

Europe and the CIS



Central Asia

Strengthening Quality Infrastructure in the Countries of Central Asia

Objective	The project aims to strengthen quality infrastructure institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to develop quality assurance services for the economy in accordance with international standards.	
Approach	<p>As the state of quality infrastructure development in Central Asia differs from country to country, the PTB project combines country-specific capacity development activities with a regional approach. The project components address four main fields of actions at different levels: strategy and legislation, service development, user relations, and regional exchange.</p> <p>At the strategic level, the project provides consultancy on the harmonization of the legal and institutional framework of quality infrastructure with international recommendations and best practices. With regards to service development, it aims at consolidating and facilitating the further development of technical competences in the national quality infrastructure institutions, mainly metrology and accreditation. In its third component, the project supports the partner institutions in intensifying their relationship with the private sector and addressing the demand for quality assurance services in selected business applications. Finally, the project seeks to strengthen regional collaboration and exchange of experience between the national quality infrastructure institutions of Central Asia.</p>	
Impact	<p>The countries of Central Asia currently undergo a process of transformation that encompasses their economic and institutional frameworks as well as trade relations. For historical reasons, institutions of the national quality infrastructure in post-Soviet countries have primarily concentrated on regulating and controlling economic activity. Nowadays, the needs of the economy, emerging industries, and export-oriented companies require them to reshape their mind-set to that of a service-provider. The development of internationally recognised quality assurance services is vitally important for facilitating trade and exports, creating added value, and increasing competitiveness. The integration in regional economic communities, such as the Eurasian Economic Union, WTO accession plans and the participation in preferential trade agreements (e.g. the European Union's GSP+) boost the demand for internationally recognised quality standards, certifications, and test results. Enhancing the technical competences and institutional capacities to provide recognised quality assurance services, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, will support trade development and the competitiveness of Central Asian products on national and international markets.</p>	
Cooperation	The project is carried out in close cooperation with other implementing agencies of German development cooperation, particularly with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). On a country basis, the project also collaborates with projects by other bilateral and multilateral donor organisations, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JICA, and UNIDO.	
Financing	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
Term	2019–2023	
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