Basic information

2020/0103(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Technical Support Instrument **Subject** 4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF) 4.70.07 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	

Key players

European Parliament

Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	GEESE Alexandra (Greens /EFA)	22/07/2020
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	KARAS Othmar (EPP)	22/07/2020
	PÎSLARU Dragoş (Renew)	22/07/2020
	Shadow rapporteur FERNANDES José Manuel (EPP) GYŐRI Enikő (EPP) GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider (S&D) MAVRIDES Costas (S&D) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew) PEKSA Mikuláš (Greens /EFA) ZĪLE Roberts (ECR) VAN OVERTVELDT Johan (ECR) LAPORTE Hélène (ID) RINALDI Antonio Maria (ID) PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PÎSLARU Dragoş (Renew)	25/06/2020

ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI	Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH	Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT	Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI	Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
LIBE	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM	Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Secretariat-General	

European Economic and Social Committee

European Committee of the Regions

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/05/2020	Legislative proposal published	COM(2020)0409	Summary
17/06/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
23/07/2020	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		

01/10/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
01/10/2020	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
02/10/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0173/2020	Summary
05/10/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
07/10/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
11/01/2021	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE663.015 GEDA/A/(2020)007617	
18/01/2021	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/2021	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0003/2021	Summary
19/01/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/02/2021	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
10/02/2021	Final act signed		
10/02/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/02/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0103(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 59 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 175-p3 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 197-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ16/9/03559

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE655.852	29/07/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE657.172	03/09/2020	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE655.645	30/09/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0173/2020	02/10/2020	Summary

Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE663.015	16/12/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0003/2021	19/01/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2020)007617	16/12/2020	
Draft final act	00061/2020/LEX	10/02/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2020)0409	28/05/2020	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)89	02/03/2021	
Commission document (COM)	COM(2024)0040	29/01/2024	
Commission working document (SWD)	SWD(2024)0017	29/01/2024	
Follow-up document	COM(2024)0445	08/10/2024	
Follow-up document	COM(2025)0198	12/05/2025	
Follow-up document	SWD(2025)0117	12/05/2025	
Follow-up document	COM(2025)0468	08/09/2025	
Follow-up document	COM(2026)0452	11/09/2026	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2020)0409	28/07/2020	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES2808/2020	15/07/2020	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR3381/2020	14/10/2020	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Parliament	Briefing	10/11/2020
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 2021/0240 OJ L 057 18.02.2021, p. 0001

Technical Support Instrument

2020/0103(COD) - 28/05/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a 'technical support instrument' for the period 2021-2027 to support Member States' efforts to implement the reforms necessary for economic and social recovery, resilience and convergence.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the COVID-19 outbreak has changed the economic outlook for the coming years in the Union and the world. As lockdown measures are gradually being lifted, a strategic plan is needed for recovery, economic revitalisation and a return to sustainable growth.

In this respect, it is essential to set up a stand-alone instrument to accompany Member States in their reform efforts by providing substantial technical support to strengthen their administrative capacity to design and implement reforms that shall foster resilience and support recovery.

The Technical Support Instrument builds on the success of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP), which has constantly experienced positive feedback from beneficiary Member States and excess demand in respect of the budgets available in the past selection rounds (e.g. for the 2020 round, of the 609 requests submitted, equating to a value of EUR 250 million, 228 amounting to EUR 84.7 million could be selected). The Instrument is also part of the Commission's initiatives in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to help Member States mitigate the massive economic and social consequences.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation aims to establish a stand-alone Technical Support Instrument available to all Member States, as a successor to the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) 2017-2020.

Objectives

The technical support instrument shall encourage Member States, together with technical measures, to carry out institutional, administrative and growth sustaining and resilience-enhancing structural reforms.

Its specific objectives shall be to assist national authorities in improving their capacity to design, develop and implement reforms, including through the exchange of good practices, appropriate processes and methods and more effective and efficient human resource management. These objectives shall be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States concerned.

The instrument shall complement and add value to existing assistance provided by the different EU sectoral programmes and actions under EU funds. It should also provide technical support for the design and implementation of reforms to be carried out under the new Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Scope of application

This shall cover a broad range of policy domains that include areas related to public financial and asset management, institutional and administrative reform, business environment, product, service and labour markets, education and training, sustainable development, public health, education and the financial sector. Specific emphasis is given to actions that foster the green and digital transitions.

Implementation

The Commission shall analyse the requests for support on the basis of urgency, breadth and depth of the problems identified, support needs in respect of the policy area concerned, analysis of socioeconomic indicators and general administrative capacity of the Member State.

Based on that analysis and taking into account the existing measures and actions financed by other Union funds or Union programmes, the Commission shall come to an agreement with the Member State on the priority areas for support, the objectives, an indicative timeline, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the estimated global financial contribution, to be set out in a cooperation and support plan.

Provisions are made on communication activities vis-à-vis the European Parliament and the Council and vis-à-vis the general public, as well as provisions on complementarity, monitoring, annual reports and evaluation.

Budgetary implications

The financial envelope for the implementation of the Technical Support Instrument for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 shall be EUR 864 406 000 (in current prices).

In addition to that financial envelope, Member States may transfer on voluntary basis, technical assistance resources under shared management programmes to the Technical Support Instrument.

Technical Support Instrument

2020/0103(COD) - 02/10/2020 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted the report by Othmar KARAS (EPP, AT), Dragoș PÎSLARU (Renew, RO) and Alexandra GEESE (Greens/EFA, DE) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a technical support instrument.

The proposed Regulation aims to establish a ‘technical support instrument’ for the period 2021-2027 to support Member States' efforts to implement the reforms necessary for recovery, resilience and economic and social convergence.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament’s position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows.

Technical support

Members clarified the definition of ‘technical support’ to mean measures that help Member States, including their national authorities, to carry out and implement institutional, administrative, structural and growth-sustaining, sustainable, socially-inclusive, fair and resilience-enhancing reforms, and investments that strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion and social dialogue, including those in the context of the Union recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

General objectives

The technical support instrument shall promote the EU's green and digital transformation and encourage investments that support an economic, social, gender-equal, sustainable and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak order to:

- increase competitiveness, and effectively address the country-specific recommendations adopted in the context of the European semester;

- achieve resilience and upward economic and social convergence;

- reduce poverty and inequality;

- increase competitiveness and respond effectively to the country-specific recommendations adopted during the European semester;

- support Member States' efforts to strengthen their institutional and administrative capacity and their judicial framework to implement Union law, including at regional and local level;

- implement the strategic objectives in accordance with the commitments made by the Union and the Member States under the Paris Agreement, in particular the Union's climate and energy objectives for 2030, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In order to achieve these general objectives, the instrument shall assist national authorities in improving their capacity to design, develop and implement reforms and investments, such as the preparation, implementation, revision and improvement of national recovery and resilience plans.

Scope of action

This shall cover, inter alia, reforms and investments in the following areas:

- modern and efficient administrative structures and information management systems for public financial and asset management, the budget process, including gender budgeting;

- digitisation of public administration;

- capacity building of competition and anti-trust authorities;

- business environment, in particular for independent small and medium-sized enterprises;

- vocational education and training, youth policies, participation of under-represented groups in the labour market, housing, civil protection, asylum, migration and integration and border policies;

- more equitable access to health care;

- access to finance and lending to the real economy, in particular for SMEs and the self-employed.

Budget

Members proposed that the overall financial envelope for the implementation of the instrument for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 1 450 000 000 in current prices. For the period 2021-2024, the financial envelope shall be EUR 1 000 000 000 and for the period 2025-2027, EUR 450 000 000 in current prices.

In addition to this budget, Member States may, at their request, transfer additional resources to the budget of the instrument. The additional resources shall be used to finance actions eligible for technical support and shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the Member State concerned.

Rule of law

The Commission shall implement the instrument in accordance with the Financial Regulation, including full compliance with the rules for the protection of the Union's budget in the case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States in accordance with Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council [Rule of Law Mechanism in the MFF].

Dialogue between the institutions

In order to enhance the dialogue between the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability, the competent committee of the European Parliament may invite representatives of the Council and of the Commission to discuss the implementation of the instrument.

Transparency

Beneficiaries shall ensure, for the benefit of the general public, maximum transparency concerning the actions and financial flows under this instrument. Such transparency may only be limited by legal acts related to commercial confidentiality, applicable data protection rules or undergoing administrative or criminal investigations by the Union bodies. All public procurements shall be published on the EU Open Data Portal.

Technical Support Instrument

2020/0103(COD) - 19/01/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 540 votes to 75, with 77 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a technical support instrument.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, amending the Commission proposal as follows:

General objectives

The general objective of the instrument should be to promote the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion by supporting Member States' efforts to implement reforms to:

- encourage investment, to increase competitiveness and to achieve sustainable economic and social convergence, resilience and recovery;

- support Member States' efforts to strengthen their institutional and administrative capacity, including at regional and local level, to facilitate socially inclusive, green and digital transitions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets and climate neutrality by 2050 target, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Specific objectives

The instrument should have the specific objectives of assisting national authorities in improving their capacity to:

- design, develop and implement reforms;

- prepare, amend, implement and revise recovery and resilience plans pursuant to a Regulation establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Those specific objectives should be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States concerned, including through exchange of good practices, processes and methodologies, stakeholder involvement, where appropriate, and a more effective and efficient human resources management.

Scope

The instrument should support reforms in policy areas related to cohesion, competitiveness, education, productivity, research and innovation, smart, fair, sustainable and inclusive growth, jobs and investment, with specific emphasis on actions that foster the digital and just green transitions.

Particular focus should be made the following:

- public financial and asset management, budget process, including green and gender budgeting, macro-fiscal framework, debt and cash management, expenditure and tax policy, tax compliance, revenue administration and customs union, as well as fighting aggressive tax planning, tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance;

- enhancing capacity to absorb Union funds, promotion of administrative cooperation, effective rule of law, reform of the justice systems, capacity building of competition and antitrust authorities, strengthening of financial supervision and reinforcement of the fight against fraud, corruption and money laundering;

- business environment, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed, entrepreneurs and social economy enterprises, the re-industrialisation and relocation of production to the Union;

- education, life-long learning and training, vocational education and training, youth policies, labour market policies, including social dialogue, for the creation of jobs;

- accessible, affordable and resilient public healthcare, social security systems, care and welfare, and childcare;

- policies for the mitigation of climate change;

- financial sector policies and regulation, including financial literacy, financial stability, access to finance and lending to the real economy, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed and entrepreneurs;

- preparation for membership of the euro area;

- early detection of and a coordinated response to substantial public health or security risks, as well as ensuring business and service continuity for essential public and private institutions and sectors.

Budget

The Technical Support Instrument would have a budget of EUR 864 million for the period 2021-2027 (in current prices). In addition to this budget, Member States could, at their request, transfer additional resources to the budget of the instrument. The additional resources would be used to finance actions eligible for technical support and would be used exclusively for the benefit of the Member State concerned.

To allow for the rapid mobilisation of technical support in case of urgency, a limited amount of the budget within the work programme of the instrument, not exceeding 30 % of the yearly allocation, should be set aside for special measures.

Transparency

The Commission should establish a single online public repository through which it could, 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.