



INTRODUCTORY REMARK

Dear readers,

We would like to welcome you to the 4th edition of the AZSTAND Twining newsletter. Since our last release in September 2021, much has happened in the project and we are glad to share it with you.

First of all, it is great to say that the RTA could finally travel in November 2021 to Baku for the first time and met with all peers from AZSTAND. The visit was very fruitful. The intended extension of the project was discussed as well as progress and ideas exchanged on further planning of the consultation missions.

Meanwhile, AZSTAND experts reached many project milestones like the National Standardization Strategy or the Institutional Roadmap.

In parallel, AZSTAND undergoes reorganizational changes as the whole Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan does.

The project evolves very positive against current global challenges and both sides are planning to meet physically soon.

We hope you will enjoy the brief update!

Berlin, Baku January 2022

UPDATE

As of today, almost 60% of the project have been implemented. It comprises 27 remote missions, with 180 participants, from which 70% are female and 30% male. In view of COVID-19 circumstances, this is a great record. However, there are still many activities to be implemented for reaching all project results. Since this would not be possible within the original timeline of the project (until the 30 April 2022), the Consortium and AZSTAND requested an extension until 31 October 2022. The Addendum is on the way.

Based on a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Quality Infrastructure System in Azerbaijan will be reorganised. AZSTAND will be among those institutions who will play a key role in the development of the national technical regulation system. Besides, AZSTAND will focus more on marketing/ stakeholder relations in the future and will establish a business development department. New staff is currently being hired. A new acting director has been appointed to AZSTAND on 10 December 2021, Mr. Ilham Bayramov.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the missions runs as planned. Results to be highlighted are that AZSTAND drafted its first Standardization Strategy and the Institutional Roadmap. It improved the stakeholder relation through new marketing and communication tools. AZSTAND approaches an improvement of its IT infrastructure, which is essential for the future web shop where standards can be bought and other services for stakeholders and customers provided.



Yet, no expert mission to Baku or study tour to Consortium countries were possible because of the pandemic situation. Although vaccinations and PCR tests begin to facilitate international travel, regulations on institutional level of the Consortium members tend to be stricter than on country level, which makes physical presence difficult.



RTA (middle) visit to AZSTAND, November 2021, AZSTAND colleagues

However, it is currently planned that first missions on location will partly commence in spring/summer, if the pandemic situation allows to. Meanwhile, both sides have successfully developed an approach where most missions can be still carried out remotely.

Twinning Team

Mr. Denis Kaschuba – RTA

Email: denis.kaschuba.ext@ptb.de

Ms. Lala Huseynova – RTA Assistant

Email: lala.huseynova@gmail.com

Phone: +994 70 338 58 28

Ms. Venera Mehdiyeva – Language Assistant

Email: venera.bakutwinning@gmail.com

Phone: +99455 312 71 91

Implementing partners:

BMWK, PTB, DIN (Germany), SIS (Sweden), UNE (Spain)



Work Plan discussions, RTA (left) and AZSTAND colleagues, November 2021

OUTLOOK

For the second half of the project, the focus will be on topics that address the area of technical regulations like market surveillance. Further topics will be: web shop, stakeholder relationship, project management tools, marketing and a workshop on benefits of standardisation. The main target project management-wise will be to organise visits of experts to Baku and to Consortium countries. Each Twinning project lives from personal exchange and which cannot be completely substituted by new technologies.

The RTA plans to work in hybrid mode with regular visits to Baku as far as the situation allows.

AZSTAND Twinning in the web:



Website



Facebook



LinkedIn

This Project is funded by the European Union.

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.

