EN

ANNEX 19

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2017 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)

1. IDENTIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the action</th>
<th>Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country(ies)/Region</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost</td>
<td>Total estimated cost: EUR 1 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total amount of the EU budget contribution: EUR 1 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total duration¹</td>
<td>24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of implementation</td>
<td>Direct management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procurement – Service Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assistance for the implementation of TAIEX activities: Provision of logistical services and financial management tasks. (EuropeAid/137627/DH/SER/Multi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markers (from CRIS Dac form)</td>
<td>Rio Convention Markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The expertise provided through TAIEX is mainly provided by EU Member States (EUMS) public administration experts, to assist in the legal harmonisation process and capacity building of implementing and enforcement bodies as well as in support to the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association

¹ Maximum duration of the operational implementation period of individual contracts upon their signature.
Agreements and Agendas or other existing and future agreements and jointly agreed action plans.

TAIEX facilitates the transfer of know-how through workshops, seminars, conferences, experts’ missions (practitioners-to-practitioners) to partner countries as well as through study visits to EUMS. It facilitates the delivery of tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice. For the Partnership Instrument (PI), TAIEX can now serve upfront and proactively the strategic core missions of the EU by matching its political priorities with operational targeted events in the countries covered by the PI. TAIEX will provide expertise in a different fashion, since the request will be issued from the EU (Commission line DGs or EEAS, including EU delegations) rather than from the partner country in areas of common interest.

The requests for using TAIEX will be inter alia assessed on the basis of their relevance to the objectives of the PI.

2.2. Context

The use of TAIEX under the PI is justified as it allows the EU to push forward its legislations, norms and standards in the partner country or to align the country’s agenda to its own and, therefore, promote the EU’s interests abroad.

TAIEX is a tool that is used primarily to exchange knowledge with strategic partners or any other interested country to coordinate practices and/or norms and regulatory frameworks that could benefit both sides.

2.3. Lessons learnt

TAIEX was initially created for candidate countries. One of its main assets is its flexibility, tailoring services according to requirements and constraints, and speed to mobilise expertise at relative short notice. Like the Policy Support Facility, TAIEX has allowed the PI to implement small scale actions in countries where its limited envelope would not allow implementing actions of a larger scale or only with a regional scope.

The specificity of the expertise, stemming from the public sector of the EUMS, allows as well TAIEX to multiply the actions for a very limited amount per action.

After two years of utilisation, the TAIEX events that have been organised in more than 20 countries and have been praised by all stakeholders as an excellent implementation modality, allowing the partner country to enhance either its functioning/approach of a specific policy, or its legal framework and standards or norms to align it to the EU’s, recognising implicitly the EU’s expertise in the concerned policy/topic.

TAIEX still needs broader recognition and awareness raising as well as a more programmatic approach to improve its impact and its utilisation in a more appropriate way; this will be enhanced through the current funding.
2.4. **Complementary actions**

TAIEX is complementary to the Policy Support Facility (PSF) in that the PSF can provide technical assistance through Experts from the private sector, while TAIEX relies on public administration experts.

Consistency and complementarity between TAIEX and the PSF will be guaranteed through regular coordination across all actors, EU Delegations in the target countries, relevant Commission services and the EEAS.

3. **Detailed Description**

3.1. **Objectives**

The overall purpose is to facilitate, in all areas required, the implementation of EU bilateral Cooperation Agreements or similar agreements, with a focus on regulatory convergence in partner countries, to share with the partner countries experience, know-how and information on EU policies and legislation in the widest sense and to support the partner country in fulfilling their commitments under the Agreements (Association or Partnership and Cooperation Agreements or any other bilateral agreement or cooperation framework with the EU or where the EU expects a like-minded approach).

TAIEX coordinates requests for assistance and cooperation to Member States for the delivery of short-term, tailor-made public administration expertise to address specific requirements at short notice.

3.2. **Expected results and main activities**

EU best practices, standards and know-how are shared with partner countries through the provision of short term technical assistance delivered mainly by experts from Member States Public Administration.

Other expected results are:

i) Information and updates on EU legislation and policies are provided by experts from European Union Member States Public Administration;

ii) Cooperation to improve regulatory convergence and legislative approximation towards higher standards is intensified;

iii) Enhancement and deepening of the relationship and collaboration between the EU and the partner country (or group of countries).

The indicators to measure those results are:

- Number of renewed requests for the same country/policy after a first event;
- Number and typology of modifications in the relevant administration/public agency of the partner country;
- Number of events, participants and experts;
• Number and quality of assessment reports provided by EU experts and by the partner country's stakeholders;

• Changes to the national regulatory framework brought in line with the EU’s in the target countries.

The activities to achieve the expected results are:

Seminars, workshops, conferences, expert missions and study visits.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Risk level (H/M/L)</th>
<th>Mitigating measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requests submitted by partner countries instead of EU institutions</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>The request is rejected by the Programme Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests submitted by colleagues irrelevant for the PI objectives and/or to TAIEX format.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Efforts made by FPI.4 and DG NEAR to explain the nature of TAIEX and of the PI objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests submitted that are not supported/accepted by the partner country</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Awareness raising about the fact that the buy-in of the partner country is a pre-condition of a successful event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the main risks could be the lack of engagement of the target countries. However, TAIEX is flexible and allows for timely mitigations in a difficult context. Operational difficulties could also occur in relation to visa regimes being applied. Advanced planning and specific attention in the early phases of an event preparation should help overcome these. The general assumption is that the Member States will support the scheme by facilitating the use of public sector expertise.

3.4. Stakeholders

Potential stakeholders can include public (central or lower levels) administrations, national parliaments' administrations, judiciary bodies, social partners and, when appropriate, private sector associations (on the partner country side).
4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

4.1.1. Procurement (direct management)

Direct management will apply. The implementation of the programme will be delegated by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) to the Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

The services will be provided through the contract "EuropeAid/137627/DH/SER/Multi - Assistance for the implementation of TAIEX activities: Provision of logistical services and financial management tasks".

4.2. Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Implementation</th>
<th>Amount in EUR million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1. – Procurement (direct management)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3. Performance monitoring

The Commission may undertake any actions it deems necessary to monitor the programme. In particular, the procedure of evaluation and monitoring described in section 4.4 will apply.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The "Impact Feedback" gathers information on tangible impacts of TAIEX activities six months after their implementation. Before the organisation of the activity the partner administration at the receiving end is asked to identify a person to assess its impact. Six months later, this same person is asked to fill in a questionnaire. The results of the evaluation are taken into account in the programming and implementation cycle.

4.5. Communication and visibility

This project will contain communication and visibility measures in line with the Service Level Agreement signed between NEAR.C3 and FPI.4. It will be supported with the budget indicated under point 4.2.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the contractor, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.