



WEST AFRICA QUALITY SYSTEM PROGRAMME
Support to the Implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL)
Funded by the European Union

Regional Forum on Quality Infrastructure

29th January – 1st February 2018

Dakar, Senegal

Terms of reference

Programme implemented by



1. Context

After the adoption of the ECOWAS Regional Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) in February 2013 through the Supplementary Act A/SA. A/02/13, the Community Regulation N°C/REG.19/12/13 defined the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure Scheme.

In its article 7, the latter created:

- The Community Council for Quality (CCM);
- The Community Committee for Metrology (CCM);
- The Community Committee for Conformity Assessment (CCCA);
- The Community Committee for Technical Regulations (CCTR);
- The Regional Accreditation System.

Furthermore, to support the implementation of ECOQUAL, the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP), funded by the European Union with 12 million Euros and executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, commenced in September 2014.

One of the flagship activity of the WAQSP was to propose texts on the organisation and operation of the above-mentioned structures; to this end, draft texts were elaborated in the spirit of article 9 of Regulation N°C/REG.19 :12/13. The study also looked at the proposal for financing the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure Scheme.

In June 2017, the Council of Ministers adopted the Regulations on the organisation and operation of the five entities listed above. The Council also authorised the creation of the ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ).

In November 2017, the ECOWAS Commission organised the constitutive meetings of the Regional Accreditation System and the Community Committees in charge of metrology, conformity assessment and technical regulation.

The last step of the process of establishment of the regional quality structures will consist of organising the first meeting of the ECOWAS Community Council for Quality as well as the Constitutive General Assembly of the ECOWAS Quality Agency, ECOQUAL.

To finalise the establishment of the Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI) Scheme and to assure the promotion of the different regional structures, the ECOWAS Commission has planned the organisation of a Forum on RQI.

2. Objectives of the Forum on RQI

The objective of the forum is to bring together the principal regional and international actors on quality, on the main themes, to strengthen the promotion and sustainability of the regional quality infrastructure being set up.

Specifically, the forum aims at:

- Setting up the remaining structures of the ECOWAS Regional Quality Infrastructure, particularly the Community Council for Quality and ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ);

- Promoting the quality system (regulation and technical structures), set up in the region;
- Mobilising technical and financial partners, for the financing of activities related to the promotion of quality in the region;
- Mobilising and sensitising all concerned actors, particularly consumers and businesses, on the issues of quality culture.

3. Expected Results

At the end of this forum, the following results are expected:

- The Community Council for Quality will be constituted and adopt its rules of procedure. It will also approve the conclusions of the constitutive meetings of the RAS and the committees in charge of Metrology, Conformity Assessment and technical regulation.
- The ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ) will be set up through: the adoption of its regulation, the rules of procedure and election of its board of directors and bureau;
- The ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure structures are better known;
- Advocacy with stakeholders of quality in general, and in particular, technical and financial partners, to support the sustainability of the RQI is assured;
- The consumers are better informed and sensitised on the issue of quality culture.

4. Activities Planned

The following activities will be carried out during this forum:

- Organisation of the first Community Council for Quality meeting;
- Organisation of the General Assembly of the ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ);
- Presentation of the structures of Regional Quality Infrastructure;
- Organisation of thematic workshops on Quality Infrastructure and its financing;
- Promotion of the ECOWAS Quality Award and the Excellence Award Winners of its first edition;
- Organisation of the fourth Enlarged Steering Committee meeting of the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP).

5. Date and Venue

The ECOWAS RQI Forum will hold from the **29th of January to the 1st of February 2018, in Dakar, Senegal.**

6. Work Program

The workshop will be organised within four days, according to the provisional work plan annexed.

7. Working Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided at the plenary sessions and during the different workshops. The work languages are English, French and Portuguese.

8. Participants

The participants of this forum are:

- The ECOWAS Commission;
- The UEMOA Commission;
- European Union;
- Ministers in charge of Quality of ECOWAS member states and Mauritania;
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);
- The Ambassadors of ECOWAS Member States to Senegal;
- Technical and Financial partners (PTB, USAID, AFDB, SWEDISH STANDARDS INSTITUTE (SIS), GIZ);
- Regional private sectors (FOPAO and FEWACCI);
- Financial Institutions (World Bank, IDB, AFD, WADB, BCEAO, EBID);
- The principal institutions in charge of quality of Morocco and Tunisia (standardisation, accreditation, metrology, quality promotion);
- Enterprises;
- Regional and International Quality Institutions (ISO, AFRAC, ARSO, AFSEC, AFRIMETS, IEC-AFRC, Francophonie Standardisation Network (RNF);
- Accreditation bodies of ECOWAS Member States (West African Accreditation System (SOAC), Ghana Accreditation Service (GAS), Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NINAS));
- Consumer associations;
- The National Focal Points and National Technical Coordinators of the West Africa Quality System Programme of the ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania;
- Representatives of the Regional Technical Coordination Unit of the WAQSP.

9. Reports

At the end of the forum, a general report comprising of all the different reports of workshops and meetings being organised will be produced.

10. Organisation of the Forum

The organisation costs will be borne by the West Africa Quality System Programme, funded by European Union.

Some partner institutions will be solicited to take charge of some thematic workshops;

The Senegalese Government will be solicited to particularly ensure the security of the event and welcome of participants.

Annex: Draft Work Programme

| Schedule | Activities |
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| 29-Jan-18 | |
| 8 :30 – 9 :00 | Welcome and installation of participants |
| 9 :00 – 13 :00 | First meeting of the Community Committee for Quality |
| 10 :00-10 :30 | Coffee Break |
| 13 :00 – 14 :00 | Lunch |
| 14 :00-19 :00 | Constitutive General Assembly of the ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ) |
| 17 :00-17 :30 | Coffee Break |
| 30-Jan-18 | |
| 9 :00-10 :00 | Official Opening of the Forum |
| | Opening Ceremony |
| | Welcome and Opening remarks |
| | Quality Promotional activities (Visit of stands, companies and product-certification bodies' distinction-Quality Awards – accreditation certificates, etc) |
| 11 :00 – 11 :15 | Coffee break |
| 11 :15 – 13 :00 | Official opening of the Quality Forum - end |
| 13 :00- 14 :00 | Lunch |
| 14 :00: 17 :00 | Ministerial Panel on 'Development and implementation of quality policies' |
| 17 :00-17 :15 | Coffee break |
| 31-Jan-18 | |
| 09 :00 – 11 :00 | Panel 2: Financing Quality Infrastructure |
| 11:00-13 :00 | Panel 3: Issues and Challenges of the main components of Quality Infrastructure |
| 10 :15 – 11 :00 | Coffee Break |
| 13 :00 – 14 :00 | Lunch |
| 14 :00-16 :45 | Panel 4: Promotion of Quality Infrastructure |
| 16 :45 – 17 :00 | Coffee Break |
| 01-FEB-18 | |
| 9:00 – 11:30 | Presentations and conclusions/Closure of ECOQUAF |
| 11 :30 – 11 :45 | Coffee Break |
| 11 :45 – 13 :00 | Meeting of the Enlarged Regional Steering Committee (RSC) |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |

| Schedule | Activities |
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| 14:00- 17 :00 | Meeting of the Enlarged Regional Steering Committee (RSC) |
| 17 :00 – 17 :30 | Coffee Break |
| Parallel Session dedicated to service providers in the field of quality | |
| 15 :00- 17:00 | Exchanges between national & regional quality service providers / Presentation of the electronic directory of accredited conformity assessment bodies / Presentation of the Senegal Quality Policy |
| 17 :00 – 17 :30 | Coffee Break |