



## Eastern Partnership – Armenia

# Quality Standards for Increased Trade in the Eastern Partnership Countries

<b>Objective</b>	<p>The objective of this regional project is to ensure that quality infrastructure (QI) institutions in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries make progress toward bringing their services and processes for promoting value creation, productivity and innovation in line with international and European best practices. Green transformation and digitalization are crosscutting topics throughout the project.</p> <p>This document outlines the implementation of the project at the national level in the Republic of Armenia.</p>	
<b>Approach</b>	<p>At the operational level, the project strengthens the technical capacities of the QI institutions in Armenia, namely of the National Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), the National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB), and the Ministry of Economy (MoE) as the line ministry. The improvement of technical capacities and the overall maturity of the Armenian QI landscape will be evaluated by comparing the results of the Rapid Diagnostic Toolkit (RDT) obtained at the beginning and at the end of the project. In addition to supporting the supply side by developing the capacities of QI institutions and improving the international recognition of their services, the project also supports the demand-side orientation of QI services.</p> <p>A study has been conducted to identify growth- and export-relevant value chains and products and to select one value chain (VC) to which the Calidena methodology (<a href="https://www.calidena.ptb.de/">https://www.calidena.ptb.de/</a>), developed by PTB, will be applied in order to assess the role of QI services for that VC and identify and examine in detail any gaps. For Armenia, pharmaceutical products/drugs have been identified as the relevant sector, which is in line with the five-year strategic plan for the pharmaceutical sector published by the Government of Armenia in 2023. Beneficiaries of the Calidena process are the Armenian drug manufacturing industries, the Scientific Center of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise as the regulatory authority in this field, and the QI institutions. The project has launched its first call for project proposals within a Quality Infrastructure for Green Transformation (QI4GT) Fund (<a href="https://www.eastern-partnership.ptb.de/about-the-project/activities/ptb-fund-quality-infrastructure-for-green-transformation-qi4gt/">https://www.eastern-partnership.ptb.de/about-the-project/activities/ptb-fund-quality-infrastructure-for-green-transformation-qi4gt/</a>). Projects financed under this fund aim to enhance the collaboration between QI institutions and private and/or educational partners or associations. Armenian partners are involved in two such projects: one dealing with the recognition of organic production compliant with the latest EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848, and the second focused on the introduction of international standards used in the photovoltaic sector.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Companies from Armenia will fulfil the minimum regulatory requirements to be able to access the local and/or international market. In addition, they will develop and maintain a competitive advantage by meeting voluntary requirements imposed by the markets and customers.</p> <p>A well-functioning QI ecosystem composed of public and private entities will provide the necessary services for companies and other customers. QI relies on a coherent system of standardization, metrology, accreditation, testing and certification. These will provide transparent and reliable evidence of compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. Increasing the national visibility of QI and anchoring it in the international system will lead to a reevaluation of the participating stakeholders and to a sustainable strengthening of the QI institutions.</p> <p>At a higher impact level, the project will contribute to the improvement of consumer and environmental protection in addition to boosting the competitiveness of Armenian enterprises. It will serve to promote sustainable development and enhance the quality of life of Armenian citizens.</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	<p>The project is being planned and implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economy (MoE) of the Republic of Armenia, the National Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), the National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB), and the relevant public and private sector stakeholders involved in the Calidena and QI4GT activities.</p>	
<b>Financing</b>	<p>German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</p>	
<b>Term</b>	<p>2022–2025</p>	
<b>Contact</b>	<p>Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia Zhanna Zhakaryan, zhakaryan@mineconomy.am</p>	<p>Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt Stefan Wallerath, +49 531 592-8255, stefan.wallerath@ptb.de</p>

