



Funded by the European Union



SUPPORT TO QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN ARMENIA

Upgrading the metrology system for sustainable industrial development and tangible benefits from trade

The Republic of Armenia is a land-locked country situated in the Southern Caucasus and it has been pursuing more trade and further integration into the global market since its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2003. Recently, the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Armenia and the European Union (EU) entered into force, aiming to strengthen the basis for sustainable socio-economic recovery and the long-term resilience of the country.

To effectively utilize the trade agreements for meaningful benefits, Armenia needs to develop a robust National Quality Infrastructure System (NQIS). This NQIS will support Armenia’s productive sector in proactively overcoming technical barriers to trade (TBT) and improving trade competitiveness. The benefits of a NQIS are not limited to trade as it has become apparent in recent years that a robust NQIS also contributes to sustainable development by addressing concerns in the areas of, but not limited to, food safety, public health, climate change and the environment. Currently, Armenia has a weak NQIS with metrology being one of its nascent components. There are no internationally recognized calibrations available in the country, which forces Armenian stakeholders to obtain calibrations from overseas providers, leading to increased costs and lack of confidence from its trade partners as well as peers in the metrology community, thus preventing its enterprises from fully accessing the benefits of trade.

The “Support to Quality Infrastructure in Armenia” project, developed jointly by UNIDO and the Armenian Government and funded by the European Union, aims to continuously strengthen the NQIS in Armenia especially the metrology system for trade competitiveness and sustainable industrial development.

AT A GLANCE



MAIN COUNTERPARTS

Ministry of Economy (MoE)
National Body for Standards and Metrology (NBSM)



DURATION

39 months, starting from 1 January 2022



EXECUTING AGENCY

UNIDO



DONOR AND BUDGET

European Union (EUR 4,000,000)
UNIDO (EUR 100,000)



METHODOLOGY

The project aims to support the National Body for Standards and Metrology (NBSM) to provide sustainable and internationally recognized metrology services to stakeholders within Armenia. Within this context, the project will seek to impact both the supply of metrology services available within Armenia as well as the demand for these services by stakeholders. Both elements are critical for ensuring the sustainability of this project which is why, in addition to the development of technical capacity, this project will seek to strengthen relationships at the international, regional and national levels, the legal and administrative capacity of NBSM as well as its visibility and brand identity.

THE PROJECT

The project will focus on the delivery of four results as expected:

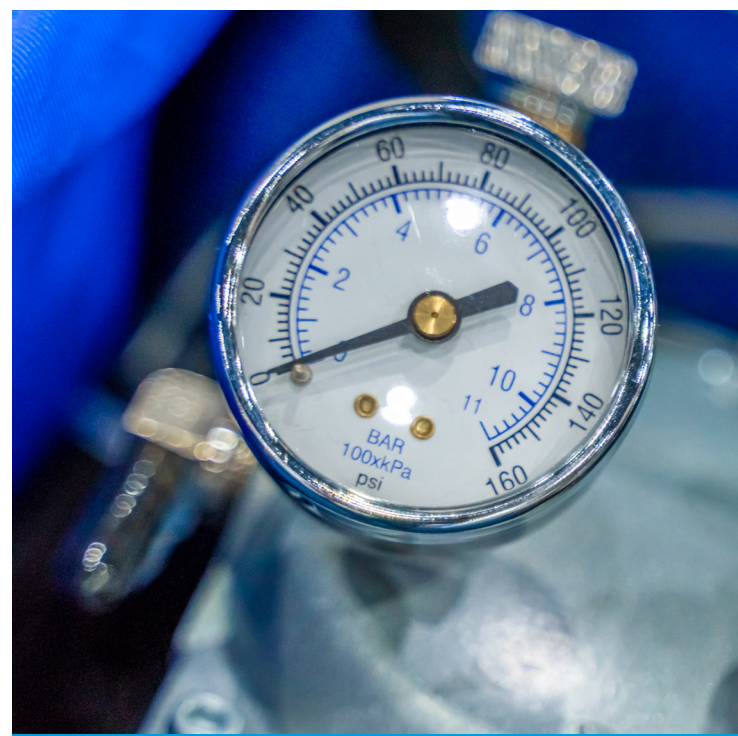
RESULT 1: Participation in the international metrology community

This project will support Armenia's increased participation in the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), the international Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) and Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET) as well as interaction with the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET) in a sustainable manner.

RESULT 2: Institutional capacity building of NBSM. The Armenian Government will be supported to develop a National Quality Policy (NQP) and National Quality Infrastructure (QI) strategy for improving the governance of the NQIS in Armenia. A legal and technical review of the metrology law will be conducted and support will be provided to the revision of the legislation. The governance of the NBSM will also be strengthened to enable it to become a demand-driven provider of metrology services.

RESULT 3: International recognition of calibration laboratories. Four (4) calibration laboratories will be equipped and established, and capacity building activities will be undertaken in line with relevant international standards and best practice. A digital platform will also be developed to allow service provision in digital means.

RESULT 4: Increased awareness. Stakeholders will be exposed to the project through various means and key stakeholders will be able to understand the important role of metrology and its impact on their lives and livelihoods.



IMPACT: The Republic of Armenia implements commitments under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) resulting in improved trade competitiveness and meaningful utilization of the benefits of the CEPA.

OUTCOME: NBSM provides sustainable and internationally recognized metrology services to stakeholders in Armenia

RESULT 1:



Participation in the international metrology community

RESULT 2:



Institutional capacity building of NBSM

RESULT 3:



International recognition of calibration laboratories

RESULT 4:



Increased awareness