



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



TII TRADE
INVESTMENT
INNOVATION
KNOWLEDGE HUB

QUALITY POLICY

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

<https://tii.unido.org>

As the globalization of the markets continues its relentless pace and as it is shaped by technological developments, more and more governments are carefully reconsidering the overall arrangement of their national quality infrastructure in order to improve their trade performance and country development. To successfully access the global marketplace and be able to compete internationally, producers from developing countries need to provide verifiable evidence that their products and services are safe and compliant with technical regulatory requirements and international standards. Only then can these products be exported to foreign markets. The means of rectifying this situation involves the creation of an efficient infrastructure to satisfy the demands and requirements of globalization and the multilateral trading system. The challenge therefore is to achieve such objectives within a framework of good governance that promotes transparency when instituting requirements, eliminates discrimination against producers, and prohibits the introduction of unnecessary safety or deceptive practices.

Many countries have identified the need to re-engineer their quality infrastructure system not only to effectively connect with international trading regimes, but also to address economic, environment and social challenges. This, in turn, stimulates industrial development, trade competitiveness, innovation and efficient use of resources, while ensuring food safety and protecting human health and the environment. There is therefore a corresponding drive to create a more robust, adaptive, cost-effective, user-friendly and sustainable quality infrastructure system that provides access to appropriate standardization, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance capability and capacity, along with attendant education and promotional programmes.

BACKGROUND

One of the basic cornerstones for ensuring good governance of the quality infrastructure is the quality policy. Quality policies are a means to reform, consolidate, refine, and maintain an effective and efficient quality infrastructure. Quality policy is often rightly seen as part of a wider development strategy.

Based on UNIDO's experience in the development of 26 national and three regional policies, and in assisting developing countries and countries in transition to create an inclusive and sustainable quality policy, UNIDO, in collaboration with its technical partners of the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI), has developed a set of guiding documents for quality policy development. This set of documents aims at supporting quality infrastructure practitioners and policy makers to design and develop robust, holistic, and demand-driven quality infrastructure systems.

THE QUALITY POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A set of experience-based key principles (ownership, inclusiveness, coherence, optimization and sustainability) to help policymakers identify holistic and needs-driven solutions to facilitate integration into global markets. Each country, based on its context and specific needs, can adapt these principles to create an effective quality policy and quality infrastructure.

THE QUALITY POLICY TECHNICAL GUIDE

This publication outlines the elements of a viable quality infrastructure system and explains how a quality policy is linked to various other policies. Governments can use it as a "good practice" reference when developing a quality policy.

THE QUALITY POLICY PRACTICAL TOOL

This tool offers a step-by-step approach and outlines the process of quality policy development, which should result in an inclusive, open, transparent and well-managed process.

This training is based on these three documents and provides the reader with guidance on how to use the tools to develop/consolidate a solid quality policy.

The online course consists of six training modules.

Upon successful completion, participants will receive a certificate.

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

"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."

QUALITY POLICY

"a policy adopted at national or regional level to develop and sustain an efficient and effective quality infrastructure, whose components do not overlap in functions and responsibilities. Quality policies are a means to reform, consolidate, refine, and maintain an effective Quality Infrastructure. They are the basic cornerstones for ensuring good governance in quality infrastructure development."

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QUALITY POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

