Support for the National Accreditation Centre MOLDAC to successfully undergo the EA peer evaluation process
Twinning Project MD14/ENPI/TR/20

THE MOLDAC TWINNING PROJECT

A programme financed by the European Union (EU), carried out in partnership with the Italian National Accreditation Body (ACCREDIA)
ACCREDIA – The Italian National Accreditation Body

- Established in December 22nd, 2009 as sole national accreditation body on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008
- Manages more than 2000 accreditations in Italy and worldwide, with ~ 550 assessors and experts and more than 15300 days of assessment
- 3 departments (Rome, Milan, Turin)
- Signatory of IAF and EA-MLA and ILAC MRA for all scopes
- Other experiences in Twinning projects (Egypt and Azerbaijan)
- [www.accredia.it](http://www.accredia.it)
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ACCREDIA – The Italian Accreditation Body

The ACCREDIA accreditation areas

- Test Laboratories (including Laboratories for Food Safety)
- Medical Laboratories
- Calibration Laboratories
- Proficiency Testing Providers
- Producers of Reference Materials
- Certification Bodies of MS, PRD, PRS
- Inspection Bodies
- Verification Bodies (EU-ETS)
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THE PROJECT OVERALL OBJECTIVES

Improving the trade competitiveness of the Republic of Moldova and harmonizing the quality infrastructure with International and European standards.

Supporting MOLDAC to establish the conditions for the international recognition of its accreditation process for test results, calibration certificates, inspection reports and conformity certification of products, management systems and competence of persons.

Original project duration 6 months with 2 months prolongation (Sept. 2015 – April 2016)
PROJECT ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN 2 COMPONENTS

• C I – **Implementation activities**: to identify and fill the gaps of the MOLDAC accreditation process with respect to the applicable international standards (Management System governance and documents, competence of personnel)
  • 7 activities

• C II - **Control activities**: to periodically evaluate the progress of the improvement for ensuring proper implementation of anti-gaps measures
  • 3 activities
C I - Work methodology adopted for improvement

- assessing documents of the MOLDAC accreditation process and working together with MOLDAC personnel for improving them
- holding training sessions for improving the knowledge of MOLDAC personnel
- filling any identified gaps with respect to the requirements of the applicable ISO standards and EA/IAF documents by means of:
  - correction of the immediate effects (whenever possible)
  - analysis of the root causes which generated the gaps
  - identification and implementation of the proper corrective actions to remove the causes
  - check of the effectiveness of the corrective actions
C I - Missions of ACCREDIA experts in Moldova

- To assist with the **introduction of proper amendments in the MOLDAC documents** for conformity with the EA requirements
- To develop training material addressing procedural elements necessary to fill the gaps found during the project implementation
- To hold training sessions and workshops with in depth-knowledge in all relevant EA, IAF, ILAC applicable requirements.
- To assist with the **implementation of the new National Law on accreditation** for full compliance with EU and EA requirements
- To assess Moldova's situation regarding the **challenges ahead for MOLDAC to work in new areas** (forensic, medicines and medical devices)
C I - Study visits to Italy of MOLDAC personnel

- to give MOLDAC delegates an opportunity to visit the ACCREDIA departments (Rome, Milan and Turin)
- to organise the study tour in order to cover all aspects pertinent to the MOLDAC activity, including seminars, site visits, witnessing of CAB assessments conducted by ACCREDIA competent teams.
C II – Control activities to ensure proper implementation of anti-gaps measures

• In different stages of the project, the ACCREDIA assessors carried out 3 MOLDAC assessments, simulating the real peer evaluation process according to the EA standard (2/02)
• initial for identifying the gaps of MOLDAC accreditation process with reference to the international applicable accreditation standards
• mid-term and final to evaluate the progress of improvement during the project implementation and the final level of preparation in order to pass the real EA peer assessment to become a BLA signatory
Availability of training material and documents

- All material uploaded to Dropbox “**MOLDAC Twinning Project**“ for sharing documents and information available to all the interested parties, included EU.
- Publication on the ACCREDIA website of **relevant information** and **educational materials** presented during the activities of MOLDAC project, available for download.
- Banners, flyers and brochures for Opening and Closing Conferences.
- The interest of media (new papers, radio and TV) in Republic of Moldova.
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Numbers of the project

• More than 140 ACCREDIA man days
• More the ACCREDIA 30 travels for implementing project activities
• More than 15 Technical Experts from ACCREDIA for covering all the project areas
• 5 EA Peer Evaluators for conducting 3 simulated peer evaluations
• Study tours to Italy for 5 MOLDAC delegates
• 13 training sessions for more than 170 attendees
• Joint Assessments and follow up workshops with lessons learned
• About 250 open questions identified by MOLDAC after the 1st simulated Peer-Evaluation, all closed before the last simulated Peer-evaluation performed by ACCREDIA.
• about €200,000 to achieve Project’s goals
Overall Objective Achieved

Main key developments of the project in the area of accreditation for the Republic of Moldova were having contributed to:

- the publication of the **updated National Law of accreditation** in conformity with the EU requirements
- **brought under control the issue of traceability** of measurements in the area of calibration laboratories
- helped MOLDAC in **successfully passing the EA peer evaluation** and becoming an EA BLA signatory
POST-PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

After becoming an EA BLA signatory, it was expected that the MOLDAC activity will play a key role in harmonizing the quality infrastructure of the country with International and European standards and contributing to improve the trade competitiveness of the Republic of Moldova.
Main Success Factors

• Involvement of several ACCREDIA experts with sound competence in EA/IAF standards of whom 5 EA peer assessors competent in the several fields of interest

• Sharing expertise and background accumulated by ACCREDIA (MLA/MRA signatory in all the accreditation scopes)

• Regular communication and document sharing via cloud provided by ACCREDIA

• Flexible approach closely needs-oriented and tailor-made on the requests of MOLDAC
Main Success Factors

- excellent climate established between the partners
- good organization by MOLDAC
- strong commitment by both parties
- high level of interest of MOLDAC personnel,
- A comprehensive study visit to Italy
- language difference never a serious obstacle
- adherence to the time schedule
Achieved level of preparedness

Finally, MOLDAC decided to apply to become a signatory to EA BLA for the following areas of accreditation:

- Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17065)
- Management Systems Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17021)
- Calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Medical laboratories (ISO 15189)
Thank you for your attention

Marco Cerri - ACCREDIA Project Leader