

RULES OF CROSS-FRONTIER ACCREDITATION

Any differences between the Serbian and English versions of this document are not intended, but if in doubt, the Serbian version should be consulted.

1. SCOPE

This document shall lay down the policy applied by the Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS) when accreditation is provided to a conformity assessment body (CAB) with the head office outside the Republic of Serbia or to a CAB established in the Republic of Serbia, but that has sites/local sites where conformity assessment activities are held abroad, and the policy related to cooperation with other accreditation bodies in case of cross-frontier accreditation.

This policy shall be applied to all types of CABs, whose competence is assessed by ATS i.e. testing laboratories, medical laboratories, calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers (PT providers), certification and inspection bodies.

2. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS

Reference documents:

The Rules of Cross-frontier Accreditation are based on the principles defined in the following documents:

- Law on Accreditation ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 73/2010, 47/21),
- SRPS ISO/IEC 17011:20018 - Conformity Assessment-General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting of Conformity Assessment Bodies,
- EA- 2/13 M:2019, EA Cross Border Accreditation Policy and Procedure for Cross Border Cooperation between EA Members,
- ILAC-G21:09/2012, Cross Frontier Accreditation - Principles for Cooperation,
- IAF ML 1:2016 Guidance for the Exchange of Documentation among MLA Signatories for the Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies,
- IAF ML 4:2016, Policies and Procedures for MLA on the Level of Single Accreditation Bodies and on the Level of Regional Accreditation Groups,
- ATS-PA01, Rules of Accreditation,
- Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93, hereinafter referred to Regulation (EC) 765/2008.

Terms and definitions:

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply in addition to those given in SRPS ISO/IEC 17000, SRPS ISO/IEC 17011, and Regulation (EC) 765/2008:

- 2.1 **EA region:** the geographical region covered by countries of the EA geographical region that includes EA countries (European Co-operation for Accreditation) in accordance with the EA Statute.
- 2.2 **Local accreditation body (LAB):** the national accreditation body/accreditation body of the country where the site(s) with CAB conformity assessment activities are listed in the Accreditation Scope issued by ATS.
- 2.3 **EA MLA(BLA)/ILAC MRA/IAF MLA:** multilateral (bilateral) mutual recognition agreement promoting equivalence of accreditation systems within EA/ mutual recognition agreement promoting equivalence of accreditation systems within ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation)/mutual recognition agreement promoting equivalence of accreditation systems within IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

3. POLICY

- 3.1 ATS undertakes that it shall not promote or market its accreditation services in the country of another accreditation body and that it shall not compete with other accreditation bodies.

- 3.2 ATS can refer a CAB established in the Republic of Serbia to submit for accreditation to an accreditation body from another country if ATS does not perform accreditation in respect of the conformity assessment activities for which accreditation is sought.
- 3.3 ATS can ask an accreditation body from another country to carry out a part of accreditation activities. ATS can, at the request of an accreditation body from another country, perform part of activities on the occasion of accreditation of a CAB from that country.
- 3.4 ATS performs accreditation activities only in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, except in cases that are in keeping with the reference documents of EA, ILAC and IAF provided under 3.4.1, 3.4.3 and 3.5 of these Rules:
- 3.4.1 As a rule, ATS can accept applications for accreditation submitted by CABs outside the Republic of Serbia in the following situations:
- (a) where the country in which the CAB is established has decided not to establish a national accreditation body/accreditation body and has not had recourse to the national accreditation body/accreditation body of another country;
 - (b) where the national accreditation body/accreditation body in the country where the CAB is established does not provide accreditation service in respect of the conformity assessment activities for which accreditation is sought;
 - (c) where the accreditation body in the country where the CAB is established has not signed the multilateral mutual recognition agreements (EA MLA(BLA) for the EA region or ILAC MRA/IAF MLA for other countries) in respect of the conformity assessment activities for which accreditation is sought.
- 3.4.2 Pursuant to 3.4.1 b) and c), ATS shall inform the accreditation body in the country where the applicant is established (LAB) that it accepts to perform accreditation procedure and shall explain the reasons for accepting the application and shall propose to the LAB that it can act as an observer during the assessment that will be carried out by ATS. ATS shall seek the cooperation of the Local AB, when it should pay utmost attention to using the specific competence needed, taking into account factors such as language, local laws and regulations, culture, etc. ATS shall use the resources of LAB as much as available to provide access to competence. The said cooperation rules shall also be observed in case of other CAB assessments. Before the cooperation with the LAB, ATS shall provide written approval from the CAB by means of the contract on accreditation.
- 3.4.3 When ATS accredits a conformity assessment body from the Republic of Serbia and the conformity assessment body has foreign sites performing conformity assessment activities, these foreign sites can be covered under the accreditation granted to the CAB and covered by the Scope of accreditation issued by ATS. In that case, ATS shall cooperate with the LAB as defined under 3.4.2. If the LAB is a signatory to relevant EA MLA(BLA)/ILAC MRA/IAF MLA in respect of the conformity assessment activities for which accreditation is sought, ATS shall cooperate with the LAB in the EA region as defined in Chapters 5 and 6 of this document, i.e. in accordance with clause 7.2 in case of countries outside the EA region when the LAB is signatory to ILAC MRA/IAF MLA.
- 3.5 ATS can, except in cases described under 3.4.1, accept an application for accreditation from a CAB established outside the territory of the Republic of Serbia, i.e., outside the EA region under the conditions and procedures given in Chapter 7 of these Rules and when there is an accreditation body in the country where the accredited CAB is established covering the scheme and/or field of accreditation being sought and that is a signatory, for that particular scheme of accreditation, to ILAC MRA or IAF MLA.

- 3.6 If ATS granted CAB accreditations in another country from the EA region, due to the lack of competence of LAB or because LAB is not a signatory to the relevant EA MLA/BLA agreement, it shall notify CAB of the obligation to change the accreditation body and transfer their accreditation with LAB when these conditions changed in accordance with the principles given in these rules. After the signing of the relevant EA MLA/BLA agreement by LAB, ATS shall not renew the accreditation or start a new cycle or extend such accreditation.
- 3.7 When the conditions under 3.4.1 or 3.4.3 have changed and at each re-assessment, ATS shall confirm that previously accepted conditions for providing cross-frontier accreditation still apply as prescribed in these Rules. Records of these explanations shall be kept and will be checked during the EA peer assessments.
- 3.8 Furthermore, when ATS accredits a CAB in its own country for conformity assessment according to foreign national regulation, ATS shall ask for support while assessing from the national accreditation body of the country issuing the regulation to make sure that it has full information on the implementation of that regulation.
- 3.9 This policy is consistent with the Law on Accreditation, Rules of Accreditation, SRPS ISO/IEC 17011 and the procedure entitled EA-2/13 M (i.e. EU Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008), and takes into account the IAF and ILAC cross-frontier guidelines contained in documents *IAF ML 4* и *ILAC-G21* as reference documents, as well as guidelines published by the European Commission (e.g. CERTIF documents).

4. COOPERATION IN CROSS-FRONTIER ACCREDITATION IN THE EA REGION

- 4.1 Where ATS is going to accredit a CAB in a foreign country that is in the EA region, it shall inform the LAB of the country where the CAB was established about its intentions in writing and keep it informed of its following actions, provided that the requirements of point 3.4.1. ATS is taking all necessary steps to cooperate as much as possible with LAB.
- 4.2 Before accepting an application for accreditation from CAB headoffice in another country (in the EA region), ATS shall verify that the requirements of point 3.4.1 of these rules are met (Regulation (EC) 765/2008 (article 6.3)) and, if necessary, contact LAB.
- 4.3 When ATS is required to provide accreditation services (including witnessing at CAB`s clients) in one of the countries in the EA region, ATS shall take care to ensure appropriate competence, taking into account factors such as language, local laws and regulations, culture, etc. in addition to the usual technical competence otherwise required. ATS, shall in these situations, establish cooperation with LAB and request information that may be unavailable to ATS. LAB is obliged to provide access to this information as well as resources in order to ensure competence whenever possible. ATS will use LAB resources, as much as possible, to have access to the relevant competence. If LAB does not participate in the assessment, ATS will allow it to observe the assessment as specified in paragraph 3.4.2 of these rules.
- 4.4 Accreditation bodies that are members of EA are obliged to establish effective cooperation, whereby ATS (and LAB) shall respond to the requests of other party. In exceptional cases, when ATS and LAB are unable to establish cooperation in accordance with EA procedure (EA-2/13 M), ATS shall make records of the reasons why such cooperation did not take place. This information will be documented, stored and made available upon request, and the shall be process continued.
- 4.5 The accreditation agreement, which ATS signs with its clients, includes provisions that allow LABs from those countries to be used to assess CAB activities performed in other

countries without the need for special approval or notification of CAB if LAB is a signatory of relevant EA MLA/BLA agreement and conducts accreditation for relevant conformity assessment activities. In addition, the contract contains provisions on the consent of CAB regarding the exchange of information on CAB obtained during accreditation between ATS and LAB, if that LAB does not conduct the assessment.

- 4.6 ATS shall, on the occasion of granting cross-frontier accreditation to CABs from the EA region, cooperate with the LAB in line with the rules and procedure under 4.1-4.5 of these Rules. However, when CABs from the Republic of Serbia are granted accreditation by other EA members and when ATS acts as the LAB, ATS shall abide by the requirements from the relevant Chapters pertaining to the LAB.
- 4.7 ATS shall, on the occasion of granting cross-frontier accreditation to multisite CABs from the Republic of Serbia, cooperate with the LAB in line with the rules and procedure under Chapters 5, 6 and 8 of these Rules. However, when multisite CABs from the EA region are granted accreditation to operate in the Republic of Serbia and when ATS acts as the LAB, ATS shall abide by the requirements from the relevant Chapters pertaining to the LAB.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION OF MULTISITE CAB IN THE EA REGION

- 5.1 Where a CAB with a Head Office established in the Republic of Serbia, also has local sites (local branches) in other countries of the EA region, it may seek ATS accreditation to cover the activities for all sites/local branches. In these cases, the following conditions shall be met and applied regardless of the legal subjectivity of CAB sites/local branches outside the Republic of Serbia:
- 5.1.1 Multisite accreditation is only possible when all conformity assessment activities fall under the responsibility of a single legal entity. In the case where the sites covered by the accreditation represent a separate legal entity, it is expected that these legal entities must be related and be part of the *same organization*. The responsibility shall be demonstrated based on contracts or other legal agreements/relationships between the accredited legal entity and its local sites and on the basis of internal regulations at the given local sites in which these relations are additionally defined in terms of management and responsibilities. The *same organization* is, by definition, a group of legal entities, consisting of the headoffice of the organization (central – parent organization) and local sites, which are connected by contract or appropriate legal act/relationship with the headoffice of the organization operating under the same commercial name and logo. The names of the individual legal entities may be slightly different but shall include the commercial name of the organisation. Multisite accreditation applies to all types of local business units, such as branches, subsidiaries, local offices, agencies, bureaus, etc. regardless of their legal subjectivity, and applies to all types of CAB, as long as they carry out clearly defined and appropriate tasks from the accreditation scope. The names of individual legal entities can e.g. to include letter designations that define the type of organization (e.g. „Ltd“/ „GmbH“/д.о.о.) or regional identity designations (e.g. "Svenska“ or "Deutsche“). The business name can be translated, in part or in full, to suit the needs of the local market. In order to assess whether it is the same organization, the following are reviewed: contractual arrangements or documents on other legal relations between CAB headoffice and local sites; registration of business name and logo; materials used for marketing and promotion; issued reports and/or certificates.
- 5.1.2 The accreditation certificate issued by ATS shall name one legal entity, that of the head office to a legal entity, and it shall be this legal entity that holds the multisite

accreditation and is responsible for the performing accredited activities of the CAB, also including any activity performed by the local sites outside the Republic of Serbia and which are stated in the Scope of Accreditation.

5.1.3 The CAB head office and all the sites stated in the Scope of accreditation shall operate under *the same management* and the *same quality management system*. *The same management* (leadership) is comprised of the same set of persons or organisational entities of the same organization taking overall responsibility for the accredited activities. *The same quality management system* presents a set of linked rules and procedures defined by the same management in order to take responsibility for the accredited activities. The linkage is achieved through table of or by reference.

For assessing whether there is the same management (leadership), the following is checked:

- organization charts linked to named individuals;
- reporting lines from sites to the head office;
- descriptions of authorities and responsibilities of persons:
 - approving policies and instructions for conformity assessment activities,
 - approving authorities and responsibilities of personnel involved in conformity assessment activities, and
 - authorizing certificates and reports;
- Names of persons at the CAB head office assigned authorities and responsibilities to control and monitor activities performed at local sites, including decisions concerning resource management etc;
- Evidence of monitoring from head office to the local site in every aspect (managerial, financial and operational). (Note that the sole performance of internal audits is not considered sufficient for taking responsibility for accredited activities.) Evidence of monitoring may be written instructions and records produced and maintained;
- Evidence of effective communication within the organization. Special care should be taken where there is not a single language of communication within the organisation used by all members of the management in a position to influence the quality of the accredited services;
- whether transfer of overall managerial and operational responsibility for activities of the local site to personnel employed by a foreign company (Head Office) possible according to the company legislation in the country where the local site is established.

In order for *the quality management system* to be considered as *the same* it shall be designed to provide the same outcome of accredited activities regardless of where the activities are carried out or by whom. The policies governing conformity assessment activities shall be the same throughout the organization. To provide consistency of results:

- the same management is to define in the same quality management system any sub-sets of alternative rules and procedures, used e.g. by different local sites or throughout different geographical regions;
- all activities, defined by the same management system are covered by an internal audit program managed and approved by the same management, and and the outcome of individual internal audits, including decisions on corrective actions is channeled through affected management at all levels as the situation warrants.
- all activities of the same quality management system are subject to a management review by the same management. The outcome of the management

review, including any decisions, is channeled through affected management at all levels as the situation warrants. The same management has the authority and legal means to enforce corrective and preventive actions.

In order to assess whether it is *the same quality management system*, the following is assessed:

- management system structure;
- rules for approval of policies and instructions;
- implementation of policies;
- application of requirements for competence, procedures for qualification and monitoring of personnel involved in conformity assessment activities;
- internal audit program; documentation of internal audits; communication of corrective actions; lack of same or similar non-conformances recurring throughout the organization;
- procedure for management review; documentation of management reviews; communication and implementation of decisions; lack of similar problems recurring throughout the organization.

5.1.4 Registered legal entity - the CAB head office shall have the means to substantially influence and control the activities of the sites. The CAB Head Office shall be able to demonstrate that such influence and control are in place and properly working.

5.1.5 Local CAB sites shall not, under multisite accreditation, offer accredited services in the local (foreign) market under their own name and with logo, in case individual local sites have the status of a separate legal entity in relation to accredited CAB, since that local legal entity is not the holder of accreditation issued by ATS.

5.1.6 The legal entity of the accredited CAB, i.e. the Head Office of CAB/parent organization, bears *the ultimate responsibility for the activities* – activities covered by the accreditation performed by its branches/local sites. *Responsibility* for accredited activities is the responsibility for performing and the result of accredited activities, the Head office of the organization (parent organization) must have full operational control over the activities. To this end, the Head Office of the organization must have adequate technical competence and resources to ensure control over the entire scope of accreditation. Taking responsibility for the result of accredited activities means taking responsibility for competence and resources used, applied rules and procedures, achieved consistency and quality achieved by the application of these rules and procedures; impartiality expressed by the application of these rules and procedures, and the content of issued reports and/or certificates. Accountability to the client, government agencies, the public and the judiciary needs to be supported. In assessing whether the Head Office of the organization has responsibility for accredited activities, special focus is placed on:

- harmonizing conformity assessment outcomes through:
 - common or equivalent procedures,
 - common or equivalent competence, training, qualification and monitoring requirements;
- supervising conformity assessment activities, e.g. by means of:
 - internal audits,
 - participation in proficiency testing schemes,
 - monitoring activities,
 - the checking of data, calculations, analyses and reports or certificates;
- documentation of communication with authorities;

- handling of complaints and appeals, both at the level of the head office and at the level of the local sites;
- handling of impartiality issues, both at the level of the head office and the level of the local sites;
- handling of media coverage, both at the level of the head office and the level of the local sites;
- handling of legal cases, both at the level of the head office and the level of the local sites.

5.1.7 Local branches may offer conformity assessment activities, within the framework of multisite accreditation in the local (foreign) market, only on behalf of the accredited CAB, i.e. on behalf of their home organization/CAB Head Office. Certificates of conformity (certificates, reports), issued under multisite accreditation, must contain the name and address of the accredited legal entity, i.e. the Head Office of CAB without the logo of the local branch. Tenders, contracts, certificates and reports issued shall not create confusion as to which legal entity of CAB is the holder of accreditation.

When these conditions are not met in all aspects, multisite accreditation shall not be granted by ATS.

5.2 The ATS principles of multisite cross border accreditation require CABs and the sites outside the Republic of Serbia that are included in the multisite accreditation to abide by the following:

1. CAB, which has local sites/local branches in different countries of the EA region, shall fully cooperate with the national accreditation bodies from the countries where CAB sites are located (LABs);
2. Individual CAB local sites/local branches may not refuse the participation of LAB in the initial assessment, reassessment, as well as in assessment process in the accreditation cycle.

Note: When accepting an application for accreditation, ATS will take care that the applicants are aware of these conditions and accept them.

5.3 If a local site is removed from the list of local sites on the accreditation certificate, i.e., the Scope of Accreditation, for lack of fulfilment of requirements, the impact on the status of the full scope of accreditation shall be determined by ATS.. In this regard, special attention will be paid to the requirements related to the control of activities (see 5.1.4 of these Rules) and responsibility for activities performed (see 5.1.6 of these Rules).

During the initial assessment, ATS will visit and assess each branch office – the local site where the conformity assessment activities are performed, before it is included in the Scope of Accreditation.

5.4 The multisite CAB Assessment Programme plans assessments that will cover activities, local sites and staff being assessed taking into account the risks associated with the activities and market conditions for each site. Risk analysis is performed with the participation of LAB using their expertise and knowledge of their market and regulations. Some of the issues to consider when choosing the appropriate approach and degree of sampling are:

- different local regulations, knowledge of the local market,
- the scope of CAB activities in different local sites,
- the impact of the activities carried out by CAB within the accreditation of ATS on the local market, e.g. CAB market share,
- results of previous assessments of conformity assessment activities and/or local site,

- degree of control and monitoring of each site demonstrated by CAB,
- whether the local branch/site has LAB accreditation for the same or different scope and/or uses the same or different conformity assessment processes and/or has the same or different management system,
- in case the local branch/local site has LAB accreditation, it is necessary to adhere, as much as possible, to the cycle/frequency of LAB assessment.

The answers to the most frequently asked questions contained in section 3 of the Annex of the document EA-2/13 can be found on the ATS website <https://www.ats.rs/en/faq> in the section FAQ.

6. PROCEDURE FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER EA MEMBER ACCREDITATION BODIES FOR CROSS-FRONTIER ACCREDITATION OF CABS FROM MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

- 6.1 ATS shall, as soon as possible, inform LAB that it is necessary to cooperate with ATS to carry out CAB assessment (see 5.4 of these rules). For existing accredited activities, ATS shall provide LAB with a sufficient amount of information on the expected assessment requirements during the accreditation cycle. During the cooperation with LAB, ATS shall respond to all its requests promptly, and on the other hand, it shall report any difficulties it encounters. The ATS notifies LAB of its needs for the following calendar year (without specifying the exact scope of LAB's participation in the assessment) no later than three months before the beginning of the calendar year so that it can plan the use of its resources. At this stage, the exact scope of the assessment may not be defined yet, but this timely information may be crucial in planning LAT resources. On the scope of LAB's participation in assessment, ATS shall inform LAB no later than three months before the scheduled assessment date. In case of additional requirements, e.g. extension of the scope, ATS will notify LAB immediately upon learning of such a request and ATS and LAB must cooperate so that, whenever possible, CAB's expectations are met promptly.
- 6.2 When LAB performs an assessment for the needs of ATS, ATS will comply with the requirements of clause 6.4 of SRPS ISO/IEC 17011 standards related to the provision of resources from outsourcing, i.e. will adhere to the relevant procedures.
- 6.2.1 ATS shall, as detailed as possible, specify the assessment scope in question in order to minimize the degree of risk of possible misunderstanding between ATS and LAB. The ATS shall provide LAB with all necessary information to ensure the effective conduct of the assessment within the agreed timeframe, and in accordance with the signed agreement. ATS notifies LAB of the accreditation decision immediately upon its adoption.
- 6.2.2 When LAT accepts to carry out the assessment on behalf of ATS, it shall take care to follow the instructions of ATS regarding communication with the CAB and the scope of the requested assessment. LAB can also use its procedures, systems and reports during the assessment. The report shall, in any case, contain sufficient information on CAB's compliance with the accreditation requirements for ATS to make an appropriate decision.
- 6.3 The language, which will be used during the assessment and in the assessment reports, will be agreed upon in advance between LAB, ATS and CAB. The language used, as a rule, is English.
- 6.4 As stated in point 5.4 of these rules, ATS shall check whether LAB has issued any accreditation for the CAB site and whether it conducts assessments for its needs at the given site. When applicable, LAB assessment cycle and frequency shall be used, unless ATS has more stringent requirements.

- 6.5 Prior to each assessment, ATS shall submit to LAB at least the following:
- report on the preliminary assessment of the site defined as the site having management control (parent organization, CAB Head Office); including information on non-conformities and actions resulting from that assessment,
 - up-to-date information on CAB, including information on its organization and management, as well as on how to control conformity assessment activities performed at its site,
 - additional requirements or activities that LAB shall specifically assess,
 - possible requirements of the regulator that may affect the activities of the location in case of granting accreditation for the purpose of notification,
 - a detailed description of activities that the local site/local branch can perform under the accreditation of CAB,
 - a detailed description of the assessment scope, including any requirements of the sector scheme,
 - assessment programme, including planned site witnessing.
- 6.6 LAB is obliged to, before the assessment, to submit to ATS at least the following:
- assessment results in accordance with the deadlines specified in the agreement between ATS and LAB,
 - assessment report within the deadlines specified in the agreement between ATS and LAB,
 - recommendations regarding the resolution of possible negative findings, if it is the obligation of LAB in accordance with the agreement (care should be taken of the possibility that corrective actions may be submitted directly to ATS, e.g. in case the responsibility for a given local site lies some other local site or Head Office).
- 6.7 ATS shall notify LAB of its decision to suspend or withdraw the accreditation of CAB for activities it performs at a location abroad (in the LAB country) immediately after such a decision is made. LAB is obliged to notify ATS of its decision to suspend or withdraw accreditation for activities of a site from abroad of the same CAB, if it has independent accreditation from LAB. The timely exchange of this information is important so that both parties can consider the implications of such a decision in relation to the accreditations granted.
- 6.8 ATS shall provide LAB (and vice versa) with any valid and relevant information such as assessment results, complaints, market feedback, etc, concerning the CAB local site in which accreditation they are jointly involved.
- 6.9 ATS notified a contact person regarding its cross-frontier activities who is obliged to inform and communicate in promptly about these cross-frontier activities with other EA members. Contact details are entered into the internet network of EA members in part intended for that. Communication between EA members on cross-frontier activities must take place through notified contact persons in the planning phase.

When exchanging documentation with other accreditation bodies, ATS shall also apply the postulates of good cooperation between the bodies listed in the document IAF ML 1, Guidance for the Exchange of Documentation among MLA Signatories for the Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies.

7. COOPERATION PROCEDURE BETWEEN MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE EA REGION THAT ARE SIGNATORIES TO IAF MLA OR ILAC MLA ON CROSS BORDER ACCREDITATION

- 7.1 In case when the country of origin of an applicant for accreditation has an accreditation body covering the scheme and/or field of accreditation that was sought and when this accreditation body is a signatory to the multilateral agreement ILAC MRA or IAF MLA for this particular scheme of accreditation, ATS shall, before it has accepted the application, propose to the applicant to apply to its LAB for accreditation, whereas the emphasis shall be on the equivalence of accreditations granted by accreditation bodies that are signatories to the mutual recognition agreements and on the fact that the accreditation could be more economically performed if granted by the LAB, and on the fact that the LAB would still need to be involved in the accreditation procedure even if ATS had accepted the application for accreditation as defined in this document.
- 7.2 If an applicant wishes, for business or commercial reasons, to get accredited by ATS, i.e. if it does not accept the equivalence of accreditation granted by the LAB or if a CAB is a member of the group (business association) requiring that all of its CABs have accreditation granted by the same AB or if a CAB for this or any other similar reasons chooses ATS over the LAB in its country, ATS shall perform the following activities:
- inform the LAB of the country of CAB origin that it has accepted to perform accreditation procedure and it shall put forward the reasons for application acceptance, and the data on the CAB/applicant name and address and the standard to be used to grant accreditation;
 - propose cooperation to the LAB when assessing a CAB taking into account factors such as language, local laws and regulations, culture, etc. in addition to using adequate assessors to meet the technical competence requirements of assessment. LAB assessors can be in the ATS assessment team and, if appropriate, the assessment team can be composed of the LAB members;
 - propose to the LAB assessors to act as observers in the ATS assessment team if, for any particular reason, it will not be possible to have the LAB assessors in the ATS assessment team;
 - propose a joint assessment or subcontracting of part of the assessment to be performed together with the accreditation body from the CAB country of origin by adhering, to the greatest extent possible, to the principles laid down in Chapters 6 and 7 of this document when it comes to multisite accreditation.

8. TRANSFER OF ACCREDITATION

- 8.1 ATS is ready to, in accordance with the requirements of document EA-2/13 M, cooperate with accreditation bodies from the EA region in the transfer of accreditations, which foreign AB granted CAB from the Republic of Serbia for areas for which ATS is not a signatory to the EA MLA agreement, i.e., does not provide services, on ATS and vice versa. When transferring accreditation, ATS shall take care that accredited CABs are not disadvantaged by terminating their accreditations. However, CABs are obliged to apply for accreditation to ATS promptly, so that ATS can perform the assessment in time and make a decision on accreditation. On that occasion, ATS shall take into account the history of CAB accreditation. In all cases, in order to successfully establish communication, the foreign accreditation body must submit the necessary information to ATS, and at least information on the scope of CAB accreditation.

Transfer of accreditation to the ATS can be done at the request of CAB during the accreditation cycle, and before the reassessment. ATS will coordinate the transmission plan in agreement with CAB and the foreign accreditation body.

- 8.2 If ATS granted accreditations to CAB in another country outside the EA region in case LAB became signatory to the relevant agreement (ILAC MRA or IAF MLA agreement) at the request of CAB, ATS shall carry out all accreditation transfer activities.

ACTING DIRECTOR

Prof. Aco Janjićević, PhD