



Federal Ministry of
Food, Agriculture
and Consumer Protection

TWINNING PROJECTS in the Field of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection



What is Twinning?

Twinning projects are aimed at assisting new EU Member States in adopting the collected body of EU law („Community acquis”) and building the necessary administrative capacity (“institution building”). Under the EU harmonisation programmes IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession) and ENPI (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument), experts from the administrations of EU Member States pass on their knowledge and experience regarding the implementation of EC law to colleagues in the respective partner country. A long-term expert (Resident Twinning Advisor; RTA), who works – assisted by short-time experts – for the entire duration of the project (usually from one to two years) in the partner authority and advises the colleagues in the partner country with regard to the implementation of concrete project objectives, serves as the “backbone” of the project.

Within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the Twinning programme is also accessible to states that are not candidate countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Southern Caucasus, Russia, states bordering the Mediterranean). The IPA programme covers all states in the Western Balkans, including those that are not EU candidates.

In addition, so-called ‘Twinning Light’ projects with a duration of a maximum of six months are implemented for smaller, less complex activities. These projects have no RTA, relying on short-term and medium-term experts in the partner country.

From the call for Twinning proposals to the project

The potential partner countries, in consultation with the EU Commission, call for proposals for their Twinning projects; the authorities of the EU Member States then submit their proposals in competition with one another. Each Member State has a National Contact Point for Twinning (NCP) which coordinates the Twinning activities for the respective government. The NCP – in Germany located at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology – channels new calls for Twinning proposals to the competent ministries.

The preparation and submission of proposals for projects in the field of agriculture and consumer protection is coordinated by the Federal Ministry. The Twinning fiches are forwarded to the relevant federal authorities and the Länder and circulated there in order to find suitable experts. It is of key importance that a submitted proposal includes an excellent expert team and in particular a suitable RTA. The proposal must be submitted by the deadline and an oral presentation of the proposal must be made in English in the respective country a few weeks later.

Twinning Project Cycle

Project development, drafting of Twinning fiches (beneficiary country in consultation with the EU Commission)	
Submission of Twinning fiches to the National Contact Points in the EU Member States (with deadline)	
Circulation of the fiches among the competent ministries	
Elaboration and submission of proposals (EU Member States in competition)	approx. 2 months
Presentation of the Twinning team in the partner country (RTA, project leader, project manager)	approx. 1 month
Selection of the Twinning partner (beneficiary country)	approx. 1 month
Drafting of the Twinning contract between EU Member State and beneficiary country including preparatory talks in the beneficiary country (detailed work plan and budget)	approx. 6-8 months
Project implementation (RTA in place, projects are monitored and progress is measured by Interim Quarterly Reports and a Final Report)	approx. 12-24 months
Project evaluation (instigated by the EU Commission)	parallel to project implementation

Example of a Twinning project – Summary –

Meeting EU Standards Food Safety & Veterinary Services in Kosovo

(KS 07 IB AG 01)

Budget: 2 Mio. Euro

Duration: 24 months

Beginning: 19 December 2008

Partner: Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency (KVFA)

Objectives of the project

To improve the monitoring of animal health, food safety and food quality in compliance with European Standards and technical requirements.

The new agency's staff will be transferred there from the ministries that have been competent for this area to-date (agriculture and health ministry) and made directly responsible to the Office of the Prime Minister. Some of the tasks for the Twinning experts that result from the creation of this new agency are as follows:

- support in drawing up ordinances regulating responsibilities in order to draw clear boundaries between the different activities in the fields of veterinary food controls;
- Ordinances implementing the legislation at regional level.

Project Components

1. Ensuring that national veterinary legislation is in line with applicable European veterinary law.
2. Drawing up a national animal disease notification system and catastrophe plans for contagious animal diseases.
3. Ensuring that food quality inspections comply with EU standards.
4. Conducting capacity-building measures with the aim of introducing animal-protection controls.
5. Improving the quality of food production in line with the European food-safety standards.
6. Carrying out public-relations work and presenting the Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency's tasks and objectives. Targeted information for consumers e.g. establishment of a telephone hotline regarding specific animal diseases etc.

In addition to this, the project provides for approximately 200 days of study visits to German and Lithuanian institutions.

How do I become a Twinning expert?

Short-term and long-term Twinning experts are usually civil servants or public sector employees. In addition, members of so-called mandated bodies may also be seconded to work in Twinning projects. Mandated bodies include, for example, certain Länder institutions. These bodies must, however, first be accredited by the EU Commission. The institution seconding the long-term expert will be reimbursed for his salary plus incidental expenses. In addition to his normal salary, the RTA will receive expatriation allowances such as rental fees for accommodation and per diem compensations.

The secondment for short-term experts will take the form of an official trip or an assignment to the partner authority. A short-term mission can last from a few days to several weeks and is usually subdivided into a number of visits over the entire duration of the project.

General requirements for RTAs (long-term experts)

- Several years of experience in the implementation of the relevant EC legislation (depending on the orientation of the project),
- good knowledge of English,
- experience in project management and ability to manage a complex project with many different partners and institutions,
- IT skills,
- good organisation and communication skills,
- work experience abroad, if possible,
- ability to conduct training sessions.

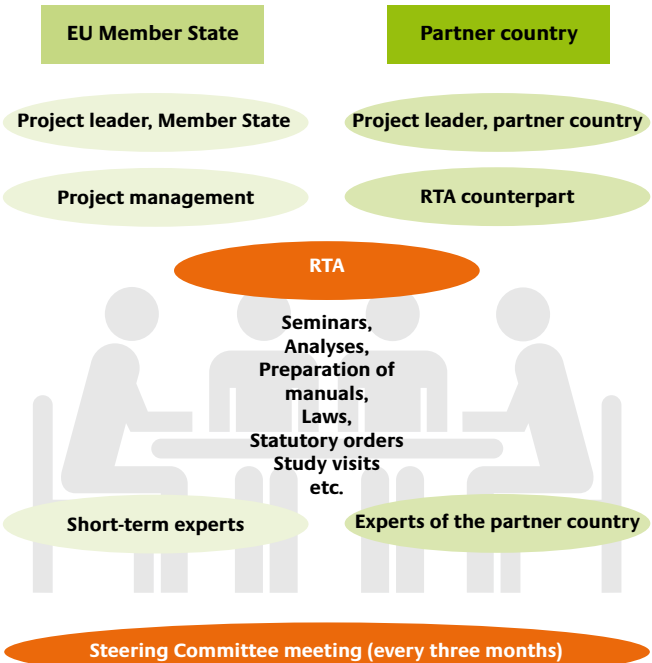
The concrete requirements are listed in the relevant calls for proposals.



Role allocation in Twinning

The BMELV (Member State Partner; Administrative Authority) is politically responsible for the projects and in charge of their coordination. For the most part, the projects are implemented by higher federal or Länder authorities. The partner authority also has a project leader and a so-called RTA counterpart as an expert contact point for the German RTA (Resident Twinning Adviser). The project partners meet up every three months in the partner country with EU Commission representatives to discuss progress and problems and decide on necessary adjustments.

RTA and project leaders are supported by a professional project and financial management team. The RTA is also aided by up to two assistants in the partner country.



Twinning projects with the participation of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection



Since the beginning of the Twinning programme (1998), there have been over 2600 calls for proposals with a financial volume of approx. € 1.8 billion EU-wide.

Germany has submitted Twinning proposals for over 1,000 projects, about 600 of which have been selected (most successful EU Member State).

Within the Federal Government, the BMELV is the most successful ministry with approx. 140 selected projects.

At present, the BMELV is actively involved in thirteen projects.

The projects focus on the following subjects:

- Food control and inspections
- Veterinary services
- Plant protection
- Consumer protection

The projects will in future mainly focus on potential EU candidate countries and on the countries in the Western Balkans, and also on the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Twinning objectives in the field of food, agriculture and consumer protection

- Raising the standards for the complete adoption of the EC legislation (in the case of accession countries) or convergence towards EU standards (in the case of countries without accession prospects) and thus equal economic conditions within the EU
- Basis for a better EU agricultural policy through the knowledge of national structures
- Strengthening of cross-border cooperation in the fields of agriculture and consumer protection
- Deeper political and economic cooperation

Contact and further information:

Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) | Division 624
Wilhelmstraße 54 | 10117 Berlin | Germany
Tel.: +49-30-18-529-4330 | Fax: +49-30-18-529-4085
E-Mail: 624@bmelv.bund.de

For further information on Twinning, please go to:

- http://www.bmelv.de/cln_172/DE/Europa-Internationales/IntZusammenarbeit/Twinning/twinning_node.html
- <http://www.bmwi.de/BMWi/Navigation/europa>
- http://www.ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/institution_building/twinning_en.htm

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