



“Awareness of Turkey’s quality infrastructure is much higher and the quality of its laboratory services has also improved”

How work completed recently by BSI International Projects could help Turkey to achieve its goal of full European Union membership

With the aim of strengthening national quality infrastructure and removing technical barriers to trade with the EU to ensure free movement of goods, in 2010 Turkey’s Ministry of Economy and the Turkish Society for Quality commissioned the services of BSI International Projects.

The project also aimed to facilitate the implementation of EU legislation and regulation relating to the free movement of goods between Turkey and EU member states.

The project was split into five components and a management structure was installed in the capital, Ankara, made up of 10 permanent staff supported by 130 experts. We led a consortium of six pan-European organizations.

Stakeholder training

The focus then shifted to delivering training to a wide range of stakeholders in Turkey and approximately 280 technical training courses were delivered over the project’s term. This included training in accreditation standards for Turkish laboratories wanting to enhance their capabilities.

Following visits to stakeholders operating in locations throughout Turkey to perform in-depth consultations, two annual reports were produced that provided an overview of the nation’s quality infrastructure system, as well as giving recommendations for future development. Six sector-specific technical advice reports were also produced.

The fourth component consisted of 20 inter-laboratory comparisons and proficiency testing schemes, half of which concerned food and feed, six were focused on industrial products, while four concerned calibration.

Raising awareness

The project’s final component focused on raising awareness of quality in Turkey, which comprised 30 well-attended events and seminars that sought to reach out to Turkish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to inform them of the business benefits of standardization.

Two large international conformity assessment conferences were also held, each attracting many hundreds of attendees. Numerous surveys were also conducted in Turkish shopping malls to raise awareness among consumers of the key role standards play in ensuring product safety.

The project set out to strengthen Turkey’s institutional and infrastructural framework, to enable better implementation of EU legislation regarding free movement of goods. Now having been delivered successfully, the project is expected to have many other positive outcomes.

SME participation

There have been many other gains. Awareness of Turkey’s quality infrastructure is much higher and the quality of its laboratory services has also improved. More SMEs in Turkey now participate in the standardization process and awareness among consumers is higher.

The Turkish conformity assessment sector is better organized and market surveillance by authorized bodies is more efficient, while knowledge of EU Directives and standards among conformity assessment bodies, manufacturers and public authorities is also much greater.

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