What is the EU Structural Reform Support Service?

- Created in 2015, the service’s task is to support the preparation, design, implementation and evaluation of growth-enhancing reforms.
- It is the Commission’s main tool to support Member States in key areas of reform needs, such as the modernisation of public administration, the business environment and the labour market.
- It has a team of up to 160 staff, based in Brussels and in some Member States, under the guidance of Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and managed by Director-General Maarten Verwey.
- While this support covers the entire process — from identifying the need to reform to the completion of the process — the ownership of the reforms remains with the Member State.

What does the Service do?

At the request of a Member State, the Service:
- discusses with the Member State where support for reforms is needed;
- designs a demand-driven ‘cooperation and support plan’ together with the Member State;
- pools expertise from all over Europe: this can be via experts from the Commission, other Member States, international organisations, public entities and/or the private sector;
- supports the national authorities throughout the reform process with the agreed practical assistance, including through workshops, study visits and strategic guidance;
- provides financing for the reform support and coordinates the necessary expertise.
How does it work in practice?

The Service manages a dedicated support programme — the Structural Reform Support Programme — with a budget of €142.8 million over the years 2017-2020. This programme entered into force in May 2017 and requires no co-financing from Member States. The service is demand-driven and provides support only upon request from a Member State. In addition, a Member State can decide voluntarily to redirect funds from its own technical assistance budget under the EU Structural and Investment Funds to be managed by the Service.

So far, the Service has engaged with 15 Member States to carry out more than 150 projects. More projects will follow.

Which areas are covered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance &amp; public administration</th>
<th>Revenue administration &amp; public financial management</th>
<th>Growth &amp; business environment</th>
<th>Labour market, health &amp; social services</th>
<th>Financial sector &amp; access to finance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Governance</td>
<td>• Revenue collection</td>
<td>• Investment licensing</td>
<td>• Labour market &amp; laws</td>
<td>• Access to finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Central &amp; local administration</td>
<td>• Budget preparation</td>
<td>• Competition policy</td>
<td>• Strategies to mitigate unemployment</td>
<td>• Capital Markets Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• E-government</td>
<td>• Spending reviews</td>
<td>• Trade issues</td>
<td>• Labour inspectorates</td>
<td>• Bank supervision &amp; resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Human resources reform</td>
<td>• Fiscal strategy &amp; tax policy</td>
<td>• Digital society</td>
<td>• Welfare system</td>
<td>• Non-performing loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Better regulation</td>
<td>• Supreme audit institutions/fiscal council</td>
<td>• Land registry</td>
<td>• Pension system</td>
<td>• Insolvency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anti-corruption &amp; anti-fraud</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Energy Union</td>
<td>• Healthcare system</td>
<td>• Insurance &amp; pensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anti-money laundering</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Better regulation</td>
<td>• Education &amp; vocational</td>
<td>• Competition issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Judicial reform</td>
<td></td>
<td>• State-owned enterprise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special assignments: The Service has helped to coordinate the response to the refugee crisis in Greece and is also responsible for the implementation of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

Examples of projects so far

The Service is helping:

- **Cyprus** and **Malta** to meet their climate and energy goals;
- the **Czech Republic** and **Greece** to improve their transport infrastructure;
- **Lithuania** to develop the digital economy;
- **Slovenia** to enhance the efficiency of dealing with non-performing loans;
- the **Baltic Member States** to improve financing options for companies under the Capital Markets Union initiative;
- several countries (such as **Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Greece**) to reform their education systems;
- several countries to modernise their public financial management (**Greece, Poland, Portugal**) and to move towards accrual account standard (**Italy, Cyprus, Malta**).