



TAIEX activity report

internal market infrastructure

justice home affairs

rule of law
human rights
protection of minorities

agriculture

food safety
veterinary
phytosanitary

2011

free movement of goods and services
consumer and health protection
customs union and taxation

transport
energy
environment
information society

expert missions
training programmes

workshops
study visits

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ISBN 978-92-79-23876-5

ISSN 1830-6845

doi 10.2794/5260

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Štefan Füle

European Commissioner for Enlargement
and European Neighbourhood Policy

Foreword

2011 marked the 15th anniversary of the European Commission's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument. Established in 1996, over the last 15 years the TAIEX instrument has evolved and expanded its mandate.

In 2006, TAIEX's original scope in candidate countries and potential candidates was extended to the Neighbourhood countries. Today, TAIEX has become an integral part of the Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy and is one of the European Commission's most successful instruments.

In the Western Balkans, the signature of the accession treaty with Croatia and the recent granting of candidate country status to Serbia show the way to the whole region. Croatia is now a different country to the one that applied for EU membership nearly a decade ago. It is a Croatia where the transformative power of the enlargement process can be clearly seen: a strengthened democracy based on the rule of law, a more competitive economy and EU-aligned standards. These changes – of direct benefit to Croatian citizens – were also made possible thanks to the almost 1300

TAIEX operations that took place in the country from 2005 to 2011.

In light of the so-called Arab Spring and of the developments in our Eastern neighbours, the European Union has also developed a new response to a changing Neighbourhood. Our priority is supporting the democratic transition in the countries concerned and working towards their gradual economic integration into the EU internal market. Crucial to this is the building of institutions that enable the governments to perform and fulfil their commitments and the legitimate aspirations of their people. TAIEX can help fulfil this task.

It is with great pleasure that I present this report on TAIEX activities in 2011. The report provides a broad overview of the diverse range of activities, services and groups now included in TAIEX operations.

Fifteen years after it was first launched, I am sure that TAIEX will continue to be a highly useful, very relevant institution building tool for all beneficiary countries needing assistance to introduce, implement and enforce elements of the body of EU law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Štefan Füle', positioned at the bottom right of the page.

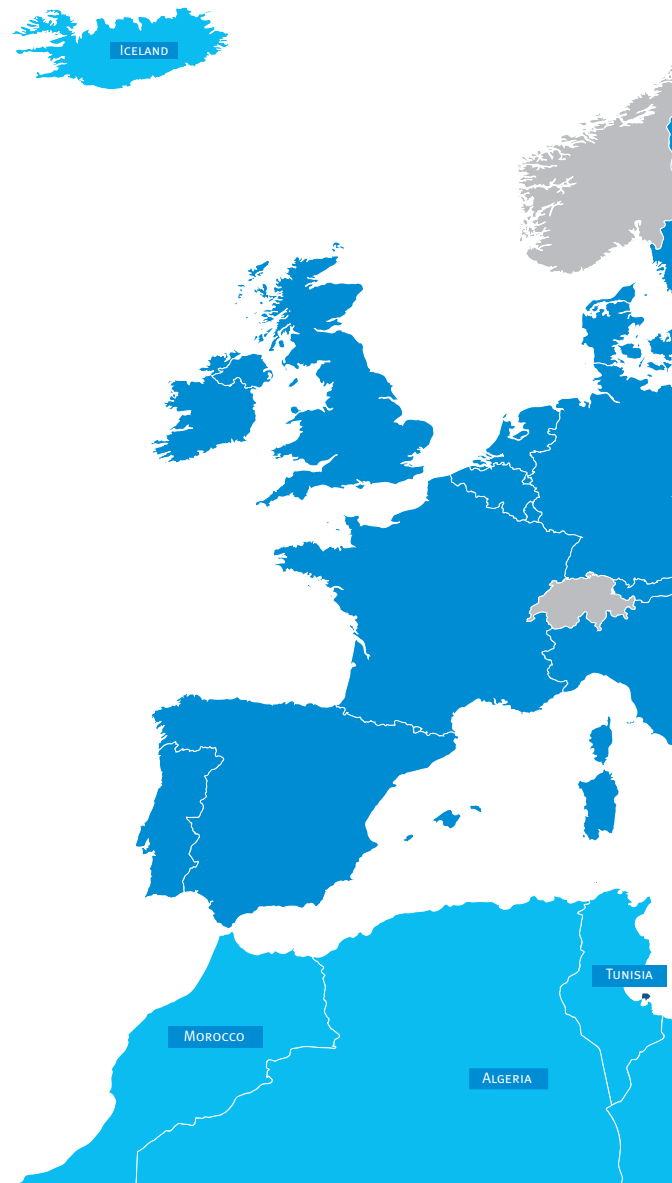
Mission

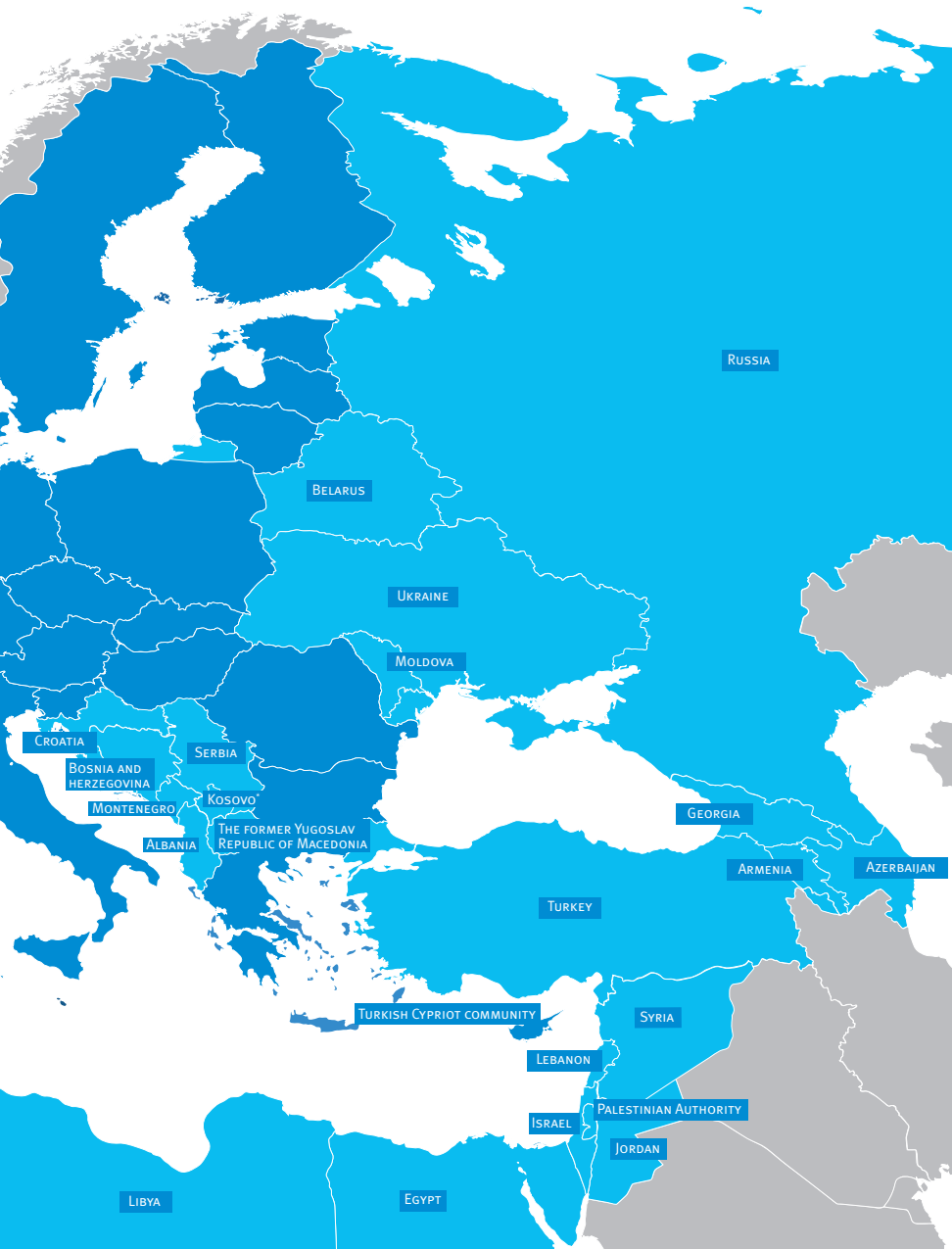
The TAIEX mission in the EU enlargement context is to:

- Provide institution building support to assist the process of transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation and policies.
- Organise short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of partner administrations and organisations, calling on the public sector expertise of the Member States.
- Meet demand-driven requests for assistance from the beneficiary countries.
- Provide database tools for improving and monitoring the approximation progress of the beneficiary countries and to identify and assess further assistance needs.
- Respond to priorities identified in the Enlargement Strategy, country reports and partnerships.

In the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Policy:

- Provide short-term targeted technical assistance to support the implementation of the ENP Association Agreements/Partnership and Co-operation Agreements and of the related Action Plans with the Neighbourhood countries and Russia.
- Organise short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of partner administrations and organisations, calling on public sector expertise of the Member States.
- Support the organisation of regional seminars and multi-country events in line with the European Commission's policies.





Beneficiaries

- Under the Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA) – Croatia, Iceland, Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*

- Turkish Cypriot community.

- Under the European Neighbouring and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria**, Tunisia - Neighbourhood South

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine - Neighbourhood East

Russia

(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

(**) Cooperation with Syria and Syrian representatives has been suspended since the end of September 2011.

In a nutshell

What TAIEX means

Technical Assistance and Information Exchange.

What TAIEX does

TAIEX shares Member State administrations' technical expertise in all fields of EU legislation and regulation (the so-called EU '*acquis*') with beneficiaries.

The activities TAIEX covers

There are three different types of TAIEX short-term assistance.

Workshops

EU Member State experts present specific areas of EU legislation, regulation, procedures and best practices in workshops attended by officials from the beneficiaries' administrations.

Expert missions

One or two experts from an EU Member State are sent to the relevant department of a beneficiary administration to provide in-depth advice on the transposition of a specific part of EU legislation, regulation, procedures and best practices. In general, an expert mission lasts up to five working days and enables working intensively with a smaller group of officials in the beneficiary's administration on a specific topic or piece of legislation.

Study visits

A group of up to three practitioners from a beneficiary's administration goes on a study visit to an EU Member State lasting up to five days. The aim is to learn how to implement a specific part of EU legislation and above all to study best practices. Study visits focus mainly on technical questions relating to the implementation of the *acquis*.



Who can participate

The participants in a TAIEX activity should come from one of the following groups:

- Public administrations (e.g. ministries, state bodies, regulatory and supervisory agencies, etc.)
- Governmental agencies
- Semi-private sector institutions/associations with a public service mission (mandated bodies)
- Judiciary and law-enforcement bodies
- Social partners
- National parliaments' administrations.

How to apply for TAIEX

A request for TAIEX assistance must come from the public administration. Applications can be sent through:

- Application forms available on the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>
- Letter, fax, e-mail (provided that the basic information requested in the application form is included).

What happens after an application for TAIEX assistance has been submitted

Stakeholders at national level and the relevant services of the European Commission are consulted. The applicant is informed about the acceptance or rejection of the application.



Where to find more
information/contacts/
examples of TAIEX activities

You are invited to visit our website:

<http://taix.ec.europa.eu/>



TAIEX turns fifteen

2011 marked the fifteenth anniversary of TAIEX. While the basic principles at the core of TAIEX operations remain, the instrument is constantly kept up-to-date in order to respond to current challenges, both in the Enlargement and in the Neighbourhood Policy regions.

The key assets that have made and still make TAIEX a success story are:

OWNERSHIP: TAIEX is mainly a demand-driven instrument; beneficiaries identify and submit requests for specific and customised assistance. Events are tailor-made to meet beneficiaries' requests;

GAP-FILLING: TAIEX can be complementary to larger assistance activities (twinning, technical assistance) and can provide expertise to "fill the gaps" not covered by other support programmes;

RESPONSIVENESS: assistance is generally delivered within short, tight timeframes;

PEER-TO-PEER: TAIEX relies on Member States' public officials who implement EU legislation in practice and are willing and able to share their technical expertise with counterparts from beneficiary administrations.

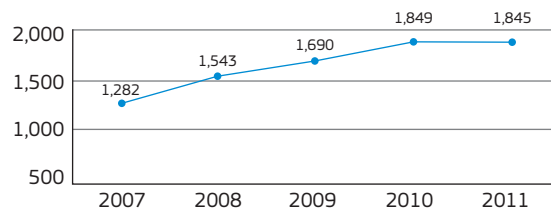
An overview of TAIEX operations in 2011

In 2011, the number of operations implemented by TAIEX remained overall stable, at the previous year's high level. With more than 1800 technical assistance events organised, TAIEX reaffirmed its crucial role in institution building support.

TAIEX assistance in the Western Balkans rose in Serbia and Kosovo. In Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and also in Turkey the number of incoming requests was slightly down. Operations organised for the benefit of Iceland doubled. There was a major increase – mainly in expert missions – in assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community.

From 2010 to 2011 the number of events held in the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy and Russia (ENPI) remained stable, at 374. However, there has been a decrease in the events held in the Neighbourhood South countries¹ that is likely to be linked to the political events that unfolded in the Arab world. At the same time the number of activities has increased in the Neighbourhood East beneficiaries, showing the popularity of the instrument.

TAIEX operations per year



Assistance delivered per country

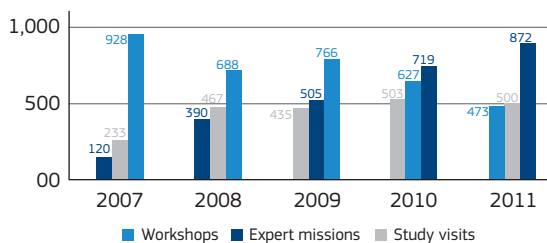
Albania	38
Bosnia & Herzegovina	85
Croatia	125
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	162
Iceland	50
Kosovo	209
Montenegro	54
Serbia	111
Turkey	150
Algeria	16
Armenia	20
Azerbaijan	17
Belarus	29
Egypt	6
Georgia	34
Israel	10
Jordan	29
Lebanon	10
Libya	-
Moldova	67
Morocco	26
Palestinian Authority	19
Russia	10
Syria	-
Tunisia	7
Ukraine	72
Turkish Cypriot community	389
Multi-country events	100
Total	1,845

(1) See beneficiaries' list at page 5

Type and areas of assistance

In terms of type of assistance provided, in 2011 beneficiaries demonstrated a preference for expert missions – short, prompt, in-depth advice – reinforcing a trend that was already apparent before.

Type of assistance



The assistance provided covered the whole range of the EU acquis, in particular justice and home affairs, internal market, environment, agriculture and food safety. Medium-term technical assistance, a sequence of short-term interventions which is agreed beforehand and then implemented, has increased in the sectors of agriculture and food safety. For the moment this approach is used in TAlEX assistance to Iceland, Kosovo and the Turkish Cypriot community.

Outside classic TAlEX events, the People 2 People programme (P2P) has consolidated its contribution to strengthening civil society's role in the democratic process in the enlargement context. In 2011, a new programme, the Local Administration Facility (LAF), was launched with the aim of strengthening the capacity of local and regional authorities to prepare for EU accession.

Events per sector of operation

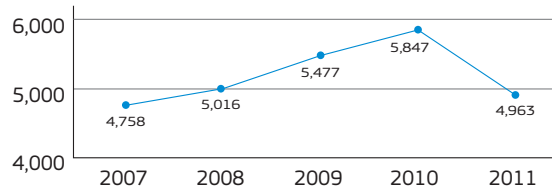
Freedom, Security and Justice	440
Internal Market	331
Agriculture and Food Safety	252
Environment, Transport and Telecommunications	124
Regional Training Programme	30
P2P study tours	26
LAF	8
Medium-term assistance (mainly Kosovo and Iceland)	245
Aid to the Turkish Cypriot community	389 ²
TOTAL	1,845

TAlEX experts

As always, TAlEX operations took place thanks to the crucial contribution provided by public administration officials from the 27 Member States.

Almost five thousand civil servants acted as TAlEX experts, sharing their knowledge and expertise with participants of TAlEX events. The largest number came from Germany (388), the UK (363), Italy (342) and Belgium (341).

Number of experts involved in TAlEX events



(2) This figure does not include 139 expert activities that took place in the preparation of field missions.



Freedom, Security and Justice

Fight against trafficking in human beings, drug-trafficking and money laundering; combating corruption, police cooperation, respect of the principle of the rule of law... only some of the areas of TAIEX assistance.

In 2011, TAIEX increased its support in the policy areas of Freedom, Security and Justice and the political criteria of Copenhagen: democracy, the principle of the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities.

Approximately 440 events were organised. Most of the assistance focused on justice and home affairs matters. Target groups included officials from the Ministries of Justice and the Interior of the beneficiaries, as well as those in charge of applying the rules in their daily work: judges, prosecutors, police officials, officials from other law-enforcement agencies, border guards, the migration and asylum authorities, customs departments, anti-corruption agencies, etc.

Police co-operation was again a key priority for all beneficiaries along with the fight against organised crime. Support was also provided in the area of combating money laundering and other forms of financial crimes. Many requests for assistance related to the investigation of cybercrime including child pornography. In comparison to recent years, requests for assistance concerning the political criteria of Copenhagen became more numerous.

Candidate countries and potential candidates

Croatia received a specific series of seminars in numerous cities on preventing conflicts of interest and on special investigation techniques for prosecutors in order to fight corruption more effectively. In view of the importance of the subject, seminars on combating corruption also took place in all the other Western Balkans countries.

Requests for learning more about data protection increased considerably.

A seminar on emerging forms of organised crime such as environmental crime, illegal trafficking of cultural property etc., took place in all countries.

The challenge of irregular and legal migration was an issue for all these countries as well as Turkey. A workshop on democratic values and intelligence took place in Ankara. The subject of asset recovery and establishing asset recovery offices was dealt with in all candidate countries and potential candidates.

The Judicial Academy in Skopje requested numerous seminars and study visits for judges on various issues of law.

Turkey received assistance in relation to a functioning judiciary, but also for example on tackling violence and crime amongst young people.



European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries

Demand for assistance from ENPI beneficiaries increased again considerably in 2011, although, due to the political circumstances, requests from some of the Mediterranean countries came to a halt.

Assistance on cybercrime issues was provided to Jordan. Algeria requested assistance concerning money laundering. TAIEX was also very active in supporting the Palestinian civil police.

In the East, the greatest number of requests came from Ukraine. In assistance to Moldova the main focus was again on asylum and migration. A workshop on witness protection took place in Russia, and smuggling of stolen vehicles and investigation of economic crimes were issues in Georgia, as was border management in Belarus. Seminars on cybercrime were held in Kiev and Chisinau. The principles of an independent judiciary, particularly in relation to prosecution, were covered in Armenia; in Azerbaijan there was an interest in events on combating irregular migration.

EVENTS PER SECTOR

Money laundering and economic crime - 17

Prisons and penitentiary - 18

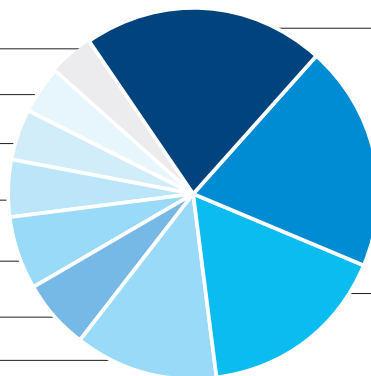
Fight against corruption - 20

Civil and criminal law matters - 22

Data protection - 27

Asylum and migration - 28

Border control - 55



Political criteria - 94

Police co-operation - 86

Organised crime - 73

Total: 440



SUCCESS STORY

Criminal investigation on the right path

Background

Organised crime is a threat to citizens, businesses, state institutions, as well as the economy as a whole. Criminals operate easily across borders, which creates a need for consistent international action. Co-operation among the EU Member States is normal practice but nowadays the mechanisms of combating crime need to be internationalised. Reinforcing the co-operation on both sides of the Mediterranean is critical if international terrorism and other forms of organised crime are to be targeted efficiently and effectively.

TAEIX action

In the context of the Mediterranean Union, Morocco applied for technical assistance to reinforce European-

Moroccan co-operation to combat trans-Mediterranean crime. In September 2011, TAEIX supported the organisation of a study visit on co-operation with the Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie (Ministry of Defence). The activity showcased EU strategies, programmes and criminal investigation techniques aiming to increase the capabilities of the Moroccan scientific police.

TAEIX facilitated the meetings between senior members of the Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie Research and Technical and Scientific Analysis Laboratory (LARATES), which is the responsible body for national criminal investigations, and their counterparts in France and Belgium, the Central Laboratory of the Prefecture de Police and the National Institute for Criminology, respectively.

“ *In the field of combating international criminality, TAEIX truly facilitates international exchanges. The mechanisms of fighting organised crime have to be internationalised if we want to defeat them.* ”

Fabrice GASON

Adviser – Coordinator of General Analytical Chemical Section
 Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie
 Nationaal Instituut voor Criminalistiek en Criminologie
 Belgium



“ *TAIEX facilitates the ground where international co-operation and information exchange take place, reinforcing the fight against all forms of organised crime.* ”

Pr Hamid Stambouli

Director of the Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie Research and Technical and Scientific Analysis Laboratory (LARATES)
Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie



Presentations and meetings in Paris focused on research into explosives, related products and associated technical services, as well as on securing the crime scene.

In Belgium, they visited the vehicle crime section of the Federal Police in Tournai and the Paint Laboratory in Brussels. The focus was on investigation techniques from residual traces and the utilisation of Euicap (European Collection of Automotive Paints) and CPS (Colour Profil System) tools.

This valuable exchange of knowledge and ideas will permit LARATES to better identify vehicles involved in road accidents, drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

The study visit also included a meeting between the Moroccan experts and the EEAS desk officer.

Achievements

- The Moroccan scientific police obtained the tools to objectively select an adequate investigation path;
- The study visit reinforced the exchange of information and knowledge between the European Union and Morocco in the field of fighting organised crime;
- A door has been opened up for future co-operation activities in the form of seminars and training in the field of combating organised crime.





Internal Market

In 2011, a total of 331 events were organised in the field of the internal market and related subjects.

Free movement of goods, persons, services and capital

The implementation of the fundamental principles of the EU single market naturally attracted the bulk of TAIEX assistance in this sector, totalling 97 events in 2011. Market surveillance was the subject of a workshop on medical devices in Turkey, while the requirements to ensure the safety of toys were presented at a workshop in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. More than 300 participants attended the workshops organised in Croatia, Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia and Belarus dedicated to EU legislation on chemicals and their safe use. A multi-country workshop on REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and product stewardship for candidate countries and potential candidates was organised in Montenegro.

To help the Western Balkan countries advance with the transposition of the Services Directive, a multi-country workshop was set up in Brussels. Thirty-two events were organised in the financial services sector. The International Accounting Standards were presented in Ukraine, and a study visit for officials from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia took place to make available EU expertise in the implementation of payment services in the internal market.

Consumer and health protection

Expertise was provided to support the transposition into Croatian legislation of the Directive on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday products, resale and exchange contracts. The EU acquis on consumer protection was

the subject of a workshop in Jordan, while an expert mission was organised to help the authorities in Moldova to transpose the Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts. In the field of health protection, a multi-country workshop was organised to improve collaboration on organ donation and transplantation medicine in South-eastern Europe.

Statistics

In 2011, significant demand for assistance came from the neighbouring countries in the field of statistics, in which 38 events were organised. A multi-country workshop was set up in collaboration with Eurostat to provide knowledge on new techniques and technologies in statistics. Representatives from the statistical institutions in Algeria and Jordan received training on the implementation of a time-use survey.

Customs union and taxation

Workshops were organised on customs and tariffs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on rules of origin for Georgia and the Palestinian Authority. An expert mission on TARIC visited Albania, a study visit on the Single Window Implementation took place in Turkey, and an expert mission on harmonisation with EU customs legislation was held in Morocco.

Social policy and employment

Twenty-eight requests for assistance were implemented in 2011. Workshops were organised on the coordination of social security schemes in Albania, on social policy coordination in the context of EU 2020 in Serbia, and on the implementation of information



and orientation services in Morocco. Expertise was provided to support the development of the National Employment Strategy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Candidate countries and potential candidates

Candidate countries and potential candidates were still the main TAIEX beneficiaries in the internal market area. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

and Turkey remained the most active applicants for assistance, followed by Serbia.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries

In 2011, the demand for TAIEX assistance from the neighbouring countries remained stable, accounting for 47% of all internal market events. Ukraine continued to be the most active applicant, followed by Moldova, Armenia and Morocco.

EVENTS PER SECTOR

Employment and social policy - 28

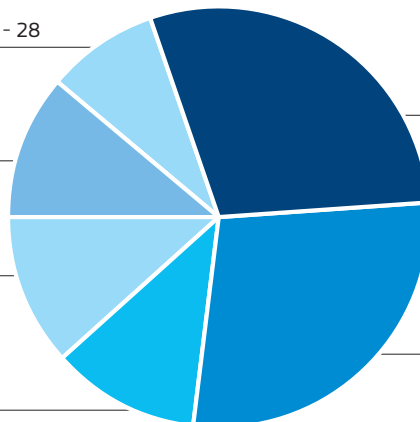
Customs union and taxation - 37

Statistics - 38

Consumer and health protection - 38

Free movements of goods, people, services and capital - 97

Others - 93



Total: 331



SUCCESS STORY

Geographical information system in Azerbaijan

Background

The State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan (SSC) produces a considerable volume of statistical data for all aspects of economic and social life. However, the lack of geographical referencing for this data is a serious obstacle in communicating it to decision-makers and the wider public. The best solution to the problem identified by the SSC was to introduce the geographical information system (GIS) which makes it possible to map the location, to analyse spatial relationships, and to visualise data and statistics in ways that reveal interactions and patterns. GIS is widely used by countries with diverse spatial data infrastructures.

TAIEX action

During two interdependent missions, a TAIEX expert worked together with Azerbaijan's SSC on:

(1) a presentation of GIS capabilities for statistical purposes; (2) data assessment and the conceptual design of a GIS model; and (3) physical GIS implementation. In order to benefit from the newly created system, a final TAIEX expert mission is to be organised in 2012 to help the SCC: (4) to train the staff; and (5) promote GIS to users.

Achievements

- Staff awareness of the opportunities and benefits offered by the GIS when used in statistics;
- Design and development of a GIS model with key statistical data;
- A fully operational GIS system installed on the SSC's server;
- A user-friendly geographical interface to quantitative information available for users.

“ We, together with the colleagues at the State Statistical Committee, created a real working geospatial solution around open source technology. Thanks to TAIEX, we proved that sophisticated GIS are not expensive and can be implemented without any expenditure on software. ”

Alexander Kotsev

Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski'
Bulgaria

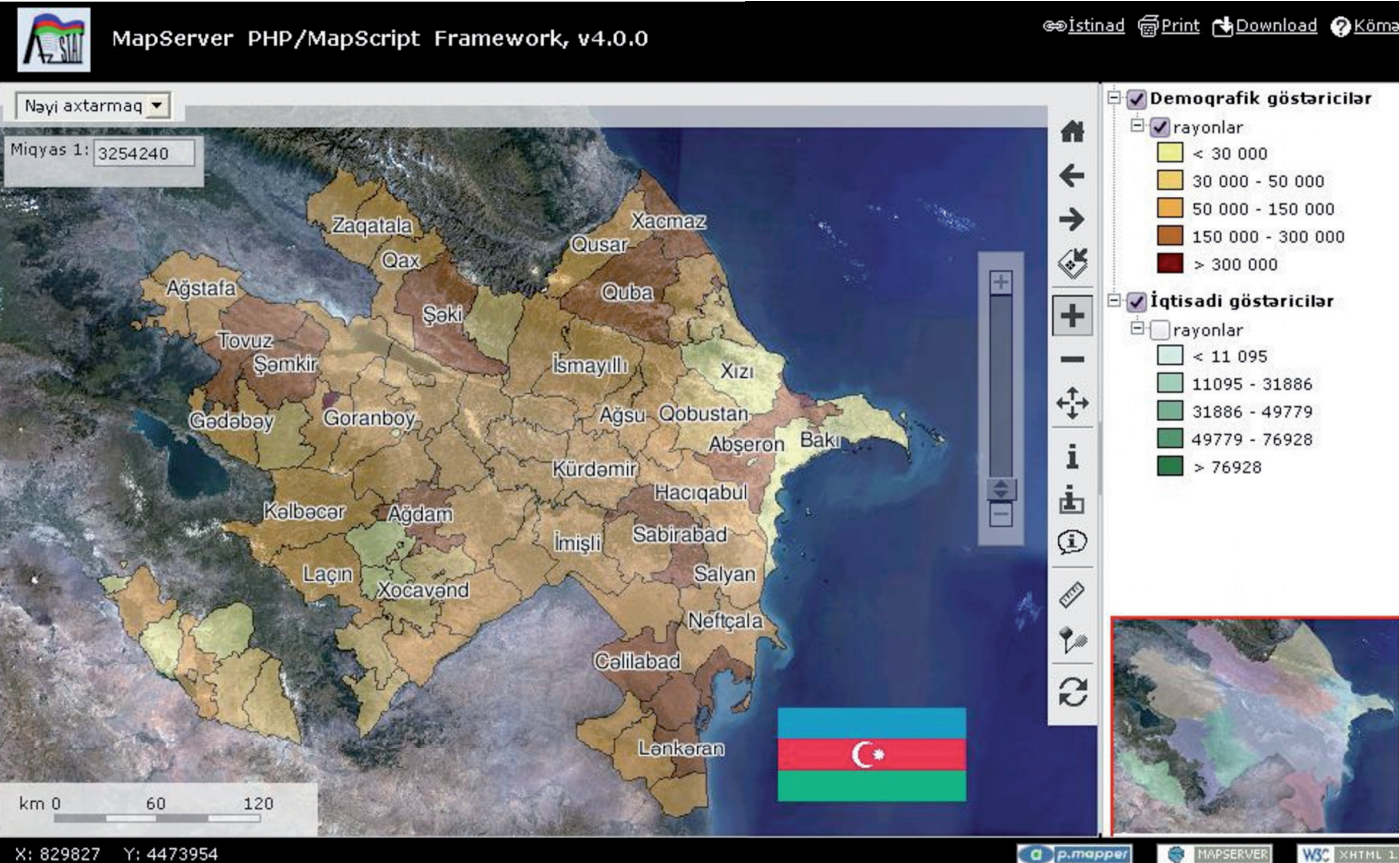


“Interested to offer our users a user-friendly tool to visualise statistical data, the State Statistical Committee found that having a fully operational GIS system is the best solution. The TAIEX missions contributed to designing and implementing this system, thus clarifying our future directions of development.”



Meri Amirova

Head of the Data Dissemination Department
State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan



EU legislation

Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).



Agriculture and Food Safety

Our life, our future

'One Health' is the interdisciplinary approach to health adopted by the European Union which focuses on the interactions between animals, humans and their diverse environments. The interconnectedness of human health, veterinary, environmental and agricultural issues is at the core of this.

The EU's integrated approach to food safety aims to assure a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health within the European Union through coherent farm-to-table measures and adequate monitoring, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market.

In addition, most of the current emerging diseases are zoonoses that affect both animals and humans and therefore require a unified approach among the agricultural, veterinary and food safety sectors.

As an illustration of the importance of these sectors and of the continued need for assistance from

the beneficiary countries, 252 TAEIX events in the agriculture and food safety area were organised in 2011, including 26 multi-country events. The scope of activities also widened to reflect the range of requirements.

Candidate countries and potential candidates

Particular emphasis was given to the improvement of food quality and safety from field to table, and the prevention of foodborne diseases. In relation to this, animal welfare and animal diseases have ranked high on the list of priorities among the countries.



In the agricultural field, assistance continued to concentrate on the implementation of the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP), focusing on common market organisation of agricultural products (fruits and vegetables, meat and milk) and continuous support in preparing and/or implementing rural development policies under the IPA rural development programme.

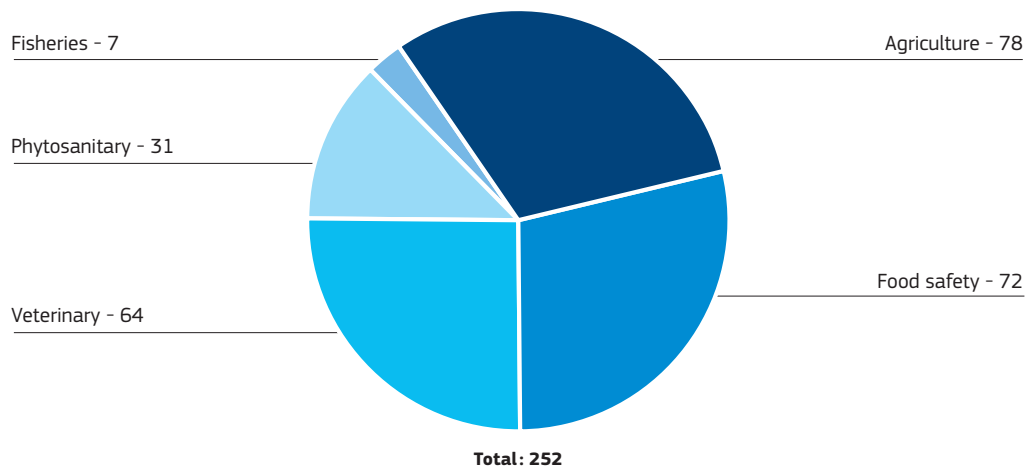
Besides the traditional TAIEX demand-driven assistance, the agricultural section of TAIEX has encouraged the beneficiaries in the Western Balkan partners and Turkey to continue with a more programmatic approach, through the development of the previously established training maps. The setting of priorities by the beneficiaries enabled a mid-term planning and further harmonisation, as well as increased dialogue and co-operation between the different stakeholders.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries

A key element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is represented by the bilateral Action Plans, mutually agreed between the EU and each partner country. In this regard, the assistance of TAIEX in the agricultural sector has been used to achieve the political and economic reforms mentioned in that document, mainly in connection with animal welfare and animal disease topics.

Co-operation on disease information and control measures between neighbouring countries is essential. Trade in animals and animal products, uncontrolled movements of animals across borders and vector-borne, wildlife or airborne diseases require close collaboration between neighbouring countries if the spread of disease is to be prevented or limited.

EVENTS PER SECTOR





SUCCESS STORY

Rural sector development – setting up the IPARD paying agency

Background

With the Rural Development component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), candidate countries are assisted through a specific instrument called IPARD – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development. Its objectives are:

1. Improving market efficiency and implementation of Community standards;
2. Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local rural development strategies;
3. Development of the rural economy.

In order to benefit from these funds, the beneficiaries are required to set up a fully functioning paying agency subject to an accreditation procedure. The creation of such a fully operational paying agency is a demanding

task since it means implementing a management system built on EU principles (separation of functions, risk management, supervision, evaluation and audit). It requires enormous efforts in institution building, thus the accreditation of the IPARD paying agency has been a huge challenge for the Turkish administration, too.

TAIEX action

From 2007 to 2011, TAIEX implemented four expert missions, five workshops (the last took place in November 2011) and five study visits on IPARD in Turkey. In addition, experts from Turkey participated in 16 multi-country workshops on this subject. Similarly, TAIEX has also complemented other support provided through IPA (twinning projects, technical assistance projects and investments).

“ *All the participants expressed big interest and very positive appreciation for such events organised by TAIEX that foster the exchange and sharing of experience among participants.* ”

Gilles Kittel

Team Manager, Financial Audit
DG Agriculture, European Commission



“ *The seminar held in November 2011 in Antalya gave us the opportunity to bring together all on-the spot controllers of the provincial units who were granted the conferral of management. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the very helpful TAIEX organisers who helped us to realise this outstanding event.* ”

Tugrul SAYIN

Head of Internal Audit (ARDSI)
Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Turkey



Achievements

"Turkey has continued to strengthen its Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD) - related structures and in August 2011 achieved conferral of management of EU funds for three measures across 17 provinces. This has paved the way for Turkey to operate EU-financed investments in agricultural holdings as well as in processing and rural development projects.

Compliance with the EU accreditation criteria is being verified for three remaining provinces included in the first phase of the IPARD implementation.

In parallel, the Managing Authority has developed its capacity to operate agri-environmental measures and those relating to bottom-up local rural strategies and to the setting up of producer groups, included in the second stage of IPARD implementation."

Source: 2011 progress report for Turkey of the EC.





Environment, Transport, Telecommunications

How to improve railway safety? How to treat medical waste? How to implement e-governance? In 2011, TAIEX organised 124 events on such topics, providing assistance in the field of environment, transport and telecommunications, as well as energy and climate change.

Environment

More than one-third of the assistance focused on the environment. Member State experts shared best practices mainly in the field of waste (landfill, hazardous, medical, etc.) and water, both covered by specific framework directives.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

High-level technical knowledge was also transferred on Information and Communication Technologies and their market regulations. Indeed, a quarter of the events were organised in that field, on various topics such as broadband network or electronic communications.

Transport

As regards transport – the third sector in terms of number of events organised – the focus was on road transport. As in the previous years, assistance on the implementation of the digital tachograph has proved significant.

Energy and climate change

Energy efficiency and electricity market regulation were key priorities in 2011. Specific requests on how to tackle climate change and implement the Emissions Trading System (ETS) were introduced by Croatia, which is likely to become the 28th Member State in 2013.



Specialisation of experts and participants

Expert missions were clearly favoured in 2011. Designed to provide in-house and in-depth advice, they facilitate exchanges among experts from Member States and beneficiaries. There were many requests for study visits focusing on more technical topics, too. In general, target groups included more and more specialist stakeholders, not only from ministries or specific agencies, but also from the private sector in relation to workshops.

Candidate countries and potential candidates

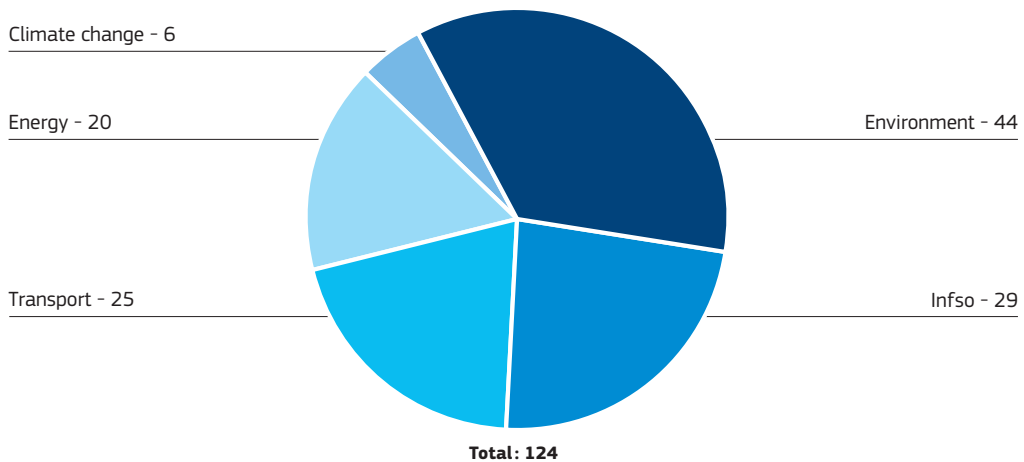
The countries negotiating accession submitted more than 60% of the applications for TAIEX assistance, mainly, and equally shared between the environment, transport and ICT sectors. Serbian and Turkish public

administrations were the most active partners. Implementation of the EU acquis has concerned a wide range of legislations with a concrete impact on citizens, such as better quality of drinking water or easier mobile phone number portability.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries

Requests from both Eastern and Southern ENP partners increased slightly since 2010 and focused more on an approximation level. Most of them concerned the environment sector, including water and air quality. Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia submitted the highest number of applications. An expert mission on climate change was organised in Georgia, in the perspective of the ongoing negotiations at the international level.

EVENTS PER SECTOR





SUCCESS STORY

Fighting environmental crime

Background

Environmental crime covers acts that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm to the environment and human health. The best-known environmental crimes are the illegal emission of substances into air, water or soil, the illegal trade in wildlife, and the illegal shipment of waste. Environmental crimes provide very high profits for perpetrators and relatively low risks of detection. Environmental crimes often have a cross-border aspect as well as a long-term and potentially irreversible impact.

The European Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law defines a minimum number of serious environment-related offences and requires Member States to provide for more dissuasive criminal penalties for this type of offence when committed intentionally or as a result of gross negligence.

As a future member of the EU, the Republic of Croatia needed to transpose this directive and ensure the best possible implementation through training all the authorities involved (environmental inspectorates, police, customs, public prosecutors, court expert witnesses and judges).

TAIEX action

Three TAIEX expert missions were organised in autumn 2011 throughout Croatia (in Zagreb, Osijek, Bjelovar and Varaždin). The aim was to improve the enforcement capacity of involved stakeholders, and to convey knowledge and know-how regarding the detection, investigation and prosecution of environmental crime.

The TAIEX expert trained various representatives from eight ministries and other stakeholders, including representatives of the justice sector at national and regional level. By means of various

“ *The motivation of participants was very high. Due to interested and active participation, good discussions followed at the end of the presentations.* ”

Karl Frauenberger

Criminal Intelligence Service
Federal Ministry of Interior
Austria



“ *We can say that the biggest success of the TAIEX events that we organised in 2011 was that the participants from different state bodies became aware of the necessity to co-operate within and between institutions, sharing the responsibility to solve cases on environmental crime together and thus more successfully.* ”

Anita Pokrovac Patekar

Head of Sector for International Co-operation
Directorate for Inspection
Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection
Croatia



case studies, the expert gave a practical insight into combating environmental crime using his wide international experience, including his long-term co-operation with INTERPOL. He also highlighted the complexity of the cross-cutting and inter-institutional issues related to it.

Achievements

- Training of personnel from the central inspection unit in Zagreb who will provide training at the regional level ('Train the Trainers' principle);
- Involvement, in the training, of all relevant stakeholders responsible for protecting the sea – e.g. maritime police, coast guards;
- A new Criminal Code was passed by the Croatian Parliament and published on 7 November 2011. This Code is the relevant national legal act transposing the EU Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law. It will enter into force on 1 January 2013.



EU legislation

Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

People 2 People Programme (P2P)

In 2011, the P2P Programme again proved to be a successful tool for the exchange of best practice and networking opportunities for civil society organisations (CSOs).

Launched in spring 2008, the P2P Programme is one of the three strands of the Civil Society Facility (CSF) which aims to strengthen the role of civil society and to stimulate civic participation in the Western Balkans, Turkey and Iceland. The main aim of the Programme is to familiarise the participants with the EU and its institutions, legislation, policies and programmes.

Multi-beneficiary study tours

As in previous years, the biggest share of the P2P events were study tours to Brussels, involving three to five representatives of CSOs from each Programme beneficiary.

The study tours covered a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from the fight against HIV/AIDS to the promotion of eco-tourism. Civil society activists and professionals from all corners of the Enlargement countries came to Brussels to share their experience, learn about EU policies and hear about best practices within the EU Member States. War veterans and peace-building

experts visited the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, while waste-management specialists discovered a reuse centre located in Vilvoorde (Belgium). Participants went home with a lot of information, ideas and enthusiasm for further developing their activities, having established the basis for future regional networks.

Single-beneficiary events

By focusing on the situation in one country, such events enable the participation of more and smaller organisations operating in smaller towns and remote areas. Furthermore, they sometimes provide an unique occasion where CSOs and representatives of public authorities can meet and discuss a given topic. These events are organised in close co-operation with the Delegations of the European Union and the local offices of the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO), another strand of the CSF.





SUCCESS STORY P2P

Albanian Civil Society dialogue on their fiscal framework

People 2 People Programme (P2P) - Seminar on 'Ensuring an enabling environment for civil society organisations' 6-7 December 2011, Tirana, Albania.

Background

Despite some positive developments in recent years, civil society organisations (CSOs) in Albania are still confronted with various obstacles in their everyday work. Among them, the fiscal framework currently in place contains measures that are unfavourable to the activities of a vibrant civil society, and the general feeling is that CSOs are treated by the government and tax officials in the same way as real businesses. This fiscal environment negatively affecting CSOs is due to the three amendments of the Law on VAT made in the course of 2008, and to certain government by-laws issued the same year. Although steps were taken towards a constructive dialogue between the government and CSOs in 2009, no results were achieved and the situation remained unchanged.

P2P action

In the light of this, the P2P Programme, in close co-operation with the Delegation of the European Union and the local office of the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO), organised a

seminar in Tirana to relaunch the dialogue between CSOs and the public authorities, and to look for concrete solutions. More than 50 participants from all regions of the country gathered to express their needs and proposals and engage in a discussion with the Ministry of Finance. Experts from Bulgaria and Hungary shared their own experience and highlighted the solutions found in their respective countries. Apart from the reform of the fiscal framework for CSOs, co-operation between local authorities and CSOs in the provision of social services was also on the agenda.

Achievements

- After intense debates, the participants defined a list of conclusions and recommendations to be disseminated;
- The Ministry of Finance agreed that EU grants for CSOs should be exempt from VAT;
- It was decided to revitalise a working group on the fiscal framework for CSOs, with the objective of preparing a first draft of relevant proposals in the near future.

Local Administration Facility (LAF)

Launched in 2011, the new programme called Local Administration Facility (LAF) aims to help local and regional authorities better understand how the EU works and what accession means in terms of their additional responsibilities. The eligible participants of LAF are elected heads or councillors of municipalities, governors of counties or provinces and their senior permanent staff. Sectors concerned are mainly: culture, youth and education, agriculture and food safety, environment, public procurement and economic and social cohesion.

Multi-beneficiary study tours

In January 2011, a pilot phase was launched, during which six multi-beneficiary events were organised in Brussels: 170 representatives of local authorities from seven Western Balkan counties participated. The study tours comprised three days with strong involvement

of the Committee of Regions (CoR), networking opportunities with associations in the field, and several dynamic workshops with experts.

Single-beneficiary events in the region

Due to the upcoming accession of Croatia, it was decided to organise within the LAF programme a targeted workshop for the sole benefit of Croatian participants. The seminar on EU regional policy and efficient use of Structural Funds took place in Zagreb in October 2011. The aim was to give local and regional representatives the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the cohesion policy, to exchange experiences and develop networks. Member State experts presented best practice examples in the implementation of EU Structural Funds and focused on very specific aspects of applying for and implementing EU funds.



Regional Training Programme (RTP)

Taking EU legislation local

The main goal of the Regional Training Programme (RTP) is to provide training to those regional and local authorities with a particularly important role to play in putting EU measures and standards into practice. The programme was thus constructed around the acquis chapters which have a high local impact, such as environment, food safety, transport, social policy and employment. In 2011, two countries were eligible for RTP: Croatia and Turkey.

Two study visits were organised to host institutions in the Member States to complete the training of new Turkish RTP experts. Both study visits covered food safety issues and were hosted by the German and UK authorities.

In Turkey, 21 workshops were organised, the majority of which dealt with food safety, mainly the approval and registration of establishments. The seven workshops organised in Croatia also focused on food safety issues.



Assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community

The European Union has been providing significant assistance to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community. Particular emphasis is being given to the economic integration of the island, improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on the preparation for the future application of the EU acquis.

The European Commission's TAIEX instrument has been the main mechanism for delivering technical assistance to support the Turkish Cypriots in preparing legal texts aligned with the EU acquis, and to prepare for its implementation in view of the withdrawal of its suspension, following a comprehensive settlement between the two communities, in line with Council Regulation 389/2006.

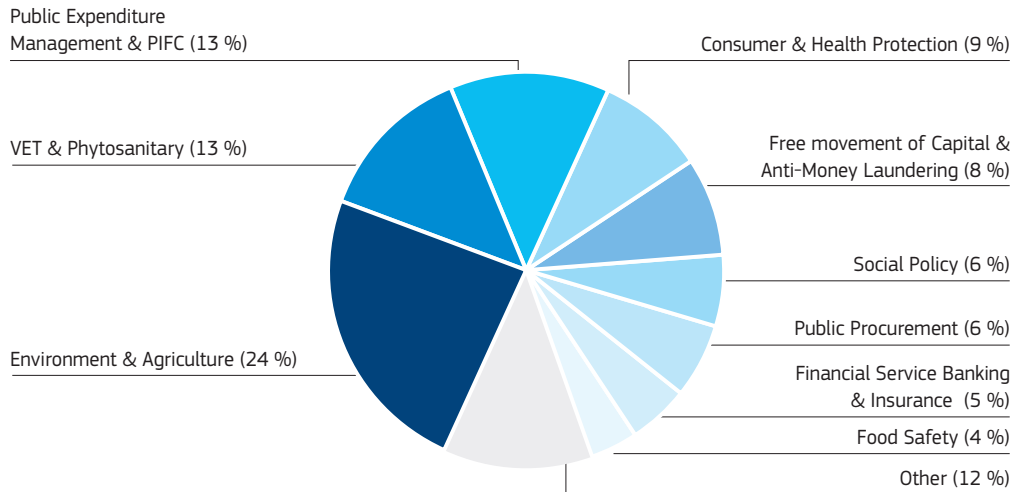
Delivering technical assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community is constrained by the continued absence of

a political settlement regarding the Cyprus problem. The ongoing negotiations between the leaders of the two communities, under UN auspices, continue to provide hope for a settlement.

TAIEX assistance activities to the Turkish Cypriot community are centred around the Programme for the Future Application of the Acquis (PFAA). Launched in December 2007 and renewed in 2011, the PFAA provides a clear framework for prioritising, planning and delivering technical assistance on the transposition



EVENTS PER SECTOR



of the acquis. Assistance primarily takes the form of missions by TAIEX experts from EU Member State institutions and bodies to the northern part of Cyprus, to explain the provisions of the acquis and to advise on measures to prepare for its future implementation following reunification. Thus, the training delivered is helping the Turkish Cypriots understand the requirements of the acquis and will, following a settlement, assist in enforcing the acquis across the island. Assistance is currently provided through the PFAA in 16 acquis chapters.

Since the end of 2009, assistance under the PFAA has moved towards a more programmatic medium-term approach, and the project activities follow an annual working document planned with the beneficiaries and agreed by the European Commission. In 2011, in the third round of Medium-term Technical Assistance (MTA), a total of 528 events were organised. A new call for experts was recently addressed to the TAIEX

National Contact Points to identify the experts to take part in the MTA IV.

As well as assistance by acquis sector, TAIEX continues to provide more general training to the Turkish Cypriots to help them develop the future capacity and skills that will be needed to implement the acquis. Such assistance includes advice on the principles of legal drafting and alignment, and help in improving the management of public expenditure.

TAIEX continues to mobilise EU Member State experts who provide support to the development of trade across the 'Green Line', according to the mandate set out in the Green Line Regulation (Council Regulation No. 866/2004). Some Turkish Cypriot products – such as potatoes, citrus, fruit and fish – can only be traded across the Green Line if they comply with EU health standards. TAIEX experts check these products and provide certificates to enable trade.

TAIEX website – get connected to us

The TAIEX website gives more comprehensive and detailed information on TAIEX operations. You can find general information on all events that have been organised and you can even consult experts' presentations from TAIEX events in the 'Library' section.

The TAIEX website is not only a communication and information exchange tool, but is also a working instrument. Beneficiary countries submit their requests for TAIEX assistance through the website (an online application form is available) and new TAIEX experts can be recruited through the Expert Database.

The website gives access to all the TAIEX databases: Expert Database, Expert Stock Exchange, Progress, CCVista, and JurisVista.

Expert Database

The TAIEX Expert Database is a key tool in the daily work of preparing TAIEX events. It registers public officials from EU Member State national administrations dealing with EU legislation and willing to participate in TAIEX activities.

It contributes to the better identification of suitable key experts thus enabling a more rapid response to beneficiaries' requests.

In 2011, more than 4,000 experts were registered in the Expert Database. In addition, the names of more than 700 institutional National Contact Points which play a coordination role within EU Member State ministries were registered.

Expert Stock Exchange

The Expert Stock Exchange aims to advertise TAIEX events and attract applications from relevant national experts. This electronic platform regularly publishes study visits, workshops and expert missions for which an expertise is required. Besides Member State National Contact Points, experts registered in the Expert Database automatically receive these offers and can indicate their interest (electronically) in a given seminar or expert mission.

Progress Database

The Progress Database organises all EU legislation in a format that allows for a continuous exchange of up-to-date information on newly adopted acts and on the harmonisation of national legislation. All data collected via the Progress Database are shared with the European Commission services and EU Delegations, country missions and the relevant national authorities.

CCVista Database

CCVista Database constitutes a repository of all translations of EU legislation produced by the Translation Coordination Units of the beneficiary countries. It is a key source of information for all internet users who wish to consult legislation translated into the languages of the beneficiary countries.

JurisVista Database

The JurisVista Database can host translations into the languages of beneficiary countries of a collection of key historical judgements of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance. As with CCVista, although revised, the texts in the database have no legal value but serve as working documents.

WATCH THE TAIEX VIDEO



Available in English, French, Arabic and Russian on the website:

<http://taix.ec.europa.eu/>

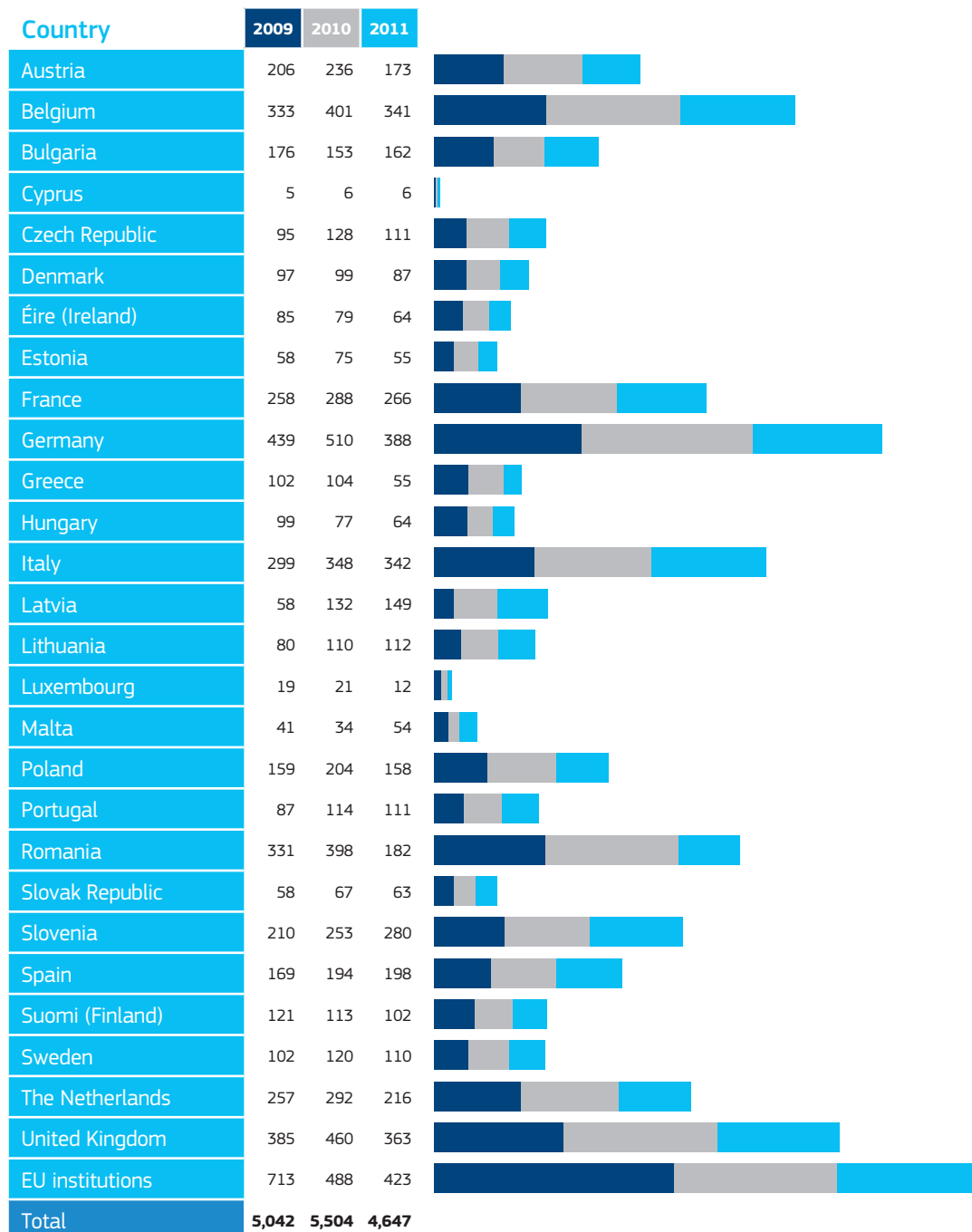
Implementation and Financial Issues

For the practical implementation of TAIEX events, the European Commission relied on the external support of the service provider 'Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit' (GIZ).

As regards funding resources, in 2011 almost €10 million were spent for IPA countries and around €3 million for ENPI countries.

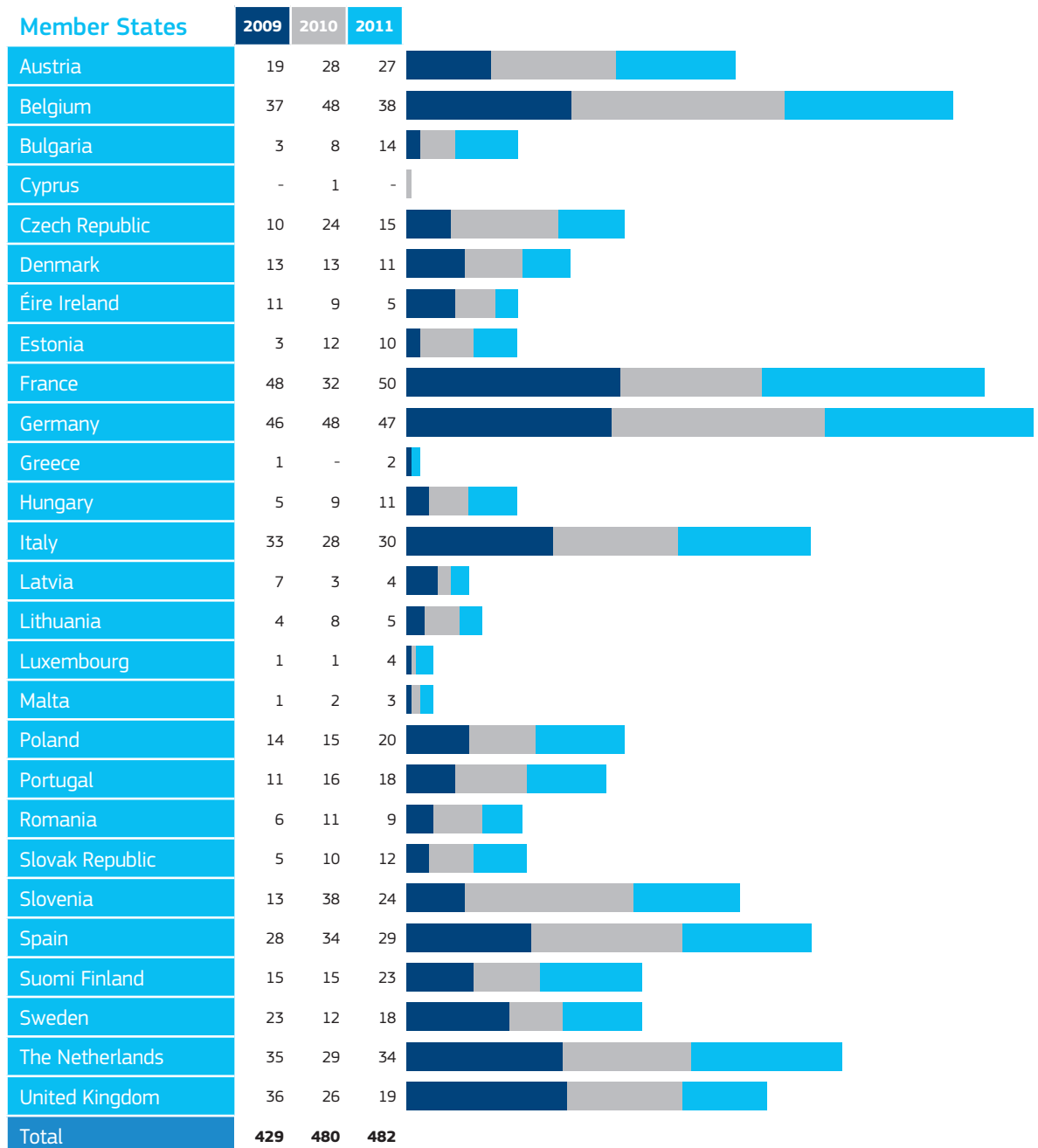
General statistics

Country of origin of TAIEX experts³

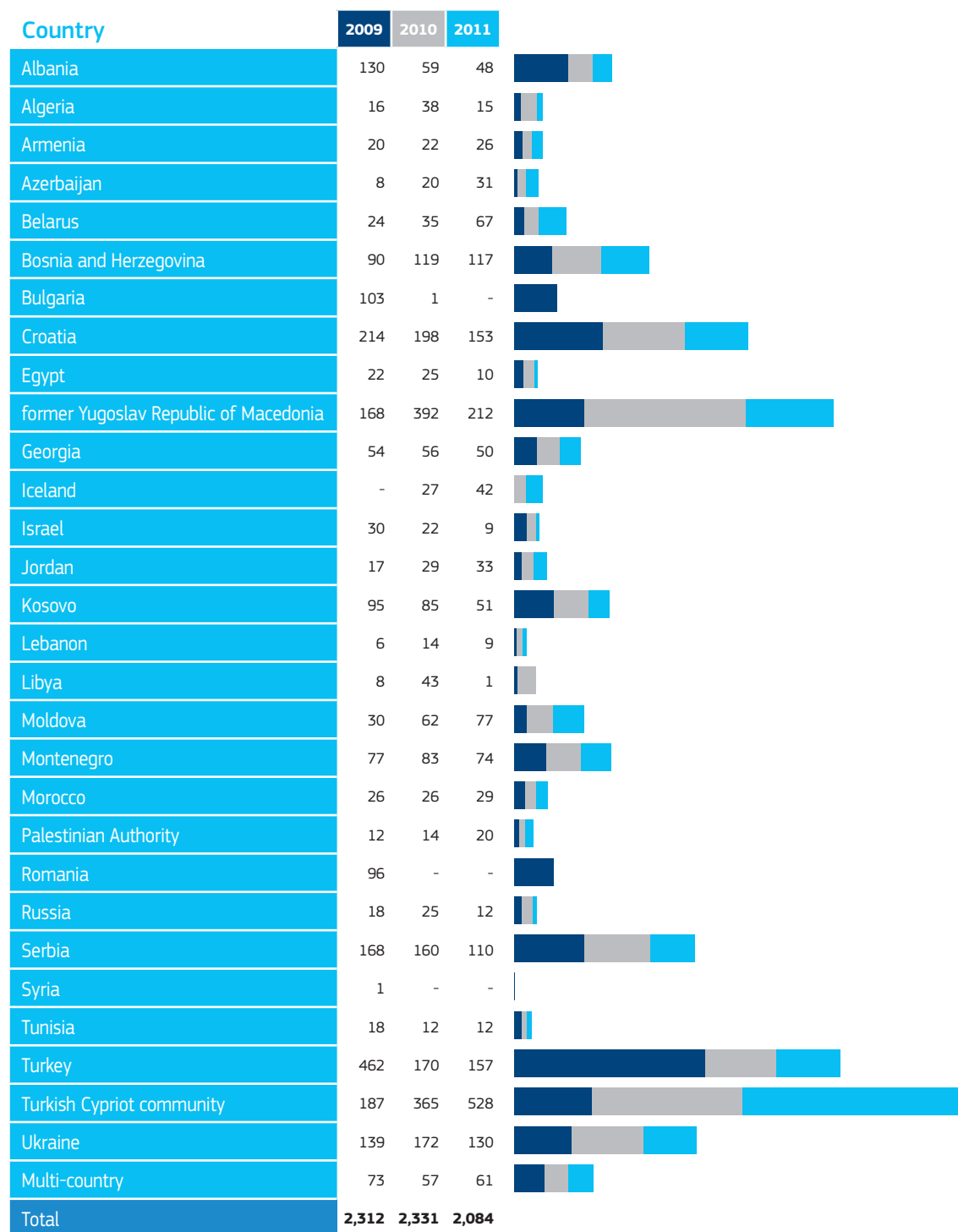


(3) Only speakers from MS and EU institutions.

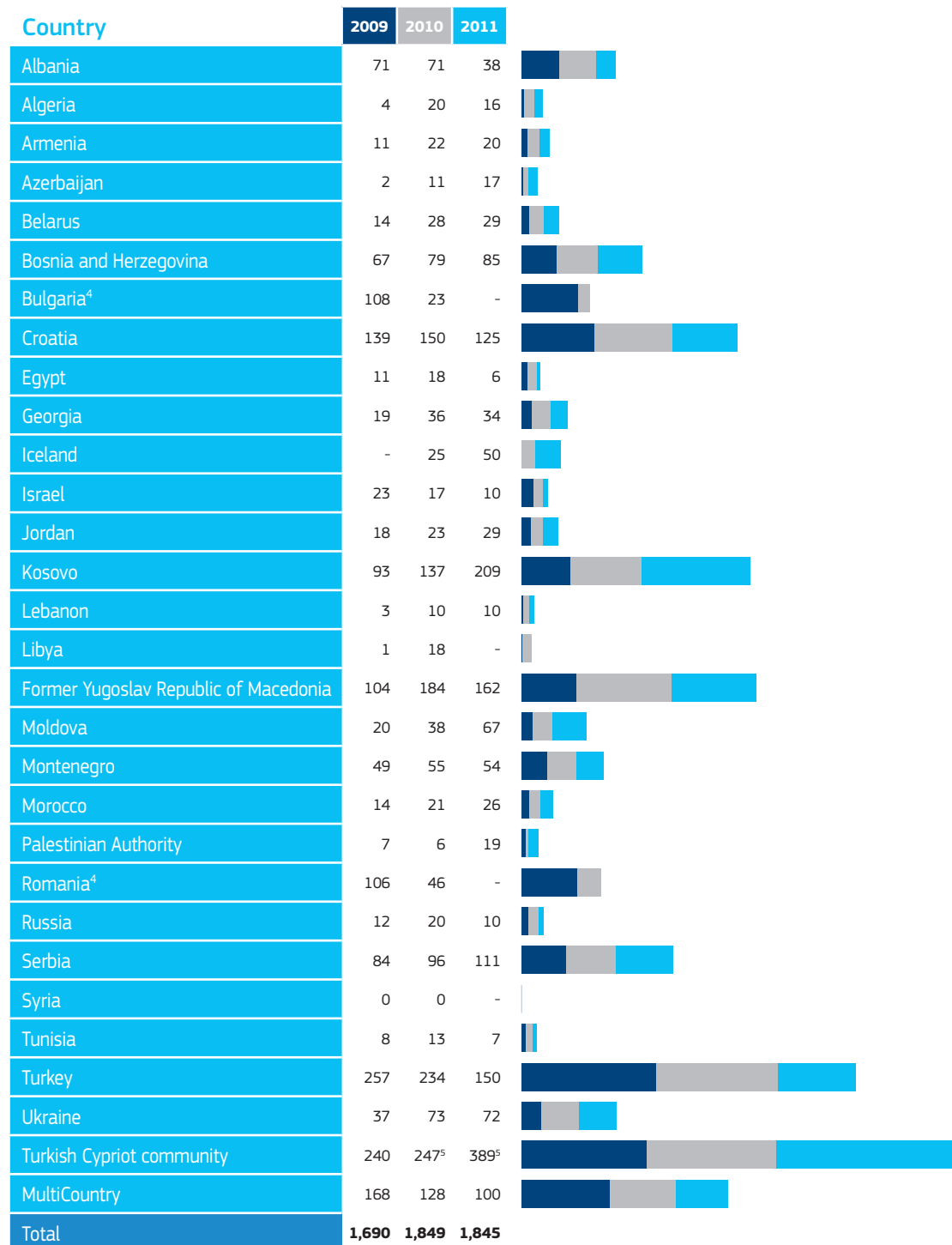
Study visits to Member States (host countries)



Origin of requests by country



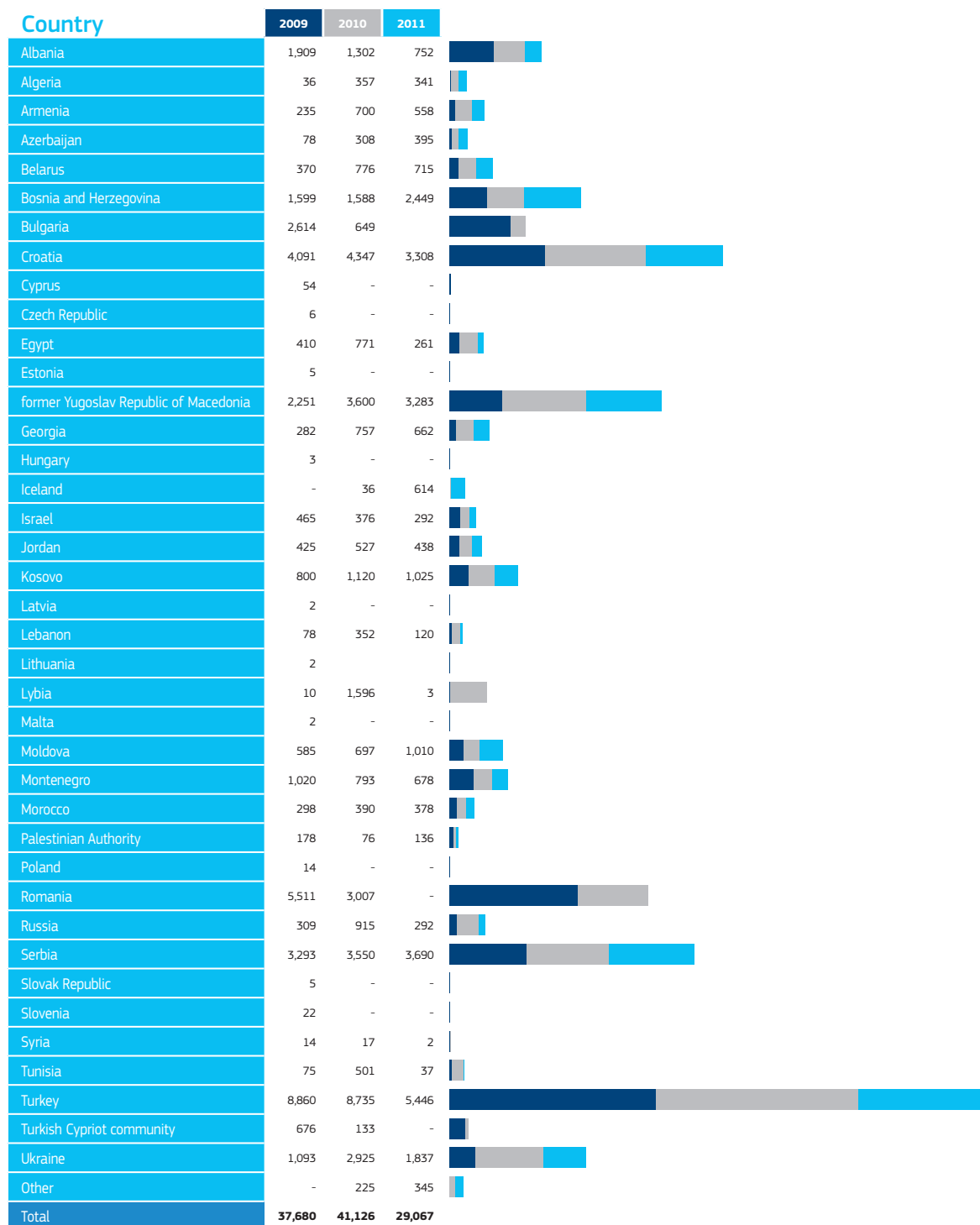
Events per beneficiary



(4) Post-accession assistance continued for Romania and Bulgaria until end 2010.

(5) This figure does not include the activities carried out by TAIEX experts in preparation for field missions.

Number of participants per country



TAIEX Activity Report 2011

Brussels: European Commission, Enlargement Directorate-General 2012
NI-AC-12-001-EN-C
ISBN 978-92-79-23876-5

The Institution Building Unit (IBU) of the European Commission is responsible for the TAIEX Instrument and Twinning.
To know more about us:

VISIT THE INSTITUTION BUILDING WEBSITE

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/technical-assistance/index_en.htm

VISIT THE TAIEX WEBSITE

<http://taix.ec.europa.eu>

VISIT THE TWINNING WEBSITE

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/technical-assistance/twinning_en.htm

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elarg-twinning@ec.europa.eu

If you are a Member State public official with expertise in specific areas of the *acquis* communautaire, whether the legislation itself or its implementation or enforcement, and you wish to co-operate with the TAIEX instrument, we invite you to register in the Expert Database:

<http://taix.ec.europa.eu/ExpertDatabase/>

To know more about Enlargement of the EU:

VISIT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ENLARGEMENT WEBSITE:

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Publications Office

ISBN 978-92-79-23876-5



9 789279 238765