

Twinning project

July 2017 - October 2019

Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Achievements and opportunities

This project is funded by the European Union

Twinning Project AZ/13/ENI/TR/02/16 (AZ/46)



THE EU FUNDED TWINNING PROJECT

The numbers

28 months of project implementation

1.200.000 euro allocated by European Commission

4 components, 63 activities

More than **350 man days** of international experts

More than **30 technical experts** covering all project areas

5 study tours to Germany, Italy and Latvia

18 training sessions, seminars and 4 awareness workshops for targeted internal and external audiences and stakeholders

9 regular Steering Committee meetings held at quarterly intervals to promote effective management and monitor the project activities

3 official events, Kick off Meeting, Mid-term Conference and Closure Ceremony, to present the overall objectives, achievements and results of the project

649 participants, 435 men and 214 women, in the activities of the project, between AzAK staff, MS experts, stakeholders and customers

The purpose

The Twinning project “Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan” is the program financed by European Union representing a complex of actions aimed at reinforcing the capacity of AzAK (Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre) in line with the requirements of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation), ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

The objective

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the economic growth of Azerbaijan and to access to the world market through an accreditation system that meets the European requirements.

By that the project helps to increase the quality of products and services in Azerbaijan and open the European market for them.

The implementation

The Twinning project lasted from July 1, 2017 to June 31, 2019 with a 4 months extension, and was performed by the consortium of National Accreditation Bodies of EU Member States (MS), DAkkS (Germany), Accredia (Italy) and LATAK (Latvia), for the beneficiary AzAK, the Accreditation Body of Azerbaijan (BC). During this period, the project was supported on site by Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA).

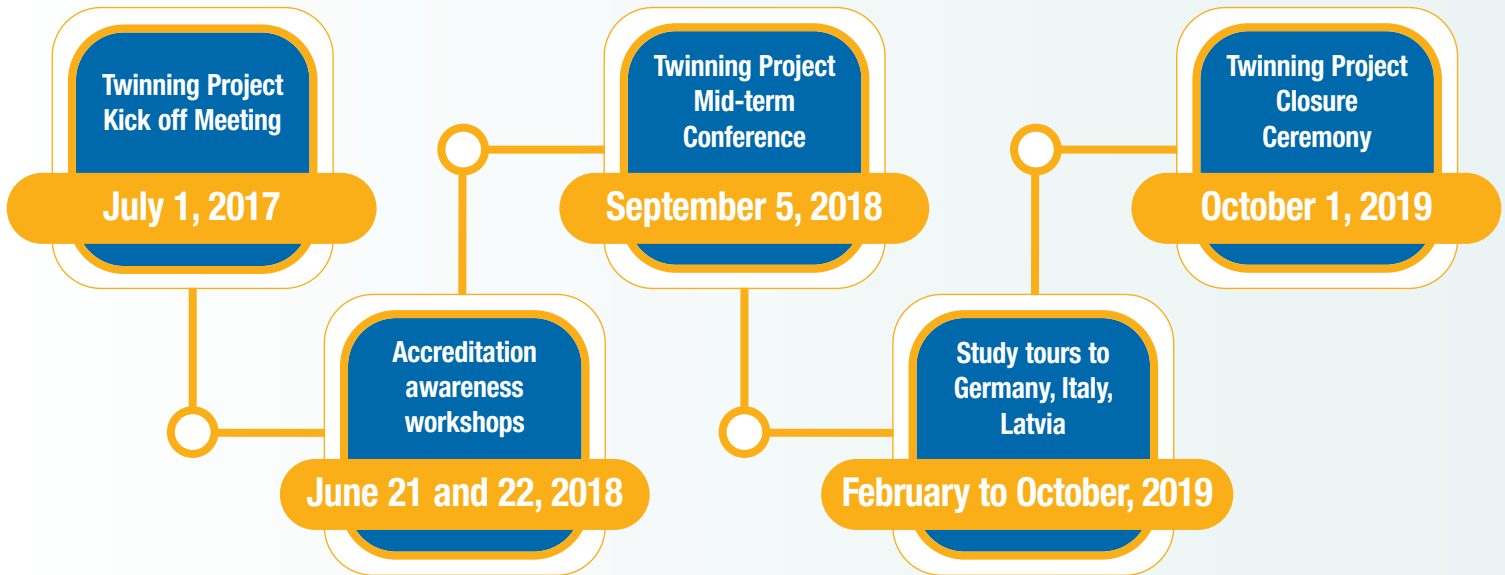


*Dr. Norbert Schultes, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy - Germany
MS Project Leader*



*Prof. Dr. Namig Aliyev,
AzAK General Director - Azerbaijan
BC Project Leader*

MAIN STEPS OF THE TWINNING



The components of the Twinning project

“Upgrading the legal and regulatory framework”

MS Component leader:
Torben Frank (DAkKS)

The objective of the first component was to review the legal framework of accreditation service in Azerbaijan in order to prepare a legislation in line with the international requirements of EA, ILAC and IAF and the European Union acquis.

In January 2019, was held a meeting of MS experts with representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the finalization of a draft of the Primary Law, followed in February by a study visit to Berlin, Germany, of the BC Project Leader, together with the representatives of Parliament and Presidential Administration, with the aim to raise awareness of the EU system in line with Regulation EC 765/2008.

In June 2019, MS experts met the staff of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to discuss recommendations for the Secondary Legislation, and intensively with regards to the technical background and with the perspective of the EA peer evaluation process.



Workshop
“The benefits
of accreditation”,
Shamakhi,
January 2019



“Capacity building”

MS Component leader:
Barbara Pflugbeil (DAkkS)

The second component was aimed to increase the capacity, knowledge and skills of AzAK staff as well as assessors and representatives of the conformity assessment bodies on the relevant ISO standards and EA, ILAC and IAF requirements.

One mission was carried out on the new ISO/IEC 17011:2017, presenting the content of the standard and the requirements for accreditation bodies. Joint assessments and follow up workshops, with lessons learned for the technical staff and assessment team, were managed in this framework.

3 missions on training of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017, for testing and calibration laboratories accreditation, were conducted by MS expert.

49 participants attended these courses, from which 13 were women. Trainings, including case studies, were managed on conformity assessment standards and applicable EA, ILAC and IAF guidelines.

Trainings on accreditation and certification standards

- ISO/IEC 17020:2012 “Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection”
- ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 “Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems”
- ISO/IEC 17024:2012 “Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons”
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”
- ISO 17034:2016 “General requirements for the competence of reference material producers”
- ISO/IEC 17043:2010 “Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing”
- ISO/IEC 17065:2012 “Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services”
- ISO/IEC 17067:2013 “Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes”
- ISO 15189:2012 “Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence”
- ISO 9001:2015 “Quality management systems - Requirements”
- ISO 14001:2015 “Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use”
- ISO 22000:2018 “Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain”
- ISO 45001:2018 “Occupational health and safety management systems - Requirements with guidance for use”



Training on accreditation standards, December 2017



Training on ISO 45001 and IAF documents, July 2019

The components of the Twinning project

“Institutional capacity improvement”

MS Component leader:
Martins Ozolins (LATAK)

The third component focused on improving the institutional capacity of AzAK for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in line with the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17011 for accreditation bodies.

Study tours to LATAK (Latvia) and Accredia (Italy) were organized to observe how the accreditation process takes place in the national accreditation bodies signatories of EA MLA - Multilateral Agreements. Development of an updating AzAK internal management system procedures was also achieved.



Study tour to
Accredia (Italy),
June 2019

“External communication and international networking”

MS Component leader:
Filippo Trifiletti (Accredia)

The fourth component was addressed to increase the capacity of AzAK in external relations and international networking, with the objective to implement a corporate communication strategy, from the project of a new website to the design of events for raising awareness of accreditation benefits

4 workshops were held in Baku, in Ganja and in Shamakhi on Regulation EC 765/2018 “The role and place of accreditation in Azerbaijan for regulatory activity” for regulators and Government, and “The benefits of accreditation” for the private sector, conformity assessment bodies, businesses' associations and consumers.

A project for the development of the new AzAK website was developed and the institutional brochure of AzAK was realized in English and Azerbaijani languages.

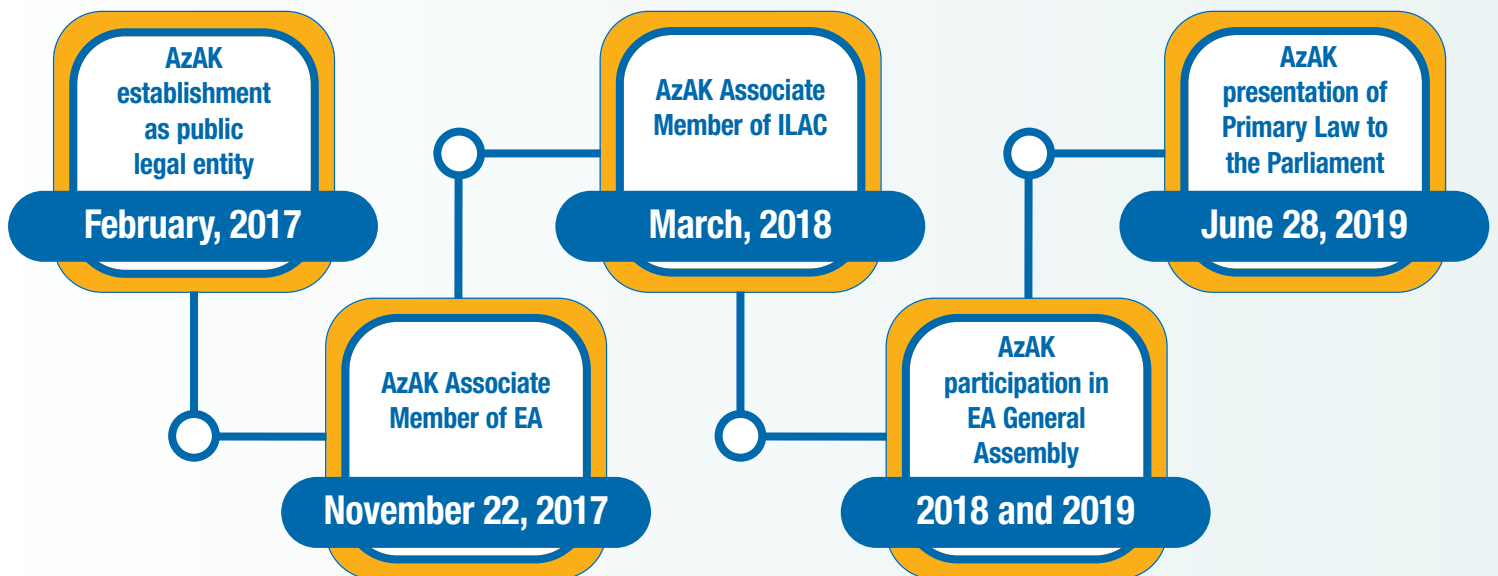


Workshop “Regulation EC 765/2018”, Baku, June 2018



Workshop “The benefits of accreditation”, Baku, June 2018

DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM



Perspectives for the Azerbaijan accreditation system

Improving international cooperation

AzAK is Associate Member of EA and of ILAC. During the Twinning project, AzAK participated to the EA General Assemblies in May and November 2018 and May 2019, EA MAC in October 2018 and May 2019 and to the ILAC General Assembly in October 2018.



Next steps for the Azerbaijan Accreditation Body

- Updating National Legislation on accreditation
- Application for the membership of IAF
- Undergoing EA *peer evaluation process*
- Signing Bilateral Agreements recognition under EA, ILAC and IAF

Twining project

Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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