



# STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT SERVICE



*"I want the new Economy and Finance Minister to promote and support structural reforms in our Member States, building on the work the Commission is doing since 2015 with our Structural Reform Support Service."*

*European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017*

The Commission created the **Structural Reform Support Service** in 2015 to support Member States in the **preparation, design and implementation** of growth-enhancing reforms.

In cooperation with other Commission services, the Structural Reform Support Service manages a dedicated support programme, the **Structural Reform Support Programme** with a budget of €142.8 million over the years 2017-2020. The Programme entered into force in May 2017.

The support provided is **tailor-made**, available to **all EU Member States upon their request**, requires **no co-financing** and mobilises experts from all over Europe and beyond, from both the public and the private sector.

Following the request by a Member State, the reform support of the Commission covers the **entire project cycle** throughout which the ownership of the reforms remains with the Member State.

Since 2015, the Structural Reform Support Service has been supporting **over 300 projects in 15 Member States**, of which **over 150** in 2017. With the adoption of the 2018 Annual Work Programme, in 2018, the Structural Reform Support Programme will provide support to **24 Member States** to carry out **more than 140 projects**. This will bring the total number of support projects to **over 440**, including more than 290 under the **Structural Reform Support Programme**.

## 2017

### **Structural Reform Support Programme:**

more than **150 projects**  
in **15 Member States**.



## 2018

### **Structural Reform Support Programme:**

more than **140 projects**  
in **24 Member States**.

## Doubling the capacity of the Structural Reform Support Programme

In December 2017, the Commission proposed to **increase the financial envelope** of the current Structural Reform Support Programme by €80 million for the period up to 2020. Another €80 million is expected to come by means of voluntary transfers to the SRSP as part of Member States' technical assistance resources under the European Structural and Investment Funds. This will allow the Structural Reform Support Programme to **respond to the greater than expected number of requests** for support from Member States and to **provide support for reforms that may help non-euro area Member States** wishing to join in their preparation for euro-area membership. For 2018, the value of the requests submitted by the Member States was **five times the budget available**; in 2017, it was **four times the budget**.

This proposal to increase the funding takes the form of an amendment to the Structural Reform Support Programme Regulation. It is now being discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council.

The Commission intends to propose a follow-up to the Structural Reform Support Programme under the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

## Areas of expertise of the Structural Reform Support Service

### 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 AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Revenue administration
- Budget preparation
- Spending reviews
- Fiscal strategies & tax policy
- Supreme audit institutions/ independent fiscal institutions

### GROWTH AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- Investment licensing
- Competition policy
- Trade issues
- Digital society
- Land registry
- Energy Union
- Better Regulation
- Management of State-owned enterprises (SOEs)
- Sectoral expertise: transport, environment, water, agriculture, etc.

### LABOUR MARKET, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- Labour market, policies & laws
- Welfare system
- Pension system
- Healthcare
- Education & vocational training

### FINANCIAL SECTOR AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

- Access to finance
- Capital Markets Union
- Bank supervision & resolution
- Non-performing loans
- Insolvency & financial literacy
- Insurance & pensions
- Competition

Special assignments: The service has helped to coordinate the response to the refugee crisis in Greece and is also responsible for the implementation of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

## Project examples



### GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Improving the efficiency of the national public procurement system in **Lithuania**.

Providing support to enhance the efficiency of human resources management in the administration in **Greece**.

Enhancing innovation through public service reform in **Ireland**.



### GROWTH AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Providing support to the authorities to reach the 2020 and 2030 energy and climate targets in **Cyprus**.

Enhancing coastal protection in **Spain**.



### FINANCIAL SECTOR AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

Improving the functioning of capital markets across the three Baltic States (**Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**).

Strengthening the ability to deal with non-performing loans in **Slovenia**.

Building market infrastructure to increase investment in **Hungary**.



### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Designing accrual accounting systems to harmonise national accounting practices in **Italy**.

Strengthening the ability of the tax administration to improve tax collection in **Bulgaria**.

Supporting budgetary system reform in **Poland**.



### LABOUR MARKET, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Supporting the design and implementation of new curricula in schools in **Croatia**.

Improving the functioning of primary healthcare in **Slovakia**.

Improving disability assessment systems and the services for people with disabilities in the **Czech Republic**.