

PTB in brief

A globalized international economy calls for globalized metrology. This is why the orientation and impact of PTB, the national metrology institute of Germany, is not restricted to the national borders.

PTB with its 1,800 staff members is rather a „global player“ in the world of metrology and faces the responsibility involved for society, economy and science.

The international tasks of PTB include cooperation in all kinds of metrological organizations (the Meter Convention being the most prominent example) and cooperation with national metrology institutes all over the world. Furthermore, the PTB International Technical Cooperation advises and supports the conceptual design and practical implementation in the establishment of the quality infrastructure in developing and transition countries.

The clients of the Technical Cooperation projects are above all the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) which finances the majority of projects with PTB participation, but also the European Union, the World Bank and other organizations. For the implementation of projects a network of strategic partners is available.

All in all, the global networking of PTB has one major objective: the international harmonization of quality infrastructure and its mutual acceptance.

Project Data

Development of a Demand-Oriented and Regionally Harmonized Quality Infrastructure (QI) in the Caribbean

Source of finance

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Commission value

1,000,000 EUR

Implementing agency

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)
National Metrology Institute, Germany
CROSQ (CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality)

Term

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Development of a Demand-Oriented and Regionally Harmonized Quality Infrastructure (QI) in the Caribbean

Background

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signed with EU opens up new market access possibilities for the Caribbean. However, the Caribbean countries can only benefit from the increasing liberalisation of the markets and the negotiated economic agreements if they can face the quality requirements of these markets and are able to implement technical regulations and international standards. This is the only way they will in fact use the improved access to more demanding international markets made possible by trade agreements and make their own internal markets more competitive in comparison with imports. The development potential of intra-regional trade should also be used. This can only succeed through an effective Regional Quality Infrastructure (QI) which, however, has not yet either quantitatively or qualitatively reached a level that can adequately respond to the demand. The small national economies of the CARIFORUM region represent a limiting factor to the development of QI systems and make regional cooperation and work sharing necessary in the provision of QI services.



The realisation of the Regional Quality Infrastructure is done through the harmonisation of the regional metrology, standards, testing and quality assurance procedures with respect to goods and services produced or provided in the Community, with accepted international standards, in order to facilitate global trade. To achieve these objectives the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) has been established in 2002.

Objectives

The goal of the project is to develop the Regional Quality Infrastructure in the CARIFORUM countries on a coordinated, worksharing, demand-oriented basis towards international recognition. The project works regionally and includes all CARIFORUM Member States.

Components of support

The project will achieve the purpose through the following components:

1. Development of a regional mechanism for traceability in metrology
2. Development of a regional mechanism for accreditation
3. Support the CROSQ-Secretariat and the National Bureau of Standards to be responsive to needs and demands of QI-stakeholders and clients, both public and private
4. Enhance CROSQ's advisory and networking capacity on regional and international strategy and policy issues

Apart from strengthening the technical and entrepreneurial capacity of individual organisations in the field of metrology and accreditation, the project will, with time, focus increasingly on furthering the capacities for the coordination, cooperation and work sharing of QI services within the region.

Components of support are technical, organisational and process consultancy by international, regional and national short-term experts, basic and advanced training as well as equipment to a limited extent (e.g. laboratory equipment, IT).



Cooperation

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ, Germany) and is complementary to the IDB/PTB project „Harmonized Regional Quality Infrastructure for Improving Market Access and Competitiveness“ and the PTB project „Strengthening of the Basic Metrological Infrastructure in the Caribbean to Improve Participation in Global Trade“.

National Implementation Partners

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) serves as executing agency for the project. As the regional organisation for quality and standardisation, CROSQ, is responsible for the coordination and strengthening of the quality infrastructure in the Caribbean region.

PTB and CROSQ, the executing agency, have signed an Implementation Agreement for the execution of the project.

