



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM,  
TRADE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# REDUCING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE IN ALBANIA THROUGH REGULATORY COOPERATION

26th Session of the Working Party on Regulatory  
Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

GENEVA, 01.12.2016





# APPROXIMATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO THE EU *Acquis*

Stabilisation and Association Agreement

Building a quality infrastructure in line with the EU legal framework and implementing mechanisms

National Strategy for Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance (2015-2020)

Regional cooperation (CEFTA)

## Harmonisation of norms and practices

Our policy is to reduce technical barriers to trade by adopting European harmonised standards as Albanian standards.

- ⦿ 22 technical regulations are aligned with EU legislation
- ⦿ Inter-institutional Working Group (IWG) for Chapter 1 of the *acquis* composed by key experts responsible for technical regulations, accreditation and standardization
- ⦿ Presumption of conformity/safety of the relevant products placed in the market in reference of harmonized European standards
- ⦿ Market Surveillance Inspectorate cooperation with customs authorities
- ⦿ Awareness raising activities for the private sector, on technical regulations and harmonised standards

# BUILDING A QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

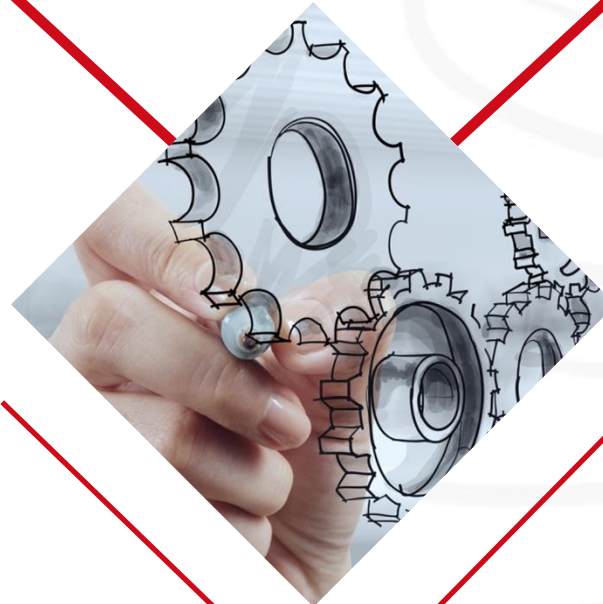


## STANDARDISATION

- ⊙ 9000 International and European standards adopted in the last 3 years
- ⊙ 97% of European standards adopted as national standards
- ⊙ About 210 local businesses have requested to obtain adopted standards
- ⊙ Higher representation of SMEs in the standardisation process

## METROLOGY

- ⊙ Transposition of Directive 2009/34/EC and Directive 2014/32/EU
- ⊙ 4 laboratories were accredited in September 2016
- ⊙ All the calibration laboratories implement quality management system (ISO/IEC 17025)
- ⊙ New measurement instruments in 10 additional fields in 2017



## ACCREDITATION AND CABS

- ⊙ There are **57 accredited bodies** in total (32 testing laboratories, 3 medical laboratories, 3 calibration laboratory, 6 certification bodies (3 for management system and three for personnel certification), 13 inspection bodies)
- ⊙ Creation of electronic system for accreditation procedures management in 2017.
- ⊙ We are working towards the establishment of an inventory of CABS in Albania.

## MARKET SURVEILLANCE

- ⊙ Establishment of the market surveillance inspectorate in January this year
- ⊙ Adoption of surveillance standard operational procedures and methods of risk classification and assessment
- ⊙ Its structure was approved with a staff of about 90 employees
- ⊙ In 2017 it will be fully operational.

# INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

## STANDARDISATION

CEN

CENELEC

ISO

IEC

ETSI

Cooperation agreements and MoU with homologue institutions (Kosovo, Montenegro, FYROM, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russian Federation, Croatia).

## METROLOGY

OIML

EURAMET

WELMEC

IMEKO

BIPM-CGPM

Various inter-laboratory comparisons with EURAMET

Training of staff with the assistance of the German government.

## ACCREDITATION

EA MLA signatory (testing)

ILAC MRA signatory (testing)

IAF

TAIEX program

MoU with homologue institutions (Greece, Romania, Kosovo, Montenegro, FYROM, Turkey, Poland and Hungary).

Bilateral projects with PTB and Turkak.



# CHALLENGES IN APPROXIMATING AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION



**ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY**



**FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS**



**TECHNICAL EXPERTISE**



**AWARENESS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR**





## CONCLUSION

- Ⓞ Roundtables with the business sector to inform them on EU technical regulations and harmonised standards.
- Ⓞ Involvement of the business community in the discussion of product legislation will be the general rule. their role as advisory group in inter-institutional working group for Chapter 1 will be very active in the integration process. The IWG is one of the platforms which can be used by the industry.
- Ⓞ Establishment and functioning of the Trade Facilitation Committee - UNECE recommendations under the Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade have become part of the action plan of the Trade Facilitation Committee.



**THANK YOU**

