

TWINNING NEWS NEAR N.1

(New Series – corresponds to TWINNING NEWS No. 54 ELARG - and No. 38 DEVCO)



19 February 2015

PER DIEMS – The next update of *per diem* rates is awaited soon and will be communicated as soon as available. In the meantime rates in force since July 2013 continue to be applicable.



Johannes Hahn, is the Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations as of 1st November 2014.



Christian Danielsson is the Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

DG Enlargement and DEVCO F become DG NEAR

As of 1 January 2015, following the organisational restructuring of Commission services, DG ELARG and DEVCO F-Neighbourhood Directorate have merged to become DG NEAR-Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

The current organisational chart can be found on:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/who_does_what/01012015-organigramme-near.pdf

Institution Building unit, TAIEX, Twinning

As communicated to all Twinning stakeholders with note Ares(2015)297342 - 26/01/2015, the Institution Building Unit (NEAR.C3) is mandated with the coordination of all Twinning activities in both pre-accession and Neighbouring regions. The Twinning Team in NEAR.C3 is available in order to provide support, guidance and clarification whenever necessary. It is also available to facilitate contacts between partners and communications with Commission Services, Member States and beneficiary administrations.

For the moment no change is introduced to implementation procedures as described in the Twinning Manual (including the differentiation of some approaches in the IPA and ENI regions) and operations can continue as foreseen. In order to ensure a swift treatment of all communications, the new single functional mailbox is: NEAR-TWINNING@ec.europa.eu.

2014 IBD days – Announcement of a reform of Twinning

The "Institution Building Days" (IBD) took place in Brussels on 25-26 September.

As usual, the meeting covered Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA activities in the Enlargement and European Neighbourhood regions. One of the keynotes of the meeting was the launching of a debate on the reform of Twinning, with contributions from both the Commission and some EU Member States. Work on this reform has continued since then and a document summarising the state of play will be circulated soon.

Back to back with the IBD an in-house training for IPA Twinning coordinators from EU Delegations/Office and Central Financial and Contracting Entities took place on 24 September.

In the morning of Thursday 25th two sub regional meetings ENI South and ENI East were organised with the participation of the national coordinator, the Programme Administration Offices, the EU Delegations and the geographical desks.

Presentations can be found under:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/dyn/taieux-events/library/detail_en.jsp?EventID=57085



Twining family picture - Institution Building Days, September 2014

53rd RTA Training (IPA Region)

The RTA training took place on 9 and 10 of October 2014, gathering 19 participants, many of whom came from beneficiary administrations. One Member State national contact point (NCP) representative was also present.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/institution_building/2014/53rd-rt-training-v2.zip

10th RTA Training (ENI Region)

The 10th Neighbourhood Resident Twinning Advisers (RTA) basic training was held on 8 and 9 December

2014 at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. The training targeted those RTAs currently in charge of the implementation of the Twinning projects in the Neighbourhood region. It introduced the rules and procedures of the Twinning instrument, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Union agreements as well as activities and programmes in the region.

27 RTAs coming from public administrations of 12 Member States, attended the meeting. 3 Directors of Programme Administration Offices from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia were also present.

New projects

Good examples with regard to visibility and awareness:

Information on the official start of Twinning project MK 10 IB FI 01 "*Improving of the Public Revenue Office taxpayers' services*" was published on the internet page of the Public Revenue Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For the English version please follow the link:

<http://ujp.gov.mk/en/javnost/soopstenija/pogledni/501>

For the македонски version please follow the link:

<http://ujp.gov.mk/mk/javnost/nastani/pogledni/148>

The Programme Administration Office in Algeria has launched a webpage on the Twinning activities implemented under the "*Programme d'Appui à l'Accord d'Association Algérie-Union Européenne P3A*".

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Programme-dappui-%C3%A0-lAccord-dAssociation-Alg%C3%A9rie-Union-Europ%C3%A9enne-P3A/663108817142575>

Statistics Denmark and the Israeli Bureau of Statistics have just completed an EU-financed Twinning project in the area of statistics IS/12/ENPAP/FI/08 "*Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in the development of National Accounts, Education Statistics, Survey Methodology, ICBS Website and Coordination of Israel National Statistical System (NSS)*"

As part of the project's visibility plan, the project team has produced a short film that describes the project and its relevance for policy makers and society.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX_rcgHbU&feature=youtu.be



SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) is a joint European Commission and OECD initiative, principally financed by the EU which has been functioning for over 20 years. It focuses on strengthening public management in the IPA and ENI countries in areas such as administrative reform, public procurement, public sector ethics, anti-corruption, and external and internal financial control. SIGMA provides methodologies and tools to support reforms, recommendations on improving laws and administrative arrangements, advice on the design and implementation of reforms, opportunities to share good practice from a wide range of countries and policy papers and multi-country studies.

On 16 and 17 December 2014 SIGMA organised in Algiers, together with the Court of Accounts of Algeria, the first regional conference for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the European Neighbourhood South region. The Conference brought together the SAIs of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia as well as Palestine, as observer.

SIGMA is implemented by OECD together with NEAR – Units NEAR.A3 (IPA beneficiaries) and NEAR.B2 (ENI beneficiaries).

OECD SIGMA webpage:
<http://www.sigmaweb.org/about/>
e-mail: sigmaweb@oecd.org

Coming soon: TAIEX and Twinning Activity Report 2014

The TAIEX and Twinning Activity Report 2014 will be issued in the coming days. For the first time it will be published as a single report for both Neighbourhood and Pre-accession regions.

As on previous occasions, the Report includes Twinning "Success Stories", kindly contributed by EU Delegations, Central Financing and Contracting Entities (CFCEs) or Programme administrative Offices (PAOs). The choice among the very good

texts submitted was particularly arduous, since many projects appeared to be particularly successful. We thank all for their contribution and count on the understanding of those who do not find their "story" among those published.

Good Practices

If you have examples of "good practices" used in your project to share, please send your contribution (maximum 300 words) to our NEW FUNCTIONAL MAILBOX NEAR TWINNING NEAR-TWINNING@ec.europa.eu

Twinning Community Tool

The Twinning Community Tool (TCT) is based on Circa BC 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: NEAR-TWINNING@ec.europa.eu

DG NEAR

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Twinning website:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm

Functional e-mail boxes:

For IPA-ENI proposals sent by the National contact points for Twinning to the Twinning co-ordination team: near-twinning@ec.europa.eu

For sending draft IPA Twinning contracts and draft Twinning contract addenda to be examined by the Twinning steering committee: near-twinning-stc@ec.europa.eu

For sending all IPA-ENI Twinning quarterly and final reports: near-twinning-reports@ec.europa.eu