



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

### **Email from Graeme McCammon, Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NICO) on the benefits of Twinning, 30 May 2014**

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As discussed please find enclosed my bullet points below:

- Staff Development – Twinning has given public sector employees opportunity that they didn't think existed. I have regularly noticed that civil service staff involved in Twinning projects for the first time show a reluctance to get involved – however after their first inputs they have gained a lot of confidence and enthusiasm for further visits. Invariably, I have also noticed a trend where a number of civil service involved in Twinning have passed a number of promotion boards;
- Developing and Nurturing longer-term working relationships with other EU Member states (both in partnership and in delivery) – one good example of this was when Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development staff (DARD) delivered a Water Framework Directive in Poland over a 24-month period. Following accession this strong working relationship was nurtured further when they began to sit on joint committees in Brussels. In addition, the Poles started to introduce DARD staff to other E/C Europe staff from Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia which was useful in future voting sessions, etc.