



# TURKMENISTAN

How consumers and businesses could benefit from our work to improve Turkmenistan's quality infrastructure

Standardization in Turkmenistan dates back to 1929, when the country's board of weights and measures was established. In 1971, the Turkmen Republic Office of State Standards was set up, which became the Turkmen Republic Centre for Standardization and Metrology six years later.

The Major State Inspection of Turkmenistan was established in 1993, which became the Major State Inspection Turkmenistandartlary in 1991, then the Major State Service Turkmenistandartlary in 2000. Its headquarters are in Ashgabat, the Turkmen capital.



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Gulnara Otten  
BSI International Project Manager

### Greater compatibility

In November 2014, we started a two-year EU-funded project to improve Turkmenistan's quality infrastructure to drive trade and industrial growth. “A key objective is to ensure greater compatibility between Turkmen standards and technical regulations and those used internationally,” explains BSI International Project Manager, Gulnara Otten.

Another goal is to increase opportunities for market access, enabled by better alignment of Turkmenistan technical regulations to World Trade Organization requirements. This would benefit businesses throughout Turkmenistan, many more of which could then export their products and services.

Turkmen export revenues reached an estimated US\$21.04bn (£14.5bn) in 2015. Key commodities include gas, crude oil and petrochemicals, as well as textiles and cotton, with more than two-thirds of Turkmen exports ending up in China. Turkmenistan is estimated to have imported goods worth US\$14.82bn (£10.2bn) in 2015 (source: CIA Factbook).

### Improving infrastructure

As part of the project, it is hoped that the Major State Service Turkmenstandartlary will be able to adopt an overall strategy for improving the national quality infrastructure.

There are specific work plans relating to Turkmen standards and technical regulations that seek to bring them into line with international requirements and best practice.

A key challenge is to modernize standardization in Turkmenistan, and move its standards-making process towards the international model, where they are based on the work of technical committees working in partnership with stakeholders, with voluntary rather than solely mandatory use.

The project also seeks to improve knowledge among stakeholders in Turkmenistan on the role and significance of EU and international trade policies, international commercial practices and related technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment, CE marking and documentation.

The project has introduced a broad number of subjects on scientific, industrial, and legal metrology. Participants of the trainings received information on current developments in the Metre Convention, in OIML, EURAMET, and COOMET. The EU legislation on measuring instruments as well as pre-packages was welcomed by the Turkmen staff working in the metrology field. Furthermore, calibration procedures were improved in a number of laboratories of the State Etalons Centre and the very first inter-laboratory comparison has been carried out in thermometry field with positive results announced. Finally, the project supported the development and implementation of a management system to standard ISO 17025 in the State Etalons Centre.

The major State Service “Turkmenstandartlary” and other conformity assessment bodies of Turkmenistan were provided with

comprehensive knowledge on the ISO/IEC 17000 series of standards. The relevant legal framework was developed by our team of experts, creating favourable conditions for the establishment of a separate accreditation unit once the necessary decisions are made by the Turkmen government.

Achieving international recognition of the accreditation system will significantly support both industry and business in Turkmenistan. It will contribute to the growth of the Turkmen economy by facilitating the international trade, increasing business competitiveness and the country's export potential.

### Study visits

We've welcomed Turkmen standards professionals to the UK for a study visit, and they've also journeyed to Lithuania and Latvia to find out about quality infrastructure in these markets. We have three full-time experts working on the project in Turkmenistan alongside Major State Service Turkmenstandartlary colleagues.

Consumers throughout Turkmenistan could be among the first to benefit from improved quality infrastructure, but businesses could also reap the rewards of working with new and improved Turkmen standards and international standards, which could help them to sell more at home and overseas.

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