Support for reforms in EU Member States

The success of our Economic and Monetary Union depends on the strength and resilience of the economies of our Member States. In a rapidly changing world, Member States need to optimise their policies and institutions to ensure lasting prosperity for their people.

To support these reform efforts, the Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) helps EU countries to prepare, design and implement reforms. The support is based purely on demand and is tailor-made for the beneficiary Member State. It takes the form of strategic or legal advice, studies, training and in-country missions by experts and is provided through the Structural Reform Support Programme.

Since 2015, demand for support from Member States has far outstripped expectations. Today, the Commission is engaged, through the Structural Reform Support Programme and other sources, in over 1000 reform projects in 27 Member States.

Areas of expertise of the Structural Reform Support Programme

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2020 reform projects

In 2020, the Structural Reform Support Programme will provide support to all 27 Member States to carry out more than 240 projects.

Examples of 2020 projects include:

- Modernising e-services for the public in Belgium
- Setting up a quality framework on early education in Bulgaria
- Establishing e-health centres in the Czech Republic
- Building capacity to manage fiscal risks in Denmark
- Designing an integrated information management system in Greece in the area of migration
- Assisting with transition from coal energy in a region in Spain
- Developing a sustainable finance ecosystem in Finland
- Improving the relevance and perception of vocational education system in France
- Contributing to the EU's 2030 renewable energy targets in the electricity sector in Ireland
- Assessing the impact of environmental tax reforms in Italy
- Building capacity to reach Sustainable Development Goals in Poland
- Helping to improve insolvency proceedings in Portugal
- Reviewing the pension and disability insurance system in Slovenia
- Developing a circular economy roadmap in Slovakia

In 2020, a portion of the budget of the programme has been set aside for a new call in the first quarter of 2020 to assist Member States with the preparation of their territorial just transition plans for the Just Transition Mechanism.

Reform Support Programme post-2020

On 31 May 2018, as part of its proposals for budgetary instruments to strengthen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, the Commission proposed to expand its support for reforms after 2020 under a new Reform Support Programme, which includes three instruments: the reform delivery tool (financial support to all EU Member States), a convergence facility (financial support to non-euro-area Member States) and a technical support instrument (providing expertise for all EU Member States).

At the end of 2018, the leaders mandated the Eurogroup to work on the design and modalities of a new Budgetary Instrument for Convergence and Competitiveness for the euro area. This instrument would support reforms and investments in the euro area and would be integrated into the Reform Support Programme. Legislative negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council are ongoing.