



INTRODUCTORY REMARK

Dear readers,

Welcome to the third edition of the AZSTAND Twinning newsletter. As usually you will be provided with a quick overview of the project implementation status, changes, and an outlook to the end of this year.

After having updated you with the last Newsletter on the project in May, many things changed. Two Steering Committees (III and IV) took place successfully since then, outlining the project progress. One of the major events was that the project welcomed a new head of AZSTAND and a new BC Project Leader. During the summer period, which is commonly a tranquil time, BC together with the Consortium still delivered substantial work. Much of it happened in the background; drafts preparation, implementation of recommendations, work on documents and a closer cooperation with other similar projects of the EU in AZE.

Both sides are ambitiously striving after reaching project goals timely and effectively with the best output for AZSTAND. The high commitment and professional approach of AZSTAND colleagues is highlighted throughout all missions by the Consortium experts. Despite COVID restrictions and difficulties, all experts involved have managed to establish a very good and friendly relationship with each other, which provides a promising outlook for the joint work to come.

We are on track!

Berlin, Baku September 2021

UPDATE

Changes of AZSTAND top management: since May 2021 Mr Ilgar Hasanov became the new head of AZSTAND and Ms Kamala Mammadzada the new Project Leader. The Addendum of the contract was finished accordingly. A first get-to-know meeting took place in June.

The third project quarter was mainly dedicated towards Technical Committees, Corporate Governance and Financial Mechanisms. For a few months now AZSTAND staff is receiving ISO oriented training on standardization terminology in English. The project moved forward in cooperation with other Quality Infrastructure related projects in AZE that are funded by the EU; for instance two experts from AZSTAND participated in a summer school dedicated towards reducing trade barriers, thus supporting the WTO accession process of AZE. The close cooperation between the projects is a benefit for all parties involved and raises the quality and efficiency of EU projects in the country.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the missions is on good way. One of the results to be highlighted is that AZSTAND is ready for the assessment for the certification according to ISO 9001 and that the QM plays an important role within the organisation. The processes of cooperation with Technical Committees and their structure have been analysed further. Some practical tools for standardisation works with TCs were shared with AZSTAND colleagues such as the ISO commenting template or the collation tool.



Further on the Consortium experts are supporting AZSTAND in drafting standards with reference to ISO requirements. The Consortium experts emphasized also the importance to stress the value of standardization towards stakeholders on any occasion.



Steering Committee III, May 2021, Project Leader, Dr. Thomas Zielke, on screen

With regard to financial mechanisms AZSTAND was made familiar with best practices for selling standards i.e setting the price policy. A SWOT analysis demonstrated to AZSTAND colleagues ways to improve their selling policy and adopt it to current demands.



Online meeting with Consortium expert Daniel Masso (top, second left) and AZSTAND colleagues, August 2021

OUTLOOK

For the upcoming months until end of the year the focus of the project will be laid on further development of the National Standardization Strategy, Business Plan, Benefits of Standardization, Digital Transformation Plan and the Institutional Roadmap.

On top of the agenda remains the constant monitoring and analysis of Consortium experts traveling to Baku. It is planned that at least the RTA and the Consortium PL will join the next SC in Baku together with their peers and colleagues on 12 November.

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