



# STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT SERVICE



*"Implementing structural reforms is crucial for modernising European economies and boosting their competitiveness. Since 2015, the European Commission has been supporting reform initiatives in Member States through its Structural Reform Support Service. Today we are present in 26 Member States with more than 760 reform projects completed or on-going."*

*European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis*

The success of our Economic and Monetary Union depends on the strength and resilience of the economies of our Member States. In a rapidly changing world, Member States need to **optimise their policies and institutions** to ensure lasting prosperity for their people.

To support these reform efforts, the Commission created the **Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)** in 2015. The SRSS helps EU countries to **prepare, design and implement reforms**.

The support is based purely **on demand** and is **tailor-made** for the beneficiary Member State. It takes the form of strategic or legal advice, studies, training and in-country missions by experts.

The **entire reform cycle** can be covered — from identifying needs through implementation to monitoring and evaluating outcomes. To follow the implementation of reforms until their completion, Member States can ask for support for similar types of actions over several years.

Since the launch of this service in 2015, demand for support from Member States has far outstripped expectations. The overall number of **reform projects** supported through the SRSS has reached **more than 760**, covering **26 Member States**.

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## Areas of expertise of the Structural Reform Support Service

| GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION   | REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  | GROWTH AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT   | LABOUR MARKET, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  | FINANCIAL SECTOR AND ACCESS TO FINANCE  |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Central &amp; local administration</li> <li>• E-Government</li> <li>• Management of human resources</li> <li>• Better regulation</li> <li>• Anti-corruption &amp; anti-fraud strategies</li> <li>• Anti-money-laundering strategies</li> <li>• Judicial reform</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue administration</li> <li>• Budget preparation</li> <li>• Spending reviews</li> <li>• Fiscal strategies &amp; tax policy</li> <li>• Supreme audit institutions/ independent fiscal institutions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign investment and trade policy</li> <li>• SMEs and competition policy</li> <li>• Research, innovation &amp; digital economy</li> <li>• Transport, logistics, tourism, agriculture &amp; other economic sector</li> <li>• Licensing, inspections &amp; better regulation</li> <li>• Investment management &amp; public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Management of state-owned enterprises</li> <li>• Management of natural resources</li> <li>• Energy &amp; climate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour market, policies &amp; laws</li> <li>• Welfare system</li> <li>• Pension system</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Education &amp; vocational training</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to finance</li> <li>• Capital Markets Union</li> <li>• Bank supervision &amp; resolution</li> <li>• Non-performing loans</li> <li>• Insolvency &amp; financial literacy</li> <li>• Insurance &amp; pensions</li> <li>• Competition</li> </ul> |

Special assignments: The service provided support for migration management in Greece (until June 2018) and remains responsible for the implementation of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community. In June 2018, it took on a new role as the Commission's coordinating service for public administration and governance.

## Structural Reform Support Programme

Since May 2017, the Structural Reform Support Service has been managing a successful new programme — the **Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP)**, now with a budget of **€222.8 million** for 2017-2020.

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 corresponding budget.

After the success of the first two years, and with growing demand from Member States, the SRSP has now a **larger budget** and provides **targeted support for reforms in Member States wishing to adopt the euro**.

For 2019, the SRSP will provide support to **26 Member States** to carry out **more than 260 projects**. This comes in addition to more than 290 projects selected in 2017 and 2018.

## Reform Support Programme post-2020

On 31 May 2018, as part of its proposals for budgetary instruments to strengthen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, the Commission proposed to expand the work of the Structural Reform Support Service after 2020 under a new **Reform Support Programme**, with a much bigger overall budget of €25 billion for the period 2021-2027.

The proposed programme would have three strands:

- **Reform Delivery Tool** (€22 billion) offering financial incentives for the implementation of reforms identified in the European Semester process;
- **Technical support instrument** (just under €1 billion) to continue to support the design and implementation of reforms and improve the administrative capacity of public administrations; and
- **Convergence Facility** (just over €2 billion) providing financial and technical support to Member States on their way to joining the euro area.

## 2019 project examples



### GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- Facilitating digitalization of the Public Prosecutor's Office in **Czechia**
- Enhancing the reform of the court system, as well as the efficiency of judiciary in **Cyprus**
- Supporting human resources management and public sector innovation in **Ireland**
- Improving the efficiency of the procurement system in **Slovakia**



### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Continuing the support for the Independent Authority for Public Revenue in **Greece**
- Assessing the impact of digital economy on taxation in **Finland**
- Strengthening the budget framework in **Portugal**
- Strengthening public financial management and expenditure policy in **Belgium**



### GROWTH AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- Strengthening the capacity to implement a national climate change strategy in **Hungary**
- Developing a new strategy for small and medium-size enterprises in **Bulgaria**
- Providing support for the transport and mobility master plan in **Estonia**
- Enhancing waste management to move towards circular economy in **Portugal**



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

- Implementing a primary health care reform in **Austria**
- Providing support for the implementation of a comprehensive curriculum reform in **Croatia**
- Strengthening the system of active labour market policies in **Italy**
- Supporting vocational education training and improving access to training in **France**



### FINANCIAL SECTOR AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

- Setting up a strategy on sustainable finance in **Lithuania**
- Providing support for the reform of the insolvency frameworks in **Spain**
- Improving the functioning of capital markets in **Poland**
- Building capacities to manage social impact bonds in **Slovenia**