



Structural Reform Support Programme

17 May 2019
Prague



- Offers technical support for **design and implementation of structural reforms**
- Over **760** technical support projects in **26 Member States**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/report-on-the_3-years-of-the-srss_en_.pdf

PART I

- **SRSP 2020**
- **Requests assessment**
- **Preparing good requests**

PART II

- **Examples of SRSP projects**

ANNEX

- **Post 2020**
- **How to submit requests**
- **More detailed examples**

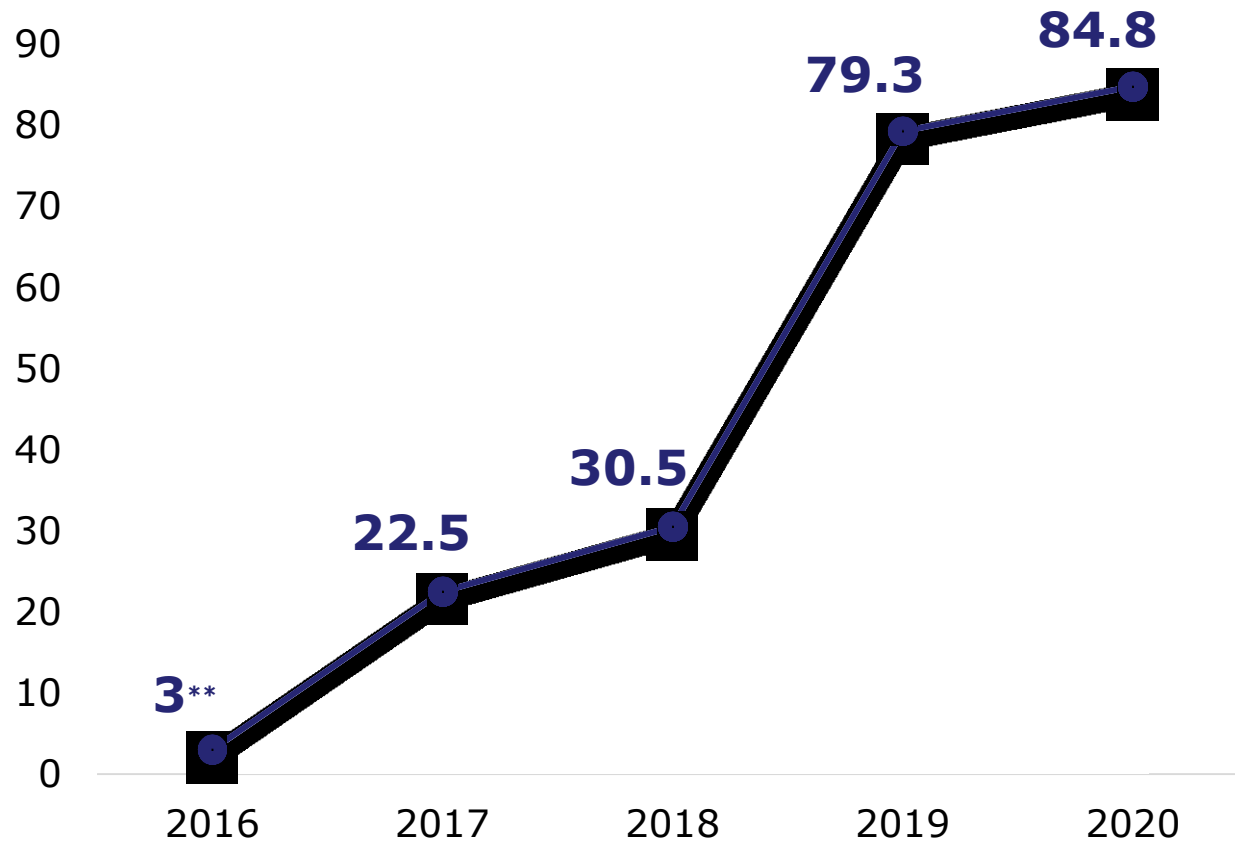
PART I

Structural Reform Support Programme 2020

- SRSP: dedicated programme to **support Member States with the implementation of structural reforms**
 - For all EU Member States
 - Based on Member-State requests
 - Covering a wide range of reform areas, and
 - The entire life cycle of the reforms,
from design to implementation and evaluation
 - **Budget of €222.8 million (2017-2020)**

SRSP – total budget allocation*

6



In million of EUR

* amounts excluding support expenditure

** preparatory measures

Reform areas (not exhaustive)

7

Governance and public administration

- Governance
- Central & local administration
- e-Government
- Management of human resources
- Better regulation
- Anti-corruption & anti-fraud strategies
- Anti-money-laundering strategies
- Judicial reform

Revenue administration, public financial management

- Tax administration efficiency
- Tax evasion and fraud
- Tax compliance
- Tax modelling
- Digitalisation
- Spending reviews
- Fiscal framework
- Budget preparation and execution
- Public accounting

Growth and business environment

- Foreign investment & trade policy
- SME policy, better regulation
- Research, innovation and digital economy
- Transport, tourism, agriculture, ...
- Licensing, inspections, ...
- Investment man. and PPPs
- Natural resources
- Energy and climate

Labour market, education, health and social services

- Labour market
- Welfare system
- Pension system
- Healthcare and long-term care
- Education & vocational training

Financial sector and access to finance

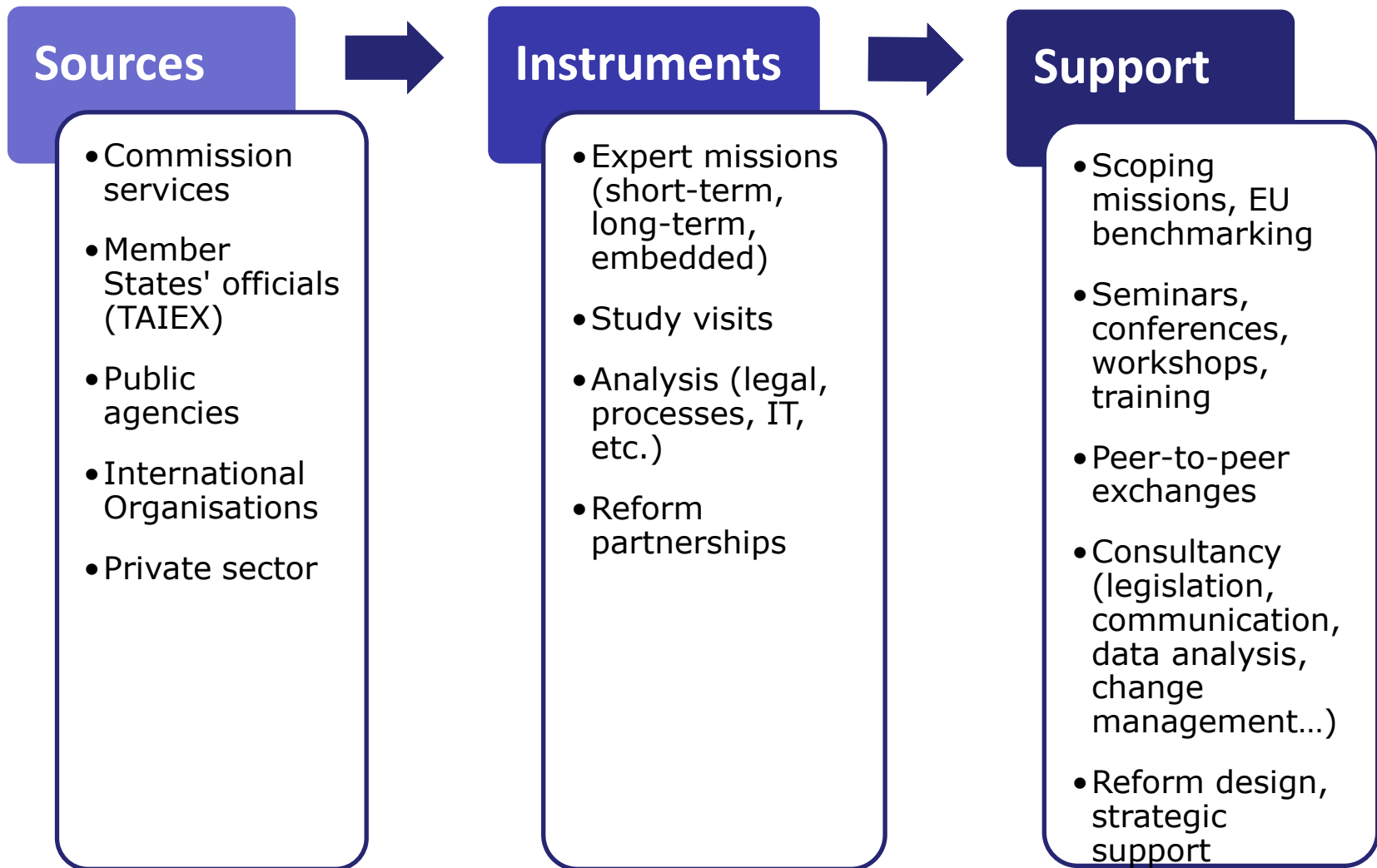
- Capital market development
- Financial literacy
- Financial sector supervision
- Insolvency
- Crisis management
- Insurance undertakings

- Requests linked to **government reform** and **technical support priorities**
- Member States have **ownership of reforms**
- Clear **long-term perspective**, focusing on **real impact on the ground**
 - Comprehensive package of the **most relevant** requests for support - **smaller number** of **larger** and **high quality requests**



- Provision of **expertise** (not funding) – SRSS is a "**strategic partner**"
- Bringing in **the best and most appropriate expertise** (combination) and suggesting solutions
- **Rapid** delivery of support, **tailor-made** to Member State's needs
- **No co-financing** required





- SRSS ready to help with **initial drafting of request** (well in advance)
- **Deadline** for submitting requests:
31 October 2019
- Submission through the national **Coordinating Authorities**, through a web portal (**SRSS portal**)
- **Prioritisation of requests** at national level



- **Assessment criteria (from the SRSP Regulation)**
(urgency, breadth & depth, reform needs, administrative capacity)
- **Criteria related to sound financial management**
(maturity, focus and expected results -> *ownership*)
- **Prioritisation by the Member States**
- **Added value and impact** on the ground
- Check for no **overlap** (the action proposed cannot be financed by other EU funding programmes)

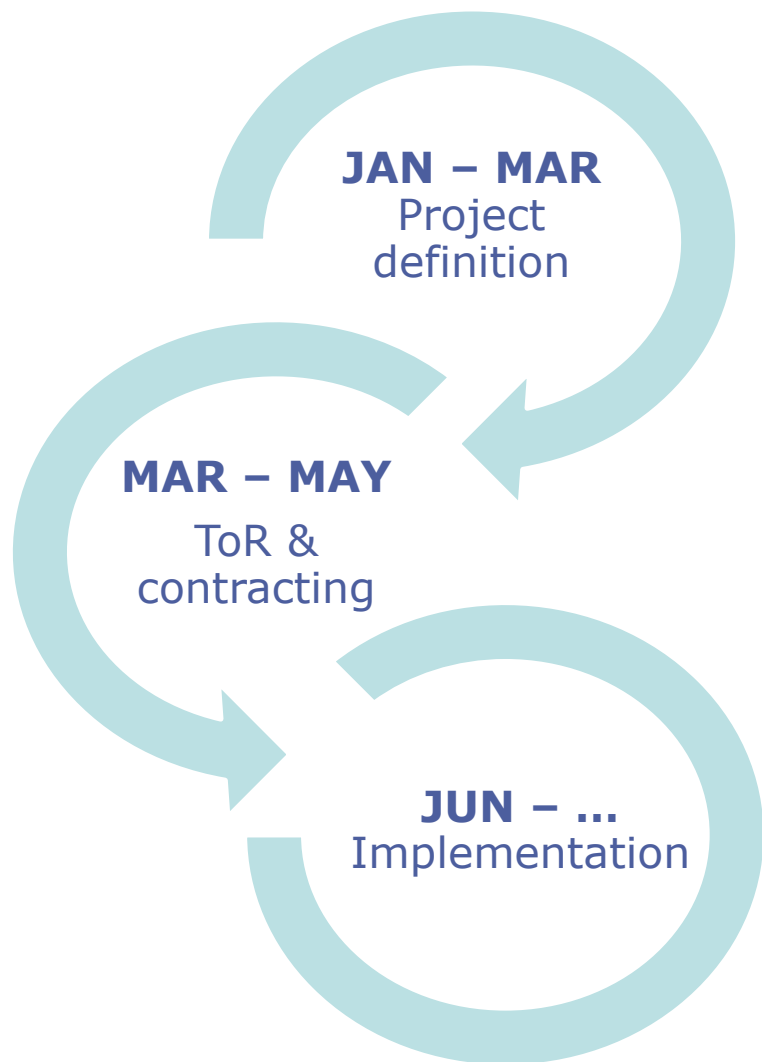
- Start brainstorming early & prepare draft
- Consult **SRSS** for strategic & expert advice
- Inform **your CA** and maintain regular dialogue
- Consult **your management** for internal clearance
- You know what the **issue** is, but also need to identify clear **solutions** & **plan** for the full reform cycle

- coherent request with higher expected impact
- bigger projects: quality more important than quantity

If a request is not accepted

14

- **Provide / ask for feedback in Jan**
- **Re-assess full reform cycle & Identify key areas for support**
- **Strengthen the request for the following round**
- **Reach out to SRSS**



- **Close dialogue with SRSS to**
 - Decide on best providers
 - Active input & feedback
 - Define clear objectives, expected impact and deliverables
- **The faster and more engaged you are, the sooner the project will be on the ground and the more aligned to you needs the support !**

Spring – early autumn
Preparatory work on priority requests



Nov - Dec 2019
Analysis of requests and selection of the SRSP 2020 projects

Spring 2020
Projects launched on the ground

31 Oct 2019
Deadline for submission of requests under SRSP 2020

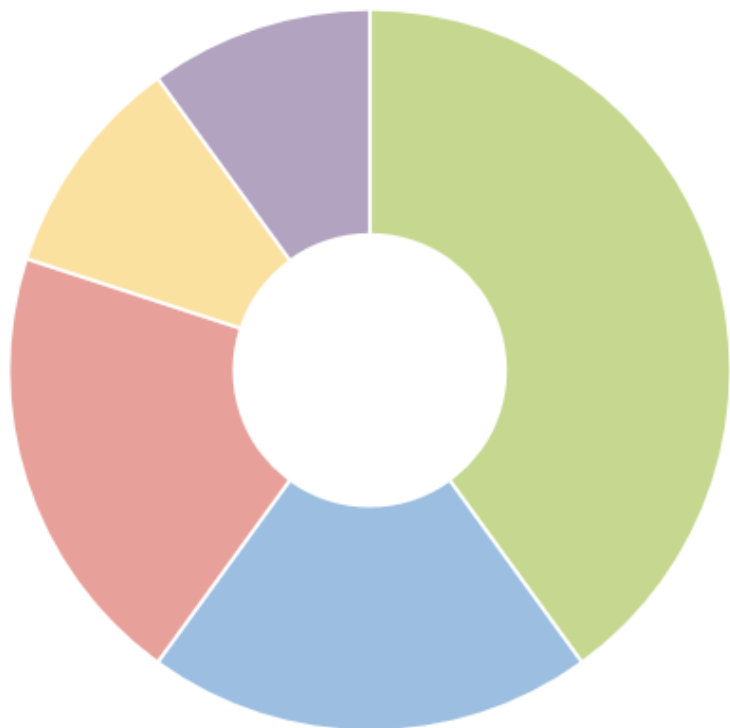


Feb 2020
Annual Work Programme and Cooperation and Support Plans

- **The Czech Republic was among the first countries receiving support from the SRSS in 2016**
on the development of local capital markets, the enhancement of e-procurement practices and the preparation for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- **So far, it received support for 30 reform projects**
 - ❖ **4** projects **completed**, 1 withdrawn
 - ❖ **16** projects are **in implementation phase**
 - ❖ **9** in preparation
- **In the SRSP 2019 round 10 requests were selected**
26 submitted from 13 different ministries/public institutions.

SRSP projects in Czech Republic

18



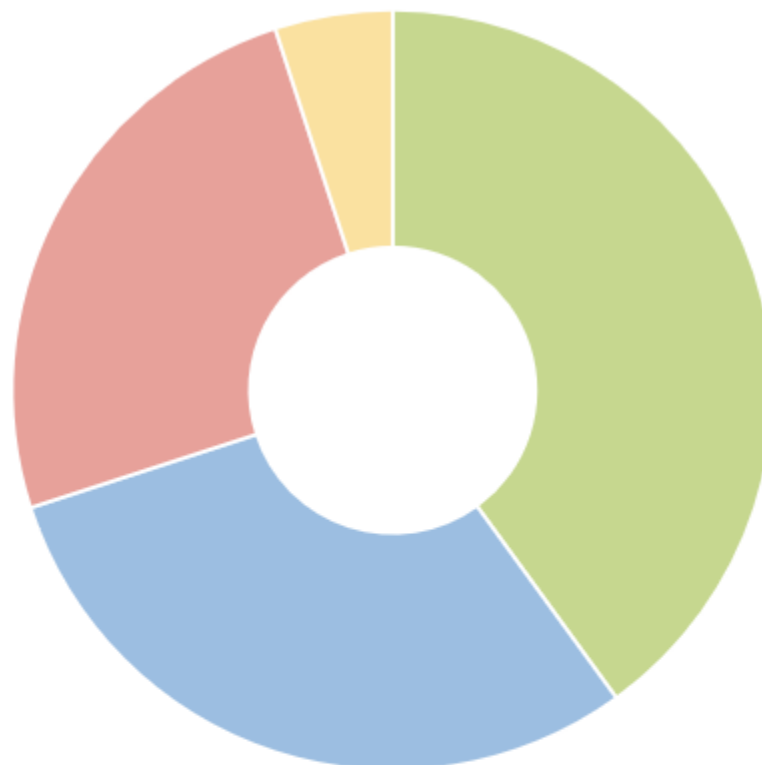
Policy Area

Total Issues: 10

SRSP 2019

SRSP total

■ Growth and Business Environment	4	9
■ Financial Sector and Access to Finance	2	6
■ Governance and Public Administration	2	6
■ Labour Market, Education, Health and S...	1	4
■ Revenue Administration and Public Fina...	1	5



*SRSS Circumstances of the request

Total Issues: 10

■ Member States' own reform priorities	8
■ Union priorities (e.g. Capital Markets Uni...	6
■ Economic governance (e.g. Country-Spe...	5
■ Union law (e.g. infringements)	1



European
Commission

QUESTIONS?

PART II

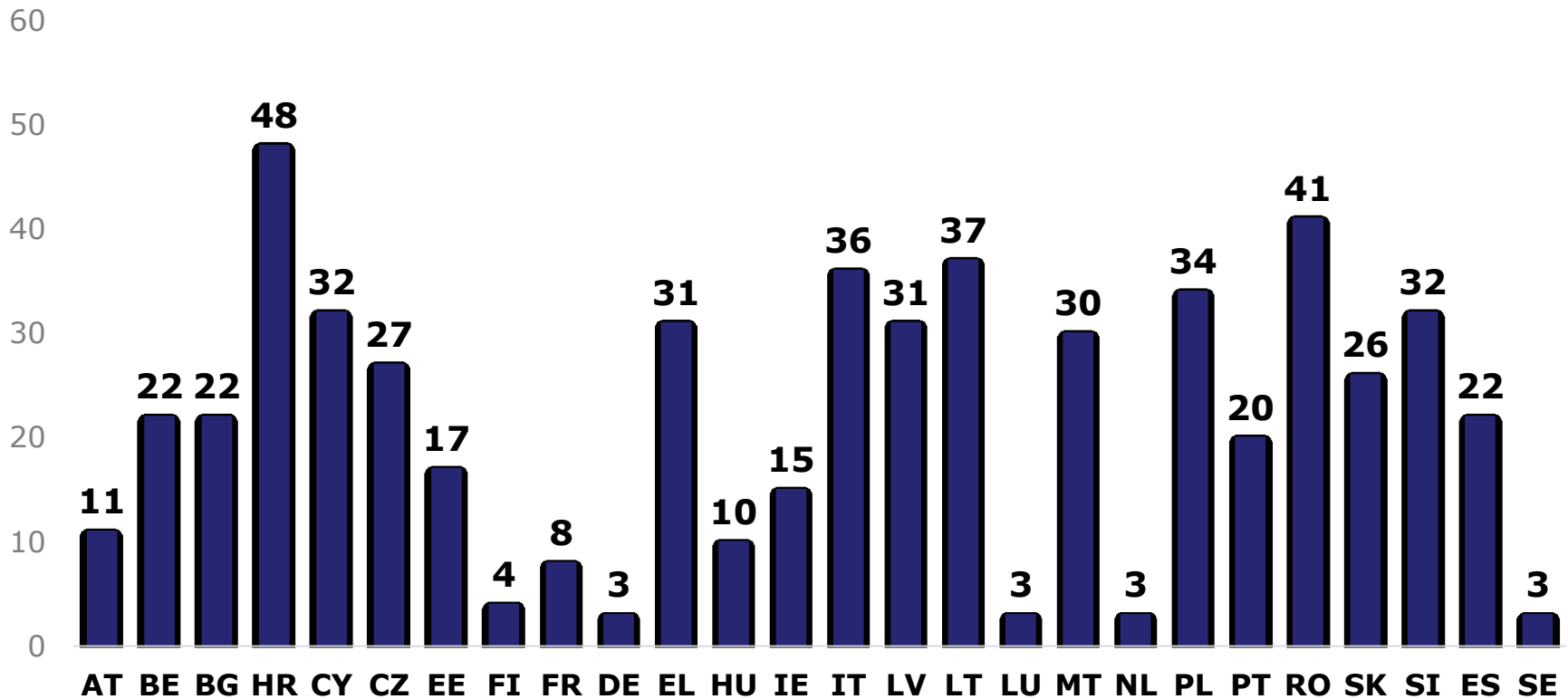
EXAMPLES OF SRSP PROJECTS

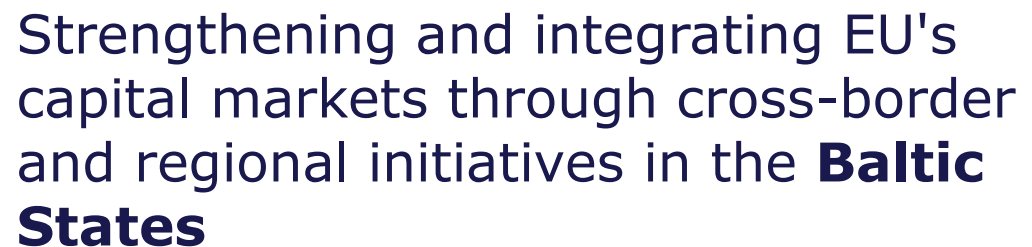
SRSP coverage

21



Projects per Member State (2017-2019) ²²







Enhancing tax collection in **Latvia**



Setting up a **Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme** in **Greece**



Strategic roadmap for the industry digitisation initiative in **Lithuania**



Carrying out an independent analysis of the public prosecutor's office in **Bulgaria**



Implementation of curriculum reform in **Croatia**



Increasing the use of renewable energy in **Cyprus**



Capital market diagnostic in **Czech Republic**



Assisting SMEs with regulatory compliance in **Bulgaria**



Setting up an independent revenue agency and optimising processes in tax administration in **Greece**

Main contact:

Structural Reform Support Programme: SRSS-SRSP@ec.europa.eu

Czech Republic Country Coordinator: laura.rinaldi@ec.europa.eu

Website:

- <https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/structural-reform-support->



THANK YOU

ANNEXES

Comparison with previous rounds

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SRSP 2017	SRSP 2018	SRSP 2019
EUR 22.5 million	EUR 30.5 million	EUR 79.3 million
271 requests received (for EUR 80 million)	444 requests received (for EUR 150 million)	580 requests received (for EUR 194 million)
159 requests selected	147 requests selected	263 requests selected
16 Member States	24 Member States	26 Member States
Average project size: EUR 140,000	Average project size: EUR 207,000	Average project size: EUR 303,000

POST-2020 PROGRAMME

Reform Support Programme proposed in **May 2018** – with overall budget of €25 billion – financial and technical support open to all Member States for the implementation of reforms.

Three instruments:

- **The Technical Support Instrument (ex-SRSP)** → *will remain with bigger budget*
- **The Reform Delivery Tool** (financial support)
- **The Convergence Facility** (for non-EA MS)

Negotiations are still ongoing

SUBMISSION OF SRSP REQUESTS

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM/NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

- 1.1 What is the **problem/need** to be addressed with the support requested?
- 1.2 **Breadth** of the problem/need
- 1.3 **Depth** of the problem/need
- 1.4 **Urgency** of the request for support
- 1.5 **Socio-economic indicators**

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORT MEASURES REQUESTED AND ESTIMATED COST

- 2.1 **Description** of the support measures requested
- 2.2 Indicative **duration** and **estimated cost**
- 2.3 **Expected results** /use of the results
- 2.4 **Administrative capacity** of the Member State
- 2.5 Envisaged **provider(s)** (if applicable)

3. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REQUEST

4. EA MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT


Submission of requests – SRSS portal 36



SRSS <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/SRSS-portal>

 Home

 Request for support

 Monitor your requests



Submit technical support
request

Some description goes here

Go



Monitor your requests

Some description goes here

Go

Step 1 - Registration

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1. Coordinating Authorities and beneficiaries to **register on ECAS**
(<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas>)

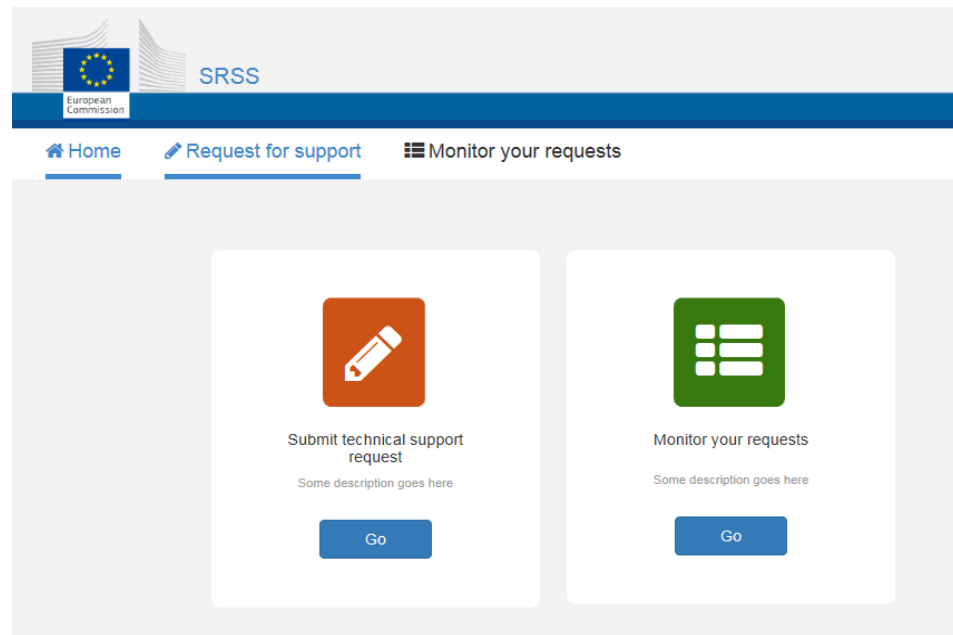


Advised: **one account** per Coordinating Authority and one account per beneficiary (functional mailbox for ex.)

2. **Communicate the email registered to the SRSS**
(SRSS-SRSP@ec.europa.eu)

1. **SRSS provides access**

2. Member States **log on to the web interface**
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/SRSS-portal>



Monitor your requests

Request ID	Priority	Title	Area	Recipient Authority	Status
		Continuous education and communication with the health care providers	Labour Market, Health and Social Services	Ministry of Health: Narodne centrum zdravotnickych informacii	Draft request Edit
		Elimination of the administrative requirements and the manually processed data using electronic processes.	Governance and Public Administration;#Labour Market, Health and Social Services	Ministry of Health: Narodne centrum zdravotnickych informacii	Request submitted
		Migration of the IS within the healthcare sector into the governmental cloud	Governance and Public Administration;#Labour Market, Health and Social Services	Ministry of Health: Narodne centrum zdravotnickych informacii	Draft request Edit
		Development of the architectural abilities of the healthcare area	Labour Market, Health and Social Services	Ministry of Health: Narodne centrum zdravotnickych informacii	Request submitted
		Modern electronic ambulance and its introduction into the practice	Labour Market, Health and Social Services	Ministry of Health: Narodne centrum zdravotnickych informacii	Draft request Edit

Independent analysis of the Prosecutor's Office in Bulgaria

for the Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecutor's Office

The Commission provided technical support by carrying out an **independent analysis** of the Public Prosecutor's Office.



Context

The national authorities sought to perform an **analysis of the structure and independence of the Public Prosecutor's Office**. The objective was to contribute to the implementation of a Strategy for Judicial Reform.

Support delivered

The SRSS coordinated a team of five prosecutors from Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK (2), who delivered technical support over a period of **9 months**.

The support measures consisted of:

- **drafting recommendations** to implement European standards; and
- **analysing human resource management, efficiency, independence and accountability of the Public Prosecutor's Office**.

Results achieved

Support from the SRSS delivered the following results:

- **more than 60 precise and concrete recommendations to support the authorities** in implementing European standards; and
- **analysis of the independence and efficiency** of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

And had the following **impacts**:

- in response to the recommendations prepared through the SRSS support by the experts, in July 2017, the national authorities set out a **joint roadmap** covering both organisational and potential legislative measures. The roadmap is currently being implemented.

Strengthening the effectiveness of the judicial system in Croatia

for the Ministry of Justice

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to improve the country's court management to underpin an effective judicial system and respect for the rule of law.



Context

The Ministry sought to **improve the effectiveness of the judicial system and to ensure respect for the rule of law** as a prerequisite for encouraging investment and creating a business-friendly environment. This required reforming national legislation in order to establish more efficient court management and ensure a better quality judicial system.

Support delivered

The SRSS mobilised several judges from France, the Netherlands and Slovenia to share their national practices with the Croatian authorities.

The support measures focused on the following elements:

- **management of the court administration;**
- **individual evaluation of judges;** and
- **statuses/certifications of court professionals** assisting the court (e.g. court experts, court interpreters, and certified appraisers).

Results achieved

Support from the SRSS delivered the following results:

- **finalisation of the design of several laws** currently being prepared by the Ministry, e.g. on the management of courts, the evaluation of judges and on court professionals to support the implementation of Croatia's justice strategy.

And had the following impacts:

- **a more effective judicial system.**

Improved coordination of internal audits in Romania

for the Ministry of Public Finance

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to **strengthen the national public internal audit system** in Romania, by providing support to the national administration in charge of public internal audit.



Context

The competent national authority in charge of implementing policy in the field of public internal audits sought to **strengthen the internal audit function** to support the **prevention of fraud and corruption** and to improve the use of available resources at central and local levels.

Support to be delivered

The support provided by the SRSS will be delivered by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of Austria, in cooperation with the Austrian Agency for Economic Cooperation and Development over a **one-year period**.

The support measures will consist of:

- **developing a new strategy** for public internal audits;
- **designing training programmes** on public internal audits at central and local levels; and
- **providing an induction programme** on financial governance for high level officials.

Expected results

The support from the SRSS is expected to deliver the following results:

- a **Public Internal Audit Strategy** for 2020-2024;
- **new professional competences** for public internal auditors.

And have the following impact:

- an **internal audit culture** in the public administration at local level in particular; and
- a **strengthened public financial control framework** and environment.

Enhancing tax collection in Latvia

For the Ministry of Finance and State Revenue Service

The Commission is providing support to the national authorities in their efforts to **reduce the tax gap and enhance public revenues.**



Context

The Ministry of Finance and State Revenue Service aim to **reduce the prevalence of tax fraud and increase public revenues.** This requires improving administrative procedures and adopting a structured and risk based approach to tax evasion.

Support delivered

The SRSS, in cooperation with the World Bank, is providing support **over 3 years** to:

- **identify areas of high risk of fraud;**
- **train and empower the audit service;** and
- **develop a comprehensive compliance strategy.**

Expected results

Support from the SRSS and the WB aims to deliver the following results:

- **reduce the size of the informal economy** in Latvia;
- **improve taxpayer compliance;** and
- **increase public revenues by 4%** in real terms over 3 years.

Spending Review in Slovakia

for the Ministry of Finance

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to carry out sectoral spending reviews to improve efficiency and effectiveness of public spending.



Context

In autumn 2015, Slovakia's Ministry of Finance initiated several spending reviews to **improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending**.

The spending review project was part of the government's manifesto following the elections in March 2016.

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS, IMF and independent consultants included on-site visits, workshops, remote assistance, and hands-on advice by the experts.

Support measures consisted of:

- **guidance on the design, organisation and management** of the overall process and on the first and subsequent rounds of spending reviews;
- **analysis of lessons learnt** and **capacity building** in applying a methodology during the process and the roll-over; and
- **guidance for the identification, design and costing** of saving measures.

Expected results

The SRSS support is expected to deliver the following results:

- **enhanced capacity** in understanding the drivers of spending to support evidence-based budget preparation;
- **policy decisions** based on value-for-money; and
- **improved quality of public services** or reduced spending without hampering their quality.

Treasury Single Account in Portugal

for the Ministry of Finance

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to **improve the functioning of their Treasury Single Account.**



Context

The Ministry of Finance intends to use the momentum of the reform of the budget framework law and the additional information provided by the new framework to **modernise cash management and enhance its capacity to forecast non-tax revenue.**

Support to be delivered

The support provided by the SRSS and the World bank will take the form of on-site missions and workshops.

The planned measures consist of:

- **reviewing the functions** of the Debt and Treasury Management Agency;
- **developing a new cash management model;**
- **streamlining non-tax collection** and accounting procedures; and
- **providing recommendations for improvements** in the architecture of the Financial Management Information System.

Expected results

Support from the SRSS is expected to deliver the following results:

- **more effective cash management;**
- **improved non-tax revenue collection and accounting.**

And to have the following impact:

- **reduced level of debt** and hence costs of borrowing; and
- **fostering sound financial management.**

Setting up an independent revenue Agency in Greece

for the national Revenue Authority

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to **establish an independent agency for public revenue.**



Context

The national authorities wished to **establish an independent revenue authority** with its own financial, organisational and human resources, free from political influence. The previous systems had limited the performance and efficiency of the national revenue administration.

Support delivered

The support was provided by the SRSS over 18 months and consisted of:

- **designing the minimum requirements for autonomy** to enable the Independent Agency for Public Revenue to operate efficiently and to implement modern working methods;
- **providing guidance during the drafting phase of the legislation** setting up the Independent Agency for Public Revenue – in line with best international practice and national constitutions; and
- **providing support during the setting-up of the Independent Agency for Public Revenue** in the fields of IT services, human resources, tax compliance and debt collection.

Results achieved

The SRSS support delivered the following results:

- **establishment of the Independent Agency for Public Revenue.**

And had the following impact:

- **created an independent public revenue administration;**
- **created a new public revenue model** designed to modernise and increase the efficiency of audits and tax collection ; and
- **established best practice for the set-up** of future organisations.

Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cyprus

for the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism and the Presidency of Cyprus

The Commission supported Cyprus to **boost the competitiveness** of the economy by **enhancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem**.



Context

Entrepreneurship was identified as one of the main pillars of economic growth and prosperity in the country and listed in the national Action Plan for Growth.

In 2015, the Government adopted the "National Policy Statement on Enhancing the entrepreneurial Ecosystem".

Support delivered

The SRSS support consisted of:

- **inputs to the policy development;**
- **contributions to the action plan for social entrepreneurship;**
- **support for the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor survey;**
- **exchange of best practices on the digitisation of grant schemes;** and
- **study and recommendations to improve on export performance.**

Results achieved

- **creation of a governance body** to implement the Policy Statement;
- **implementation of over 50% of all actions** in the policy statement ;
- **the drafting of a law and action plan** on social entrepreneurship;
- **entry of Cyprus in the Global Entrepreneurial Monitor;**
- **creation of StartUp Visa;**
- **enhanced for support to export-oriented enterprises;** and
- **introduction of incentives for innovative firms.**

Strategic roadmap for the industry digitisation initiative in Lithuania

for the Ministry of Economy and Innovation

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to **develop a strategic roadmap for digitisation of industry** in Lithuania, in close collaboration with the national multi-stakeholder platform for championing industry digitisation reforms.



Context

A favourable environment for cooperation among industry, business, academia and public authorities is needed to **encourage the digitisation of industry**.

Digitisation will enable Lithuania's industry to **remain competitive** on the international stage and to contribute to **more rapid growth in Lithuania's economy**.

Support to be delivered

The SRSS provided support over a **6-month period** in the form of technical advisory services by entities with substantial experience in industry platforms for digitisation.

The support measures consisted of:

- **benchmarking against best practices** in other EU Member States and **identifying challenges and opportunities** for Lithuania;
- **formulating recommendations**; and
- **developing a strategic roadmap** for the digitisation of industry in Lithuania.

Results achieved

The Ministry formally adopted the **Lithuanian Industry Digitisation Roadmap 2019-2030** in March 2019.

Implementation of the roadmap is expected to have a **major positive impact on the competitiveness and productivity** of Lithuania's industry.

The support from the SRSS helped the Ministry **secure funding from the EU's structural and investment funds** to implement the strategic roadmap. Additional funding has been mobilised from Lithuania's private sector.

Tools to assist SMEs in Bulgaria with regulatory compliance

for the Ministry of Economy, Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprises

The Commission supported the national authorities in their efforts to **develop web-based, user-friendly tools for small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** and to help them to better understand and comply with the regulatory framework.



Context

SMEs are the backbone of Bulgaria's economy but they encounter difficulties in complying with complex laws and rules.

Simple and accessible tools are needed to provide SMEs with adequate information and to alleviate the administrative burden.

Support delivered

The support was provided **over one year** in the form of expertise related to the collection of data and the development of web tools for SMEs.

It consisted of:

- **identifying the most complex and common regulations** affecting businesses in their interaction with the administration (surveys, interviews and consultations); and
- **developing simple, business-friendly web-based descriptions** of the 120 most complex and common regulations.

Results achieved

Support from the SRSS delivered the following results:

- development of a **new web-based tool for SMEs**.

And is expected to have the following impacts:

- **improved administrative capacity** of the ministry to support companies operating in Bulgaria;
- **increased awareness** by SMEs of their regulatory obligations;
- **reduced administrative burden** for SMEs; and
- **promotion of entrepreneurship**.

Strengthen the energy efficiency and renewables framework

for the Ministry of Environment and Energy

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to **improve the country's framework for energy efficiency and renewables** and to meet the national targets for 2020.



Context

The Ministry sought to **promote energy efficiency** and the **use of renewable energy**, in order to achieve the country's potential in both areas. This required full implementation of relevant national and EU legislation, as well as improvements in the existing regulatory framework.

Support delivered

The SRSS mobilised experts from the German development agency, GIZ, who were based at the Ministry for a period of **22 months**.

The support measures consisted of:

- **identifying barriers** to investment, market integration of renewables, financing of energy efficiency, etc.;
- **benchmarking against EU best practices**;
- **providing tailor-made recommendations** for changes in the national regulatory frameworks; and
- **targeted training** for energy managers and other stakeholders.

Results achieved

The SRSS support delivered the following results:

- a **new market-based support scheme** to incentivise use of renewable energy;
- a **new energy efficiency obligation scheme**; and
- **new energy audit scheme**.

And had the following impact:

- a **more robust energy** efficiency and renewables' framework; and
- **new competences** for public energy managers and other stakeholders in the field of energy efficiency and renewables.

Setting up a Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme in Greece

for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to **set up a guaranteed minimum income scheme** designed to provide a last resort **safety net for disadvantaged groups, reduce poverty and increase social inclusion.**



Context

Before the introduction of a guaranteed minimum income scheme, much of the poorest section of the population received either no benefits or benefits provided on an ad-hoc basis. The **guaranteed minimum income scheme now provides financial support for disadvantaged groups** that meet the eligibility conditions, while **promoting quality access to social services** and creating **incentives to seek work.**

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS and the World Bank was delivered **over 2 years** in the form of short-term expert missions and long-term presence of experts on the ground.

The support measures consisted of:

- **preparing the legislation setting up the guaranteed minimum income;**
- **implementing, monitoring and evaluating** the guaranteed minimum income scheme; and
- **training officials** responsible for the implementation of the scheme.

Results achieved

Support from the SRSS delivered the following results:

- **roll-out of the national guaranteed minimum income scheme;** and
- better **monitoring and assessment** of welfare benefits.

And had the following impact:

- **reduction in poverty** and better access to **social services;** and
- **improved administrative capacity** of the Ministry in charge of the scheme.

Assessing health system performance in Latvia and Slovenia

for the Ministries of Health

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to **develop and implement frameworks for assessing the performance of their health systems.**



Context

National health authorities intend to develop tailored frameworks to **assess the performance of their health systems** and to apply them to **monitor and evaluate upcoming health reforms.**

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS is delivered **jointly to Latvia and Slovenia over 24 months** in the form of continuous technical advice.

The support measures consist of:

- **organising trainings** and country visits;
- **identifying key dimensions** to be targeted by the assessment (e.g. efficiency, access, quality of care);
- **identifying and developing** explanatory indicators for each dimension; and
- **involvement of relevant stakeholders** in the implementation of the assessments.

Expected results

Support from the SRSS aims at the following results:

- develop **tailored frameworks for the assessment of health system performance**; and
- use those **frameworks to assess health sector reforms.**

And will have the following impact:

- **improved performance** of the health systems;
- **increased local capacity of assessing the performance** of the system; and
- **better health of the population.**

Implementation of the curricular reform in Croatia

for the Ministry of Education

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to achieve a successful implementation of a **comprehensive reform of the curriculum**.



Context

As the newest member of the EU, Croatia seeks to **improve its educational system to reach the standards** of some of its European partners.

The Comprehensive Curriculum Reform is the cornerstone of the Croatian National Strategy for Education, Science and Technology. **It encompasses all levels of education, interconnects them and introduces learning outcomes and the development of competencies.**

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS is implemented by the British Council over 12 months, and mobilises experts from different countries (EE, FI, NL, New Zealand, SI, the UK).

The support measures consist of:

- conducting a **review of key curriculum documents**;
- **developing training and coaching resources**, including audio-visuals for teachers and leaders;
- **training teachers** and coaches; and
- designing a **delivery model** for the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform in pilot schools.

Results achieved

The SRSS support delivered the following results:

- **implementation of a new training framework** for teachers and coaches; and
- **teachers and coaches prepared to teach specific competencies** according to the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform in pilot schools.

And is expected to have the following impact:

- **Smooth and effective implementation of the pilot phase** of the Comprehensive Curriculum Reform in Croatia.

Reforming the assessment of disability

in Czech Republic, Greece and Poland

The Commission is supporting several national authorities in their efforts to (i) **modernise the administrative processes in the field of disability assessment**, and (ii) **review the disability assessment** by moving from a medical impairment-based approach towards a more holistic assessment of disability which takes into account functional capacity and individual circumstances.



Context

In ageing societies, the benefits and services in place for those who have difficulties in working up to retirement age become increasingly important.

In general, **disability assessment and policies should support inclusive societies and labour markets**, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS was related to both (1) the **review of organisational & administrative processes**; and (2) the **reform of the assessment methodology**.

Support was provided in the following areas:

- **organisational development**;
- **review of business & IT processes**;
- **communication & customer services**;
- **human resources: training needs analysis & programme**;
- **review of the assessment methodology**; and
- **design of a pilot programme**.

Expected results

The support from the SRSS is expected to deliver the following results:

- **review and upgrade of business and IT processes**;
- **design of a pilot programme**; and
- **development of human resources & communication strategies**.

And have the following impact:

- **fair and transparent procedures**; and
- **reduced administrative burden and waiting times**.

Design of a tool to forecast the need for teachers in Lithuania

for the Ministry of Education and the Research and Higher education Monitoring and Analysis Centre

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to address mismatches between the need for teachers and the supply, and eventually improve the quality of teaching.



Context

In view of the likely shortfall of teachers in the coming year, the Ministry seeks to develop a tool that will **allow better prediction of the future need for teachers** in different regions, subjects, and level of education. This will in turn allow a better **allocation of budgetary resources** and more accurate planning of **Higher Education programmes** for initial teachers' training.

Support delivered

The SRSS mobilised experts from the UK and Ireland to support the national team working on the elaboration of a new prospective tool, over a period of 12 months, by providing:

- **examples of relevant tools;**
- **technical support to develop and implement a pilot forecasting** the demand for teachers; and
- **recommendations for more effective policy making** in the field of teaching.

Expected results

The SRSS support is expected to deliver the following results:

- elaboration and testing of a **pilot forecasting model;**
- **recommendations for the use of its results** in teacher-related policies.

With have the following impact:

- **reduced mismatch** between the need for teachers and the supply;
- **higher attractiveness** of the teaching profession; and
- **better quality education.**

Strengthening and integrating EU's capital markets through cross-border and regional initiatives

for the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to **improve regional capital markets** in the Baltic States with the introduction of a pan-Baltic covered bond framework.



Context

Ministries from the three countries signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to strengthen and integrate their capital markets through **cross-border and regional initiatives**. As the three Baltic States are considered by investors as one single market and one investment region, this initiative helps build **regional investment capacity**.

Support to be delivered

Together with the EBRD, the Commission will support the Baltic States over the **next year** with measures to assist in the introduction of a **pan-Baltic covered bond framework**.

The support measures consist of:

- **reviewing the existing financial sector legislation** to identify issues that may hinder the development of a securitisation and covered bond market;
- **proposing new legislation to provide a legal basis** for covered bonds and securitisation instruments.

Expected Results

The SRSS support is expected to deliver the following results:

- contributing towards **well-functioning and larger capital markets** in the region;
- opening up **long-term funding options for banks**, allowing them to increase lending to regional economies; and
- **increasing the resilience and competitiveness** of the Baltic economies in the face of external shocks.

Capital Market Diagnostic in the Czech Republic

for the Ministry of Finance

The Commission supported national authorities and market participants in their efforts to **further develop national capital markets.**



Context

Some small capital markets, in comparison with other similar-sized economies, do not have the **ability yet to channel a high level of national savings into widespread equity and long-term debt financing** for corporates to support economic growth in the Czech Republic.

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS and the World Bank delivered an **independent analysis of the Czech capital market** with recommendations for further development.

The support measures consisted of:

- an **evaluation of the current state of national capital market**;
- **identification of national impediments and challenges** to further development; and
- **recommendations** for actions to increase participation of issuers, investors and market intermediaries.

Results achieved

Support from the SRSS delivered the following results:

- a solid **assessment** to underpin and inform a national strategy for further development of capital markets.

And had the following impact:

- improved **understanding of the existing opportunities and the actions** required for further development.

Risk-based Financial Supervision in Romania

for the Financial Services Authority

The Commission is supporting national authorities in their efforts to foster a more risk-based approach to financial markets supervision.



Context

The national authorities sought to **promote risk based supervision** and **regulate financial markets in line with these principles**.

This required changing supervisory practices and improvements in the existing regulatory framework.

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS and the World Bank team, including contracted experts, is being delivered over a **two-year period**.

The support measures consist of:

- multiple missions to **interview and consult** and to road-test supervisory practices with the staff;
- delivering **draft laws, supervisory manuals and templates**; and
- **supervisory workshops**.

Expected results

Support from the SRSS is expected to deliver the following results:

- **better risk-based supervision** of Romania's financial markets.

And have the following impact:

- more **efficient and focussed regulation** of and enforcement in national financial markets.

Managing Non-Performing Loans in Slovenia

for the banking sector supervisor

The Commission supported national authorities in their efforts to **reduce the large volume of non-performing loans (NPLs)** in the small-and medium-size-enterprise (SME) sector and to improve the functioning of the national banking system.



Context

The high level of non-performing loans (NPLs), in the SME sector in particular, limits banks' ability to provide credit. In order to **reduce the volume of NPLs** in the country's SME sector, the national banking sector supervisor decided to develop a **comprehensive strategy to restructure these types of NPLs**.

Support delivered

The support provided by the SRSS and the World Bank was delivered over 9 months in the form of expert missions and data analysis.

The support measures consisted of:

- **developing a toolkit for banks** on how to deal with NPLs, while also laying out restructuring options for each loan category;
- **providing guidance** on how to organise loan restructuring processes within a bank; and
- **training professionals** dealing with NPLs.

Results achieved

The SRSS support delivered the following results:

- **guidelines and a handbook** on how to deal with NPLs; and
- **a workshop on NPLs** for banking professionals.

And had the following impact:

- **strengthened both the supervisor's and banks' ability** to deal with NPLs in the SME sector.