



## UNIDO study reveals Conformity Assessment and Accreditation needs in Armenia

December 1, 2023 - Quality Infrastructure (QI) serves as an important tool for citizens' well-being and satisfaction. Based on pillars such as standardization, metrology, market surveillance, conformity assessment, and accreditation, QI is widely acknowledged to be a living system which should be aligned with the country's needs to be effective.

Within the framework of the EU/UNIDO "Support to Quality Infrastructure in Armenia" project, a metrology demand survey on metrology was conducted by a UNIDO-invited expert. The expert interviewed over 100 public and private stakeholders in Armenia, with the comprehensive study

yielding 98 responses. A parallel survey in Conformity Assessment and Accreditation, including questionnaires and interviews with Conformity Assessment Bodies, the National Accreditation Body and the private sector, is currently in its final stages.

The preliminary findings of the study were presented at a validation workshop on December 1, attended by 25 representatives from state and private institutions. The workshop served as a platform to discuss the preliminary recommendations, addressing national priorities in Conformity Assessment and Accreditation.

The workshop's speakers and participants engaged in fruitful discussions and a Q/A session. The next steps involve finalizing the Needs Assessment report, providing recommendations for a strategy, and formulating a comprehensive 10-year development plan. The speakers unanimously emphasized that a recognized National Quality Infrastructure not only enhances product competitiveness but also ensures quality, safety, as well as facilitates international trade by eliminating technical barriers (TBTs).

## International mission explores NSBM's structure and Metrology Board

December 7, 2023 - Armenia hosted an on-site mission from December 4 to 7, led by an international expert, to enhance Armenia's National Body for Standards and Metrology (NBSM) capacity in providing sustainable and internationally recognized metrology services.

During the mission, key stakeholders, including NSBM, Market Surveillance Inspection Body, Ministry of Economy, National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB), National Polytechnical University, The Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, and the RA Chamber of Commerce, were extensively interviewed to identify needs and gather insights regarding a Metrology Board.



On December 7, the mission's key insights were shared during a round-table discussion, engaging 14 representatives from the public and private sectors. The discussion focused on stakeholder inclusion in a Metrology Board, NSBM's organizational structure, and key considerations in developing a National Metrology System. This initiative aims to support further development of a robust metrology system in Armenia, promoting metrology, ensuring product quality and safety, and facilitating trade in compliance with international standards. This effort aligns with Armenia's commitment to implementing the CEPA Agreement with the EU, enhancing trade competitiveness, and maximizing associated benefits.