



TWINNING NEWS No 40

BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER

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Changes in the Twinning and SIGMA Coordination Team

After eight years of dedicated work to Twinning, Alain Van Hamme will leave the Team by the end of this month. On 1 September he will start working in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Paris, participating in the Diplomatic Exchange and Second Programme (DESP), an exchange programme between the European institutions and the Member States in the framework of the future European external action service. Alain followed the Twinning instrument almost from its infancy and helped it grow up: he saw the launch of more than 1000 classical Twinning projects in the Enlargement context, sharing experience and promoting the instrument as effective European added value; he handled the successful finalisation of the Twinning experiences in the 10 new Member States and the launch and rapid expansion of Twinning in Turkey and the Western Balkans. We thank Alain for all the work he has done for Twinning and wish him all the best in Paris!



Paolo Gozzi

Moreover Jordi RODRIGUEZ RUIZ started working in the Twinning and SIGMA Coordination team. Jordi is a political scientist, he worked in the private sector before joining the Commission and he served as a electoral Short Term Observer in Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Ivo Schutte will also leave the Twinning Team by the end of August to work in the Turkey Unit of DG Enlargement.

From 1 September 2009 onwards, the Twinning and SIGMA Coordination Team will be in the good hands of Paolo GOZZI, who has already worked for 10 years in the Institution Building Unit of DG Enlargement, where he leads the TAIEX Internal Market Team.



Jordi Rodriguez Ruiz

Programming in Croatia *Upcoming Circulations*

Below you will find an updated list of upcoming Twinning projects in Croatia. Circulation will take place mainly during the last quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010. Please note that this list is provisional, not exhaustive and that it will be updated on a regular basis.

Twinning Croatia IPA 2008

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Support to the Reform of Criminal Proceedings	27	€ 1,157,895
Development of the Probation Services in Croatia	24	€ 1,200,000
Support to the Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Structural Instruments in Croatia	21	€ 2,168,420
Enforcement of the new Environmental Protection Act harmonized with EU legislation in cases of criminal offences against the environment	18+3	€ 1,100,000

Twinning Light Croatia IPA 2008

Twinning projects to be circulated shortly

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Further Development and Enhancement of a National Analysis Centre (NAC), a Coin National Analysis Centre (CNAC) and a National Counterfeit Centre (NCC), within the Croatian National Bank	€ 250,000
Strengthening internal control in the Customs Administration as regards fight against corruption	€ 230,000
Enhancement of the internal control in the Croatian Tax Administration as regards fight against corruption	€ 230,000
Strengthening Capacities to Remedy Irregularities in Public Procurement Procedures	€ 230,000

Support to the establishment of a State School for Judicial Officials	€ 230,000
Strengthening the capacity of Croatian Tax Administration in the field of exchange of information related to Savings Directive	€ 230,000
Rising the knowledge and skills and harmonizing educational curriculums of nurses and midwives with Directive 2005/36/EC	€ 230,000
Preparation of the Croatian Employment Service for Joining the EURES Network	€ 230,000
Support the implementation of the Common organization of the agricultural markets	€ 239,251

Importance of complete CVs in Twinning proposals *Good Practice*

It happens regularly that during Twinning evaluations the beneficiaries and the Contracting Authority find CVs which do not contain the minimum information requested in the Twinning fiche. This can be the level of knowledge the requested working language, the computer skills, the job descriptions, the dates during which a specific position was held. In these cases clarification has to be obtained from the Member States. This is slowing down the evaluation process.

We recommend therefore that the Member State NCP checks before they submit a Twinning proposal that the CVs enclosed contain the minimum information required.

Create an Intranet Site for your project

Good practice from Bulgaria

Project BG 07 IB JH 02 UE TWL, "Strengthening the Administrative Capacity of the Public Prosecutor's Office for fighting organized crime in the sphere of cultural goods in particular and related applicable EU acquis"

Italy is recognized as one of the world leaders in combating the illegal traffic of cultural artefacts,

thanks to the close cooperation between a specialised pool of magistrates, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MIBAC), and a unit of the Carabinieri which responds directly to the MIBAC and specialises in fighting this kind of crime. The key expert is Paolo Giorgio Ferri, who has a wide reputation, and who is able, thanks to the Twinning project, to dedicate a total of 22 working days to providing assistance to the Bulgarian Prosecutor's Office in combating cultural crime.

The European dimension of the project lies in the fact that the overall objective is the improvement of the Bulgarian authorities' capacity to implement a series of European regulations and directives (especially Council Regulations 3911/92 – amended by the Council Regulation n. 2008/116- and Directive n. 7/93).

The Italian experts have adopted a practical approach in this project, proceeding inductively from hypothetical test cases to an analysis of the effectiveness of Bulgarian legislation. Three specific cases of cultural crime were presented, and the Bulgarian experts were asked to reflect on the charges that might be brought and the investigative means that might be used in these cases. These cases were presented via the project intranet well in advance of the missions of the experts, so that written responses could be submitted and analysed before the experts even reached Bulgaria. In this way the effectiveness of the face-to-face sessions was maximised, and the issues at stake were clarified thanks to the direct and concrete nature of the examples.

Formez, a Member State partner, has provided the project with an Intranet site which allows experts and project managers to keep track of documents and activity schedules easily and simply, wherever they are. The website, based on Moodle open-source software, functions as a document archive, as a management tool and as a social fora. As an archive, the site stores project documents, legislative texts (Italian and Bulgarian norms, international conventions etc) and other background material. It also provides links to relevant websites. The site also provides a calendar and a set of management tools for planning, administration, and financial monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, it offers a number of forums for discussion and exchange among enrolled participants.

Francesco Ciardi
Italian Project Leader

You can always contact the Twinning Coordination Team in Brussels should you or your staff require additional information:

DG Enlargement

Unit D.4: Institution Building Unit

Morten JUNG-OLSEN

Head of Unit

Tel: +32-2-299.19.99

morten.jung-olsen@ec.europa.eu

Twinning Coordination Team:

Until 31 August 2009:

Alain VAN HAMME

Twinning and SIGMA

Tel. +32-2-298.44.55

alain.van-hamme@ec.europa.eu

as from 1 September 2009:

Paolo GOZZI

Twinning and SIGMA

Tel. +32-2-295.0755

paolo.gozzi@ec.europa.eu

Jordi RODRIGUEZ RUIZ

Twinning and SIGMA

Tel. +32-2-299.03.21

jordi.rodriguez-ruiz@ec.europa.eu

Ivo SCHUTTE

Twinning

Tel. +32-2-298.41.24

ivo.schutte@ec.europa.eu

Twinning Team Secretariat:

Birgit PERSSON

Tel. +32-2-296.46.76

birgit.persson@ec.europa.eu

Carola GUMBRECHT

Tel. +32-2-299.23.85

carola.gumbecht@ec.europa.eu

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

Fax number of the Twinning Team: +32-2-296.47.12

