

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 1,500 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 above all one objective: the international harmonization of quality infrastructure and its mutual acceptance.



Project data

Promotion of Regional Cooperation in South Eastern Europe in the Field of Quality Infrastructure

Source of finance

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Commission value

Total value: 300,000 €

Implementing agency

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)
National Metrology Institute, Germany

Term

From December 2006 to November 2009

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Promotion of Regional Cooperation in South Eastern Europe in the Field of Quality Infrastructure

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey

Background

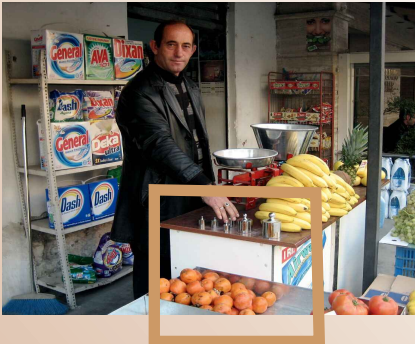
The countries of South-Eastern Europe are moving towards European structures, some of them having already joined the European Union and all others planning to do so in the future.

The importance of Quality Infrastructure is reflected in the Stabilization and Association Agreements that the countries signed with the EU as well as in the *acquis communautaire*, both of which have separate chapters dealing with the harmonization obligations in the field of Quality Infrastructure.

Regional cooperation in the field of Quality Infrastructure has the potential - through information exchange, joint trainings, joint use of costly facilities, regional measurement comparisons, etc. – to lead to more efficient, more proficient structures that promote development.

Quality Infrastructure: the Interplay of Metrology, Testing, Standardization, Certification and Accreditation.

A modern and well-integrated Quality Infrastructure is the warranty of high quality for almost all products and services. It is necessary for export promotion, consumer protection, public health and environmental protection. State institutions play a central role in shaping a country's Quality Infrastructure.



This project, carried out by PTB on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, supports the cooperation in the field of Quality Infrastructure between the countries and territories of South-Eastern Europe in three ways:

- by facilitating the process of developing regional cooperation
- by giving conceptual inputs
- by giving support to the countries which are applicants to the regional organizations of quality infrastructure in order to allow them to actively participate in the regional activities

Objective

The project aims to continuously improve the Quality Infrastructure in the region through the synergies gained from regional cooperation. Improving the Quality Infrastructure will bring substantial benefits to consumers, producers and traders, and accelerate the EU accession process.

Tools

Within this project, PTB foremost acts as an impartial facilitator willing to share its assets (a high profile international network, top level expertise, and experience in assisting transition economies) for the benefit of a functioning Quality Infrastructure in South-Eastern Europe.

PTB technically and financially supports regional measurement comparisons, cross-country trainings of experts as well as meetings and conferences on strategic topics relating to the development of a regional Quality Infrastructure.

National Implementation Partners

The National Metrology Institutes of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey.

