Development of Quality Infrastructure and Metrology - Montenegro (DQIM)
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15.11.2013, Podgorica – Obligations of participants at the Montenegrin market concerning prepackaged products was a topic of the **workshop** entitled „**Prepackaged products – obligations of economic operators and market surveillance**“, which was held in the Chamber of Economy in Podgorica, on 15 November, 2013. The event was organised by the **Ministry of Economy – Bureau of Metrology** and **EU project „Development of quality infrastructure and metrology in Montenegro – DQIM**,“ managed by the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and implemented by ADETEF (Agency for technical support - France) in consirtium with LNE (France) and SMU (Slovakia). Project is a part of IPA 2011.

After the introductory speech given by the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Metrology, **Mr. Goran Vukoslavović**, there was a working part when representatives of the DQIM project, Bureau of Metrology and Administration for Inspection Affairs, presented to workshop participants the EU and Montenegrin legislation regulating this area, as well as obligations of economic operators defined by the existing regulations, implementation of which is supervised by responsible inspection bodies.

Presenting the EU legislation related to metrological requirements for prepackaged products, with a special emphasis on a regulation defining „e“ marking, **expert at DQIM Project, Ms. Mojca Požar,** stated: *„Consumers must have the opportunity to have on their disposal easily perceived mark of nominal value of the prepackaged product. Requirements related to products packed in consumer's absence, when the package has one nominal value in mass or volume units and value in the range of 5 grams ili mililiters up to 10 kilograms or litres – for example: "1 kg" , "200 ml" etc. The purpose of these regulations is to protect consumers against potential abuse in terms of data on quantity of sold products, as well as to provide fair competition among those responsible for packing and free movement of prepackaged products in countries which adopted the concerned legislature.“*

Representatives of Montenegrin public administration, companies and consumers received explanation defining a prepackaged product as a product packaged in consumer's absence, of which containing quantity cannot be changed, unless the package is open or damaged. Although there are a lot of products of this kind on the market, it is emphasized that the most numerous are those categorized as food products (such as, sweets, meat and diary products, fruit processed products, flour, coffee, etc.) and those categorised as cleaning and hygiene products (such as detergents, soaps, shampoons, etc.). Moreover, participants at the workshop are acquainted with that the nominal quantities of products is in advance determined by a packer, and they are expressed in measurement units of mass or volume (gram, kilogram, i.e. centiliter, decilitar and liter).

A discussion panel was especially significant for economic entities. They discussed about obligations of economic operators in accordance with the existing regulations, market surveillance procedures, as well as the most frequent violations of regulations, and stipulated sanctions. It was explained that surveillance and testings in this area is performed by the metrology inspection within the Administration for Inspection Affairs, in cooperation with the Bureau of Metrology which has technical capacities and human resources to implement testing procedures. It was also stated that surveillance is done over bottles as measuring containers, in which fluids are stored, transported or supplied. These bottles are made of

glass or other material which is solid and stable enough to provide the same guarantees in terms of metrologic requirements as glass.

The main objective of EU Project „Development of Quality Infrastructure and Metrology in Montenegro (DQIM)“ is to enhance capacities of the Ministry of Economy, Bureau of Metrology and Agency for medicines and medical devices in the period of 2 years (March 2013 - March 2015) to meet the EU legislative, regulatory and technical requirements which will facilitate trade and free movement of goods in compliance with the EU acquis and WTO requirements in the field of Chapter 1 – Free movement of goods.