Structural Reform Support Programme

Heads of Tax Administration meeting
"Looking towards 2025"
13-14 June 2018, Thessaloniki, Greece

Frank Van Driessche

SRSS

Structural Reform Support Service

Established in 2015 to provide support for structural reforms

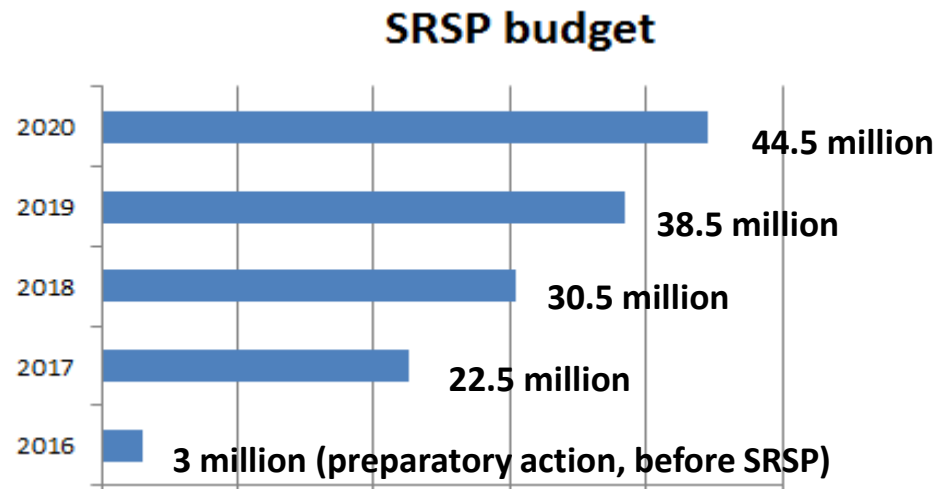Offices in **Brussels, Athens** and **Nicosia**

About **180 staff**

- focus on **implementation**

- **support on the ground - tailor-made,** covering all reform stages

- provided only **upon request** from a Member State

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Structural Reform Support Programme

Programme for ALL EU Member States

- SRSP "dedicated" budget: €142.8 million(2017-2020)

SRSP budget

Year	Budget
2020	44.5 million
2019	38.5 million
2018	30.5 million
2017	22.5 million
2016	3 million (preparatory action, before SRSP)

- "Additional" budget: voluntary contribution from Member States

- Commission proposal to increase budget for SRSP 2019-2020 by €80 million

NO CO-FINANCING required by member states

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Context in which support is provided

- Member States submit a request regarding…

Member State's own reform priorities	• To achieve cohesion, investment, growth, job creation and competitiveness
Economic governance processes	• European Semester recommendations • Union Law • EU policy priorities • Better use of EU funds
Adjustment programmes	• Adjustment programme reform agendas

- Member States have the <u>ownership</u> of each reform

4

SRSP 2017 & 2018 – General trends

➢ Demand for technical support has **exceeded expectations**

➢ The SRSS has extended its geographic coverage to **almost all EU Member States**

➢ Projects are becoming **more substantial** both in the **scope and the level of ambition**

Structural Reform Support Service

Scope: a wide range of areas

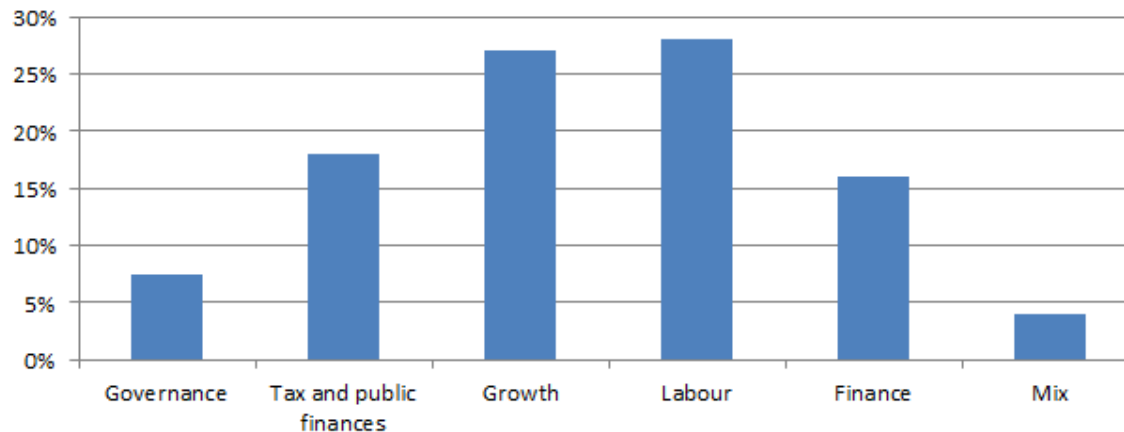| Governance and public administration | Tax revenue and public financial management | Growth and business environment | Labour market, health and social services | Financial sector and access to finance |

SRSP per area:

SRSP 2017

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Support to Revenue Administrations and PFM

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- DESIGNING A COMPLIANCE STRATEGY
- PREVENTING AND TACKLING VAT FRAUD
- TAX ADMINISTRATION DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT TOOL (TADAT)
- STRENGTHENING THE AUDIT FUNCTION
- IMPROVING TAXPAYER SERVICES
- ENHANCING THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS
- CHANGE MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- SPENDING REVIEWS AND BUDGET PREPARATION
- ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING
- FISCAL COUNCILS
- SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS

TAX POLICY

- TAX LEGISLATION
- TAX GAP ANALYSIS
- TAX MODELLING
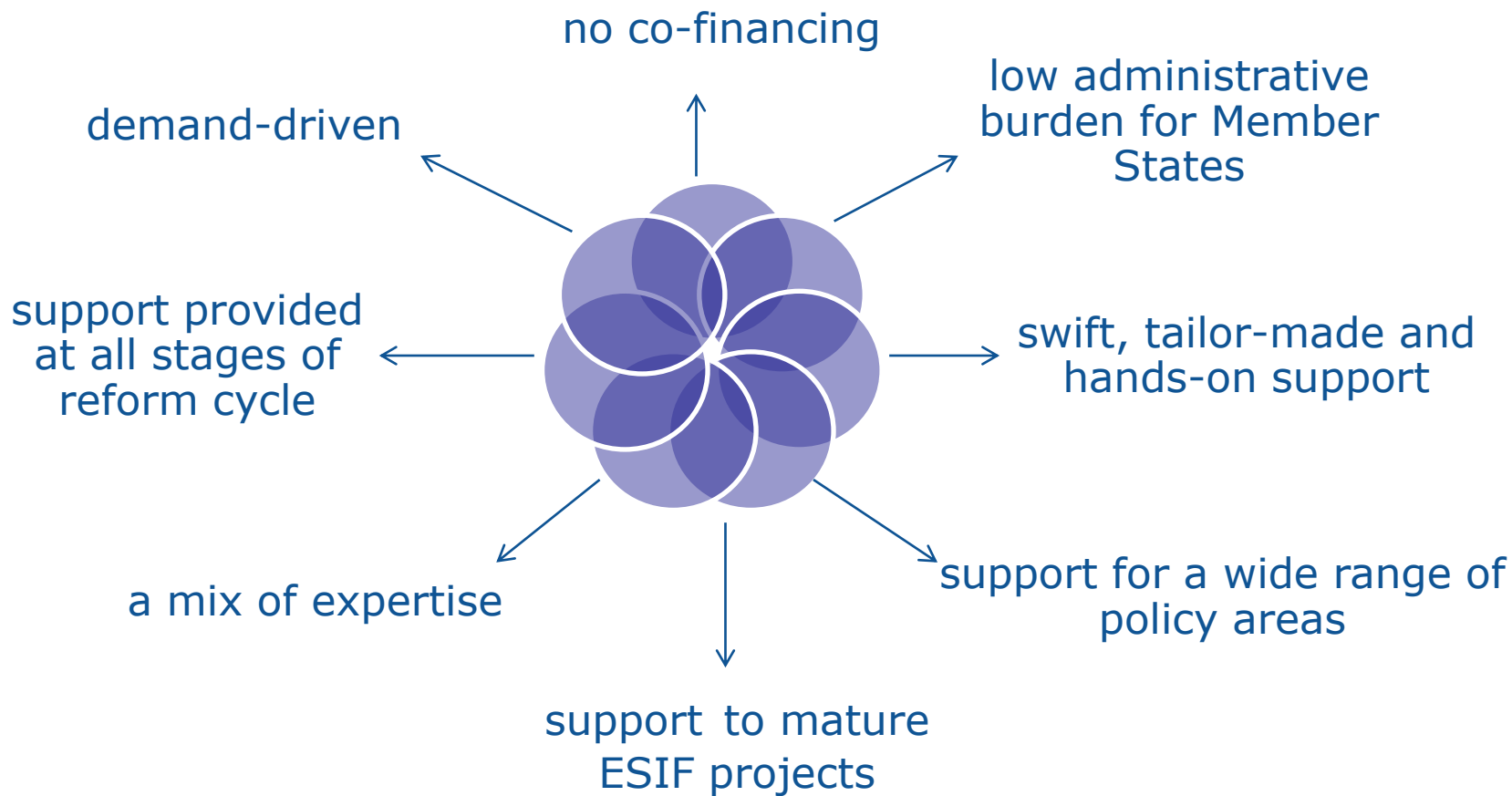- TRANSFER PRICING AND FIGHT AGAINST AGGRESSIVE TAX PLANNING
- MICRO AND MACRO SIMULATIONS

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Broad range of instruments and support

SRSS

- Provides **direct support** from the Commission services

- Coordinates **support from the public administrations** of Member States and/or agencies

- Coordinates **support from international organisations**

- Contracts with the **private sector**

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Benefits of SRSP

no co-financing

low administrative burden for Member States

demand-driven

support provided at all stages of reform cycle

swift, tailor-made and hands-on support

a mix of expertise

support for a wide range of policy areas

support to mature ESIF projects

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Example: Support in the IT field

- **_Aim_:**
  Support in modernization of IT processes in the tax administration

- **_Swift and tailor-made support_:**
  use of the Commission's framework contracts

- **_Mix of expertise_:**
  private and public sector experts

- **_Low administrative burden_:**
  all procurement by SRSS

- **_Support provided at all stages of reform cycle_:**
  scoping, design and implementation

- **_ESIF:_**
  preparation of technical specifications for ESIF

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Set-up of an independent revenue agency

Optimising Processes in tax administration

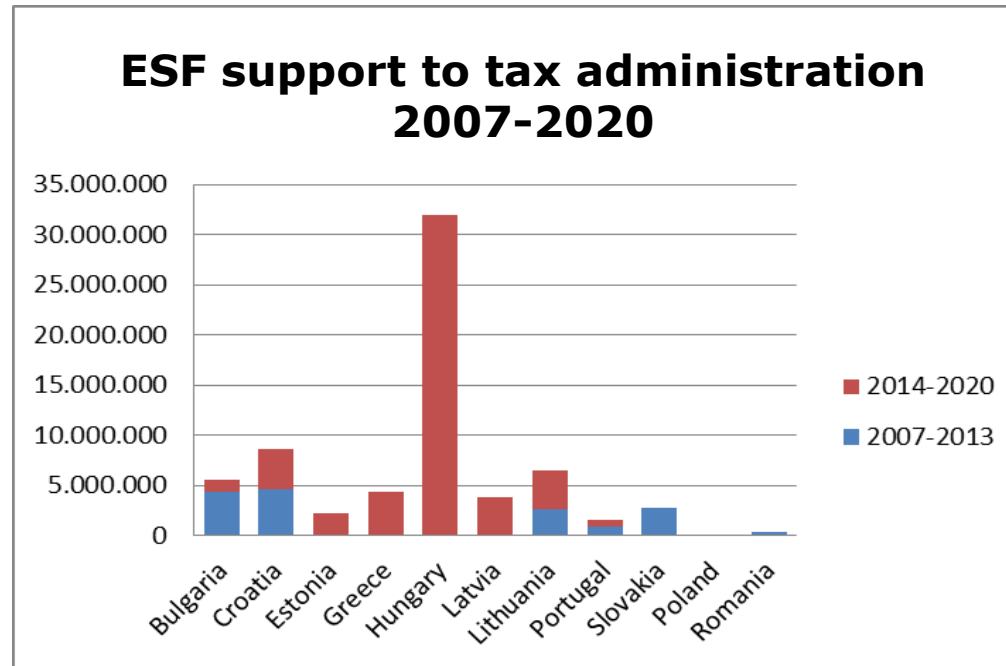*Modernising tax audits*

CIT Gap Analysis

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Support through ESIF (1/2)

Revenue administrations may be supported by ESIF (ESF and ERDF):

- **Under Thematic Objective 11 -** for enhancing institutional capacity of public administration

- **Under Thematic Objective 2 –** mainly for hardware/ICT infrastructure

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ESF support to tax administration 2007-2020

SRSS provides support to Member States to **mature** ESIF projects and **increase absorption**

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Request for support by **31 October 2018**

- All requests from one Member State are submitted in a **centralised way through the National Coordinating Authority**

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Looking forward: Reform Support Programme

- **Proposal** of the Commission adopted on 31.5.2018

- Total budget: **EUR 25 billion**

- 3 separate but **complementary instruments**:

  a) Reform Delivery Tool
  b) Technical Support Instrument
  c) Convergence facility

European Commission
Structural Reform
Support Service

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/overview-funding-programmes/structural-reform-support-programme-srsp_en

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THANK YOU