



### ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

**Project title:** Setting conditions for recognition of the Armenian Accreditation System by the European Co-operation for Accreditation

**Beneficiary administration:** “National Accreditation Body” State Non-Commercial Organization (ARMNAB) of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia (RA)

**Twinning Reference:** AM 17 ENI EC 01 19

**Publication notice reference:** EuropeAid/2020/170336/ACT/AM

**EU funded project**  
***TWINNING TOOL***

**List of Abbreviation:**

BA – Beneficiary Administration

BLA – Bilateral Agreement

CEPA – EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

EA - European co-operation for Accreditation

ARMNAB – Armenian “National Accreditation Body” State Non-Commercial Organization

ILAC - International Laboratory Accreditation Committee

MoE – Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia

MS – Member State

PA – Public Administration

PAR – Public Administration Reform

PAO – Programme Administration Office

PL – Project Leader

PSC – Project Steering Committee

PT – Proficiency Testing

RTA – Resident Twinning Adviser

STE – Short term Expert

TBT – Technical barriers to trade

## 1. Basic Information

1.1 Programme: ENI 2017/C (2017) 8195/Annual Action Programme for Armenia;  
Financing Agreement: "Armenia Technical Cooperation Facility" 2017/040-523

**For UK applicants:** Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement<sup>1</sup> on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union and to goods originating from an eligible country, as defined under Regulation (EU) No 236/2014<sup>2</sup> and Annex IV of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement<sup>3</sup>, are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in, and to goods originating from, the United Kingdom<sup>4</sup>. Those persons and goods are therefore eligible under this call.

1.2 Twinning Sector: *Standardisation and certification, Trade & Industry (EC)*.

1.3 EU funded budget: EUR 700.000

1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): No 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The overall objective of the project is to support implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA with regards to fostering internationally recognized accreditation and conformity assessment system in Armenia.

### 2.2 Specific objective:

The specific objective of the project is to support Armenia's National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) in fulfilling conditions for associate membership in the EA.

### 2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans

The strategy of the Twinning project builds upon the high-level reform commitments undertaken by Armenia within its ambitious bi-lateral agreement with the EU and the country's national policy framework set by the new government.

The key point of reference is the *EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA)*<sup>5</sup> and its Implementation Roadmap that define a number of relevant commitments. The project is specifically geared towards fulfilment of the objectives set out in the Agreement's Title VI, Chapter 3, Article 130. The latter stipulates that Parties shall strengthen their cooperation with regard to standards, technical regulations, metrology, market surveillance, accreditation and conformity assessment procedures with a view to increasing

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<sup>1</sup> Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

<sup>3</sup> Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (OJ L196/40, 3.7.2014)

<sup>4</sup> Including the Overseas Countries and Territories having special relations with the United Kingdom, as laid down in Part Four and Annex II of the TFEU.

<sup>5</sup>EU-Armenia CEPA: [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu-armenia\\_comprehensive\\_and\\_enhanced\\_partnership\\_agreement\\_cepa.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu-armenia_comprehensive_and_enhanced_partnership_agreement_cepa.pdf)

the mutual understanding of their respective systems and facilitating access to their respective markets.

CEPA also highlights the importance of promoting mutual trade and states that the Parties shall reduce differences with regards to accreditation and encourage the use of internationally agreed instruments. The Agreement further envisages that membership of Armenia and of its relevant national bodies shall be promoted in the European and international organisations the activity of which relates to standards, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology and related functions.

The issues targeted by the project also reflect priority directions described in strategic documents at national level:

*The 5-year Government Programme for 2019-2023*<sup>6</sup> and its Action Plan adopted following the parliamentary elections of December 2018 are the most authoritative policy documents setting the strategic framework for the project development. The Program prioritises economic growth based on export promotion and sets an objective of achieving international recognition of Armenian conformity assessment documents in major export markets. More specifically, the Action Plan envisages that international bilateral recognition and multilateral recognition of the National Accreditation Body and concluding agreements with regional and international accreditation organizations (EA, ILAC, IAF) shall be reached by 2023.

*The Annual Programme of the Government for 2019*<sup>7</sup> further underpins the objectives set on the strategic level by highlighting the importance of attaining foreign market recognition for the Armenian goods.

*The 2010-2020 Strategy for the reform of the Republic of Armenia's Quality Infrastructure*<sup>8</sup> (2010) and its Action Plan outline legislation, policy and institutional reform in the field of accreditation. The aim of the strategy is to provide long-term direction for the development of the national quality infrastructure system and to reform the existing setting in a way that will enable it to meet the European and international requirements.

### **3. Description**

#### **3.1 Background and justification:**

##### **3.1.1. Past reforms and establishment of the Accreditation System in Armenia**

Since 1999 Armenia embarked on a series of reforms in the quality infrastructure system that were geared towards addressing evolving needs of the national economy and the country's aspiration to join the WTO. In 2004, the reforms were advanced with the adoption of a legislative package, including the Law on Standardization, the Law on Assurance of Uniformity of Measurements and the Law on Conformity Assessment. This legislation ceased the state monopoly in testing and certification services and introduced the fundamental principle of the voluntary use of standards. At the institutional level, the Institute of Standardisation, Institute of Metrology and a National Accreditation Agency of the Ministry of Economy became operational under the internationally recognized principles and requirements of the new legislation.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.am/files/docs/3347.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.am/am/annual-events/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.edrc.am/images/National\\_Strategies/Industrial/quality\\_infrastructure\\_reforms.pdf](https://www.edrc.am/images/National_Strategies/Industrial/quality_infrastructure_reforms.pdf)

After Armenia's joining the WTO in 2004, further developments in the system have primarily been associated with the inclusion of the Republic of Armenia in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The EU-Armenia ENP Action Plan, which envisaged approximation of the Armenian legislation, norms and standards to those of the European Union, was signed on November 14, 2006. Progress has been made in adopting new technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures and building capacity of quality infrastructure institutions, which had a significant impact on the internal and external trade, including the Armenia-EU trade.

In 2009-2010 years, the Ministry of Economy of Armenia with the assistance from the EU Advisory Group in Armenia<sup>9</sup> conducted review of the quality infrastructure and developed new 2010-2020 *Strategy for the Quality Infrastructure Reforms* (see under Strategic documents). Implementation of the Strategy in the course of the past decade fostered a number of significant reforms including development of a new legal and institutional framework, enhanced capacity building and raised awareness in the field of technical regulation, standardization, metrology, accreditation, testing, inspection, certification and market surveillance.

The Strategy has laid a foundation for development of a new legislative framework in the field of accreditation, including the “Law on Technical Regulation”, “Law on Standardization” and “Law on Uniformity of measurements”, as well as a number of pertinent by-laws. Most importantly, the **Law on Accreditation** was adopted in 2012, setting the legal and institutional framework for the National Accreditation Body – the ARMNAB, which was subsequently established by a Government decision<sup>10</sup> and commenced operation in December 2012.

The new legislation envisaged further reforms in the field of accreditation, namely through implementation of provisions of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, building internal management system in accordance with the International ISO 17011 standard, as well as promoting membership of National Accreditation Body in International and European Accreditation organizations.

### **3.1.2. Legislative framework**

Key legal acts that set the framework for the operation of ARMNAB are:

- The Law on Accreditation (2012);
- The Government decision<sup>11</sup> “On Procedure for Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies” (2012);
- Decree of the Minister of Economy<sup>12</sup> on the “Statute of the “National Accreditation Body” State Non-Commercial Organization”.

The following legal acts are deemed most pertinent to the scope of the project:

**The Law on Accreditation** has established that the only agency rendering services of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies in Armenia is the “National Accreditation Body” SNCO (ARMNAB) while the Ministry of Economy shall act as the state regulatory body in the field of accreditation. It also defined the structure and the rules of operation of the

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<sup>9</sup> Info on EU AG

<sup>10</sup> Government decision N 890-N, July 19, 2012

<sup>11</sup> N1201-N, Sept 6, 2012

<sup>12</sup> N 665-A, August 10, 2012,

national accreditation system of the Republic of Armenia and regulated the accreditation process of conformity assessment bodies carrying out testing, calibration, inspection, certification and other mandatory and voluntary conformity assessment activities.

While offering a substantively improved regulatory framework at the time of its adoption in 2012, this law, according to an expert assessment conducted in 2017<sup>13</sup>, requires revision and updating. The following recommendations form the basis for the further improvement of the law:

- The use of terminology should be harmonized with the Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and ISO/IEC 17000 series of standards (Article 2).
- Appointment of the members of the Accreditation Council should be adequately regulated (Article 9).
- The tasks of the Accreditation Council should be revised in relation to the approval of the composition of the Technical Accreditation Committees (Article 9(8)).
- The functions of the executive body of the national accreditation system should be revised in relation to the organizing qualification courses to the staff of the conformity assessment bodies (Article 9(8)).
- The law should allow the accredited CABs to make reference to accreditation (Article 14(1)).
- Membership in and recognition by regional and international accreditation organizations should be reformulated (Article 18).
- A new provision should be added about the recognition of foreign accreditation certificates issued by EA MLA, ILAC MRA and IAF MLA signatories and results of CABs accredited by them (Article 18).
- Regulations on provision of information by the national accreditation body (Article 21) should be revised.

Furthermore, the Law on Accreditation refers to ISO/IEC 17011 to be implemented for the accreditation process, while the Government decision No 1201 on the accreditation procedure mentions the ISO/IEC 17000 series of standard (ISO/IEC 17011, 17020, 17021, 17024, 17025 and 17065) and makes general reference to regional and international standards and guidelines. However, there is no specific procedure for extending ARMNAB activities and reacting to demands of the interested parties as requested by clause 4.6.3 of ISO/IEC 17011.

**Government Decision No 1201-N<sup>14</sup>** on the procedure for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies defines the general provisions, the accreditation standards, the procedure for accreditation, the accreditation for reservations, the regular and the extraordinary assessment, the extension of accreditation and the reduction, suspension, maintenance and withdrawing of accreditation. However, this regulation is excessively detailed and its relatively high regulatory level (Government decree) complicates timely updating. It is recommended to revise it by focusing on the key principles and rules, at the same time as regulating the details of the procedure on the lower regulatory level. This would allow for regular updating and continuous harmonization of the procedures with the international standards on accreditation and the mandatory documents of the international and European accreditation organizations.

### **3.1.3. Structure of accreditation system in Armenia and its operation**

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<sup>13</sup> PTB Expert Report “Consultancy to the National Accreditation body in Armenia with special focus on the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories”, Dr. Rózsa Ring, May 2017

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=98832>

The structure of the national accreditation system, according to the Law on accreditation, consists of the followings:

- State administration body authorised by the Government of Armenia (namely the Ministry of Economy - MoE)
- Accreditation Council
- National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB), including accreditation technical committees

Although, the Law on Accreditation lists the CABs within the national accreditation system, they are not an integral part of it, but are rather the customers/clients using the accreditation services. The detailed outline of the national accreditation system of Armenia is attached in Annex 2 of the fiche.

**The authorised state administration body (MoE)** is responsible for the elaboration of state policy on accreditation and conformity assessment, carry out monitoring of the activities of ARMNAB, approve the amount and the procedure for the payment of the accreditation and annual fees, and encourage accreditation considering accreditation as the main tool for the assessment of competence and reliability of CABs. These tasks of the authorized state administration body, especially the monitoring of ARMNAB are in line with Article 9(2) of the Regulation (EC) No 765/2008.

**The Accreditation Council** consists of 9 members representing 3 groups of interest, state administration bodies and state non-commercial organisation, accredited CABs, and non-governmental and scientific organisations. The present composition of the Accreditation Council is designed to provide opportunity for effective involvement by interested parties. However, the rule for the quorum in decision making by the Accreditation Council does not ensure a balanced representation of interested parties, whereby no single party would have a dominating position.

The Accreditation Council draws up recommendation for the implementation of state policy related to accreditation, makes recommendations regarding the annual plan of ARMNAB and monitors its implementation, participates in the elaboration of ARMNAB working procedures, approves the form of the accreditation certificate, defines the design of the accreditation mark and the rules for its use, approves the rules of operation and the composition of the Technical Committees for Accreditation, establishes the Appeals Committee and defines its rule of operation and the procedure for handling appeals. The Accreditation Council also approves the form of the conformity certificate in the non-regulated fields.

According to the Law on accreditation, the Accreditation Council establishes an Appeals Committee for handling appeals launched against the adverse decision during the accreditation/surveillance processes.

**National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB)** has a staff of 14 persons: Director, Deputy Director, Manager of management system, Department of Accreditation of Laboratories and Inspection Bodies (3 persons), Department of Accreditation of Certification Bodies (3 persons), and Secretariat (5 persons), the organisational chart is attached in Annex 2. Some of ARMNAB staff also act as lead assessors. Other personnel involved in accreditation are the members of the Technical Accreditation Committees and the external lead assessors and technical experts.

The level of public funding of ARMNAB is not satisfactory, which affects the overall quality of operations. Thus, the staff lacks opportunities for advanced training and upgrading of capacities in line with the standards envisaged by the EA. In addition, the facilities at ARMNAB are not sufficient in terms of the space and equipment to support effective and efficient operation.

#### ***Accreditation technical committees***

The type and conditions of activities of the accreditation technical committees (hereinafter TCs) are approved by the decision of the Accreditation Council N2, N 2, October 28, 2015.

The major functions of the TCs are:

- 1) examination of documents related to accreditation of the CAB
- 2) decision on accreditation or accreditation refusal based on the results of examination (evaluation) of documents submitted by the conformity assessment bodies
- 3) decision on expansion or reduction of accreditation, as well as its suspension or withdrawal.

Currently 58 CABs hold accreditations in various fields of operation. The information on existing accredited CABs, technical assessors and technical experts in appropriate accreditation fields (as of September 1, 2019) is provided in Annex 3.

#### **3.1.4. Importance of International recognition**

Following the stage of laying foundations for the legislative and institutional set-up in accreditation, the Government set the priority of pursuing international recognition of the conformity assessment documents issued in Armenia with the view to expanding export markets.

The first step towards international recognition of ARMNAB was taken in November 2016, when agreement on its associate membership with the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) was signed. Further integration would require passing of an equality-based peer assessment by the EA that would lead, if successful, to signing of a Bi-Lateral Recognition Agreement with the EA (BLA). The latter allows signatories to conclude Multilateral recognition agreements (MLA) with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) without additional re-evaluation.

Since 2016 it has also participated in some of the EA meetings, which offer an important platform for discussing and updating the accreditation policies, rules and procedures based on established practice and the EU regulations. However, ARMNAB, regular attendance is complicated due to the lack of funding, which deprives the staff of ARMNAB from establishing professional networks and taking part in discussion of modern approaches to accreditation policy and implementation.

#### **3.1.5. Justification**

The objectives of Project are in line with measures in the field of technical barriers to trade (TBT) covered by Chapter 3 of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (Article 130 - Cooperation in the field of technical barriers to trade).

In terms of pursued objectives and planned activities, the Beneficiary Administration is obliged to implement requirements of a new version of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 international standard, EU Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and EA rules and procedures, directed to prepare for signing BLA. The most important challenge for the BA is to ensure and demonstrate compliance with the requirements in the course of the EA expert assessment, as well as to gradually achieve full approximation with the international standards, accreditation, conformity assessment, and corresponding systems.

In order to achieve recognition and receive BLA signatory status in EA, the Armenian Accreditation Body shall undertake to follow the principles and the practice laid down in the relevant EU requirements, as well as to establish relevant accreditation and conformity assessment schemes.

Special attention needs to be paid to ensuring **approximation of legal framework** (i.e. Law on accreditation, Government Decision, Statute), policies, rules and procedures on accreditation with the support of this Twinning project in line with the best available evidence (impact assessments) and according to an inclusive approach involving both internal and external stakeholders. The list of currently existing national legal acts and accreditation policies, procedures and rules is provided in the Annex 3. Comments with regards to legislative framework are presented in Annexes 4, 5 and 6.

ARMNAB has established a **management system and its documentation** (management manual, policies, procedures, forms etc.). The management system documentation should be revised and updated to be fully in line with the last version of ISO/IEC 17011 and to implement the relevant requirements of EA, ILAC and IAF documents.

The **qualification of ARMNAB personnel** including their training needs, mainly the lead assessors and experts, should be further evaluated to judge whether ARMNAB has the sufficient number of competent personnel available to perform its tasks.

The accreditation criteria take into account the international standards, but they should be updated by implementing all relevant requirements of EA, ILAC and IAF documents. Some critical policies related to traceability and participation in PT/ILC should be urgently published and implemented. Currently, conformity assessment bodies and ARMNAB interested in participation in training, according to ISO/IEC 17043 to gain experience and knowledge on how to organize and participate in PTs/ILCs and to process the statistical methods. In addition, the ARMNAB assessors do not have sufficient experience in delivering training and sharing experience with interested parties.

The accreditation process and accreditation schemes that follow ISO/IEC 17011, should also be revised to be in line with the European best practices. While strengthening professional qualifications of personnel involved in accreditation activities, the emphasis shall be given to build practical skills in implementation of two basic accreditation schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065. These two schemes are initial priorities of ARMNAB in the endeavour to pass the peer evaluation by EA. One of the main issues is how to guarantee that each decision related to accreditation is taken by competent person(s) or committee.

ARMNAB participation in the activities of EA should be significantly strengthened. ARMNAB membership and participation in the international accreditation organizations (ILAC and IAF) should be considered. ARMNAB currently attends only in the General Assembly meetings of EA, but it shall have the necessary personnel and financial resources to attend the meetings of the technical committees, namely the Laboratory Committee,

Inspection Committee, Certification Committee and Horizontal Harmonization Committee, and the Multilateral Agreement Council. The technical committees of EA discuss all technical issues related to the accreditation of certification bodies, inspection bodies and laboratories, with the view of establishing best practice and fostering harmonisation.

Recognition of foreign accreditation certificates and result of CABs accredited by EA MLA, ILAC MRA and IAF MLA signatory NABs should be regulated in the Law on accreditation.

*The BA will ensure involvement of the representatives of other responsible authorities and stakeholders in the activities that will be undertaken within the project (Quality Infrastructure Department of MoE, "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF METROLOGY" (NIM), "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS" (NIS), conformity assessment bodies, etc.), which should ensure consistency of actions performed.*

### **3.2 Ongoing reforms:**

Armenia has stepped up its efforts to reinforce and enhance its partnership with the EU, and acknowledged on the high-level the significant role the EU can play in the smooth implementation of the country's ambitious reform agenda. However, the pace of the reforms in the field of quality infrastructure and, particularly, with regards to accreditation is not sufficient. The Government's roadmap for the implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement is believed to catalyse and advance this process. Total EU-Armenia trade increased by 15% over the past year reaching a total value of €1.1 billion. Armenia benefits from the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences plus (GSP+), which is a special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance. More than 96% of EU imports eligible for GSP+ preferences from Armenia entered the EU with zero duties in 2017. In this terms, further reforms in accreditation and conformity assessment systems are needed for removing technical barriers to trade.

As it was described, during recent decade ARMNAB made some progress with regards to approximation of Armenia legislation with Union *acquis*. Armenian law on accreditation and new institutional settings for accreditation and conformity assessment were major steps toward improvement that are followed by continuous work on approximation toward development of accreditation by-laws, policies and procedures.

Nevertheless, currently there is no state recognized strategy on further reforms and policy in accreditation field. The only existing strategy in quality infrastructure field for 2010-2020 is currently needs its revision. In 2017 the main international standards relevant to accreditation field– ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17021 series have been revised and published in new versions. All of those factors force to the appropriate revision of legislation and procedural framework of Armenian accreditation system.

### **3.3 Linked activities:**

#### **3.3.1. EU support**

Within the framework of preparations to signing of DCFTA (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area) Agreement with Armenia, in 2009 the European Commission fact finding trade mission has assessed legislative and institutional aspects within the domain of Technical Barriers to Trade. As a result of the conducted mission, the Government of Armenia adopted in 2010 the *“Strategy for the reform of the Republic of Armenia’s Quality Infrastructure for 2010-2020”* (decision No.1693-N from December 16, 2010).

A number of *TAIEX initiatives* have been implemented during 2010-2012 years. Organized TAIEX workshops have been directed to provide to main actors of national accreditation system the expertise on scope of performance, rules and procedures of accreditation bodies applied to assure compliance with requirements set by the relevant EU legislation (experience of implementation of requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 standard by EU MS accreditation bodies). The study visit was organized under TAIEX tool to Polish Accreditation body for get acquainted with the structure, management system, staff, requirements for the assessors, experts involved in the assessment process, rules, procedure, process of accreditation of the relevant body.

### **3.3.2 Other assistance**

#### ***GIZ (German Corporation for International Co-operation)***

In 2013 the GIZ Private Sector Development in South Caucasus Programme carried out an evaluation of the Armenian National Accreditation Body in terms of its compliance with the ISO/IEC 17011 standard requirements. Within the framework of the project, ARMNAB was supported in designing its management system documents and assistance was rendered to launching preparations for membership application to the international (ILAC and IAF) and European (EA) accreditation organisations

#### ***USAID Enterprise development and market competitiveness project***

In 2013, assessment of conformity of the ARMNAB management system with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 standard was carried out and recommendations for improved management system were developed.

#### ***World Bank***

*In 2014, a project on Trade promotion and quality infrastructure (proposed loan in the amount of US\$50 million was initiated). It was postponed until the end of 2019. Currently the project is negotiated with the Government of Armenia and possible indication of its status is expected to be clarified by the end of 2019.*

The project is designed to provide adequate incentives to ensure improved effectiveness of the government in delivering trade promotion and quality infrastructure services to firms. The Sub-Component 1.3 “Strengthening of the national accreditation services” is dedicated to the strengthening the capacity of National Accreditation Body to become an internationally-recognized accreditation institution. This component will disburse according to the achievement of the following results: (i) staffing the organization with the required skills set; (ii) providing the necessary budget for the staff and activities required to achieve international recognition; (iii) improving the monitoring and evaluation process of the NAB by incorporating annual reviews and action plans and independent evaluations; and (iv) achieving international recognition by an international accreditation organizations - ILAC and IAF.

#### ***National Metrology Institute of Germany (PTB)***

- ***Strengthening of food testing and metrology in the countries of the South Caucasus (2014-2018)***

The activities implemented within the framework of this project included training on ISO/IEC 17025:2005, on ISO/IEC 17011 and on the mandatory requirements of European and International accreditation organisations. ARMNAB has been consulted on accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. Assessment of the needs of ARMNAB has been carried out and an action plans has been elaborated toward its European and international recognition.

The project also evaluated the management and operation system of ARMNAB and provided recommendations on its harmonization with the European and international regulations and practices.

- *Using regional synergies of the countries of the Eastern Partnership project (2018-2021)*

Training has been provided by the project in the course of 2018-2019 years, covering the following subjects:

- ISO/IEC 17011:2017 “Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies”,
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”,
- ISO/IEC 17065:2012 “Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services”, and
- ISO/IEC 17020:2012 “Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection”.

### **3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms:**

The Twinning project will work on approximation of the relevant Armenian legal framework with the requirements of the following EU Directives/recommendations:

- Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products;
- ISO/IEC 17011 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies;
- Decision 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on a common framework for the marketing of products;
- Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 December 2001 on general product safety;
- Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European standardisation of 25 October 2012;

### **3.5 *Components and results per component***

With an overarching objective of fostering trade-related provisions of CEPA, this project is planned to address key challenges impeding international recognition of the Armenian national accreditation body. In particular, it focuses on setting conditions that would allow ARMNAB to succeed in passing the EA peer evaluation. The project is, therefore, designed around two interlinked components, encompassing improvement of the legislative framework and enhancing practical capacities. The overall assumption underpinning the project planning is that the Armenian authorities will continue pursuing the policy of European integration and expansion of trade relations with the EU.

***Mandatory Result / Component 1: The legal and procedural framework revised with respect to ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant provisions of EU regulation 765/2008/EC.***

The first project Component will focus on reviewing and aligning the legal framework related to accreditation and conformity assessment with the specific requirements of the EU Regulation 765/2008/EC.

*Sub-result 1.1: Support provided to converging and aligning the legislative framework with the EA standards in an inclusive and evidence-based manner*

In order to pass the EA peer evaluation process, the Law on Accreditation and the related secondary legislation regulating functioning of the accreditation system in Armenia must be fully in line with requirements of the first part of the EU Regulation 765/2008 and standard requirements ISO/IEC 17011. The project will work closely with the ARMNAB staff and Quality Infrastructure Department of MoE to carry out a thorough assessment of the existing accreditation legislation and to develop corresponding amendments and recommendations.

*Sub-result 1.2: Support provided to converging and aligning the procedural framework with the EA standards in an inclusive and evidence-based manner*

The quality management system of ARMNAB, including human resource management and development (i.e. competencies), the accreditation criteria, as well as the accreditation policies and procedures should be revised to align with ISO/IEC 17011 and relevant EA, ILAC and IAF requirements. The project will support assessment of the corresponding procedures and the organizational structure. A special emphasis shall be placed on assessing Accreditation body for impartiality, confidentiality, liability and financing, and accreditation activity criteria within the procedural framework. The procedures brought in line with the EA rules and ISO/IEC 17011 standard requirements shall be submitted for formal approval of the ARMNAB management.

**Mandatory Result / Component 2: Enhanced institutional capacity of ARMNAB to provide accreditation in line with the EA rules**

The activities under this Component will contribute towards improving the capacity of the staff of ARMNAB and Department of Quality Infrastructures Development of Ministry of Economy in carrying out their core functions. The emphasis shall be given on updating and making in compliance with EA appropriate requirements of two core accreditation schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 in parallel with strengthening of ARMNAB proficiency in their efficient and credible application.

Activities under this Component 2 shall be aligned and pertinent to the work carried out under Component 1 with regard to the legislative and procedural improvement.

*Sub-result (2.1): Accreditation Schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 are updated and professional capacity is built to ensure their application.*

In order to identify the capacity building needs and support improvement of the operations, the project will carry out a detailed study of the working and organizational practices with a special focus on the system of decision-making in awarding accreditation. Recommendations will be drawn to address the identified capacity needs and corresponding training plans will be designed.

At the same time, the project will provide support in the revision and/ or updating of two core accreditation schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 for which ARMNAB is supposed to pass EA peer evaluation.

Training, including opportunities for exchange of practical experience, will be delivered to the ARMNAB staff to address the identified needs and streamline practical application of the specified accreditation schemes.

*Sub-result (2.2): ARMNAB capacity in the field of Proficiency Testing (PT) as a tool to prove the competence in conformity assessment is strengthened*

This sub-result is directed toward enriching experience of conformity assessment bodies interested in attaining accreditation and building knowledge on how to organize and participate in PTs/ILCs and to process the statistical methods. In addition, the ARMNAB assessors will get practical skills for delivering training and sharing experience with interested parties. In particular, a number of trainings for permanent staff, assessors and potential proficiency test providers on ISO/IEC 17043:2010, ISO 13528:2015, ILAC P13:10/2010 and on evaluation/calculation/estimation of uncertainties in various specific technical activity areas of laboratories shall be organised.

It is important that accredited testing laboratories are also included in PTs and inter-laboratory comparisons regularly, which will increase reliability of the test results conducted by them. Currently there is no accredited provider in the mentioned field in Armenia

*Sub-result (2.3): Practical assessment of ARMNAB preparedness to pass peer evaluation for recognition by EA is conducted.*

Impartial expert(s)- EA peer evaluator(s), will carry out a simulated evaluation of ARMNAB operations according to ISO/ IEC 17040: 2005 Conformity assessment-General requirements for peer assessment of CABs and Accreditation bodies in order to determine the level of its readiness for the fully-fledged EA evaluation.

### **3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)**

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning contract between the final beneficiary country and EU Member State(s). The implementation of the project requires one Project Leader (PL) with responsibility for the overall coordination of project activities and one Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) to manage implementation of project activities, Component Leaders (CLs) and pool of short-term experts (STEs) within the limits of the budget. It is essential that the team has sufficiently broad expertise to cover all areas included in the project description.

Proposals submitted by Member State shall be concise and focussed on the strategy and methodology and an indicative timetable underpinning this, the administrative model suggested, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entity/ies. Proposals shall be detailed enough to respond adequately to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully elaborated project. They shall contain enough detail about the strategy and methodology and indicate the sequencing and mention key activities during the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory results/outputs.

The interested Member State(s) shall include in their proposal the CVs of the designated PL and the Resident Twinning Advisor, as well as the CVs of the potentially designated component Leaders-CLs.

The Twinning project will be implemented by close co-operation between the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in sustainable manner.

**The set of proposed activities will be further developed with the Twinning partners when drafting the initial work plan and successive rolling work plan every three months, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning partner. The components are closely inter-linked and need to be sequenced accordingly.**

### **3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:**

The profile of the PL shall comply with the following:

Qualification and skills

- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body
- University level education in engineering or another relevant field or equivalent relevant professional experience of 8 years
- Fluency in English
- Good inter-personal skills
- Good management skills

General professional experience

- At least 3 years experience within a Quality Infrastructure Body, or related regulatory field experience in project management
- Strong initiative, analytical and team working skills

Specific professional experience

- Specific experience in the field of Accreditation/Conformity Assessment,
- Knowledge of the EU “New Legislative Framework for marketing of products”, the specific requirements applicable to Accreditation and the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011
- Experience in preparation of policy documents

The tasks of the PL shall include the following:

- Overall lead of the implementation of the project
- Mobilization of the necessary expertise required for the implementation of project activities
- Monitoring and steering the project implementation with RTA and taking corrective measures if and when needed
- Ensuring, together with the PC PL as well as RTA and his/her counterpart, timely achievement of the project results
- Co-chairing and participation in quarterly meetings of the Project Steering Committee

### **3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:**

- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body
- University degree in engineering / chemistry or another relevant discipline and at least three years specific working experience or equivalent relevant professional experience of 8 years

- Fluency in English
- Good PC literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Good inter-personal and communication skills
- Good management skills

#### General professional experience

- Recent experience in a senior position in a state institution/Accreditation body in an EU MS
- Experience in transition economy countries would be an asset. Strong initiative, analytical and team working skills

#### Specific professional experience

- At least 3 years of specific working experience
- Sound knowledge of Accreditation services
- Knowledge of the new EU legislative and specific requirements applicable to accreditation
- Knowledge and experience of implementation of MS (Management system) according to ISO/IEC 17011 and/or ISO/IEC 17025 and/or ISO/IEC 17065 and application documents related to ILAC, IAF and EA guidelines
- Knowledge of the process of Multilateral Agreements in Accreditation
- Experience in preparation of major strategic documents

#### **The tasks of the RTA shall include the following:**

- Day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project;
- Preparation, in close cooperation with all relevant actors, of the initial work plan and regular updates of the work plan to be transmitted to the Project Steering Committee under the authority of the Member State PL;
- Ensuring the timely and correct implementation of the activities as outlined in the initial and subsequent work plans in cooperation with the RTA Counterpart;
- Overall coordination of the activities of the Component Leaders in line with the agreed work plan to enable timely completion of project outputs;
- Provide advice to and technically assist the representatives of the Beneficiary administration;
- Keep the Beneficiary PL informed about the implementation and report regularly to the Member State PL;
- Jointly with the Beneficiary institution, liaise with other Armenian institutions and programmes of the EC and other development partners.

Duration of RTA secondment: **18 months**

#### **3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:**

**Component 1: The legal and procedural framework revised with respect to ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant provisions of the EU Regulation 765/2008/EC**

**and**

**Component 2: Enhanced institutional capacity of ARMNAB to provide accreditation in line with the EA rules**

- University level education in a relevant discipline or equivalent professional experience in a related field of minimum 8 years;
- At least 3 years of experience in accreditation field;
- Solid experience in legal drafting coordination process relevant to the project scope;
- Solid experience in conformity assessment;
- Good experience in capacity building activities
- Experience in providing on-job training;
- Excellent time management, organization, and prioritization skills;
- Fluency in written and spoken English,

The tasks of the Component Leader shall include the following:

- Coordinate planning and implementation of the Component of the project in close cooperation with their Component Leaders Counterparts in the beneficiary administration;
- Provide technical input on its knowledge area as required for Component;
- Contribute to effective monitoring and reporting;
- Proposing to the RTA corrective measures needed to achieve timely delivery according to work plan;
- Liaise with the beneficiary's RTA counterpart and relevant staff members of the Beneficiary administration on a regular basis.

### **3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:**

The project shall also deploy additional short-term experts selected amongst civil servants and staff of approved mandated bodies to support the implementation of the two project Components, with the amount of input that will be agreed with the beneficiary as part of the Twinning work plan. The MS may demonstrate availability of a pool of potential STEs sufficient to cover the project's main themes, whose profile shall comply with the following indicative activities:

- Legal Framework for Conformity Assessment related to technical regulation
- Laboratory Assessment (in key sectors)
- Management Systems Assessment
- Certification Assessment
- ISO/IEC 17011 implementation
- Peer Assessment of Accreditation Bodies to EA MLA requirements

Qualifications and skills:

- University education the appropriate field (as indicated above)
- Working knowledge of English.
- Good inter-personal and communication skills.

General professional experience:

- At least 3 years of professional experience in the relevant field, 8 years' experience is considered to be an asset.

## **4. Budget**

The maximum budget available for the Twinning Grant is EUR 700.000

## **5. Implementation Arrangements**

### **5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting (AO/CFCU/PAO/European Union Delegation/Office):**

The European Union Delegation in Yerevan (Armenia) will be responsible for the tendering, contracting, payments and financial reporting, and will work in close co-operation with the Beneficiary. The person in charge of this project at the Delegation is:

Delegation of the EU to Armenia

21 Frik Street, Yerevan 0002, Armenia

Telephone: +374 (10) 54 64 94

E-mail: DELEGATION-ARMENIA-CALLS-FOR-PROPOSAL@eeas.europa.eu

### **5.2 Institutional framework**

According to the RA Law on Accreditation, the only agency rendering services of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies is the “National Accreditation Body” SNCO, which was re-established upon the Government decision N 890-N, July 19, 2012, and started its operation in December 2012. The Ministry of Economy acts as the state regulatory body in the field of accreditation.

### **5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration:**

The PL and RTA counterparts will be staff of the beneficiary administration - the ARMNAB - and will be actively involved in the management and coordination of the project.

#### **5.3.1 Contact person:**

Anna Melkonyan, Deputy director

Armenian National Accreditation Body

[amelkonyan@armnab.am](mailto:amelkonyan@armnab.am)

tel: +374 11 203 382

Komitas av. 49/4, Yerevan

#### **5.3.2 PL counterpart**

Ani Obosyan, Director

Armenian National Accreditation Body

[aobosyan@armnab.am](mailto:aobosyan@armnab.am)

tel: +374 11 203 381

Komitas av. 49/4, Yerevan

#### **5.3.3 RTA counterpart**

Nazik Abgaryan, Manager of management system

Armenian National Accreditation Body

[nabgaryan@armnab.am](mailto:nabgaryan@armnab.am)

tel : +374 11 203 382

Komitas av. 49/4, Yerevan

## **6. Duration of the project**

The intended duration of the project is 18 months.

## **7. Management and reporting**

### **7.1 Language**

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

### **7.2 Project Steering Committee**

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

### **7.3 Reporting**

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

## **8. Sustainability**

The Beneficiary Institution is fully committed to ensuring the long-term impact of the Twinning project. Strong relevance of the project to the government priorities in the field of economic development provide another prerequisite for the sustainability of its impact. The achievements of the Twinning project will have a lasting positive effect for the Beneficiary, primarily by institutionalising improved policy and procedures for accreditation, as well as by strengthening capacities for their implementation. This will have a multiplier effect for the overall quality infrastructure system in Armenia and improving competitiveness of the Armenian products in external markets.

Sustainability of the project is further enhanced by the following factors:

- Inclusive approach and the involvement of beneficiary staff in review and improvement of legislative and procedural framework will enhance the sustainability of the project's work and add to the capacity building activities of the project.
- Capacity building effect of the project will be maximised by production of reference materials in co-operation with the beneficiary institution. Staff benefiting from the capacity building work of the project will be encouraged to cascade the training to their colleagues and partner institutions.
- If successful in its application for the EA associate membership, ARMNAB will also expand its opportunities for international networking and exchange of experience, which will substantively contribute to the continuous learning and development of its staff.

- Last, but not least, the advancements in the CEPA-related reforms promoted with the project assistance, will have a beneficial long-term impact on Armenia and its cooperation with the EU.

## **9. Crosscutting issues**

The project will contribute to enhancing good governance in the field of accreditation and conformity assessment, as well as to the overall strengthening of the country's economic potential. Furthermore, by fostering implementation of CEPA, the project will also advance the Agreement's cross-cutting priorities.

The principles of equality shall be adhered to throughout the project implementation in accordance with the high standards set by the EU Equal Opportunity Directives and the Armenian legislation<sup>15</sup>. ARMNAB commits to ensuring non-discrimination in the workplace and equal opportunities throughout the project implementation.

The project is in line with the Gender Equality Policy Marker "to advance gender equality and women's empowerment or reduce discrimination and inequalities based on sex".

## **10. Conditionality and sequencing**

There is no precondition set for this twinning project.

ARMNAB commits itself to assigning dedicated staff, providing relevant information and documents (translated into English), as well as suitable venues and facilities for training sessions and meetings held under the project.

Sequencing of activities should be based on the logic of the intervention with the view to ensuring their maximum impact. The alignment of regulatory framework is likely to precede capacity building activities and the assessment of preparedness for the peer review (simulation exercise) would conclude the project. The project specific activities will be defined and prioritized in close coordination between the MS and BC partners based on the Logical Framework.

## **11. Indicators for performance measurement**

The logical framework, including the indicators will be revisited during the inception period of the project. The work plan which will be composed in collaboration between the MS and the ARMNAB will further refine and specify the indicators.

The main indicators for performance are:

### **Result 1: Legal and procedural framework aligned with ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant provisions of the EU Regulation 765/2008/EC.**

- a) Draft legislation on accreditation compatible with the EA, IAF, ILAC rules is put forward for adoption by the government (2019: no, 2021: yes)
- b) Procedures for accreditation compatible with the EA, IAF and ILAC rules are in place (2019: no 2021: yes).

Sub-result 1.1: Draft new/amended legal acts aligned with the EA standards in an inclusive and evidence-based manner and submitted for approval by the Government.

- a) Assessment of legal framework, including specific recommendations on approximation with the EA standards, is developed (2020: no, 2021: yes)

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<sup>15</sup> Law on Public Service, Art. 13 provides for equal opportunities of access, career and pay regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion, political or other views or status

- b) Number of draft primary and secondary legislation amended or developed in line with the Assessment report recommendations (2020:0, 2021: indicatively 4)
- c) Share of ARMNAB functional staff involved in the process of assessment and development of primary and secondary legislation. (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)
- d) Share of functional staff of the Ministry of Economy, Department of Quality Infrastructures Development engaged in the process of assessment and development of primary and secondary legislation (2020: n/a; 2021: 60%)
- e) Number of inclusive discussions with stakeholders on the proposed legislative amendments. (2020: 0, 2021: at least one per amended legal act)

Sub-result 1.2: Procedural framework (according to ISO/IEC 17011) aligned and harmonized with the EA, ILAC, IAF documents in an inclusive and evidence-based manner.

- a) Assessment of procedural framework of ARMNAB, including specific recommendations on approximation to the EA standards, is developed (2020: n/a, 2021: yes)
- b) Number of new/revised procedures on accreditation and conformity assessment (2020:n/a, 2021: at least 33)
- c) Share of job descriptions brought in line with the qualification requirements stipulated in the EA qualification framework (2020: n.a., 2021: 90%)
- d) Number of awareness meetings held with interested parties on the amended procedures (2020: 0; 2021: at least 80%)

**Result 2: Enhanced institutional capacity of ARMNAB to provide accreditation in line with the EA rules**

- a) Share of functional ARMNAB staff with improved technical competence in relevant principles and standards of the EA (2020: baseline to be determined at the project commencement; 2021: 80%)
- b) Share of Ministry of Economy Department of Quality Infrastructures Development staff with improved technical competence in relevant principles and standards of the EA (2020: baseline to be determined at the project commencement; 2021: 80%)
- c) Share of training participants who assess the training as highly relevant (2019: NA, 2021: 60%)
- d) Types of capacity building opportunities provided by the project to ARMNAB and MoE Department staff (2019: none: 2021: at least: on-the-job training, workshops, ex-post verification reviews, experience exchange visit)

Sub-result 2.1: Accreditation Schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 are updated and professional capacity is built to ensure their application.

- a) Number of revised Accreditation Schemes (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)
- b) Share of functional ARMNAB and MoE (where relevant) staff, external assessors and technical experts trained to perform accreditation in relation to accreditation schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 (2020: 20%, 2021: 80%- ARMNAB staff; 20% - others),
- c) Number of functional ARMNAB staff and external assessors and technical experts having participated in the exchange of practical experience with an EA MLA/BLA SIGNATORIES MEMBERS Accreditation Body selected by the project. (2020: yes, 2021: 15)
- d) Recommendations on improvement of practices of accreditation developed by ARMNAB staff on the basis of a practical experience exchange with the EA MLA/BLA SIGNATORIES MEMBERS Accreditation Body. (2020: no, 2021: yes)

- e) Number of ex-post verification reviews conducted on conformity of accreditation procedure with the accreditation scheme requirements. (2020: 0, 2021: at least 2 per scheme)

Sub-result 2.2: ARMNAB capacity in the field of Proficiency Testing (PT) as a tool to prove the competence in conformity assessment is strengthened

- a) Share of ARMNAB and accredited CAB functional staff trained in relation to:
- ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing;
  - ISO 13528:2015, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparison;
  - Enhancing quality of evaluation/calculation/estimation of uncertainties in various specific technical activity areas of laboratories ;
- (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)

Sub-result 2.3: Practical assessment of ARMNAB preparedness to pass peer evaluation for recognition by EA

- a) Simulation of EA peer review carried out in ARMNAB (2019: na; 2021: yes)
- b) Conclusions and recommendations (developed by an assessment team through simulation of EA peer review) on the compliance of ARMNAB with the ISO/IEC 17011 and on its overall procedural and functional preparedness of passing peer evaluation by the EA. (2019: na; 2021: in place)

## **12. Facilities available**

The ARMNAB commits to making available to the Twinning project team:

- Adequately furnished office space at its premises and sufficient for the RTA and the RTA assistants;
- Until hiring of assistants is possible, one of its staff members to be made available to support the project;
- Office accommodation at its premises for short-term experts (including within the relevant units);
- Normal access to the common telephone, internet connection, as well as photocopying facilities;
- Suitable and equipped venues for the training sessions and meetings organized by the Project;
- Security of premises by the standards and practices applicable for public institutions in Armenia.

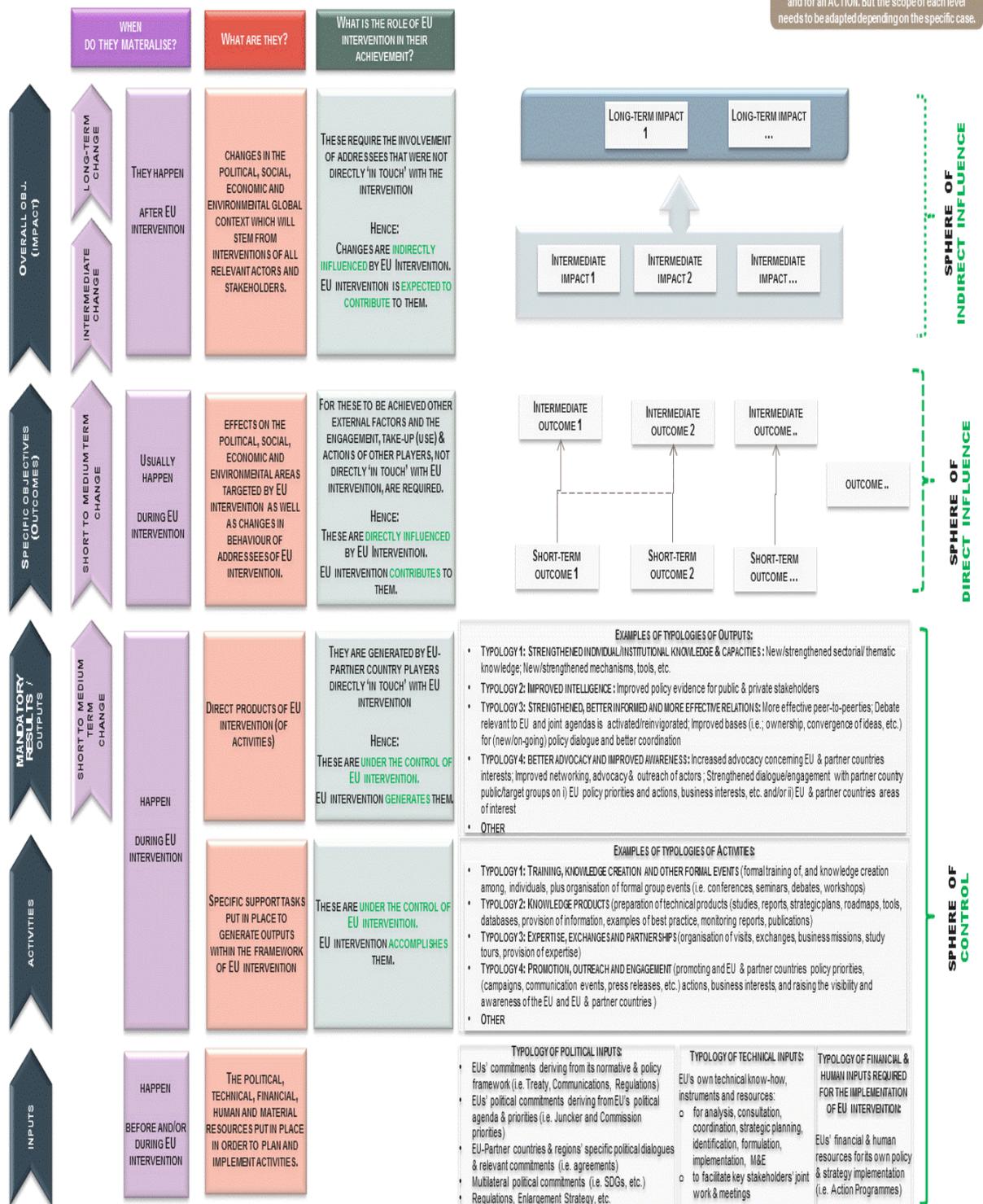
## **ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

The following annexes are attached to the Twinning project fiche:

1. Levels of Intervention logic
2. Logical framework matrix in standard format
3. Organizational structure of main beneficiary institution
4. List of relevant strategic plans, laws, regulations and assessments

LEVELS of an INTERVENTION LOGIC

The rationale of what is presented here is valid for a REGIONAL/MULTI-COUNTRY/COUNTRY STRATEGY and for an ACTION. But the scope of each level needs to be adapted depending on the specific case.



**Annex C1a: SIMPLIFIED LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):</b>	<b>Source of verification:</b>	<b>Risks:</b>	<b>Assumptions:</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	To support implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA with regards to fostering internationally recognized accreditation and conformity assessment system in Armenia.	(a) Improvement of Armenia’s ranking in Global Competitiveness Report indicator: prevalence of nontariff/technical barriers in trade (2018: 78/140, 2022: improved) (b) Signing of Bi-lateral Agreement between the ARMNAB and the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA).	Latest Global competitiveness report; Latest statistical Yearbook of Armenia Report Official roster of the EA signatories Latest CEPA implementation reports	Exigencies of political nature.	Commitment of Armenia to implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA Commitment of Armenia to expanding export markets for the Armenian goods.
<b>Specific objective of the project</b>	To support Armenia’s National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) in fulfilling conditions for associate membership at the EA.	(a) Application for the signatory status within the EA is submitted (2019: No, 2021: Yes) (b) Share of functional ARMNAB staff involved in preparing application documents (2019: 10% 2021: 80%)	Accountability reports of ARMNAB EA roster of applications for membership Project monitoring and implementation report	Lack of consistency on the side of ARMNAB in pursuing membership in EA.	Sustained commitment on the side of the Government to support ARMNAB in pursuing international recognition ARMNAB recognises the project as a critical

	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):</b>	<b>Source of verification:</b>	<b>Risks:</b>	<b>Assumptions:</b>
					contribution to the process of international recognition.
Mandatory results for Component 1	Result 1: Legal and procedural framework aligned with ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant provisions of the EU Regulation 765/2008/EC.	<p>(a) Draft legislation on accreditation compatible with the EA, IAF, ILAC rules is put forward for adoption by the government (2019: no, 2021: yes)</p> <p>(b) Procedures for accreditation compatible with the EA, IAF and ILAC rules are in place (2019: no 2021: yes).</p>	<p>Roster of draft legislation initiated by Government (e.g. e-draft.am)</p> <p>ARMNAB operating procedures and accountability reports</p> <p>ARMNAB's web-site:  <a href="http://armnab.am/">http://armnab.am/</a></p>	<p>Legislation and procedures are not approved by relevant authorities in a timely manner or considerably deviate from the proposed drafts.</p>	<p>Government supports legislative proposals developed by the project in a timely manner</p> <p>ARMNAB is willing to promptly accept and adopt recommendations on improvement of regulatory framework.</p> <p>All legal and procedural framework is properly translated into English language and is</p>

	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):</b>	<b>Source of verification:</b>	<b>Risks:</b>	<b>Assumptions:</b>
					made available before the start of the project
Sub-results per Component 1	Sub-result 1.1: Draft new/amended legal acts aligned with the EA standards in an inclusive and evidence-based manner and submitted for approval by the Government.	<p>(a) Assessment of legal framework, including specific recommendations on approximation with the EA standards, is developed (2020: no, 2021: yes)</p> <p>(b) Number of draft primary and secondary legislation amended or developed in line with the Assessment report recommendations (2020:0, 2021: indicatively 4<sup>16</sup>)</p> <p>(c) Share of ARMNAB functional staff involved in the process of assessment and development of primary and secondary legislation. (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)</p> <p>(d) Share of functional staff of the</p>	<p>ARMNAB Accountability report and documentation attesting submission of legislative drafts for the approval of government.</p> <p>Project implementation and monitoring reports</p> <p>Concordance table prepared by the project to indicate degree of compliance of the legislative drafts with the EA</p>	Institutional changes resulting in delays in analysis, development and approval of drafts	<p>ARMNAB staff committed to furthering the process of review, assessment and development of legislation.</p> <p>Stakeholders are motivated to engage in the discussions on legislative changes.</p>

<sup>16</sup> Legislation to be reviewed, evaluated and amended includes, but is not limited to: Order of Minister of Economy on Statute of ARMNAB (indicatively to be amended in 2020), the Law on Accreditation (indicatively to be amended in 2021); the Government decision on procedure for accreditation of CABs (indicatively to be amended in 2021) and the Order of Minister of Economy on personnel of the Accreditation Council of ARMNAB (indicatively to be amended in 2020). See Annex 3 “List of relevant Legal Acts and Procedures”

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
		Ministry of Economy, Department of Quality Infrastructures Development engaged in the process of assessment and development of primary and secondary legislation (2020: n/a; 2021: 60%) (e) Number of inclusive discussions with stakeholders on the proposed legislative amendments. (2020: 0, 2021: at least one per amended legal act)	rules and requirements		
Sub-result 1.2: Procedural framework ( <i>according to ISO/IEC 17011</i> ) aligned and harmonized with the EA, ILAC, IAF documents in an inclusive and evidence-based manner.		(a) Assessment of procedural framework of ARMNAB, including specific recommendations on approximation to the EA standards, is developed (2020: n/a, 2021: yes) (b) Number of new/revised procedures on accreditation and conformity assessment (2020:n/a, 2021: at least 33 <sup>17</sup> ) (c) Share of job descriptions brought in line with the qualification	ARMNAB Director decisions Project monitoring and implementation reports Concordance table prepared by the project to indicate degree of compliance of the amended procedures with the	ARMNAB staff committed to furthering the process of review, assessment and development of legislation.	Institutional changes resulting in delays in assessment, development and approval of drafts

<sup>17</sup> Please see Annex 3 “List of relevant Legal Acts and Procedures” for the list of procedure to be reviewed and amended.

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
		<p>requirements stipulated in the EA qualification framework (2020: na, 2021: 90%)</p> <p>Number of awareness meetings held with interested parties on the amended procedures (2020: 0; 2021: at least 80%)</p>	<p>appropriate ISO/IEC 17011, EA, ILAC, IAF rules and requirements</p>		
Mandatory results for Component 2	Result 2: Enhanced institutional capacity of ARMNAB to provide accreditation in line with the EA rules	<p>(a) Share of functional ARMNAB staff with improved technical competence in relevant principles and standards of the EA (2020: baseline to be determined at the project commencement; 2021: 80%)</p> <p>(b) Share of Ministry of Economy Department of Quality Infrastructures Development staff with improved technical competence in relevant principles and standards of the EA (2020: baseline to be determined at the project commencement; 2021: 80%)</p>	<p>Project monitoring and implementation reports</p> <p>Technical competence evaluation at the start and at the end of the project</p> <p>ARMNAB staff performance evaluation documentation</p> <p>Ministry of Economy, Department of</p>	Lack of co-ordinated approach to capacity building activities on the side of competent authorities resulting in their reduced effectiveness	Ministry of Economy and ARMNAB staff committed to ensuring adequate participation in capacity building activities

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
		<p>(c) Share of training participants who assess the training as highly relevant (2019: NA, 2021: 60%)</p> <p>(d) Types of capacity building opportunities provided by the project to ARMNAB and MoE Department staff (2020: none: 2021: at least: on-the-job training, workshops, ex-post verification reviews, experience exchange visit)</p>	<p>Quality Infrastructures Development staff performance evaluation documentation</p>		
Sub-results per Component 2	Sub-result 2.1: Accreditation Schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 are updated and professional capacity is built to ensure their application.	<p>(a) Number of revised Accreditation Schemes (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)</p> <p>(b) Share of functional ARMNAB and MoE (where relevant) staff, external assessors and technical experts trained to perform accreditation in relation to accreditation schemes for ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065 (2020: 20%, 2021: 80%- ARMNAB staff; 20% - others),</p> <p>(c) Number of functional ARMNAB staff and external assessors and technical experts having participated in the exchange of</p>	<p>ARMNAB Accreditation Schemes</p> <p>ARMNAB accountability reports</p> <p>Project monitoring and implementation reports</p> <p>Training manuals and handovers produced by the project</p> <p>Accountability</p>	Lack of commitment to accept changes in Accreditation schemes and take on board recommendations stemming from ex-post verification reviews.	ARMNAB leadership is committed to updating Accreditation schemes and promoting staff capacity building

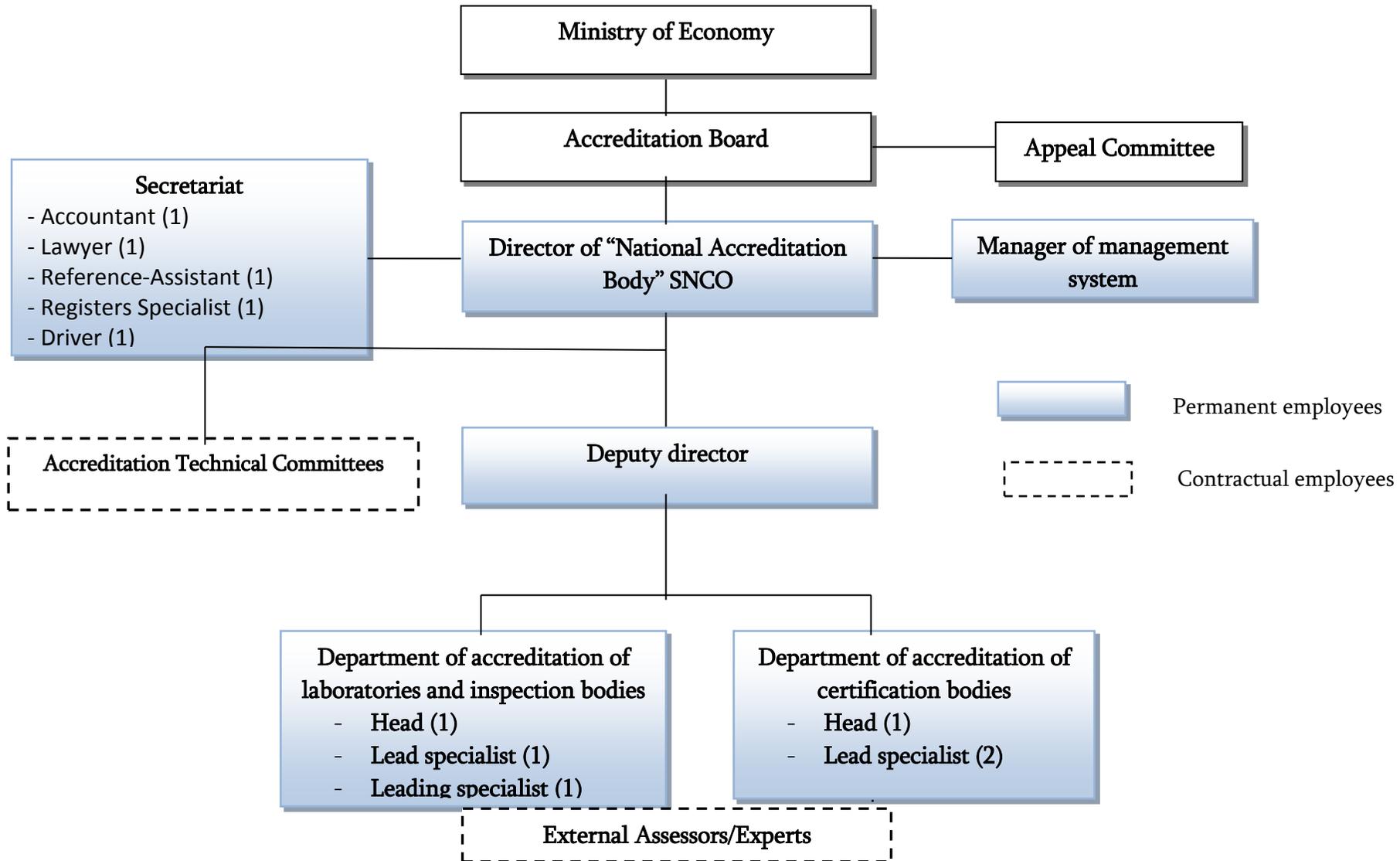
Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
		<p>practical experience with an EA MLA/BLA SIGNATORIES MEMBERS Accreditation Body selected by the project. (2020: yes, 2021: 15)</p> <p>(d) Recommendations on improvement of practices of accreditation developed by ARMNAB staff on the basis of an practical experience exchange with the EA MLA/BLA SIGNATORIES MEMBERS Accreditation Body. (2020: no, 2021: yes)</p> <p>(e) Number of ex-post verification reviews conducted on conformity of accreditation procedure with the accreditation scheme requirements. (2020: 0, 2021: at least 2 per scheme)</p>	<p>reports by ARMNAB staff involved in experience exchange.</p> <p>Ex-post verification review reports with recommendations</p>		
Sub-result 2.2: ARMNAB capacity in the field of Proficiency Testing (PT) as a tool to prove the competence in conformity assessment is		<p>(a) Share of ARMNAB and accredited CAB functional staff trained in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General</li> </ul>	<p>Project monitoring and implementation reports</p> <p>ARMNAB accountability reports</p>	<p>Lack of expertise and absorption capacity on the side of CABs.</p>	<p>ARMNAB leadership is committed to promoting staff capacity building</p>

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:	
	strengthened	requirements for proficiency testing; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ISO 13528:2015, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparison;</li> <li>– Enhancing quality of evaluation/calculation/estimation of uncertainties in various specific technical activity areas of laboratories;</li> </ul> (2020: n/a, 2021: 80%)	Training materials: manuals, handovers		
	Sub-result 2.3: Practical assessment of ARMNAB preparedness to pass peer evaluation for recognition by EA	(a) Simulation of EA peer evaluation of ARMNAB carried out by independent expert(s) (2019: n/a; 2021: yes) (b) Conclusions and recommendations (developed by an assessment team through simulation of EA peer evaluation) on the compliance of ARMNAB with the ISO/IEC 17011 and on its overall procedural and functional preparedness of passing peer evaluation by the EA. (2019: n/a;	Project document and reports Assessment report with conclusions and recommendations on the compliance of ARMNAB with the requirements of international standards	Limited capacity to absorb and effectively address recommendations of the assessment report	ARMNAB leadership committed to supporting the conduct of fully-fledge assessment

Description:	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data):	Source of verification:	Risks:	Assumptions:
		2021: in place)		

Annex 2

*Structure of the national system of accreditation of the Republic of Armenia*



**Annex 3***Master list of ARMNAB's documents*

N/N	Document identifier	Document name
<b>I. Legal acts</b>		
1.	HO-20-N	“Law on Accreditation”
2.	N 1201-N	Gov. decision on “Procedure for Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies”
<b>II. Orders of Ministry of Economy</b>		
1.	N 1565-A	Statute of ARMNAB
2.	N 646-A	“List of the members of Accreditation Council of the National Accreditation Body and its operation”
3.	N 311-N	On approval of size and procedure on accreditation services provided by national accreditation body on the basis of contract signed between national accreditation body and conformity assessment body, payments made by conformity assessment body against appraisals and annual membership fee of conformity assessment body
<b>IV. ARMNAB documents (internal)</b>		
1.	P-01	Policy on transition period on the new standards
2.	P-02	Policy on product testing in the scope of accreditation of the product certification body
3.	PL-01	Quality policy
4.	PL-02	Policy on CAB objection to the structure of assessment team
5.	PL-03	Policy on application of accreditation symbol
6.	PL-05	Policy on participation in proficiency testing (PT) and interlaboratory comparison (ILC)
7.	PL-06	Policy on metrological traceability
8.	PL-08	Policy on ensuring impartiality
9.	MM	Management manual
10.	PR-4.4	Procedure on Risk management
11.	PR-5.3	Procedure on Document control
12.	PR-5.4	Procedure on Records
13.	PR-5.5-5.6	Procedure on nonconformity control, corrective and preventive actions
14.	PR-5.7	Procedure on internal audit
15.	PR-5.8	Procedure on management reviews

16.	PR-5.9	Procedure on consideration of complaints
17.	PR-6	Procedure on selection, training and qualification of personnel included in the accreditation process
18.	PR-6.3	Procedure for Monitoring of NAB Personnel
19.	PR-7	Accreditation procedure
20.	PR-7.9	Requirements for the content, issuance, as well as the re-issuance of the accreditation certificate
21.	PR-7.12-7.13	Extending or reducing accreditation
22.	PR-01	Procedure on providing of accounting blanks
23.	PR-02	Procedure on providing and registration of strict accounting blanks (forms)
24.	PR-03	Procedure on Modernization (updating) of the accreditation scope of accredited conformity assessment bodies
25.	PR-04	Procedure on qualification of experts (auditors)
26.	K-02	Provision of accreditation technical committees activities
27.	K-03	Provision on application of logo and accreditation symbol of the National Accreditation Body
28.	K-04	Provision on activities of appeal committee and consideration of appeals
29.	K-05	Provision on attestation commission
30.	ATL-01	Accreditation of testing laboratories. General requirements
31.	ACL-01	Accreditation of calibration laboratories. General requirements
32.	ACB-01	Accreditation of certification bodies. General requirements
33.	AIB-01	Accreditation of inspection bodies. General requirements