

CASE STUDY

Facts and Figures:

- ▶ Project Budgets: €39 million (Budget Support), €6 million (Technical Assistance)
- ▶ Project Duration: 2011 - 2015
- ▶ EU contribution: 100%

Total Cost:

3369000.00 €

Benefiting zone:

Ukraine

Partners:

- ▶ No Trade Barriers web-site

Duration:

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Budget Support Programme 'Removing technical barriers to trade between EU and Ukraine'

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Assistance to Ukrainian authorities to modernise the technical regulation system for industrial products through a Budget Support Programme.

“ One of the ways for Ukraine to remove technical barriers to trade with the EU is to approximate its system of technical regulation to that of the EU, something entirely compatible with Ukraine’s obligations stemming from WTO accession. ”

Stefanos Ioakimidis, Team Leader of the project "Complementary Measures to the Budget Support Programme - Promoting mutual trade by removing technical barriers to trade between Ukraine and the European Union"



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Context

Since 2000, Ukraine implements reform of its technical regulations towards a modern system supporting industry, promoting economic development and facilitating international trade. Over the past 10 years, the EU has actively cooperated and assisted Ukraine to achieve the reform process. Reforms are guided by the principles and practices of the EU system of technical regulation, both at institutional and regulatory levels that allow free movement of goods in the European Internal Market. Once completed, the reform will become a cornerstone of the DCFTA agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

Objectives

- ▶ Contribute to economic reform and gradual integration of Ukraine’s economy into the world economy and European Union’s Internal Market.
- ▶ Implement policy measures to remove technical barriers to trade between the EU and Ukraine.
- ▶ Modernisation of the institutional and regulatory frameworks ensuring product safety.

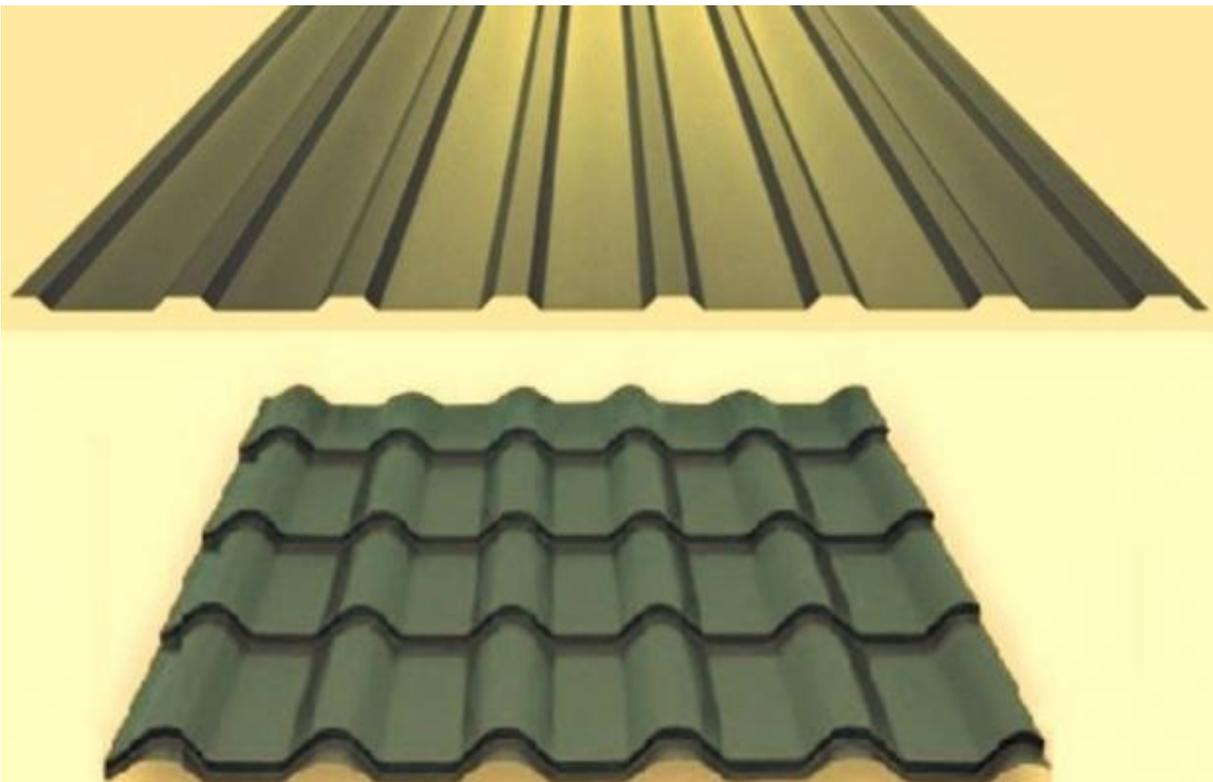
Impact

- ▶ Adoption of a national plan with a budget of € 10 million for upgrading the equipment of testing and calibration laboratories.
- ▶ Adoption of amendments to the Law on Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies, and of the Law abolishing the registration of declarations of conformity.
- ▶ Adoption of a Resolution on how to prepare legislation on the basis of EU Regulations and Directives.
- ▶ Adoption of three technical regulations harmonised with the respective EU Directives in the areas of Electro-Magnetic Compatibility, Low Voltage Equipment and Safety of Machinery.
- ▶ Training of 380 market surveillance inspectors, 260 customs officers on the implementation of the newly adopted Law on Market Surveillance.

Testimony

Testimonial

An enterprise produced roofing sheets with a round shape. Although the products were safe, they did not correspond to a national mandatory standard, which imposed the trapezoid form. The company was ordered to suspend operations, to so-called "technical specifications" (internal company standards), and have them reviewed and registered (on a fee basis) by authorities. The company had to close for a substantial period, suffered losses, and employees were laid off. This enterprise was a victim of excessive and unnecessary overregulation, which required certification of nearly all products before placing them on the market, and intervened not only in the health and safety aspects of products, but in their specific design thereby stifling innovation. With the introduction of the EU approaches and practices, the practice of pre-market control of low-risk products has already been substantially reduced. For a growing number of products, the enterprises are allowed to decide on design solutions on the condition of meeting essential requirements on health and safety. The elimination of excessive regulation along EU lines will alleviate administrative burden on the manufacturers, encourage innovation, promote transparency, remove opportunities for power abuses and instead will create a demand for clarity, non-discrimination and motivation of administrative decisions.



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