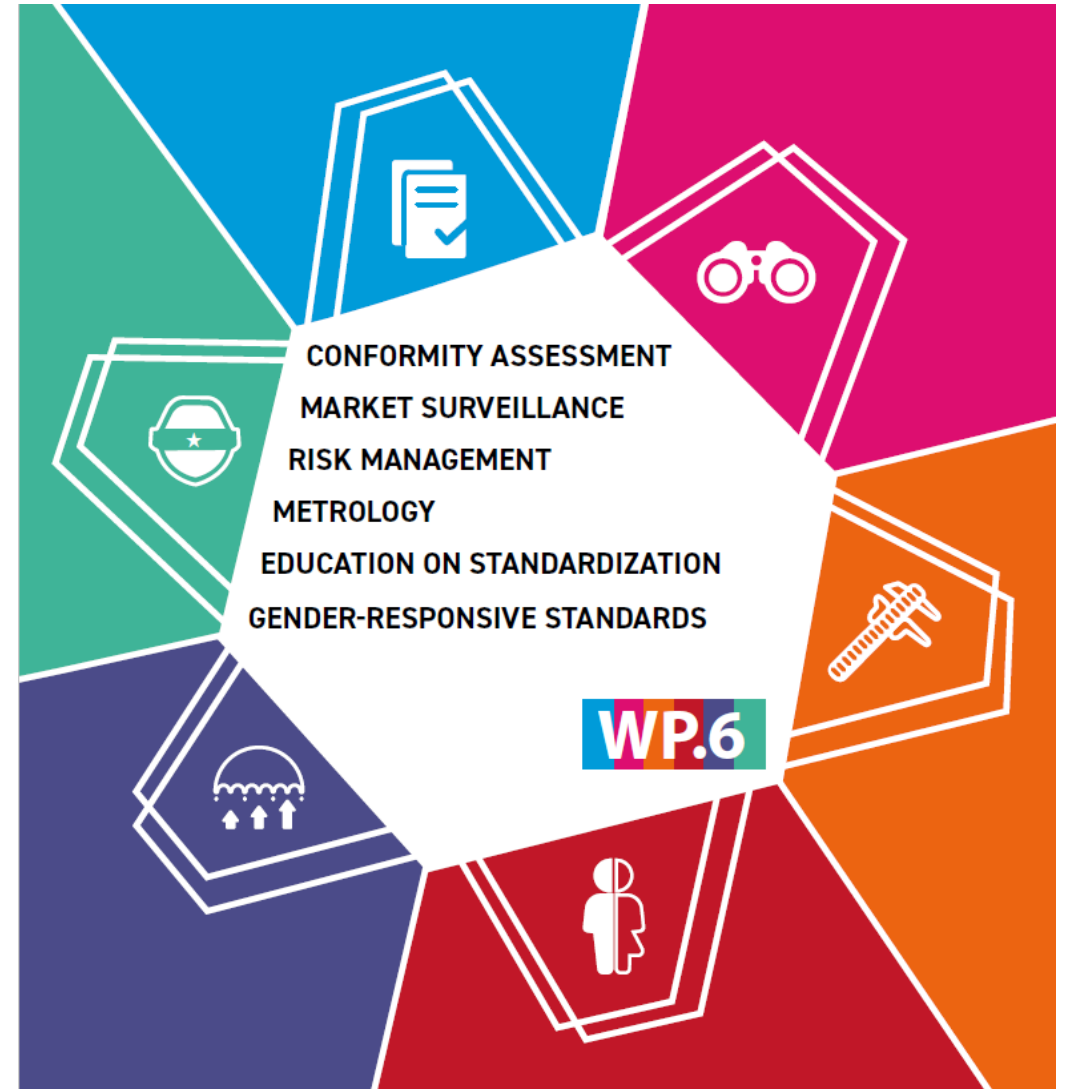


Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Product Safety practice across different Regional Blocs

Donald Macrae, GRM



UNECE – Working Party 6

2-3 April 2024, Geneva

WP.6 inclusive meetings guidelines



- Contributions
 - Strive for balanced contributions from both women and men participants
 - Keep individuals' speaking time balanced (avoid monopolizing)
- Interruptions
 - Avoid interrupting the speaker
 - Avoid talking over each other
- Coded language
 - Be mindful of coded language that may perpetuate gender stereotypes
 - Example: Are women described as aggressive for behavior that would lead to a man being considered confident?
- Recognize contributions

For more information, see *Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards* (ECE/TRADE/472)

The Choice of Countries



This presentation covers countries that I happen to have been working in on Market Surveillance reforms over the last year – not exactly risk-based sampling but they are from different regional trading blocs:

- Greece and Latvia – the European Union
- Kosovo – Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)
- Armenia – The Eurasian Economic Union
- The Gulf States and the Gulf Standardisation Organisation

Risk-Based Market Surveillance



This is fundamental. The scale of the numbers involved in MS makes the application of risk absolutely necessary.

What makes a product unsafe? How do you find the most unsafe?

And to apply risk you need data. Lots of data.

What you may not need is lots of inspectors.

Dangerous when non-compliant



It is OK to sell dangerous products, so long as they are safe for intended use by intended users. We need explosives, boilers, ovens and heavy machinery. The safety system is front-loaded in ensuring the product is safe when produced, i.e. compliant with conformity assessment based on standards.

It can still be unsafe when compliant but misused but that's an issue with the user, not the product. The bigger danger is if it is non-compliant and is properly used.

UNECE WP6 Recommendation S



Recommendation S - “Applying Predictive Risk Management Tools for Targeted Market Surveillance”

It recommends first that governments make up lists of products classified by risk, i.e. High, Medium and Low Risk. It also sets out various ways of predicting the non-compliance risk of a product.



Greece – The Ministerial Decree



Ministerial Decree No. 118632 (2020) sets out a methodology for assessing the risk of a product when non-compliant and has an Annex with 36 pages of product categories and sub-categories already classified is High, Medium or Low Risk.

The methodology is not the same as in Rec. S but it does have list of classified products.



Greece – Southern Gateway to the EU Market



The most effective form of Market Surveillance is at the Border, where there is far more control over products and usually a lot of information about the products from Customs documentation.

Piraeus in Greece and Valencia in Spain are the two primary EU Mediterranean ports for imports, so Greece has a large responsibility for ensuring EU product safety.



OECD's Minimalist Model for Greek MS



Eleven out of thirteen Regions in Greece have no Market Surveillance presence and there has been a debate about what is needed as a minimalist functionality.

One proposal is to have two local government inspectors working two days a month per Region. Primarily, they are the “eyes and ears” of the system, working with an intelligence-led team in Athens. They can report on local market conditions, which vary greatly between Regions, enforce recalls, and carry out very specific inspections when needed. Market Surveillance is primarily about intelligence, not checking shelves.



Latvia – How to Scope a Small State MSA



Latvia is a small country of 1.9 million people but also an EU Member State with full Market Surveillance responsibilities. The recent requirement for each Member State to produce a National Strategy has started a debate about how much smaller States need to do.

There are fundamental changes to the key pillars of Market Surveillance, with re-writing of key Regulations, so it is appropriate to question the effectiveness of Market Surveillance systems.



Latvia – Coordination across MSAs



Part of the debate is about coordination across Market Surveillance Authorities. There tends to be a lead MSA covering Industrial Products and General Product Safety plus a range of sometimes niche MSAs. For the more specialised ones, coordination with their counterparts in other States makes more sense than coordination nationally.

But there's the issue of supply chains, where a product may have components from these specialised MSAs. How important is coordination – and who with?



Latvia – Getting the data we need

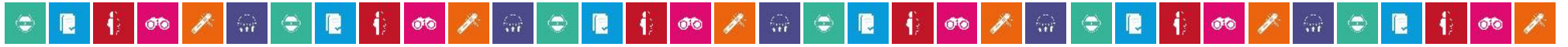


Where coordination would help is in sharing data. A common problem with MSAs is getting injury data related to products. Labour Inspectorates also need injury data from workplace accidents. Food safety inspectors need data on illnesses.

Hospitals and medical centres have the injured and ill people but they don't record the data that these Inspectorates need. A broken arm is just a broken arm. In Latvia, something may begin to change there.



Kosovo – What do we do first?



There are many EU candidate countries like Kosovo that face the enormous challenge of adopting the *acquis communautaire*. In the Western Balkans, they formed



The CEFTA Parties have committed to establishing a regional economic area on the basis of EU compliance and with the objective to decrease the cost of trade and production by eliminating market access barriers.



Kosovo – Managing the Online Market



The online market transcends national markets and is presenting significant challenges. Kosovo's Market Inspectorate targets the couriers that deliver the goods bought online since they ought to be able to identify the importer / distributor. They also work with CEFTA on cross-border issues with fulfilment centres.

They have good collaboration with Customs and have direct access to AYSECUDA to get data, in addition to Safety Gate. They are building their internal version of Safety Gate.



Armenia – The Eurasian Economic Union

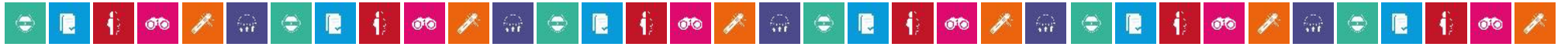


In 2015, Armenia joined the Eurasian Economic Union, a Customs Union of post-Soviet States. It is based on the EU model, with a Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, a Court and an executive Commission. It operates a Single Market within its borders but does not yet have a single currency. Armenia doesn't share a border with any other member but has an agreement with Georgia that guaranteed a free transit corridor.

So, Armenian Market Inspection lacks the control point on monitoring products that comes at a Border, because of free movement of goods.



Armenia – The Eurasian Economic Union 2



A major difference from the EU Market Surveillance regime is that the EAEU covers food products as well as non-food products. They are also subject to Technical Regulations at the stage of production.

The EAEU is building its own version of Safety Gate but it is still in development.

Armenia is still struggling with how to monitor the online market. It also thought of targeting the delivery stage but it would need legislation which would be difficult to shape.



Armenia – A Mature Risk-Based System



Armenia established a risk-based inspection system ten years ago and it has bedded down completely. They are strong on methodologies and instinctively look for risk-based approaches. However, they are strangely lacking in analysis of what their data tells them.

They are also innovative. Their Market Inspection has developed a QR code system for businesses, starting with petrol stations, that gives customers access to that business's compliance record. Both Food Safety and Labour are thinking of adopting it.



The Gulf States – Gulf Standardisation Organization



The six Gulf States – Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait - are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council since 1981. In 2012, Saudi Arabia proposed closer union, but the bloc has not yet formed a Customs Union, let alone a Single Market. So, there remain hard borders between each country, with tariff barriers in some cases.

The Gulf Standardisation Organization (GSO) is the regional organisation for standards, based in Riyadh, KSA.



شارة المطابقة الخليجية
Gulf Conformity Mark

The GSO “G Mark”



GSO has developed the G Mark as a Quality Mark for goods traded in the Gulf. Currently, it applies to Low Voltage goods and to toys. GSO has accredited Notified Bodies in 55 countries who can certify foreign goods with the G Mark.

The G Mark is accompanied by a QR code, where the packaging allows it, which gives the consumer access to significant data about the product.



The Gulf States – Challenge of Regulatory Cooperation



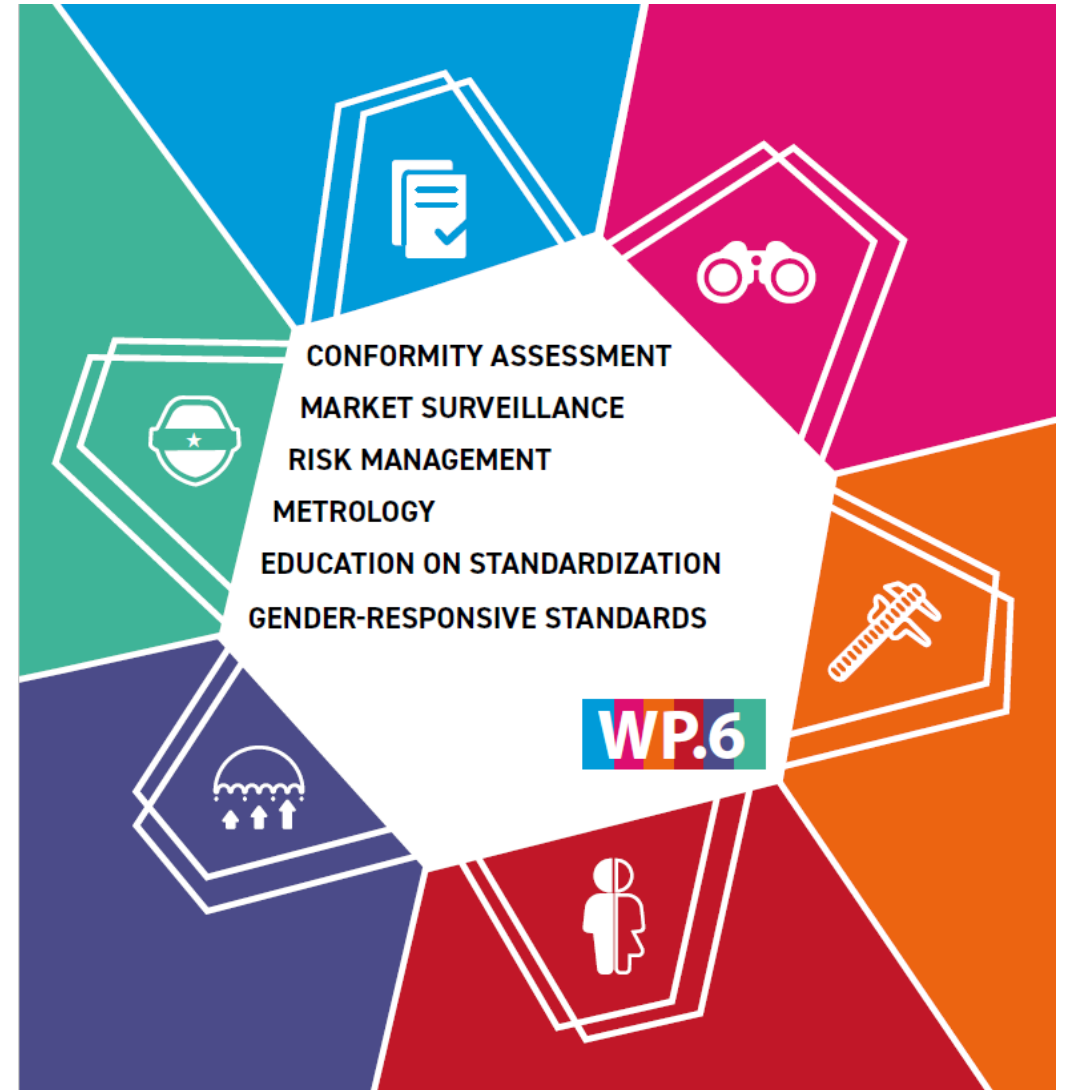
The States are reluctant to move to closer union through formal treaties. There are significant economic differences between them (although starting from a high base) but the markets are similar. Most goods are imported, and they are the same goods in each State.

GSO wants to build a regional framework for MSAs, initially through applying risk-based inspection consistently. It will be interesting to see how far towards effective free movement of goods can be achieved through regulatory cooperation in implementation and enforcement.



شارة المطابقة الخليجية
Gulf Conformity Mark

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



Merci ありがとうございました Hvala Ačiū
شكرا جزيلاً Mahalo Дякую Teşekkür ederim
Рахмат Dankon ඔබට ස්තූතියි Sagbol Ευχαριστώ
Tack Çox sağ ol Dziękuję Ci Obrigado
მადლობთ תודה 감사합니다 धन्यवाद Dankon
Natur nuhun Баярлалаа Хвала вам Dankon
Tak skal du have Diolch Хвала вам
Спасибо Go raibh maith agat Faleminderit Paldies
Grazzi Dank je Рахмат сага Faafetai Благодаря ти
Grazie Mulțumesc Ačiū Danke
Gracias 谢谢 සුභආභිච්ඡා Takk skal du ha
Salamat Aitäh Dankie Þakka þér fyrir
Ви благодарам Dėkuji Köszönöm Дзякуй
धन्यवाद Gràcies Asante
Kiitos

Thank you

regulatory.cooperation@un.org

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