



**INSTITUTE FOR ACCREDITATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

R E P O R T
on the work of the IARM for 2009

Report on the work of the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia for 2009

I. Introduction

On the basis of the Law on Accreditation (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 120/09), the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: IARM) shall act as a public institution performing works and tasks of a national accreditation body in the Republic of Macedonia.

Accreditation is a technical procedure by the means of which IARM together with the granted certificate shall formally confirm the competency of the body to perform particular tasks in the area of conformity assessment. Similarly, accreditation is a public interest activity.

In August 2005, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the “National Policy in the area of Accreditation” in which the main objectives and tasks, the funding and Action Plan for its implementation have been identified.

The legal framework of IARM has been defined in the Law on Accreditation, the Statute of the IARM, the Council Acts, the Acts of the Director of the IARM and in other documents.

Authorities/ bodies of the IARM are as follows:

1. Council
2. Director and
3. Material and Financial Supervision Board

Under the accreditation process, the IARM shall carry out the following activities:

- a. Accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories
- b. Accreditation of inspection bodies
- c. Accreditation of certification bodies

II. Delivered activities of the IARM for 2009

1. Ongoing activities

In the course of 2009, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia has adopted the new Law on Accreditation (“Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia” No. 120/29). The new Law on Accreditation was prepared in accordance with the Regulation of the European Commission No. 765/2008; ACA – European Commission Negotiations – Chapter 3.01. – Free Movement of Goods and the Law on Institutions. The new Law on Accreditation was drafted in cooperation with the GTZ.

In February 2009, IARM submitted an application for signing a contract with the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) for mutual recognition of the accreditations within the European Union (MLA). The IARM application covers the following areas: inspection bodies, testing laboratories and product certification bodies. The preliminary visit of the EA assessment team, as a part of the procedure for the signing of the multilateral agreement - MLA took place between the 7th and 11 December 2009. The pre-assessment team was composed of

Kristina Waddington (Finland) leading assessor and Karen Jensen (Denmark), assessor. Upon completion of the preliminary visit, the team composed a Report containing the assessment remarks and comments. IARM shall devote the forthcoming period to intensified elimination of the remarks stated in the Report, in favor of attaining a 2010 date for the signing of the MLA.

a. Status of the accredited bodies

So far, a total of 45 conformity assessment bodies have been accredited. The accreditation of six of them has been withdrawn.

In 2009, IARM ***granted accreditation*** to 15 conformity assessment bodies as follows:

Type of body	Name of the Body	Date
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	MAKINSPEKT D.O.O- Skopje	04.03.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	GEZUP D.O.O – Skopje	23.04.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	Aleks Stjuart D.O.O- Skopje	24.04.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	ELKO ING d.o.o.e.l - Strumica	01.07.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	TAHO Skopje D.O.O.E.L	03.09.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	Center for Research, Development and Continuous Education (CIRKO)	26.10.2009
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	APAVE SEE	23.11.2009
Testing laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	PHF Center for Public Health- Kocani	09.02.2009
Testing laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	University "Ss. Climent Ohridski" Bitola Tobacco Scientific Institute - Prilep	03.03.2009
Testing laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	PHF Center for Public Health- Bitola	03.04.2009
Testing laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	Civil Engineering Institute “Makedonija” - Skopje	03.07.2009
Testing laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	EKO METAL – M DOO- Skopje	15.07.2009
Calibration laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	Farmahem – Servis DOO	12.06.2009
Calibration laboratory MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025	Automakedonija AD	18.06.2009
Certification body MKC EN 45011	PRO CERT – SKOPJE	17.07.2009

In 2009, the accreditation of one conformity assessment body ***has been withdrawn***:

Type of body	Name of the body	Date
Inspection body MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020	DOOEL " ENERGETIKA" - VDS Strumica	26.10.2009

In 2009, the IARM has performed 24 regular *surveillance assessments to the accredited bodies*.

b. Training, workshops and seminars

The employees of the IARM in the course of 2009 had participated in various training, workshops and seminars.

- IARM in cooperation with the German Society for Technical Cooperation has delivered one-week training for bodies subject to compulsory accreditation procedure as a part of the authorization procedure in accordance with the legal regulations. Also, the training engaged the IARM employees as well as other external participants.
- The employees participated in the following international training courses as follows:
 - Laboratory assessors course (MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025) and Inspection bodies assessors course (control bodies) (MKS EN ISO/IEC 17020) organized by the Accreditation Body of Serbia.
 - MKS EN ISO 22000 – Food safety management system – awareness seminar, organized by the Institute for Standardization of the Republic of Macedonia.
 - Course on lead assessors for accreditation of laboratories (MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025) and Training for assessors in accreditation of laboratories for food testing in accordance with MKS EN ISO/IEC 17025, organized by the Accreditation Body of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On behalf of the Ministry of Economy other training sessions were organized in relation to the harmonization of the legislation of the Republic of Macedonia with the EU legislation.

c. Project activities

In 2009, IARM has been engaged in the delivery of five international projects:

The activities envisaged in the IPA National project (Pre- accession assistance instrument, Component 1, Project 3.01 Free movement of goods – Quality Infrastructure).

By the means of technical assistance (via training) organized by the Central Funding and Contracting Department, IARM has prepared a ToR for the framework agreement (FWC) for the purposes of engaging a ToR expert for the Project Service Contract. The Contract was enforced through the IPA funds (PPF - Project Preparation Facility). ToR and the tender file for the Project Service Contract were prepared by the expert Mr. Herve Viale from France, who stayed in the IARM during September and November of 2009. The implementation of the Project is planned for 2010.

Starting 2009, IARM has been a part of the operational structure for decentralized management of the pre-accession EU funds for the R.M. for the first component. For that purpose the IARM has carried out the following:

- Appointed a senior program clerk/coordinator for the working group in the IARM responsible for the preparation and technical implementation of the programs/projects by IPA, Component 1 in transition and institution/ capacity building within TAIB),
- An operational contract has been signed,
- A technical implementation working group has been formed,
- Participation to meetings, workshops and training organized by the Central Financing and Contracting Department has been organized,
- Instructions from the Internal Procedure Manuals of SPO for TAIB have been met,
- Participation in activities for granting accreditation on a national level (January 2009) have been secured as well as attainment of a positive grade by the EU auditors mission for transposition of competencies for a decentralized management of the first IPA component – TAIB (February 2009).

The employees of the IARM participated in the following training organized by the CFCD: Workshop on Visibility and Awareness of EU Programs and Development of Communication Plan; Clarification of the main responsibilities/duties of key bodies under DIS for Component 1 of IPA Legal framework as well as procedures to be applied in relation to MOP (Manual of procedures); Workshop on preparing ToR for framework Contract; IPA Project monitoring and evaluation and on-the-spot checks; Workshop on programming; Management of irregularities; Procurement; Eligibility of expenditures; Twinning and TAIEX instrument.

Within the **IPA Regional Project** an assessment for the progress of the IARM for the period between 2007 and 2009 has been realized by the expert Rozha Ring – Director of the Hungarian Accreditation Institute.

In 2009 multiple activities have been delivered within the project „Transposition of the EU technical regulations in the Macedonian legislation“ alongside the **German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)**:

- The new Law on Accreditation has been adopted, and published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 120/09. The new Law on Accreditation is harmonized with the Regulation 765/EU/2008.
- Training for the conformity assessment bodies has been organized as well as for the assessors used by the IARM in the accreditation procedures.
- New web site of the IARM has been designed.
- Also, six sector committees formed within the project have started working:
 1. Sector committee on electricity, electronics and electric machines.
 2. Sector committee on equipment under pressure, mobile equipment under pressure and steel construction products.
 3. Sector committee on elevators and lifting equipment.
 4. Sector committee on construction products.
 5. Sector committee on vehicles.
 6. Sector Committee on conditions in which technical equipment is used.

IARM had a modest share in the **BERIS Project**, a project of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the World Bank. Bearing in mind the standstill of activities under this project, a review of the overall project has been carried out by representatives of the World Bank during which it has been concluded that the IARM fulfills all requirements for the continuation of this project. As a part of the activities under this project in December, office equipment was procured for the needs of the IARM.

In the 2009, the regional project “Promotion of the regional cooperation in South-East Europe in the area of quality infrastructure” took place bringing in the Institutes for accreditation of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, funded by the *German Institute for Metrology*.

a. Human Resources

In 2009, IARM employed 2 people; 1 in the position of *Coordinator for legal affairs* and 1 for the position of *Independent officer-finance clerk*.

Also, in 2009 the list of experts was increasingly expanded recording 44 experts from various areas until 31st December 2009. The list of assessors includes 64 assessors, out of which 16 are lead assessors.

The public announcement for experts and assessors in IARM is continuously open.

2. International and bilateral activities

In 2009, IARM had multiple *international* activities:

- IARM actively monitors and participates in the work of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA).
- Employees of IARM participated in the work of the Committees of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (MAC, HHC, CC, IC and LC).
- One IARM representative participated in the evaluation of the Slovenian Accreditation performed by an EA evaluation team.
- IARM participated in the work of the Subcommittee on trade, industry, customs and taxes as well as in negotiations for signing PECA/ACAA with the European Commission.
- In November 2009, IARM participated in the work of the ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) for the first time, in which IARM has the status of an associate member.
- In November 2009, IARM together with the Ministry of Economy, the Institute for Standardization of the Republic of Macedonia and the Bureau for Metrology signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

During May 2009, IARM signed 2 international agreements for *bilateral cooperation*:

- Signed bilateral Cooperation Agreements in the area of accreditation with the Accreditation Body from Kosovo and Accreditation Body from Turkey.

Within the previously signed bilateral agreements, IARM has delivered the following activities:

- IARM employees participated in courses organized by the Accreditation Body of Serbia.
- Shared activities were undertaken under the regional IPA project.
- Exchange of experts with the accreditation bodies of Serbia, Croatia and Bulgaria.

3. Cooperation with the state authorities of the Republic of Macedonia

IARM participated in the work of the working groups under the Government of Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management:

- Revisory Committee for preparation of the Law Proposal on Vehicles and accompanying secondary legislation
- Working Group on preparation of the Law Proposal on Organic Production

In 2009, IARM took active role in the work of the Technical Committees of the Institute for Standardization of the Republic of Macedonia.

In March 2009, IARM signed mutual cooperation agreements with the Institute for Standardization of the Republic of Macedonia and the Bureau for Metrology.

Similarly, IARM has participated in the preparation of the cooperation agreements with the Ministry of Economy.

4. Promotional activities

In 2009, several promotional events took place:

- In March 2009, IARM organized a promotion, celebrating the granting of Certificates for accreditation to the conformity assessment bodies accredited in 2008. The promotion took place in the Parliamentary Club.
- In May 2009, a seminar for accreditation for the countries in the region (Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo) was organized. The seminar was carried out under the scope of the project with the German Institute for Metrology.
- In 2009, IARM issued 3 brochures in the area of accreditation for the purposes of promotion of accreditation and sharing the benefits of this activity with the wider public and the “Annual report for the work of the IARM in 2008“.
- In December 2009, IARM published the new web site designed under the GTZ project (www.iarm.gov.mk). The new web site is in two languages (Macedonian and English) constantly updated announcing new information regarding accreditation as well as informing for ongoing activities delivered by the IARM.

The activities of the IARM carried out in 2009 come as a result of the support and cooperation of the IARM with the Council of the IARM and Material and Financial Supervision Board of the IARM thus setting up grounds for further development and successful operation of the IARM.

Director
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