



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Interview with representatives from the Macedonian Bureau of Metrology (MBM), 24 June 2014

1. A Foreign Office official spoke to delegates from the Macedonian Bureau of Metrology (MBM) on 24 June at the UK's National Metrology Office (NMO). The focus of the discussion was on the TAIEX-funded project work to raise the capacity of the Macedonian Bureau of Metrology.
2. The delegates began by stating that their visit to the UK was part of a TAIEX-funded project to improve the capacity of the MBM. The MBM hopes that, by observing and replicating the metrology processes of the NMO, it will meet their overall objective of improving legal metrology procedures and implementing new standards which are the EU norm.
3. Most Mutual Cooperation Agreements agreed by the MBM were with regional partners such as Croatia, Turkey, Albania, Slovenia and the Russian Federation. However, there was recognition that support from the UK through TAIEX-funding would offer benefits, given the UK's high standards in metrology. The UK had been helpful in sharing expertise and knowledge of different procedures and equipment.
4. All EU directives relating to metrology had now been transposed into Macedonian law as a step towards meeting the *acquis*, which was essential in order for Macedonia to become a member of the EU. In order to fulfil EU directives, however, the key issue was now the effective implementation of these measures.
5. Training provided by the NMO has been very helpful in establishing some longer term relationships which the delegates hoped, in turn, would strengthen the links between the two organisations. Delegates reflected that the TAIEX training was very helpful, and a good successor to the previous CARDS programme. However, there may be more benefit in agreeing to some longer-term training activities to ensure new processes were given more time to get established. One idea was the deployment of secondments in the NMO and the MBM in order to make significant investments to scale-up capacity, and to develop wider contact networks. However, while there are ways to improve the service provided through TAIEX, delegates agreed that the existing programme was vital if Macedonia was to implement recently transposed EU regulations and achieve its overall objective of EU accession.