



BOOSTING INNOVATION STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PROGRESS BY INNOVATION

In 2019, UNIDO joined the ISO Technical Committee 279 on Innovation Management (ISO/TC 279), with the aim of strengthening the existing cooperation between the two entities and further disseminating innovation tools, especially to foster entrepreneurship and enhance productivity in developing countries.

UNIDO's collaboration with ISO enables us to enhance quality infrastructure, standards and metrology for firms in developing countries, allowing more products and services to make it to higher value markets. This is particularly important as firms and countries grapple with the twin challenges of digital transformation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengthened standards for innovation allow for greater industrial certainty, quality, sustainability and safety for firms and consumers. We look forward to upscaling our cooperation with ISO and national experts through ISO/TC 279 to ensure a systematic and orderly approach to digital transformation and its associated challenges and potential gains.



UNIDO – ISO/ TC 279 WORKING SESSION ON INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

In order to further strengthen its partnership with ISO, and to explore new and innovative ways of delivering its mandate, UNIDO is hosting the working sessions of ISO/TC 279—Working Group 1 (WG1) and Working Group 3 (WG3). The purpose of ISO/TC 279 is to develop, maintain and promote standards in the realm of innovation management, particularly the standardization of terminology, innovation management systems, tools, methods and interactions between relevant parties to enable innovation. In this context, UNIDO particularly promotes two special sessions:

- **UNIDO-ISO Innovation Seminar**
- **UNIDO-ISO Innovation Labs**



The purpose of these two special sessions is to promote the significance of innovation and to highlight the contributions of both UNIDO and ISO to the innovation standards series. UNIDO is a strong advocate for the use of standards to enhance prosperity and the well-being of people and to preserve the planet. To this end, UNIDO engages at all stages of the standardization process, including advocacy, standardization, dissemination and implementation, outreach and global partnerships. This joint UNIDO–ISO event, in particular, aims at further strengthening UNIDO's contribution to the standardization process by:



Advocating for the use of innovation management standards as a mean to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution



Facilitating the development of international standards by hosting the ISO/TC279 WG1 and WG3 working sessions



Promoting the dissemination of standards related tools, by launching the ISO-UNIDO Handbook ISO 56002:2019 – Innovation management – A practical guide (hereinafter referred to as ‘Handbook’)



Convening experts and stakeholders to establish prospective partnerships that facilitate the development and adoption of international standards

UNIDO–ISO Innovation Seminar

This seminar explores standardization within the framework of innovation, particularly highlighting partnership prospects for fostering innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries. This session also represents an opportunity to present UNIDO's efforts in the field of science, technology, and innovation (STI) and to launch the Handbook.

The panel on **Partnership for Boosting Innovation in SMEs and Startups** represents an opportunity to discuss the role partnerships among public institutions, international organizations and the private sector have to boost innovation. This session will also explore the role of UNIDO's ITPO network in promoting innovation through partnership, for instance, the UNIDO Global Call campaign.

The panel discussion on **Mainstreaming ISO 56000 Series for African Countries** will bring together representatives from key stakeholders relevant to mainstreaming innovation standards in developing economies with focus on dialogue of African countries' participation to standardization. Indeed, innovation in developing countries often faces the challenge of not being systematically identified, accelerated, or supported. This leads to difficulties for SMEs and startups to transform their innovations into viable enterprises that attract domestic and foreign investments.

UNIDO–ISO Innovation Labs

This session revolves around digital transformation, innovation ecosystems and standards for promoting inclusive, gender-responsive, and sustainable industrial development. Specifically, the session will explore the potential of increasing the participation of vulnerable groups to innovation activities, and will address the relation among several standards, including Innovation Management, Sustainability, and Quality.

Lab 1 revolves around leveraging the **Digital Transformation and Innovation Ecosystems** as drivers for inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). Technology innovation is undoubtedly vital in facilitating ISID. It is not only a source of quality employment and the foundation of the knowledge economy, but it also enables marginalized groups to participate in the development and implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges of today.

Similarly, Lab 2 brings together experts to discuss, from multiple perspectives, how to promote **Standards for Sustainable Development**. As a matter of fact, standards are also critical in the process of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing several benefits and opportunities. For instance, they provide global, transnational, multidisciplinary and potentially rapid solutions to current and future challenges derived from digital technologies as they set minimum requirements, particularly in terms of safety, security, reliability, efficiency, interoperability and trust.



UNIDO-ISO TOOLS TO FOSTER INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

The partnership between UNIDO and ISO is focused on responding to the increasingly important role international standards play for industry. UNIDO–ISO work includes capacity building activities and training sessions, including e-learning courses, joint publications and research on different related matters such as good standardization practices, environment and energy management, food safety, energy use and energy efficiency, social responsibility and conformity assessment.



ISO-UNIDO Handbook ISO 56002:2019 Innovation management – A practical guide

Among the most recent collaborations is the ISO-UNIDO Handbook, written by a panel of innovation and standardization experts, aiming to provide guidance for organizations wanting to innovate. The Handbook has been written as a guide to ISO 56002:2019, the international standard developed by ISO/TC 279 that provides organizations with the support they need to develop a systematic approach to effective and efficient innovation. In other words, it is a tool to help your organization spotlight great ideas and initiatives that are directly linked to its vision.

Expanding upon the ISO standard 56002:2019, this handbook is structured as a series of questions followed by operational guidelines and explanations that are aligned with ISO 56002:2019. The Handbook addresses the process required to successfully deliver innovation.

The standard focuses on the fundamental principles of innovation management, which include values, leadership, strategic direction, organizational culture, insights, managing uncertainty, adaptability, and structure. The handbook provides guidance for organizations wanting to innovate, with a particular focus on SMEs, and can be used to initiate or improve innovation dynamics. This handbook follows the joint publication of a series of ISO–UNIDO handbooks to support the implementation of international standards, on topics pertaining to Food Safety, Risk Management or Occupational Health and Safety, inter alia.

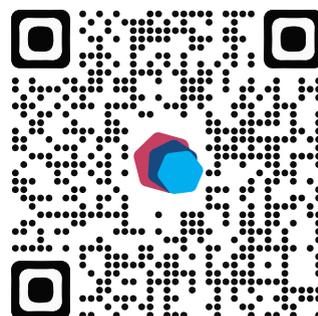
The Handbook has been developed with the support of Switzerland, through its State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).



UNIDO–ISO Course on Managing Innovation

In 2021, UNIDO, in partnership with ISO, launched the online training session titled “Managing Innovation”, aiming at supporting innovation activities within organizations, particularly within SMEs. Innovation is integral to a country’s performance as a key driver of economic transformation, and for developing countries, in particular, unleashing their innovation potential can facilitate their transition to the digital economy.

The training presents the ISO 56002:2019 Innovation Management System – Guidance standard as a guiding tool to design, implement, maintain and continuously improve an innovation management system. The course also serves to improve the performance and effectiveness of any innovation project, and outlines the principles of a sustainable innovation management system and the actions that can be taken to deploy them throughout an organization.



Scan Here
to enroll in
the course

Progress by innovation



 **Department of Digitalization , Technology
and Innovation (DTI)**

Vienna International Centre
Wagramer Str. 5, P.O. Box 300,
A- 1400 Vienna, Austria

 +43 1 26026-0

 www.unido.org

 dti@unido.org



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION