

EU Results Framework Indicator methodology note

1. Indicator name
Number of quality schemes adopted by economic operators with EU support
2. Associated EU Results Framework statement and primary SDG
SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth EU RF statement - Promote trade and regional integration
3. Technical Definition
<p>This indicator aims to measure the number of new or renewed conformity schemes-related certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions obtained by economic operators for their products, services or systems following relevant support from the EU.</p> <p><u>Conformity schemes</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International standards (ISO) – http://www.iso.org • Voluntary standards, codes of conduct, audit protocols (Fair Trade, Global GAP, Organic, any other relevant) – http://www.standardsmap.org • EU List of approved third country processing establishments for animal products – http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/index_en.htm • Multilateral Recognition Agreements (MLA) – http://www.iaf.nu//articles/IAF_MLA/14 • Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) – http://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories • Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance (ACAA) – Commission staff working paper SEC(2004) 1071 • Any other relevant schemes. <p><u>Certifications, accreditations, approval or recognition</u> are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification – the provision by an independent body of written assurance (a certificate) that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements. • Accreditation– the formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as an accreditation body, that a certification body it operates according to international standards. • Approval – (EU, mainly for sanitary issues) formal authorisation for an establishment to export the products concerned. • Recognition: certification, inspection or testing body designated as Conformity Assessment Bodies by a country, entitled to perform the attestation of conformity of products within the scope of a MRA/MLA that will be accepted by the other signatory countries of the MRA/MLA. <p>The above should be effectively and formally:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) granted by a competent body, or ii) recognised under an inter-governmental agreement (MRA/MLA, ACAA), to the benefit of the economic operator, for its product(s), service(s) or system(s). <p><u>Economic operators</u> are to be intended as:</p>

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, farms, cooperatives, individuals, laboratories and any other relevant productive unit of goods and services.

Conformity schemes-related certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions should be obtained with the support of EU interventions.

This indicator does not include any preparatory or preceding processes undertaken to achieve the conformity scheme. Only the new or renewed conformity schemes-related certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions obtained should be reported.

4. Rationale (including policy priorities and links to this indicator)

A significant number of EU development actions to strengthen partner countries' trade and investment climate and productive capacities concern the improvement of the partner country's national quality infrastructure, that is, its institutional framework establishing and implementing standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment services necessary to provide evidence that products and services meet defined requirements by authorities or the market. This allows for the country's products (goods and services) to reap the benefits from the multilateral trading system, in line with the [New European Consensus on Development](#)¹, [A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries](#)² and the [2017 Aid for Trade Communication](#)³.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes a commitment to end poverty and promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8). Trade is also a critical element to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG 17).

5. Level of disaggregation and other reporting requirements

Where easily available, disaggregation by: type of economic operator and type of conformity scheme.

6. Data Sources (including issues on different definitions by source and level of availability of the data)

EU intervention coverage measured through monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations (e.g governments, international organisations, non-state actors, service providers, etc), ROM reviews and evaluations.

Complementary sources of data include:

On accreditation:

- IAF MLA - International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Agreement - http://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_Members_Signatories/4

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/new-european-consensus-development-our-world-our-dignity-our-future_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/european-commission-communication-com2014263-stronger-role-private-sector-achieving-inclusive-and_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/aid-trade-communication-achieving-prosperity-through-trade-and-investment_en

- ILAC MRA - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement - <http://ilac.org/signatory-search/>
- EA MLA – European Accreditation Multilateral Agreement - <http://european-accreditation.org/>
- Relevant recognised Regional Cooperation Group of ILAC or IAF: APLAC www.aplac.org, EA www.european-accreditation.org, IAAC www.iaac.org.mx, and PAC www.apec-pac.org

On ISO certifications:

ISO Survey (yearly, available from 1993). Last edition (2014) comprises figures up to 2013

<http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/certification/iso-survey.htm>

On EU SPS requirements:

List of Approved Third Country Establishments (Exports of animals and animal products to the EU)

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/non_eu_listsPerActivity_en.htm

7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made)

The indicator should account the total number of new or renewed certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions obtained by economic operators with EU support following an intervention's annual/final reports.

Note that the unit of measurement is number of certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions, rather than the number of economic operators. However, where this information is not available, the number of economic operations obtaining the relevant certification, etc may be used as a proxy.

Should renewed certifications be obtained during or as a result of the intervention, these shall be counted independently, reflecting the idea that keeping a certification is just as challenging as obtaining it for the first time.

8. Worked examples

- EU Delegation W reporting:

Number of new or renewed Fair Trade certifications obtained by 15 SMEs (with EU support) is reported as 20 in 2017.

- EU Delegation X reporting:

The number of certification is unknown, but we use the following as a proxy. Number of enterprises obtaining or renewing a certification ISO 9001 or ISO22000/14000 (with EU support) is reported 25 in 2017.

- EU Delegation Y reporting:

The number of laboratory tests accredited (including renewed accreditations) in 3 laboratories (with EU support) was reported as 15 in 2017.

- EU Regional Delegation Z reporting:

With EU support, 10 approvals were issued for various establishments as follows: 5 milk product cooperatives, 3 fisheries products cooperatives and 4 processing plants) (with EU support) in 2017.

In the above countries and regions of EU intervention in quality infrastructure matters, the number of

quality schemes obtained by economic operators for their products, services or systems, with EU support would be 70 (= 20 + 25 +15 + 10) in 2017. This includes product certifications to voluntary standards, firm and laboratory compliance with ISO standards, laboratory tests accreditations and establishments approved for exporting to the EU.

9. Is it used by another organisation or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which?

No

10. Other issues

N/A