



**European
co-operation for
Accreditation**

Agreement on Mutual Acceptance of Personnel Certification Certificates between the Signatories to the EA Multilateral Agreement and the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine

Preamble

The **European co-operation for Accreditation**, further denoted as **EA**, is the collaboration of nationally recognised accreditation bodies in Europe. Each of these bodies together with its accredited bodies and their activities constitute a Nationally Recognised Conformity Assessment Body Accreditation Scheme.

The officially recognised accreditation scheme for Certification of Persons in Ukraine comprises the **National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine**, further denoted as **NAAU**, its accredited personnel Certification bodies and their activities.

Based on an on-going programme of co-operation, a number of EA member Accreditation Bodies, on behalf of the accreditation system of Personnel Certification for which they are responsible, have entered a multilateral agreement on mutual acceptance of certificates issued by accredited Certification bodies, based on mutual recognition of the technical equivalence of the operation of their accreditation scheme for Personnel Certification. These EA member bodies are hereinafter referred to as the EA Signatories for Personnel Certification.

As a prerequisite for signing this Agreement, EA Member Accreditation Bodies and NAAU have concluded a Contract of Co-operation, aiming at establishing mutual confidence.

The principal elements of the programme to establish mutual confidence are:

- exchange of information on the development and operation of EA and the Nationally Recognised Accreditation Schemes of its Member Accreditation Bodies on the one hand and NAAU on the other hand;
- participation in meetings of the EA General Assembly;
- participation in meetings of EA Technical Committees and task forces to discuss problems related to Personnel Certification in various technical fields;
- mutual re-evaluations with intervals of four years;
- dissemination to NAAU of information on the results of the evaluation and the re-evaluation of EA Member Accreditation Bodies made in the framework of the EA Multilateral Agreement.

The EA Signatories for Personnel Certification, represented by the Chairman of the EA Multilateral Agreement Council,

and

NAAU, represented by the Chairman

enter into the following Agreement based on a Contract of Co-operation concluded between the Nationally Recognised Accreditation Bodies participating in EA, and NAAU.

Agreement

- 1 The EA Signatories for Personnel Certification and NAAU will
 - (i) recognise the operation of their Nationally Recognised Accreditation Schemes, complying with relevant standards in the ISO/IEC17000 series and the EA application documents to these standards, as being equivalent;
 - (ii) accept on an equal basis the certificates issued by their accredited certification bodies;
 - (iii) promote the acceptance of certificates issued by their accredited certification bodies by all users in their countries;
 - (iv) investigate all complaints resulting from certificates issued by their accredited certification bodies;
 - (v) inform each other, as soon as possible, of any significant changes that have occurred or will occur in the status and/or operational practices of their own accreditation body and system.

- 2 The extension of the EA Multilateral Agreement to a further Nationally Recognised Accreditation Scheme or the withdrawal of an EA Signatory will not change the terms of this Agreement.

- 3 The conclusion of a further agreement between EA and a Nationally Recognised Accreditation Scheme not participating in EA, or between EA and another regional association of accreditation schemes, does not change the terms of this Agreement. Nor does such agreement imply any responsibilities for or recognition by NAAU of certificates issued by the certification bodies associated with the party with which such an agreement is concluded or of the equivalence of operation of NAAU and the national accreditation schemes being signatory to such an agreement.

- 4 This Agreement shall be null and void if the Contract of Co-operation referred to in the Preamble is terminated.