

The European Union

The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

What is Twinning?

- It is a cooperation tool between Public Administrations in the Beneficiary Country and equivalent institutions in EU Member States. It aims at upgrading/modernising and supporting the institutions in the Beneficiary Country through training, reorganisation as well as approximation of legislation to EU norms and standards.
- Both the Beneficiary and EU partners commit themselves to work towards a commonly agreed result.
- Twinning projects are financed by the European Commission. The Beneficiary partners contribute to the project with human resources, office space, equipment and meeting venues.
- Public officials of the participating EU Member States (MS) institutions provide technical assistance to the Beneficiary Institutions. One of them, the Resident Twinning Adviser stays in the Beneficiary Country for the whole duration of the project.
- In parliamentary twinning there is a further benefit for the participating institutions: greater political commitment can be achieved on both sides – Beneficiary Country and the EU – for the integration process, based on a spirit of deepening mutual understanding and strengthened political cooperation.

Facts and Figures

- 3 EU Member State Parliaments implement the project
- 7 parliamentary chambers from 5 other EU Member States contribute
- More than 60 EU Member State experts implement activities in 4 Components
- Total budget available: 2,3 million Euro
- Duration: 24 months, May 2019 – April 2021

Financing

The project is financed by the European Union's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) which aims at providing targeted financial assistance to countries which are candidates and potential candidates for membership to the EU.

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TWINNING PROJECT

EU SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF BiH IN EU INTEGRATION TASKS



The project is implemented by the Consortium of the
Hungarian National Assembly, the Austrian Parliament and the Croatian Parliament



IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The concept

- This twinning project has a strategic mission to strengthen the capacities of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PABiH), the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PFBiH), the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (NARS) and the Brčko District Assembly (BDA), as well as the Cantonal Assemblies (CAs), to exercise their EU-related tasks in the EU accession process and implementation of the requirements of the EU-BiH Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).
- The current Twinning Project builds on the results of two former twinning projects: Twinning Project “Enhancing the role of parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU integration context” (2014-2016) also implemented by the Hungarian National Assembly in cooperation with the French National Assembly which covered wide variety of fields to enhance the legislative and administrative capacities of the Parliaments of BiH and to strengthen their role in the EU integration process; and Twinning Light Project “Support to the administrative structures for EU integration related tasks of the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina” (2017) implemented alone by the Hungarian National Assembly which focused 1) on the assistance to the setting up and functioning of the EU Units of the Parliaments of BiH; and 2) on the assessment of the needs of the Cantonal Assemblies in the EU integration context.

Forms of implementation

- Twinning projects must bring to the Beneficiary Institutions tangible, operational skills and knowledge in connection with the parliamentary activities and the EU integration process. Therefore, after thorough assessment of the current situation, guidelines and recommendations will be elaborated to introduce or further improve structures, procedures and methods – thus establishing or strengthening European standards in the operation of the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In order to share the EU best practices in many activity fields of the Parliaments and to provide practical information related to the EU integration process in the most efficient way, general and more specific (on-the-job) trainings, workshops, consultations, roundtables, study visits, internships and coaching activities will be delivered.
- A series of various communication actions will be organized to promote the awareness-raising role of BiH Parliaments in EU integration related issues.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROJECT

Participants from the Beneficiary Country:

- Members of the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Administration of the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Members and administrations of the Cantonal Assemblies from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Representatives of invited governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Participants from EU Member States:

- The project is implemented by the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly, the Administration of the Austrian Parliament and the Croatian Parliament Staff Service. Furthermore, experts are also invited from 7 other parliamentary chambers of 5 other EU Member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Portugal, Slovakia) in order to find – on the basis of European best practices – the most suitable, well-functioning structures and procedures for the BiH Parliaments.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. Enhancing the capacities of the EU Units of BiH Parliaments

The aim of Component 1 is to achieve that EU Units – which serve as focal points and centres for EU expertise in the administrations of BiH Parliaments – are able to provide efficient professional support to the EU integration tasks.

Component 1 will also focus on the support to the implementation and the regular update of EU Integration Action Plans which provide a detailed list of tasks helping the BiH Parliaments to perform their EU-related tasks.

BiH Parliaments will be also assisted in preparing and implementing their EU communication action plans to enhance their role and intensify their efforts in informing Members and administrations of Parliaments, civil society organizations, media and the general public about the benefits and challenges of EU integration process.

2. Strengthening cooperation among the BiH Parliaments on EU related issues

Component 2 intends to make the cooperation mechanism of the BiH Parliaments adopted as a key result of the first Twinning Project fully operational. For that purpose, organization of political level coordination meetings, (Conference of Speakers of the BiH Parliaments, Parliamentary Forum on EU Integration, Cooperation of sectoral committees) will be assisted and facilitated. The Component also aims to provide specialized and up-to-date information (strategic guidance, consultation and training) on the role and involvement of the Members and staff of the European integration committees and the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee and also to raise the involvement of other standing committees of BiH Parliaments in the EU integration process.

3. Enhancing legal approximation capacities of the parliamentary administrations

The objective of this Component is to enhance the capacity of the administrations of BiH Parliaments in the EU legal approximation process especially in the compatibility checking and legal drafting activities. Based on the outcome of the previous Twinning Light Project, structures and procedures of law approximation in the BiH Parliaments will be improved, as well as the legal approximation skills of the staff will be enhanced through regular practical and coaching exercises.

4. Developing capacities of the Cantonal Assemblies

Component 4 aims at ensuring the Cantonal Assemblies' engagement in the European integration process by the elaboration and introduction of a Common Action Plan for the Cantonal Assemblies, enabling them to perform their share of constitutional responsibilities and accomplish their institutional adaptation especially in exercising their tasks in the coordination of EU integration activities and the implementation of the SAA. Component 4 will also focus on raising capacities of Representatives and Administrations of Cantonal Assemblies by training activities to assist them to perform their EU integration related work more efficiently.