



EFTA Technical Assistance

Activities, Achievements and Next Steps

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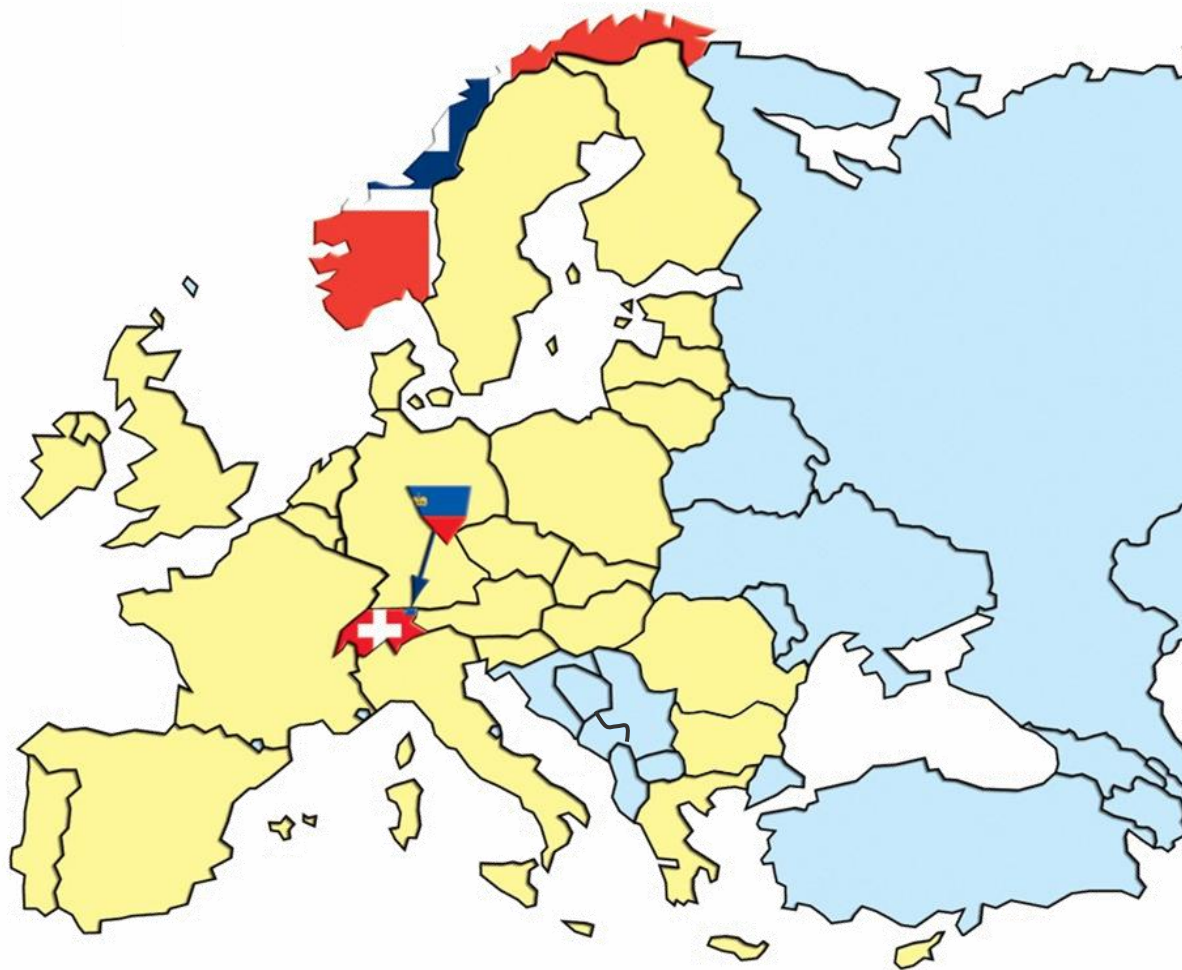


European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Four small but ... very interesting countries!



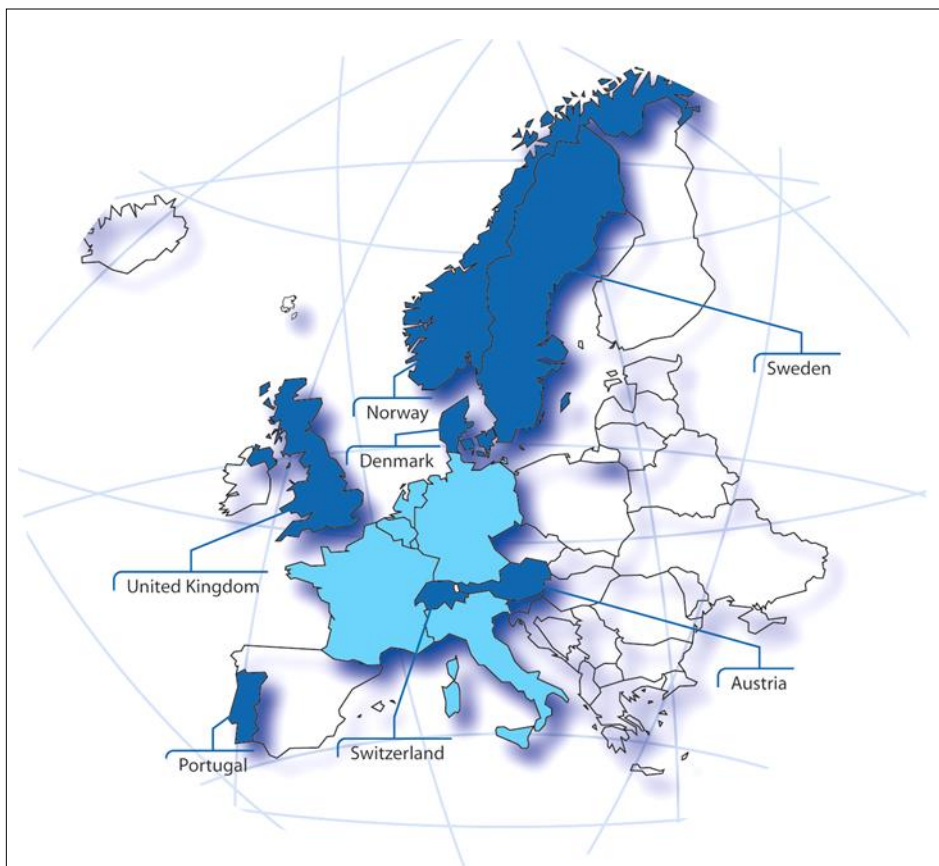
- ◆ Iceland
- ◆ Liechtenstein
- ◆ Norway
- ◆ Switzerland



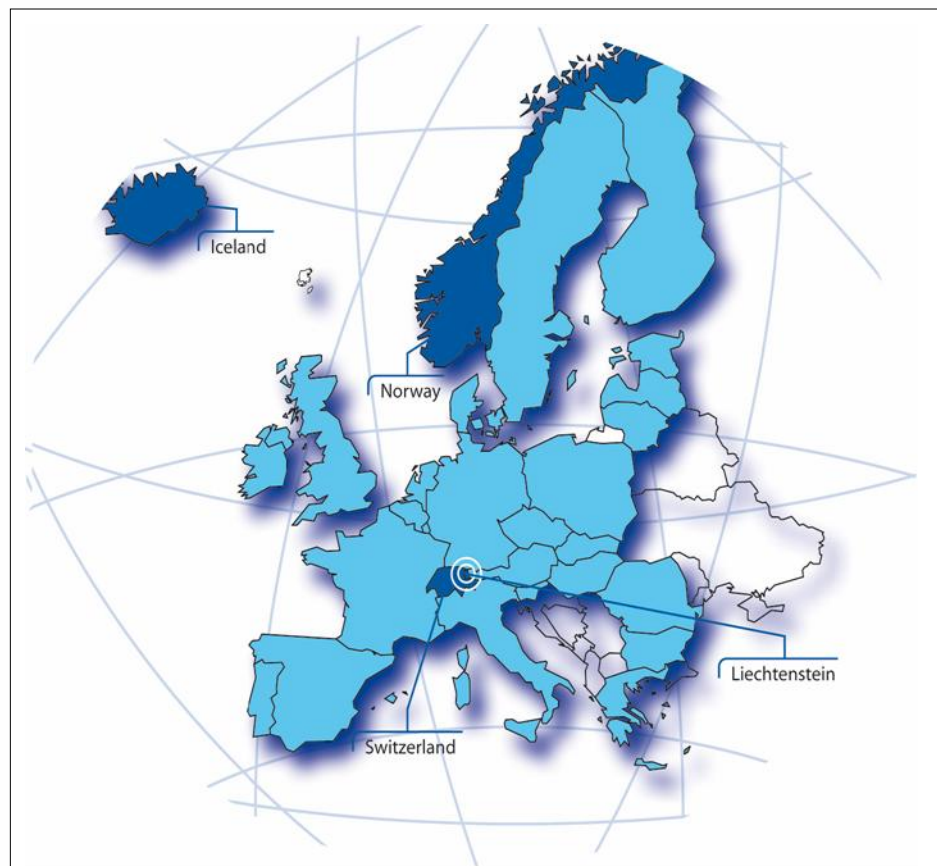


EFTA and EU Membership Evolution

EFTA and the EU 1960



EFTA and the EU 2009





EFTA States Relations with the EU



 Iceland

 Liechtenstein

 Norway



 Switzerland



The four EFTA countries are well integrated into the Single Market



Technical Assistance: Our Context

- ◆ **IPA = Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance** (from 1 January 2007).
- ◆ This EU program offers technical assistance to countries aspiring to join the EU.
- ◆ Policy area: Single Market.
- ◆ EFTA technical assistance involvement has a strong regional focus.

Quality Infrastructure



Refers to all aspects of metrology, standardisation, accreditation, market surveillance, testing, quality management, inspection and certification that have a bearing on conformity assessment. This includes public and private institutions and the regulatory framework within which they operate.

Technical Assistance in the Western Balkans

CARDS 2006 (2007-2008)

Overall Objective

Strengthen cooperation between quality infrastructure institutions in the Western Balkans

Four Specific Tasks

① Assessments

② Proficiency Testing

③ Hands-on Training

④ Network-building

- ① Evaluation of state of quality infrastructure in each participating country to check progress made
- ② Regional proficiency testing schemes in priority sectors, each with targeted training
- ③ Regional and sector based hands-on training based on the assessment findings
- ④ Deepening of a regional network of quality infrastructure professionals



CARDS 2006 (2007-2008) - Achievements

A successful project, recognised both by the main project partners and by independent monitoring

Highlights

- ◆ One regional and seven national assessment reports with list of progress made in the preceding two years and recommendations.
- ◆ Ten hands-on training courses held in EU and EFTA. 79 delegates attended funded by the project. An unprecedented 39 additional delegates attended, funded by their own institutions.
- ◆ Positive outcome of a very ambitious proficiency testing exercise, with tests run simultaneously in eight priority areas. All countries in the Western Balkans participated with a total of 52 labs. 79 delegates, including representatives of all accreditation bodies in the region, joined the final training in Ljubljana.
- ◆ Encouraging network-building in the main quality infrastructure fields.



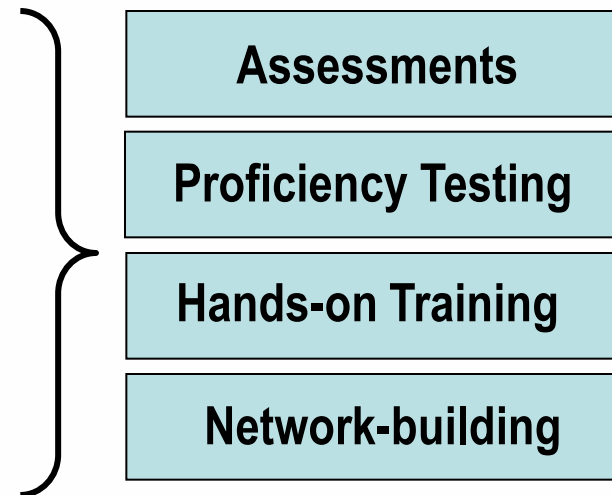
Current Technical Assistance Project

IPA 2008 (2009-2011) on Quality Infrastructure

Overall Objective

Strengthen cooperation between quality infrastructure institutions in the Western Balkans and Turkey

- ◆ Start: February 2009
- ◆ Budget: € 2'100'000
- ◆ Content: Similar to CARDS 2006
- ◆ Duration: 24 months
- ◆ Target: Western Balkans and Turkey





Large Array of Beneficiaries

→ Bodies responsible for

- ◆ Standardization
- ◆ Accreditation
- ◆ Metrology
- ◆ Market Surveillance
- ◆ Conformity Assessments (CABs)

→ Ministries implementing technical regulations

→ Countries/Territories

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ◆ Albania | ◆ Kosovo UNSCR 1244 |
| ◆ Bosnia and Herzegovina | ◆ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| ◆ Croatia | ◆ Montenegro |
| ◆ Serbia | ◆ Turkey |



A Few Findings from the Inception Report

Spring 2009

- ◆ Project timely and needed; welcomed by partners.
- ◆ Benefits far outweigh relatively modest budget.
- ◆ Regional cooperation is a vital component in pre-accession period.
- ◆ Poor coordination of QI initiatives between donor agencies and amongst beneficiaries.
- ◆ Further harmonisation in QI fields remains key.



EFTA Website – www.efta.int

EFTA

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The **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** is an intergovernmental organisation promoting the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States: [Liechtenstein](#), [Norway](#) and [Switzerland](#). The Association manages the [EFTA Convention](#); EFTA's network of [free trade and partnership agreements](#), and the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#).

DECISION SHAPING IN THE EEA

The 1-2009 EFTA Bulletin on decision shaping in the EEA provides an introduction on how decision making processes work in the EU and how EEA EFTA States can provide input on EU proposals with relevance to the Single Market, as called for in the EEA Agreement.

With the constant deepening of EU integration this EFTA Bulletin provides both potential and existing "decision shapers", with best practices and examples on how to raise their interests most effectively.

Paper copies of the Bulletin can be ordered free of charge by contacting [the EFTA Secretariat](#). Please include your name and mailing address in your order, as well as number of copies.

NEWS

The EFTA Council met on 29 September for its first autumn meeting

29-09-2009 : The EFTA Council met in Geneva on 29 September 2009 for its eighth meeting of the year. It discussed relations with countries outside the European Union, in particular with India and Ukraine, and approved projects for technical cooperation. The ...

Standing - and Joint Committee meetings 24-25 September 2009

25-09-2009 : The Standing Committee of the EEA EFTA States met on 24 September. The Standing Committee adopted Decision No 9/2009 repealing Decision 2/2009 and amending Decision 9/1994 reversing earlier exemptions from working time and rest periods in road ...

EFTA and India hold fourth round of free trade negotiations

25-09-2009 : Delegations from the four EFTA States and India continued their negotiations on a broad-based Free Trade Agreement on 22-24 September 2009 in New Delhi.

Publications

- Annual Reports
- Fact Sheets
- This is EFTA
- Bulletins
- EFTA Commemorative Publications
- EEA Supplements
- EFTA Study on Certification and Marks in Europe
- EFTA/EU Statistical Cooperation Handbook
- Trader's ABC
- EFTA Language Manual

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Logos: EFTA COURT, FIRMS SUPPLYING AUTHORITY, eea grants

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- EFTA Consultative Committee Meeting**
05-10-2009
- EFTA Council**
19-10-2009
- Standing Committee Meeting**
22-10-2009
- EEA Joint Committee Meeting**
23-10-2009
- JPC Meeting**
28-10-2009

[More events...](#)

EFTA Seminar Autumn 2009

The biannual EFTA Seminar on the EEA will this autumn be held on 10 and 11 December. The event is intended to



Thank you!

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