

The Twinning Program

The Twinning Program is one of the European Union's principal tools of institutional building assistance. It aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations, by providing the framework for administrative and semi-public organizations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in the EU member states.



In Egypt, Twinning Projects are being implemented in the framework of the Support to the Association Programme (SAAP-PAO), an affiliate to the Ministry of International Cooperation in close liaison with EU Delegation to Egypt.

Overall Objective and Purpose

This EU-Twinning Project "Building the Capacity of the Egyptian National Institute of Standards in the field of Metrology" EG/13/ENP/TR/22 with total amount €1.1 million, with 24 months duration, it is a cooperation between the Egyptian National Institute of Standards (NIS), Beneficiary Organisation and the British Standards Institution (BSI), MS Lead Partner and in partnership with National Measurement Office (NMO), National Physical Laboratory (NPL), National Metrology Institute of Germany (PTB), Czech Metrology Institute (CMI), Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas Ltd (NICO), MS Junior Partners.

The overall objective of the project is supporting the performance of the Egyptian quality infrastructure within the context of the national reform priorities and in line with the EU and international best practices.

The purpose of the project is contributing to legislative reform in the field of metrology and to the strengthening of the institutional and technical capacity of the

National Institute of Standards



The National Institute for Standards (NIS) is the measurement institute of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the custodian of traceable standards to the International System (SI) of units. NIS is the largest metrology body in the Middle East and Africa, and the sole representative of Egypt at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

NIS was established in 1963. Since its establishment, NIS has developed and maintained the nation's primary measurement standards and disseminated them to the end user with the highest possible metrological quality. These primary standards underpin an infrastructure of traceability through Egypt and the world to ensure accuracy and consistency of measurements.

Through six scientific metrological divisions that comprise twenty scientific laboratories, NIS is able to deliver accurate calibration and measurements services and technical consultancies in many sectors such as trade and industry, health and safety, environment, agriculture etc.

One of the main roles of NIS is to conduct research activities aiming at finding new measurement techniques and improving measurement methods so as to meet the Egyptian demands and support different organizations across the country and the region in making the best use of measurements.

NIS's mission and vision:

- To establish metrological infrastructure in order to promote the competitiveness of the Egyptian industry by advancing measurement standards and technologies in ways that enhance performance of

National Institute for Standards (NIS) as the primary holder of metrology in line with the relevant European best practices in standards, norms and processes in the field.

The Association Agreement (AA) between the European Commission and Egypt entered into force in June 2004, with the aim of intensifying cooperation on a very wide spectrum of fields. Specifically, Article 47 of the AA stipulates that cooperation between Egypt and the EU will reduce major differences *in the fields of standardization, metrology, quality standards, and recognition of conformity.*

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan was adopted by Egypt and the EU in March 2007 to introduce specific and detailed mechanisms to support Egypt's national development strategies and plans. It seeks to improve Egypt's access to the European Single Market. Joint cooperation could take place in the area of standards and conformity assessment in addition to continuing assistance, thus enabling the opening of EU-Egypt negotiations on the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance (ACAA).

Metrology is considered an essential element in this process. The project aims at building upon previous technical assistance activities. Through the support of well-established Member State Institutions, the Egyptian National Institute of Standards (NIS) will, *inter alia*, be able to:

1. Perform as a modern and effective institution in metrology;
2. Participate in international work of international and regional standardisation and metrology organisations; and
3. Improve the business environment in Egypt strengthening exports.

the national economy and ensure a better quality of life for all.

- To be globally recognised as a National Metrology Institute (NMI) with sound reputation and prestige.

Project Results

Component 1: New legislation and technical regulations harmonised with the EU Acquis
EU requirements transposed into Metrology law and secondary legislation for conformity assessment bodies (CABS)

Component 2: Promotion of European approach on a national metrology infrastructure
Integration of Legal, Scientific and Industrial Metrology

Component 3: Alignment of national metrology system with international recognised best practices in quality management
Strengthening proficiency testing, marketing, calibration and measurement capability (CMC) will all relate to ACAA priorities sectors which are:-

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Note: This informational leaflet has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the BSI, NMRO, PTB, CMI, NICO and the Egyptian National Institute of Standards (NIS) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



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