

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Accredia and ASI sign MoU for new partnership.

The challenge is bringing together national accreditation and ASI expertise in worldwide sustainability certification oversight.

18.10.2021 - Accredia, the Italian National Accreditation Body (NAB) and Assurance Services International (ASI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bring together national accreditation and ASI oversight expertise for future collaboration in the field of sustainability.

The intent of the MoU is to work jointly towards the implementation of the ASI Two-Tier Assurance Program in Italy for ASI client voluntary sustainability standards and sustainability initiatives. As a first step, this collaboration will facilitate exchange between both organizations and deepen their understanding of each other's processes. Accredia is the third NAB to establish such partnership with ASI, following suit after Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkkS) and United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

In the words of Emanuele Riva, Vice General Director of Accredia: *"Over the last decade, sustainability has become a central theme on the agenda of many countries and the Quality Infrastructure has likewise moved forward. I remember with pleasure that last June ISO launched the ISO Strategic Advisory Group on Environmental, social, governance (ESG) ecosystem. It's time to act, without being afraid to explore new paths and change the paradigm. Those who bring solutions are welcome".*

According to Guntars Laguns, ASI Managing Director: *"This partnership has the potential to bring many benefits to stakeholders and Conformity Assessment Bodies alike. Italy is a very important market for sustainability certification. A future integration and alignment of Accredia national accreditation and ASI assurance oversight can bring synergies while increasing rigour at the same time".*

Accredia is the sole national accreditation body appointed by the Italian government in compliance with the application of the European Regulation 765/2008, attesting the competence, independence and impartiality of certification, inspection and verification bodies, as well as testing and calibration laboratories. Accredia is a recognized association which operates on a non-profit basis, under the vigilance of the Ministry of Economic Development. For further information about Accredia accreditation, please visit: www.accredia.it.

ASI is the leading global assurance provider for social and environmental standard systems. Our mission is to assure the credibility of voluntary sustainability standards and initiatives and support them to deliver real social and environmental impact through our assurance services. For more information about ASI, please visit: www.asi-assurance.org.

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