

## What is Twinning?

Twinning projects are aimed at assisting countries seeking to join the European Union in adopting the collected body of EU law („Community acquis”) and building the necessary administrative capacity (“institution building”). They are also intended to help countries without accession prospects in bringing themselves into line with EU standards. Under the EU Financial Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the EU Financial Instrument for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI), experts from the administrations of EU Member States also 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 accessible to the EU neighbouring states (Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), and to southern Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, the Palestinian territories and to Russia. The IPA programme includes the EU candidate countries (Turkey, Iceland, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the potential candidate countries (all other states in the Western Balkans).

In addition, so-called “Twinning Light”-projects are implemented for smaller, less complex activities with a shorter duration of six months. 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 European Commission, develop the 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. 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 of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). 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 French in the Maghreb) in the respective country a few weeks later.

## Twinning Project Cycle

<b>Project development, drafting of Twinning fiches (beneficiary country in consultation with the EU Commission)</b>	
<b>Submission of Twinning fiches to the National Contact Points in the EU Member States (with deadline)</b>	
<b>Circulation of the fiches among the competent ministries</b>	approx. 1 month
<b>Elaboration and submission of proposals (EU Member States in competition)</b>	
<b>Presentation of the Twinning team in the partner country (RTA, project leader, project manager), BMELV</b>	approx. 1 month
<b>Selection of the Twinning partner by the beneficiary country</b>	approx. 1 month
<b>Drafting of the Twinning contract between EU Member State and beneficiary country including preparatory talks in the beneficiary country (detailed work plan and budget)</b>	4 months
<b>Project implementation (RTA in place, projects are monitored and progress is measured by Interim Quarterly Reports and a Final Report)</b>	approx. 12-24 months
<b>Project evaluation (instigated by the EU Commission)</b>	parallel to project implementation

## Example of a Twinning project – Summary –

**Strengthening the structures of consumer protection in Egypt and reinforcing the capacities of the Egyptian Consumer Protection Agency – EG 10/ENP-AP/HE/15**

**Budget:** 1.4 million EUR

**Duration:** 24 months

**Start:** 21 December 2011

**Partner:** Consumer Protection Agency, Giza, Egypt

### Objectives of the project

The Egyptian Consumer Protection Agency (CPA), which is based in Giza in Greater Cairo, has been in place since 2007 and provides consumers with advice on issues and problems related to private consumption. The project, guided by EU legislation and good international practice, will assist the CPA in developing and improving the regulatory framework on consumer protection in Egypt. Internal resources, communication channels and workflow in the CPA will also be optimised and the CPA’s own capacities will be built up in the fields of product analysis, implementation of recalls and public relations. In addition, it is intended to improve the cooperation between the CPA and non-governmental organisations in the field of consumer protection. The overall objective of this is to strengthen the visibility of the authority and its tasks. In this project, the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection established a consortium with partners from France and Spain. The internationally experienced Twinning experts are faced with the following tasks, among others:

- critical review of the regulatory framework and formulation of specific legislative reforms;
- conceptual development of the staff and technical capacities of the CPA;
- extension in the field of consumer information and raising the awareness of the Egyptian population for the topic of consumer protection;
- training of non-governmental organisations engaged in consumer protection and improving the professionalism of their extension and information services for consumers.

The activities of the team of experts in Egypt will be complemented by three study trips to Germany, France and Spain.

## 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. 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 authorities. 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. Short-term experts receive fees for their services and per diem payments.

### 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 and IT skills, knowledge of French in the Maghreb,
- ability to manage a complex project with many different partners and institutions,
- 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 is politically responsible for the projects. 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 (steering committee) to discuss progress and problems and decide on necessary adjustments of the project.

RTA and the project leader 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 approx. 3000 calls for proposals with a financial volume of approx. € 2.2 billion EU-wide.

Germany has submitted Twinning proposals for approx. 1,300 projects, about 700 of which have been selected (most successful EU Member State).

Within the Federal Government, the BMELV is one of the most dedicated ministries with approx. 140 implemented projects.

At present the BMELV is actively involved in eight projects.

The projects focus on the following subjects:

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

The projects will in future continue to focus on EU candidate countries and also on the European Neighbourhood Policy countries.

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

- Raising the standards for the complete adoption of EU legislation (in the case of accession countries) or convergence towards EU standards (in the case of countries without accession prospects)
- Strengthening of cross-border cooperation in the fields of agriculture and consumer protection
- Deeper political and economic cooperation

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#### For further information on Twinning, please go to:

- [http://www.bmelv.de/cln\\_172/DE/Europa-Internationales/IntZusammenarbeit/Twinning/twinning\\_node.html](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](http://www.ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/institution_building/twinning_en.htm)

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For further information, please go to [www.bmelv.de](http://www.bmelv.de)

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

