Project to strengthen institutional infrastructure on standards and regulations to support business and industry in Middle East and North Africa (MENA STAR)
*Funded by Sida*

Summary of activities during the second quarter of 2016 (April – June)

1. Second JCC Meeting on 5-6 April 2016

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) represented by ISO as its Chair and Secretariat, and comprised of the CEO’s of the NSBs from all project countries, the designated National Project Managers from each country, representatives of the ISO Academy and of SIDA, as well as observers from the regional standards organizations AIDMO and GSO had participated in the second JCC meeting held on 5-6 April 2015 in Amman, Jordan.

The main objective of this meeting are:

- Review and assess the project achievements.
- Define corrective actions (if needed) to improve the project implementation and monitoring of the project so that outcomes are more effective and efficient.
- Agree on the way forward during 2016.

Please click [here](#) to access the summary of the meeting results and actions to be taken by ISO and the beneficiary countries is included in this document.
2. First Round of the National Follow-up Events on Energy Management and Energy Efficiency (4 beneficiary countries) during April and May 2016

The first round of the national follow-up events on Energy management and Energy Efficiency covering one-day for the national awareness-raising seminar and two-days for the national workshop per country have been conducted in the following four countries: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The dates of these national follow-up events are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>National awareness seminar</th>
<th>National workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Casablanca</td>
<td>19 April 2016</td>
<td>20-21 April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Tunis</td>
<td>19 April 2016</td>
<td>20-21 April 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Algiers</td>
<td>2 May 2016</td>
<td>3-4 May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>23 May 2016</td>
<td>24-25 May 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The main objectives of national follow-up events are:

- Raise awareness and understanding among authorities and industry in the country about energy management and energy efficiency standards, business opportunities, existing best practices, implications and potential impact of the ISO 50001 Energy Management standard

- Build local capacity on ISO 50001 and ISO 50006 and its application to allow all types of organizations to apply the energy efficiency and energy management system principles in their operations

- Provide a platform for specialists from industry, government and academia to share experiences and discuss issues related to the implementation of energy management and the ISO 50001 standard

The one-day national awareness-raising seminar had targeted a wide audience (up to 100 participants) in order to sensitize key stakeholders of the National Standards Body, private sector, public sector, large energy users and academia. Also, the two-days workshop had targeted a selected group (up to 25 participants) of the leading (export) sectors and participants from the seminar.

It is to be noted that the team of national trainees have prepared the programme and materials of the national follow-up events with a support from the international experts. In addition, a preparatory on-site meeting was organized between the national trainees and the international expert the day before the national follow-up events to ensure that the materials are updated and to discuss the key points that should be communicated to the participants.
Following on from the national workshop, a visit was made to the pilot organization that has been identified by the National Standards Body in cooperation with the team of national trainees to implement ISO 50001 and ISO 50006. A national case study has to be developed by the team of national trainees as a result of their support and follow-up with the selected pilot organization to apply the selected ISO standards. The international expert (through country visits - as part of the national follow up events - and distance mentoring) mentors the work that will be undertaken by the team of national trainees in each beneficiary country.
Following on the needs assessment mission to JSMO in Jordan on June 2015, a 1st follow up mission took place on 8-12 May 2016. The mission majored on an evaluation of progress achieved regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, as well as two major workshops on the development of a National Quality Policy and a Standards Strategy. JSMO has made progress with the implementation of the recommendations dealing with achieving better efficacy in standards development, but much still needs to be done. The workshops provided useful information on the development of a National Quality Policy and a Technical Regulation Framework, but this information now needs to be utilised to its maximum by JSMO and Jordan authorities.

The programme was designed around the following three main objectives of the mission (click here to access the mission programme):

- Facilitation of a workshop for stakeholders to provide knowledge regarding the development of a National Quality Policy. The information should enable JSMO in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supplies to either develop a National Quality Policy themselves, or to develop a proposal that could be presented to the donor community in Jordan for technical support for the same.

- Facilitation of a workshop for decision makers to develop a standards strategy for Jordan and JSMO. The information gleaned during the workshop together with the draft standards strategy developed by JSMO in-house, will be utilized to develop a 1st working draft of a Standards Strategy for Jordan which can then be considered and finalized for implementation by JSMO and its stakeholders.

- Review of the progress JSMO had achieved since the fact finding mission in June 2015 as regards recommendations in respect of the standards development and publication processes in JSMO.

Hence, the two workshops dominated the mission programme, with the review of the JSMO progress fitted in between. The workshops were limited to one and a half day each due to the short duration of the mission.

The review of progress in JSMO was conducted as three half-day exercises. This was achieved without any problems, with many of the personnel of the Standards department in JSMO in attendance. A closing session with JSMO management concluded the mission.

The mission report and the updated action plan could be obtained via the project national coordinator in the beneficiary country.
4. First Implementation Phase of ISO Interventions for the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) on 15-19 May 2016

Following on the needs assessment mission to EOS in Egypt on July 2015, a 1st follow up mission took place on 15-19 May 2016. The mission majored on an evaluation of progress achieved regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, as well as two workshops on the development of a National Quality Policy and a Technical Regulation Framework respectively. EOS has made some progress with the implementation of some of the recommendations dealing with achieving better efficacy in standards development, but much still needs to be done. The workshops provided useful information on the development of a National Quality Policy and a Technical Regulation Framework, but this information now needs to be utilized to its maximum by Egyptian authorities and EOS.

The programme was designed around the following three main objectives of the mission (please click here to access the mission programme):

- A review of progress achieved by EOS in implementing the recommendations of the needs assessment mission.
- Facilitation of a workshop on the development of a National Quality Policy for Egypt. This workshop was designed to provide information on issues to stakeholders that need to be considered during the development of a National Quality Policy.
- Facilitation of a workshop on the development of a Technical Regulation Framework for Egypt. This workshop was designed to provide information on international good practices regarding a Technical Regulation Framework and a platform to surface issues that should be dealt with in the development of such a framework.

Whereas the Ministry of Trade and Industry should take the lead developing a National Quality Policy, EOS could be the catalyst for speeding up the process. It could also be the catalyst for the development of a Technical Regulation Framework, although all the regulatory agencies and their Ministries will need to be intensely involved in its development. These developments can be supported in a meaningful way by the technical development programmes in place at the time of writing in Egypt, albeit coordinated in a meaningful way.

A useful side effect of the mission was the discussion with the team developing the modalities for the Trade and Domestic Market Enhancement Programme (TDMED) to be funded by the European Union. The TDMED project will also target the standardization and especially the technical regulation regime of Egypt in order to approximate them better with those of the EU in order to enhance trade between the two.

The mission report and the updated action plan could be obtained via the project national coordinator in the beneficiary country.

The needs assessment mission for the Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC), the ISO member body for Iraq, was conducted on 15-19 May 2016 in Amman, Jordan. The ISO consultant, Ms. Siglinde Kaiser, has assessed the needs of the COSQC concerning standardization in general and in particular regarding procedures and stakeholder participation in standardization. The needs assessment had the format of a workshop. Two and a half days were reserved for meeting staff of COSQC, with an additional one and a half day for a stakeholder workshop that was attended by COSQC staff and five representatives from stakeholder groups. No facilities could be visited, as the workshop had to be staged outside the home country.

Having to conduct the assessment in a location different from the home country, set limits to designing the mission program. No individual interviews were foreseen; all sessions took place in a plenary to best use the availability of the people that could come to the workshop. The selection of participants was made based on logistical and financial considerations. All participants were competent to answer any question arising in course of the workshop.

COSQC has to act in a very difficult environment; standards development, publication and information activities of COSQC therefore are subject to the prevailing conditions; yet staff is dedicated to its work and eager to improve performance. The WTO TBT Agreement requirements are acknowledged, but the transposition to national procedures has just started. There are gaps and the interpretation, i.e. the application to day-to-day work, needs more attention.

After the approval of the mission report and the related action plan by the beneficiary NSB, three missions are foreseen to implement the ISO INS Action plan for COSQC. The ISO interventions are clustered in categories that correspond to the result areas of the ISO MENA STAR project and have been derived from the mission recommendations.

The mission report and the related action plan could be obtained via the project national coordinator in the beneficiary country.
Within the framework of this project, the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in the beneficiary countries are assessed against WTO TBT Agreement requirements and international good practices to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national standardization infrastructure that could benefit from ISO technical assistance activities. The results of the needs assessment missions which have been conducted as part of the institutional strengthening activities for the beneficiary countries have revealed that the beneficiary countries face a wide range of constraints that limit their ability to participate in ISO technical work. Developing country delegates from MENA region seldom attend meetings of ISO technical committees (TCs), subcommittees (SCs), and working groups (WGs) where standards are developed. In addition, the number of secretariats of ISO/TCs/SCs/WGs held by these developing countries is very low. Also, it is evident that the human capital resources is one of the main constraints which limited the active participation in international standards-setting. This includes the availability of personnel with the requisite scientific and technical expertise, knowledge and experience of the standardization process, skills in the working languages of international standards setting organizations and/or motivation to ensure national requirements are communicated effectively.

Subsequent to this, ISO has conducted a regional Training-of-Trainers (ToT) on managing participation in ISO technical work on 24-26 May 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The ToT aimed to help the participants to achieve the following objectives:

- Understand the ISO standards-setting procedures (i.e. ISO/IEC Directives Part 1) and the different opportunities to influence the technical content of international standards;
- Monitor the activities of ISO/TCs/SCs' work where the National Standards Body is P-member or O-member and to secure efficient project management for national mirror committees (for all work items of interest);
- Organize and support the dialogue among national interests and the consolidation of national positions on the relevant work items (primarily those followed by NSB as P-member);
- Manage rigorously and efficiently the circulation of relevant information and documents to all national stakeholders involved in the standardization process; and
- Organize and support the participation of national delegations in International TC/SC meetings.

The ToT was organized around an intensive three-days training course which included both pre-course and post-course assignments. This ToT was facilitated by Mr. Jochen Fornather from the Austrian Standards Institute and Mrs. Claire Chagué, from the Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR). The ToT was conducted in English with simultaneous translation to French.
It is to be noted that ISO had supported the participation of three candidates from each beneficiary country. Two staff from the NSB who are directly involved in the work related to the standards development at the national and international levels as well as one member from a national technical committee of priority sector in the country. In total, max. 24 country representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

The participants had very different background regarding participation in ISO technical work. Some are working for a national standardization body and other are experts in technical committee. This situation leads to very heterogeneous level of comprehension and questions. The overall atmosphere of the ToT was very friendly and the participants showed interest in the different discussed topics.

The following tasks from the participants are expected as a result of the participation in this regional ToT:

- **Review the participation profile of the beneficiary country in the ISO/TCs/SCs/WGs in consultation with the responsible personnel at the NSB and national technical committees to select only the areas of national priority. The selection to be limited to a few number of ISO/TCs/SCs - at the beginning - until the NSB and its stakeholder acquire all the required knowledge and skills to participate in the ISO technical work in an effective manner.**

- **Ensure the establishment of national mirror committees, in cooperation with the responsible officers at the standards development department, for the ISO/TCs/SCs and WGs in which the beneficiary country is participating.**

- **Develop a national guideline on the involvement of the beneficiary country in the ISO technical work (including the procedure for the establishment and operations of national mirror committees) in cooperation with the responsible officers at the NSB.**

- **Hold national workshop(s) on managing participation in ISO technical work for the members of national technical committees.**

The participants should share with the trainers the work that has been delivered at the national level within three months after the ToT. The trainers will provide the participants with their feedback using different communication tools such as emails, WebEx meeting.