Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)

Technical Support Instrument

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Agenda

1. **Overview. Supporting the Member States: How the TSI makes a difference**

2. **Projects highlights in the health and social areas**

3. **TSI 2025 Flagship in Investing in Health**

Q&A

Features of the Technical Support Instrument

Uniqueness
Instrument brings expertise rather than funding to Member States, tapping into an EU wide pool of experts.

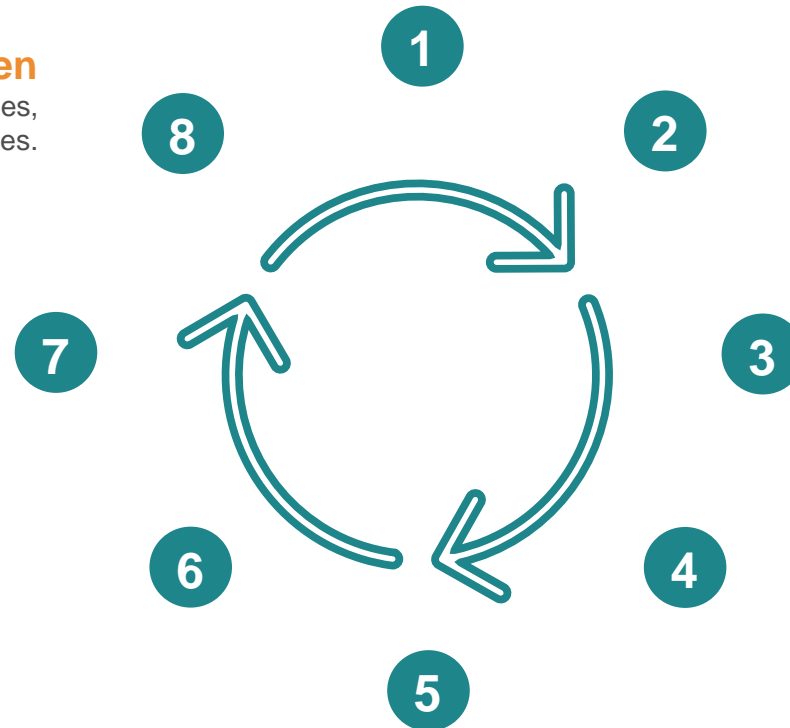**Demand-driven and light burden**
Demand-driven, burden-free for beneficiaries, and no co-financing for Member States.

Tailor-made approach
The TSI consists of support on the ground, which is praised and increasingly demanded by the Member States given the tailor-made approach.

Flexible and EU-wide
Address reform needs across policy areas and can easily be adapted to current and future challenges and crises.

Accompanying Member States
Close involvement of DG REFORM staff: working together with the Member States authorities and the contracted providers in the delivery of the projects in all phases of project cycle management.
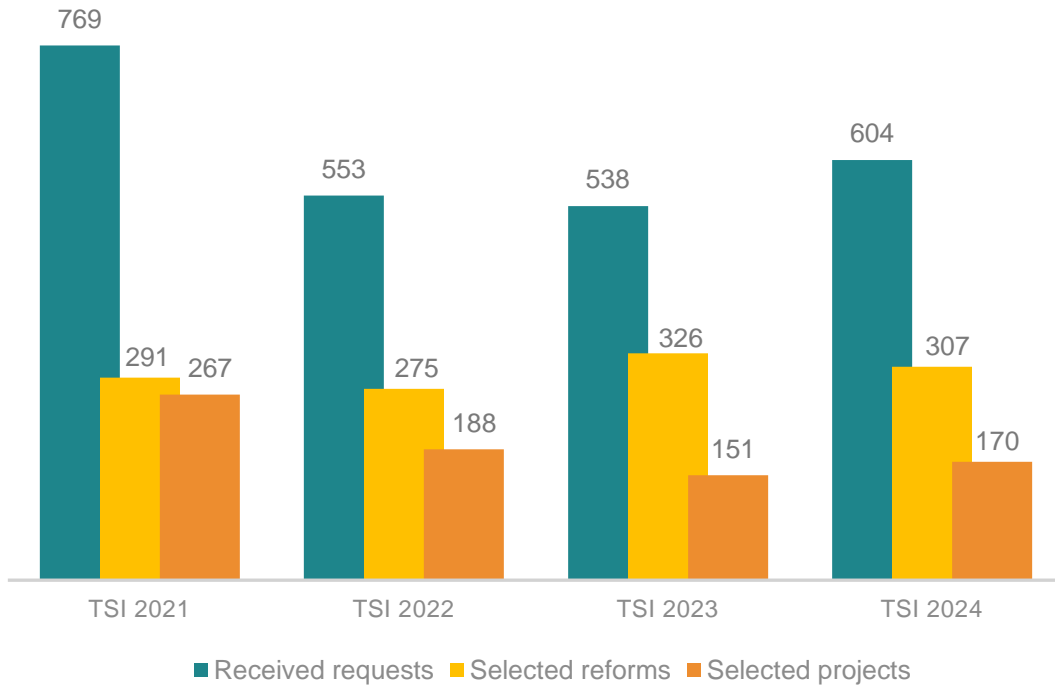
Capacity building
Focus on strengthening the capacity of public administrations to design and implement reforms.

Independent
Not specifically linked to any other EU funds: TSI can provide support to any reforms independently of it being funded by EU or Member States.
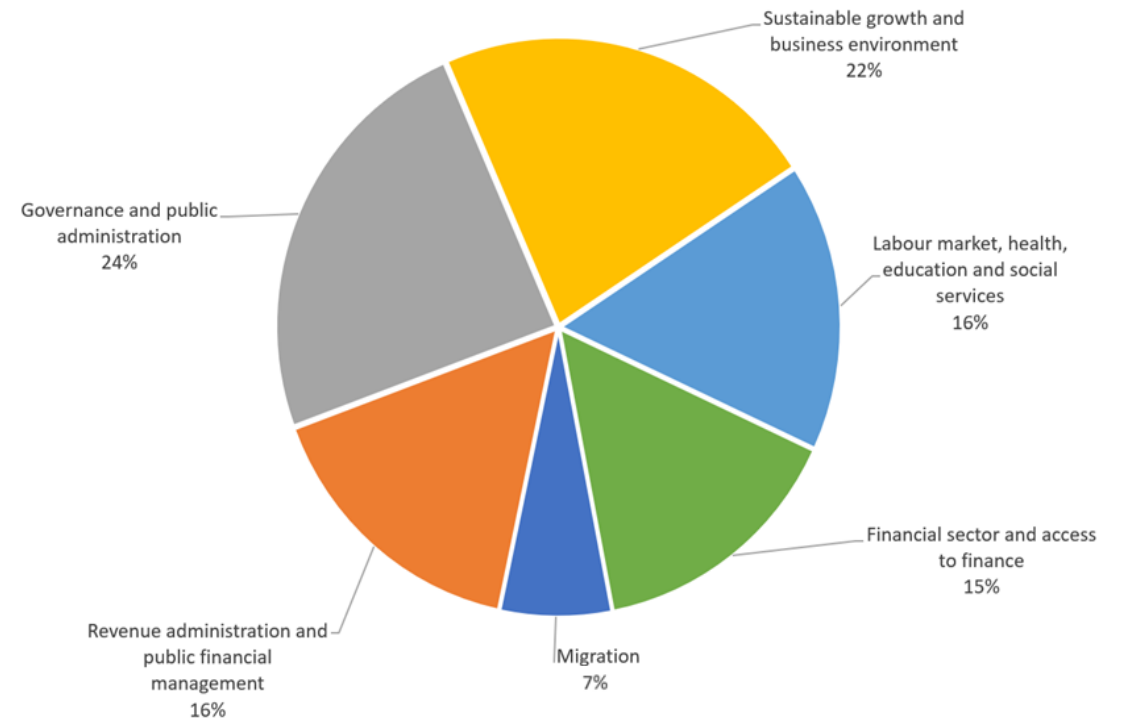
Largest instrument of technical support
TSI is the single largest instrument providing technical support to Member States in the MFF.

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TSI – Overview 2021-2024

Bar chart data:
- TSI 2021: Received requests 769, Selected reforms 291, Selected projects 267
- TSI 2022: Received requests 553, Selected reforms 275, Selected projects 188
- TSI 2023: Received requests 538, Selected reforms 326, Selected projects 151
- TSI 2024: Received requests 604, Selected reforms 307, Selected projects 170

Legend: ■ Received requests ■ Selected reforms ■ Selected projects

Reforms supported per policy area

- Sustainable growth and business environment 22%
- Labour market, health, education and social services 16%
- Financial sector and access to finance 15%
- Migration 7%
- Revenue administration and public financial management 16%
- Governance and public administration 24%

Over 780 projects contributing to close to 1200 reforms in all 27 Member States

What types of technical support?

- Review and development of legislative and policy frameworks

- Assessment of the state of play on access to key services

- Stimulating stakeholder involvement

- Design & implementation of specific services and policy measures / national or regional strategies

- Design of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools

- Capacity Building / Pilot testing of recommendations

Reform areas covered by the TSI

Green Transition

Digital Transformation

Health and long-term care

Education and Training

Governance and Public Administration

Competitiveness, Growth and SMEs

Financial Sector and access to finance

Revenue administration and public financial management

Labour Markets and Social Protection

How does the Technical Support Instrument work?

1 Submission of requests for technical support by Member States (31 October)

2 Selection of requests (November-December)

3 Provision of technical support (Starting Spring of the next year)
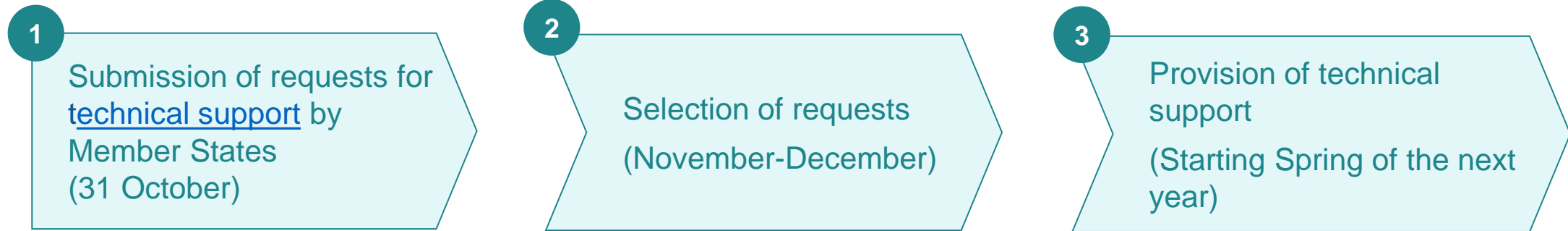
Direct provision

European Commission's in-house expertise

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Indirect provision

Other international organisations

Member States' experts

Private sector experts

DG REFORM involved throughout the duration of the project

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Multi-country (multi-region) projects

EU added value of the multi-country projects

- Overcoming **common challenges** together

- **Mutual learning**

- **Share of good practices**

- **Networking** for identification of efficiencies

- Synergies and **replicability** of reform projects

**The tailored approach and
the speed of delivery of
the project is ensured**

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Flagship technical support projects

Definition

- Flagship technical support projects are **projects proactively proposed by DG REFORM** that:
  - Are **largely needed across Member States**
  - Meet a top **EU / Commission priority**
  - Are designed in a way that **can easily be fitted to various national contexts**
- Their uptake is **voluntary**

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Mental health: fostering well-being and mental health

Objectives and areas of possible support

| Strengthen the capacity of health systems to deal with mental health issues | Mainstream mental health and physical exercise in the educational setting | Increase the availability, accessibility and inclusiveness of mental health services | Support mental health professionals |

Selection of projects/Commission assessment

- **Assessment criteria** (set in TSI Regulation) (urgency, breadth & depth, support needs, administrative capacity)

- Criteria related to **sound financial management** (maturity, focus and expected results)

- **Prioritisation by the Member States**

- **Added value** and **impact** on the ground

- **Avoid overlaps** (the action proposed cannot be financed by other EU funding programmes)

Timeline for TSI 2025

Preliminary communication of results to Member States

Analysis of requests by the Commission

Projects on the ground (as of Spring 2025)

Oct 2024 — Nov — Dec — Jan 2024 — Feb — Mar — Apr

Deadline for submission of requests – TSI 2025 call (31 October)

Formal decision of the Commission

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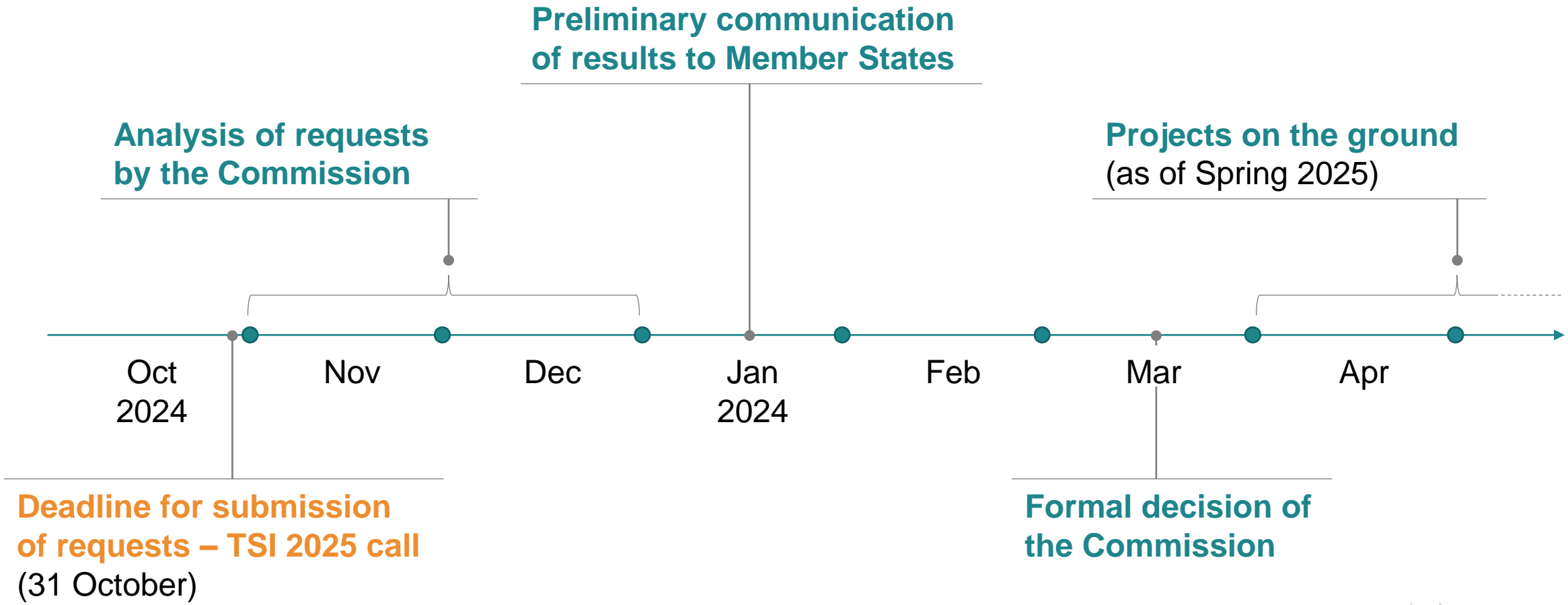
Reform B.4 – Labour, education, social and health

Ongoing projects

Mental health: **18**

Integrated care: **8**

AI: **9**

Health: **34**

146*

Education: **43**

Labour and social: **34**
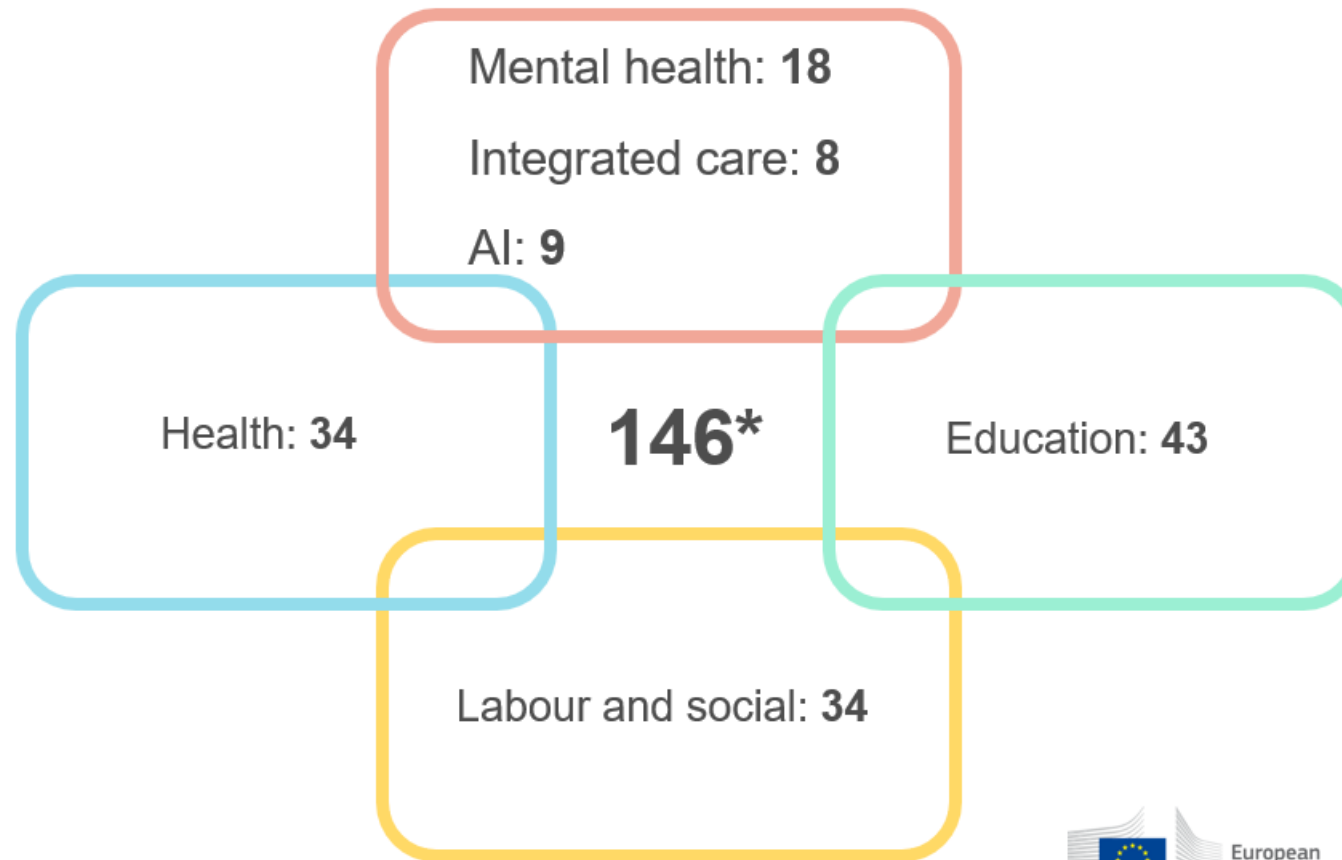
* Counting multi-country components

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Labour market and social policies

Project examples

Social protection

Strengthening funded pension schemes

Reforming disability policy and assessment systems

Reviewing the design of social benefits

Improving the delivery of social services

Modernising the administration of social benefits and services

Labour markets

Reviewing and strengthening active labour market policies (ALMPs)

Modernising the administration of labour market policies and programmes

Fighting undeclared work

Strengthening analytical capacity

Developing innovative employment policies

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Examples of outcomes in disability assessment projects

1. Improved assessment of disability based on uniform, standardised and comprehensive methodology.

2. Strengthening link between assessment and labour market measures for people with disabilities

1. Improved assessment of disability based on a detailed proposal for a new disability assessment system, including methodological and administrative improvements

1. Improved assessment of functioning and needs of persons with disabilities.

2. Support on set up of State Disability Agency to effectively coordinate and monitor disability policy in Bulgaria.

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Project examples

Digital Health

- Creation and implementation of the National eHealth Centre (Czechia)
- E-Health Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025 (Croatia)
- The future directions and evolutions of eHealth (Belgium)
- Health ICT governance framework (Estonia)

Primary care

- Start-up services for primary health care units (Austria)
- Support for the development of the primary care system (Hungary)
- Integrated primary care in Flanders (Belgium)
- Strengthening NHS by empowering professionals in Portugal
- Adapting governance and requirements for primary care
- Framework for multidisciplinary PC teams for adults and children

Public health

- Improving public health actions through better information on equity and SDH and tools for evaluating health promotion interventions
- Integrating mental health services for adults (Denmark)
- National Action Plan combatting Anti-Microbial Resistence (Latvia)
- OPTIMISE - youth prevention, community sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, integrated hepatitis c ca
- Cancer screening, strategies (Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia)

Hospital sector

- Capacity building – design and procurement of investments for three regional hospitals (Romania)
- Redesign of the reimbursement systems for hospital care (Greece, Poland, Slovenia)
- Restructuring of the hospital sector (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Portugal, Croatia)
- Fostering ambulatory surgeries (Hungary)
- Centralized procurement (Greece, Portugal)

Transversal reforms

- Genomics DE (Germany)
- Artificial Intelligence in healthcare (Slovakia)
- Development of country-specific HSPA framework (Lithuania, Croatia, Ireland, Latvia, Slovenia)
- Capacity planning of health system resources (Cyprus)
- Transformation of blood services (Romania)
- Securing, strengthening and expanding national production of medicines

Improving cancer care coordination and screening in Latvia and Slovakia

- 24 month project, ended Jan 2024

- 2 separate workstreams in Latvia and Slovakia

Visual courtesy of IARC

Past & current TSI support for HSPA

- Countries supported: Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia
- Project in preparation in Slovakia and Luxembourg
- Close cooperation and links with EU Expert Group on HSPA
- Informal Community of Practice established for exchange between countries and plans for workshops in 2025 & 2026

Portugal – genomic medicines

Request of:

- ❑ National Health Service (NHS)
- ❑ National Public Health institute (INSA)

Objective:

Develop/implement a national strategy for genomic medicine in Portugal – *project ending 1 August 2024*

Analysis of current role and potential of genomics in healthcare

Learning from EU/international good practice and expertise

Guidelines for a legal and ethical framework concerning genomic and health data in Portugal

Governance model for health and genomic information

Framework for the efficient organisation of clinical services, including data management, multidisciplinary teams, clinical networking and integration with research

Communication plan for the general public, patients and policymakers, focused on the potential and challenges of genomics for healthcare

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TSI Health Hub Project – 2022-2024: EU Resources Hub for Sustainable Investing in Health

- Supporting 3 Member States – Austria, Belgium and Slovenia

- Total budget: EUR 2 400 000
- Workstream 1: Making the case for public investment in health
- Workstream 2: EU Health Resources Hub

- **Learning-by-doing** approach using 3 national pilot projects:

  - **AUSTRIA**: Greening of the Austrian Healthcare System
  - **BELGIUM**: Data integration for Population Health Management (PHM)
  - **SLOVENIA**: Strengthening access to primary healthcare

- **Untapped potential and opportunities** to facilitate access to EU funds and blend different instruments for maximal impact.

Beneficiaries

Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Health Food Chain Safety Environment

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Providers

EXPERTISE FRANCE GROUPE AFD

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies a partnership hosted by WHO

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TSI Flagship 2025 EU Health Hub
Background - Optimising the use of EU Funds

2021 – Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU:

The Council invited the Commission to **explore setting up a dedicated health advisory service** to assist Member States upon request in **optimising the use of EU funds and tools** to support the planning, design, financing and implementation of needed health system reforms.

Existing funding landscape:

- Its complexity can obstruct access
- Health is **not** prominently featured across different instruments
- Need for more coordination and creating synergies

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TSI Flagship 2025 EU Health Hub: Investing in Resilient Health Systems

Pillar 1: Quality spending

Analyse spending and data to estimate **attainable efficiency gains**

Review governance and formulate recommendations for improvement

Support the drafting of action plans, strategies and guidelines

Conduct training and capacity building activities for Member State authorities

Support development of monitoring and **evaluation mechanisms**

Pillar 2: Strategic investments

Support Health Ministries to **navigate and identify EU funds** and instruments

Test strategic investments in key areas (e.g. genomics, eHealth...)

Strengthen the **coordination between the national contact points** for EU funds

Conduct **training and capacity building** for authorities involved in health reform

OBJECTIVES

• Test investment solutions

• Design, implement, monitor and finance health reforms

• Maximise impact of EU support

• Foster mutual learning

Commission's website for Reform Support

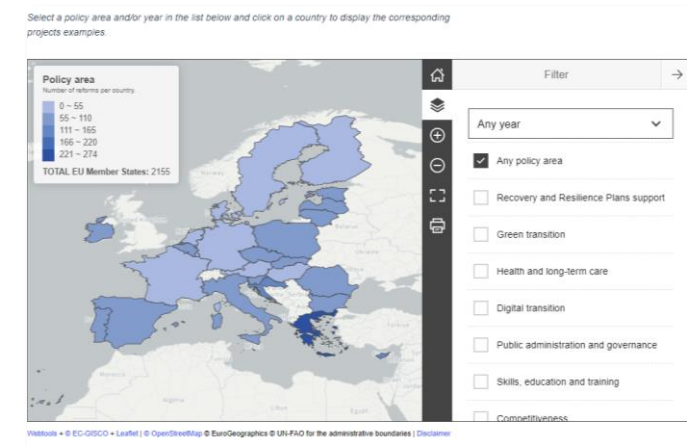Information on **all technical support measures provided to the Member States:**

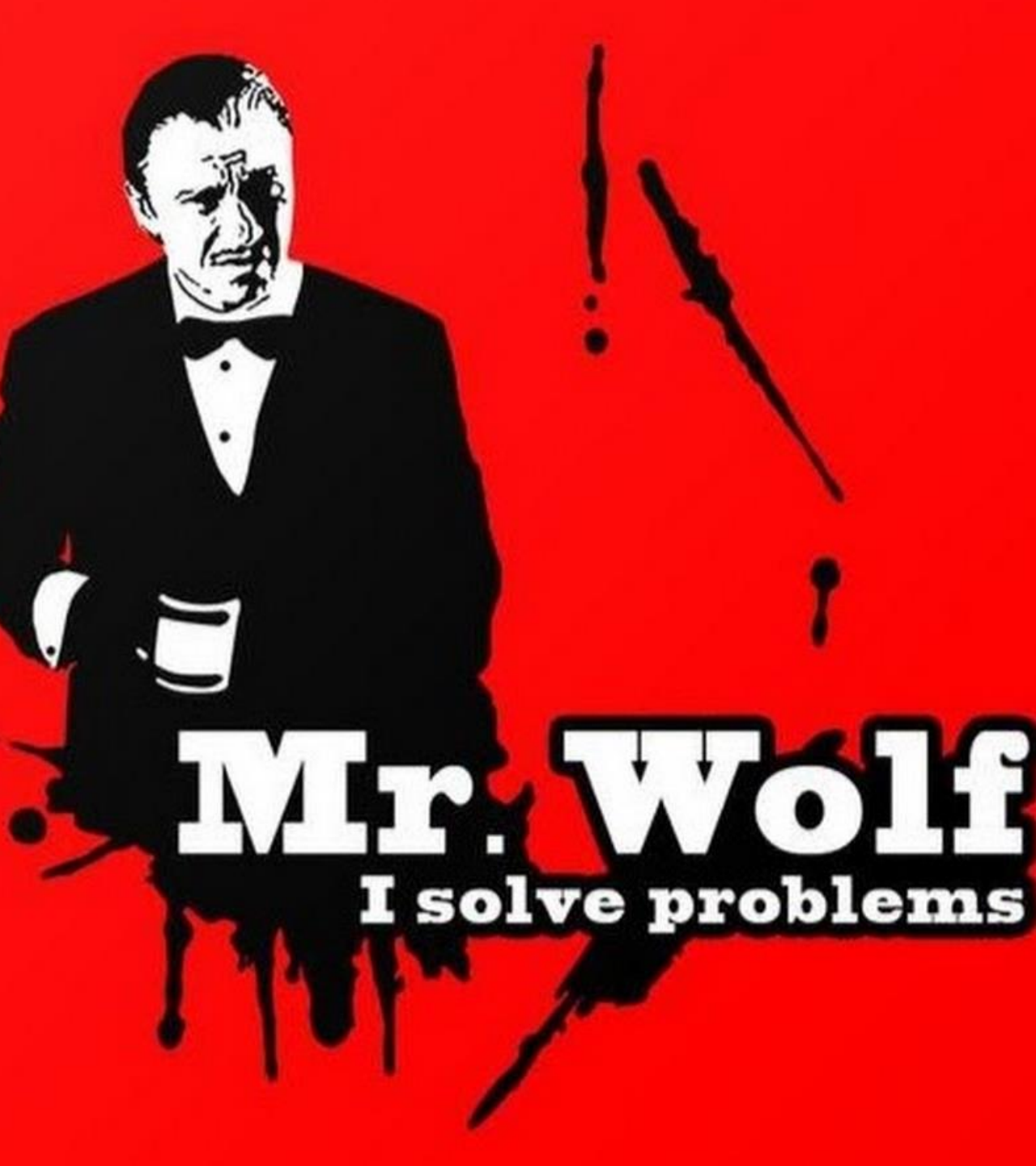**Visit** https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/index_en

TSI "**Delivery on Reforms**" publication

TSI **country factsheets**

Interactive map with all online projects

In a nutshell

- Support Member States in their reform processes upon their request

- Facilitate acquisition of expertise

- Manage projects and provide policy advise

- Contribute to EC decision-making processes

Thank you!

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