

Technical Assistance to Ukrainian Quality Infrastructure



Project Budget:
€3.1 million

Duration:
June 2008 - December 2010

Funded by:
European Union

Country of Implementation:
Ukraine

Project is implemented by:
Consortium led by European Profiles
S. A. (Greece)

Key Project Partners and Beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
- State Committee on Technical Regulations and Consumer Policy of Ukraine

Project's Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:

To strengthen and expand Ukrainian quality control institutions (all aspects of metrology, standardization, testing, quality management, conformity assessment and accreditation).

The project will aim at safer products and services in Ukraine, improving performance of the Ukrainian economy to produce EU and internationally compliant goods and services, and increasing foreign direct investments by aligning the Ukrainian infrastructure for quality with international and EU regulatory and administrative practices as agreed in the EU-Ukraine Action Plan of February 2004 and the Action Plan on the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA) of 19 December 2005.

Specifically the project will target reforming Ukrainian institutions for quality comprising standardisation, market surveillance, metrology and conformity assessment, and consolidation and review of responsibilities, governance and accountability mechanisms. It will also assist in developing professional education in relevant fields, strengthening consumer protection and consumer movements, and raising industry's awareness of benefits of the EU Internal Market quality assurance system.

Improving Ukraine's quality infrastructure will have threefold results:

- It will increase companies' competitiveness;
- It will break down technical barriers to trade;
- It will help achieve Ukraine's objectives in the fields of the environment, health and consumer protection.

Project's expected results:

- Proposals for new legal framework on quality issues to support the institutional reform of the quality infrastructure and abolishment of outdated Soviet-era standards.
- Support to harmonisation of legal and normative framework in construction industry with the European Building Codes (Eurocodes).
- Development of coordination system in the spheres of standardisation and conformity assessment with branch ministries and establishment of procedures for cooperation and information exchange between main components of the Ukrainian institutional infrastructure for quality.
- Market appraisals to assess the sustainability of the independent infrastructure for quality and proposals on place and role of ex-Government services in the new organisation of the national quality infrastructure.
- Support establishment of the system of market surveillance in line with European and international practices.
- Support establishment of a transparent and independent Ukrainian National Standardisation Body.
- Development of legal metrology and metrological support for production of packed goods.
- Institutional strengthening of conformity assessment sphere, support to integration of Ukrainian institutions into EU and international organisations.
- Strengthening education in the framework of the Ukrainian quality infrastructure.
- Development of a civil movement in consumer affairs.
- To increase awareness of Ukrainian business community of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, and of the benefits of the EU model for organization of quality infrastructure.

ENPI - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

The European Union is the largest donor to Ukraine. EU assistance to Ukraine over 2007-2013 will principally be provided under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which is being established to promote the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness between the EU and the partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

ENPI envelope for Ukraine will focus on the following three priority areas:

Support for Democratic Development and Good Governance

- Public administration reform and public finance management
- Rule of law and judicial reform
- Human rights, civil society development and local government
- Education, science and people-to-people contacts/exchanges

Support for Regulatory Reform and Administrative Capacity Building

- Promoting mutual trade, improving the investment climate and strengthening social reform
- Sector-specific regulatory aspects

Support for Infrastructure Development

- Energy
- Transport
- Environment
- Border management and migration including re-admission related issues

Indicative budget for Ukraine for the period 2007-2010 is €494 million:

Support for Democratic Development and Good Governance: €148.2 million (30%)

Support for Regulatory Reform and Administrative Capacity Building: €148.2 million (30%)

Support for Infrastructure Development: €197.6 million (40%)



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EU's strong support of trade and market reforms in Ukraine is based on seeing them as prerequisite to mutually beneficial, strong partner relations. The EU-Ukraine trade has been growing at a steady two-digit rate in recent years and amounted to €39.4 billion in 2008. Ukrainian exports to the EU increased by 15.1% while imports from the EU increased by 12.4%. The EU share in Ukraine's overall external trade in goods in 2007 was 39%.

On 18 February 2008, negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU and Ukraine were launched. The negotiations followed the finalisation of Ukraine's WTO accession process (Ukraine formally became a WTO member on 16 May 2008), which was prerequisite for the start of FTA negotiations. The FTA is part of the EU's wider policy of creating a stable and prosperous European neighbourhood through closer economic ties.

In order to assist and facilitate the process, the EU has been making multifaceted efforts aimed at facilitating Ukraine's progression along the selected way. Specifically, in line with the EU's commitment to assist Ukraine in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the EU has initiated a €4.74 million major sector-wide project on Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector which stems from the series of successful earlier projects in the agricultural and rural development sectors.

The EC is providing assistance to Ukraine to implement policy measures to remove technical barriers to trade between the EU and Ukraine through technical assistance, twinning and budget support mechanisms. In particular, two Twinning Projects, €1.4 million each, are currently in progress, involving the State Committee for Technical Regulation and Consumer Policy and the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine, from Ukrainian side, and the standardisation institutions of France, Germany and Netherlands, and the Accreditation Agency of Sweden, from the EU side.

For EU-Ukraine relations, SMEs (small and medium enterprises) have long been a key sector for cooperation: the EU-Ukraine Action Plan contains provisions stating the partners' intentions to jointly develop the Ukrainian legislative and administrative framework for SME promotion. The EU, on its part, is currently supporting the ongoing €2.5 million project "Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension" which will run until August 2009.