



## CENTRAL ASIA REGION:

### *Regional Trade Capacity Building Training Programme*

## Context

Trade has long been recognized as a potential engine for growth and wealth creation. However, in many cases decision makers fail to understand the importance of a well-functioning quality infrastructure for health, quality assurance, trade and economic development. Developing countries continue to face supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure constraints which can inhibit their ability to compete on international markets.

## Main approach

Based on a solid analysis of trade challenges and opportunities, and in close cooperation with the Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS) the Regional Trade Capacity Building Training Programme is designed to encourage systemic trade development along value chains.

A Regional Training in Central Asia was organized in May 2013 in Kyrgyzstan, bringing together participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Another Regional Training for Caucasus and Western CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) was organized in April 2014 in Poland targeting at participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

The training modality follows a two-fold strategic approach. A preliminary distance learning component ensures that all participants share a common knowledge concerning issues of trade capacity building. The residential part of the course offers a dynamic mix of lecture based and participatory teaching methods. Seminars, group work and discussions foster intense debates, while peer reviews and unique exercises increase participants' skills and effectiveness in facilitating market-driven, trade system transformations and economic developments within their respective countries.

## Impact and results

During the training participants are exposed to a number of international organizations, such as ISO, IEC, OIML, BIPM, ILAC, IAF, UNECE, ITU and ITC (all members of the DCMAS Network), which allows them to understand the importance of participating in the international quality infrastructure system and make the right contacts to collaborate with international organizations. In the case of Azerbaijan this led to the formulation of a request for the national programme with the main objective of the quality infrastructure strengthening. Other countries have also expressed similar interest.

It is expected that the participants will apply the knowledge gained during the training in facilitating and initiating reforms with the goal of strengthening the national quality infrastructure in their respective countries.

The value added of this knowledge sharing and regional trade capacity building initiative has been widely recognized by the participants. The training curriculum was replicated and carried out in Kazakhstan, with their own financial resources.

## At a glance

<b>Project title:</b> Regional Trade Capacity Building Training Programme
<b>Cooperating partners:</b> UNIDO Institute for Capacity Development, DCMAS Network
<b>Donor:</b> Polish Ministry of Economy
<b>Budget:</b> EUR 140,000
<b>Duration:</b> 2012 – 2014 (15 months)