Call for expressions of interest:

TAIEX EIR support for outermost regions on water resilience and marine environment:

European Commission –TAIEX EIR in cooperation with DG REGIO

Deadline for applications: 15 December 2026

Contact: ENEST-ENV-TAIEX-EIR@ec.europa.eu

Indicative timeframe for delivery of support: by July 2027.

The European Commission is launching a **call for expressions of interest** to establish a list of outermost regions interested in requesting TAIEX EIR support on water resilience and marine environment.

1. What is TAIEX EIR?

TAIEX EIR is a flexible, rapidly deployable and tailor-made tool in supporting **peer to peer exchanges** between **national, regional and local** authorities in EU Member States responsible for implementing **environmental policy and legislation** as part of the **Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)**.

These peer-learning activities help to strengthen administrative capacity, improve technical knowledge and promote the exchange of experience and good practices. They can support action to address the implementation gaps and recommendations identified in the EIR Country Reports. They may also contribute to environmental priorities identified in other relevant EU policy frameworks, including the **European Semester, National Energy and Climate Change Plans (NECPs), Just Transition Plans** and recovery and **Recovery and Resilience plans** under the new Resilience and Recovery Facility.

Depending on the needs identified, TAIEX EIR can organise the following types of support:

- **Expert Missions**:
  Public-sector experts from one EU Member State travel to a requesting public authority in another EU Member State to provide advice and exchange experience on a specific topic. Expert missions can last between **two to five days.**

- **Study Visits:**
  Participants from the beneficiary EU public administration visit another EU Member State institution to learn from peers and exchange good practices. Study visits can last between **two to five days.**
- **Workshops:**
  Experts from one or more EU Member States address a wider audience from one or more EU public administrations. Workshops would normally last **two days**.

2. Background:

Outermost context

Although geographically distant from the European continent, the outermost regions are an integral part of the European Union. EU law and all the rights and duties associated with EU membership apply to them. In accordance with Article **349 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**, specific measures and provisions in EU policies, legislation and programmes help these regions address the permanent constraints they face, including remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a limited number of products.

The upcoming 2026 Commission's strategy for the outermost regions aims to boost their sustainable growth and improve the quality of life for people living there, by delivering on several broad objectives:

- Their geostrategic potential and the importance of regional integration
- Improve their competitiveness and access to the single market
- Resilience and preparedness
- Social fairness and supporting people

To this end, the strategy will build on each regions' unique assets such as their vast maritime zones, and diverse ecosystems and subtropical climates, which makes them unique spots for biodiversity, water independence and resilience, blue economy or research potential.

Water resilience policy context

Water resilience is an increasing priority across the EU, and particularly relevant for outermost regions, many of which face structural water stress, vulnerability to drought, high dependence on desalination or other non-conventional water resources, and greater exposure to climate impacts.

Relevant policy and legislative frameworks include in particular:

- *the **Water Framework Directive**:* including the need to improve classification of water bodies, strengthen monitoring systems, develop more robust programmes of measures, tackle obstacles to implementation and ensure adequate financing, including through the cost recovery and the polluter pays principles.

- *the **Drinking Water Directive:*** including the need to ensure safe, continuous and compliance drinking water supply, including in a desalination-based drinking water system, water safety planning, quality control and continuity of supply.

- *the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive:*** including stricter treatment requirements, better management of pollutants; support the circularity through water reuse and resource recovery, climate adaptation and improved access to sanitation.

- the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: including the need to protect, preserve and restore of the marine ecosystems while securing a more sustainable use of marine resources.

The broader policy objective is to support:

- the restoration and protection of the water cycle and marine ecosystems;
- the development of a water-smart economy;
- efficient water use and reduced losses;
- access to clean and affordable water for all; and
- the exchange of best practices and improved governance.

2. Objective of this call:

The objective of this call is to identify outermost regions interested in receiving TAIEX EIR support to strengthen water resilience through peer exchange with public authorities in other EU Member States.

Support may address, for example:

- The development of resilient water management plans under conditions of water scarcity
- The improvement of governance, monitoring and operational resilience of drinking water supply systems, including desalination-based systems;
- The use of non-conventional water resources, such as treated wastewater reuse, rainwater harvesting and desalination;
- Groundwater monitoring, assessment and management;
- Water demand management, including water-efficiency and water-saving measures
- Reduction of leakages and improvement of water infrastructure performance;
- Coherence between the Water Framework Directive and the Drinking Water Directive implementation, thereby addressing both the security of drinking water supply and the broader water management objectives including promotion of more sustainable water use (for potable and non-potable purposes).
- Resilience of water production, storage, distribution and treatment systems in the context of climate change;
- Approaches adapted to the outermost regions.
- The improvement of monitoring and assessment of the marine waters and environment (set limits or threshold values, levels of pressure or impact without significant or irreversible damage on marine life and its habitats).

4. Example of possible TAIEX EIR support:

- **Workshops** on water management and resilience best practices, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by the outermost regions.

- **Expert Missions** to review the territorial planning or governance approaches for water management, including instruments such as a PTGE (Projet de Territoire pour la Gestion de l'Eau) or he River Basin Management Plan; where relevant;

- **Study Visits** for technical team from the regional public authority to learn from another EU Member State's experience in areas such as desalination, wastewater reuse, groundwater management, leakage reduction or water demand management.

5. Who can apply?

Requests may be submitted by **public authorities and public bodies** involved in the implementation of EU environmental policy and law in the EU Member States, including:

- National, regional, and local departments and agencies;
- Coordinating authorities;
- Inspection and audit authorities;
- Permitting authorities;
- Regional or local environmental implementation businesses entrusted with a public task, and with the application supported by an authority

6. Application process:

Applications are subject to approval by the European Commission. If a request is eligible, sufficiently justified and approved, the European Commission will assess the needs, identify suitable public experts from other EU Member States, agree the practical arrangements, and organise the logistics through an external contractor.

Applicants should apply via the **TAIEX Application form,** and select the option **TAIEX EIR Peer 2 Per option.**

Submission of an expression of interest does not automatically entail the granting of TAIEX EIR support.

7. Deadline and timing:

- **Deadline for expressions of interest***:* 15 December 2026
- **Indicative timeframe for organising the activities:** by July 2027.

8. Questions:

Questions may be sent to: ENEST-ENV-TAIEX-EIR@ec.europa.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference **“Call for expressions of interest - Outermost regions’ support on water resilience"**

9. Further information

More information about the TAIEX EIR Peer 2 Peer is available on the European Commission Website: TAIEX EIR peer 2 peer tool - Environment - European Commission

Resources for inspiration:
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/TMSWebRestrict/resources/js/app/#/library/list