



INTRODUCTORY REMARK

Dear readers,

Welcome to our second AZSTAND Twinning newsletter. In our first issue, we introduced the project, its members, project aims and how we planned to roll out the first activities. This time, we will give a brief overview of the project and some specific developments of the implementation in the second quarter.

As in many other projects that currently are running in Azerbaijan and other countries supported by the EU Commission, the situation around the implementation is the same; COVID implicates the same challenges for the project management and experts on both sides. Let it be said that starting a project completely remotely is something that probably never happened in the history of Twinning before. Not having met the peers in real work environment, not having shaken hands even once, shapes the character of this project. In a nutshell; it's tough. However, the AZSTAND project is a proof that despite all hindrances the BC and Consortium managed to set up a smooth implementation and so far, moved on goal oriented.

We are pretty sure that other Twinning projects share similar experiences and progress and believe that the Twinning instrument will become even more progressive after this pandemic.

Berlin, Baku April 2021

UPDATE

In the second project quarter, the BC and Consortium managed to begin first consultations in all 3 Components and their sub-activities - Corporate Governance, Digital Transformation and Financial Mechanisms.

Besides, the Consortium (PL and RTA) approached several institutions in AZE that could be interested in project areas and assist the implementation such as the German Chamber of Trade and Commerce (AHK Baku) and GIZ. The Chamber has a broad business network which can be of use for AZSTAND in order to promote standards and figure out needs of the business community and to add more businesses and entrepreneurs to AZSTAND portfolio.

IMPLEMENTATION

The full implementation of the consultations commenced in February with a mission on Technical Committees, following by institutional roadmap, financial analysis and legislative framework, just to name a few, which were implemented by experts from Germany, Spain and Sweden. Another consultation was dedicated towards National Standardization Strategy (NSS). Its highlight was the use of an online tool by AZSTAND experts that addressed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in AZE.



The idea behind is to elaborate the possibilities to reflect some of the SDGs in the draft of the NSS of AZSTAND alongside with the national program of Azerbaijan.



SDG map of AZE used during the mission on NSS

The implementation process still follows the COVID restrictions i.e. all meetings are held online. So did the second Steering Committee Meeting on 5 March 2021. The updated rolling work plan until July 2021 was confirmed. The Consortium was also informed by EUD that a national program was signed by the decree of the president of AZE for 2020-2030 years.

There was an additional meeting between Consortium experts from each component with the head of AZSTAND which was dedicated to discuss specific strategic questions.

Twinning Team

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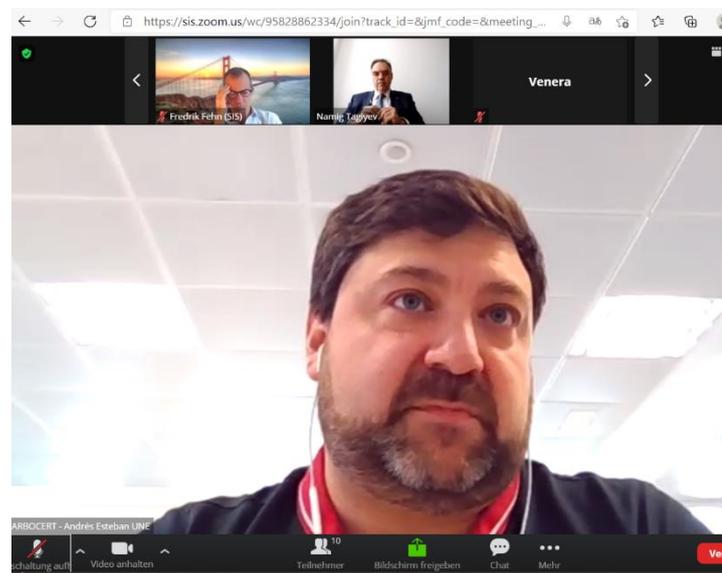
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Online meeting between Consortium experts and head of AZSTAND Dr. Tagiev (on top in the middle), 17 March 2021

OUTLOOK

For the next project quarter it is envisaged to implement missions on market surveillance, technical committees, designing a business plan and on AZSTAND digital transformation plan. The Consortium and BC intends to provide English training on specific standardisation terminology at AZSTAND. There will be also other activities and events taking place in the upcoming third quarter of the project that will be reported in our next edition.

The third Steering Committee Meeting will take place on 18 May.

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The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Denis Kaschuba, RTA of the Twinning, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

