



Uzbekistan

Supporting the Reform of the National Quality Infrastructure

Objective	The project aims to support the reform of the national quality infrastructure in Uzbekistan to improve the availability of internationally recognized quality assurance services for the productive sector.	
Approach	<p>Uzbek companies have limited access to internationally recognized supportive services for quality assurance and improvement limiting their potential for growth and competitiveness. Therefore, the PTB project follows a systemic approach addressing the supply and demand side of quality assurance services in Uzbekistan on three different levels: strategy and legislation, capacity and service, and cooperation with the private sector.</p> <p>At the strategic level, the project aims to establish a national exchange platform on the topic of quality infrastructure to integrate relevant ministries and other stakeholders in the coordination and further development of the national quality infrastructure. With regard to service development, it aims at consolidating and facilitating the further development of technical competencies in the national quality infrastructure institutions, mainly metrology and accreditation. The third component supports the partner institutions in intensifying their relationship with the private sector to improve the user orientation of the provided quality assurance services, increase the demand for these services, and improve the understanding of quality requirements. Finally, the professional qualification and consultancy is supported by awareness-raising measures at the political and user levels.</p>	
Impact	<p>Uzbekistan currently undergoes a process of transformation that encompasses the economic and institutional frameworks as well as trade relations. Quality infrastructure builds the framework conditions for successful private-sector activity, productivity, trade and innovation. The international recognition of measurements, tests, and certificates removes technical barriers to trade and helps Uzbek producers engage in export as well as in regional and international value chains. Moreover, more competitive entrepreneurs can create more jobs and, thus, generate income opportunities for the employees. In addition, the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession plans boost the demand for internationally recognized quality standards, certifications, and test results. Therefore, the development of the national quality infrastructure that matches the needs of the private sector plays a key role in promoting sustainable economic development.</p> <p>Enhancing the technical competencies and institutional capacities to provide recognized quality assurance services as well as the awareness for the importance of these services will support trade development and competitiveness of Uzbek products, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector, on national and international markets.</p>	
Cooperation	The project is part of the German bilateral development cooperation on sustainable economic development. It is carried out in close cooperation with other implementing agencies of German development cooperation, particularly with GIZ within the scope of the project <i>Support for economic reforms and sustainable economic development in regions of Uzbekistan</i> and its regional projects.	
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