



South Caucasus Region

Strengthening of Food Testing and Metrology in the Countries of Southern Caucasus

Objective	The project aims to develop the supply of internationally recognised services of food testing laboratories and to provide assurance that the reform processes of national metrology institutes are executed technically sound in the countries of the Southern Caucasus.
Approach	<p>The overall objective is to be achieved by means of three main areas of cooperation. First, the project intends to support food-testing laboratories in offering demand-oriented, internationally recognised testing services. Second, the connections between food testing laboratories are to be improved on the national, regional and international level. Third, the project will accompany and support the modernisation of national metrology institutes.</p> <p>The partners will be public and private testing laboratories as well as national metrology institutes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.</p> <p>The partners are provided with expert coaching and training for developing technical and managerial skills based on the international norm ISO/IEC 17025:2005. This norm specifies the technical competences of testing and calibration laboratories. Its implementation constitutes the basis for an international recognition. Regional and international training sessions, study tours and participation in relevant international conferences and proficiency testing schemes will enable the laboratories to perform according to international best practices. Complementary support will be provided to the modernisation processes of the national metrology institutes.</p>
Impact	<p>By building more and better national services that are aligned with international trade and food safety requirements, the project will contribute to the safety and quality of food products from the region. Benefits will be generated for producers, processors, and distributors of food products, as the testing by internationally recognised laboratories will open possibilities to international trade, as well as to consumers, who will be protected from incorrect measurements and products.</p> <p>The modernisation of metrology institutes will have long-term impacts on the quality infrastructure. It will ensure the compliance of international standards, the availability of traceable calibration services, the quality of conformity assessment bodies, and the reduction of calibration costs for national clients.</p>
Cooperation	Within the project, the PTB will cooperate with relevant programmes of international organisations such as the German Corporation for International Cooperation, the World Bank, and the European Union.
Financing	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Term	2014 – 2018
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