



CAMEROON: Pilot Programme for Industrial Upgrading

Context

In 2008, with support from UNIDO and funding from the European Union, the Pilot Programme for Industrial Upgrading, Standardization and Quality (PPAMNQ) was launched within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Cameroon. The project's main objective was to strengthen the competitiveness of the national economy by improving production capacities and upgrading enterprises and the business environment in Cameroon.

Strategy

UNIDO's technical assistance strategy focused on two components: the first aimed at establishing an adequate environment and support services for local industry and enhancing SME competitiveness, while the second aimed at developing the capacities of the national quality infrastructure and supporting local companies to meet national and international market requirements.

Impact/Outlook

As a result of the project, the Cameroonian authorities established sustainable national institutions, which provide assistance in industrial upgrading, subcontracting and quality infrastructure. The National Upgrading Bureau, the Subcontracting Partnership Exchange Centre and the Standardization Body are fully integrated within the national institutional system with a financial support from the state budget.

Due to the encouraging results achieved in the pilot phase and the success in ensuring the national ownership and creating the enabling environment for SMEs, the European Union allocated €10 million to expand the programme activities with support from UNIDO.

At a Glance

GOAL:	Improve the competitiveness of local private sector producers and promote a new corporate culture among local businesses
MDGs:	1. Reduce Poverty 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development
THEME:	Industrial Upgrading
DONOR:	European Union (EU)
PARTNERS:	Ministry of Economics, Planning and Territory of Cameroon (MINEPAT)
BUDGET:	EUR 3.6 million
STATUS:	Pilot phase completed
DURATION:	2008 – 2012



→ Current results:

UPGRADING:

- ◆ Establishment of an institutional and regulatory market analysis and competitive positioning studies for priority sectors
- ◆ Training of 80 national consultants on the UNIDO upgrading approach and involvement of consultants in the project implementation
- ◆ Diagnostic studies for 15 enterprises conducted and upgrading action plans elaborated
- ◆ Assistance provided in managerial and technical upgrading of the 15 pilot enterprises to improve their competitiveness
- ◆ Establishment of a Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange Centre (SPX)

QUALITY AND STANDARDS:

- ◆ Awareness raising on quality importance among 1000 participants from the public and private sectors
- ◆ Training of 40 national consultants as lead auditors and subsequent placement of successful candidates in companies to support them towards international certification
- ◆ Support the creation and capacity building of the National Standards Body (ANOR)
- ◆ Accreditation of three laboratories
- ◆ Development and validation of a national quality plan
- ◆ Certification of 13 companies in ISO 9001, 14000 and 22000 standards