UNIDO’s SDG 9 Accelerator, developed by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, is a regional initiative that aims to increase awareness among policymakers and key stakeholders in the Latin America and Caribbean region on the challenges and opportunities derived from the achievement of SDG 9 and to build partnerships to leverage efforts on priority industry sectors for the region.

Through three components — a regional network of contacts, a knowledge sharing platform (www.sdg9accelerator.org) and partnerships through South-South and triangular cooperation — UNIDO’s SDG 9 Accelerator consolidates a regional network among policymakers and key national stakeholders in LAC to exchange knowledge, discuss common challenges and identify collaboration opportunities maximizing the use of available resources.

In particular the second component, the SDG 9 Accelerator platform, an innovative digital knowledge network, available at www.sdg9accelerator for English and www.ods9.org for Spanish, has been launched for national industry ministries, international entities, development agencies, national industry chambers and education institutions to share their industry-related technical cooperation offers and knowledge products, as to sum up efforts among key stakeholders and increase access to information. The SDG 9 Accelerator platform has become the first knowledge network for the SDG 9 in LAC, entirely dedicated to a Spanish-speaker audience. The SDG 9 Accelerator is a one-stop-shop for stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean to join efforts and speed up national actions related to industrialization and innovation, benefiting from South-South and triangular cooperation, networking and partnerships and contributing to a better future.
The SDG 9 Accelerator initiative has been launched in response to the demand of UNIDO’s Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean for increased access to information on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, particularly in the Spanish language. It brings UNIDO closer to Member States by providing a space for the exchange of key information in Spanish for achieving SDG 9.

In close collaboration with the national Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade of Costa Rica and UNIDO’s Division of Circular Economy and Environmental Protection, the LAC Bureau delivered in 2021 - 2022 a Training Programme on Circular Economy for SMEs of the plastics sector in Costa Rica. The initiative - visualized through a series of webinars with national and international experts streamed for a regional audience, developed a deeper understanding of the relevance of the circular economy among plastics entrepreneurs, the industrial sector, governments and key stakeholders in Latin America, enhancing the promotion of solutions and opportunities offered by the circular economy. And highlighting its contributions to the SDGs. This programme can be used for capacity-building activities in other countries and as an information source for the region since all sessions can be viewed on the SDG 9 Accelerator platform, allowing participants to contact organizers and experts. Notably, private sector representatives from the plastics industry working on sustainable initiatives found an open space to exchange knowledge and perspectives with the national governments. This initiative held within the innovative mechanism of the SDG 9 Accelerator illustrates a successful joint effort between UNIDO and countries in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region to engage in South-South cooperation and promote regional knowledge and experience sharing, thereby fostering progress by innovation.

Following UNIDO’s Member States requests to replicate this pilot project, UNIDO’s LAC Bureau facilitated another two-session online programme in July 2022, namely, “Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation Training for SMEs in the Dominican Republic” in close collaboration with the Division of Digital Transformation & Artificial Intelligence Strategies, and a new one on Circular Economy is being currently organized, with the Division of Circular Economy and Environmental Protection. These capacity-building activities are hosted by the SDG 9 Accelerator so that countries can learn from each other.

Furthermore, national ministries responsible for the industrial development are exchanging key policy documents in areas that will accelerate their actions towards the achievements of SDG 9 using UNIDO’s SDG 9 Accelerator platform. International entities, development agencies, national industry chambers and education institutions share their technical cooperation offers and knowledge products within UNIDO’s SDG 9 regional platform as to sum up efforts and achieve a more significant impact in the region. This multistakeholder knowledge network is the first in LAC entirely dedicated to a Spanish-speaker audience.

In 2023, UNIDO has initiated implementing a tripartite mechanism to deliver South-South and triangular technical cooperation to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise on industrial development in LAC. As part of the pilot experiences, governments and companies will be selected to participate in the exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer.

As part of the pilot experiences, governments and companies will be selected to participate in the exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer on the following topics:

- Industrial policy
- Decarbonization of industries
- Digitalization and innovation
- Circular economy
- SME development and employment
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency.
SDG 9 KEY TARGETS:

1. Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
2. Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
3. Increase access to financial services and markets
4. Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability
5. Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies

2030 TARGETS

6. Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development for developing countries
7. Support domestic technology development and industrial diversification
8. Universal access to information and communication technology

“The systematization and articulation of information is always important. The SDG 9 Accelerator is a tool that unifies these processes and facilitates decision-making.”

Costa Rica’s Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, H.E. Mr. Alejandro Solano.
**THE CHALLENGE**

Tackling the productivity and innovation gap for SDG 9 attainment in LAC.

According to UNIDO’s SDG 9 Industry Index scores, the average score for LAC region decreased from 0.286 in 2000 to 0.237 in 2019, indicating limited progress made by countries compared to the rest of the world.

Manufacturing – embedded in SDG 9 – plays a key role in the region, with current sustainability and technological intensity challenges needing to be addressed urgently to mitigate the impact of production expansion on the environment and to increase skilled employment. The COVID-19 outbreak hit all manufacturing businesses hard regardless of size, however, small enterprises faced greater challenges due to their vulnerability and limited financial resources.

To address the challenges above, UNIDO is implementing the SDG 9 Accelerator new approach. This initiative will increase awareness among policymakers and key stakeholders in the LAC region on the challenges and opportunities derived from the achievement of SDG 9 and build partnerships to leverage efforts on priority industrial sectors in the region. The SDG 9 Accelerator enhances the exchange of information, such as statistics on national SDG 9 performance, available tools, funding and capacity building offers to support countries in the achievement of SDG 9.

**THE SOLUTION**

Enable closer dialogue between national stakeholders and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and solutions among actors in the LAC region.

The project will create and strengthen an interregional network that combined with an SDG 9 Accelerator Platform (knowledge exchange platform) will promote strategic partnerships for ISID in the LAC region and leverage support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDG 9 Accelerator Platform will build upon UNIDO’s Industrial Knowledge Bank’s successful implementation (knowledge transfer mechanism aimed to foster partnerships and South-South cooperation in the LAC region) by scaling up the existing infrastructure of networks.

**SDG 9 ACCELERATORS:**

- Circular Economy
- Digitalization and Innovation
- Environmental Sustainability
- Industrial Decarbonization
- Industrial Policy
- Orange Economy
- Quality and Standards
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- SME Development and employment
- Sustainable Agribusiness & Rural Development
- Women and Youth Empowerment

**THE GOAL**

SDG 9 implementation in LAC countries

The main purpose of this regional project is to assist the countries of the LAC region to accelerate their SDG 9 implementation through South-South and triangular cooperation, networking and partnerships. This will be achieved by strengthening a high-level dialogue of decision makers to foster ISID. Governments, private sector and academia from the LAC region together with international partners and stakeholders will be part of a platform for innovative initiatives to leverage resources and support to accelerate the implementation of SDG 9.
The project strengthens the ties among target countries as they seek intraregional synergies. It also fosters partnerships between LAC countries and international partners through South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms.

In January 2023, UNIDO launched a call to intensify technical cooperation among LAC governmental institutions. National Focal Points were invited to apply for financial support to South-South technical cooperation activities. The tripartite cooperation, an innovative mechanism, will enhance the exchange of experts and expertise, whereby UNIDO’s Accelerator will act as a knowledge wheel to allow Members States to play the roles of donor and recipient alternatively. As of May 2023 around 15 activities will be financed in the following thematic areas, previously selected by the countries to strengthen effort in the High Level Regional Conference “SDG 9: progress by innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean”:
- Industrial policy
- Decarbonisation of industries
- Digitalisation and innovation
- Circular economy
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Empowerment of women and youth

Institutional sustainability will be sought by setting up a strong governance structure, which ensures that all project actors at the local, national and international level have clear roles, tasks and responsibilities. Furthermore, sustainability will be achieved through Field Offices and National Focal Points nominated by the participant countries.

Programmatic sustainability will be ensured by supporting strong government ownership that has been demonstrated so far by all LAC participating countries. Once the project ends, it is envisaged that the National Focal Points will assume the coordination and secretariat functions performed by UNIDO during project implementation. The commitment of the participating countries to continue to benefit from UNIDO’s intervention after development assistance has been competed will ensure long-term benefits resulting from the project.
The SDG 9 Accelerator is a regional initiative that aims to increase awareness among policymakers and key stakeholders in the Latin America and the Caribbean region on the challenges and opportunities derived from the achievement of SDG 9 and to build partnerships to leverage efforts on priority industry sectors for the region. The main purpose of this regional project is to assist the countries of the LAC region to accelerate their SDG 9 implementation through South-South and triangular cooperation, networking and partnerships. The project approach is fully embraced in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of reaching agreed-on development targets by the year 2030. SDG 9, in particular, calls for building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SSTIC?
Scan the QR code to access more information about SSTIC. You will be directed to a website or a resource that provides detailed information about the concept, principles, benefits, and examples of SSTIC in action.

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