



Global Quality and Standards Programme Phase II (GQSP II)

Global trade is growingly embedded within value chains and is increasingly governed by quality and standards requirements. The GQSP II continues to address challenges faced by exporters from developing countries to meet and prove conformity with those requirements.

Rationale

Despite the opportunities induced by trade liberalization and the efforts made by developing countries to strengthen integration into the world trade system, exporters from many developing and middle-income countries have not been able to substantially increase their access to global markets. A major reason is that the reduction of tariff measures to facilitate global trade coincided with an increased use of non-tariff measures in the forms of technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards, market requirements, and conformity assessment procedures, amongst others to ensure consumer safety. Particularly SMEs from developing and middle-income countries face substantial challenges to meet and prove conformity with these market entry requirements, thus face technical barriers to trade that hinder their ability to access markets.

To strengthen the Quality Infrastructure System aiming to support sustainable integration into global markets, SECO and UNIDO have been cooperating on providing technical assistance for over 15 years before they decided in 2017 to take their cooperation to the next level; a programmatic approach. At the global level, the GQSP Phase I established the global knowledge-hub encompassing "Global Tools" for quality infrastructure systems and offering access to 454 publications, more than 16 training courses and issued 5,322 certificates. At country level, the GQSP Phase I improved market access in 16 value chains in 9 SECO focus countries and through 3 complementary measures.

Country/region

Global, Albania, Colombia, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Ukraine, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Georgia, Moldova, Philippines

Executing agency

UNIDO

Duration

2022-2027

Total budget

CHF 15,000,000¹

SECO contribution

CHF 14,000,000



¹ Local contributions of around CHF 1,000,000 are planned.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the GQSP II remain the same as under the first phase:

- a. to strengthen the National Quality Infrastructure institutions and Service providers to offer services demanded by SMEs at market price;
- b. to support SMEs to use available quality services to produce goods and services in line with international market requirements;
- c. to support the creation of a conducive policy environment and culture for quality.

The objectives are achieved through two components: a Global Knowledge Management and specific Country Projects. The Global Knowledge Management is a strategic and transversal component with the objective to generate and disseminate knowledge from research and past endeavours, which can be used to tackle quality and standards related challenges. This knowledge is globally disseminated to Country Projects and to the general public through an online platform hosted by UNIDO – the Knowledge Hub. Country Projects will address standard compliance challenges in a holistic and tailor-made manner in emblematic sectors with demonstrated export potential.




Governance Structure

A Steering Committee of the Programme comprising UNIDO and SECO meets twice a year. Its main role is to provide strategic guidance and to monitor progress towards established objectives and outputs set out in the Programme. Country Project Steering Committees comprising of all relevant stakeholders at country level are responsible for taking strategic decisions of the Country Project and discussing specificities regarding its implementation.

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Rules-based trade system



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GQSP Knowledge Hub
<https://hub.unido.org/>

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