

TWINNING NEWS No 28

BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER

News from the Twinning & SIGMA Co-ordination team

We would like to inform you / confirm that **Laia Pinós** has been appointed to the Commission's Directorate General Regional Policy as statutory official. Our best wishes for a successful career are with her and we will miss her smiling efficiency and expertise.



Ivo Schutte has now joined our team. He has previously worked as Commission trainee and as Parliamentary assistant and brings in a good mix of expertise on European issues. His e-mail address is ivo.schutte@ec.europa.eu. Please make sure to include Ivo alongside the other members of our team when sending messages.



Corrigenda in the 2007 Twinning Manual

Following up on input from Twinning stakeholders we have corrected some unfortunate oversights in the 2007 Twinning manual. Specific reference is made herewith to the adjustment of Templates C5 (Twinning Final report), C7, C8 and C9 (Twinning selection fact sheets, evaluation grids and publication of Twinning calls).

These corrigenda are integrated into the 2007 Twinning manual – Part II: Annexes are available on our Twinning Website at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/institution_building/Twinning_en.htm

Reminder on Study visits

Recent concerns have surfaced regarding the relatively high number of study tours and visits to various Member States that have been integrated in Twinning contracts despite the fact that there is no clear and justified link with the overall 'mandatory Twinning results'.

This induces me to ask your renewed attention for the very clear provisions of the Twinning manual (Section 5.7.2 of the 2007 Twinning manual at page 80) and the underlying principles:

- Cost effectiveness and sound financial management
- Direct link between the objectives laid down in the Project Fiche and the study visits planned
- Direct relevance for the participating Beneficiary Country officials and for the mandatory results of the Twinning project
- Adequate and intensive follow-up of the study visits
- Adequate evaluation by the Beneficiary Country participants and direct involvement of participants in the activities undertaken in the framework of those study visits

I would therefore ask you to remind your administrations about these guidelines and about the need to provide a detailed justification for study tours and visits at the time of drafting the Twinning contracts in co-operation with beneficiary administrations.

It must indeed be avoided that budgetary credits allocated to Twinning are used to finance travelling which is unrelated to the aims and targets of the Twinning project since this would amount to an improper use of Community funds, in clear contradiction with the principles of sound financial management.

TWINNING and SIGMA Co-ordination Team

Directorate-General Enlargement

Brussels, 20 November 2007