



**TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT
Regulation (EU) 2021/240 (TSI Regulation)¹**

**GUIDANCE
accompanying the template for request for technical support
(Article 9 of the TSI Regulation)**

The request for technical support (hereunder “the request”) should be filled in after careful reading of these instructions and the TSI Regulation.

The purpose of these instructions is to facilitate the submission of requests for support under the TSI 2022 to the Commission. The Commission will analyse the request for support in line with Article 9 of the TSI Regulation. The information submitted will also serve as a basis for reaching an agreement with the Member State concerned, resulting in a Cooperation and Support Plan.

Should a Member State want to submit a request for special measures under urgency (Article 12(7) of the TSI Regulation), the Member State should contact DG REFORM at REFORM-TSI@ec.europa.eu for the relevant template. Please note that the request for special measures under urgency should be filled **only if** there are **serious grounds of urgency requiring an immediate response**. The special measures that may be provided under urgency will only be interim support (for a maximum of six months), to be replaced by support measures that are to be provided under normal circumstances, and according to the procedure thereof, under the TSI Regulation. If the Member State concerned wishes to continue receiving support under the TSI, after the special measures expire, the standard request for support will need to be submitted according to Article 9 of the TSI Regulation.

The information included in the template for the request will be considered sensitive or confidential to the Member State insofar as it concerns the public interest of the Member State, unless otherwise specified by the authorities submitting the request.

Personal data provided in the request are processed in accordance with the applicable data protection rules. The privacy statement explaining the processing

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1–16.

of personal data could be found in section 7 of the record at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-04667>.

These instructions are accompanied by a pre-filled example of the template.

INTRODUCTION

Who submits the request for support?

All requests need to be formally submitted by the **Coordinating Authority**. Under the TSI 2022, the Coordinating Authority is responsible for submitting requests for technical support on behalf of the Member State concerned, for coordinating the planning and submission of the requests for support, as well as for the overall implementation of the support measures, in cooperation with the Commission.

The Coordinating Authority is the single contact point for the interaction with the Commission on the matters related to the TSI 2022. Member States designate the Coordinating Authority in accordance with their legal framework.

Please note that each request should be submitted separately through the DG REFORM portal².

Flagship technical support projects

The TSI 2022 call offers the possibility for Member States to submit a request for technical support related to one or more Flagship technical support projects.

Flagship technical support projects were developed to address Member State needs, while meeting top EU priorities where reforms are anticipated to take place across Member States.

Requests related to Flagship technical support projects must be submitted using the dedicated templates, which are partially pre-filled (see specific explanations in dedicated boxes below).

Requests for Flagship technical support projects **can also be submitted as multi-country requests** (for multi-country requests please see below).

When submitting a request, please select the type of request you wish to submit (standard request or one of the proposed Flagship technical support requests).

Multi-country requests

A multi-country project is a project that is similar (almost the same)/common to more than one Member State as beneficiary; in principle, it concerns the same policy area and the same priorities for support across the different beneficiary Member States. A multi-country project may also have a cross-border dimension

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/srss-portal/>

although this is not necessarily the case. Under SRSP/TSI, “multi-country” requests may take the following forms:

- **Similar/same requests submitted by several Member States, following coordination between these Member States.** After selection, the requests may be partially or fully merged by DG REFORM during implementation;
- **A request submitted by one Member State (“lead” Member State), involving/on behalf of one or several other Member States.**

Should a Member State or a group of Member States want to explore the possibility of submitting a multi-country request, the Member State(s) **should contact DG REFORM at REFORM-TSI@ec.europa.eu as DG REFORM can assist in coordinating and facilitating the relevant exercise.**

FILLING THE TEMPLATE

Title of the requests

For standard requests, please indicate the title of the request. The title should be concise and indicate the purpose of the request for support (e.g. removing restrictions in the professional services sector).

For the Flagship technical support requests:

The title of the flagship project will be prefilled on the basis of the type of request selected. Nevertheless, the request template provides for the possibility to add a project subtitle.

The Coordinating Authority submits all requests **in the order of priority** decided by the Member State; this includes requests emanating from independent authorities.

General information: contact details and title of the request

Please indicate the relevant **contact details** of the national Coordinating Authority, the recipient national authority and the relevant contact persons, including their contact details (name, address, function, email, phone number, etc.).

The **recipient national authority** is the national authority of the Member State within the meaning of the TSI Regulation (including authorities at regional and local levels) that requests the support, and, in case of selection, that will be responsible for its implementation, in cooperation with the Commission (i.e. DG REFORM).

0. MULTI-COUNTRY REQUEST

0.1 Is this a multi-country request?

A multi-country request is a technical support request that is relevant or common to more than one Member State as it belongs to the same policy area and addresses the same priorities for technical support/the same needs.

Multi-country requests can involve any Member States, not only neighbouring Member States.

0.2 Modality of the multi-country request

This question only applies if you answered 'Yes' to Question 0.1.

Multi-country requests can be submitted by one Member State (through its Coordinating Authority) on behalf of more Member States or can simply refer to similar or same requests for technical support that are submitted by more than one Member State in parallel.

0.3 Other Member State(s) involved

This question only applies if you answered 'Yes' to Question 0.1.

Please selected from the list the other Member State(s) that are concerned by this multi-country request.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM/NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Article 9 of the TSI Regulation defines the criteria for analysis by the Commission of the request for support: urgency, breadth and depth of the challenges identified, support needs in respect of the policy areas concerned, analysis of socioeconomic indicators and institutional and general administrative capacity of the Member States concerned.

The Commission will use the information requested herewith, and that must be provided by the Member State, to carry out the analysis of the requests.

1.1 What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?

Please provide a detailed description of the problem or the need to be addressed with the requested support measures.

For requests related to Flagship technical support projects

This section has been partially prefilled with a general overview of challenges and technical support needs that are relevant across Member States.

The prefilled text does not provide any information about the specific situation in the Member State submitting the request. Member States are therefore asked to briefly **outline their specific problems and needs on the basis of the general overview**, and to provide any additional information relevant to their specific context.

The prefilled section of the template is intended to help Member States describe their specific problems and needs, and to ensure coherence between the different requests submitted relevant to the same Flagship technical support project.

1.2 Breadth of the problem/need

Please explain how broad the problem/need is. Does the problem that the request is trying to address affect a significant part/sector of the economy, which is particularly important to the Member State? Does it extend across several policy areas (i.e. could the results of the action also have an impact on other policy areas)? Is the problem/need likely to spread to other policy areas ('spill-over')? Does it cover different aspects of a specific policy area?

1.3 Depth of the problem/need

How deep is the problem/need? Is the problem/need severe (e.g. having a potential negative consequences for the economy: if so, which ones)? Were there any previous reform efforts? What was the impact of those efforts? What did not work and why? What still needs to be addressed?

1.4 Urgency of the request for support

[NOTA BENE: the urgency of the request should not be confused with the request for (temporary) "special measures" under urgency]

In order to determine the urgency of the request, information should be provided on the basis of the following elements.

- Is the problem/need a new/emerging one?
- Is the request for support linked to a deadline that must be respected (e.g. in the context of the implementation of recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility³, European Semester Country-Specific Recommendations, National Reform Programmes (NRPs), Union priority deadlines such as emission reduction objectives, deadlines imposed by Union law (due to infringement procedures, transposition of Union directives), enabling conditions in EU Funds, etc.?)
- Is the rapid execution of the support a key factor in resolving the problem/need?
- Is there a date after which the requested support measures become irrelevant?

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75.

NOTA BENE: If there is a deadline (at national, European or international level) for starting the implementation/delivery of the measures, please clearly indicate the deadline.

1.5 Socioeconomic (and environmental) indicators

The relevant socioeconomic (and environmental) indicators will be taken into consideration when analysing the request. These indicators may be macro-economic indicators, environmental indicators, general indicators or indicators related to the relevant policy area (e.g. unemployment rates, rates for early leavers from education, at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rates, investment rates, indicators of investment bottlenecks, non-performing loans rates, etc.). These data will back-up the request for support. Therefore, please make sure that the data provided is related to the problem to be addressed and the support requested and that it is recent.

For each request, if available, please provide socioeconomic (and environmental) indicators relevant to the policy area(s)/sector(s). Detailed quantitative evidence can be submitted as an Annex to the request, or at a later stage.

1.6 Other means/funding

Please, provide a short description of the means/funding that the Member State considered for implementing the requested support. If such options have been explored, please specify which ones. If possible, please indicate also what the complementarity of the other funds is with the technical support requested.

Please note that this section refers not only to means/funding at EU level but also at international, regional and national levels (capacity at national level to carry out the measures).

2. INDICATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORT MEASURES REQUESTED AND THE ESTIMATED COST

2.1 Indicative description of the support measures requested

If already envisaged, please provide an outline of possible support activities, e.g.: provision of ad hoc experts; placing resident experts on the ground; capacity building: seminars, conferences, workshops, working visits, training; collection of data; development of methodologies; studies and expertise related to policy advice, policy change, legislative, institutional, structural and administrative reforms, etc.

The full list of eligible actions is provided in Article 8 of the TSI Regulation.

If possible, indicate also the envisaged key outputs/deliverables (e.g. diagnostic report, comparative analysis, recommendations, feasibility study, technical specifications for an IT tool, guidelines).

Please explain also how the requested support measures will help to address the problem identified.

If appropriate, please differentiate between support “phases”; this could help to identify which activities need to take place first, or which activities can only start at a later stage (e.g. after the finalisation of some other actions, etc.).

For the preparation and implementation of recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁴, please specify the type of support that would be needed (e.g. definition of reforms and investments, related milestones and targets, costing methodology, etc.).

If known, please specify also the form of expertise that would be needed (e.g. short-term experts, long-term experts, capacity building actions such as seminars, conferences and workshops, working visits to other Member States, trainings, collection of data and statistics, studies, research, analysis, etc.).

For requests related to Flagship technical support projects, this section has been partially prefilled with a list of proposed technical support measures. Member States can also request additional measures (optional – by ticking “Other” and explaining the additional measures).

Please tick the boxes corresponding to each measure that is requested. Also please **provide justification for each selected or proposed support measure** explaining how it will help to address the problems identified in section 1.1.

2.2 Indicative duration of the support measures requested

Please provide the overall estimated starting and end date of the requested technical support (covering all proposed measures). If possible, please provide also an indicative starting and end date of each individual requested support measure/activity and/or their estimated duration.

Please consider the deadlines (if provided) in the description of the urgency of the request (1.4).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75.

For the template on the Digital Finance Academy, point 2.2 is already pre-filled.

2.3 Indicative estimated total cost of the support measures requested (in EUR)

Please indicate how much you estimate the support measures/activities would cost. Please note, however, that this is only an estimation, which can help determine the final costing. It does not bind the Member State nor the Commission in any way.

Indicate the estimated total cost (in EUR) of the support measures (number). Please note that this is a numerical field - only enter numbers - no letters, spaces, full stops, nor commas.

For the template on the Digital Finance Academy, point 2.3 is already pre-filled.

➤ **2.3.1 Additional information (indicative cost estimation for each key output/deliverable)**

Please provide (if known) a more detailed budget breakdown of the estimated total cost or information on the indicative cost items of requested support measures.

Indicative cost items are supposed to assist in quantifying the effort required to deliver the requested support measures (if already known and indicated in point 2.1.) and breaking down the request into tangible tasks/steps. It can be the form of expertise that would be needed, for example:

- capacity building seminars, conferences and workshops (X working days for Y participants and with Z experts);
- benchmarking analysis, studies, research (finalised in a report and dissemination workshop for X participants);
- short-term experts, long-term experts (X experts for Y amount of time);
- study visits to other Member States (to approx. X countries), expert mission/workshop (X number of days for Z participants to approx. X countries).

Please provide further explanation and indicative cost estimation not only for each key output/deliverable but also for all foreseen activities.

2.4 Expected results/use of the results of the support measures requested

Indicate the ultimate objective that the support measures should achieve (expected result of the requested support). What would be possible benefits also from a European perspective? How does the Member State intend to use the support provided to achieve the expected results? How will the results of the support measures requested be taken forward by the Member State?

2.5 Use of the results of past TSI/SRSP support measures

In case your entity has already received technical support under the SRSP or the TSI in the past and this support concerns a policy area that is relevant to the reform/support currently being requested, then please indicate how your entity has used the results of this past support.

2.6 Administrative capacity of the Member State

(This refers to the recipient national authority and its capacity to implement and absorb the requested support measures).

The administrative capacity should take into account the capacity of the Member State to implement and absorb the support measures to be provided and to carry out the reforms for which support is requested.

Please indicate if there is any structure/team within the recipient national authority to manage this project and to follow-up on the results after this project completion.

In addition, please indicate the resources (staff, budget for complementary activities, etc.) that the recipient national authority requesting support is ready to dedicate for these purposes.

Please describe the team that will be responsible for coordinating/following the reform and the work of DG REFORM and its providers. Moreover, if possible, please describe the steering committee that could be put in place to supervise the reform.

2.7 Other stakeholders

Please elaborate on the wider inter-institutional cooperation envisaged for the technical support project and subsequent reform. How will relevant stakeholders, such as other ministries or implementing agencies, be involved?

What other stakeholders (e.g. other Ministries or beneficiaries) may need to be involved in the design or implementation of the requested support measures?

2.8 Envisaged provider(s) (if applicable)

*According to Article 12 of the TSI Regulation, technical support **may be provided in cooperation with other Member States' entities, international organisations, individual experts, public or private bodies or other entities.***

If applicable, please indicate suggestions you may have for support provider(s) for certain support activities (a Member State authority or public body, international organisations, other public-sector entities, etc.). Indicate also which entity/organisation – and why – could help carry out the support measures. In particular, please elaborate on the know-how/capacity of the envisaged provider(s).

If more than one and/or if you envisage to use both public and private providers, please indicate accordingly. Please do not provide names of private providers.

Please note also that this is only a suggestion; the final selection of the provider is undertaken by the Commission on the basis of the applicable rules, notably, the relevant rules stemming from, *inter alia*, the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046).

3. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REQUEST

*According to Article 9(3) of the TSI Regulation, the request can be related to **different circumstances** ("triggering factors").*

- The preparation of recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁵;
- The implementation (including amendment and revision) of recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁶;
- The implementation of growth-sustaining and resilience-enhancing reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular the country specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester (or the Country Reports);
- The implementation of economic adjustment programmes for Member States that receive Union financial assistance under existing instruments, in particular in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the euro-area Member States, and Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 for non-euro-area Member States;
- The implementation of the actions linked to Union priorities, e.g. Capital Markets Union (CMU), Energy Union, Customs Union, other Union priorities;
- The implementation of actions related to the implementation of Union law (e.g. infringement procedures, other governance cycles);
- The implementation of reforms by Member States, undertaken on their own initiative, in particular to support recovery, achieve sustainable economic growth and job creation and enhance resilience (e.g. national reform priorities linked with Union priorities, etc.).

3.1. Additional information

Please indicate to which of the above-mentioned circumstances your request is related. Please also add relevant explanations as appropriate.

For the preparation and implementation of the recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, please provide more detailed information on how does the request relate to the national recovery and resilience plan.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75.

For economic governance, please indicate also the Member State's country-specific recommendation(s) and country report(s) concerned (number(s), years(s)).

For Union priorities and own reforms, indicate specific priorities and add references to national reform(s).

For actions related to implementation of Union law, please refer to ongoing infringement procedures or to other governance cycles.

Please provide supporting information to justify your selection: e.g., reference to the National Reform Programme or other relevant government documents and mention the link between the request and the reform.

For requests related to Flagship technical support projects

This section has been partially prefilled with one or more references to EU or European Commission priorities to which the requested technical support and the related reform contributes. Please do not delete or amend the proposed text.

- Because the prefilled text does not provide any information about the specific circumstances of relevance to the Member State request, please **complement with Member State specific information.**

Disclaimer:

Please note that the request is fully subject to the principles governing the TSI Regulation and Regulation No 2018/1046 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union. In compliance with the principle of prohibition of double funding, the recipient national authority shall **immediately inform** the European Commission of other related ongoing actions financed by the EU budget. In no circumstances, shall the European Commission finance the same costs twice.

By submitting this request, the Member State accepts that, should the request be selected for funding under the TSI 2022, the Member State will confirm to the Commission that there is no overlap between the request selected under the TSI 2022 and concrete actions funded under other EU instruments and that double funding is not present for this selected request.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT (TSI) PROGRAMME
Regulation (EU) 2021/240 (TSI Regulation)¹

REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORTⁱ
(Article 9 of the TSI Regulation)

DEADLINE: 31 October 2021

Member State:	Country XX
Title of the request:	Removing restrictions in the professional services sector
Order of priority of the request:	2
Total number of requests:	10
Date of submission:	30/10/2021

COORDINATING AUTHORITY	
Name	Secretariat-General for EU Affairs
Address	Xxx Street 1; 1000, City, Country
Contact person	[Mr/Ms x, y, z]
Email	xxxx@xxxx.xx
Telephone number	+3X XXX XXX XXX

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1–16.

RECIPIENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY	
Name	Ministry XX
Address	Xxx Street 1; 1000, City, Country
Contact person	[Mr/Ms x, y, z]
Position	Director / Head of Sector / Head of Unit
Email	xxxx@xxxx.xx
Telephone number	+3X XXX XXX XXX

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MULTI-COUNTRY REQUEST	
0.1	Is this a multi-country request? (a multi-country request is a request developed and/or submitted in collaboration with one or more authorities of another Member State)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
0.2	Please indicate the modality of this multi-country request
<input type="checkbox"/> This request is submitted on behalf of one or several other Member States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One or several other Member States is/are submitting a similar/same request in parallel to this request	
0.3	Please indicate the name of the other Member State(s) concerned by this multi-country request
Country YY and Country ZZ	

1	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM/NEED TO BE ADDRESSED
1.1	What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?
<p>In country XX, services currently contribute to XX% of GDP. However, high administrative burden and regulatory barriers hamper productivity of the market, especially for professional services, i.e. regulated professions and new business models. This high level of regulation co-exists with falling Total Factor Productivity (TFP) in the services sector, which is below comparator countries. It is likely that a high level of regulation constrains competition, which then results in allocative, productive, and dynamic inefficiencies in services sector but also in subdued output and high prices in other sectors. According to a recent research, liberalising services in 12 areas has the potential to increase productivity by 5.7% on average.</p> <p>Currently, professional services have restrictions on entry such as certificates, licences, mandatory trainings, and exams; restrictions on conduct like fee arrangements, geographical limits, bans to advertise or join multi-disciplinary practices; and restrictions on foreign providers, e.g. residency and nationality requirements.</p> <p>The Government acknowledges the need to enhance deregulation of some professional services and to develop better regulation for certain professions. At the moment, there are more than XX regulated professions, which is above the EU average (according to the Commission's analysis). A new regulatory framework needs to be designed to improve the current system which can create barriers.</p> <p>Several previous reform efforts had been made in the past (reform X in 2002, reform Y in 2005). With the changes brought about in the globalised economy over the past 10 years, it is essential to review the regulatory framework for professional services. As reflected in the National Reform Programme, the Government is currently planning to reform the regulation of professions. However, the Ministry XX is lacking the ability to analyse market data that would enable to define a plan of actions to gradually reduce</p>	

<p>administrative and regulatory barriers. In this context, additional measures to enrich the analysis of the current situation and to define opportunities for the reform would ensure that a well substantiated reform proposal can be put forward by the Government during 2023.</p>	
1.2	<p>How broad is the problem/need? Does it affect a significant part/sector of the economy or extend across several policy areas ('spill-over')?</p>
<p>Restrictive business environment in the services sector sets a limit on the country's growth potential. The problem affects services sector virtually across all areas of the economy, the most concerned are in particular: tourism, legal professions, accounting services and transport. There is a risk that the problem spreads to other areas of the economy.</p> <p>Overly regulated services sector unavoidably affects the investment attractiveness of the economy, causes business to seek more favourable conditions in other Member States and may lead to productivity and employment losses.</p> <p>A reform of regulation on professions could have positive spill-over effects in other economic sectors as high productivity in the professional services sector can have positive effects on other industries such as manufacturing, construction and food-processing. Easier services market access for professionals and new business models can open up employment opportunities.</p>	
1.3	<p>How deep or severe is the problem/need? What would be the consequences of the problem? Were there any previous reform efforts? What was the impact of those efforts? What did not work and why?</p>
<p>A cumbersome business environment depresses productive investment and productivity growth. Country XX's productivity growth lags behind that of other EU Member States in all sectors of the economy. The average productivity of country XX's firms has improved in recent years, but inefficient allocation of resources has prevented productive businesses from growing faster than their less productive competitors. Productivity is particularly weak in state-owned enterprises and in heavily regulated sectors such as energy, and to a lesser extent in transport. The persistent high level of the administrative burden in the provision of services and of parafiscal charges continues to constrain investment in business creation and expansion.</p> <p>The latest European Semester Country Report of the European Commission points out that the regulatory environment for professional services in country XX remains restrictive. This is particularly evident in legal and accounting services, where fixed tariffs and a marketing bans are still in force. Commission's finding is in line with the OECD's Product Market Regulation (PMR) indicators of services market restrictiveness.</p> <p>Previous attempts of the Government to reduce regulatory barriers to services sector, and the regulated professions in particular (referred to in section 1.1) failed to achieve substantial results as they were not comprehensive enough and limited to only a few professions (due to lack of analytical evidence, inadequate administrative capacity, lack of best practices examples from other countries, etc.).</p>	
1.4	<p>How urgent is the need to address the problem? Is there a specific deadline (at national, European or international level)?</p>
<p>There is an urgent need to address the problem, which has been acknowledged by the national Government. The reform of professional services market regulations is envisaged by October 2023, within the National Reform Programme.</p> <p>A 2020 Country Specific Recommendation (CSR n° X) of the Commission for country XX calls for a services market reform: "Remove unjustified regulatory restrictions</p>	

<p>hampering access to and the practice of regulated professions. Reduce the administrative burden on businesses".</p> <p>Moreover, reform recommendations for professional services (as a part of the proposed Commissions "Services Package") indicate that country XX is above the EU average in regulatory restrictiveness in almost all of the main professions.</p>	
1.5	<p>Provide relevant socio-economic (and environmental) indicators, data or evidence linked to the problem/need to be addressed. Please make sure that the data provided is related to the problem to be addressed and the support requested.</p>
<p>According to the OECD's PMR score, country XX is among the most regulated EU Member States, including in professional services. The overall PMR (restrictiveness) score for is xx. This is above the OECD and EU average of 1.5.</p> <p>As indicated in section 1.1, excessive level of regulation constrains competition, resulting in allocative, productive, and dynamic inefficiencies in services but also subdued output and high prices in other sectors. Reducing the levels of entry and conduct restrictions in key services has the potential to improve the productivity of the economy. Deregulating services may also help to create jobs and promote shared prosperity – an important consideration given the country's relatively high unemployment rates of 13% of the total labour force and 31% of the population aged 15-24 in 2018 (National Statistical Office). Regulating new business models may further stimulate employment in particular among the young people and it has the potential to reduce regional disparities in access to markets and employment (unemployment rates in the catching-up regions are two-three-fold compared to the rates in the capital – National Statistical Office).</p>	
1.6	<p>Have other means / funding (at national, regional, EU, international level) been considered for addressing the problem identified? Which ones? If so, what is the complementarity of other funds with the technical support requested?</p>
<p>Due to the high degree of specialisation and lack of knowledge at the level of the Ministry, there is no capacity to carry out the measures at national level. Moreover, no international or regional programmes have been identified that could provide the requested support. "XXX" programme has been deemed not relevant for the requested support, due to the limitations in the scope of the actions eligible for funding under the programme. There are no national sources of funding available for this type of measures.</p>	

2	<p>INDICATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORT MEASURES REQUESTED AND THE ESTIMATED COST</p>
2.1	<p>Briefly indicate the support measures envisaged (key outputs/deliverables) (e.g. diagnostic report, comparative analysis, recommendations, feasibility study, technical specifications for an IT tool, guidelines, etc.). Describe how these measures will help to address the problem identified.</p>
<p>Building on the lessons learnt from the previous reform effort of the Government and to provide options for deregulating regulated professions, technical support is requested for the following three outputs/deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diagnostic report focusing on a technical review of entry and conduct requirements for regulated professions, identifying the professions that pose a high economic return from a reform and outlining detailed recommendations for 	

	<p>reform measures to be taken in at least 12 regulated professions. The review will require collection of relevant statistical data, stakeholder interviews and a review of relevant national and EU legislation in force for the selected regulated professions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations and advice for identifying mechanisms to safeguard reforms, including the use of proportionality testing before the adoption of new regulation of professions (linked to Commission proposal for a new Directive). • Workshops and training for relevant staff of the Ministries and related Agencies (for at least 10 people), based on good practices examples identified by the analysis. • A study visit to a Member State(s) which have recently undertaken a similar reform and established mechanisms to safeguard the reform. <p>The results of the support measures will feed directly into the Government's commitment to prepare a reform package/proposal which is to be presented by the end of 2023.</p>
2.2	<p>Indicate the possible duration of the support measures requested (all measures together) and if available, an indicative timeline of each individual measure.</p>
	<p>Estimated duration: 12 months starting as of April 2022. In 2022, it is expected that there will be strong political support for the reform process.</p> <p>Based on the previous experience in this sector, the preparation of the diagnostic report is estimated to take 5-6 months, while the support related to the development of recommendations and guidelines could be stretched out to a period of 10-12 months. Workshops, training, and the study visit would be planned during the second half of the project.</p>
2.3	<p>Indicate the estimated total cost of the support measures requested (in EUR).</p>
	<p>500000</p>
2.3.1	<p>Additional information (if known, please provide further explanation and indicative cost estimation for each key output/deliverable, including the foreseen activities).</p>
	<p>Estimated overall cost of the request: EUR 500 000.</p> <p>Indicative cost breakdown by output/deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic report (approx. X days of work by Z experts) estimated at EUR XXX; • Recommendations and advice (approx. X days of work by Z experts) estimated at EUR XXX; • Workshops and training (approx. X days of work by Z coaches) estimated at EUR XXX; • Study visit (X people traveling to approx. Z countries over Y days) estimated at EUR XXX.
2.4	<p>Indicate the expected results (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) and the expected use of these results (how will these be taken forward by the Member State).</p>

The expected result of the support measures delivered is a comprehensive understanding of the barriers to entry to and conduct in professional services sectors, incl. summary of existing requirements for regulated professions and recommendations for the removal of the barriers which have a high economic cost. The objective is to prepare the ground for the Government to propose a law lowering regulatory barriers by 2023 and to facilitate stakeholder buy-in for the proposed reforms.

The ultimate objective is to achieve productivity gains from more efficient and competitive professional services markets (easier access to jobs, higher employment and lower prices for professional services and new business models), and from attracting more skilled professionals to the service sector while guarding the interest of public health and safety. From a wider perspective, this would increase the productivity of the EU as a whole.

The support provided will feed into the Government's preparation of new reform measures which will be part of the Government's action plan(s) on administrative burden reduction and services market liberalisation. It will be used by the Government in informing implementation of the reform measures identified in the National Reform Programme.

2.5

In case your entity has already received technical support under the SRSP or the TSI in the past, in an area relevant to the reform/support requested, please indicate how your entity has used the results of this support.

In 2018, Ministry XX received technical support under the SRSP to run a preliminary benchmark analysis on the existence of restrictions in the professional services sector in the domestic market and in neighbouring countries' (project No XXXXXX).

Since then, the results of that support have been used by Country XX's government to inform and discuss with the different social parties involved. Moreover, those results have enabled Ministry XX to draft a new legislative proposal, which is currently being analysed by one of the two national parliamentary chambers. Finally, the results have also led to the adoption of a new standard practice, which is the regular disclosure of a dedicated composite index that summarises the level and intensity of restrictions existing in the domestic professional services sector.

2.6

Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority (i.e. staff availability in relation with the requested support measures and the follow-up on their results). Please describe the team that will be responsible for coordinating/following the reform and the work of DG REFORM and its providers. If possible provide a description of the steering committee that could be put in place to supervise the reform.

This project will be involving the following government partners: 3 public servants in the Coordinating Ministry in charge of service market regulations, 1 – 2 public servants in each line ministry with a mandate over specific regulated professions and 2 public servants in the Competition Agency.

A dedicated working group will be established for this purpose. A platform for coordination among the coordinating ministry and the line ministries as well as the Competition Agency has already been established. The same working group will continue to work on the issue after the project is implemented to follow-up on the measures delivered.

The beneficiary ministries (and professional chambers) will need to be trained to know how to implement the reform recommendations. There is a need to develop

understanding of indicators and expected results and outputs. Coordinators from line ministries have basic knowledge on the relevant services market law and policy. However, the stock of knowledge needs to be enlarged and especially focused on practical motivation to do the reform job.	
2.7	Indicate the names of stakeholders (e.g. other Ministries or beneficiaries) which may need to be involved in the design or implementation of the requested support measures.
<p>During the design and implementation of this project, the following additional stakeholders will be involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From the Government: Ministry YY, Ministry ZZ, Ministry WW; - From the Parliament: Committee JJ, Committee KK; - Other public institutions: Economic and Social Committee, Antitrust Authority; - Other stakeholders: Employers' union trades, Employees' union trades. 	
2.8	(If applicable,) indicate any envisaged provider of support (please do not provide names of private providers). Include explanations as to their know-how/capacity.
<p>A preference is expressed for partnering with an international organisation or a EU Member State's body which has substantial experience and expertise with reforms of regulated professions. In addition, it might be beneficial to cooperate with the national statistical office on some parts of the support measures.</p> <p>The reasons for the choice of an international organisation or a EU Member State's body is that similar reforms have already been started in several countries of Europe in the last few years and as a result we could benefit significantly from their experience and expertise. Moreover, the national statistical office would provide us with the data we need to adapt international guidelines and recommendations to the specificities of the domestic market.</p>	

3	CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REQUEST
The requested support is linked to:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preparation of Recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation (incl. amendment and revision) of Recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforms in the context of economic governance process (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation of Economic adjustment programmes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation of Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, Customs Union, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation of Union law (e.g. infringements)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation of Member States' own reform priorities to support recovery, sustainable economic growth, job creation and enhance resilience

3.1.	Additional information
	<p>Reduction of barriers for businesses and deregulation of services sector is an important priority of the current Government, outlined in the Government's manifesto of xx/xx/xxxx and is very likely to be included in the national recovery and resilience plan.</p> <p>Reform of the regulated profession is called for in the Country Specific Recommendations of XXXX (CSR n°X).</p> <p>Liberalisation of regulated professions is part of Commission's priorities, as spelled out in Communication on the services package (COM(2016) 820, Communication on reform recommendations for regulation in professional services).</p>

DISCLAIMERS:

Please note that the request for support is fully subject to the principles governing the TSI Regulation and Regulation No 2018/1046 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget of the Union. In compliance with the principle of prohibition of double funding, the recipient national authority shall immediately inform the European Commission of other related on-going actions financed by the EU budget. **In no circumstances, shall the European Commission finance the same costs twice.**

By submitting this request, the Member State accepts that, should the request for support be selected for funding under the TSI, **the Member State will confirm to the Commission that there is no overlap between the request selected under the TSI and concrete actions funded under other EU instruments and that double funding is not present for this selected request.**

Please note that the Commission shall establish a single online public repository through which it may, subject to applicable rules and on the basis of consultation with the Member States concerned, **make available final studies or reports produced as part of eligible actions set out in the TSI Regulation.** Where justified, the Member States concerned may request that the Commission not disclose such documents without their prior agreement.

Please note that the Commission promotes "zero tolerance to fraud and corruption". In this context, **the Commission implements controls to prevent, detect and address irregularities/fraud instances, whether these occur in connection with its activities and funds, and inside or outside its organisation.** In order to counter fraud affecting the financial interests of the Union (art. 325 TFEU), it is of paramount importance that our partners in the Member States and the providers of support strive to achieve an equivalent stand against fraud.

For the requests linked with the RRP: The provision of the technical support under the TSI is without prejudice to the responsibility of Member States in relation to the fulfilment of relevant milestones and targets of the RRP and is without prejudice to the assessment that the Commission carries out in relation to the Member State's relevant request for payment.

ⁱ Should a Member State wish to submit a request for special measures under urgency (Article 12(7) of the TSI Regulation), it should contact DG REFORM at REFORM-TSI@ec.europa.eu for the relevant template. Please note that the request for special measures under urgency should be filled in **only if there are **serious grounds of urgency requiring an immediate response**. The special measures that may be provided under urgency will only be interim support (for a maximum of six months), to be replaced by support measures that are to be provided under normal circumstances, and according to the procedure thereof, under the TSI Regulation. If the Member State concerned wishes to continue receiving support under the TSI, after the special measures expire, the standard request will need to be submitted according to Article 9 of the TSI Regulation.**