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State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



GLOBAL QUALITY  
AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME





# WHY ARE QUALITY AND STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

Global trade is growingly embedded within value chains and is increasingly governed by quality and standard requirements. Despite trade liberalization and globalization in recent years, many exporters from developing countries still face substantial challenges to meet and prove conformity with market entry requirements, and face technical barriers to trade that hinder their ability to access markets. Lengthy procedures and border rejections due to non-compliance with market requirements can result in major financial losses for the producers, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). In order to gain and maintain access to international trade and benefit from global markets, standards compliance and proof of conformity are essential.

**Setting up a Quality Infrastructure System is one of the most positive and practical steps that a developing nation can take on the path forward to developing a thriving economy as a basis for prosperity, health and well-being.**





# WHAT IS THE GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME?

**The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP)** is a large-scale programme, which was designed to encourage systematic trade development along specific value chains by strengthening quality infrastructure institutions and service providers, enhancing the compliance capacity of private sector actors, particularly SMEs, and creating a culture of quality among all stakeholders. GQSP is funded by the Swiss Confederation, through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.



## GLOBAL

GQSP is a global programme which aims at reinforcing coherence and developing global solutions for common challenges through knowledge dissemination, while allowing flexibility for needs-specific interventions at country level.



## COUNTRY

Country-specific interventions will address compliance challenges in a holistic, yet tailor-made manner, providing technical support to quality infrastructure institutions and strengthen private sector capacities in target countries.



## VALUE CHAIN

Interventions at country level will focus on specific value chains in order to provide targeted technical support to overcome compliance challenges and facilitate market access for specific products.



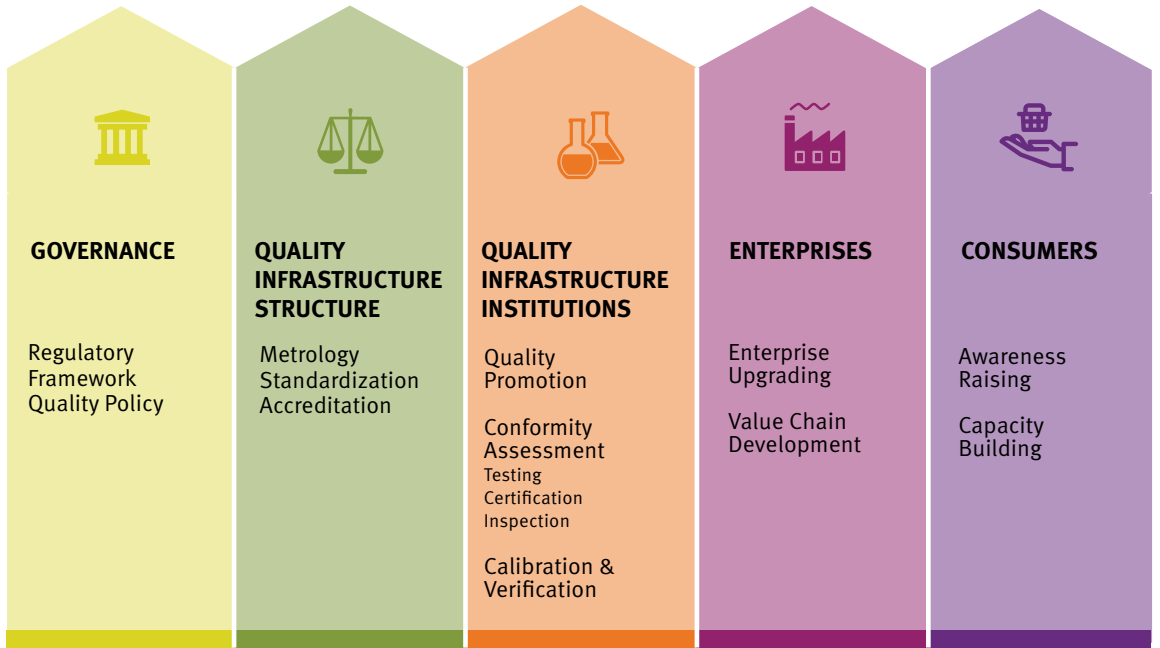
# WHAT IS A QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM?

*The Quality Infrastructure is “the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes. The quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing. It relies on metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance.”*

In the past, trade-related development initiatives in quality infrastructure development focused solely on strengthening supply capacities, namely quality infrastructure institutions (related to standardization, metrology and accreditation), and later also included quality infrastructure services, like testing, certification and calibration.

Today, it is widely recognized that in order to ensure sustainability of the quality infrastructure, it is important to view it as a system, and not only strengthen the supply side, but also create demand for quality services, by raising awareness and providing support the private sector. This systemic approach to quality infrastructure development is demand-driven and based on market needs.









## WHAT DO WE INTEND TO DO?

**The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity of SMEs to facilitate market access.**

The programme will support countries to align the demand for and supply of quality services required to prove and verify the quality of products, through the following 3 outcomes:



## **OUTCOME 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.

## **OUTCOME 2**

### **SME compliance with international standards and technical regulations is enhanced.**

Improving compliance capacity through specialized training, capacity building and preparation for certification, strengthening of cluster networks and quality consortia as well as relevant support institutions.

## **OUTCOME 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.



## HOW DO WE DO IT?

### GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

At global level, the main objective of the programme will be to generate and disseminate knowledge from research and past endeavors, which can be used to tackle quality and standards related challenges worldwide. This knowledge will be globally disseminated through the UNIDO Knowledge Hub, an interactive online platform which provides news, information and training to a broad range of stakeholders. The benefits of this initiative will exceed the QSP framework and serve as a useful global public good for future quality and standards related technical assistance.

### COUNTRY PROJECTS

With production lines spanning over more than one country, global value chains have become increasingly more important for trade. On the one hand, quality requirements pose obstacles to producers from developing countries to enter and participate in global value chains. On the other hand, capacity to prove compliance can also result in opportunities and lead to integration into the global market. For better integration into value chains, QSP focuses on providing targeted assistance to strengthen quality infrastructure services along specific value chains. The UNIDO approach in quality infrastructure development along specific value chains is unique and systemic, and comprises governance, institutions, service providers, enterprises and consumers.

More information on the UNIDO Knowledge Hub can be found here:

<https://hub.unido.org>



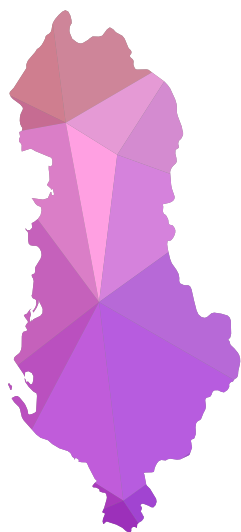


## WHERE DO WE WORK?

The countries the programme will potentially cover are based on SECO priorities and UNIDO country assessments. GQSP target countries span over four continents and include Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Ukraine and Vietnam.



## ALBANIA



In Albania, the GQSP aims to enhance the national quality infrastructure and strengthen the compliance capacity of SMEs, with focus on medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as fruits and vegetables. The overarching goal of the initiative is to align Albania's quality infrastructure and related services to the needs of the national production and potential export, in view of accessing foreign markets.

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## COLOMBIA



The general objective of the project in Colombia is to strengthen SMEs in the chemical sector to comply with technical requirements, international quality standards, and private and sustainability standards in view of better integration into regional and global markets.

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## COSTA RICA



The overall objective of this project is to support Costa Rica in achieving compliance with European regulations, to take advantage of the commercial opportunities that arise from the Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union for beef and other prioritized products, focusing in enhancing the institutional capacity for traceability and strengthening the capacities of laboratories and the private sector actors in the meat industry.

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## GEORGIA



The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of Georgia's conformity assessment services with regard to quality and standards and meeting the requirements of the European market, thus facilitating market access for SMEs and ultimately increasing exports of fruits and vegetables.

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## GHANA



In Ghana, the objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of SMEs to comply with market requirements along the cashew, oil palm and cocoa value chains. At the same time relevant standards will be developed and quality infrastructure service providers will be supported to provide internationally recognized services.

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## INDONESIA



In Indonesia, the project will support two value chains related to fisheries aquaculture and seaweed, by strengthening small-scale producers in their capacity to comply with technical regulations and international market requirements.

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## KYRGYZSTAN



The overall objective of the country project for Kyrgyzstan is to contribute to fostering Kyrgyzstan's competitiveness by enhancing the quality and standards compliance capacity along the fruits value chain to facilitate market access for SMEs.

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## PERU



The overall objective of the project in Peru is to contribute to improve export competitiveness of coffee and cocoa products in pilot regions, by strengthening quality infrastructure institutions and producing SMEs.

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## PHILIPPINES



As part of the country's response to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts are underway to build local manufacturing capacity for the production of essential goods such as PPEs, medical devices, and sanitation products. The GQSP in the Philippines intends to support these efforts while meeting quality and safety standards and promoting industry diversification.

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## SOUTH AFRICA



In South Africa, the project will strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity of SMEs producing essential and vegetable oils destined for food, health and cosmetic markets.

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## UKRAINE



The project will strengthen Ukraine's capacity to trade wood and processed wood products by enhancing services offered by the quality infrastructure thereby facilitating exports into existing and new markets.

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## VIETNAM



In Vietnam, the GQSP supports mango producers along the value chain in the Mekong River Delta to comply with technical regulations and international market requirements in view of strengthening their trade capacity.

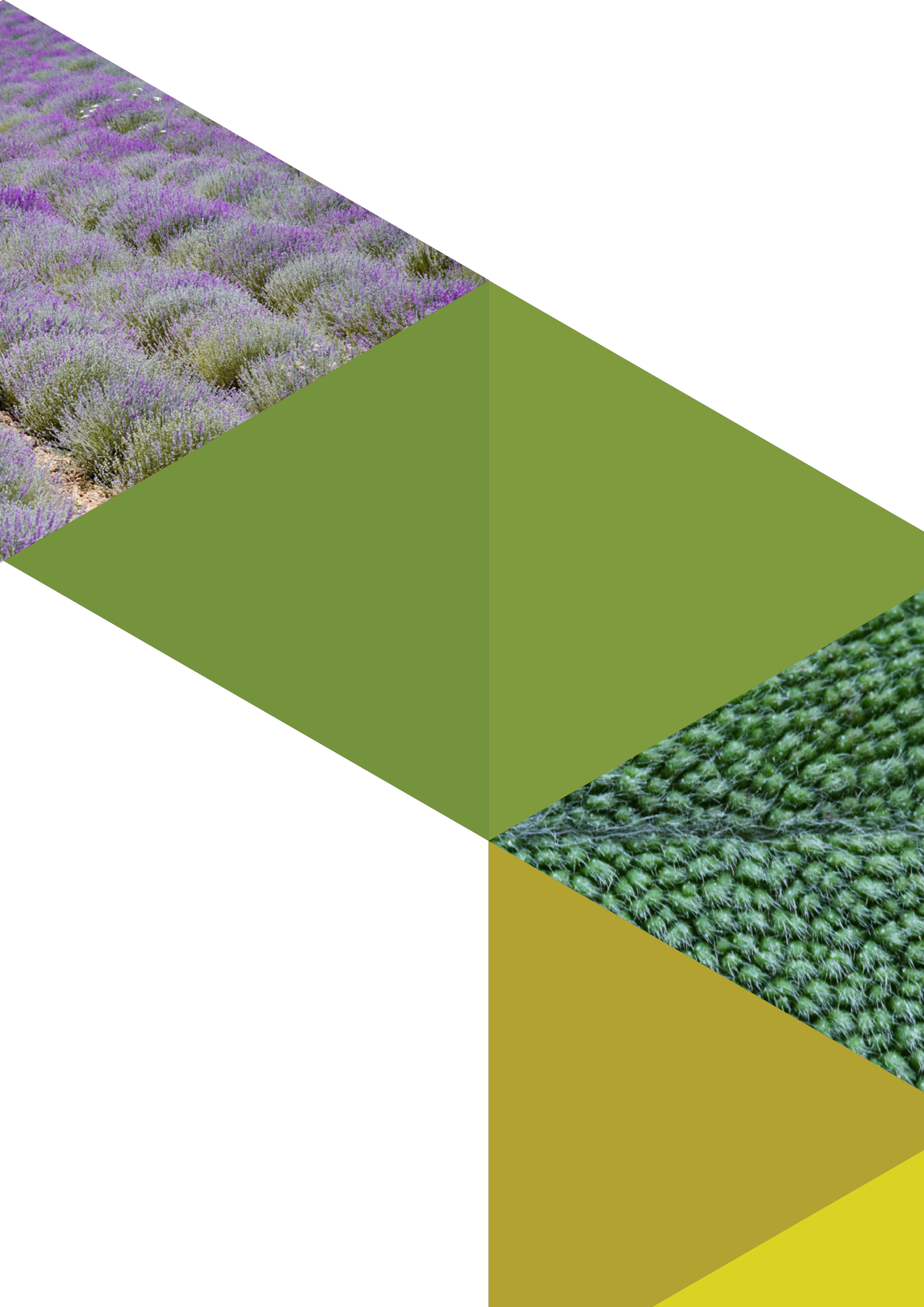
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