



PROJECT TEAM IN AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan Project Leader

Mr Sabiq Abdullayev

Director of Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC)
+99412 449 99 59 ext.109, sabdullayev@azstand.gov.az

Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA)

Mrs Zinaida Gorina

Seconded from the German Accreditation Body (DAkKS)
+99412 449 99 59 ext.239, gorina.zinaida@gmail.com

RTA Counterpart

Mr Firudin Jabrayilov

Head of Department CB and IB accreditation (AZAC)
+99412 449 99 59 ext.141, firudin.jabrayilov@yahoo.com

Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC)

124, Mardanov gardashlari str. AZ 1147 Baku, Azerbaijan

PROJECT TEAM IN GERMANY

German Project Leader

Dr. Norbert Schultes

German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
+49 30 18615 6039, norbert.schultes@bmwi.bund.de

Project Manager

Mrs Jana Klink

German Accreditation Body (DAkKS)
+49 30 670591 400, jana.klink@dakks.de

PROJECT PARTNERS IN ITALY AND LATVIA

Mr Giordano Angle

Italian Accreditation Body (ACCREDIA)
+39 06 8440991, giordano_angle@yahoo.com

Mrs Olga Veilande

Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (LATAK)
+371 66100311, olga.veilanda@latak.lv

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

The European Commission

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Instrument

Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan

AZ/13/ENI/TR/02/16(AZ46)

A Twinning Project supporting the Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC)

Implemented by a German-Italian-Latvian Consortium



TWINNING PROJECT: “Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan”



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Twinning project financed by European Union supports the implementation of the Azerbaijan-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

The National Accreditation Body of Azerbaijan is the Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC). AZAC works under the state supervision of the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCSMP).

AZAC in its activities shall be directed by the Azerbaijan legislation, standards and guideline documents internationally used in the field of accreditation. The important steps on this way will be the harmonization of the legislation, application of international and European standards and conformity assessment procedures.

This cooperation in the frame of Twinning project will promote improvement of the accreditation system of Azerbaijan so that it meets the European requirements and thus contributes to the economic growth of the country.

The project will facilitate progress towards mutual recognition in the field of accreditation, conformity assessment, as well as the improvement of the quality of Azerbaijan products and services.

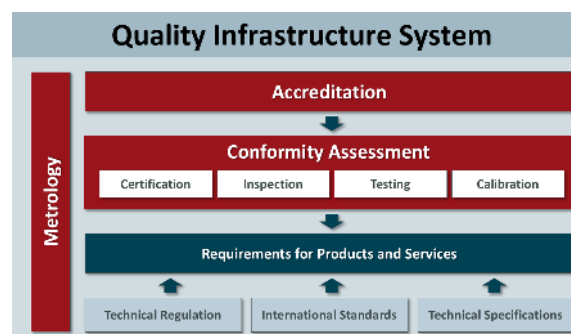
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the economic growth of Azerbaijan and to access to the world market through an accreditation system that meets the European requirements. By that the project will help to increase the quality of products and services in Azerbaijan and open the European market for them. The project purpose is to strengthen the capacity of the Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC) in line with the requirements of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA)

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION TO ISO/IEC 17000:2004?

“Third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.”

► Accreditation is the formal confirmation of competence



PROJECT COMPONENTS

Through its components, the Twinning Project supports AZAC in the following:

Component 1: Upgrading the Legal and Regulatory Framework

- ✓ Analysis of existing legal framework and current practical implementation
- ✓ Consultations on improvement
- ✓ Establishment of new legal and regulatory framework for accreditation

Component 2: Capacity Building

- ✓ Structured training approach including determination of training needs, training plan and manual
- ✓ Training of internal and external assessors by experience from MS experts

Component 3: Institutional Capacity Improvement

- ✓ Institutional gap analysis
- ✓ Internal management procedures
- ✓ Management of assessors and experts
- ✓ Accreditation procedures and practices

Component 4: External Communication and International Networking

- ✓ Awareness raising
- ✓ Cooperation with international and regional organizations in the field of accreditation

Project duration: 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2019