
EU Standards Velocity. Evaluation of the progress and challenges in the Republic of Moldova

Milestones of European Standardization in Moldova

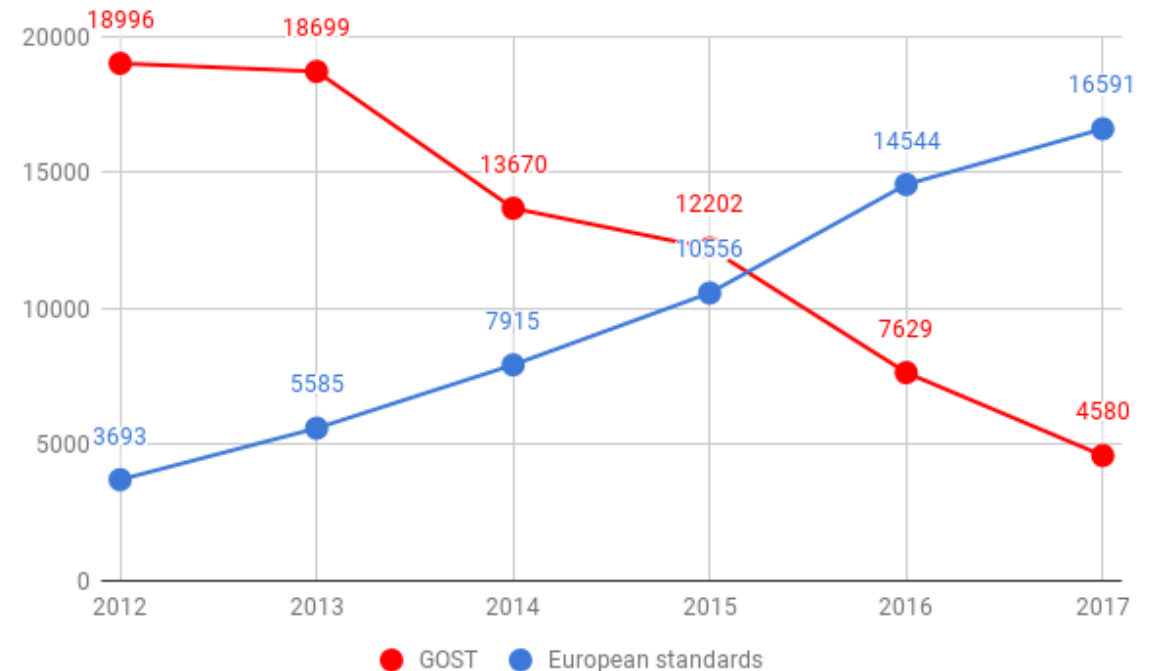
1995 – Adopted national standardization system

2012 – National Institute of Standardization is established as a separate entity

2016 – Relevant provisions from EU Regulation No. 1025/2012 are transposed into national law (Law 20/2016 on National Standardization)

From GOST to European standards

- Moldova has inherited 19.000 GOST standards;
- Gradual transition to European standards;
- Now there are 4500 GOST and 16.500 EN standards;
- In the framework of DCFTA, ISM should adopt 80% of European standards (24,500) by the end of 2018



Next steps within the Association Agreement

- ✓ progressively transpose the corpus of European Standards (EN) as national standards, including the harmonized European standards, the voluntary use of which shall give a presumption of conformity with Union legislation transposed into the legislation of the Republic of Moldova;
- ✓ at the same time simultaneously with such transposition, withdraw conflicting standards;
- ✓ progressively fulfill the conditions for full membership of the European Standards Organizations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI);
- ✓ an important milestone - Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA) to be added as a protocol to the Association Agreement;

Benefits and challenges

- ✓ Access to the EU Single Market for Moldovan products and services;
- ✓ Access to the most innovative solutions;
- ✓ Improvement of the performance and quality for the final consumers;
- ✓ Facilitation of the technological transfer and its cost-decreasing effect.

Reluctance of the business sector to implement the European standards:

- poor understanding of the importance of the EU standards;
- lack of the EU know-how knowledge;
- huge financial efforts;

Standardization in construction sector

- 2008** – Government Decision “For the approval of Technical Regulation on construction products” has been approved by implementing the concept of “New approach” in construction sector.
- 2014** – The list of “related” standards in construction sector consists of 453 standards out of which 434 European and international standards.
- 2016** – The EU’s Regulation No. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 was partially transposed into the legislation of the R. Moldova by Government Decision no. 913/2016 (with its entry into force in 2018).
- 2017** – Order no. 39/2017 the List of Harmonized Standards to this technical regulation, which contains 442 harmonized European standards

Standardization in agro-food sector

- 2008** – first technical regulations were approved for different categories of agro-food products, being partially harmonized with the relevant European legislation.
- 2014** – ISM withdraws 570 of GOST standards contradictory to legislation on agro-food products
- 2016** – the Law no. 420/2006 "On technical regulation activity" has been changed, by excluding from the scope of agro-food products, and by eliminating the "related/harmonized standards" in the agro-food sector

Standardization in energy efficiency sector

- 2014** – the adoption of Law no. 128/2014 "On the energy performance of buildings", which transposes into national legislation Directive no. 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 "On the energy performance of buildings"
- 2016** – Government Decision no. 896/2016 "On the approval of the Regulation on the procedure for the certification of the energy performance of buildings and of building units"
- 2016** – Government Decision no. 1325/2016 "For the approval of the Regulation on the periodic inspection of heating systems in buildings"

Multi-stakeholders partnerships in EU standardization process

- ✓ Up to date the biggest challenge is to involve the NGOs in the standardization processes and also to have their critical and constructive involvement as “watchdogs of standardization process”;
- ✓ Since signing the Association Agreement and DCFTA, to be responsive towards current and new stakeholders needs and to maintain itself as the driver in the standardization process;
- ✓ ISM in partnership with civil society has to take significant steps in improving their capacity about communicating on the advantages of European standards.

Conclusions

- ✓ Implementation of European standards requires the establishment of a transition period to provide stakeholders with sufficient time to adjust capabilities, processes and technologies to the new requirements.
- ✓ The adoption of European standards must take place in parallel with the cancellation (withdrawing) of national standards (in particular GOSTs) that conflict with European standards.
- ✓ The process of implementing European standards needs to be supported by civil society through consistent information campaign, especially to promote the benefits of European standards.



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