



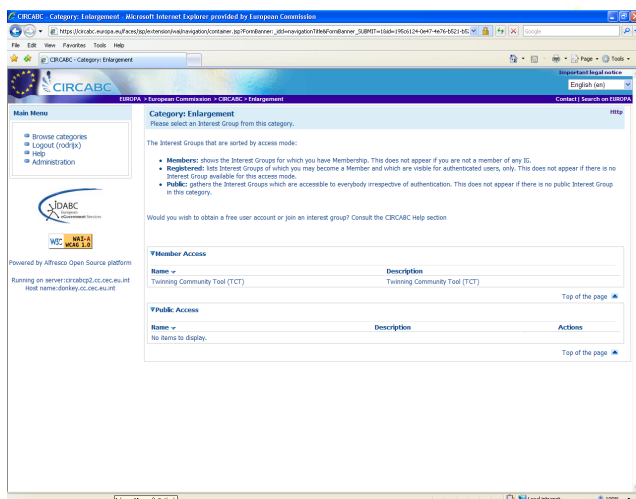
# TWINNING NEWS No 43

**BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER**

**26 February 2010**

## **New Twinning Communication Tool**

*The Twinning Community Tool (TCT) is based on CircaBC and provides a collaboration tool that allows users (from within and outside the Commission) to exchange files, comments and links on a unique platform.*



*The main purpose of TCT is to create a virtual network of Resident Twinning Advisers, National Contact Points, EU Delegations and other relevant stakeholders of Twinning.*

*If you belong to one of the above categories and wish to participate to the network, please send a mail with your name, role, organisation and a valid e-mail account to the address: [elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu).*

*You will then receive a message containing the instructions on how to obtain the password required to access TCT, together with a tutorial on the use of the tool.*

*We hope that this new initiative will further improve the communication among the different actors involved in Twinning.*

*Comments and suggestions on functionalities, developments and possible improvements of this communication instrument are most welcome.*

## **40th RTA Training Session (Brussels 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2010)**

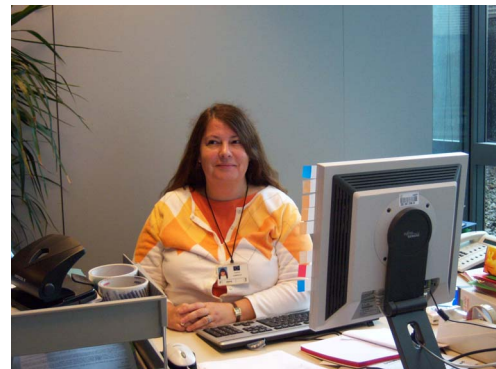
*The 40<sup>th</sup> RTA Training Session was attended by 20 RTAs and 10 observers. The session offered an interesting programme, including speeches by Dirk Lange (DG Enlargement - Head of the Croatia Unit), Morten Jung-Olsen (DG Enlargement, Head of the Institution Building Unit) and Stefano Cacciamani (Finance and Contract Officer in the EU Delegation in Serbia). Lucia Santuccione and Joanna Jablonska (DG EuropeAid Cooperation Office – Twinning Team) and Ivo Schutte (DG Enlargement – Policy Officer in Turkey Unit) provided their assistance during practical session of case studies.*

*The discussion focused on the practical examples and real-life situations.*

*The next RTA Training Session is scheduled for beginning of June.*

## **Change in the Twinning Team**

*Carola GUMBRECHT has left our Team for new horizons. She has started working as cabinet staff for the Commissioner on Energy, Günther Oettinger. We wish her all the best in her new duties.*



## Good to know when holding selection meetings: oral presentation

*It can happen that, during a selection meeting, most of the oral presentation focuses on the Project Leader's role. It is advisable to dedicate time also to examining the profile of the proposed RTA, who should have the opportunity to show his/her knowledge of the sector and, in particular, his/her managing skills. The Beneficiary Administration should always dispose of enough elements to make a comprehensive assessment.*

## Report from the first Twinning implemented in Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99)

*The EU- funded project "Meeting EU Standards on Food Safety and Veterinary Service" (KS 07 IB AG 01) was the first Twinning project for Kosovo launched on 18th of December 2008, to be implemented over two years and with a value of € 2 million.*

*The twinning project is managed by the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo implemented by the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Lower Saxony Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (LAVES) and the State Veterinary and Food Service of the Republic of Lithuania, whereas the beneficiary administration is the Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) with its Veterinary, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Inspection Services.*

*Although twinning is a relatively new concept for Kosovo and far more demanding than the technical assistance in terms of beneficiary input, the results proved that the decision to start using the twinning instrument, was the right decision and taken at the right time.*

*The project has just entered into its second year of implementation. The initial scepticism over the capacities of the beneficiary administration to absorb the provided know-how and to implement the recommendations of EU member state experts has been overcome.*

*The team of more than 55 member state experts with over 1100 working days is working on regular basis with the beneficiary counterparts towards achieving the overall project objective, which is to enhance the commercial and export potential of the*

*agro-business food chain in Kosovo through improving controls on animal health, food safety and quality.*

*The start of the twinning project was followed by the approval of Food Law (April 2009), which provided the basis for the fundamental reforms in the area of food safety and food control. Since then food control was fragmented into three levels (Central, Regional and local) and divided among Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, the new Food Law establishes the Food and Veterinary Agency as an Executive Agency within the Prime Minister's Office, responsible for food control on all stages and at all levels.*

*In the process of reorganization, the twinning project provided crucial support to FVA in drafting the Regulation on new organizational structure of the FVA and proposal for the establishment of six regional FVA offices.*

*The Animal Health component, being also one of the most demanding in terms of input, complexity and EU requirements is addressed by nine Member State experts. In light of the preparation for the upcoming EU regional project on control and/or eradication of classical swine fever and rabies, the project experts organized introductory training for hunters, private veterinarians and FVA regional veterinarians on the CSF in wild boars.*

*The Food Safety and Food Control component is divided into support of official Inspection Services (Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary) and to business operators. In light of standardized inspection procedures, Member State experts are making together with their Beneficiary Country counterparts a point of drafting guidelines, checklist, protocols, etc. based on the newly transposed draft of the Hygienic Package.*

*The Animal By-Products (ABP) facilities in Kosovo do not exist and therefore according to twinning work plan, the project is suppose to draft a feasibility study for the establishment of a rendering system and a rendering plant in Kosovo. After the first mission of MS experts, it became clear that the available data, e.g. number of livestock, amount of slaughter waste, etc., will not allow to draft the feasibility study at that early stage. Therefore, the project experts prepared a pre-feasibility study and a to-do-list for their BC counterparts on how to collect the required information*

*In conclusion, the overall opinion of the Beneficiary institutions, the Member State implementing partners and European Commission Liaison Office*

*to Kosovo, is that the twinning project is an excellent tool for exchange of know-how and experience between Member State administration and local counterparts and that visible progress is perceived in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary control in Kosovo.*

*Karoline Schollmeyer  
Resident Twinning Adviser*

### **Best Practices**

If you have a "best practice" to be shared from your project, please send the article (maximum one page) to the functional mailbox [elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu](mailto:elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu).

All the suggestions are welcome.

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

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#### Functional e-mail boxes:

[elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elarg-twinning-reports@ec.europa.eu) - for sending all Twinning quarterly and final reports

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/technical-assistance/twinning\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/technical-assistance/twinning_en.htm).

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