

TAIEX

2005 ACTIVITY REPORT



BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER



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LUXEMBOURG OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, 2006.

ISBN 92-79-01814-0

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, 2005
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PRINTED IN BELGIUM

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FOREWORD

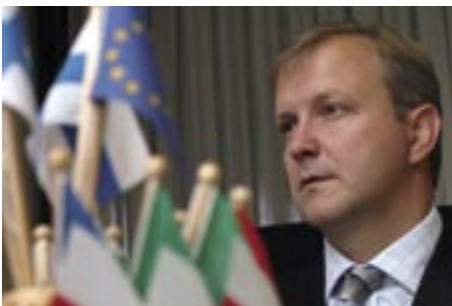
Enlargement is one of the European Union's most powerful policy tools to pursue peace and prosperity, liberty and democracy. The Eastern enlargement of 2004 sealed the peaceful reunification of Europe. As a result ten countries joined the EU on 1 May 2004.

In spring 2005, the EU signed an accession treaty with Bulgaria and Romania who are to join the Union in 2007, provided they are fully prepared and there is no need to postpone their accession by a year. Later in the year, the Union opened accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became a candidate for future EU membership. A convincing political perspective for eventual integration into the EU is proposed to the countries of the Western Balkans, if they meet the accession criteria in full.

2005 was a busy year for enlargement in which we maintained the momentum. Similarly, the European Commission's on-going delivery of technical assistance and institution building programmes – so closely linked to the enlargement process – continued apace. In this regard, the ceaseless work of the TAIEX instrument over almost ten years has become an integral feature of the pre-accession strategy, both in responding to requests for short-term technical assistance from beneficiary countries, as well as being a tool to support EU policy objectives by responding effectively to the Union's policy priorities.

In 2005 alone, TAIEX mobilised more than 5,000 Member State experts to participate in 1,300 events reaching 40,000 officials from beneficiary countries. These events – whether seminars, workshops, peer reviews or other assistance – embody the Enlargement process. They facilitate an exchange of best practices and experiences across the *acquis communautaire* nurturing networks based on partnerships where nonetheless the beneficiary country is the driving force for change. With an increasing number of partner countries, the role of the TAIEX instrument remains valid today. Indeed, the continued rise in demand for short-term technical assistance, and correspondingly for TAIEX support, as this 2005 report details, demonstrates how valuable this form of support continues to be.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I present this report on TAIEX activities in 2005. It provides a broad overview of the diverse range of activities, services and target groups now included within TAIEX operations. It also describes a flexible and complementary tool proven through many years experience. TAIEX will continue to be a valuable asset to help consolidate and carry forward what the Union has achieved so far.



Olli Rehn
Commissioner for Enlargement

TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2005

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TAIEX MISSION

For the new Member States, the accession countries, the candidate countries and the potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans and the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of Cyprus

- to provide institution building support with the view to assisting the process of transposing, implementing and enforcing the EU *acquis communautaire*
- to organise centrally managed short-term technical co-operation for the benefit of EU partner administrations calling on public sector expertise in the Member States
- to meet demand-driven requests for assistance from the beneficiary countries, and also respond to priorities identified by the Commission and Member States.

INTRODUCTION

ENLARGEMENT is and will continue to be one of the most important undertakings of the Union at the start of the 21st century. In 2004, the Union experienced its biggest ever enlargement with the accession of 10 new countries – Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Malta, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Following this, Bulgaria and Romania are expected to enter the Union in 2007 if they are ready.

Accession negotiations started with Croatia and Turkey in 2005, while the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became a candidate for future membership of the European Union. For the Western Balkans as a whole, the priority for the EU remains the promotion of stability and peace in the region. With this in mind, relations intensified with the other countries of the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo¹. The European Commission continued its assistance to help reform, adapt and strengthen public institutions in order to facilitate the application of EU rules and procedures known as the *acquis communautaire*. Indeed, the need to bring assistance with real added value in this context has gained increasing importance.

The TAIEX instrument therefore moved into its tenth year of operations with an important role to play. The transition facility, in place for the continued assistance for the new Member States, ensured that work was on-going with all ten countries in areas where further strengthening of administrative capacity was needed. Romania and Bulgaria continued to benefit from Member State expertise to ensure progress in institution building and increased capacity to implement the *acquis*. Assistance towards Turkey was intensified while relations with the countries of the Western Balkans reflected a significant increase in focus.

OVERVIEW

The growth in TAIEX activities showed a substantial increase in 2005 with the number of technical

assistance actions rising 20% to 1,322 compared to 1,105 events in 2004. This growth was matched by the number of Member State experts at 5,225, also up 20%. The number of people who received some form of training through the TAIEX instrument saw a significant year-on-year jump of over 45% with 41,802 officials from the beneficiary countries benefiting at least once from TAIEX assistance.

In terms of the groupings of countries, it is clear that the ten new Member States and the candidate countries received proportionately the lion share of the projects. Assistance to Bulgaria and Romania saw a sharp rise as these countries make further preparations for membership. In the Western Balkans, 125 events were organised across the *acquis*. By sector, the most substantial growth in the number of events was registered in Freedom, Security & Justice (+98%), in Infrastructure (+73%) and Internal Market (+25%). As a format, expert and study visits also increased its service (+49%). With 222 events organised in 2005, the Regional Training Programme made up a significant part of overall activities.

Following the outcome of the referenda on the UN backed Annan Plan and the subsequent entry of the divided island of Cyprus into the Union on 1 May 2004, the Commission responded to the invitation of the Council of Ministers by proposing a comprehensive package of aid and trade measures aiming to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community. In this context, TAIEX is the instrument responsible for all technical assistance elements included in relation to preparing for the application of the *acquis communautaire*.

The Financial Aid Regulation however was not adopted in 2005 and this was the major factor determining a limited programme of TAIEX assistance. Irrespective, 276 Turkish Cypriot community representatives attended over 45 technical assistance events. Particular attention was given to supporting the implementation of the 'Green Line' regulation including supporting the

Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce. Assessment missions and expert visits on legislative matters were also organised on a broad range of issues. Importantly, efforts were made in 2005 to develop and put in place key co-ordination structures within the community aimed at preparing the future harmonisation with the EU *acquis*.

2005 was the first full year of TAIEX delivered assistance to the administrations of the Western Balkans. After an initial phase in 2004 of multi-country seminars in Brussels, a more demand-driven approach was taken to reach a wider audience in the region – through expert/study visits, multilateral/bilateral workshops or peer-based advisory missions. Over the year, TAIEX organised over 200 technical assistance events across the *acquis communautaire*, more than half of which took place in the region itself. The greatest focus was on agricultural, transport and energy issues, and freedom, security and justice issues targeting over 5,000 officials from central state administrations, business associations, judiciary, law enforcement authorities and parliamentary associations.

ACCESSION RELATED SERVICES

TAIEX has for many years taken the lead in organising peer reviews, the main objective of which is to determine whether adequate administrative infrastructure and capacity are in place in acceding countries in order to ensure full implementation of the *acquis*. While useful for pinpointing areas requiring further strengthening, the peer reviews also serve the important role of providing an additional source of information for the Commission's ongoing monitoring activities. In 2005 TAIEX-organised peer reviews were an integral part of the enhanced monitoring applied to Bulgaria and Romania, the final reports from which contributed to the 2005 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published in the autumn of 2005.

The process of joining the Union has many elements. The significant capacity of the TAIEX

instrument has been involved in another important accession related service: *screening*. One of the first important steps on the accession path is for the Commission to present the *acquis communautaire*, followed by the candidate countries presenting their current legislation and difficulties they may have to transpose and implement some elements. In late 2005, the TAIEX instrument assumed the complex logistics of 16 screening meetings and more than 80 other meetings are expected in 2006.

Another important service the TAIEX instrument has provided over the last ten years has been to help beneficiary partners to finalise translations of the *acquis* within the time frame leading up to accession. The considerable work achieved with the ten new Member States prior to accession continued in 2005, with attention shifting to Bulgaria and Romania, as well as to Turkey and the Western Balkans. Assistance has included trainings, study visits, round table meetings, sharing of best practices, and the provision of software.

TAIEX NETWORKS

The TAIEX instrument depends on its network of Member State experts. On 1 May 2004, this network grew significantly by welcoming new experts whose specialisation has been developed within the accession process. New Member State officials acquired their knowledge through their own successful transition phase of legislative approximation to the *acquis communautaire*, and the process of learning best practices. In certain regards the new Member States are well placed to turn provider of expertise and share their knowledge with the acceding and candidate countries and the Western Balkans.

The challenge in 2005 was to access this new pool of expertise in a systematic and effective manner. To achieve this, TAIEX developed the TAIEX Expert Database (ED), an on-line consolidated pool of Member State public sector experts, profiled according to their expertise and experience in a

certain sector of the *acquis*. New and old Member State officials are invited to register and make themselves available to the TAIEX instrument. The involvement of new Member States in TAIEX training programmes goes some way to explaining the rise in number of engaged experts to 5,225 in 2005 from 4,382 a year earlier. The database is an evolving tool to help TAIEX to do what it does best: bringing people, experts, practitioners and stakeholders together.

PROSPECTS

The European Commission will continue to provide post-accession assistance through the TAIEX instrument to the new Member States through the Transition facility. For the Turkish Cypriot community, a breakthrough in the adoption of the Financial Aid Regulation is expected in 2006. This will trigger the implementation of a comprehensive programme of technical assistance, supported in its delivery by the establishment of a programme support office.

TAIEX is expected to play an increasing role in the Institution Building efforts towards the Western Balkans in the years ahead. For candidate countries, Croatia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 2006 will see a further intensification of activities in particular in assisting the screening process. For all these beneficiaries, peer assessment missions will help highlight areas of concern and contribute to the development of targeted assistance.

In 2006, the scope of the TAIEX instrument will be widened. After significant preparatory work in 2005, a formal Council Decision¹ of February 2006 created the legal basis for the extension of the TAIEX operation to those countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), as well as Russia. ENP countries are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. From summer 2006, ENP

partner countries will progressively start to be able to access short-term technical assistance much in the same way as other beneficiary countries. The TAIEX instrument will “provide targeted assistance to aid the partner countries in understanding and drafting legislation related to the action plans or to the National Indicative Programmes and to help them with implementation and enforcement.”²

It is evident that the usefulness, capacity and proven experience of the TAIEX instrument will be a service for an increasing circle of beneficiary partners for the years ahead.



¹ Council Decision (2006/62/EC) of 23 January 2006 enabling countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as Russia, to benefit from the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Programme.

² Article 1, Council Decision (2006/62/EC) of 23 January 2006.

TAIEX ACTIVITIES



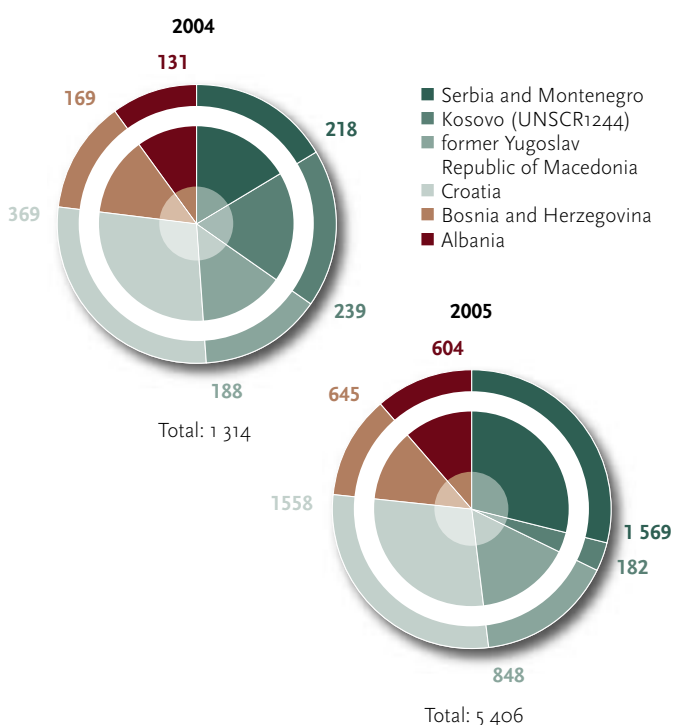
WESTERN BALKANS

European Union relations with the different countries and administrations of the Western Balkans evolved over 2005. After having confirmed the Republic of Croatia as a candidate country in June 2004, in December 2005 the Union upgraded to candidacy status the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 2006 is likely to see further developments in the region. Technical assistance aimed at institution building therefore had to keep pace with these developments with an intensification of activities for the region as a whole.

Over the course of 2005, the European Commission provided assistance through the TAIEX instrument to over 5,000 officials and organised more than 200 events for the Western Balkan administrations. Compared to 2004, activities grew four-fold in number and covered a wider range of areas, bringing operations up to full speed in just over a year. If the initial activities organised from mid 2004 for the Western Balkans were mainly intended to build relations with the new beneficiaries, 2005 marked the switch to a more traditional TAIEX approach, based on a more demand driven assistance. The initiative to organise a technical assistance event however does not always originate from the beneficiaries. Targeted assistance actions for the Western Balkans can and indeed often were generated by services of the European Commission including its Delegations or other donors and potential co-organisers. The close involvement of such third parties is important since it helps to focus on immediate priorities, to enhance cooperation and to avoid overlapping.

To date, agriculture and food safety have been the most active area of TAIEX assistance in the region. In 2005, more than 50 events in these areas were organised, including among others, multi-country seminars on veterinary and phytosanitary legislation and on rural development, as well as a forum on veterinary medical products. TAIEX also organised several study visits to Member States, among which were two very successful multi-country study visits of veterinary and phytosanitary chiefs to Lithuania. Moreover, a series of 21 assessment missions

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER COUNTRY

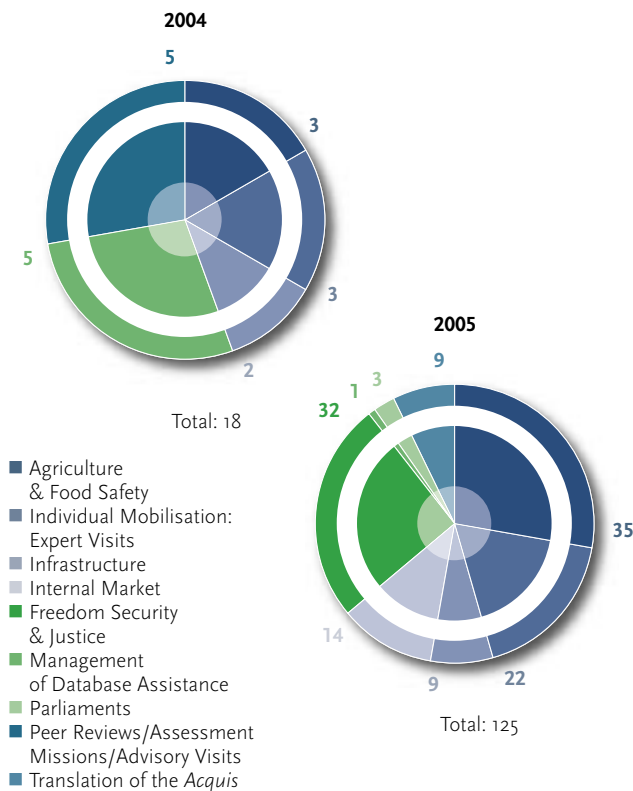


in the phytosanitary, veterinary and agricultural sectors was launched in May 2005 and continued throughout the year. These missions, which covered all countries of the region, evaluated legislation and administrative capacity in the three sectors concerned and to establish, in close cooperation with local authorities, a structured plan for future technical assistance.

TAIEX assistance in the infrastructure sector has also grown steadily throughout 2005. Over 50 events were organised in the region, mostly in the form of multi-country events dealing with a variety of subjects including maritime and aviation safety and security management issues (in co-operation with partners from the European Maritime Safety Agency and the European Civil Aviation Conference) and integrated energy data management. Single-country requests on specific topics covered by environmental legislation – such as the packaging and waste packaging directive, EU noise legislation and industrial energy management – were also addressed in the course of the year. Assistance has

similarly been provided on a number of more high profile actions relating to the implementing rules of the Energy Community Treaty for South-Eastern Europe signed in Athens on 25 October 2005. TAIEX also facilitated the participation of the Western Balkan administrations to the Working Group established by the European Commission assigned to reach agreement on integrating the region fully into the European Civil Aviation Area as well as the initiative on extending the Single European Sky to South-Eastern Europe.

YEAR-ON-YEAR BREAKDOWN OF AREAS OF ASSISTANCE TAKING PLACE IN THE REGION



In the field of freedom, liberty and security, TAIEX consolidated the multi-country general introductions to the different aspects of the *acquis* organised in 2004 by extending assistance in a more targeted manner to reach a wider audience in each of the countries of the Western Balkans. This included in particular sessions on EU measures to fight organised crime, a high priority both for the Union as well as for the region. Particular focus was put on

supporting inter-agency co-operation, so essential for an integrated and effective approach. This area was followed up by tailored assistance in the area of fighting money laundering and the sharing of best practices in asset seizure management, organised often in co-ordination with the European Union Policing Mission. Efforts to raise general awareness among police services was underpinned by a parallel series on the co-operation developing within the EU between respective judiciaries. Judicial training also encompassed co-operation in civil law matters. Other multi-country seminars covered environmental crime, while a touring series on vehicle crime was organised in co-operation with EUROPOL.

Last but not least, TAIEX assistance covered many topics concerning Internal Market legislation in areas such as customs, public procurement, state aid and chemicals. Social policy issues were discussed intensively in the course of 2005, for example at a large multi-country conference on Strengthening Social Dialogue in Skopje in autumn 2005 for all social partners in the region. Further, the parliamentary administrations in some of the Western Balkans countries were trained in the field of the EU integration process, with seminars on the same topic for the rest of the region expected to take place in the course of 2006.

SUPPORT TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

Against the backdrop of EU measures taken following the outcome of the referenda on the Annan Plan, aiming at an end of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community by encouraging economic development, the European Commission has throughout 2005 continued the provision of assistance. The TAIEX instrument will be the vehicle for implementing all technical assistance to support the preparation of the Turkish Cypriot community's ability to apply EU legislation.

During this first year of delivering technical assistance to the northern part of Cyprus it was hoped that by early 2005, the aid regulation¹ proposed to the EU Council of Ministers would have been approved and an extensive technical assistance programme could be put in place. Due to its non-adoption however, the continuation of technical assistance to the community was only possible in a limited way in 2005. Assistance was delivered within budget constraints of around € 1.5 million over 18 months.

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE AND PRIORITY SETTING

As the sole Commission instrument for technical assistance support, an on-going programme was designed and developed to address the perceived main assistance needs. To support this programme, the TAIEX instrument engaged Member State experts throughout the year in a number of technical areas, in particular with a view to supporting the implementation of the "Green Line" Regulation². In 2005, TAIEX assistance was delivered in the following forms:

- on-going support for the implementation of the 'Green Line' Regulation (potato and citrus inspections continued) including close co-operation with the officially appointed implementing partner the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce
- assessment missions aimed both at evaluating legislation and administrative capacity in

a range of sectors and at developing in close cooperation with local counterparts, a structured plan for future technical assistance

- short-term expert visits on general legislative matters
- medium-term expert visits on strategy and Turkish Cypriot capacity building and the development of key co-ordination structures within the TC community
- co-ordination work carried out with the British Council to ensure effective delivery of their EU funded programme of assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2005, 111 Member State experts were involved in the programme, while 276 Turkish Cypriot community representatives received training through more than 45 events. With regards to trade across the 'Green Line', intensive surveying of the health status of the potato production in the northern part of Cyprus successfully took place with requirements for trade now fulfilled starting from the spring crop of 2006. This will ensure the necessary protection of plant health for the circulation of these products within the EU. Inspections in citrus fruit production have also been carried out and the recent lifting of duties should help to facilitate trade in the product.

Priority was also given to implementing as far as possible the recommendations made in previous assessment missions carried out in key-sectors, with a view to consolidating earlier assistance. In this context, a medium term programme was put in place in order to establish a strategy to prepare for the adoption and implementation of the *acquis* in the field of environment and long-term assistance in the customs sector was continued.

The drive in technical assistance delivery has always been towards encouraging "ownership" of the pro-

¹ The proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a legal instrument for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community (COM (2004) 465 final, 7.7.2004) creates a specific financial instrument for an amount of € 259 million to be implemented from 2004 to 2009.

² On 29 April 2004 the Council adopted the so-called Green Line Regulation based on Article 2 of Protocol No 10 (Council Regulation 866/2004).

cess towards the adoption of the *acquis* in the Turkish Cypriot community. Further emphasis was thus put on the creation and strengthening of horizontal co-ordination structures within the community with a view to ensuring the future absorption capacity for technical assistance delivered by the EU. This will also allow the Turkish Cypriot community to develop, implement and communicate measures aimed at preparing the future harmonisation with the EU *acquis*.

In order to achieve this, the Commission has encouraged the establishment of key committees (“change management committees”) to manage the preparation for future harmonisation with the EU *acquis*, and to oversee and contribute towards policy development and implementation of *acquis* compatible measures in significant sectors including environment, phytosanitary issues, veterinary matters, employment and social affairs, agriculture, customs and statistics.

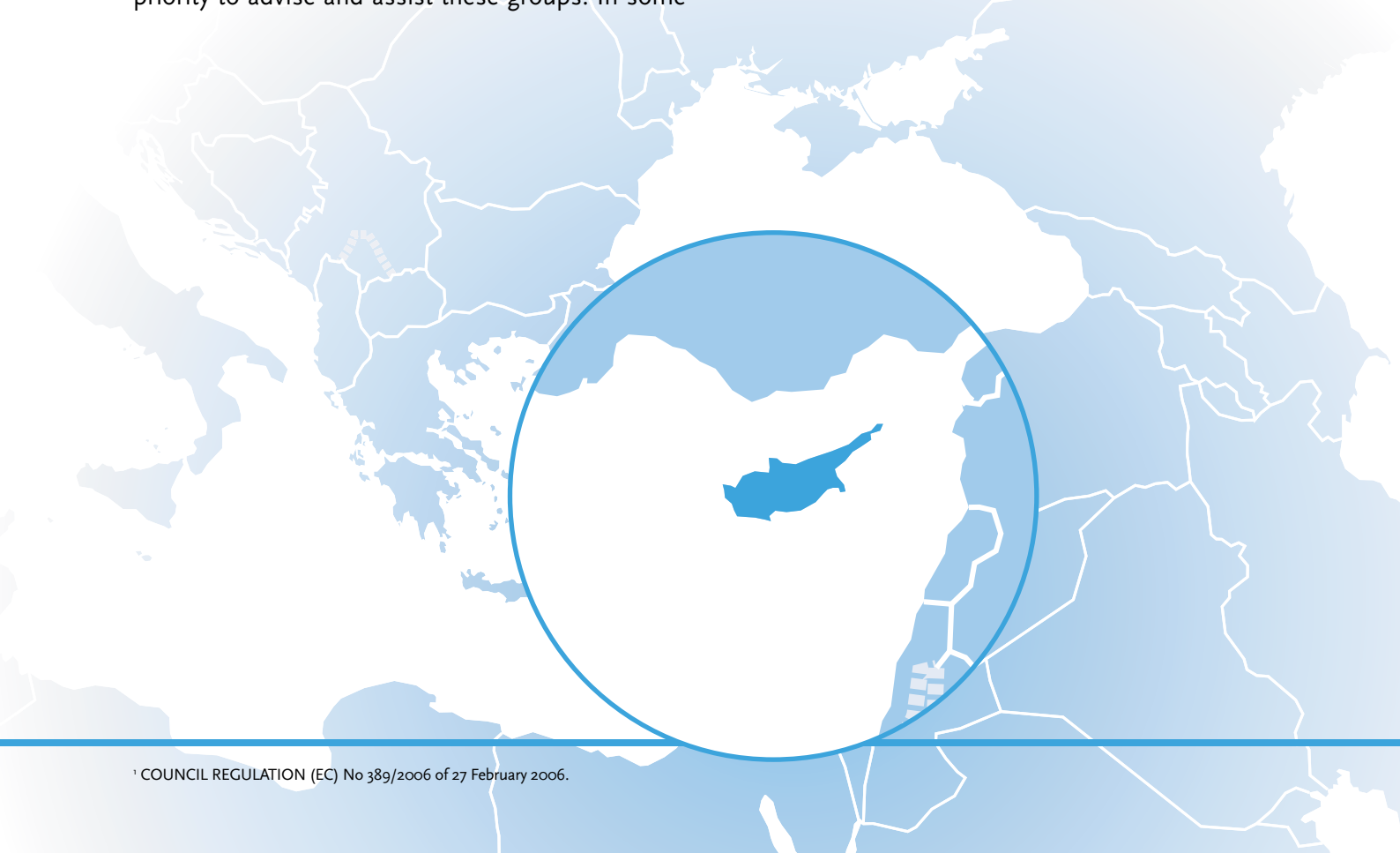
Based on a strategic plan for the adoption of the *acquis* developed in a given sector by these committees, TAIEX then channels assistance as a priority to advise and assist these groups. In some

cases this involves the support of a Member State expert, and in others a visit to a Member State in order to exchange best practice techniques and information. The resulting programmes will form the basis of the continued work of the TAIEX instrument in the process of assisting the Turkish Cypriot community with their approximation to the *acquis*.

PROSPECTS FOR 2006

Agreement was reached in December 2005 on the Commission Decision allocating additional funding for TAIEX activities in 2006. A further € 830,000 has thus been made available allowing for ongoing work to continue for a limited period. Ultimately the expected adoption of the aid package will be needed to provide for a more ambitious programme and “should be used to put an end to the isolation of that community and to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island and on improving contact between the two communities and with the EU”.¹

¹ COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 389/2006 of 27 February 2006.



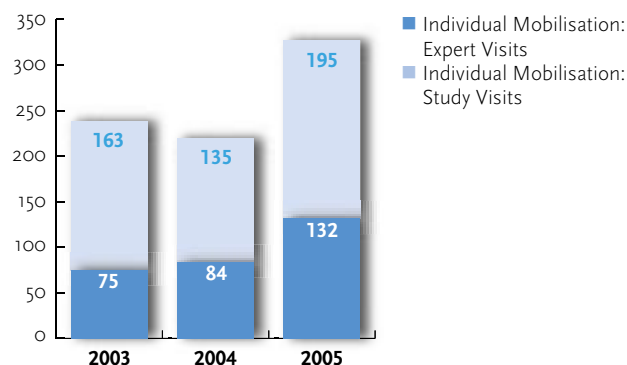
EXPERT MISSIONS & STUDY VISITS

Technical assistance through the TAIEX instrument comes in many different forms and across a wide range of areas. Partner administrations can benefit from TAIEX's flexibility to help meet wider training needs in EU legislation by reaching a significant number of officials. At the same time, it is important to retain an awareness of and be responsive to more targeted requests. In this regard, the expert and study visit format, depending entirely on requests received from beneficiary partners, provides an essential institution building service.

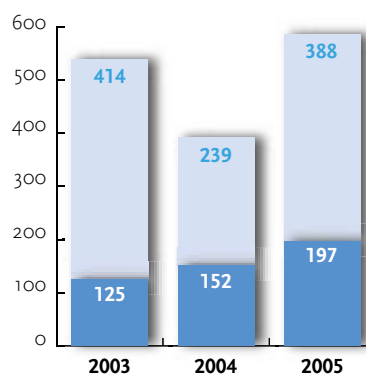
As with other TAIEX training formats, experts and study visits are designed to provide short term assistance to beneficiary countries on the approximation and implementation of EU legislation. Study visits are made by a limited number of officials of the beneficiary countries to Member State administrations. They give an opportunity to the beneficiaries to work alongside Member State officials to discuss legislation, experience first-hand administrative procedures and infrastructure and see examples of best practices. Expert missions on the other hand involve usually one or two Member State experts travelling to beneficiary countries. They provide an opportunity to discuss draft legislation, present examples of best practices and lend assistance where requested. The preferred format is working sessions characterised by an exchange of knowledge between the beneficiary countries and the experts.

2005 was a highly productive year for this type of TAIEX activity, up 49% with a combined total of 327 assistance actions, with a slightly higher number of study than expert visits. In 2004, a significant drop in requests from new Member States was evident, and this trend continued in 2005. Candidate countries became the main beneficiaries representing over half of operations, particularly Bulgaria and Turkey, with significant support focusing on implementation and reinforcement of administrative capacity in the field of agriculture, environment and transport. Demand from the administrations of the Western Balkans rose sharply to account for some 10% of

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



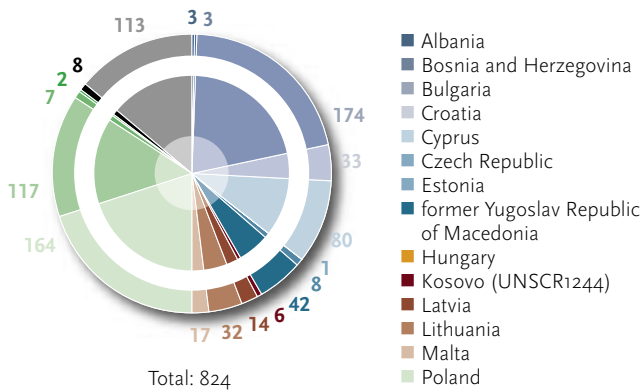
TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



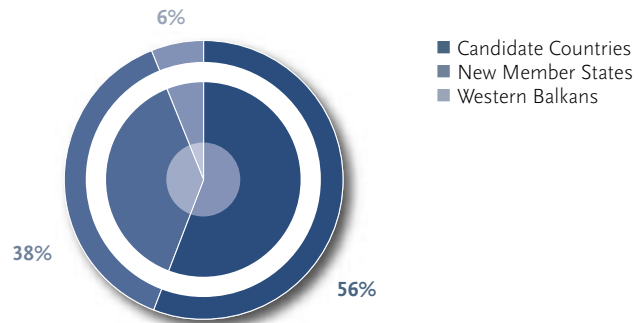
assistance, a trend likely to continue in the coming years. Demand from these countries focused for the time being on legislative revision especially in the field of freedom, security and justice, energy, transport and telecommunications.

As far as expert visits are concerned, 2005 saw the involvement of 23 EU Member States working with the TAIEX instrument. The larger Member States retained the lead in terms of quantity, with three still taking the lion share; UK was involved in 53 events, Germany in 46 and France in 37. A welcome new evolution in 2005 and one which the Institution Building unit will continue to encourage is the rising participation of new Member State experts who are often well placed to share and pass on best practices learnt by their own recent experience of

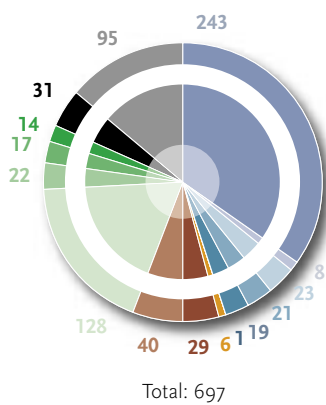
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN MS EXPERT VISITS



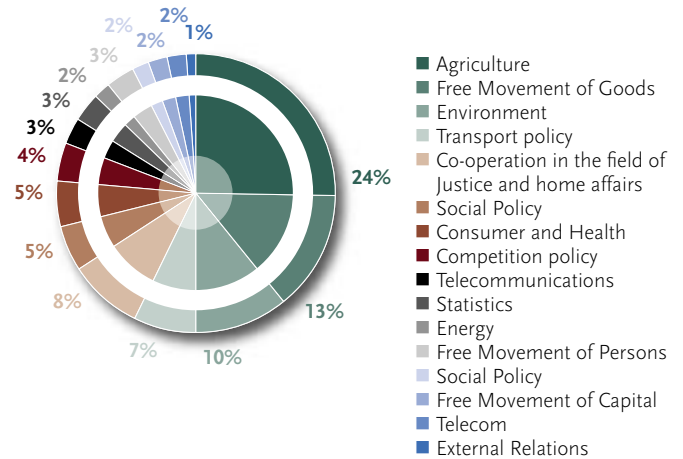
BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPATION BY GROUP OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER COUNTRY INVOLVED IN STUDY VISITS



ASSISTANCE PER CHAPTER OF THE ACQUIS



the transition process. In 2005, TAIEX organised 24 events with new Member States, with the Czech Republic most active with 9 expert missions.

As with previous years and due to the complexity of the Common Agricultural Policy and the number of regulations in this field, Agriculture proved the most popular area in which beneficiary countries received assistance. The next most active area where much assistance was organised through the TAIEX instrument was internal market issues, and particularly in the area of the free movement of goods. Other main areas of interest were Freedom, Security & Justice, followed by Transport, Environment, Social policy, Consumer and Health Protection, Competition Policy, Energy, Statistics, Free Movement of Persons and Telecommunications.

PEER REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

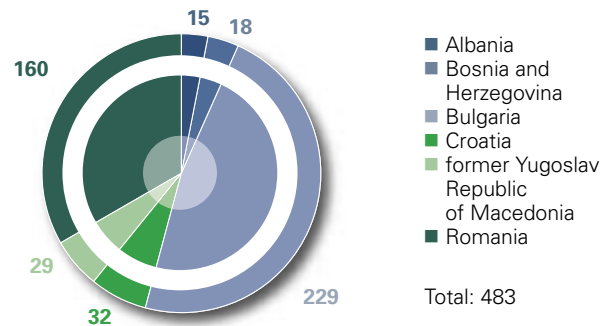
PEER REVIEWS

Peer reviews are an important tool for acceding countries under the TAIEX instrument. The overall objective of a peer review is to determine whether adequate administrative infrastructure and capacity are in place in acceding countries in order to ensure full implementation of the *acquis*. The detailed reports and recommendations resulting from a peer review are used to better target further assistance in order to achieve timely and complete implementation of the *acquis*. In practical terms, peer reviews help acceding countries to pinpoint areas in their administrations that require further strengthening.

Over the years, the peer reviews have also served the important role of providing an additional source of information for the Commission's on-going monitoring activities. In 2005 they were also an integral part of the enhanced monitoring applied to Bulgaria and Romania, the final reports from which contributed to the 2005 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published in autumn 2005. The results are expressly aimed at dovetailing with commitments made in the framework of negotiations. During 2005 a total of 49 peer reviews were conducted for both Bulgaria (29) and for Romania (20). The sectors receiving attention were agriculture, consumer health and protection, justice and home affairs, environment, financial services and company law, customs, external relations, industrial policy and telecommunications & audiovisual policy.

At the end of 2005 a new round of peer reviews was launched for completion by March 2006. These peer reviews aim to build on areas highlighted in the 2005 monitoring reports and will be used as inputs for the monitoring reports for Bulgaria and Romania scheduled for spring 2006.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY

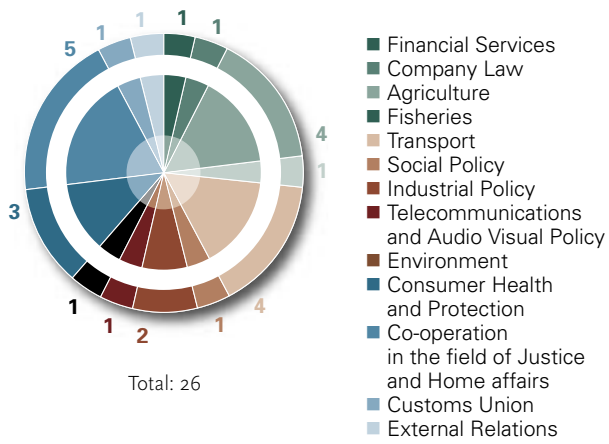


ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

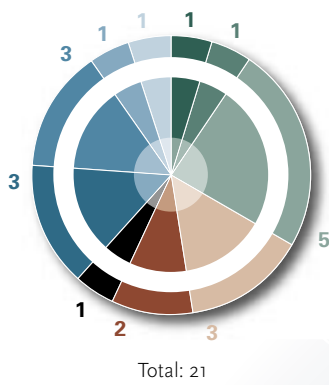
TAIEX assessment missions are also a peer-based exercise but where formal monitoring is not the aim. The purpose is rather to identify needs, provide a gap analysis or elaborate a strategy in a given sector. This approach has proved a useful mechanism to address different needs for beneficiary countries that do not fall within the parameters of negotiation frameworks. The delivery of assistance to the Turkish Cypriot community is a good example of this. In this context, assessment missions are aimed at evaluating legislation and administrative capacity in a range of sectors and at developing in close co-operation with local counterparts a structured plan for future technical assistance. This is similarly the case for the administrations of the Western Balkans where there is a need to develop a technical assistance road map for the medium term.

In 2005 a total of 80 peer-based assessment missions were organised with the purpose of preparing a strategy for future assistance in the region. This included 31 assessment missions in Turkey and the Western Balkans, the vast majority of which were in the agriculture, veterinary and phytosanitary sectors. For 2006, peer reviews will continue to be organised for Bulgaria and Romania in targeted areas. More assessment missions, including in areas where incoming requests are responded to, are expected and will be made available for all beneficiary countries including the new Member States.

**NUMBER OF PEER REVIEW REPORTS
PER SECTOR FOR BULGARIA**



**NUMBER OF PEER REVIEW REPORTS
PER SECTOR FOR ROMANIA**



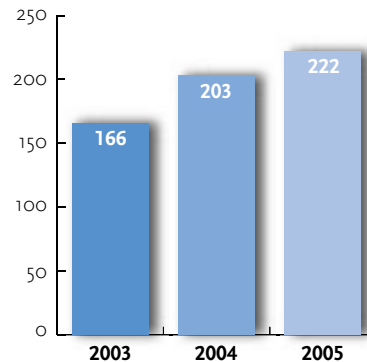
REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

The obligations of EU membership do not only revolve around the successful transposition of EU legislation into the national statute book. Such efforts are worth little without the attendant implementation and enforcement of different key areas of the *acquis communautaire*. The main goal of the Regional Training Programme (RTP) is therefore to provide training to the regional and municipal authorities who have a particularly important role to play in putting EU measures and standards into practice.

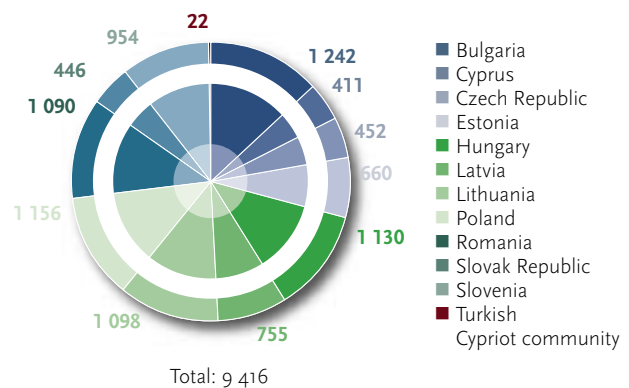
The RTP approach has applied with success the *train the trainers* concept, whereby designated public officials receive training through the TAIEX instrument in a particular area of the *acquis*, so becoming *RTP experts*. They in turn are then responsible for co-organising tailored assistance on the EU in practice within their local regions according to identified needs. In this way, TAIEX is able to access extensive networks when targeting the relevant stakeholders to take part in the training events, including the public sector, the business community and civil society. The RTP experts are also well-placed to identify and highlight the challenges currently facing their respective regions and to deal with these specific issues during their training events. The positive results of the technical assistance offered by the RTP are evident in a number of ways, for instance by the exchange of best practice from and between Member States experts, but even more importantly by the further building of networks between the different stakeholders in the regions.

In 2005, the number of RTP technical assistance events stood at 222, up 10% from 2004. Areas that continue to receive particular attention are the environment (65 events) and food safety (76 events) while a further 81 events covered EU legislation in consumer protection, public procurement, social policy and transport policy. The majority of these events is in a discursive workshop format, and usually includes case studies or site visits to ensure that the participants receive practical training as

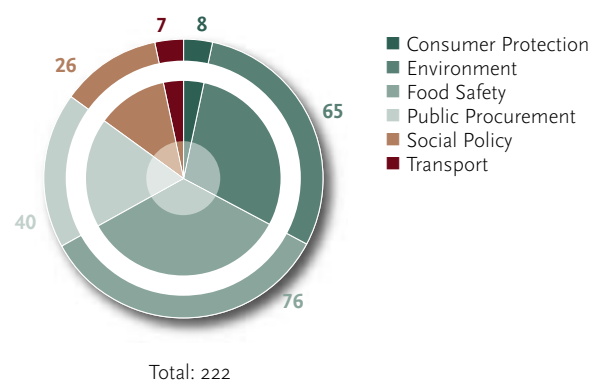
TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING RTP ASSISTANCE



TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS BY AREA OF ACQUIS

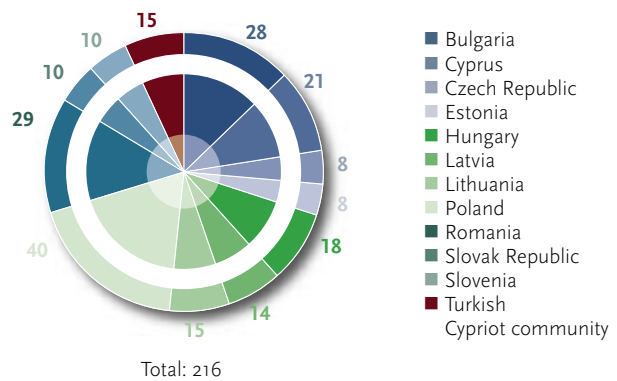


well as updates on the legislation at both the EU and national level.

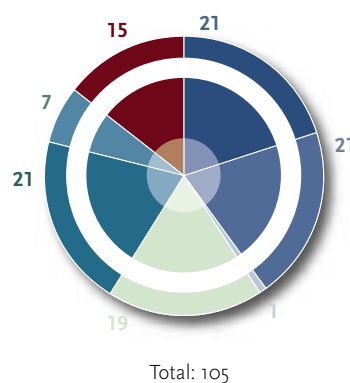
During 2005, RTP completed the training of over 80 new RTP Experts from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, some of whom have already co-organised their first assistance actions in the latter half of the year with great success. For example, a one day seminar took place in Larnaca, Cyprus on the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) with a target audience of engineers and technicians including engineers from the Turkish Cypriot community. In Bulgaria, seminars have been taking place on public procurement and the tender process in Pamporovo, Svishtov, Varna and Sofia. Newly trained Slovak RTP food safety experts attended workshops on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) in Bulgaria and shared their experiences gained during their own recent process of transition on the accession path to the EU.

Following recent attention put on the environment *acquis* during the accession process of Bulgaria and Romania, the TAIEX RTP programme was extended to all the regional territories for both those countries. In 2005, eighteen further RTP experts representing different agencies responsible for the enforcement of the environmental *acquis* joined the programme and are currently being trained. Study visits in early 2006 for these RTP experts to Valencia on waste management, Sevilla on water quality, Athens on air quality and Catalunya on nature protection are expected to help bring these experts up to operational level.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RTP EXPERTS



NEW RTP EXPERTS IN 2005



SCREENING

Once a country is granted the status of candidate, the TAIEX instrument is immediately available. One of the first important steps on the accession path is to examine in detail, together with the European Commission, the EU's significant body of legislation, the so-called *acquis communautaire*. For this purpose and the purpose of the negotiations to come, EU legislation is divided into 36 chapters reflecting the broad sectors coming under the EU's responsibility. For each chapter, so-called *explanatory screening meetings* allow Commission officials to present to the candidate country existing legislative acts and explain their meaning and implications. Four to six weeks later, a corresponding *bilateral screening meeting* organised with each individual country offers to the latter the opportunity to inform the Commission about its own legislation linked to the same chapter. These meetings aim to evaluate the degree of compatibility of each candidate country's

legislation with EU rules and provide therefore a common basis for subsequent negotiations. The formal opening of negotiations on a given chapter also depends on this evaluation and might be delayed until some basic benchmarks have been met by the candidate country.

TAIEX was closely involved in the most recent membership preparations leading finally to the 2004 accession of ten new Member States. Similarly, the TAIEX instrument was involved in the screening process for Croatia and Turkey, which started in autumn 2005 marking the official opening of negotiations between the Union and the two countries. Operating in close co-operation with other Commission services, TAIEX ensured the complex logistics of screening meetings, 16 of which took place in 2005. The organisation of more than 80 other meetings is envisaged in 2006.



TRANSLATION

Prior to accession to the European Union, each would-be Member State needs to ensure that all basic EU legislation is translated into the language that it would like to become a new EU official language. This concerns firstly primary legislation, namely the Treaties, but also a raft of secondary legislation, i.e. directives, regulations and decisions as well as agreements, Court judgements, etc.

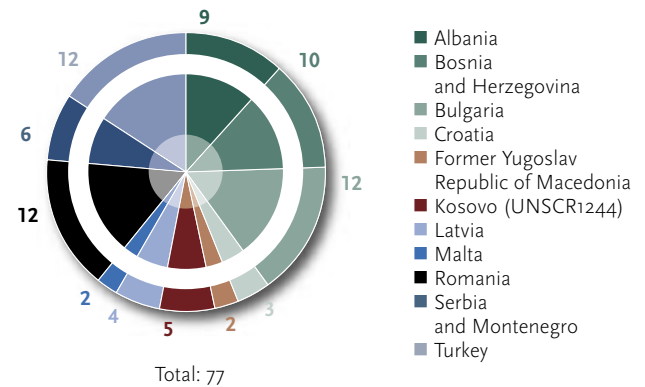
For nine years, the TAIEX instrument has provided the main assistance to the candidate countries in their significant efforts to achieve this task within the time frame leading up to accession. TAIEX involvement has included support for the establishment of Translation Coordination Units (TCUs) in the countries themselves, and the continued co-ordination over the years from the Union's side.

Assistance for the translation of the *acquis* into Bulgarian and Romanian continued throughout 2005. In close cooperation with the Directorate General for Translation, the Legal Services of the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament as well as OPOCE, regular meetings were organised by TAIEX to monitor progress and favour exchange of expertise and know-how. The CCVista database, created as a repository for translations, continued to play a key role as an interface for the finalisation process managed by the EU Institutions through its *lawyer-linguists*.

TAIEX also organised the second Round Table on the translation of the *acquis* in April 2005, bringing together representatives of all TAIEX beneficiaries: acceding and other candidate countries, as well as all other Western Balkan administrations. These activities aimed at assisting the establishment of Translation Coordination Units in the national administrations of the Western Balkans and particularly to encourage the development of synergies and cooperation in the field of *acquis* translation. With similar aims, TAIEX procured dedicated software for those countries which had already set up a TCU. Furthermore, numerous

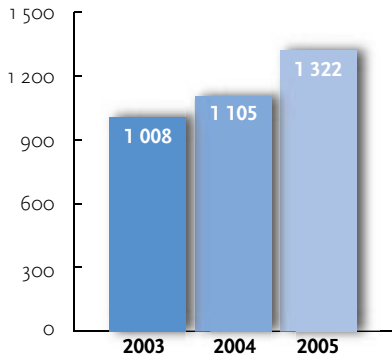
study visits were organised for translators and revisers from the same countries to the European Commission's specialised Translation services in Brussels and for TCUs of the new Member States.

PARTICIPANTS PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY

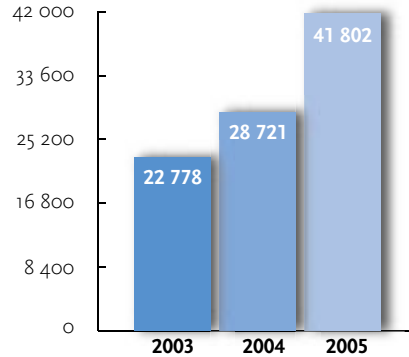


KEY STATISTICS 2005

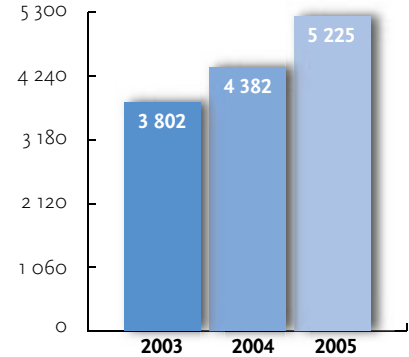
TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



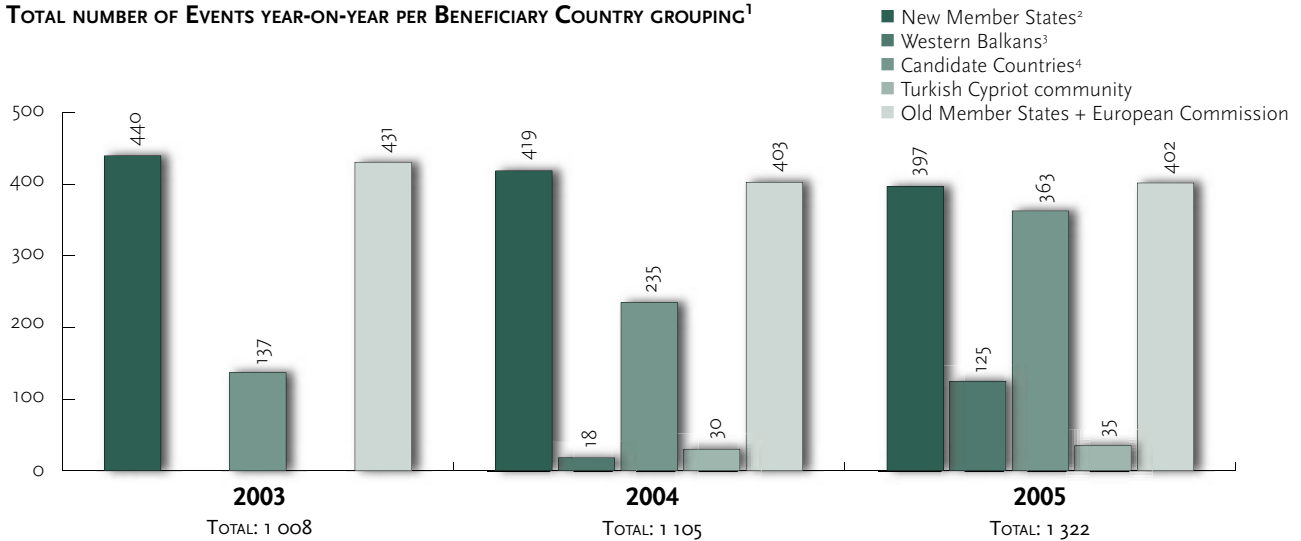
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



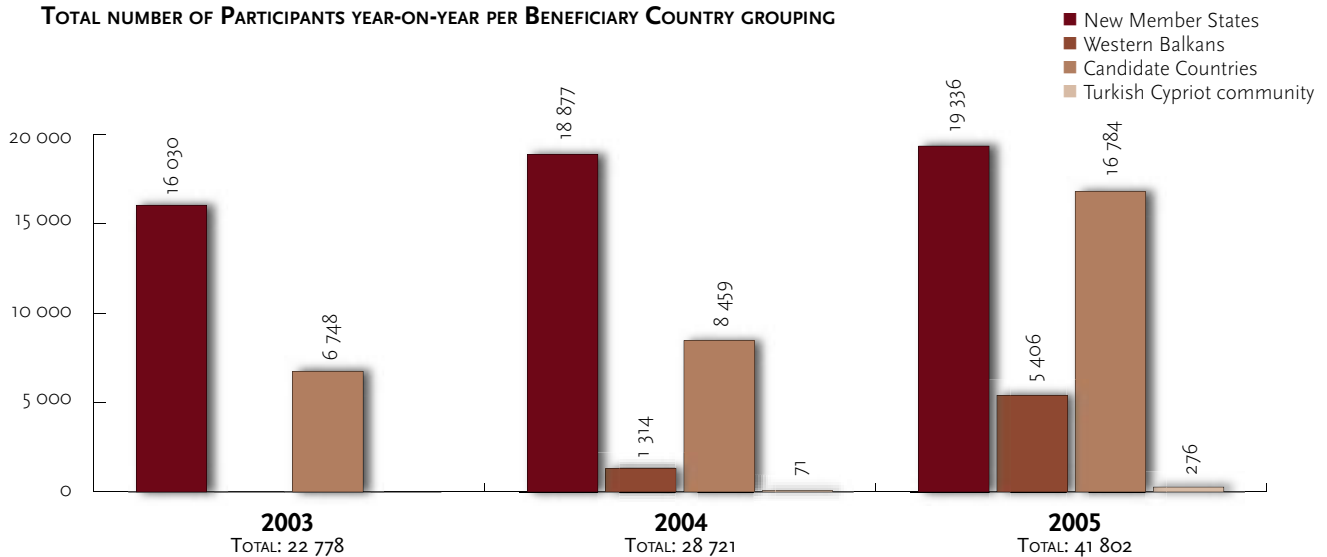
TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY GROUPING¹



TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY GROUPING



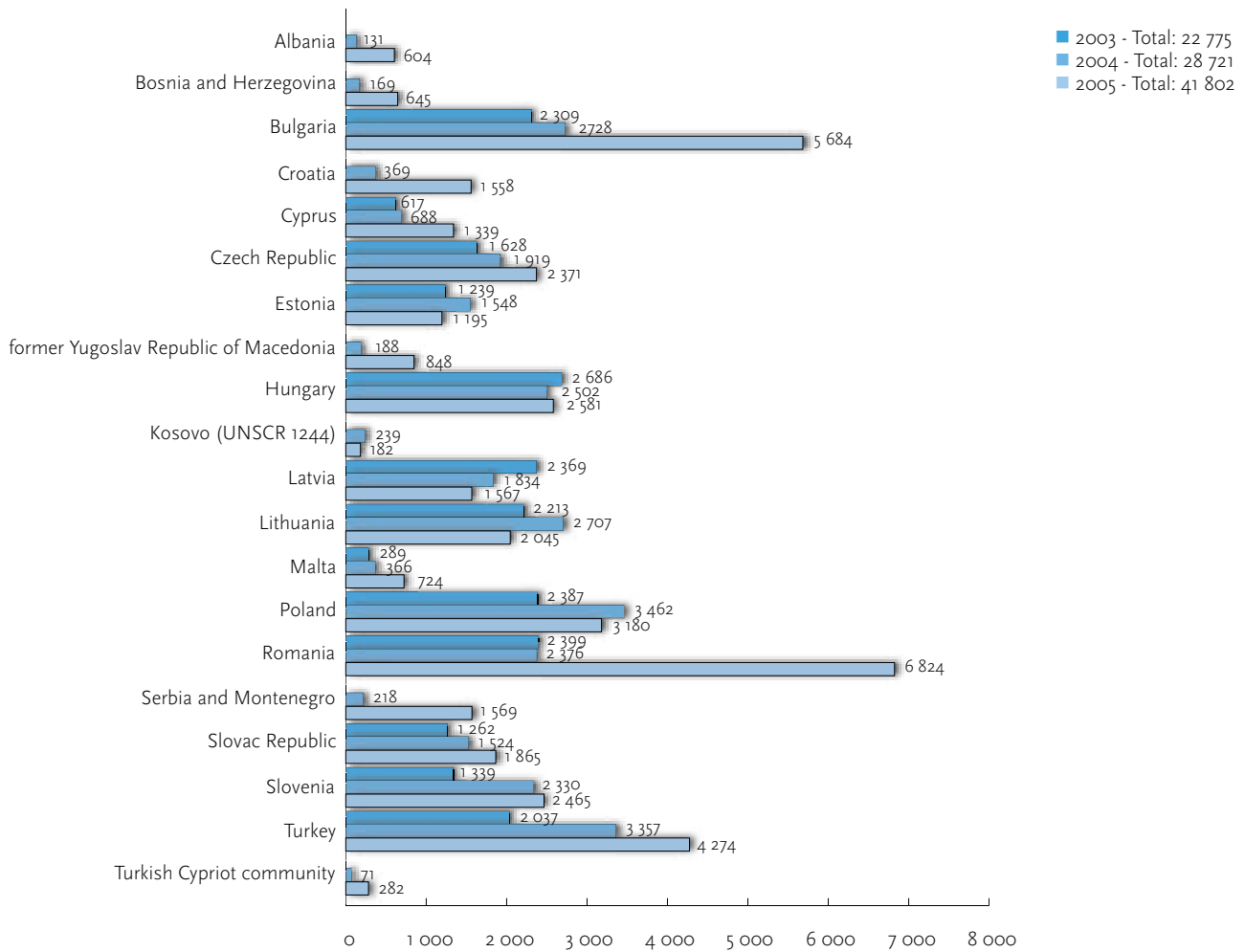
¹ These figures measure assistance according to where the assistance took place.

² Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia.

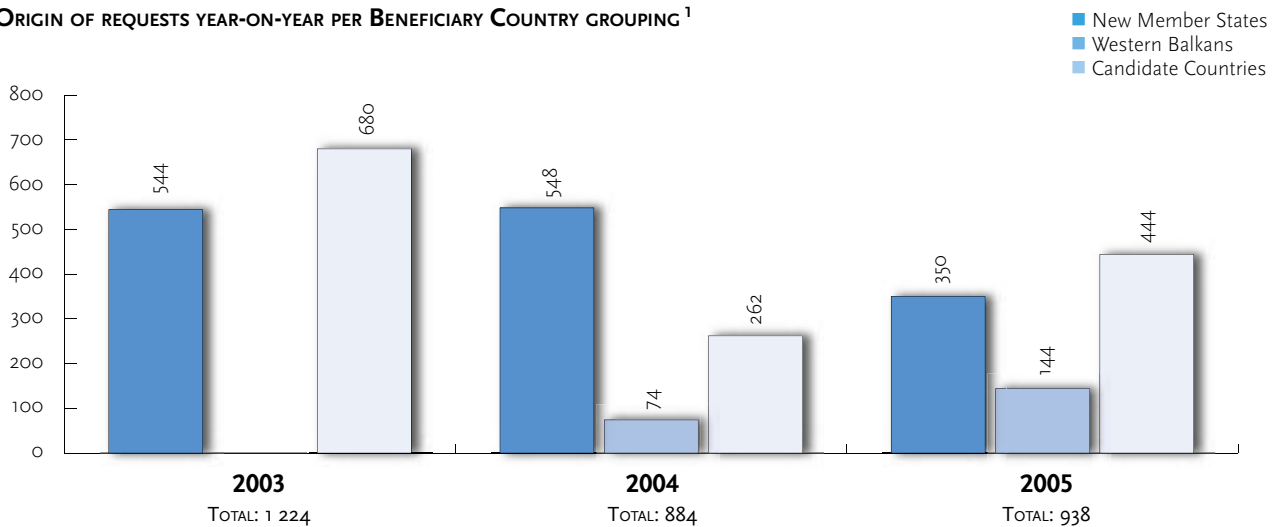
³ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of Albania, Serbia & Montenegro, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244).

⁴ For statistical purposes, this figure refers to Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO BENEFICIARY COUNTRY

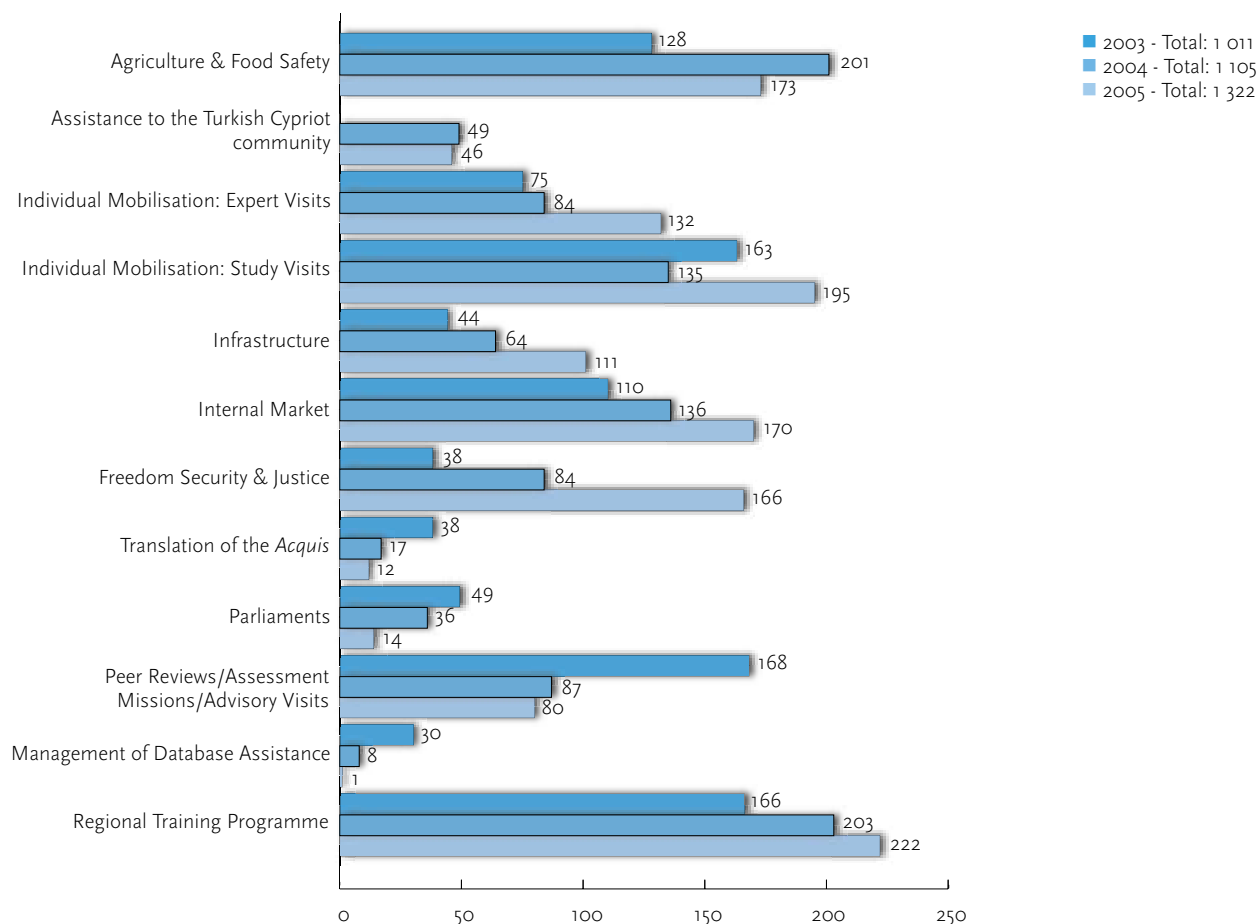


ORIGIN OF REQUESTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY GROUPING¹

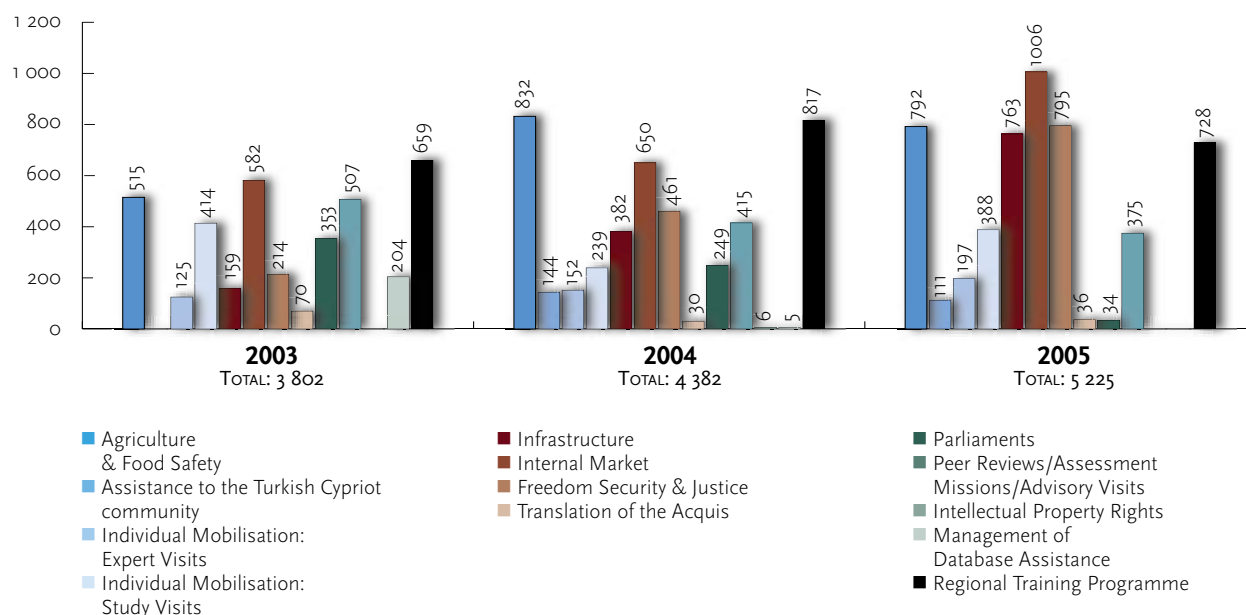


¹ Incoming requests account for the majority of TAIEX assistance; TAIEX also executes programmes from its own initiative and in consultation with all interested partners.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER TEAM/SECTOR



TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS YEAR-ON-YEAR PER TEAM/SECTOR¹

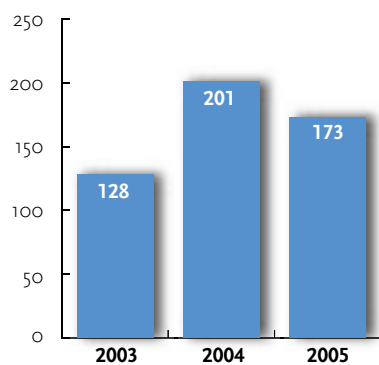


¹ This figure includes old Member State experts, new Member State experts as providers of assistance from 1 May 2004 onwards, and also non- public sector experts, including academics and NGO members.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SAFETY

In 2005, assistance in the agriculture, veterinary and phytosanitary sectors shifted in geographical focus to reflect new relationships with a wider group of beneficiaries. As the accession of Bulgaria and Romania approaches, these two countries received intensive training with over 2,500 officials benefiting from TAIEX assistance. Similarly, there was a significant increase in activity levels with the administrations of the Western Balkans consolidating earlier work. Over the year, a total of 186 technical assistance events¹ was organised for over 9,000 participants using the full range of TAIEX instruments depending on what was considered appropriate from seminars, workshops and technical training to peer-based reviews and assessment missions.

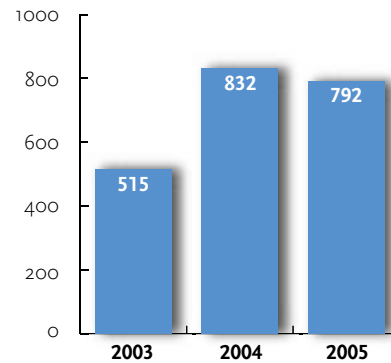
TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



During a year that saw Avian Influenza reach Europe, the TAIEX instrument was mobilised to actively support the authorities of affected new Member States and candidate countries. The timely provision of targeted expert help took the form of disease control simulation exercises before the outbreak and the rapid deployment of experts immediately after detection. Additionally, expertise was provided to strengthen the Classical Swine Fever control efforts in Bulgaria and Romania. TAIEX has also developed a strong collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), culminating in the co-organisation of a number of bilateral seminars for key stakeholders. The identification and registration of farm animals remains one of the crucial instruments in the fight against animal diseases. Accordingly, a range of workshops and

training sessions were offered to help guide the candidate countries on EU-wide best practices.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



As far as the Western Balkans were concerned, it is clear that work in these areas will need to be significant and sustained over time. Given this, substantial preparatory work was carried out in order to gain a greater understanding of the agriculture, veterinary and phytosanitary sectors and the corresponding policies and administrative structures in the region. This assistance took the form of a series of 20 assessment missions covering each administration in the region² aiming to identify needs, provide a gap analysis and elaborate strategies in given sectors. The findings of these missions will contribute to the preparation of a technical assistance programme for 2006 and 2007.

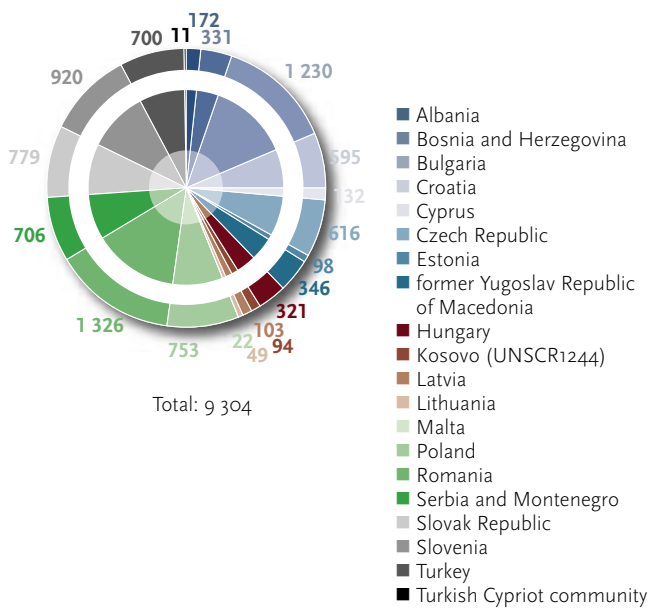
In other developments, extensive preparations have been required across the EU in readiness to enforce the new Hygiene Package, which is active from 2006. TAIEX has assisted through a series of bilateral information seminars to help communicate the requirements of the legislation to a wide variety of stakeholders.

In one of TAIEX's largest assistance actions of 2005, over 500 beneficiary country representatives from across the veterinary profession attended a week long programme in Ohrid in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 3-7 September. Participants benefited from a range of seminars focusing on the preparations required for the implementation and enforcement of EU veterinary legislation.

¹ This figure includes 13 Peer Reviews.

² Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (SCR1244).

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

In 2005, TAIEX offered new Member State officials a series of workshops on the development of producer organisations and the management of the cereals, eggs and poultry markets and the in-situ training on beef carcass classification and price reporting. Bilateral workshops on food quality policy provided an opportunity for new Member State managing authorities to discuss with producer representatives the benefits and requirements of registering quality regional produce. Additionally, a large group of current and prospective management committee representatives visited Brussels for intensive training on the EU decision-making process, during which they received guidance from all the concerned European institutions as well as Member State representatives. Support to Bulgaria and Romania was mainly provided through Peer Review missions, which incorporated workshops on trade mechanisms, establishment of paying agencies, and on the management of the dairy and wine sectors.

In accordance with the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy, rural development, the second pillar of the CAP, is taking an increasingly important role

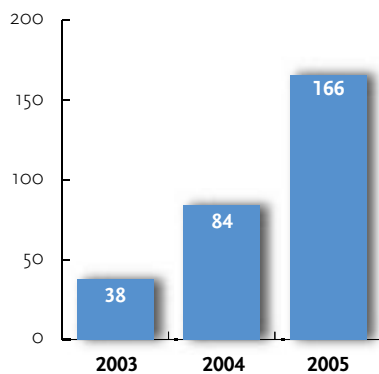
in agricultural support. Increased TAIEX focus in this field reflected that development. Through close co-operation between the Commission's services and the Bulgarian and Romanian administrations, information seminars on the new Rural Development regulation were organised for large audiences of officials and key stakeholders in each country. Technical meetings were also held with the Turkish administration to assist in the preparation of rural development plans.

One important approach to Rural Development which has contributed to innovation, employment and growth in rural areas has been to promote local development strategies defined through a bottom-up or the so-called Leader approach, namely involving stakeholders in the formulation of local project proposals. In 2005, the Department of Agriculture and Food of Ireland and the Department of Agriculture of Northern Ireland provided on-the-spot guidance to representatives from Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

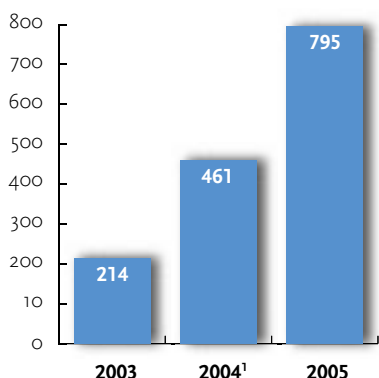
FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Strengthening the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice continues to be an important focus of TAIEX assistance. Legislation enacted based on Title VI of the EU Treaty (Articles 29 to 42) and Title IV of the EC Treaty (Articles 61 to 69) is in constant evolution. The European legislator is increasingly called upon to keep abreast of the new challenges in the area. In 2005, TAIEX assistance in these areas doubled again to meet the rising demand for short-term assistance, but also to ensure full geographic coverage of the beneficiary countries TAIEX serves. Assistance actions rose to 166 from 84 a year earlier reaching over 6,000 beneficiaries through the use of almost 800 Member State experts.

NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



The range of legislation and consequently assistance is wide, covering issues such as free movement of persons, external borders, Schengen, visa policy, asylum, migration, judicial cooperation in civil matters with cross-border implications, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, organised crime including fight against money laundering, drugs, terrorism and police co-operation. At the same time, the target groups remain varied and diverse, composed not only of officials of the Ministries of Justice and the Ministries of Interior but very often includes those who have to apply the *acquis* in their daily work: judges, prosecutors, police officials, other law enforcement agencies, border guards, officials from migration and asylum authorities, customs departments etc.

In response to the numerous requests received on all the above topics, TAIEX assistance in 2005 provided training and best practice examples on the enforcement of the *acquis*. With regard to the new Member States the challenge to finish preparations for entering the Schengen area has become a priority. Numerous specific trainings at multi-country level or bilaterally with individual new Member States were organised throughout the year on among others SIS II and VIS, biometrics in travel documents, the uniform Schengen Visa, cross border surveillance and controlled delivery and EURODAC, and will continue in 2006.

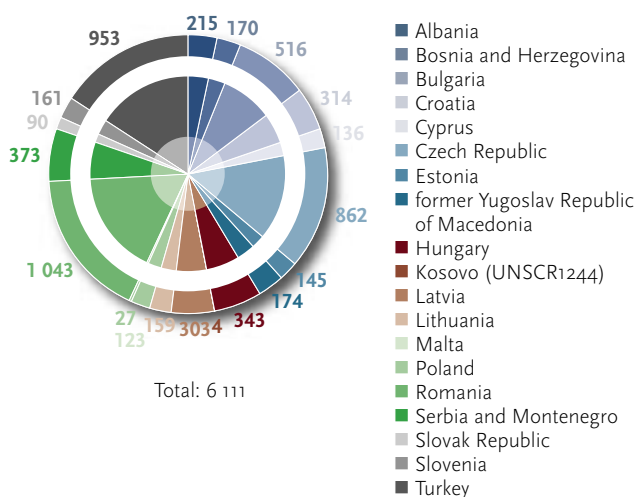
In a series of seminars the *acquis* in the area of Asylum and Refuge Law was presented by specialised judges from Courts of the old Member States to the judges in the beneficiary countries faced with asylum law cases. Romania received several trainings for their consular staff on the Common Consular Instructions. In the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, a series of seminars on the European Arrest Warrant and aspects of its implementation took place in the new Member States and some candidate countries. Practical cooperation between prosecutors of neighbouring states on other issues of criminal law was equally addressed at several events. Assistance concerning judicial cooperation in civil law matters concerned issues of custody of children and civil aspects of child abduction.

¹ This figure includes old Member State experts, new Member State experts as providers of assistance from May 1st 2004 onwards, and also non-public sector experts, including academics and NGO members.

In-depth assistance was delivered relating to the training of law enforcement officials on fighting organised crime. Various issues at stake were for example the fight against trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting of the Euro, counterfeiting of goods, non-cash payment fraud, cultural property crime, money laundering and environmental crime. In many of these training events TAIEX worked closely together with EUROPOL which regularly contributes along with EUROJUST to a wide range of such targeted actions, in particular in the case of a series of seminars for new Member States and Western Balkan administrations concerning the development of effective systems to fight vehicle crime.

In response to weaknesses identified in the European Commission's Progress Reports, Turkey received guidance in the area of probation, civil rights for prisoners and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) targeted for lawyers across Turkey. Best police practices in relation to demonstrations were the subject of a workshop for the Turkish Police. A more programmed approach with regard to Turkey following the Union's priorities can be expected to continue in 2006.

ASSISTANCE ACCORDING TO BENEFICIARY COUNTRY



WESTERN BALKANS

TAIEX consolidated the multi-country general introductions to the different aspects of the *acquis* organised in 2004, by extending this assistance in a

more targeted manner to reach a wider audience in each of the countries of the Western Balkans. This included in particular sessions on EU measures to fight organised crime, a high priority both for the Union as well as for the region. Particular focus was put on supporting inter-agency co-operation, essential for an integrated and effective approach. This area was followed up by tailored assistance in the area of fighting money laundering and the sharing of best practices in asset seizure management, organised often in co-ordination with the European Union Policing Mission. Efforts to raise awareness among police services were underpinned by a parallel series on the co-operation developing within the EU between respective judiciaries. Judicial training also encompassed co-operation in civil law matters.

ISSUES OF EUROPEAN LAW & TRAINING OF THE JUDICIARY

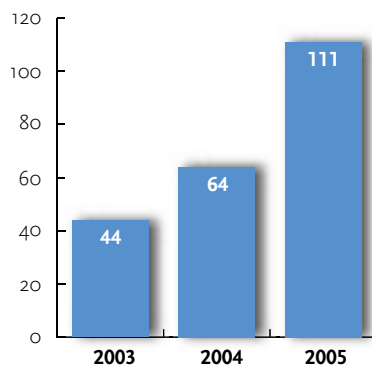
As in 2004 TAIEX also continued to offer programmed assistance on issues of classical European Law. Seminars on the Infringement Procedure (Article 226 EC Treaty) continued, informing Ministry officials how the European Commission proceeds against a Member State non-notification, non- or false implementation of legislative measures. Training of the judiciary remains a constant challenge. Supreme Court Judges from the old Member States delivered theoretical and practical training to their new Member State counterparts on the Preliminary Ruling Procedure (Article 234 EC Treaty).

The successful series to train the judiciary from the Romanian regions, which started in 2004 in close co-operation with the National Institute of Magistracy, also continued. A series of twenty seminars covered main principles of EU jurisprudence as demonstrated through European Court of Justice case law with particular regard to the areas of the four freedoms of the Internal Market, competition law, social policy, IPR, environment and the external competences of the EU. Information was also provided on the main instruments available in the area of judicial co-operation in civil and criminal law matters.

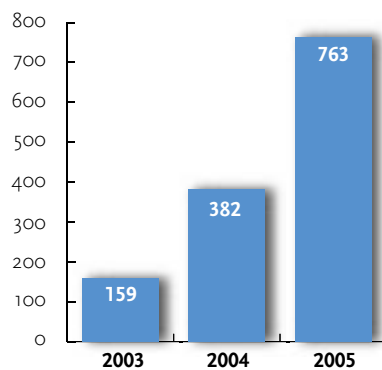
INFRASTRUCTURE: ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

In 2005, TAIEX under the “Infrastructure” umbrella provided assistance in the key fields of environment, transport and energy. While these three major policy areas have evolved separately, there are clearly crossovers which the European Union is increasingly trying to nurture. The enlargement context is expected to encourage synergies through dealing with subjects in which different stakeholders, including legislators and practitioners, participate. By the end of the year, 111 technical assistance actions were organised with 51 in the field of environment, 46 on transport issues and 14 on energy matters. Doubling activities of 2004, over 5,000 beneficiary officials received TAIEX infrastructure training in almost 20 different countries.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR



TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS



Sectors covered included maritime, inland and aviation transport with partners such as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and EUROCONTROL. In 2005, the TAIEX instrument supported negotiations

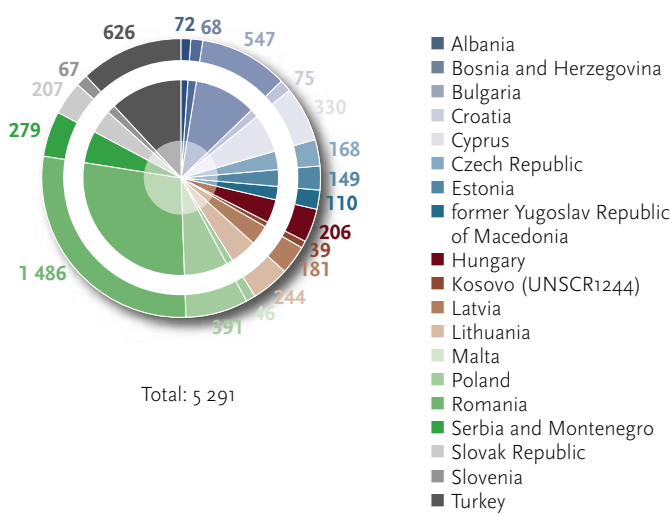
to establish a European Common Aviation Area (ECAA) by facilitating the participation of eight of the eleven eventual signatories to the agreement reached on 20 December 2005. These included Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). The aims of the ECAA are to align European aviation standards and regulations, particularly in aviation security and to facilitate the creation of a single aviation market by opening up market opportunities for the aviation industry in the Balkans. The ECAA also allows for the extension of the EU’s Single European Sky (SES) programme to include the Balkan region. TAIEX supported initiatives to ease air traffic bottlenecks in the Balkan region as a whole (where growth is predicted to rise by 30% by 2010) include a series of 13 working groups which should be completed in 2006.

On 25 October 2005, the European Union signed the Energy Community Treaty with nine partners of the Western Balkans, aiming at creating an integrated energy market and enhancing security of supply. To support the effective implementation and enforcement of the Treaty, TAIEX began a series of explanatory seminars in the region for some of the signatory partners, namely, Serbia & Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with events to be held in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) in early 2006. Co-operation also continued with the Joint Research Centre particularly in the field of safe transport, environmental protection and renewable energy and use efficiency.

In the field of environment, best practice seminars began in 2005 on how to correctly carry out Environmental Impact Assessments aiming to help some new Member States – the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – in applications for Cohesion Funds. This series will continue in 2006 for remaining countries. Additionally, a series of workshops in support of the proper enforcement of the EU Drinking Water and

Urban Waste Water Directives also aimed mainly at new Member States were organised and will continue in 2006. Waste and pollution management featured in requests for TAIEX support, particularly in the mining sector, with seminars organised in Romania in April and December and in Hungary in November. A seminar on waste management in ports was organised in Cyprus in June with actions in support of implementing the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Directive being organised in the summer in both Bulgaria and Romania. Nature Protection was also supported by TAIEX with seminars on the *Europa Natura 2000* Network underpinned by the Birds and Habitat Directive held in Romania in June and Turkey in September.

PARTICIPANTS PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY



INTERNAL MARKET

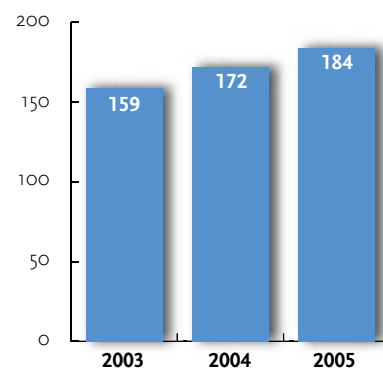
With barriers gone, people, goods, services and capital should be able to move around Europe as freely as within one country. The creation of the Internal Market is underpinned by a range of supporting measures and policies which the EU and its Member States have adopted to sweep away the technical, regulatory, legal, bureaucratic, cultural and protectionist barriers that stifled free trade and free movement within the Union. Indeed, the single market is the core of today's Union. Assistance therefore in this area is of major importance, not only to help development in the beneficiary countries, but also for the future of the Union as a whole.

In 2005, TAIEX assistance on Internal Market issues continued to target central administrations, national parliaments, economic operators and social partners providing specific training and examples of best practices from the old and new Member States. The programme covered a vast array of *acquis* measures, mainly related to the four freedoms, but also extended to EU policies, programmes and initiatives in a larger sense. Including assistance to national parliaments, the total number of events rose to 184 from 172 a year earlier. Over 9,000 officials were trained by over 1,000 Member State experts. Over half of beneficiary officials came from Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. In terms of sectoral breakdown, some 30 events focusing on social and employment policy proved the busiest area, while 21 events were organised on intellectual property rights issues, 16 on financial services, 13 on competition policy and 13 also on consumer protection and health policy.

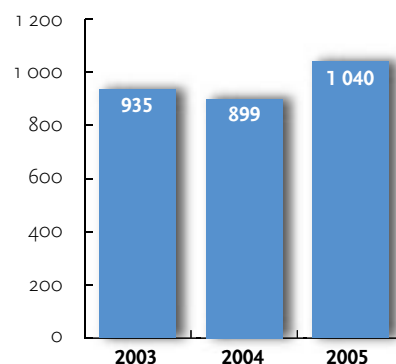
The general approach was refined during the year to shift away from broadly informative seminars reaching a wider audience to events supporting concrete legislative measures and the enforcement of the *acquis*. Examples included assistance on insurance legislation in Turkey, state aid law in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, RAPEX (the EU's rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products) in Hungary, and collective management issues relating to intellectual property rights in Romania. The same approach led to more

targeted single country events focusing on specific issues in individual countries. Multi-country events in 2005 more often occurred in the region involving several neighbouring beneficiaries, and expressly considered enforcement of *acquis* measures with strong cross-border implications. The few events in Brussels involved many countries and specific Commission services as well as Member State experts. For example, three events took place on consumer protection – for business, the judiciary and consumer organisations – bringing together participants from 14 countries.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR¹



TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS



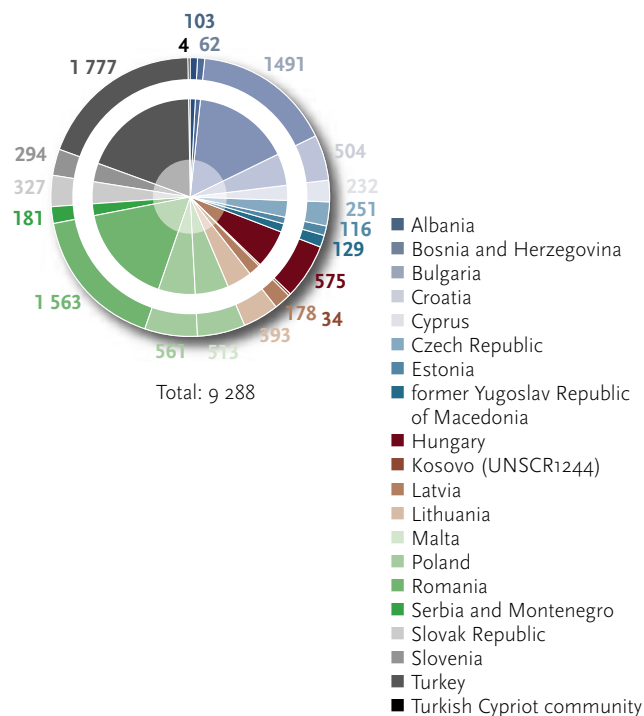
¹ Including assistance to Parliaments.

With a view to achieving greater impact in specific sectors and to ensure a coherency of approach, 12-18 month 'assistance packages' with different partners were organised. Formats varied, for example starting with assessment missions to assess the state of play and map out next steps, followed by focused expert visits to discuss and effect changes, then workshops or questions and answer sessions to reach a wider audience and communicate changes.

With such a wide area of legislation comes an array of partners and target audiences. Eleven events on trademarks and designs for the business community were organised with the Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM) targeting national Chambers of Commerce in the new Member States and candidate countries. Seven events were organised with the UN agency the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on collective management of intellectual property rights, patent classifications, geographical indications and their impact for the SME sector. As part of a targeted series which will continue into 2006, the Turkish Ministry of Finance is receiving on-going help with 12 events in the field of financial services, banking and the fight against financial crime. Series of events on SME development and competitiveness, and on consumer disputes were organised with the Bulgarian and Hungarian Chambers of Commerce.

For national parliaments, 10 study visits to Member State parliaments were organised. Further co-operation with the parliaments of the Western Balkan countries began with seminars on European integration for civil servants for the parliaments in Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, several question & answer sessions were organised for Members of Parliaments and civil servants of the new Member States and candidate countries.

PARTICIPANTS PER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY



In light of the above trends set in 2005, assistance in 2006 is expected to focus on the following areas: social policy and employment, consumer protection and public health, financial services (banking, securities, insurance), intellectual property (continuing cooperation with OHIM and WIPO), free movement of goods, SMEs and industry, competition issues including state aids, structural funds, EMU and free movement of capital, taxation and customs.

TAIEX WEBSITE & TAIEX DATABASES

In 2005, preparations were underway to bring the TAIEX website address into line with all other sites of the European institutions both in look and domain name. At the same time, preparation is underway to revamp the new website – http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index_en.htm – to create a more user friendly interface to access a variety of information on TAIEX operations including detailed information on individual events filtered according to beneficiary needs. Moreover beneficiaries will be able to download after an assistance action all Member State expert presentations, and find relevant legislation currently provided in hard-copy format at the event itself. Adding to existing information, this development will create a substantial library of expertise on EU legislation systematically available to our partners on a wide range of issues. It will also serve to inform a wider range of beneficiaries in the same or another country who may not have

participated in a specific event, but who may nonetheless have a direct interest.

The TAIEX website remains the natural destination for beneficiary partners to quickly and simply submit applications for TAIEX assistance. Conservative estimates indicate that the site receive over 500 hits per day. The website also remains an important portal for accessing the TAIEX Expert Database, where Member State experts can register their interest and offer their services, and the TAIEX Expert Stock Exchange, an electronic platform for sharing assistance requests and subsequent offers. Access to both the Expert Database and the Expert Stock Exchange is password protected. In 2006, it is planned to grant special access to National Contact Points to the Expert Database to be able to view experts registered from their own Member State.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'CCVista Translation Database' page. The page title is 'Changed celex numbers page'. The browser address bar shows 'http://ccvista.caei.be/changedcelexnumbers.asp'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Log In', 'Download', 'Upload', and 'Help'. The main content area contains a table with columns for 'Old Celex', 'Old Description', 'New Celex', and 'New Description'. The table lists several entries related to the Treaty establishing the European Community, specifically Article 3A and Article 103A.

Old Celex	Old Description	New Celex	New Description
11992E003A	Treaty establishing the European Community, Part one: principles, Article 3A, /*Codified version of the Treaty establishing the European Community*/	11997E004	Treaty establishing the European Community (Amsterdam consolidated version) Article 4 Article 3a - EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version)...
11992E102A	Treaty establishing the European Community, Title VI: Economic and monetary policy, Chapter 1: Economic policy, Article 102A /*Codified version of the Treaty establishing the European Community*/	11997E099	Treaty establishing the European Community (Amsterdam consolidated version) Title VII: Economic and monetary policy Chapter 1: Economic policy Article 99 Article 102a - EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version)...
11992E103	Treaty establishing the European Community, Title VI: Economic and monetary policy, chapter 1: Economic policy, Article 103 /*Codified version of the Treaty establishing the European Community*/	11997E099	Treaty establishing the European Community (Amsterdam consolidated version) Title VII: Economic and monetary policy Chapter 1: Economic policy Article 99 Article 103 - EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version) Article 103 - EEC Treaty ...
11992E103A	Treaty establishing the European Community, Title VI: Economic and monetary policy, Chapter 1: Economic policy, Article 103A /*Codified version of the Treaty establishing the European Community*/	11997E100	Treaty establishing the European Community (Amsterdam consolidated version) Title VII: Economic and monetary policy Chapter 1: Economic policy Article 100 Article 103a - EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version)...

CCVista Database provided an important service in 2005

DATABASES

Over the years, TAIEX has offered beneficiary countries quick access to information on the community *acquis* by using the latest technologies and a wide range of database tools for facilitating and monitoring progress in legislative approximation. Following the 2004 wave of enlargement, these services have been consolidated into key databases currently being used by a range of users.

PROGRESS DATABASE

As for the new Member States in years gone by, the Progress database allows countries wishing to join the EU to provide up-to-date information on newly

adopted measures and on transposition of the *acquis* into their national legislation. In 2005, the candidate countries but also the new users, namely the administrations of the Western Balkans, continued to upload data on a regular basis. Accordingly and to be as transparent as possible, the Institution Building unit shares this specialised information with Commission Delegations, candidate country missions and the concerned national authorities.

As the TAIEX instrument regularly updates the Database with the new measures of ever evolving *acquis*, the development of this database has also seen fortunate synergies with other parallel accession processes. Likewise in the past with the then future new Member States, the database

The screenshot displays the TAIEX Progress database interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Country', 'Chapter Set', and 'Chapter'. The 'Country' dropdown is set to 'Croatia', 'Chapter Set' to 'Directory', and 'Chapter' to '01. General, financial and institutional matters'. Below this, there are tabs for 'EU Measures', 'National measures', and 'Find'. The main content is a table with the following columns: 'Colex No', 'Measure Id', 'Official Journal', 'Short description', and 'CCVista'. The table lists several measures, including:

Colex No	Measure Id	Official Journal	Short description	CCVista
21973A0218 (01)		OJ L 044 18.02.1999 P. 0034 - 0036	Agreement between the European Community and the Council of Europe for the purpose of establishing, in accordance with Article 7(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1035/97 of 2 June 1997 establishing a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, close cooperation between the Centre and the Council of Europe Adopted by 31991D0132	
22004D0405	2004/405/EC	OJ L 151 30.04.2004 P. 0004 - 0006	2004/405/EC Decision No 2/2004 of the Community/Switzerland Air Transport Committee of 22 April 2004 adopting its rules of procedure Corrected by 22104D0405R(01)	
22005D0404	2005/404/EC	OJ L 137 31.05.2005 P. 0026 - 0030	2005/404/EC Decision No 1/2005 of the EU-Croatia Stabilisation and Association Council of 26 April 2005 adopting its Rules of Procedure including the Rules of Procedure of the Stabilisation and Association Committee	
2195250104	Traité /* ECSC	OJ 081 30.12.1952 P. 0006 - 0006	Décision N°4-52 relative à la perception pendant l'exercice financier 1952-1953 des prélèvements prévus aux articles 49 et 50 du Traité	
21953D0038	53/38/EEC	OJ 010 21.07.1953 P. 0154 - 0154	Décision n° 38-53 du 11 juillet 1953, déterminant la date d'application des dispositions de l'article 54 du Traité relative aux investissements	
21953D0210 (04)	53/210/EEC	OJ 081 10.02.1953 P. 0015 - 0015	Décision relative aux indemnités allouées aux personnes appelées à participer, sur la base d'un statut particulier, aux travaux du comité consultatif	
2195450100	30/54/ECSC	OJ 018 01.08.1954 P. 0469 - 0469	ECSC High Authority: Decision No 30-54 of 25 June 1954 amending Decision No 2-52 of 23 December 1952 determining the mode of assessment and collection of the levies provided for in Articles 49 and 50 of the Treaty	
2195550101	/* ECSC	OJ 011 11.05.1955 P. 0738 - 0739	Decision No 21-55 of 7 May 1955 supplementing Decision No 3-52 of 23 December 1952 fixing the amount and methods for applying the levies provided for in Articles 49 and 50 of the Treaty /* Unofficial English translation */	

At the bottom of the interface, there are links for 'Contact', 'Help', 'Back To Wizard', 'Get Report', 'Back to Top', and 'Last updated on 01 February 2006'.

The Progress Database can serve as a useful internal management tool.

has served as a useful internal management tool for the beneficiary administrations. The structure of the database has also been used by a variety of beneficiaries as a model to structure their National Plan for the Approximation of the *Acquis*.

CCVISTA DATABASE

CCVista, which constitutes a repository for all translations of EU legislation produced by the Translation Coordination Units of TAIEX beneficiary countries, continued to prove highly popular in 2005 with over 2,500 hits per day. It is a vital source of information to all internet users who wish to consult legislation translated into various languages of the beneficiary countries. While the database played an essential role in the 2004 wave of enlargement, CCVista remains the fundamental interface for the final vetting of Bulgarian and Romanian translations of the *acquis* (secondary legislation). By the end of 2005, over 60,000 pages of legislation translated into Bulgarian and 50,000 pages into Romania had been inputted and finalised. Further, the database is currently being used by Turkey, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to upload translations. After a relative short period of usage, Turkey had uploaded over 16,000 pages of legislation, Croatia over 20,000 pages and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia over 10,000 pages.

It is important to mention that CCVista is a working tool completely compatible with other systems available within the European Commission's Translation Service, Legal Service and Publication Office. The texts in the database, although revised, have no legal value (only those printed in the Official Journal of the European Union have legal value) but can serve as useful working documents.

JURISVISTA DATABASE

TAIEX also manages the JuristVista database, designed to host translations into the languages of

beneficiary countries of a collection of the historical judgments of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance. As the database is a library of sorts of translations of key judgements of EU jurisprudence, it is perhaps no surprise that the database is increasingly being used by academic institutions such as new Member State universities in particular, and by judges.

Avis (animal diseases), **Vetlex** (veterinary legislation) and **Phytolex** (phytosanitary legislation) are databases developed as commercial products covered by a licence agreement. TAIEX offers free access to these to a limited number of officials in the competent ministries.

TAIEX EXPERT DATABASE

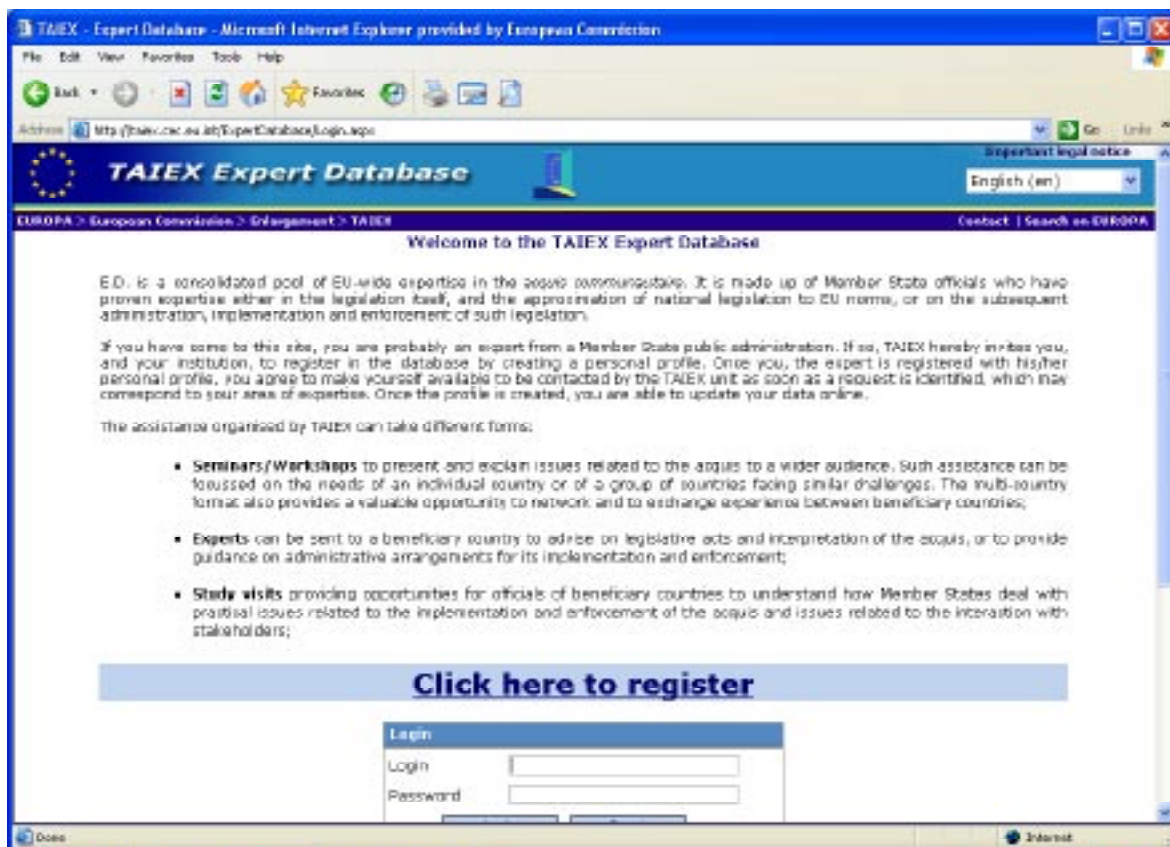
The mandate of the TAIEX instrument is to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and institution building support, bringing best practice and experience together with the needs of the beneficiary. To fulfil this role, the TAIEX instrument has always relied on and is grateful for the significant contribution over the years of Member State public officials. This was no truer than in 2005 when the number of experts engaged rose to 5,225 from 4,382 a year earlier.

This rise can partly be explained by the 20% rise in assistance actions and the attendant need for a greater number of experts with increasingly wide and varied expertise. Another reason was the welcome growth in interest from new Member State experts who have already successfully been through the transition phase of approximating their own legislation to the *acquis communautaire*. The obvious added value of beneficiary-turned-provider of expertise has been a bonus for the increasingly wide range of countries served by the TAIEX

instrument, not only for the acceding and candidate countries but particularly for the administrations of the Western Balkans. At the same time, the TAIEX instrument can call on experts whose specialisation has been developed within the accession process.

A third important reason for the increase in the number of Member State experts has been the development at the end of 2004 of an innovative on-line tool – the TAIEX Expert Database (ED):

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taiox/ExpertDatabase>. The Database is a growing consolidated pool of Member State public sector experts, profiled according to their expertise and experience in a certain sector of the *acquis*. In spring 2005, a further profile of Institutional Contact Points was created. These Member State officials offer their services within their respective Ministries or Agencies to identify on TAIEX' behalf suitable experts in a selected area, depending on the request.



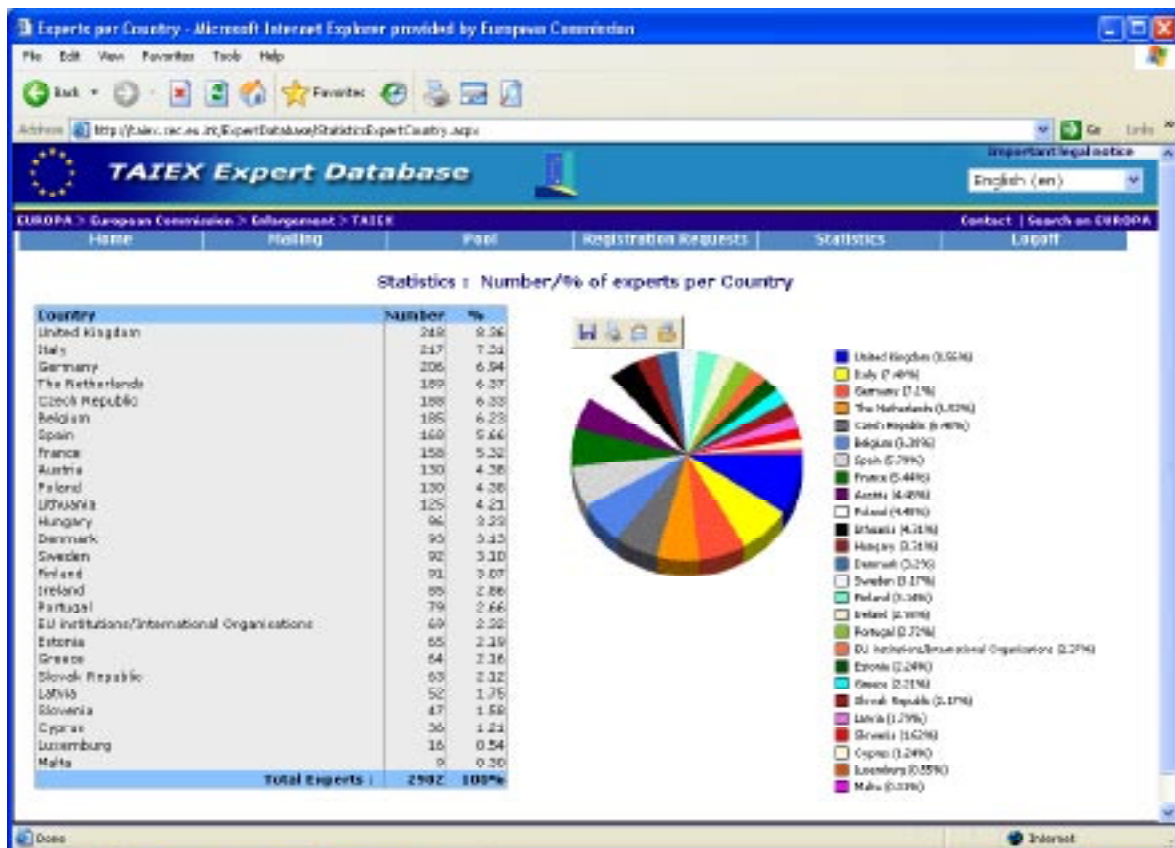
This network allows more direct entry points into Member States' administrations creating a more structured system of co-operation.

Access to both the Expert Database and the Expert Stock Exchange is password protected. In 2006, it is planned to grant special access to National Contact Points to the Expert Database to be able to view experts registered from their own Member State. The expert profile, which the expert can update online, greatly facilitates the search for expertise which can be quickly mobilised to respond to specific demands.

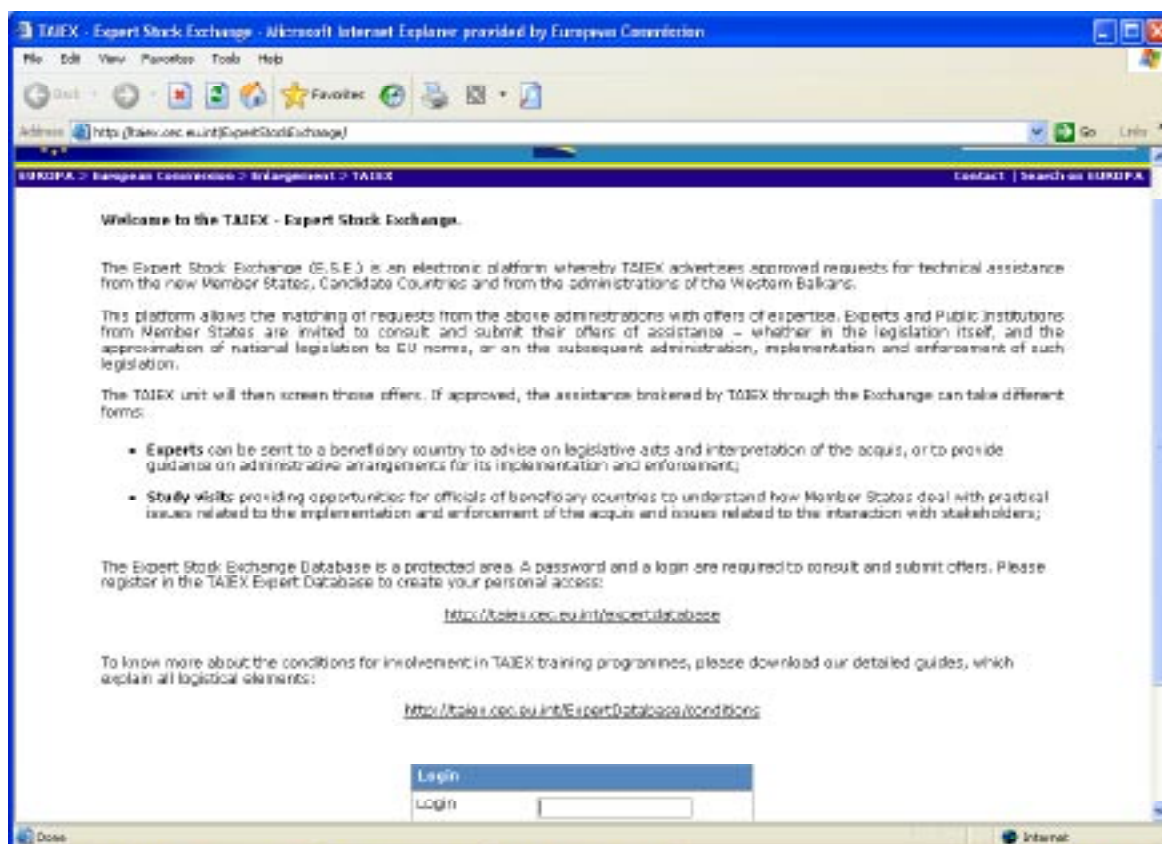
Indeed the Database is becoming a key instrument in the organisational process of TAIEX Institution building support. It creates for the first time a user-friendly mechanism for Member State experts who wish to co-operate regularly through TAIEX, to express an interest. Networking with other Member State or future Member State counterparts to share

expertise and best practice is often an attractive prospect from a professional point of view, and sums up what TAIEX is about. Officials now have an easy way to approach TAIEX to participate in our activities.

At the end of 2005, more than 2,000 Member State experts and over 300 Institutional Contact Points were registered in the TAIEX Expert Database. Approximately 20% came from the ten recently joined Member States. Through the Expert Database, TAIEX has at its disposal a widespread pool of experts and a network of contacts in most of the EU Member States institutions and invites public officials from new and old Member States to register to strengthen and enlarge the database.



TAIEX EXPERT STOCK EXCHANGE



The Expert Stock Exchange – <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/ExpertStockExchange> – is an electronic platform whereby TAIEX advertises approved requests for assistance from the new Member States, the acceding and candidate countries and from administrations of the Western Balkans. This platform allows the matching of requests with offers of expertise. Once registered in the Expert Database and granted an individual login and password, the expert is able to consult the requests pending from TAIEX beneficiaries as advertised on the Expert Stock Exchange. If experts consider that their profile and expertise correspond to a request, they can directly submit to TAIEX an offer of assistance on-line. In this case, this may concern training by the hosting of a Study visit or travelling to the beneficiary country on an Expert mission.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

All TAIEX National Contact Points, whether in beneficiary (EU 10) or non-beneficiary Member States (EU 15) have access to the Expert Stock Exchange via their personal login. The National Contact Points of the non-beneficiary Member States (EU 15) can consult and submit on behalf of their administration offers of expertise concerning requests from all TAIEX beneficiaries. The beneficiary Member States (EU 10) can consult the requests for Institution Building support of the acceding and candidate countries and the Western Balkans, and can also submit offers of expertise. The acceding and candidate Countries and the administrations of the Western Balkans can consult their own requests for assistance and can benefit from the assistance of 25 EU Member States. In order to keep TAIEX networks active, National and Institutional Contact Points are kept regularly informed through a monthly mailing announcing new requests from the beneficiary countries.

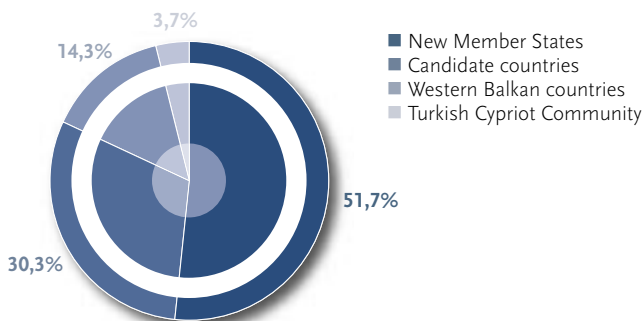
FINANCIAL ISSUES: FINANCES & CONTRACTS

As a result of the Call for Proposal launched in 2005, an Agreement amounting to € 36 million was signed with the German company Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in a consortium with the Belgium company TQ3 Travel solution, for the implementation of TAIEX activities for the period from June 2005 to December 2006. Additional Commission Financing Decisions were adopted in 2005 to complement the necessary funding of the new Agreement. They consist of € 8 million from the Transition Facility, € 7 million from the Pre-Accession Funds, € 3 million from CARDS and € 830,000 from the Special Aid Package Programme for the northern part of Cyprus. The shares in the 2005/2006 TAIEX Programme overall budget of new Member States, candidate countries, CARDS Countries and northern part of Cyprus are respectively 51.7%, 30.3%, 14.3% and 3.7%.

With the entry into force of the 2005/2006 Programme, the geographical structure of the budget has changed. The Phare, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta budget lines were replaced by the Transition Facility and Pre-Accession Facility budget lines. The perspective for 2006 is the involvement of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries in the programme. A Council Financing Decision amounting to € 3.2 million is expected to be adopted in order to start the cooperation with these countries.

In 2005, there was only a slight increase in the overall budget. The total budget for TAIEX operations rose to € 24.1 million in 2005 from € 23.2 million a year earlier.

**SHARES OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES
IN THE TAIEX 2005/2006 OVERALL BUDGET**



TAIEX BENEFICIARIES

ESTONIA

Capital: Tallinn

45000 km² – 1.4 million inhabitants

LATVIA

Capital: Riga

65000 km² – 2.4 million inhabitants

LITHUANIA

Capital: Vilnius

65000 km² – 3.5 million inhabitants

POLAND

Capital: Warsaw

313000 km² – 38.6 million inhabitants

CZECH REPUBLIC

Capital: Prague

79000 km² – 10.2 million inhabitants

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Capital: Bratislava

49000 km² – 5.4 million inhabitants

HUNGARY

Capital: Budapest

93000 km² – 10.2 million inhabitants

SLOVENIA

Capital: Ljubljana

20000 km² – 2.0 million inhabitants

MALTA

Capital: Valetta

315 km² – 0.4 million inhabitants

CYPRUS

Capital: Nicosia

9000 km² – 0.8 million inhabitants

ROMANIA

Capital: Bucharest

238000 km² – 22.4 million inhabitants

BULGARIA

Capital: Sofia

111000 km² – 7.9 million inhabitants

CROATIA

Capital: Zagreb

56594 km² – 4.4 million inhabitants

TURKEY

Capital: Ankara

775000 km² – 68.6 million inhabitants

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Capital: Skopje

25713 km² – 2.0 million inhabitants

ALBANIA

Capital: Tirana

28748 km² – 3.1 million inhabitants

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Capital : Sarajevo

51209 km² – 3.8 million inhabitants

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Capital: Belgrade

102173 km² – 8.1 million inhabitants

Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)

10887 km² – 1.9 million inhabitants



¹ MK: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: provisional code that does not affect the definitive denomination of the country to be attributed after the conclusion of the negotiations currently taking place in the United Nations.

² SCG: Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244).

³ KS: UNSCR 1244.



EE

LV

LT

PL

CZ

SK

HU

SI

HR

RO

BA

SCG²

BG

KS³

MK¹

AL

TR

MT

CY

NOTES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
TAIEX ACTIVITY REPORT 2005

Brussels: European Commission,
Enlargement Directorate-General

2005 21 x 29,7 cm
ISBN 92-79-01814-0



CYPRUS



CZECH REPUBLIC



ESTONIA



HUNGARY



LATVIA



LITHUANIA



MALTA



POLAND



SLOVAK REPUBLIC



SLOVENIA



BULGARIA



ROMANIA



CROATIA



TURKEY



FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



ALBANIA



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

KOSOVO (UNSCR 1244)

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

VISIT THE INSTITUTION BUILDING WEBSITE

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

VISIT THE TAIEX WEBSITE

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

VISIT THE TWINNING WEBSITE

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

VISIT THE SIGMA WEBSITE

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

or **CONTACT THE IBU DIRECTLY**

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Fax: +32 2 296 68 40

elarg-taieux@ec.europa.eu or

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://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/ExpertDatabase>

To know more about Enlargement of the EU:

VISIT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ENLARGEMENT WEBSITE:

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

or **CONTACT THE EU ENLARGEMENT INFORMATION CENTRE:**

Tel.: +32 2 545 9010 - enlargement@ec.europa.eu

or **CALL EUROPE DIRECT FROM ANYWHERE IN THE EU:**

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Publications Office

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ISBN 92-79-01814-0



9 789279 018145