



Edition n°1 - December 2020

# UNIDO Brussels Snapshot

*Quarterly updates to EU partners*

## Foreword

The European Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization have worked together for many years to advance **inclusive and sustainable industrial development worldwide**. Bringing digital solutions to manufacturing processes, creating jobs for women and youth, greening trade and supporting economic diversification have been great achievements.

As we come towards the end of 2020, a year of unprecedented challenges, the hard work needs to keep going. As a long-standing field expert in **digital transformation and green transition**, UNIDO has been identified by many as a **strategic partner** to turn EU ambitions into realities.

To **walk the talk**, the EU is contributing to UNIDO projects in more than 113 countries, on various thematics related to creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness, or safeguarding the environment. The outcomes of our cooperation surely contribute to global efforts to **build back better**.

To keep informed on UNIDO's activities and honour the EU contribution to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, we thought you may appreciate receiving some **recurrent updates**.

This is why we are happy to announce the very **first edition** of our quarterly newsletter, the **UNIDO Brussels Snapshot**, presenting successes of the **cooperation between UNIDO and the EU**.

We selected for you some key **highlights** including a message from UNIDO Director General Li Yong, a few EU funded **projects**, the most recent UNIDO **publications** and studies, the key **events** for 2021 to keep an eye on, as well as a little **Christmas surprise**.

We hope you will enjoy it, and we look forward to continuing our robust **cooperation** for a Union, and a world, that strives for more, and for better.

In the meantime, we wish you happy and healthy holidays and **all the best in the New Year!**

*Patrick Gilabert*

*UNIDO Representative to the European Institutions and the Organization of ACP States*



## Message from UNIDO Director General Li Yong



HIGHLIGHTS

## EU Statements on 48th UNIDO Industrial Development Board



23-25 November - The EU and its Member States, as UNIDO's main and largest contributors, are open to **discussing new initiatives to ensure efficiency and results that contribute to the SDGs**. Glad to hear that the EU reiterates its "commitment to a sustainably resourced and efficiently managed UNIDO that pursues cost efficiency and delivers on its mandate".



**European Union**  
Statement on the Occasion of the  
Forty Eighth Session of the Industrial Development Board of the  
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation  
(Vienna, 23-25 November 2020)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Norway+, Armenia, The Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

[Read all EU statements on IDB](#)

## Africa Industrialization Week 2020



16-20 November - UNIDO and the African Union jointly celebrated Africa Industrialization Week on the theme "Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation in the AfCFTA Era." As we usually do, the Brussels Office invited all African Ambassadors in Brussels to join the high-level ceremony (virtual this time) on Africa Industrialization Day, November the 20th.

[Learn more on #AIW2020](#)

**Quality & Standards: game-changers for the recovery of African economies?**  
- Side event webinar of #AIW2020

19th November - In the framework of AIW2020, we offered a multi-stakeholder platform where the international community of quality infrastructure governance bodies and practitioners from African Organizations, the EU and UNIDO discussed the role of quality institutions and services for sustainable and inclusive industrialization of Africa in a post-Covid context and in line with the implementation of the AfCFTA. Antti Karhunen, Acting Head of Unit at DG DEVCO, recognized the need to build international partnerships, based on mutual interests and shared values to “build back better” and aim for a green, digital, and resilient recovery.



[Learn more & Watch replay](#)

## Launch of UN Brussels Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs



The digital transition is a priority for the EU. And so is it for the UN. Representatives of nearly 20 United Nations agencies in Brussels will gather every month to share knowledge, work on joint consultations, and discuss common positions to advocate as “**One UN**” on **digitalization for sustainable development**.



**UNITED NATIONS BRUSSELS**

PARTNERING WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The UNIDO Brussels Office is really excited to take the lead together with UNESCO and ITU on this **promising initiative!** We particularly enjoyed discussing with Silvia Viceconte from **DG CONNECT** and Thierry Barbé from **DG DEVCO** at our last meeting.

[Get in touch](#)

## Webinar: Tech-Skills for Sustainable Water Management and Youth Employment in Africa

8th December - UNIDO Brussels Office hosted this knowledge sharing webinar on **innovative solutions to water challenges** in Africa through inter alia **technical skills development, private sector engagement, technology transfer and digitalization**. The outstanding panel featured USAID, Festo Didactic, the Moroccan National Office for Drinking Water, Enabel, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), Veolia and the European Delegation in Senegal.



[Learn more & Watch replay](#)

## UN System Reform: Adoption of the Quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR)

8<sup>th</sup> December – In its efforts to **reform and effectively adapt** to the evolving cooperation environment, the UN Development System (UNDS) **adopted the QCPR** by an overwhelming majority. The adoption of this resolution marks a big step for the UN as a whole, but also specifically for UNIDO's reform integration, as it is the mechanism through which the **General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact** of UN operational activities for development and establishes **system-wide policy orientations**.



[Learn more](#)

# PROJECTS

## SWITCHing towards circular economy in the MENA Region

Launched in 2014, the SwitchMed programme is supporting **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia** in SWITCHing to **greener and more circular business models**. With the EU contributing to the SwitchMed initiative together with the Italian Government and the Spanish Catalan Government co-financing, the second phase of the programme (2019-2023) mobilized 22.8 million €, in addition to the 20 million € of the first phase (2014-2018), to **accelerate greater business opportunities and decent employment while reducing the environmental footprint of existing economic activities** through:

- Direct support to the **private sector** (ex. Circular value chains and resource efficiency industry demonstrations, entrepreneurship training)
- Creation of an **enabling environment** (ex. national action plans, regional roadmaps for resource efficiency)
- **Coordination, networking and communication** (ex. initiation of grassroots initiatives, promotion of eco-innovations and circular economy practices)



[Learn more about this project](#)

## Support to Business Friendly and Inclusive policies in ACP countries

A perfect illustration of partnerships in action! Acknowledging the challenges ACP countries face in fostering competitive regional value chains, the **World Bank, UNIDO, and ITC partnered with the EC and OACPS** to develop a 34.7 million € programme between 2019 and 2023 titled « Support to Business-Friendly and Inclusive National and Regional Policies, and Strengthening Productive Capabilities and Value Chains in ACP countries » (**#Business Friendly Programme**).

The Programme intervenes at the policy, institutional and firm-levels to achieve the key outcomes of (i) adopting and implementing business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks; and (ii) strengthening productive, processing, promoting and marketing capabilities and value chains. This will **improve the ability of firms in ACP countries to compete, grow and prosper in domestic, regional and international markets**, ultimately generating inclusive and sustainable jobs and economic growth.

A programme supported by



And implemented by



[Learn more about this program](#)

## The "European Union for Environment" Action in EaP countries

The EU-funded “EU4Environment” Action, launched in 2019, helps the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine**, preserve their natural capital and increase people’s environmental well-being. With a budget of 20 million €, it supports environment-related actions, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for **greener growth**, and setting mechanisms to better **manage environmental risks and impacts**.

Alongside the four implementing partners, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and World Bank, UNIDO focuses its commitment on applying the principles of **Circular Economy** among **SMEs** using a **resource efficient and cleaner production** (RECP) methodology. RECP aims at improving resource use, reducing environmental pollution, and contributing to **sustainable industrial development**.

Efficient resource use is essential in the execution of the **European Green Deal**. It involves the continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products, and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. Targeting manufacturing enterprises, UNIDO continues building national capacities to create **circular value chains, industrial waste maps** and **Eco-Industrial Parks**.



Action funded by  
the European Union

# EU4Environment

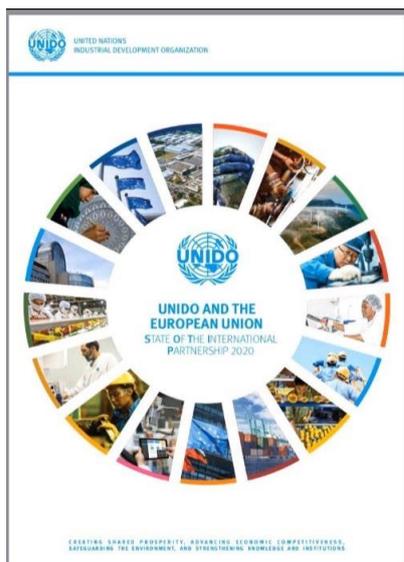
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine



[Learn more about this action](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## UNIDO-EU State of the International Partnership Report 2020



As a way to document the continuous expansion of UNIDO-EU cooperation, the UNIDO Brussels Office produced a **flagship biannual publication** entitled “UNIDO and the European Union State of the International Partnership 2020 Report”.

Illustrated in this publication are the tangible results of how **strategic dialogue** established between UNIDO and the European Institutions has resulted in **better alignment of policy and necessities in the field**. Detailed information on all **joint UNIDO-EU completed and ongoing projects** are presented in this report.

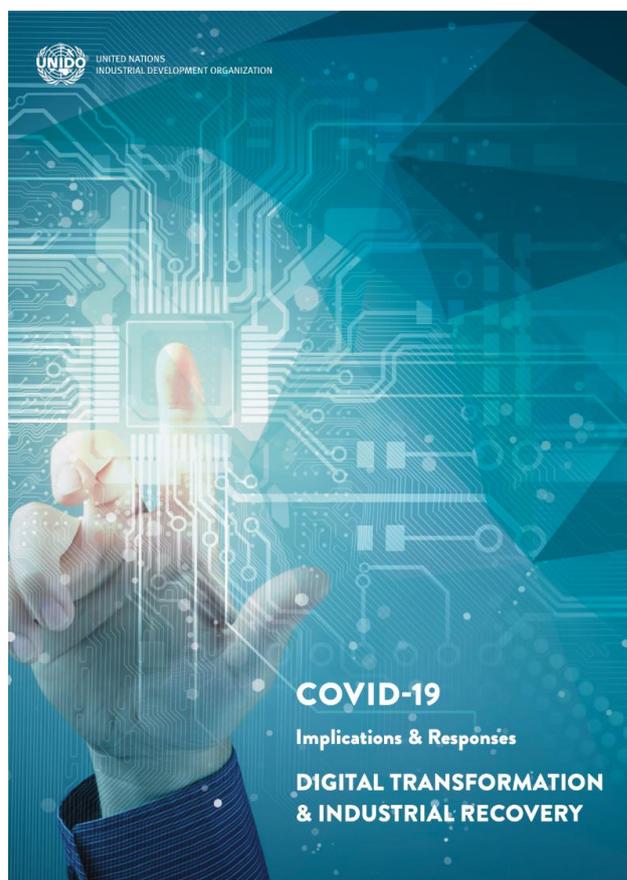
[Read the report](#)

## Covid19 implications on Manufacturing: an opportunity to "build back better"?

No less than any other sector, **manufacturing** has been affected by COVID-19, with many **essential global value chains** either being halted or severely

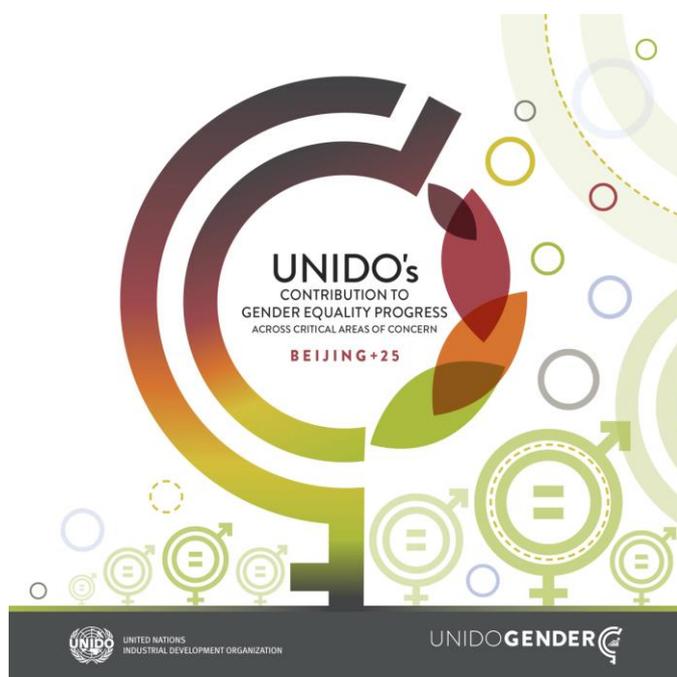
interrupted. Nonetheless, **industrialization will continue to play a vital role in long-term growth and development strategies**, as well as meeting **immediate needs in healthcare**.

The disruption caused by the outbreak presents us with an opportunity to “build back better” by sharing and enhancing knowledge, building competitiveness and resilience and improving quality infrastructure, so that we can address unforeseen events with confidence in the future. This report highlights such opportunities in a digital age.



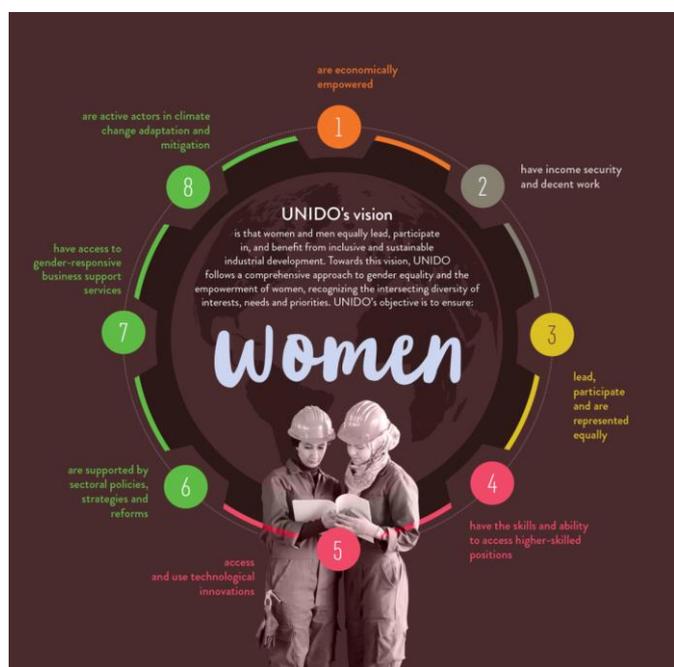
Read the report

## UNIDO's contribution to Gender Equality progress - Beijing+25



What most crises have in common is that they hit the most vulnerable and marginalized populations—among which women are disproportionately represented—the hardest. The impact of COVID-19 on women workers and entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector is significant.

Have a look at the following publications to understand better what a pandemic at the outset of technological upheaval and reorganization of global value chains implies for gender equality:



[Infographic 2020](#): UNIDO's Contribution to Gender Equality Progress across Critical Areas of Concern - Beijing+25

[Global survey \(June 2020\)](#): Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on women and youth entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and manufacturing-related services

[Article on UNIDO's Industrial Analysis Platform \(May 2020\)](#): Industries post-COVID-19: A gender-responsive approach to global economic recovery

[Working paper \(2019\)](#): Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development : the Gender Dimension

“Gender Lens investing is essential to both the immediate response and long-term recovery solutions to global challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.”

**Rana Ghoneim**  
Chief, Energy Systems & Infrastructure Division, UNIDO



[See all UNIDO Gender publications](#)

## Industrial Development Report 2020 - Industrializing in the digital age

How does the emergence and diffusion of advanced digital production (ADP) technologies clustered around the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) alter the nature of manufacturing production? Is industrialization still a feasible or even a desirable strategy to achieve economic development? How can developing countries leverage emerging technologies to their advantage? IDR 2020 contributes to this debate by presenting **fresh analytical and empirical evidence on the future of industrialization**. According to the report, it is precisely by engaging with industrialization that countries can build and strengthen the skills and capabilities needed to compete and succeed within the **new technological paradigm**.

### Industrial Development Report 2020

Industrializing in the digital age  
[Overview](#)



[Read Working Paper](#)

# UNIDO Statistics on World Manufacturing Production in the 3rd quarter of 2020



## World Manufacturing Production

Statistics for Quarter III 2020

Manufacturing bounces back after COVID-19 drop, but outlook uncertain



UNIDO Statistics publishes a series of quarterly reports about **current growth trends of the world manufacturing production**, by country groups and by major sectors, which is based on the index numbers of industrial production (IIP) collected from national data sources.

One key data for you in this latest report: the manufacturing production of European industrialized economies **fell by 5.9 per cent** in the third quarter of 2020. **Disaggregated data** for Europe's industrialized economies show comparatively weaker manufacturing trends in eurozone countries in previous quarters.

[Read Report](#)

## EVENTS IN 2021

- 13 Janvier: Visio-conférence en français conjointe ONUDI Bruxelles / Association pour les Nations Unies en Belgique "L'Industrie face au défi de la transition énergétique et climatique": [Register here](#)
- 24-26 February: [EU Industry Days 2021](#), Brussels
- January-March: [EU Industry Week local events](#) (Europe)
- 4-5 May: [STI Forum](#)
- 31 May - 4 June: [EU Green Week 2021](#), Brussels
- 15-16 June: [European Development Days](#), Brussels
- 22-26 June: [EU Sustainable energy week](#)
- 6-15 July: [High-level political forum on sustainable development \(convened under the auspices of ECOSOC\)](#)
- 12-15 July: [49th Industrial Development Board](#)
- 20 November: [Africa Industrialization Day](#)
- 29 November-3 December: [General Conference - 19th Session](#)

# CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

## 2020 Forum on Globalization and Industrialization : Tomorrow!



Before you go on leave, make sure to follow this high-level forum “[Globalization at the Crossroads - Risk, Resilience and Recalibration in Global Trade and Value Chains](#)”. Join UNIDO, the [Kiel Institute for the World Economy](#) and the [Kiel Centre for Globalization](#) for the virtual fifth edition of the 2020 Forum on Globalization and Industrialization, on **15 December 2020, between 15:00-16:30 (CET, Vienna)**.

The event will welcome a stellar panel to explore how we can understand **value chain risk** as a result of external shocks, what options companies have for improving **resilience** of their global footprint, and what is needed to recalibrate **international production and global sourcing**.

[Register here](#)

## GET IN TOUCH !

The Brussels Office Team would be delighted to answer your questions and further our collaboration. Join us on [Social Media](#) or contact Patrick Gilabert: [p.gilabert@unido.org](mailto:p.gilabert@unido.org)



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