

EUROMED QUALITY PROGRAMME

The Euromed Quality programme is financed by the European Commission and implemented by CEN, the European Committee for Standardization.

The global objective of the programme was to establish a stable environment to help MEDA enterprises to place in the market quality products able to compete in the export markets, while the specific objective was to improve the awareness and train a number of MEDA representatives in the areas of standardization, testing, certification, inspection, accreditation and metrology.

The programme started in January 2004 to end in January 2009. During these 5 years the Euromed Quality programme has:

- § Trained more than 1600 MEDA participants
- § Involved more than 300 EU experts
- § Organised more than 220 activities (Seminars, stages, Inter Laboratory Comparisons, studies, website, publications, country reports, annual conferences....).

The level of satisfaction of the participants in the programme has been very high: our technical evaluations reveal that 86% were satisfied or very satisfied with the activities, 90% received the expected information and 89% believed that the objectives of the activities were achieved. 81% of the participants were also satisfied with the logistic arrangements.

The Euromed Quality programme has:

- § Created a quality infrastructure network in the region fomenting South-South integration and regional co-operation
- § Analysed the quality infrastructure in the region (needs of information and training) and monitored its evolution
- § Distributed information and improved knowledge
- § Promoted the capacity building of the region (technical regulations, conformity assessment, market surveillance, standardization, accreditation and metrology)
- § Been a forum of discussion to share experiences on technical issues of regional interest
- § Explored the possibility of increased participation of MEDA partners in European quality infrastructure organisations
- § Analysed the alignment of legislation, standardization and conformity assessment in some fields of interest
- § Technically supported the ACAA negotiations (ACAAs, Notified Bodies and Market Surveillance).
- § Drafted two working papers (one on Notified Bodies and another establishing the basis of the MEDA RAPEX).
- § Continued raising awareness on the New Approach systems
- § Analysed the implementation of some directives in the region
- § Reinforced the regional co-operation and the regional integration

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Budget €7.26 million (MEDA)
- Timeframe 2004-2009
- Participating countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria and Tunisia, Turkey



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Support efforts to develop and market quality products in the Mediterranean region

During the lifespan of the programme, several countries (i.e. Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia) became Affiliate members in CEN and/or CENELEC, while Turkey (already a CEN/CENELEC affiliate) further developed its links with the European Standardization system, and Malta and Cyprus are full members of CEN and CENELEC since their accession to the EU in 2004.

Some countries (Israel, Jordan and Tunisia) have also signed contracts of cooperation with EA (the European Cooperation for Accreditation). These are all practical results of the increased involvement of the MEDA countries in the EU quality infrastructure organisations, which can be considered one of the main successes of the programme.

To summarise, the Euromed Quality programme has been relevant for the development of the trade in the region, it has encouraged the ownership of the MEDA partners, it has formed a link between national and regional strategies ("informal co-ordination") and it has been a basis for the development of bilateral programmes.

Last but not least, the Euromed Quality programme was a powerful tool for the creation of an informal regional network of people involved in the quality infrastructure, as they were given the opportunity to get to know each other, meet and discuss during all activities. As one of the participants said, 'Now we all speak the same language', which is a remarkable achievement, seen the tensions still present in the region.



Final conference in Brussels on 3-4 December 2008