



INSTITUTE FOR ACCREDITATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

***DEVELOPMENT PLANS
AND ACTIVITIES
OF THE INSTITUTE
FOR ACCREDITATION***



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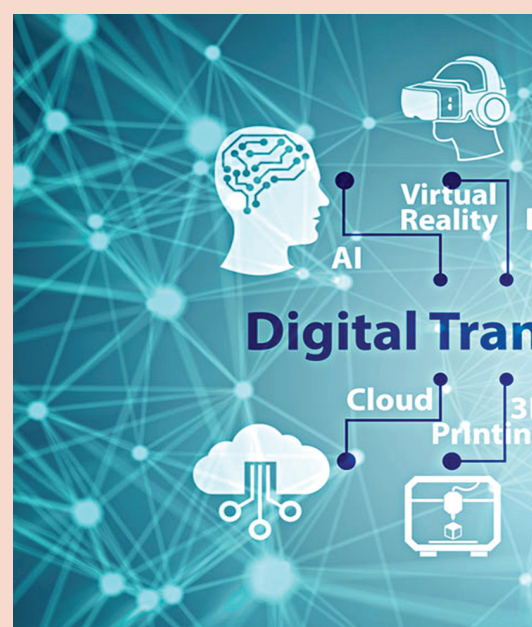
As part of the quality infrastructure, the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of North Macedonia (IARNM) has an exceptional role in ensuring the quality of services and products for the citizens and the economy of the country. The Institute is the only national accreditation body and works to introduce and promote the accreditation system and bring it closer to the economy and citizens as end users. As a result of the accreditation process, consumers and companies gain confidence in the reliability, quality and safety of use of the products and services they use in their daily life and work.

The accreditations carried out by IARNM ensure smooth export of business entities from the country to all countries in the world. The Institute also works actively in the field of international integration. This has resulted in the signing of the three most significant international agreements for mutual recognition of the results of accredited activities, the agreement with the European Accreditation Organization (EA), the agreement with the International Organization for Accreditation of Laboratories (ILAC) and the agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The main goal of the Institute is to ensure the equality of domestic accredited bodies with others around the world, and to open the doors for domestic products and services for smooth and reliable placement on the European and world markets.

The planned activities of IARNM related to the anti-bribery process that are of wider societal importance are the following:

1. Introduction of ISO 37001:2016 Anti-bribery management system in state institutions

The ISO 37001:2016 Anti-bribery standard is designed to introduce an anti-bribery culture within an organisation and implement appropriate controls, which will in turn increase the chance of detecting a bribery and reduce its incidence in the first place. ISO 37001 covers bribery in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, including bribery by and against an organisation or its staff, and bribes paid or received through or by a third party.



This system will have the greatest impact in the Republic of North Macedonia in the state institutions, which, if they are legally obligated or in any other way committed, will have to introduce, and systematically address corruption through the implementation of this system.

The benefits of implementing ISO 37001 in institutions could represent the biggest step forward in the systematic fight against corruption in the country and an excellent promotion of the commitments of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in this fight.



2. Introduction of ISO and other international standards in public procurement

Introducing ISO and other international standards as a criteria in public procurement will ensure that citizens receive reliable quality in the procurement of services and products from state institutions for the money they pay through taxes.

The process of selecting tenders and guaranteeing that the products and services procured are of guaranteed quality will be facilitated for the state institutions. The introduction of standards will also reduce the possibility of corruption in public procurement.

This activity requires establishing a working group composed of representatives of the Public Procurement Bureau, the Institute for Accreditation and, if necessary, other institutions and experts. The working group would prepare a proposal of accredited standards that will be included as mandatory in public procurements and will be regulated by the Bureau and the Government with a statutory act.

3. Digital transformation of the operations of IARNM

In the past two years IARNM has been intensively carrying out the process of digital transformation. At the moment, the work is done both on paper and digitally, and the entire process is planned to be completed during 2023. With this, IARNM intends to be the first digitally transformed institution in the country. The benefits of digital transformation as one of the tools in the fight against corruption are enormous for both citizens and business entities. This model can be used by other institution in the country.





4. ISO 27001 Information security

In addition to digital readiness – equipping with technical equipment, strengthening the skills of employees, and improving and integrating software programs, the transition to digital operations also implies the introduction of information security protocols to protect the flow of data.

These protocols are to be implemented by means of ISO 27001 and the group of related ISO standards. We are witnessing constant cyberattacks on all kinds of companies and state institutions

for which the introduction of this standard is a prerequisite for carrying on operations (e-Government etc.). At present, ISO 27001 in the country is implemented by foreign companies, and therefore in 2023, IARNM will introduce accreditation of the interested certification bodies against this and related standards pertaining to information security.

5. Personal Data Protection (EU GDPR)

In accordance with the Law on Personal Data Protection (harmonised with the EU General Data Protection Regulation), IARNM has the authority to accredit the companies (conformity assessment bodies) that will certify the personal data protection officers and the personal data protection process. According to this law, in addition to state institutions, each legal entity that processes personal data must have a personal data protection officer (including restaurants, hotels, travel agencies, etc.). In 2023, IARNM will introduce accreditation of the interested certification bodies as a key activity for the implementation of this law, which has not yet been implemented.

6. Necessary prerequisites for the implementation of the standards mentioned above

The Law on the Introduction of a Quality Management System and Common Assessment Framework for the Performance and Service Provision in Public Service (“Official Gazette of the RM” no. 69/2013) under the competence of the Ministry of Information Society and Administration can be amended to include provisions on mandatory introduction of ISO 27001 and ISO 37001 management systems.

The implementation of ISO 37001 requires consensus and commitment from the highest political level, starting from the Government and ending with state institutions at the local level.

In order to implement the accreditations arising from the newly introduced standards and obligations, it is necessary to strengthen the personnel of IARNM, considering the fact that the volume of work will increase significantly.



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