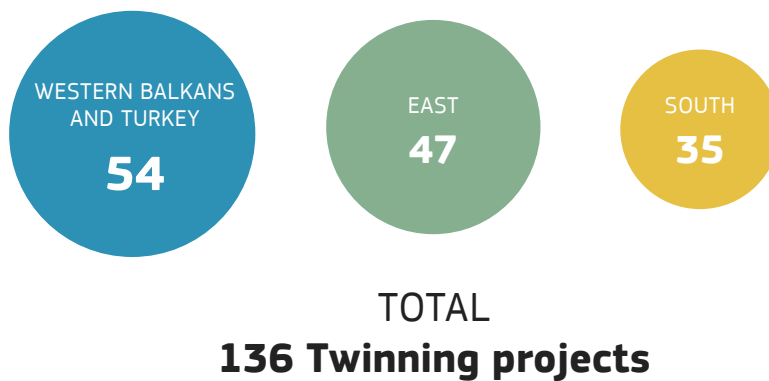
Member States participation in ongoing Twinning projects in 2020



Twinning 2020 per instrument



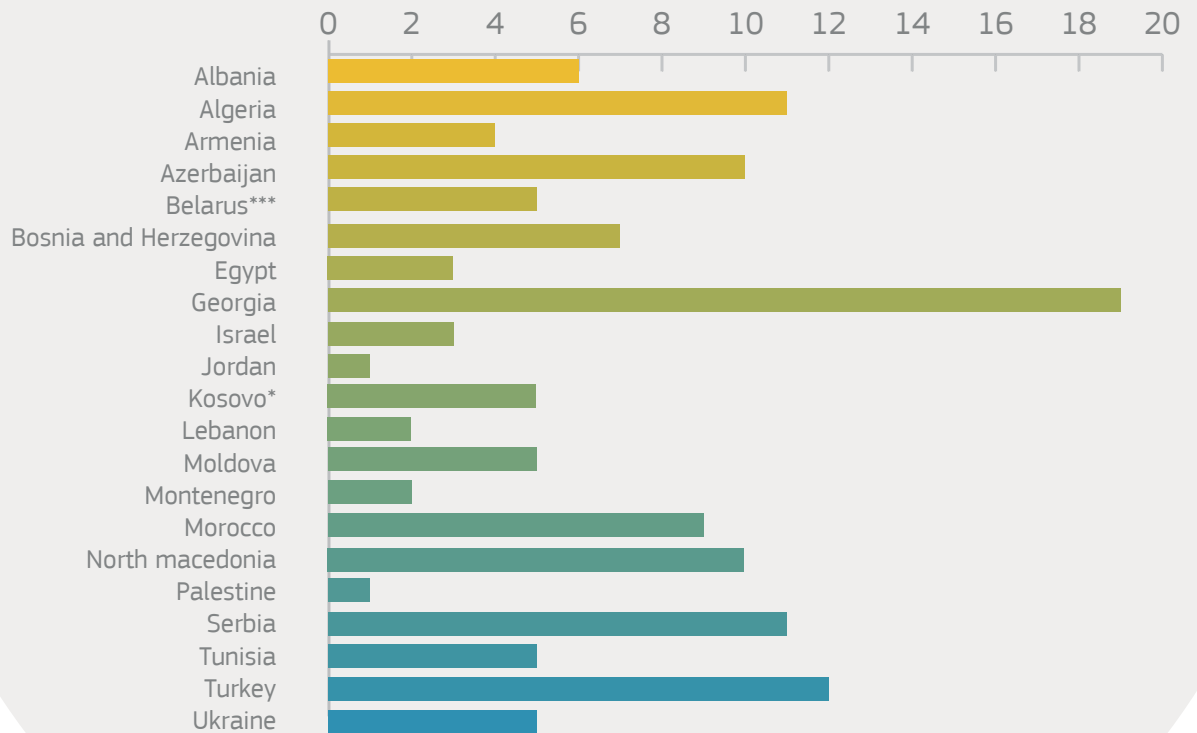
Ongoing Twinning projects 2020



How does it **work?**

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.

Ongoing Twinning projects per partner country

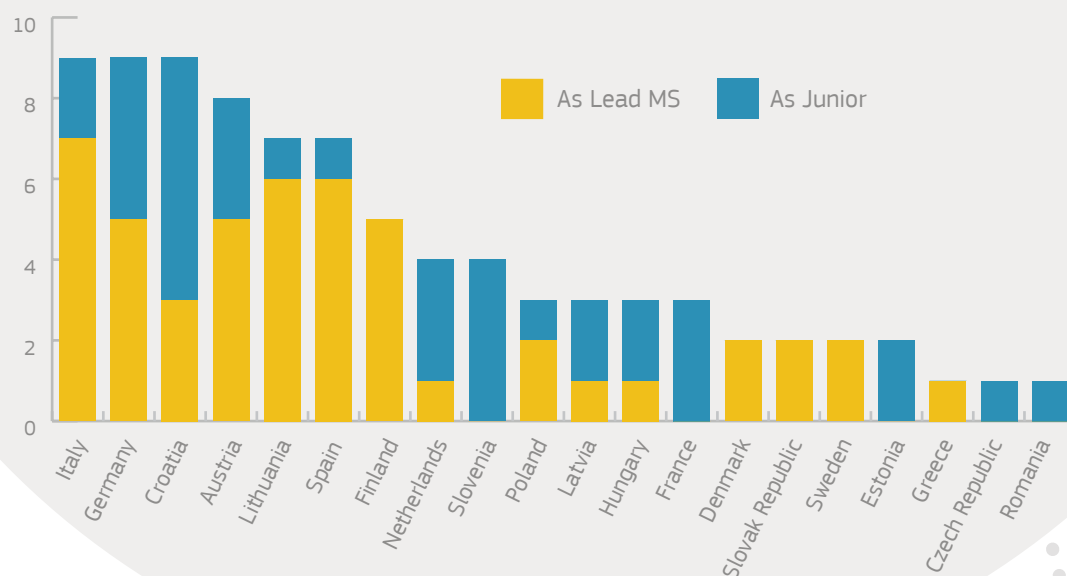


136 Twinning projects were ongoing in 2020. In 2020, the distribution between the enlargement and neighbourhood regions slightly changed in favour of the latter, with 60% of all Twinning projects taking place in the eastern and southern neighbourhood, and 40% among candidates and potential candidates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

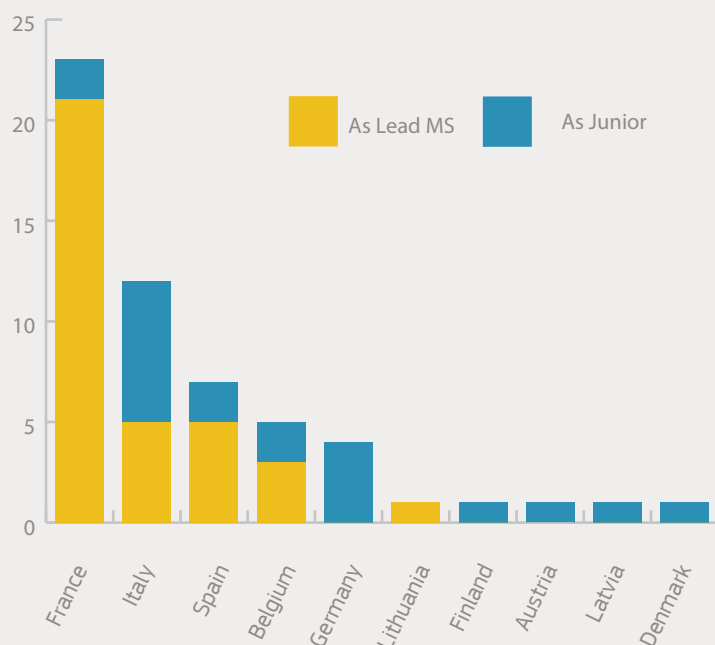
*** Following the October Council conclusions on Belarus (11660/20), the EU has recalibrated its assistance to the maximum extent away from supporting the central authorities. As a consequence, all Twinning projects have been suspended until conditions allow them to restart.

Member State participation in ongoing Twinning projects in Western Balkans and Turkey



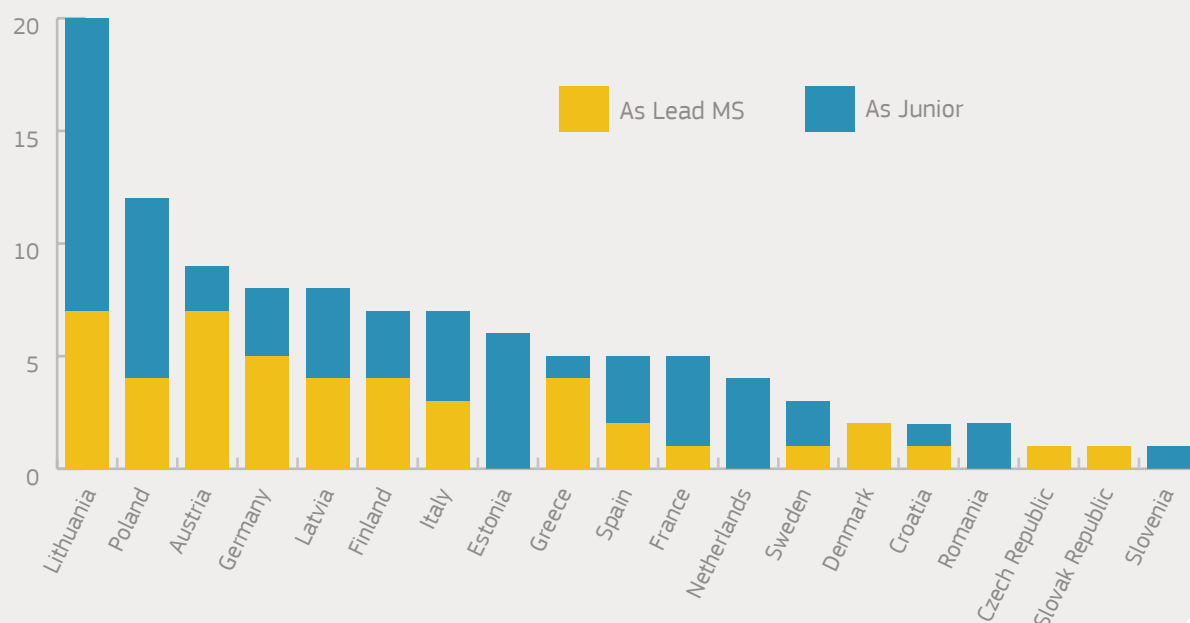
Western Balkans and Turkey enjoy the largest diversity of Member States participating in Twinning. 20 countries contribute to twinning activities as either lead or junior partners. **Italy**, **Germany** and **Croatia** are tied at the top with engagement in nine projects each, closely followed by **Austria**, **Lithuania** and **Spain**.

Member State participation in ongoing Twinning projects in Neighbourhood South



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.

Member State participation in ongoing Twinning projects in Neighbourhood East



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. **Lithuania** 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.

Twinning amidst the pandemic

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.



Improved tax and customs policy in North Macedonia

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 Twinning 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.”*



Supporting collaboration between research and industry in **Georgia**



Strengthening scientific and technical expertise in the **Algerian** forensics police

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**.

TAIEX anniversary

1996 – 2021

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.



TAIEX milestones

timeline 1996 - 2021

1996

Creation of TAIEX

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.

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.

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."

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.

2004

TAIEX in the Western Balkans and Turkey

2000

The first expansion

TAIEX expands to Cyprus, Malta and the Baltic States.

2019

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.

2021

25th anniversary of TAIEX

Every week, several TAIEX events enable the exchange of technical assistance and best practises 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.

2020

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.

2018

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.

2017

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.

2016

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.

2015

TAIEX in support of cohesion policy in EU Member States

TAIEX-REGIO is launched as the first instrument available for all current EU Member States. Created in cooperation with Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, it facilitates short-term exchange of know-how between experts involved in the management of the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund.

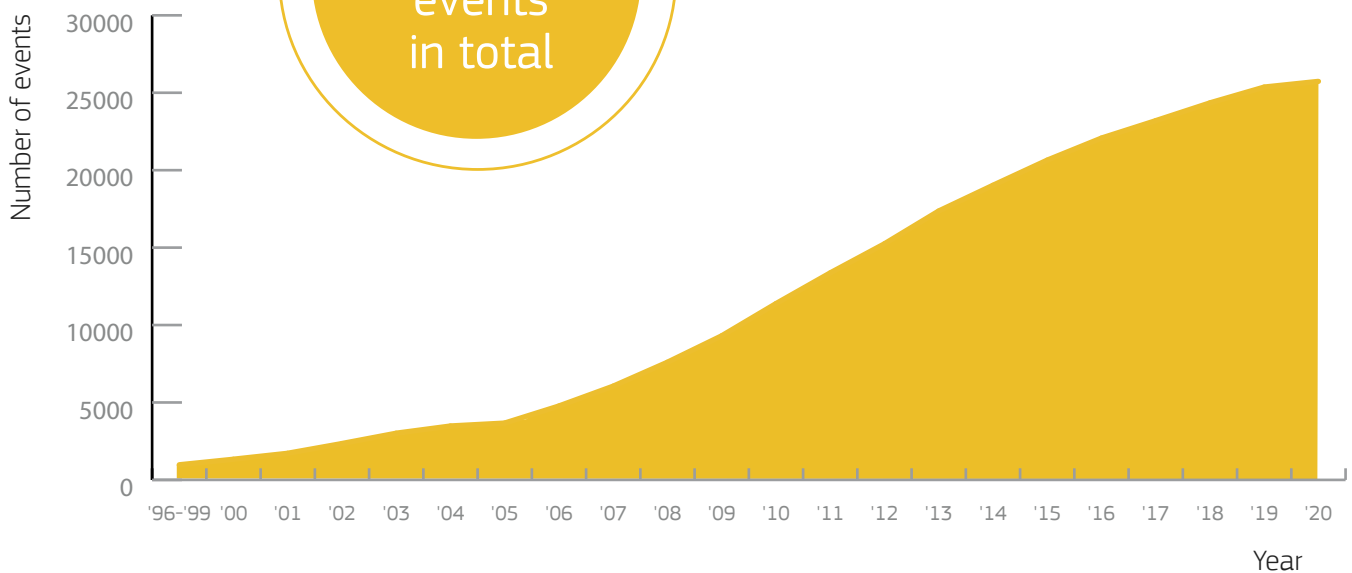
500+
events in EU
Member States
between 2015 and
2020

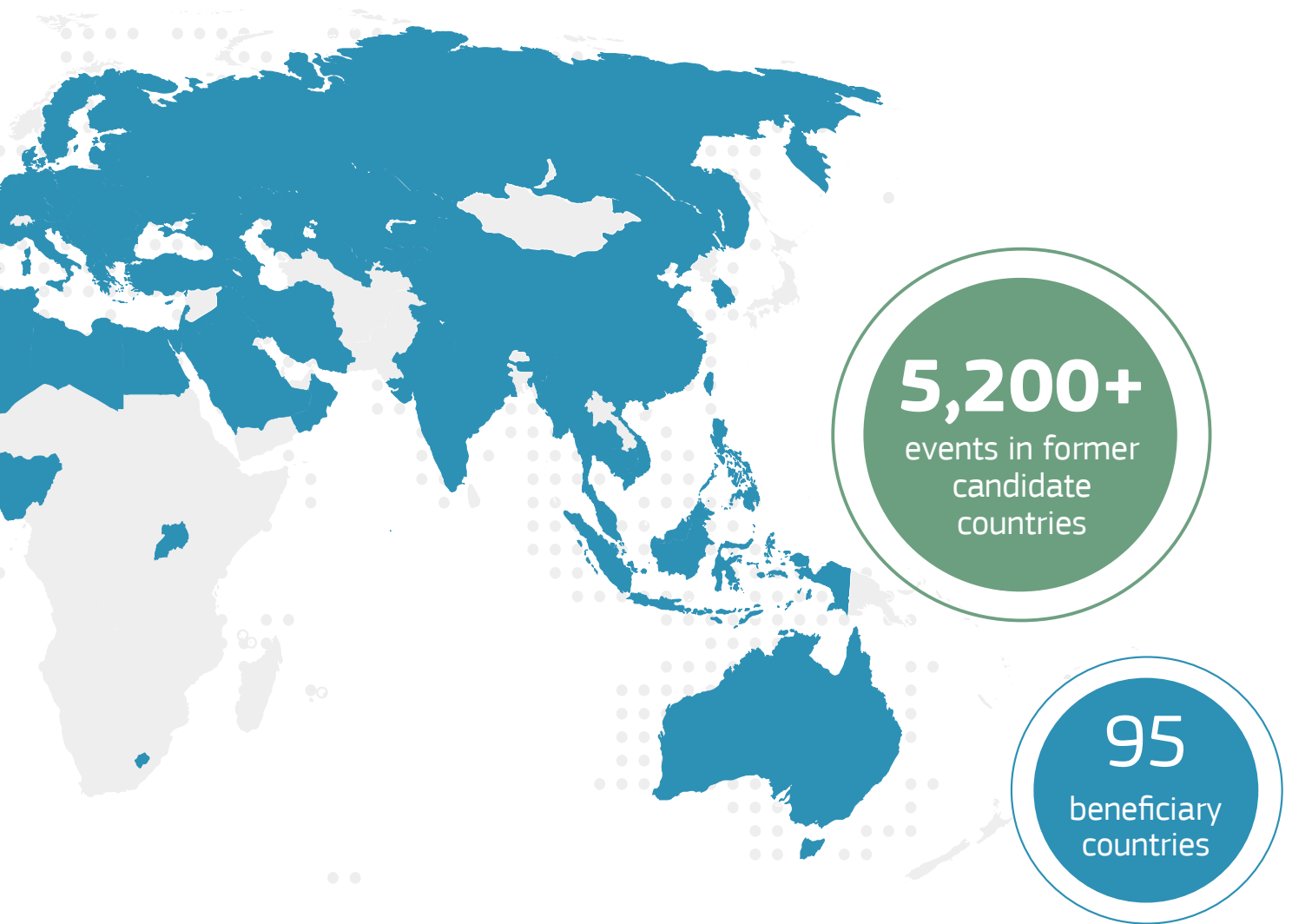
TAIEX

key statistics

1996 - 2021

26,000+
events
in total





Events and top 5 topics **per region**

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

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

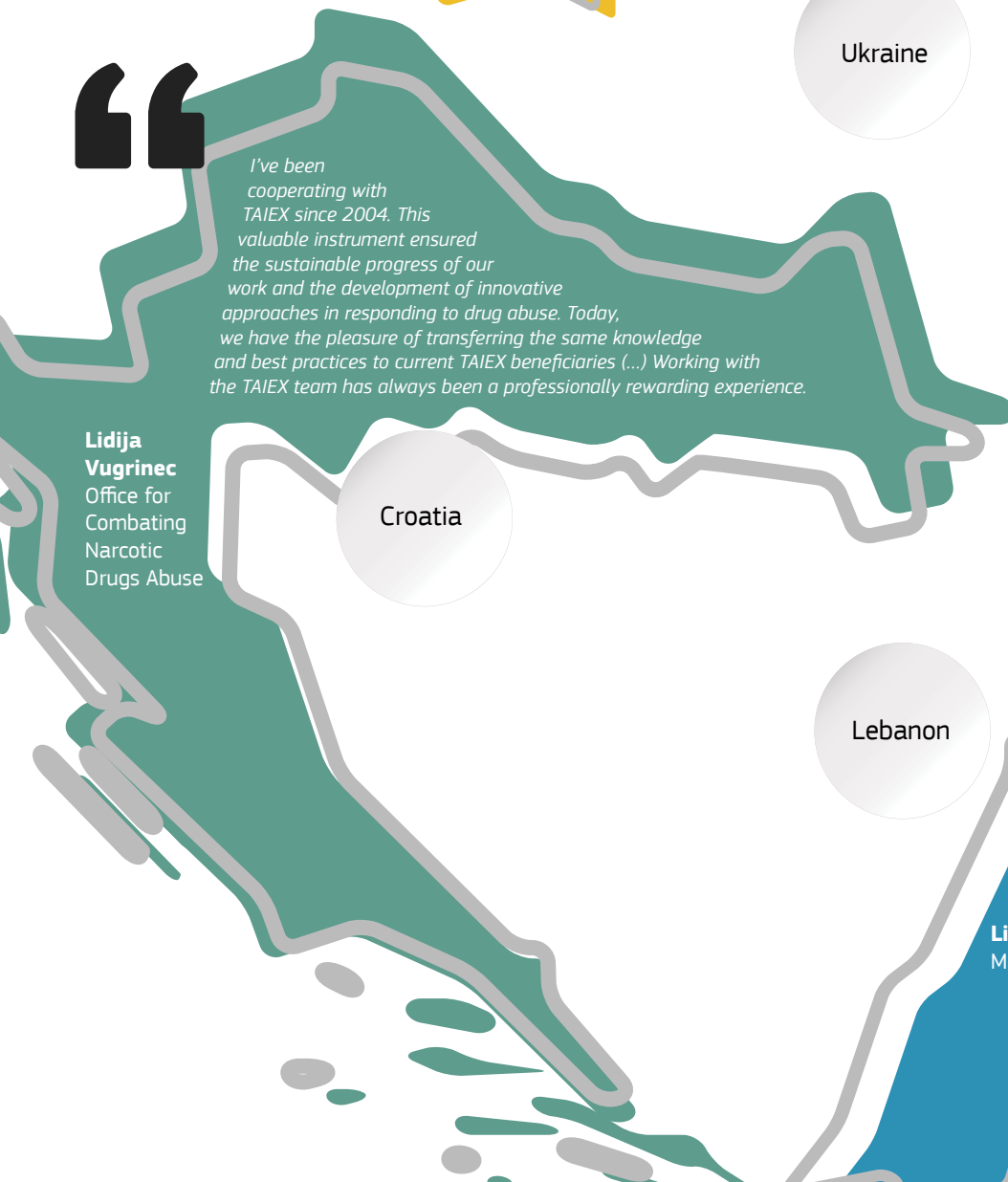
1,300+
events in
Neighbourhood South
(2006-2020)

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

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

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

25 years of TAIEX through the eyes of beneficiaries



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.



