



## Southern Caucasus

# Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure in the Countries of the Southern Caucasus

**Objective** The project aims at making internationally recognised metrological services available for industry and trade in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to increasing their competitiveness on the national, regional and international markets.

**Approach** The state of quality infrastructure differs between the three partner countries, which results in different technical barriers to trade. Therefore, the project combines country-specific capacity development with regional exchange to strengthen cooperation within the region.

The main partners of the project are the National Institute of Metrology of Armenia (NIM), the Azerbaijan Institute of Metrology (AzMI), and the Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GeoSTM). The overall objective of the project is to be achieved by means of three main areas of cooperation. Firstly, it supports the three National Metrology Institutes to work increasingly according to international best practices. Secondly, by implementing (pilot) proficiency tests, the project strengthens the partner institutions to become increasingly able to provide comparative measurements as a service to their customers. Thirdly, the project enables a deeper knowledge exchange and regional networking within the Quality Infrastructure stakeholders of the South Caucasus countries.

A special focus lies on measurands that are relevant for the production and export of food, as this economic sector is of high relevance for all three South Caucasus countries.

Instruments applied to reach our objective include consulting on technical and strategical development, training and coaching, networking activities, study trips and awareness-raising measures.

**Impact** The existence and availability of demand-oriented national metrology services that are in accordance with international standards increase the competitiveness and safety of nationally produced goods of the South Caucasus region. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which depend on locally available Quality Infrastructure services, will have an easier access to such services.

The project's contribution is in accordance with Agenda 2030, especially with regard to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" and the Sub goal 17.9. "Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation".

**Cooperation** Within the project, PTB will cooperate with relevant programmes of other development organisations such as the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the European Union, the World Bank and UNIDO.

**Financing** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Term** 2019–2021

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