



Uzbekistan

Support for the Reform of the National Quality Infrastructure and Development of Services for the Uzbek Economy

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	Uzbek companies have limited access to internationally recognized services for quality assurance, which hinders their potential for growth and competitiveness. In some cases, they are not aware of the services being offered in their country. In other cases, the services offered do not meet their demands, which means that companies have to pay more for services abroad. 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. At the strategic level, the project aims to make quality infrastructure institutions fit for using and complying with international best practices. Regarding service development, it aims at consolidating and facilitating the further development of technical competencies in the national quality infrastructure institutions, mainly metrology, standardization and accreditation. The third component supports the partner institutions in intensifying their relationship with the private sector to improve the user orientation of the services provided, increase the demand for these services, and improve the understanding of quality requirements. Finally, the project will implement awareness-raising measures at the political and user levels about the importance of national quality infrastructure and its linkages to every-day life.	
Impact	Uzbekistan is currently undergoing a process of transformation that encompasses 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 their employees. In addition, Uzbekistan's planned accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) boosts the demand for internationally recognized quality standards, certifications, and test results. Therefore, a functioning national quality infrastructure that is in line with the needs of the private sector plays a key role in promoting sustainable economic development. Similarly, enhancing the technical competencies of quality infrastructure institutions will result in improved and an increased number of services that are beneficial for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Once companies use internationally recognized quality assurance services, they will not only increase the quality of Uzbek products but also increase the competitiveness on national and international markets.	
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 bilateral and regional projects in sustainable economic development.	
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