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 fourth quarter of 2016 (October – December)

1. First Round of the National Follow-up events on Environmental Management System and LCA (3 beneficiary countries) during October 2016

The first round of the national follow-up events on Environmental Management System and LCA covering one-day for the national awareness-raising seminar and two-days for the national workshop per country have been conducted in the following three countries: Algeria, Egypt 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>Egypt</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>10 October 2016</td>
<td>11-12 October 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Algiers</td>
<td>17 October 2016</td>
<td>18-19 October 2016</td>
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The main objectives of national follow-up events are:

- Raise awareness and understanding among authorities and industry and other stakeholders about Environment Management Systems (EMS) and Life-cycle-assessment (LCA) standards, related business opportunities, existing best practices and risks
- Raise awareness of the need of a strategic vision about LCA, both with regards to trade and business and with regards to competence development
- Provide a platform for specialists from industry, government and academia to share experiences and discuss issues related to the implementation of EMS and LCA standards
- Provide detailed information on the standards on Environment Management Systems (EMS) and Life-Cycle-Assessment (LCA) and related tools for application
- Build local capacity on ISO 14001:2015, ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 and their application to allow all types of organizations to apply the principles of these standards
The seminar is open to a wide audience (up to 100 participants), in order to sensitize key stakeholders of the NSB, in particular the private sector (certified and non-certified enterprises, consulting companies) public sector, NGOs, and academia. Also, the two-days workshop had targeted a selected group (up to 25 participants) from the private sector, in particular companies who are ISO 14001 certified 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 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), following ISO 14040/ISO 14044 and ISO 14001:2015. 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(s) 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.
The ISO regional workshop on the development of national standardization strategy was conducted from 7 to 10 November 2016 for the English and French speaking countries in Algeria, Algiers, hosted by IANOR. The event was attended by 18 delegates from six countries from the MENA region, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The workshop was facilitated by the ISO consultant / Dr. Anwar El-Tawil and Ms. Siglinde Kaiser (from DIN). ISO supported the participation of three candidates from each beneficiary country as follows:

- Director or Technical Manager within the National Standards Body with management level responsibility for the planning of standards development and related activities.
- Secretary of national technical committee of priority sector to the nominating country.
- Chairman of national technical committee of priority sector to the nominating country.

The workshop aimed to enhance the ability of participants to identify methodically national priorities, based on economic, social and environmental priorities of the country, evaluate and consider strategies of international and regional standards organizations and consolidating them into a concrete national standardization strategic plan.

The Workshop was preceded by the collection of national economic and social data relevant to the establishment of a national standardization strategy. This was to be done by the participants. The Workshop included a mix of presentations and group work by the participants who studied the cases of four countries selected for this purpose.
The time of the Workshop was not sufficient to permit a complete collection and thorough interpretation of all data and their processing. This work is to under the supervision of the international experts in the months following the return of the participants to their countries, where they are expected to apply the methodology and continue developing their national strategies.

It is also planned to hold a follow-up workshop after a suitable time, when the participants have collected missing data and refined the preliminary strategies they prepared during the workshop. It is hoped that the outcome of the Workshop and the post-workshop work will be the development of valid standardization strategies for each of the participating countries.
3. **ISO Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Water Management on 7-9 November 2016 (French speaking countries)**

The additional ISO Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on **Water Management** was conducted from 2-4 August 2016 for the French speaking countries in Rabat, Morocco, hosted by IMANOR. The event was attended by 16 national trainees from the following countries: Algeria (4), Morocco (4) and Tunisia (4). The ToT was led by two international trainers: Anne-Marie Boulay (Canada) and Samuel Vionnet (Switzerland).

This additional ToT on Water Management was organized based on the request of the beneficiary countries during the second JCC meeting held on 5-6 April 2016 to provide the national trainees with more support on the calculation methods of water footprint before the national events.

Thus, the main objectives of this regional TOT are:

a) Increase the understanding of water management, water footprinting and related sustainability concepts, **more extensively with exercises**.

b) Build local capacity in particular on ISO 14046 and ISO/AWI TR 14073 standards on water footprint and their application to allow all types of organizations to apply the standards and principles in their operations, including calculation and communication of water footprinting.

c) Share regional experience and good practices among the partner countries on the application of these standards.

It is to be noted that the use of standard ISO 14046:2014 “Environmental management - Water footprint - Principles, requirements and guidelines” becomes a suitable tool for a more correct and a life cycle based approach towards communicating the water impacts from an organization’s products and services. Also, this standard is based on a life cycle analysis and it is useful to implement it at different levels as follows:

a) Assessment of the extent of potential environmental impacts related to water,

b) Identifying opportunities to reduce these impacts,

c) Implementation of effective water management and optimized in terms of products, processes and organizations and,

d) Providing consistent and reliable information from a scientific point of view to presenting the results of the water footprint and monitoring over time.
Following on the needs assessment mission to COSQC in Jordan on May 2016, a 1st follow up mission took place on 20 – 24 November 2016 by the ISO consultant / Ms. Siglinde Kaiser from DIN. The mission included an evaluation of progress achieved regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the needs assessment mission and some working sessions with selected COSQC staff and stakeholders to discuss the followings:

- Update on National QI policy by COSQC and analysis of NQI policies of Iraq – its opportunities, weaknesses and strengths
- Strengthening communication and collaboration with stakeholders – stakeholder engagement practices and private-public dialogue
- Developing and implementing a communication/dissemination strategy and plan: defining objectives and target groups, media, schedules, performance indicators, follow-up, adjustments
- Relevance of Good Standardization Practice and impact on national standards work
- ISO support for participating in international standardization
- Project management for standards developing processes

The mission programme was designed to include also 2-days workshop with the stakeholders/members of TCs to discuss the best practices to strengthen communication and collaboration between COSQC and their stakeholders as well as to enhance the participation of Iraq in the technical work of ISO (please click here to access the mission programme).

Also, a visit was scheduled to JSMO during this mission to explore the business planning of JSMO and also the follow-up mechanism of their INS Action Plan. It is helpful for COSQC to learn from a neighboring NSB about their experience in the implementation of Good Standardization Practices.

The mission report and the related action plan could be obtained via the project national coordinator in the beneficiary country.
5. **Second Implementation Phase of ISO Interventions for the Institut National de la Normalisation et de la Propriété Industrielle (INNORPI) on 21 – 25 November 2016**

Following on the first implementation phase of ISO interventions to INNORPI in Tunisia on June 2016, a 2nd follow up mission took place on 20-24 November 2016. The mission majored on an evaluation of progress achieved regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the previous missions, as well as facilitation of three major workshops on the following topics:

- Development of technical regulation framework
- Discussing the draft national standardization strategy for INNORPI 2016-2020 with the related stakeholders in Tunisia
- Management of TCs work and standards projects

The mission programme was designed to include also 2-days workshop for INNORPI staff to develop and implement a communication/dissemination strategy and plan: define objectives and target groups, media, schedules, performance indicators, follow-up, adjustments as well as to develop business plan for the national TCs (please click [here](#) to access the mission programme). The strategic business plan for a technical committee describes the main aspects and dynamics of the economic, social, regulatory or other environment, in which the committee operates, as well as its main objectives and current strategies, its internal structure and cooperation with other organizations. It includes the areas of activities of all the subcommittees operating under a technical committee.

The mission report and the updated action plan could be obtained via the project national coordinator in the beneficiary country.
6. First Round of the National Follow-up events on Water Management (2 beneficiary countries) during November 2016

The first round of the national follow-up events on Water Management covering one-day for the national awareness-raising seminar and two-days for the national workshop per country have been conducted in the following two countries: Jordan and Palestine. The dates of these national follow-up events are shown below.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>National awareness seminar</th>
<th>National workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>Ramallah</td>
<td>21 November 2016</td>
<td>22-23 November 2016</td>
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The main objectives of national follow-up events are:

- Raise awareness and understanding among authorities and industry and other stakeholders about water footprint standards, related business opportunities, existing best practices and risks.
- Raise awareness of the need of having a strategic vision on water footprint and LCA, both with regards to trade and business and with regards to competence development.
- To provide detailed information on the standards for water footprint and related tools for application, including the calculation and communication of the results.

The seminar is open to a wide audience (up to 100 participants), in order to sensitize key stakeholders of the NSB, in particular the private sector (certified and non-certified enterprises, consulting companies) public sector, NGOs, and academia. Also, the two-days workshop had targeted a selected group (up to 25 participants) from the private sector, industry government, academia, consultants and NGOs who attended the national awareness 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 14046. 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(s) 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.
The second ISO refresher regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Energy management and Energy Efficiency was conducted from 5 to 8 December 2016 for the French speaking countries in Algiers, Algeria, hosted by IANOR. The event was attended by 16 participants from the following countries: Algeria (4), Lebanon (4), Morocco (4), and Tunisia (4). The ToT was led by two international trainers: Liam McLaughlin (Ireland) and Rainer Stifter (Austria).

In addition, a similar ISO refresher regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Energy management and Energy Efficiency was conducted from 5 to 8 December 2016 for the English speaking countries in Cairo, Egypt, hosted by EOS. The event was attended by 7 participants from the following countries: Egypt (4) and Jordan (3). This ToT was led by two international trainers: Paule Nusa from AFNOR (France) and Laurent Arnold from AFNOR (France). However, the national trainees from Iraq and Palestine weren’t able to attend this event since they didn’t get the entry visa to Egypt on the right time.

The main objectives of these regional refresher ToTs are:

a) Deepen the understanding of energy management and energy efficiency standards and related sustainability concepts

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

c) Share regional experience and good practices among the partner countries on the application of ISO 50001 and ISO 50006.

As a result of the refresher ToTs, the national trainees will conduct the following activities:

- Organize national follow-up events (a 1-day awareness seminar and a 2-day seminar), hosted by the ISO member in the country to improve the national awareness on ISO standards linked to Water footprint.

- Work with selected pilot organizations as part of the implementation exercise to help them on the application of ISO standards linked to water footprint

As part of these ToTs, the national trainees will be mentored by the international experts through distance mentoring and in-country visits.