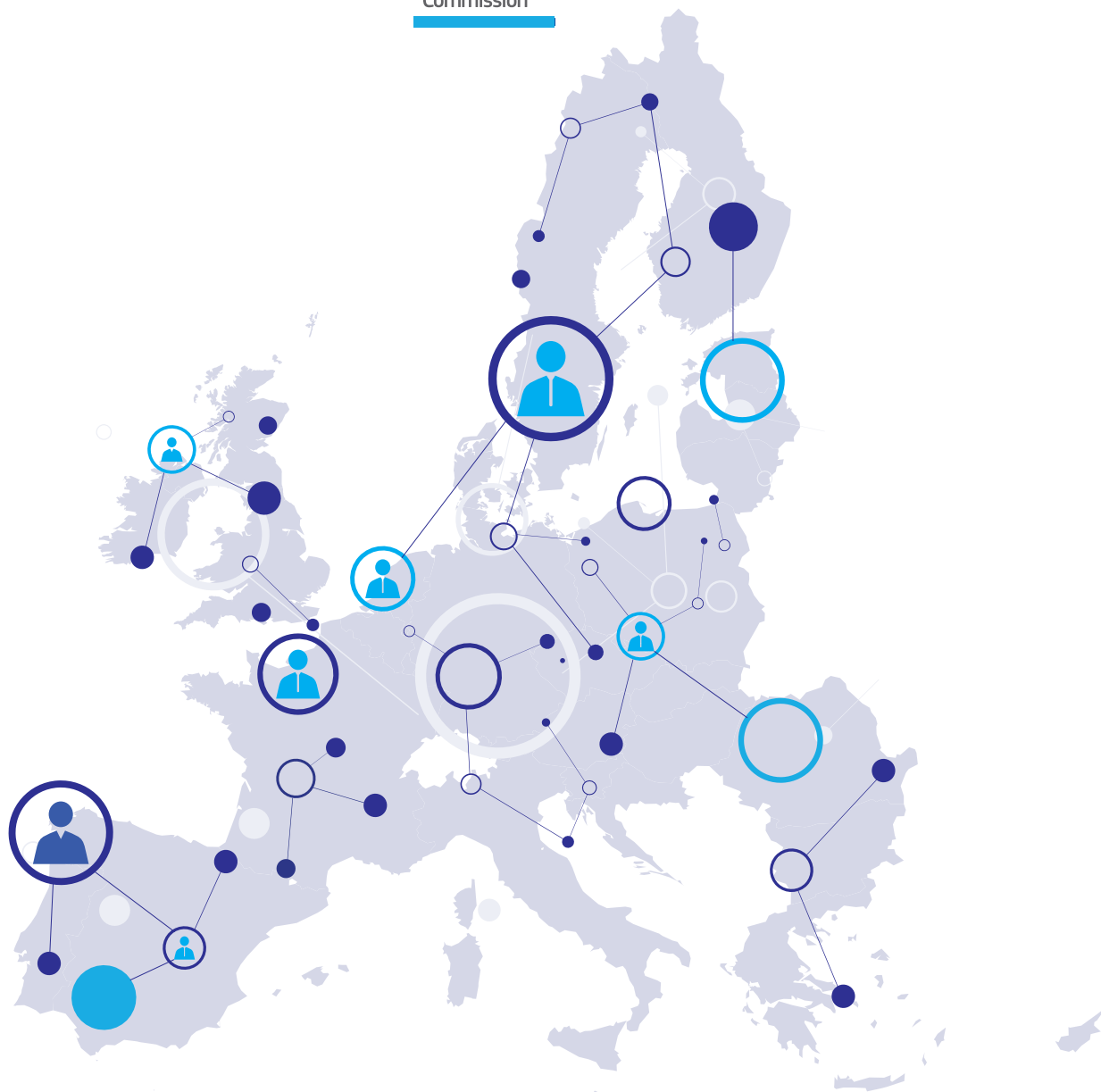




European
Commission



TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER

A new tool bringing together
cohesion policy experts

Regional and
Urban Policy

WHAT IS TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER?

Across the EU, roughly 24 000 staff members are involved in the implementation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). Altogether these people possess a wealth of knowledge and invaluable know-how which could be exchanged in order to further improve the management of the investment programmes. A study commissioned by the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy has confirmed that there is high demand for a peer-to-peer exchange instrument among bodies managing the ERDF and the CFⁱ.

Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu, has underlined that good administrative capacity has a direct impact on the way in which structural and investment funds are managed at national, regional and

local level and she has also stressed the importance of exchange of best practices among the Member States.

Against this background, and after consulting programme authorities across Europe, the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, has taken the initiative to establish a new tool for peer-to-peer exchange of expertise among managing, certifying and audit authorities in Member States dealing with the ERDF/CF. It is called TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER and is based on the existing TAIEX toolⁱⁱ, already in use by the Directorate-General European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

This initiative is implemented as a pilot project which will be evaluated in 2016.

ⁱ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetailDoc&id=15819&no=3>

ⁱⁱ TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument, supporting public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices.

HOW TO BECOME A TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER EXPERT?

If you:

⊕ work for a Member State administration in one of the institutions responsible for management and implementation of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund;



⊕ are willing to share your knowledge and experience with peers from other Member States;



⊕ are eager to engage in exchange of good practices in the implementation of ERDF and Cohesion Fund co-financed projects...



You can register to become a **TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER expert** via an e-Application link: <http://europa.eu/!xT39Xp>

As an expert, you can be called to participate in seminars, workshops, expert missions and study visits on topics matching your specific profile.

A **Guide for Experts/Speakers** containing detailed information on practical arrangements related to for example remuneration and travel is at your disposal.

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WHAT ARE THE MAIN FEATURES OF TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER?

QUALITY-CONTROLLED

There are several in-built mechanisms for quality control of experts and exchanges.



LIGHT



Short-term expert exchanges organised with as little bureaucracy as possible.

FLEXIBLE



It allows for different types of exchanges – expert missions, study visits and workshops which are based on the needs identified by authorities managing the investment programmes in Member States.

RAPID



Exchanges can be launched rapidly once needs have been identified – on average within 2 months from the moment when a request for assistance is approved.



TARGETED

Exchanges are focused on a concrete and specific topic.

A large graphic on the left side of the page. It features a light blue circle with a vertical double-headed arrow in the center. The text 'PEER 2 PEER' is written across the middle of the circle. A thick green curved line arches over the top and right side of the circle.

PEER 2 PEER

WHAT IS FINANCED UNDER TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER?

On the basis of applications from Member States, the tool will finance the following types of exchanges among **public sector experts** and institutions:



EXPERT MISSIONS

EU Member State experts can be sent to institutions in other Member States that have requested peer advice and exchange of experience on a specific topic. Expert missions can last between 2 to 5 days.



STUDY VISITS

Employees (maximum 3) from a requesting institution can be sent on a working visit to other EU Member State institutions to learn from peers and exchange good practices. Study visits can last between 2 to 5 days.



WORKSHOPS

Single or multi-country workshops can be organised in a requesting institution. Workshops would normally last 2 days.

TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER can arrange and cover travel and accommodation costs and per diems for experts travelling on missions or to workshops, and travel and accommodation for up to 3 participants in study visits.

However certain costs – such as catering and interpretation – would have to be covered by the the institution requesting assistance hosting institution. All expert exchanges have to be directly linked to the implementation of the CF or the ERDF.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR REGIO PEER 2 PEER ASSISTANCE?

The assistance is provided at request of public institutions involved in the management of ERDF/CF:

- ▶ Managing authorities
- ▶ Intermediate bodies
- ▶ Coordinating authorities
- ▶ Audit authorities
- ▶ Certifying authorities
- ▶ Joint secretariats for European territorial cooperation programmes
- ▶ Other bodies – only in duly justified cases

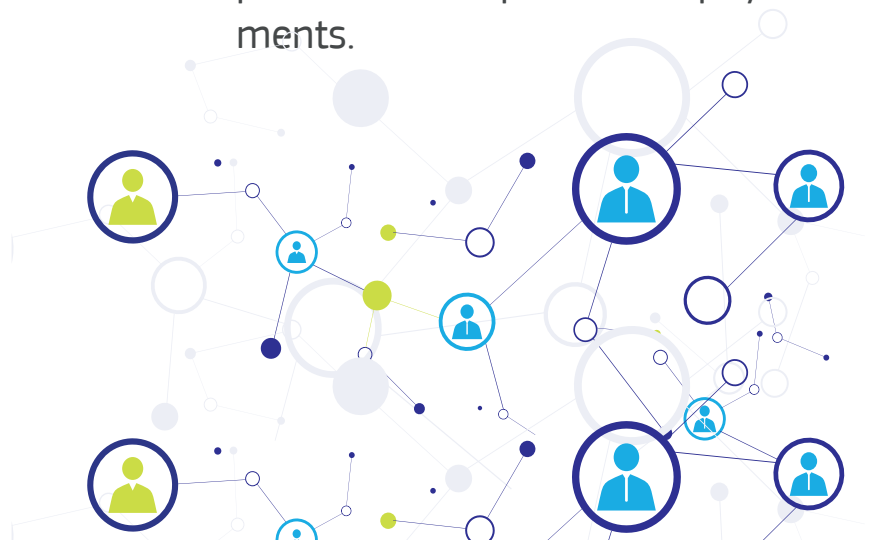
The request for assistance shall be submitted via an e-Application link <http://europa.eu/!xT39Xp>

It is subject to approval by the European Commission.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN AREAS OF TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER ASSISTANCE ?

TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER assistance will finance capacity building initiatives aimed at better management and implementation of ERDF/CF and better implementation of the regulatory requirements. For example, Member States can

make use of this tool to exchange good practice on fulfillment of ex-ante conditionalities, addressing bottlenecks identified in the programming documents for 2014-2020 or for the implementation of action plans linked to the suspension/interruption of payments.



HOW DOES TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEERWORK IN PRACTICE?

5 - REPORTING

Mobilised Experts

Following the conclusion of the exchange (or series of exchanges) a report is submitted by the expert(s). As a rule, presentations used during workshops are made publicly available on the TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER website.

EVALUATION OF THE EXCHANGE

Commission/ Member State administration

6 Evaluation by recipients of assistance takes place directly after the exchange and also after 6 months to assess the impact of the event.

4 - ORGANISATION OF THE EXCHANGE

Commission/External Service Provider/ Member State administration.

The Commission via its external service provider provides administrative support for the practical organisation of an event and covers the costs of expert missions and study visits (travel and accommodation costs, per diems for experts).

3 - PREPARATION FOR THE EXCHANGE

Commission/ Member State administration

Once the Commission takes a positive decision, it starts preparing the exchange, including selecting experts and defining practical details in close co-operation with the requesting institution.

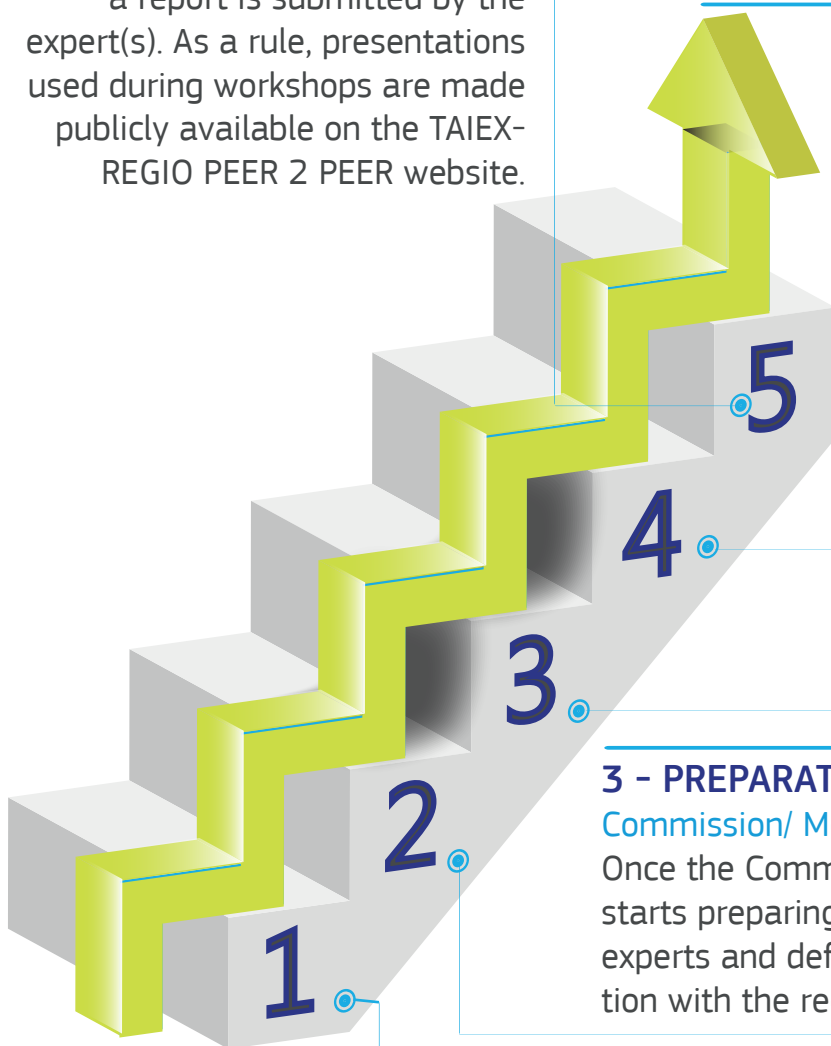
2 - EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION

The Commission examines the application and takes a decision on whether the request for peer-to-peer exchange is eligible and justified.

1 - APPLICATION FOR A REGIO PEER 2 PEER EXCHANGE

Member State administration.

To apply for assistance, a Member State administration shall fill in the on-line application form.



Steps in preparation of an exchange
Who is responsible?
How it is going to be implemented?

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?



TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER website:
<http://europa.eu/!xT39Xp>



REGIO-PEER2PEER@ec.europa.eu

#RegioP2P

