



6th PT/EQA Workshop – Rome 2008

Report from WG2



Developments in PT/EQA within the EU – what is required in future?

- Convenors:
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- Objectives:
 - Review how PT/EQA has been developed in the EU and consider future requirements and challenges

Q1. As the EU has expanded in recent years how has PT/EQA developed, especially in new member states?

- From PT providers' point of view
 - In EU-15: less labs, PT providers towards internationalisation
 - EU-12: more labs → growing number PT providers in EU-12
 - If running an international PT, it gets cheaper (more customers because of implementation of EU legislation)
 - If running an international PT within EU, easier to dispatch

Q1. As the EU has expanded in recent years how has PT/EQA developed, especially in new member states?

- From laboratories' point of view
 - Laboratories have more choices (market)

- From users'/authorities' point of view
 - EA is looking at PT results in order to assess the effectiveness of MLA
 - Because of the internationalisation in the area of PT accreditation of PT providers is in demand

Q2. What challenges has the expansion of the EU presented for PT/EQA, from the viewpoint of New/Old member states

- From PT providers' point of view, in EU-15:
 - Variety of methods is bigger
 - Reporting is more complicated because of wider local variations
 - Harmonisation according to sectors accross EU is taking place


Q2. What challenges has the expansion of the EU presented for PT/EQA, from the viewpoint of New/Old member states

- From laboratories' point of view, in EU-12:
 - Setting up PTs for some specific samples which are not available yet on the market and are specific for a country
 - Language
 - Cost
 - Finding a suitable PT (announcements of PTs e.g. via EPTIS)

Q2. What challenges has the expansion of the EU presented for PT/EQA, from the viewpoint of New/Old member states

- From authorities' point of view, in EU-27:
 - Understanding by the authorities of the role and importance of PT

Q3a. What can be learnt from the way that the infrastructure for PT/EQA has been developed throughout the EU?



The infrastructure has been developed *chaotically*:

- From a demand of a national authority
- As a result of research projects
- As a demand from (EU) legislation (e.g. CRL)
- As a need from industry



Q3b. Was it useful for implementation in new member states? From the viewpoint of: participants, PT providers

Ideally, it would be good to do it differently i.e. in a more systematic and proactive approach:

- By getting the authorities involved as a stakeholder
- Via examples of possible private-public interaction
- By setting priorities at the national and EU level
- By providing more EU and national assistance for routine PT providers e.g. for validation (reference value)



Q4. What new requirements and challenges might there be in the future?

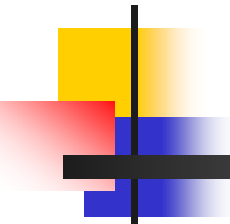
- New requirements
 - Harmonisation of the way PTs are done, common interpretation of evaluation criteria (sector specific)
 - Language



Q4. What new requirements and challenges might there be in the future?

■ Challenges

- Convincing the authorities about the role and importance of PTs
- Some public funding at EU and at national level?
- Diversity of needs of customers
- PT provider's response time
- Educational dimension of PTs



Q5. Are the differences in regulations of each members state an obstacle to further developments within the EU?

No, the reason being that if any, then it is European legislation which includes PT related requirements, which must be implemented in a harmonised way in all countries.

Nobody was aware of any additional national legislation concerning this issue.



Q6. How can any new future requirements and challenges be realised?

- Prioritisation of PTs (in which areas they are needed, missing ones?)
- Far greater proactive approach towards national/European authorities is very much needed
- Combination of public and private funding is rarely explored
- Educational follow-up

Who should act proactively in a country?