



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Structural Reform Support Service

The Director General

Brussels,  
SRSS/

**Subject: Structural Reform Support Programme 2018: timing for the submission of the requests for technical support**

Your Excellency,

I would like to inform you of the launch of a new cycle of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP 2018)<sup>1</sup>, the objective of which is to support Member States in the design and implementation of administrative and growth-enhancing structural reforms in Member States. This support is provided without any co-financing from Member States.

The Programme covers various policy areas where support could be provided. This includes, *inter alia*: (i) revenue administration and public financial management; (ii) governance and public administration; (iii) growth and business environment; (iv) labour, health and social services; and (v) financial sector and access to finance.

Under the SRSP 2017, the Commission selected more than 150 requests from 15 Member States, leading to projects for supporting reforms across a broad range of policy areas. These projects are now being implemented on the ground.

Should Bulgaria wish to avail of SRSP technical support for 2018, I would be grateful if your authorities would **submit a request for support by 31 October 2017**. Let me underline the importance of receiving the request by this date, as we cannot guarantee that we will be able to satisfy any request received thereafter within the SRSP budgetary allocation for 2018.

His Excellency Ambassador Dimiter Tzantchev  
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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/825 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 1305/2013.

The requests will be analysed according to the criteria set out in the Regulation. In line with the principle of sound financial management, the SRSS will prioritise the allocation of funding to the requests, which are assessed as mature and targeted, and where the reform needs, the envisaged support measures and the objectives of the support are clearly identified. However, given the time-proximity between the SRSP 2017 and SRSP 2018 cycles, as all the requests might not be able to reach the same level of maturity, we would like to encourage Member States to submit also requests for support where all details have not been specified yet. Should funding remain available, the SRSS will proceed to a refinement of the other requests, in close collaboration with the Member State, later in 2018.

For your information, the SRSS envisages proceeding with the assessment of the requests during the months of November and December 2017. Discussions with your authorities would then take place afterwards, with a view to reaching agreement on the Cooperation and Support Plan, or on any necessary modification thereof (including its Annex, if a Cooperation and Support Plan has already been concluded). The Annual Work Programme for 2018 should be adopted during the first quarter of 2018, while contracts for the delivery of support would be signed afterwards.

The SRSP template for the request for support is attached, together with instructions for filling in the template. The completed template should be submitted to the SRSS by the Coordinating Authority for all the requests in your country. Also included in the instructions, for your convenience, is an example of a completed request. Please note that the template is broadly the same as that for the SRSP 2017, with very minimal additions (in red).

In order to explain in greater detail the procedures and issues described above and to answer any questions you might have, my services will organise a meeting with all Member States' Coordinating Authorities. The meeting will take place in the form of a videoconference, on 10 October, 15.00 -17.00 (in Brussels, EC ROOM BERL -1). The representatives of the Coordinating Authorities will be invited to participate in this video conference at the premises of the European Commission Representation in their respective capitals. Individual invitations will follow. Member States, which have not yet designated a coordinating authority, are welcome to participate in the meeting in Brussels, with the representatives of the Permanent Representation.

My services, in particular Mr Theo Strijker, [theo.strijker@ec.europa.eu](mailto:theo.strijker@ec.europa.eu), stand ready to provide any additional information and clarification you may require.

Yours faithfully,



Maarten Verwey

Copies: Ilze Juhansone, Marcel Haag (SG); Mary McCarthy (SRSS)

Attachments: Templates for the request for support, related instructions