

WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK APPROACH?

The three programme outcomes will be achieved through two Components:

- 1. Global Knowledge Management (Component 1 - C1)
- 2. Country Projects (Component 2 - C2).

C1 is a strategic and transversal component with the objective to generate and disseminate knowledge from research and past endeavors, which can be used to tackle quality and standards related challenges. This knowledge will be globally disseminated to country projects within the C2 and to the general public through an online platform hosted by UNIDO – the Knowledge Hub. C1 will have a direct feedback link with C2 by responding to the common needs in line with the three outcomes of the programme.

C1 will support development of skills and competences, and provide visibility and advocacy of the tools produced. It will be a catalyst to achieve greater effectiveness, while optimizing efficiency in the use of resources. The benefits of C1 will exceed the GQSP framework and serve as a useful global public good for future quality and standard related programmes and to strengthen the cooperation with other organizations working within this field.

C2 will address country-specific standards and quality compliance issues by implementing tailor made interventions for:

Type 1: Priority country projects (3-4 years) will address standard

compliance challenges in a holistic and tailor-made manner and intervene on all three outcome levels, giving priority according to country needs in one or a limited number of specific sectors, with a focus on value chains.

Type 2: Special measures (1-2 years) will consist of short term strategic activities in the area of standards compliance and quality. It will be limited in scope and focus on targeted issues, not necessarily intervening on all three outcome-levels.

In both types, coordination with existing projects – thematic or country– will be actively promoted, to avoid overlaps and create synergies.

IMPACT AND RESULTS



Systematic analysis of global issues, trends and good practices on quality and standards compliance created and transferred through component 1.



SME capacity to comply with standards enhanced through dissemination of knowledge available and knew knowledge as well as trainings to improve competences and skills and promotion of clusters among value chain actors.



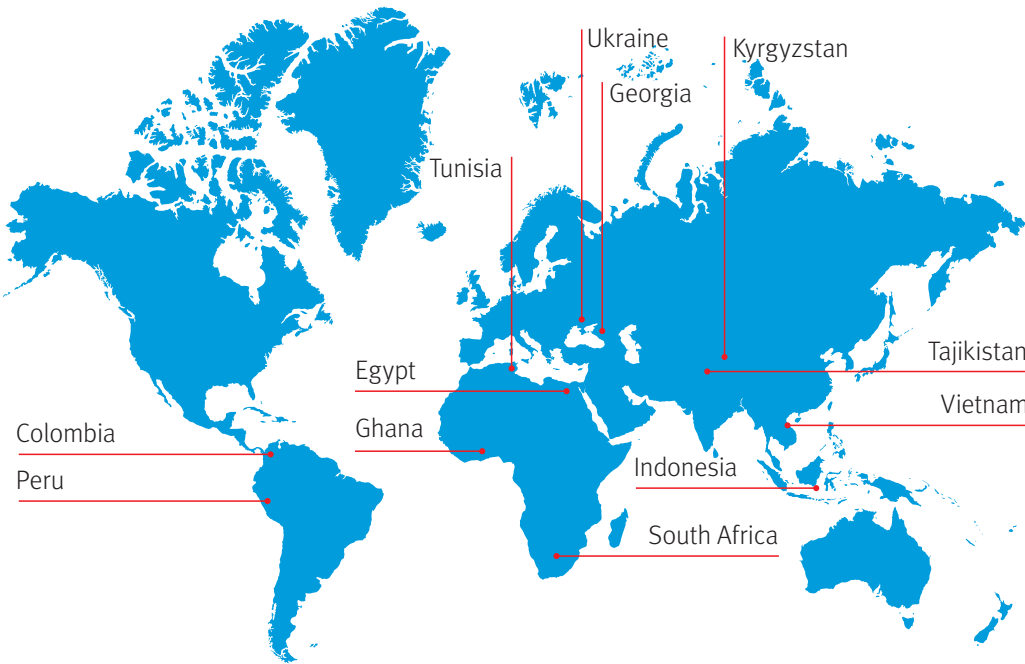
Technical competences of the Quality Infrastructure System strengthened through trainings to enhance technical skills and technical assistance to improve processes or implement management systems as necessary.



Awareness for quality is enhanced through guidelines, recommendations and promotional material on quality and standards compliance at policy, organizational and individual levels.

WHERE DO WE WORK?

The countries the programme will potentially cover are based on SECO priority countries and UNIDO country assessments:



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is determined to carve its niche in contributing to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs by promoting and accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability around the world. UNIDO is a key player in the fight to end poverty - while its activities contribute to numerous goals relating to people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships, its mandate is embedded in Sustainable Development Goal 9: build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

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SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development division is responsible for the planning and implementation of economic cooperation and development activities with middle income developing countries, countries of Eastern Europe as well as new Member State of EU. It coordinates Switzerland's relations with the World Bank Group, the regional development banks and economic organizations of United Nations. SECO is part of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER).



GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME (GQSP) Supporting SMEs to sustainably integrate into global markets



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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Figure 1. Framework of Component 1 and interrelation with Component 2



PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

- Title: Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP)
- Donor: SECO
- Duration: 2017 - 2022
- Budget: CHF 1735 Million
- Main counterparts: NQI institutions, conformity assessment service providers, SMEs, trade/ sector associations

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT AND FUTURE GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS RELATED CHALLENGES?

Global trade is growingly embedded within value chains and is increasingly governed by quality and standard requirements.

Despite the opportunities induced by trade liberalisation 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 (NTM) in the forms of technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, standards, market requirements, and conformity assessment procedures, amongst others to ensure consumer safety. Many products originating from developing countries face difficulties to meet these quality requirements by the international market.

Exporters from developing countries, in particular Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME), face

substantial challenges to meet and prove conformity with market entry requirements, thus face technical barriers to trade that hinder their ability to access markets. This can be due to information asymmetries, or lack of physical and human capacity required. In order to gain and maintain access to international trade and benefit from global markets, standards compliance and proof of conformity are essential all along the value chain. Many developing countries, however, suffer from weak Quality Infrastructure System due to lack of expertise and awareness of the role of quality infrastructure and services for international trade. In order to improve market access of developing countries, there is a strong and growing need to develop a sustainable and targeted Quality Infrastructure System, catered to the dynamic market requirements.

Quality Infrastructure System is a combination of initiatives, institutions, organizations, activities and people, necessary to ensure the quality and safety of products and services manufactured and placed on the market. QIS includes a national quality policy and institutions to implement it – standardization, metrology and accreditation -, a regulatory framework, and quality service providers (e.g. Conformity assessment), enterprises, customers and consumers (who include citizens as “consumers” of government services).

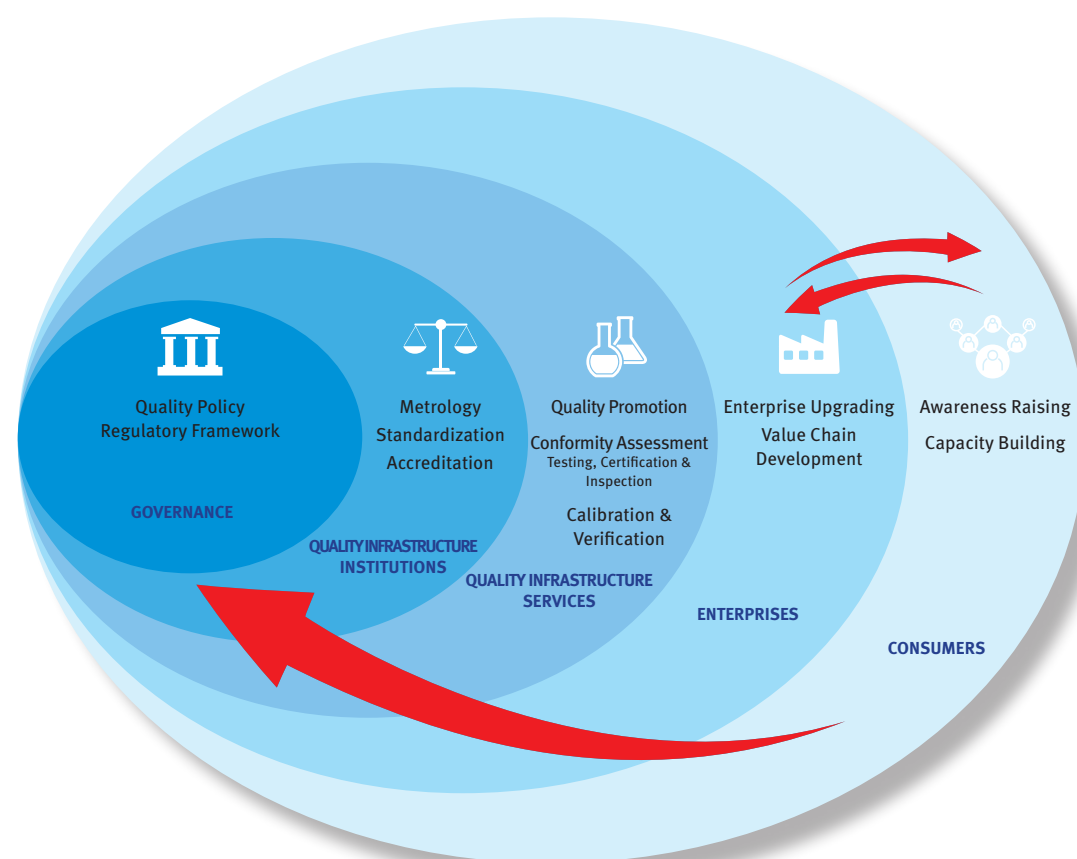
WHY WAS THIS PROGRAMME DEVELOPED?

SECO and UNIDO have been cooperating on providing technical assistance for over 15 years, supporting partner countries to increase their international competitiveness through stronger National Quality Infrastructure System and compliance with international standards, resulting in a very active partnership. UNIDO is SECO's main implementing partner in the thematic area of standards compliance and quality infrastructure, and a globally recognized expert in its reform. UNIDO is determined to be a constructive partner in the implementation of Switzerland's

International Cooperation Strategy, which is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 9, “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. In light of the continued and growing relevance of standards compliance, and the solid and positive track-record of joint cooperation projects, SECO and UNIDO have decided to take their cooperation to the next level: a programmatic approach. Until now, joint projects on standards

compliance have been conducted in different countries such as Colombia, Indonesia, Ghana and Vietnam, with limited formal cross-linkages between them to capitalize experiences and overall knowledge. Henceforth, SECO and UNIDO want to achieve a more comprehensive impact by developing a coherent programmatic approach. The GQSP will consolidate UNIDO-SECO interventions on trade standards compliance within one tool, adding the benefit of a global component facilitating synergies and enhancing coherence among the interventions.

THE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM



HOW WILL THE PROGRAMME ADDRESS THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES?

This programme will support countries to align the demand for and supply of quality services required to prove and verify the quality of products. It will specifically intervene at the following three levels:



1. National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Institutions and Service Providers

Strengthen the NQI system to offer quality services demanded by SME's at market price



2. SMEs

Support SMEs to use available quality services to produce goods and services in line with international market requirements



3. Quality Culture

Support SMEs and institutions to embed the need for quality at individual, institutional and policy level to ensure sustainability of the quality system.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

1. **Technical competence and sustainability of the National Quality Infrastructure System is enhanced.** Strengthening of key institutions and relevant public-private support institutions through capacity building, use of best practices, skills development, and implementation of management systems to ensure quality and international recognition of their services.
2. **SME compliance with international standards and technical regulations is enhanced.** Improving of compliance capacity through specialised training, capacity building and preparation for certification, strengthening of cluster networks and quality consortia as well as relevant support institutions.
3. **Awareness for quality is enhanced.** Advocacy, up-scaling of knowledge dissemination, advice for informed policy decisions on standards compliance and support for policy development



Objective: To strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity in SECO partner countries to facilitate market access for SME by working in emblematic value chains per country.