

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT (TSI) PROGRAMME  
Regulation (EU) 2021/240 (TSI Regulation) ([[1]](#footnote-2))**

**REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT****[[2]](#endnote-2)**

**(Article 9 of the TSI Regulation)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2024**

**To be submitted [by/via]**

*This template is for general requests. The below sections replicate the steps to follow when creating a new general request for TSI support in the* [Funding & Tender portal of the European Commission](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/tsi)*. Once you log in, the system will automatically record your user details, and extract information of your profile (i.e. Beneficiary Authority or Coordinating Authority) and your Member State.*

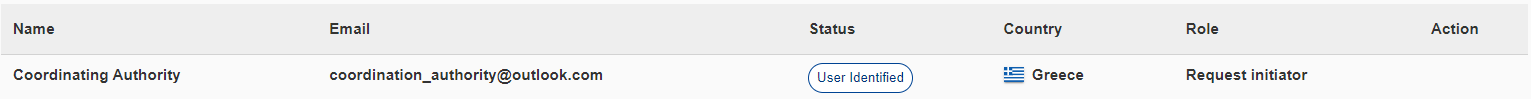
# INITIATE THE REQUEST IN THE SYSTEM

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| **Type of support request: \*** | General request for technical support |
| **Title of the request: \*** | “Judicial practice at your fingertips – Support in court proceedings for end users of justice system in Croatia” |

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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 other Member State(s))** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ☐ | Yes | | x | No | |
| *The following question will be displayed only if the user selects “Yes” to 0.1 question. The display of question 0.3 will depend on the answer to the type of multi-country request. See options below.* | | | |
| 0.2 \* | **Please indicate the type of this multi-country request** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ☐ | The Member State submits this request on its behalf and on behalf of one or several authorities of other Member State(s) | | ☐ | One or several authorities of other Member State(s) is/are submitting a similar/same request in parallel to this request, in a coordinated way | |
| *INSTRUCTIONS TO ADD PARTICIPATING BENEFICIARY AUTHORITIES OF OTHER MEMBER STATES:*   * *For multi-country requests with the “on-behalf” modality: under this modality the request initiator (“lead authority”) must invite Beneficiary Authorities (BAs) from other Member States to participate of this multi-country request. To invite them, please add the “Name”, “Email” and “Country”. This is a mandatory step. The system will create a replica request in the portal of the invited participants. The activities requested will be the same for all participating authorities.* * *For multi-country requests with the “in-parallel” modality: the request initiator could include information of other Member States and/or Beneficiary Authorities that are interested in submitting a similar request. This will support an easy identification of the interested parties in the multi-country project. For this, you can select the Member State concerned, and include the name of the Beneficiary Authorities in that Member State. Under this modality the system will not create a replica request for the Member States listed in the following point, and hence the participating authorities must initiate their own requests “in parallel”.* | | | |
|  | | **Please indicate the Beneficiary Authority(-ies) of this request.** | [For each participant:  - Select the Member State  - Enter name and the email of the Beneficiary Authority] |

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| *INSTRUCTIONS TO ADD OBSERVER BENEFICIARY AUTHORITIES OF YOUR MEMBER STATE:*  *Optionally the request initiator can give observer rights to other Beneficiary Authority(-ies) from their Member State by adding their “Name”, “Email” and “Country”. These other BAs will see the request in read-only mode, without editing permissions. This is applicable to both multi-country and non-multi-country requests. For multi-country on behalf requests only the request initiator can include observers to the lead request.* |

*At the end of the window, you will see the details of your identifier -the one you are using to create the request and that will be associated to this action when you finish the process. You will also see the list of authorities included as participants or as observers of the request (list available to the view of all the participating BAs in the case of a multi-country “on behalf” request). Please, see example of how it will look below:*



# ACTORS

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| *This section is to provide details on the Beneficiary Authority/ies that is requesting the support. In order to include multiple beneficiaries, replicate the boxes below.*  *It is mandatory to enter at least one Beneficiary Authority from your Member State and at least one Contact Person for each Beneficiary Authority.*  *This section is NOT to include information on Beneficiary Authority(-ies) of other Member States.*  *For multi-country requests with the “on behalf” modality this section will be replicated in the portals of the participating authorities and must be filled-in individually by each participating Member State.* | |
| BENEFICIARY (RECIPIENT) AUTHORITY (-IES) | |
| Legal name – Official name of the Authority \* | Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation |
| Address \* | Ulica grada Vukovara 49, Zagreb |
| Country \* | Croatia |
| Additional information | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| CONTACT PERSON FOR THE BENEFICIARY AUTHORITY | |
| Name \* | Ivana Kolić |
| Position \* | Head of Service for Project Preparation |
| Telephone number \* | +385 1 3714 366 |
| Email \* | Ivana.Kolic@mpudt.hr |
| Additional information | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Personal data provided in the request for technical support are processed in accordance with the applicable data protection rules. The privacy statement explaining the processing of personal data can be found in section 7 of record DPR-EC-04667 “Submission and assessments of requests for technical support under the Technical Support Instrument”, at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-04667>

# SECTION 1 – PROBLEM / NEEDS

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| 1 | PROBLEM / NEED ANALYSIS - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM/NEED TO BE ADDRESSED |
| 1.1 \* | **What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?**  Please provide a thorough description of the specific problem/need. Please split the text into paragraphs labelling them in capital letters as:  **a) CORE PROBLEM OR NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.**  **b) direct cause(s) of the problem (DRIVERS OF THE PROBLEM).**  **c) CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROBLEM, including on the affected population/stakeholders.**  If there is one more than one problem or need to tackle, please replicate this structure. |
| [Insert Text; between 450-500 words]  a) CORE PROBLEMS:  End users of justice system cannot make informed decisions on preferring non-judicial mechanisms in non-strategic and repetitive civil, commercial and administrative cases, leading to overloading the courts with high influx of cases, which further results to lack of high-quality judicial services. In particular, the level of incoming cases, backlogs and the length of proceedings in civil and commercial cases in Croatia remain among the highest in the EU[[3]](#footnote-3). Further, the national procedural mechanism applied to maintain consistency of caselaw at the level of civil (municipal and county) and commercial courts has been found by the Court of Justice of the European Union[[4]](#footnote-4) incompatible with the principle of effective judicial protection[[5]](#footnote-5). Lastly, human resources of court system are overburdened and very few cases are directed to alternative dispute resolution (ADR).  b) Direct cause(s) of the problem (DRIVERS OF THE PROBLEM).  (1) Lack of available resources at national level providing information concerning costs, duration and success rate of potential civil, commercial and administrative proceedings.  (2) Lack of appropriate national procedural mechanism to maintain consistency of caselaw following the judgment delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union, as well as lack of a user-friendly digital tool for caselaw searching.  (3) Insufficient employment of ADR and strategic litigation by lawyers and end users of justice system as systems complementary to court litigation.  c) CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROBLEM, including on the affected population/stakeholders  (1) Low public trust in judiciary and discouragement of investment initiatives necessary for economic growth due to limited legal certainty and predictability of costs, duration and success rate in repetitive civil, commercial and administrative cases.  (2) High pressure on civil, commercial and administrative courts due to the high number of incoming cases, leading to violation of right to trial within reasonable time as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights[[6]](#footnote-6).  (3) End users of justice system engage in non-strategic and repetitive cases thereby adding external pressure on the justice system from incoming civil, commercial and administrative litigious cases, which could be addressed more efficiently, speedily and at lower cost via non-judicial mechanisms.  The affected stakeholders are end users of justice system (natural and legal persons), and civil, commercial and administrative courts (judges and court staff). | |
| 1.2 \* | **SCOPE AND SCALE – How broad and deep (severe) is the problem/need?**  **For example, does it affect a** **significant part/sector of the economy or there are ‘spill-over’ effects (i.e. effects extending across several policy areas) or across borders? Were there any** **previous reform efforts which have not fully managed to address the issue? What was the impact of those efforts? What did not work and why?**  Please label each paragraph with the capital letters when answering the above questions or add your own labels in capitals if other questions are relevant. |
| [Insert Text; between 100-300 words]  The problems identified affect all end users of justice in Croatia, in particular, parties to civil, commercial and administrative proceedings, as well as the courts themselves and result in public trust in the judiciary lower than the EU average. Excessive length of proceedings fuels the public perception that the judiciary is neither transparent nor efficient. The lack of an appropriate procedural mechanism and user-friendly tool for searching caselaw lead to inconsistency of caselaw and, combined with the excessive length of proceedings, have a clear SPILL-OVER EFFECT into the business sector, negatively impacting the ease of doing business and the maintenance of an environment conducive for economic growth in Croatia. Moreover, the excessive length of proceedings has broad human rights implications, in particular, regarding the right to trial within a reasonable time.    The Croatian judiciary is currently undergoing several digitalisation processes led by the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation (MoJPADT), most recently via piloting commercial courts with the aspiration of transitioning to fully digital casefiles within the framework of the project “24HR02 – Paperless commercial courts in Croatia”. This is combined with PREVIOUS REFORM EFFORTS via project “22HR02 Digital by default - Optimisation of efficiency and quality of judicial services and transparency of judicial decisions”, RRP C2.5. R1-I1 project “20HR20 Support to the implementation of e-communication in the Croatian judiciary” and SRSP project “Improvement of the court case management system”. While current and prior efforts have been recognised as successful[[7]](#footnote-7), they were aimed primarily at improving administrative capacity and skills of judges and did not envisage any measure directly targeting the experience end users of justice system on improved and swift screening of costs, duration and success rate in similar cases. Further, the necessity and urgency of creating an appropriate mechanism for maintaining the consistency of national caselaw surfaced as problem following the judgment of the European Court of Justice dated 11 July 2024. | |
| 1.3 \* | **How urgent is it to address the problem/need? Is there a specific deadline (at national, European or international level)? What would the implications be if the problem is not addressed?** |
| [Insert Text; between 100-200 words]  If the problem is not addressed in a timely manner, influx of civil, commercial and administrative cases, backlogs and excessive length of proceedings would further increase external pressure on judicial system and become a compounding problem for Croatian judiciary and the MoJPADT. Therefore, this would hinder measures already taken under the Croatian Recovery and Resilience Plan, in particular the achievement of the following RRP targets, due by Q2 2026:  # 221 C2.5. R1 Reduction of the duration of litigation and commercial cases - as defined by the EU Justice Scoreboard methodology by at least 200 days (compared to 2020);  # 222 C2.5. R1 Reduction of the total number of all pending cases by at least 35% (compared to 2020);  # 223 C2.5. R1 Decrease in the share of cases over 3 years old in total backlogs, to at most 8%.  Further, failing to maintain the current momentum in digitalisation of Croatian judiciary could result in an overall lapse in the trajectory of modernisation of the judiciary leaving end users of justice system and judges with sub-optimal methods of accessing caselaw sources necessary for initiation of litigation and consistent in-court decision-making respectively. | |
| 1.4 | **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?** |
| [Insert Text; between 100-150 words]  The support requested is complementary to ongoing project 24HR02[[8]](#footnote-8), and completed projects 22HR02[[9]](#footnote-9) and SRSP 20HR20[[10]](#footnote-10) .  Significant effort (supported also by RRP project C2.5. R1-I1[[11]](#footnote-11)) has been invested in digitalisation of workflows in the ICMS system, thus paving the way for effective gathering and structuring of judicial data for the AI-based solution currently envisaged.  Moreover, MoJPADT plans to submit a project proposal for the funding of this AI tool under the direct grant of the Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme 2021-2027, Priority 1. Strengthening the economy by investing in research and innovation, supporting business competitiveness, digitalisation and developing skills for smart specialisation, Specific Objective 1.ii Harnessing the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, businesses, research organisations and public authorities. The proposed TSI project will provide analysis, recommendations and technical documentation for public procurement, which will serve as a basis for the next EU project.  Complementary to above efforts, it is indispensable to introduce adequate mechanism for providing end users of justice system with indications of costs, duration and success rate in similar repetitive cases, and for ensuring caselaw consistency and user-friendly caselaw searching. | |

# SECTION 2 –DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED SUPPORT

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| 2 | INDICATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORT REQUESTED AND THE ESTIMATED COST |
| 2.1.a \* | **Please indicate the policy area of the support requested** |
| Governance and public administration | |
| 2.1.b | **In case there is more than one policy area linked to the support requested, please indicate a second policy area** |
|  | |
| 2.1.c \* | **Please indicate the topic(s) (or policy actions) of the support requested** |
| [Multiple-Choice: Selection from pre-determined options based on ANNEX – DG REFORM LIST OF TOPICS document attached to this template. Maximum: 5 options]  1. Digital Public Administration  2. Judicial reform | |
| 2.2.a \* | **GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT / EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PROJECT: What is the long-term effect or broader change at country, regional or sector level that the project will contribute to? Impacts are beyond the project control and timeline.** [*To check examples of what could be considered as “expected impact” you can check the guidance (link)]* |
| [Insert Text; between 100-200 words]  The general objective of the project is to offer an efficient, transparent and quality-based justice to end users of justice system in Croatia. These three interconnected pillars create a legal environment that safeguards human rights and rule of law, and prioritises the needs of end users of justice system. | |
| 2.2.b \* | **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT / EXPECTED OUTCOME(S) - Which outcome(s) (concrete medium-term change on the ground) would you like to achieve with this project to address the problem or need identified?** |
| [Insert Text; between 100-200 words]  The expected outcomes of the project are three-fold:  (1) Improved experience for end users of justice system in civil, commercial and administrative cases supported by comprehensive set of information, in line with the reasonable time standard set by the European Court of Human Rights.  (2) Improved availability of tools ensuring user-friendly caselaw searches for judges and caselaw departments.  (3) Improved awareness on availability of non-judicial mechanisms for end users of justice system in Croatia. | |
| 2.2.c \* | **OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES - What outputs/deliverables and activities do you request from DG REFORM to support your reform and achieve the outcome specified under point 2.2.b**?  1)What key **outputs/deliverables** would you like to achieve with the support of DG REFORM?  2)Please describe how these outputs and deliverables will contribute to achieve the outcome?  3)For each of the outputs/deliverables envisaged, indicate the **key activities** to be delivered (i.e., workshops, training, study visits, etc.). For a full list, please see Article 8 of the [TSI Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:057:FULL&from=EN). |
| [Insert Text; between 400-500 words]  Component 1 (contributing to Outcome 1 “Improved experience for end users of justice system in civil, commercial and administrative cases supported by comprehensive set of information, in line with the reasonable time standard set by the European Court of Human Rights”)  Output 1: Analysis of sources necessary for gathering of information on costs, duration and success rate in repetitive civil, commercial and administrative cases for the introduction of an AI-based solution  Activity 1.1: Organisation of discussions with stakeholders, including but not limited to judges of civil, commercial and administrative courts, judges of Supreme Court, lawyers, experts, and end users of justice system engaged in civil, commercial and administrative litigation.  Activity 1.2: Conduct a data inventory and analysis of the publicly available data relevant to the design, testing and application of the AI-based solution that would include parameters on existing caselaw that would be used as a basis to anticipate costs, duration and success rate in repetitive civil, commercial and administrative cases.  Output 2: Recommendations report on the ethical, legal, and technical preconditions necessary for the introduction of an AI-based solution, in line with the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS no 225) and the EU Artificial Intelligence Act  Activity 2.1: Draft recommendations report on the basis of information obtained through Activities 1.1 and 1.2.  Output 3: Report on peer-to-peer exchanges with selected EU member state(s) on the methodologies and approaches to AI-based solutions for anticipation of costs, duration and success rate of cases  Activity 3.1: Organise knowledge-sharing workshops and exchanges with peers from selected EU member state(s).  Activity 3.2: Draft report on the peer-to-peer exchanges to ensure the sustainability of the results and lessons learned.  Output 4: Draft version of methodology and necessary safeguards for the AI-based solution on existing case data, and in cooperation with relevant judicial actors to protect the judiciary from liability  Activity 4.1: Draft a draft version of methodology for the development of the AI-based solution. The methodology should include data collection on costs, duration and success rate of repetitive civil, commercial and administrative cases, model training, and prediction algorithms. Special consideration shall be given to the necessary human rights safeguards and ethical guidelines for the use of the AI-based solution.  Output 5: Draft version of Terms of Reference (ToR) AI-based solution in alignment with European standards dual-faceted both for end users of justice system and courts  Activity 5.1: Organisation of discussions with IT and legal experts and national stakeholders on the development of the ToR and related documents (IT specifications) for the AI-based solution.  Activity 5.2: Draft a draft version of comprehensive ToR and related documents (IT specifications) for the AI-based solution allowing the input and return of data based on inputs by end users of justice system concerning the details of their dispute, as well as by caselaw departments of civil, commercial and administrative courts and Supreme Court. The AI-based solution should allow for a diverse range of inputs and be able to generate meaningful outputs based on predictive analytics and AI algorithms based on data collection. The AI-based solution should be on a publicly accessible and searchable landing page and should be primarily targeted to end users of justice system, but also useful for judges. The ToR will be prepared in consultation with the MoJPADT IT team. The ToR is primarily targeting end users of justice service, and will also be extended for in-court use by judges, court advisors and caselaw departments.  Component 2 (contributing to Outcome 2 “Improved availability of tools ensuring user-friendly caselaw searches for judges and caselaw departments”)  Output 6: Analysis of existing caselaw search mechanism used by caselaw departments of civil, commercial and administrative courts in consultation with the Supreme Court  Activity 6.1: Organise in situ consultations with caselaw departments of civil (municipal and county), commercial and administrative courts and Supreme Court for feedback collection on the caselaw search mechanism.  Activity 6.2: Draft analysis report of existing caselaw search mechanism on the basis of in situ consultations.  Activity 6.3: Organise roundtable with judges of civil, commercial and administrative courts and Supreme Court to present the findings of the analysis of existing caselaw search mechanism.  Output 7: Recommendations report on mechanism to facilitate caselaw search via employment of AI-based solution, with the aim to maintain consistency of caselaw  Activity 7.1: Draft report with set of recommendations on mechanism to facilitate caselaw search via employment of AI-based solution.  Output 8: Report on peer-to-peer exchanges with the Directorate of Jurisconsult of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, and with selected EU member states  Activity 8.1: Organise peer-to-peer exchanges with Directorate of Jurisconsult of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union.  Activity 8.2: Organise peer-to-peer exchanges with selected EU member states.  Activity 8.3: Draft report on peer-to-peer exchanges with the abovementioned parties  Component 3 (contributing to Outcome 3 “Improved awareness on availability of non-judicial mechanisms for end users of justice system in Croatia”)  Output 9: Report on non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation  Activity 9.1: Organisation of discussions with stakeholders, including but not limited to lawyers and end users of justice system to provide feedback on use of non-judicial mechanisms in civil, commercial and administrative cases.  Activity 9.2: Organisation of discussions with lawyers to provide feedback on use of strategic litigation in civil, commercial and administrative cases.  Activity 9.3: Draft report on the current use of non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation in civil, commercial and administrative cases following consultations with the abovementioned partners.  Output 10: Recommendations report on enhancement of effectiveness and use of non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation by end users of justice system and lawyers  Activity 10.1: Draft recommendations report on the basis of report obtained via Activity 9.3.  Output 11: Public awareness strategy for enhancement of use of non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation  Activity 11.1: Organise a series of feedback collection on use of non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation.  Activity 11.2: Draft public awareness strategy with particular regard to the key target groups identified, with the aim to boost awareness of the existence, accessibility and effectiveness of non-judicial mechanisms and, as a result, intensify their use by end users of justice system (both legal and natural persons) and lawyers. | |
| 2.3 \* | **Indicate the possible duration of the support requested and, if available, an indicative timeline of each individual measure.** |
| [Insert Text between 50-100 words]  Possible duration of support requested: 28 months  Indicative timeline will consist of 3 phases:  (1) Phase 1 (outputs 1-5): 12 months  (2) Phase 2 (outputs 6-8): 18 months – some outputs will be produced in parallel with Phase 1  (3) Phase 3 (outputs 9-11): 10 months | |
| 2.4 | **Indicate the estimated total cost of the requested support measures (in EUR).**  Note that this estimation is purely indicative: the final budget estimation will be done by DG REFORM, based on its cost estimation methodology. |
| [Insert number: numerical field only, no spaces, commas, any other characters]  900.000 € | |
| 2.4 a | **Additional information: if known, please provide further explanation and indicative cost estimation for each key output/deliverable.** |
| [Insert Text between 50-100 words]  Cost estimate per output:  Output 1 – 90.000 €  Output 2 – 90.000 €  Output 3 – 80.000 €  Output 4 – 80.000 €  Output 5 – 150.000 €  Output 6 – 90.000 €  Output 7 – 90.000 €  Output 8 – 80.000 €  Output 9 – 50.000 €  Output 10 – 50.000 €  Output 11 - 50.000 € | |
| 2.5 \* | What would be the indicators to measure the success of the project? Please provide measurable indicators at outputs, outcome, and impact level.  Indicators shall follow RACER criteria (Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy (to monitor), and Robust) and include their data source, latest available values (baseline), and possible targets (if already set, with year to be reached).  For impact level you might provide relevant high-level thematic indicators (e.g. socio-economic and environmental) to which the support is expected to contribute or expected benefits for final beneficiaries.  For outcome level, please provide indicators measuring the expected change by beneficiary authority after the implementation of support. |
| [Insert Text; between 200-250 words]   * Indicators for Outputs: all envisaged outputs under the project are delivered and endorsed. * Indicator for Outcome 1 “Improved experience for end users of justice system in civil, commercial and administrative cases supported by comprehensive set of information, in line with the reasonable time standard set by the European Court of Human Rights”: Number of caselaw search options for end users of justice system. Current value: 0 – Target value: 3. * Indicators for Outcome 2 “Improved availability of tools ensuring user-friendly caselaw searches for judges and caselaw departments”:  1. Feedback from judges and end users of justice system (via questionnaires or other feedback mechanisms) on the availability of caselaw searches. Current value: 0 – Target value: at least 50% positive replies. 2. Number of caselaw departments of civil, commercial and administrative courts using the caselaw search options in their day-to-day work. Current value: 0 - Target value: at least 50% of caselaw departments of civil, commercial and administrative courts using caselaw search options in their day-to-day work. 3. Existence of mechanism for consistency of caselaw. Current value: 0 (mechanism does not exist) – Target value: at least 1 mechanism exists.  * Indicators for Outcome 3 “Improved awareness on availability of non-judicial mechanisms for end users of justice system in Croatia””:  1. Frequency of use of non-judicial mechanisms and strategic litigation in civil, commercial and administrative cases. Current value: information not available – Target value: increase by at least 25%. 2. Improvement of scoring in the EU Justice Scoreboard figures on promotion and incentives for using ADR methods. Current value: Croatia is at the penultimate position – Target value: score higher than penultimate position.  * Indicator for Impact “Efficient, transparent and quality-based justice to end users of justice system in Croatia”: Improvement of scoring in the EU Justice Scoreboard figures (Efficiency of Justice Systems indicators on the length of proceedings and number of pending cases). | |
| 2.6 | **If applicable, indicate any type of envisaged provider or implementing partner of technical support measures (e.g., private providers, international organisations, public administrations, EU bodies, etc.) Please do not give names of providers/implementing partners. Include the reasoning behind and explanations as to their know-how/capacity.** |
| [Insert Text; between 200-250 words]  The Council of Europe stands as the preferred implementing partner for successfully executing these activities. Due to its expertise and a proven track record of advancing legal and judicial reforms, the Council of Europe possesses the unique ability to navigate complex legal and ethical dimensions. Its extensive network of stakeholders, including legal experts and judicial actors, ensures inclusive and informed decision-making processes. Further, the Council of Europe’s commitment to transparency, data privacy, and ethical AI, as showcased, among others, via the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS no 225), aligns seamlessly with the goals of introducing an AI-based solution for justice. | |
| 2.7 | **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 achieved the outcome and contributed to the desired impact, based on the results of that support.** |
| [Insert Text; between 200-250 words]  The MoJPADT received technical support under the SRSP and TSI for the following projects:  1. Support to the implementation of e-communication in the Croatian judiciary (2020-2022)  2. Digital by default: Optimisation of efficiency and quality of judicial services and transparency of judicial decisions (2022-2024)  3. Paperless commercial courts (2024-2026 ongoing)  The results of the two completed projects contribute to the implementation of the Reform under the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Croatia: C2.5.R1 (Increasing the efficiency of the justice system to increase citizens’ trust), C2.5. R1-I1 (Improvement of the ICMS System, C2.5. R1-I3 (Development of IT tool for publication and search of court decisions). The ToR provided under the project “Digital by default” served as a basis for obtaining public procurement procedure and consultation process with the potential bidders, which resulted in the fast and most efficient selection of the vendor with whom the contract was concluded. The project “Development of IT tool for publication and search of court decisions” is in the final phase of implementation providing automatic anonymisation of court decisions and publication on the portal with advanced search features based on various criteria including EuroVoc filtering, legal index, common index filtering and full text search.  Moreover, IT Recommendations provided under project “Support to the implementation of e-communication in the Croatian judiciary” were applied and incorporated in the scope of the RRP project “Improvement of the ICMS System”which also resulted in contracting the vendor, and it is currently in its implementation phase. | |
| 2.8 \* | **Provide information on your administrative capacity (i.e., staff that will be involved in the requested support measures and their follow up). Please describe the team (including number of team members and their experience, in particular in project management) that will be responsible for coordinating/monitoring the project, liaising with DG REFORM, and participating of Steering Committees of the project.** |
| [Insert Text; between 150-200 words]  The MoJPADT will set up a multidisciplinary project team to steer and coordinate project implementation and appoint a project team leader who will act as focal contact point for the activities and ensure coordination with all project participants and stakeholders. The mission of the MoJPADT’s contact point is to guide the project implementation by advising on decisions about the requirements for the project, supervising the overall implementation, ensuring the project proceeds according to its work plan and ensuring that the deliverables meet the requirements set for the project. The core project team will include a team leader, up to two deputies and the experts by the area of expertise.  In addition, an Advisory Group (AG) will be established at the beginning of the Project. The AG will be composed of representatives of the MoJPADT, DG REFORM, the Supreme Court, civil, commercial and administrative courts, and the implementation partner, and will convene quarterly to take stock of the status of activities, review output progression and advise on the implementation of the Project. | |
| 2.9 | **Indicate the identity of stakeholders (e.g., other Ministries or beneficiaries) that may need to be involved in the design or implementation of the requested support measures.** |
| [Insert Text; between 50-100 words]  The following stakeholders will be required during all three phases of the project to successfully implement the request:   * End users of justice system (natural and legal persons) * Representatives of business community * Legal professionals, including representatives of Croatian Bar Association * Judges, court advisors and court staff from civil (county and municipal), commercial and administrative courts, and Supreme Court, including caselaw departments from these courts   The above-listed stakeholders will be included in the implementation of the project. | |

# SECTION 3 - CIRCUMSTANCES

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| **3** | **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REQUEST** | |
| **Is this request linked to a request from a previous round?** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ☐ | No, this is a new request. | | x | Yes, to a selected request from a past round. | | ☐ | Yes, to a non-selected request from a past round. | |
| *The following question will be displayed only if the user selects “Yes” to the previous question.* | | |
| **Please enter the request ID of the linked request (selected or non-selected) from a previous round** | | |
| ID “24HR02” – only one component was not selected for financing. | | |
| **The requested support is linked to: \*** | | |
| **x** | Preparation, implementation, amendment and revision of Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant) | |
| **x** | Reforms in the context of economic governance process (e.g., CSR, Country reports, implementation of economic adjustment programmes, etc.) | |
| **x** | Implementation of Union priorities (e.g., CMU, REPowerEU and European Green Deal, Customs Union, etc.) | |
| **☐** | Implementation of Union law (e.g., infringements) | |
| **x** | Implementation of Member States’ own reform priorities to support recovery, sustainable economic growth, job creation and enhance resilience | |
| **☐** | Interventions with a regional dimension, multiregional projects, projects in outermost regions | |
| **☐** | Intervention with an equality dimension (gender, disability, ROMA, migrants, elderly, LGBTQ+) | |
| **3.1** | **Additional information** | |
| [Please add relevant explanations as appropriate:  i.e. number of the CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.; additional information on the link to the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant) | | |
| [Insert Text; indicatively between 150-200 words]  The requested support is especially linked to:   * National Development Strategy 2030 - priorities of policy implementation in the field of digitization of public administration and justice: * optimization, digitization and modernization of public administration and the judiciary as an integral part of the policy of simplifying the administrative environment * increasing the number of automated and digitized processes and services of public administration and justice * National Judicial System Development Plan 2022-2027 - specific objectives: * Improving the efficiency of court procedures * Ensuring transparency, legal certainty, quality and predictability of court decisions * Reforms under the Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026 for Croatia: * C2.5.R1 Increasing the efficiency of the justice system to increase citizens’ trust * C2.5. R1-I1 Improvement of the ICMS System * C2.5. R1-I3 Development of IT tool for publication and search of court decisions * 2020 CSR 4. Improve the efficiency of the judicial system * 2019 CSR 4. Reduce the duration of court proceedings and improve electronic communication in courts   Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Digitalisation of justice in the European Union, A toolbox of opportunities. | | |
| *The following point is only visible if “Preparation, implementation amendment and revision of Recovery and Resilience Plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant) is selected:* | | |
| **3.2 \*** | **Is there a direct link to the RRP (e.g., direct contribution to the implementation of a reform / investment in the RRP)?** | |
| **☐** | Yes, there is a direct link | |
| **x** | No, there is only an indirect link | |
| *The following point is only visible if the user has selected “Yes, there is a direct link” in point 3.2* | | |
| **3.2.1** | **Please define for which reform/investment of the RRP this request has a direct link to and the deadline for its implementation according to the Operational Agreements and/or Annex to CID (add FENIX reference)** | |
| [Insert Text] | | |
| *The following point is only visible if the user has selected “No, there is only an indirect link” in point 3.2* | | |
| **3.2.2** | **Please describe the indirect link of the requested support to the RRP or particular reform(s)/ investment(s) contained in the RRP.** | |
| C2.5. R1 Reduction of the duration of litigation and commercial cases - as defined by the EU Justice Scoreboard methodology by at least 200 days (compared to 2020). | | |

# SECTION 4 – AGREEMENT TO COMMUNICATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4** | **AGREEMENT TO COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES BY BOTH THE COORDINATING AUTHORITY(-IES) AND THE BENEFICIARY AUTHORITY(-IES)** |
| *DG REFORM may engage in communication activities to ensure the visibility of EU funding for support measures funded under the Technical Support Instrument. Such communications activities may include, but are not limited to, press releases, publication on the Reform support website, or the publication on the @EU\_reforms tweeter account.* | |
| **4.1 \*** | **Do you agree that the Commission's communication activities may indicate that your entity has submitted this technical support request, as well as the area of the request? \*** |
| **x** | Yes |
| **☐** | No |
| **4.2 \*** | **Should this request be selected, do you agree that the Commission communicates about the support measures?** |
| **x** | Yes |
| **☐** | No |
| *The following point is only visible if you select “No” in point 4.1 or 4.2* | |
| **4.2.1 \*** | **In case you object to the communication on a support measure, please provide a short justification why you object.** |
| [Insert Text; between 50-100 words] | |
| **4.2.2 \*** | **I consent that my personal data will be processed to invite me to future meetings or events that the Commission may organise** |
| **x** | Yes |
| **☐** | No |

**DISCLAMERS**

Please see the disclaimers [here](#_DISCLAIMERS). In order to “send for review” your request in the platform, you must click and confirm that you “read and understood the disclaimer”.



-----------------------------------------------

# CHECK (only for coordinating authorities before submission)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority of the request** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Date of submission** |  |

# DISPLAY OF MULTI-COUNTRY “ON BEHALF” REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATING NATIONAL AUTHORITIES (AND RELATED COORDINATING AUTHORITIES)

|  |
| --- |
| **Note: The below section is ONLY for multi-country requests to be submitted “on behalf” of other Member States’ authorities** |

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT (TSI) PROGRAMME  
Regulation (EU) 2021/240 (TSI Regulation)[[12]](#footnote-12)**

**REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT****[[13]](#endnote-3)**

**(Article 9 of the TSI Regulation)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2023**

**To be submitted [by/via]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Member State | Select your Member State |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of support request** | General request for technical support |
| **Title of the request:** | *The title included by the submitting authority will appear in this section. It won’t be possible to edit the title.* |

# Actors

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *It is mandatory to enter at least one Beneficiary Authority from your Member State and at least one Contact Person for each Beneficiary Authority.*  *For multi-country requests with the “on behalf” mode this section needs to be filled-in by each participating Member State.* | |
| BENEFICIARY (RECIPIENT) AUTHORITIES | |
| Legal name – Official name of the Authority |  |
| Address |  |
| Country |  |
| Additional information |  |
| CONTACT PERSON FOR THE BENEFICIARY AUTHORITY | |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Email |  |
| Additional information |  |

Personal data provided in the request for technical support are processed in accordance with the applicable data protection rules. The privacy statement explaining the processing of personal data can be found in section 7 of record DPR-EC-04667 “Submission and assessments of requests for technical support under the Technical Support Instrument”, at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-04667>

# SECTION 1 – PROBLEM / NEEDS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM/NEED TO BE ADDRESSED |
| *Please include information on your own national situation to explain the problem in your context. Each participating national authority must provide their country-specific information.* | |
| 1.1 | **What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?** |
| [Insert Text; between 450-500 words]  Please provide a thorough description of the specific problem/need. Please split the text into paragraphs labelling them in capital letters as:  a) core problem or need to be addressed.  b) direct cause(s) of the problem (drivers of the problem).  c) consequences of the problem, including on the affected population/stakeholders.  If there is one more than one problem or need to tackle, please replicate this structure. | |
| 1.2 | **SCOPE AND SCALE – How broad and deep (severe) is the problem/need?**  **For example, does it affect a significant part/sector of the economy or there are ‘spill-over’ effects (i.e. effects extending across several policy areas) or across borders? Were there any previous reform efforts which have not fully managed to address the issue? What was the impact of those efforts? What did not work and why?**  Please label each paragraph with the capital letters when answering the above questions or add your own labels in capitals if other questions are relevant. |
| [Insert Text; between 100-300 words] | |
| 1.3 | **How urgent is it to address the problem/need? Is there a specific deadline (at national, European or international level)? What would the implications be if the problem is not addressed?** |
| [Insert Text; between 100-200 words] | |
| 1.4 | **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?** |
| [Insert Text; between 100-150 words] | |

# SECTION 2 –DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED SUPPORT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | INDICATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPORT MEASURES REQUESTED AND THE ESTIMATED COST |
| 2.1.a | **Please indicate the policy area of the support requested** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.1.b | **In case there is more than one policy area linked to the support requested, please indicate a second policy area** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.1.c | **Please indicate the topic(s) (or policy actions) of the support measures requested** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.2.a | **GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT / EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PROJECT: What is the long-term effect or broader change at country, regional or sector level that the project will contribute to? Impacts are beyond the project control and timeline.** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.2.b | **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT / EXPECTED OUTCOME(S) - Which outcome(s) (concrete medium-term change on the ground) would you like to achieve with this project to address the problem or need identified?** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.2.c | **OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES - What outputs/deliverables and activities do you request from DG REFORM to support your reform and achieve the outcome specified under point 2.2.b**?  1) What key **outputs/deliverables** would you like to achieve with the support of DG REFORM?  2) Please describe how these outputs and deliverables will contribute to achieve the outcome?  3) For each of the outputs/deliverables envisaged, indicate the **key activities** to be delivered (i.e., workshops, training, study visits, etc.). For a full list, please see Article 8 of the [TSI Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:057:FULL&from=EN). |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.3 | **Indicate the possible duration of the support requested and, if available, an indicative timeline of each individual measure.** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.4 | **Indicate the estimated total cost of the requested support measures (in EUR).**  Note that this estimation is purely indicative: the final budget estimation will be done by DG REFORM, based on its cost estimation methodology. |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.4.a | **Additional information: if known, please provide further explanation and indicative cost estimation for each key output/deliverable.** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.5 | **What would be the indicators to measure the success of the project? Please provide measurable indicators at outputs, outcome, and impact level.**  **Indicators shall follow RACER criteria (Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy (to monitor), and Robust)** and include their data source, latest available values (baseline), and possible targets (if already set, with year to be reached)**.**  For impact level you might provide relevant high-level thematic indicators (e.g., socio-economic and environmental) to which the support is expected to contribute or expected benefits for final beneficiaries.  For outcome level, please provide indicators measuring the expected change by beneficiary authority after the implementation of support. |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.6 | **If applicable, indicate any type of envisaged provider or implementing partner of technical support measures (e.g., private providers, international organisations, public administrations, EU bodies, etc.) Please do not give names of providers/implementing partners. Include the reasoning behind and explanations as to their know-how/capacity.** |
| *[Section filled in by “lead authority”. This section is not editable by other authorities]* | |
| 2.7 | **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 achieved the outcome and contributed to the desired impact, based on the results of that support.** |
| [Insert Text; between 200-250 words] | |
| 2.8 | **Provide information on your administrative capacity (i.e., staff that will be involved in the requested support measures and their follow up). Please describe the team (including number of team members and their experience, in particular in project management) that will be responsible for coordinating/monitoring the project, liaising with DG REFORM, and participating of Steering Committees of the project.** |
| [Insert Text; between 200-250 words] | |
| 2.9 | **Indicate the identity of stakeholders (e.g., other Ministries or beneficiaries) that may need to be involved in the design or implementation of the requested support measures.** |
| [Insert Text; between 50-100 words | |

# SECTION 3 – CIRCUMSTANCES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **3** | **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REQUEST** | |
| *Please include information on your own national situation to explain the circumstances in your context. Each participating national authority must provide their country-specific information.* | | |
| **Is this request linked to a request from a previous round?** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ☐ | No, this is a new request. | | ☐ | Yes, to a selected request from a past round. | | ☐ | Yes, to a non-selected request from a past round. | |
| *The following question will be displayed only if the user selects “Yes” to the previous question.* | | |
| **Please enter the request ID of the linked request (selected or non-selected) from a previous round** | | |
|  | | |
| **The requested support is linked to: \*** | | |
| **☐** | Preparation, implementation, amendment and revision of Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant) | |
| **☐** | Reforms in the context of economic governance process (e.g., CSR, Country reports, implementation of economic adjustment programmes, etc.) | |
| **☐** | Implementation of Union priorities (e.g., CMU, REPowerEU and European Green Deal, Customs Union, etc.) | |
| **☐** | Implementation of Union law (e.g., infringements) | |
| **☐** | Implementation of Member States’ own reform priorities to support recovery, sustainable economic growth, job creation and enhance resilience | |
| **☐** | Interventions with a regional dimension, multiregional projects, projects in outermost regions | |
| **☐** | Intervention with an equality dimension (gender, disability, ROMA, migrants, elderly, LGBTQ+) | |
| **3.1** | **Additional information** | |
| [Please add relevant explanations as appropriate:  i.e. number of the CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.; additional information on the link to the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant)  [Insert Text; indicatively between 150-200 words] | | |
| *The following point is only visible if “Preparation, implementation amendment and revision of Recovery and Resilience Plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (including REPowerEU chapters if relevant) is selected:* | | |
| **3.2** | **Is there a direct link to the RRP (e.g., direct contribution to the implementation of a reform / investment in the RRP)?** | |
| **☐** | Yes, there is a direct link | |
| **☐** | No, there is only an indirect link | |
| *The following point is only visible if the user has selected “Yes, there is a direct link” in point 3.2* | | |
| **3.2.1** | **Please define for which reform/investment of the RRP this request has a direct link to and the deadline for its implementation according to the Operational Agreements and/or Annex to CID (add FENIX reference)** | |
| [Insert Text] | | |
| *The following point is only visible if the user has selected “No, there is only an indirect link” in point 3.2* | | |
| **3.2.2** | **Please describe the indirect link of the requested support to the RRP or particular reform(s)/ investment(s) contained in the RRP.** | |
| [Insert Text] | | |

# SECTION 4 - AGREEMENT TO COMMUNICATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **4** | | **AGREEMENT TO COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES BY BOTH THE COORDINATING AUTHORITY(-IES) AND THE BENEFICIARY AUTHORITY(-IES)** |
| *DG REFORM may engage in communication activities to ensure the visibility of EU funding for support measures funded under the Technical Support Instrument. Such communications activities may include, but are not limited to, press releases, publication on the Reform support website, or the publication on the @EU\_reforms tweeter account.* | | |
| *Please include information on your own national situation to explain your agreement to communication activities. Each participating national authority must provide their country-specific information.* | | |
| **4.1** | | **Do you agree that the Commission's communication activities may indicate that your entity has submitted this technical support request, as well as the area of the request?** |
| **☐** | | Yes |
| **☐** | | No |
| **4.2** | | **Should this request be selected, do you agree that the Commission communicates about the support measures?** |
| **☐** | | Yes |
| **☐** | | No |
| *The following point is only visible if you select “No” in point 4.1 or 4.2* | | |
| **4.2.1** | | **In case you object to the communication on a support measure, please provide a short justification why you object.** |
| [Insert Text; between 50-100 words] | | |
| **4.2.2 \*** | **I consent that my personal data will be processed to invite me to future meetings or events that the Commission may organise** | |
| **☐** | Yes | |
| **☐** | No | |

Please see the disclaimers [here](#_DISCLAIMERS).

# CHECK

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority of the request** |  |
| **Date of submission** |  |

# Instructions To Fill-In A Multi-Country “On-Behalf” Request

**If you select “*option A: multi-country on behalf” in question 0.2.,*** *the platform will allow the submitting national authority (“Lead authority”), to* ***invite authorities of other Member States*** *(“participating authorities”) to be involved in this project. The invitation to participate in the multi-country request will be sent automatically by the DG REFORM portal to the participating authorities included* ***in the answer to question 0.3.***

*Once invited, these* ***additional participating authorities will receive the request in their own portal to complete their case-specific information.*** *In case the BA does not exist in the system the CA will be able to handover the request*

The platform will replicate the request submitted by the “lead authority” in the portal page of the participating national authority (invited as per response to question 0.3), as follows:

* “Section 1. Description of the problem/need to be addressed” will be empty and must be filled in with country-specific information by each participating authority. This section relates to the information on participating national authority details, and the description of the problem in their national context.
* “**Section 2. Indicative description of the support measures requested** and estimated cost” will be the same for all participating authorities. This section will be filled in by the lead-authority and the information will be automatically replicated with **identical information for all participating authorities**. Only the “lead authority” can edit this section.
* “Section 3. Circumstances of the request” will be empty and must be filled in with country-specific information by each participating authority. This section relates to the information on participating national authority details, and the circumstances of the request in their national context.
* “Section 4. Agreement to communication activities” will be empty and must be filled in with country-specific information by each participating authority. This section relates to the details of the specific activities of the participating national authority.

***In addition,******the Coordinating Authorities (CAs) of the involved Member State(s) will need to validate this participation****.*

* The platform will make visible to the “lead authority” the status (draft, submitted, etc) of all the requests of the participants of the multi-country request.
* Participating CAs will have the possibility to prioritize this request.

CAs of the participating authorities must validate the participation of the Member State in the multi-country request **before** the “lead CA” submits the request to DG REFORM. If not, the Member State/participating authority will not be part of the multi-country request. The request will be considered as validated when the CAs of the participating countries submit their request to DG REFORM

# Disclaimers

|  |
| --- |
| DISCLAIMERS:  Please note that the template request for support is fully subject to the principles governing the TSI Regulation and Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the General Budget of the Union. In compliance with the principle of no double funding, the recipient (beneficiary) national authority shall immediately inform the European Commission of other related on-going actions financed by the budget of the European Union. 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 does not disclose such documents without their prior agreement. |
| In accordance with the Financial Regulation, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 (10), (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 (11) and (EU) 2017/1939, the financial interests of the Union are to be protected by means of proportionate measures, including measures relating to the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities, including fraud, to the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used, and, where appropriate, to the imposition of administrative penalties. In accordance with the Financial Regulation, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the financial interests of the Union, grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors, and, in respect of those Member States participating in enhanced cooperation pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the EPPO, and ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.  The Member States shall counter fraud and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union (Article 325(1) TFEU). Member States shall take the same measures to counter fraud affecting the financial interests of the Union as they take to counter fraud affecting their own financial interests (Article 325(2) TFEU). It is of paramount importance that the providers/implementing partners of support have an equivalent stand against fraud and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. |
| It is to be noted that the support provided is intended to assist the Member State in its efforts to identify suitable investments and reforms [and to develop action plans]. The Member State remains fully responsible for such investments and reforms [and action plans], including their implementation. The provision of the technical support does not commit the Commission in any way to further support, whether financial or otherwise. |
| For the requests linked with the RRPs: 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 RRP or any request for payment. |
| DG REFORM monitors the implementation of the Technical Support Instrument based on a performance reporting system for which data and results are collected in an efficient, effective and timely manner and, where relevant and feasible, in a gender-disaggregated form. To that end, proportionate reporting requirements are imposed on recipients of Union funding. As foreseen in the TSI Regulation, monitoring activities include, but are not limited to, the TSI mid-term and ex-post evaluations. Should this request be selected, the information provided therein may be used for evaluation purposes. |

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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. **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**](mailto: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), and could be replaced by support measures that are to be provided under normal circumstances according to the procedure of annual calls 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. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard, Figures 1-9 and 13-15, [2024 EU Justice Scoreboard | European Commission (europa.eu)](https://commission.europa.eu/document/84aa3726-82d7-4401-98c1-fee04a7d2dd6_en) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Judgement of the European Court of Justice dated 11th July 2024 in Joined Cases Hann-Invest et al, C-554/21. et al. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The principle of effective judicial protection is enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Guide on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (civil limb), p.50-54, https://rm.coe.int/1680700aaf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 2024 Rule of Law Report Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Croatia, [2024 Rule of law report - Communication and country chapters - European Commission (europa.eu)](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2024-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “Paperless commercial courts in Croatia” – The project is piloting fully digital commercial courts. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Digital by default - optimisation of efficiency and quality of judicial services and transparency of judicial decisions” – The project laid the groundwork for improved efficiency and transparency of justice enabling automatic anonymisation, publication and searching of judicial decisions. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. “Support to the implementation of e-communication in the Croatian judiciary” – The project further advanced the use of e-communication within the judiciary. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. “Improvement of the court case management system” – The project contributed to technological reengineering of the ICMS system to improve its stability and availability and to reduce its dependence on availability of external resources. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. **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**](mailto: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), and could be replaced by support measures that are to be provided under normal circumstances according to the procedure of annual calls 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. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)