



TWINNING NEWS

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BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER

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Twinning: Application of new per diem rates for the first half of 2012

The latest adjustment of the maximum rates of per diem allowances paid to experts on mission undertaken in the framework of a EU funded contract has been published by Directorate General Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DEVCO) in December 2011 and are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/per_diems/index_en.htm

The DEVCO per diem rates are based on United Nations rates, which are set in accordance with annual country survey missions conducted by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

The UN data are derived from price surveys of good commercial hotels and meal costs for the respective third countries, with an additional 15 percent for incidental expenses. As United Nations rates are expressed in US dollars, DEVCO maximum per diem rates are the result of a conversion of these US dollar based rates into EUR.

Exchange rate fluctuations between USD and EUR linked to the economic and financial crises have been particularly erratic in recent months. In particular, the significant sliding of the EUR against the USD has resulted in step increases of the rates expressed in EUR.

Some of the resulting increases (by more than 30% in some cases) can hardly be justified by the cost of living. In order to ensure sufficient means for the implementation of Twinning projects, it has therefore been decided, as on previous occasions, that for the purpose of assistance provided through the Twinning and TAIEX instruments all increases that would exceed 10% following UN rates are capped at this percentage.

Please find herewith for your easy reference the list with the adjusted rates specifically compiled for Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates, as well as for countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy and Russia.

For Twinning projects in Turkey, the arrangement decided in 2006 remains valid: the per diem applicable to all Twinning projects in Turkey is the one set for Istanbul. The capping at a 10% increase is applied also in this case.

The new rates are applicable as of 15 January 2012.

It is reminded that the common Twinning manual (under section 5.6.2, all versions) clearly provides that the date of the mission determines the rate applicable and that the rate can therefore vary over the lifetime of a Twinning project.

Conversely, the subsistence allowance of RTAs is not subject to revision during the lifetime of the project.

Candidate and Potential Candidates	Previous per diem rate in €	New per diem rate in € as of 15/01/2012
Croatia	227	246
Turkey	197 (ref. letter of 14.11.2006)	217 (ref. letter of 14.11.2006)
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	132	145
Albania	217	212
Bosnia -Herzegovina	131	142
Serbia	260	286
Montenegro	161	162
Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)	260	286
Iceland	221	148

European Neighbourhood Countries and Russia		
Algeria	275	303
Armenia	117	129
Azerbaijan	267	289
Belarus	177	191
Egypt	177	195
Georgia	166	183
Israel	281	304
Jordan	164	180
Lebanon	195	215
Libya	146	157
Moldova	143	154
Morocco	191	210
Russia	329	362
Syria	268	289
Tunisia	139	144
Ukraine	280	303
West Bank and Gaza Strip	134	145