



GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME

A PATH TO PROSPERITY ADVANCING SDGs THROUGH QUALITY STANDARDS IN ALBANIA





UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**



The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) is a joint initiative by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), building on over 20 years of successful partnership. The GQSP aims to strengthen quality and standards compliance capacity, facilitating market access for SMEs in partner countries through targeted value chain interventions.

GQSP elevates its focused approach on trade to encompass topics of global relevance and aims at making a positive contribution to sustainable trade, climate resilience, and women empowerment, while also driving digital transformation. A strong focus on global knowledge adds value by elaborating transversal solutions to common challenges through the development of global public goods.

The widespread adoption of standards and best practices can positively affect various aspects of life. This includes promoting more sustainable and environmentally friendly industrial practices by enhancing resource efficiency, supporting circular economy business models, and utilizing renewable energy sources, while ensuring that workers are treated fairly, thus meeting the increased demand for due diligence along supply chains. By supporting its target countries in strengthening their quality systems and their adoption of international as well as voluntary sustainability standards, the GQSP contributes to sustainable trade.

The GQSP actively works to bridge the gender gap as demonstrated by its promotion of women in many areas. In its advocacy of participatory governance structures for national quality frameworks, the GQSP contributes to the women's empowerment cross-cutting theme of economic governance. Establishing an appropriate quality policy to guide the QIS can lead to increased prosperity, providing more opportunities for men and women across social groups. In addition, the GQSP aims to foster the role of women in target value chains by enabling them to proactively shape the sector, contributing to enhanced quality of production and trade.

Digital transformation is affecting all spheres of life, and quality and standards are no exception. Quality infrastructure service delivery is transforming and will significantly change. In the future, the QIS will also have to adjust to keep pace with technological acceleration to ensure it remains relevant and meets the needs of the market, producers, and consumers. Ensuring and proving quality will be essential for the adoption and acceptance of new technologies and a requirement for small producers to meet market requirements. The potential to innovate is no longer an option but has become a necessity, also in quality infrastructure and production, particularly in view of market access. The GQSP helps its target countries leverage the opportunities presented in this new digital age.

Protecting and nurturing the environment is vital for human well-being and survival. To achieve this, we must adopt a new economic development approach that prioritizes environmental sustainability. Standards have a crucial role to play in this, particularly in the implementation of policies and actions for sustainable resource use and ecosystem protection. Quality infrastructure institutions and services are also essential for promoting sustainable consumption and production. This is in terms of measurement capabilities, sharing best practices, supporting management, and monitoring, reporting, and verifying compliance, which the GQSP supports.

To effectively overcome quality-related obstacles, it is essential for a country to analyze its national quality infrastructure from a broader perspective to identify bottlenecks and more accurately pinpoint challenges. Against this backdrop, the GQSP develops cross-cutting, transversal solutions to respond to the shared challenges faced by different countries. These include a unique set of resources that have become fundamental tools for countries on their quality infrastructure journeys. Strategic partnerships, such as with the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI), ensure alignment with international best practices and promote sustainable development.



**THE GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS PROGRAM (GQSP) IN ALBANIA
CONTRIBUTES TO EACH OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)
THROUGH TARGETED INTERVENTIONS:**

Enhancing Quality Infrastructure

Strengthening of key institutions and relevant public-private support institutions to provide state-of-the-art (including digital) services through capacity building, use of best practices, use of new technologies, digital transformation, skills development, and implementation of management systems to ensure quality and international recognition of their services.

Strengthening Producers' Compliance

Helping companies to implement and conform with standards, ensuring they understand and can meet market requirements. This includes providing training on how to use new, clean, and smart technologies. Overall, the goal is to enhance the companies' capabilities, enabling them to produce better products and compete more effectively in global markets.

Creating a Conducive Environment

Promoting the importance of quality and standards by spreading information and knowledge, especially about how they can shape a sustainable future. This includes the development of a favorable environment, built on strong policies. Essentially, it's all about making sure everyone understands why quality matters and helping to create an environment where high standards are valued and pursued.

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) in Albania, implemented by UNIDO in partnership with the Swiss Government, contributes to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Social Equity and Inclusion

1 NO POVERTY



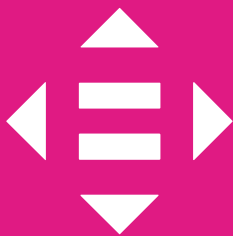
GQSP supports SMEs in meeting international standards, opening new market opportunities and improving product quality. This leads to higher incomes and contributes to poverty reduction.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



By supporting women-led businesses and encouraging inclusive participation in training, GQSP promotes gender equality. Women gain new opportunities, improve skills, and contribute to economic growth, helping close gender gaps.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



GQSP targets SMEs in disadvantaged areas, providing equal access to training and quality infrastructure services. This enables rural SMEs to compete on an equal footing, reducing economic and regional inequalities.

Zero Hunger and Food Security

2 ZERO HUNGER



GQSP improves agricultural product quality through better standards, reducing post-harvest losses. This increases food security and farmers' incomes.

Health and Well-being

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



By ensuring SMEs comply with health and safety standards, GQSP protects consumer health and promotes environmental soundness.

Education and Capacity Building

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



GQSP provides specialized training and capacity-building, collaborating with universities to enhance workforce skills aligned with global standards.

Economic Growth and Innovation

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



GQSP improves national quality infrastructure, enabling SMEs to meet international standards and expand into new markets, creating jobs and fostering sustainable economic growth.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



By strengthening quality infrastructure and helping SMEs adopt new technologies, GQSP drives industrial development and overall economic growth.

Environmental Sustainability and Responsible Practices

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



GQSP promotes sustainable production by encouraging SMEs to comply with safety and environmental standards.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



GQSP incorporates environmental soundness into quality standards, promoting practices that conserve resources and reduce harmful emissions.

Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



GQSP fosters cooperation among international partners, public institutions, and the private sector to achieve shared sustainability goals.



**GLOBAL QUALITY
AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

A TRULY GLOBAL INITIATIVE

GQSP helps small producers to enhance the quality of their products, meet international standards and export around the world



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