



Snapshots of IO Practices

International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI)

Organisation(s): Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Certification Network (IQNet), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank Group (WBG), World Trade Organization (WTO)

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and Intersections
1.1	Organisation	International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI): ILAC, BIPM, ISO, ITU, OIML, UNECE, UNIDO, IEC, IAF, ITC, WTO, WBG, IIOC and IQNet	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO Partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Co-ordination (in the provision of assistance and in the implementation of instruments)	

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1.3	Name of the Practice	International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI)	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template	Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chair of INetQI	
2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and Intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>The goal of the network is to bring together the global institutions of the quality infrastructure, the global organisations working with trade facilitation, and global organisations working with support to developing economies to build an efficient and effective international quality infrastructure and thus facilitate the economies' participation in the global value chains and trade. Bringing these IOs together creates a multilateral platform and provides the opportunity to look at topics, issues, problems and solution from different angles thus achieving optimal results which can give added value.</p> <p>The network has multilateral discussions on initiatives, problems and possible solutions in the following areas at a global level and as far as it relates to the goals, mission and vision of the network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – standardisation – metrology – accreditation – conformity assessment – Trade facilitation through efficient practices of the quality infrastructure – Achievement of the sustainable development goals – Impact of Industrial Revolution 4.0 on the quality infrastructure, on trade, on MSMEs, etc. <p>These discussions are both from a developing economy point of view and from a global point of view encompassing all economies, depending on the immediate question at hand.</p>	

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Today the membership consists of 14 organisations (See 2.4 and 2.5):

- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)
- Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC)
- International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- International Certification Network (IQNet)
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank Group (WBG)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

The Chair of INetQI rotates annually amongst its participating organisations.

Meetings take place regularly and work is performed outside of meetings. The normal meeting frequency has been twice a year. Extra meetings have been arranged, usually video meetings, for topics needing extra discussions.

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2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	<p>Vision: An effective quality infrastructure implemented worldwide.</p> <p>Mission: Working together to promote the understanding, value and acceptance of the quality infrastructure and provide guidance and support for its effective implementation and integration.</p>	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	<p>The network has, among other things,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreed on a new definition of “quality infrastructure” - contributed to documents on quality infrastructure and its elements prepared by the participating organisations - contributed to the web sites of participating organisations, for example UNECE initiative on standards for SDGs - contributed to the WTO and WBG initiative on Aid for Trade, through the provision of reviews and feedback. - Participated in seminars and webinars and side events arranged by the participating organisations to give a broader view to the audiences - Identified issues to be discussed and dealt with in light of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the SDGs - Branded websites https://www.business-benefits.org and https://www.publicsectorassurance.org 	<p>Intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and the development of instruments (WG1), for the agreement on a common terminology with regard to ‘quality infrastructure’.</p> <p>Intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and implementation (WG2): for the contributions to the websites of various participating organisations (advocacy), and the conduct of seminars, webinars and side-events and focus on building capacity in emerging economies (assistance).</p> <p>The use of online interfaces and digital modalities (i.e. webinars) gives an example of IT tools used in international rulemaking.</p>
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	<p>The predecessor of INetQI - the Joint Committee on Co-ordination of Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS) was established in April 2002 by the decision of seven international organisations (BIPM, IEC, IAF, ILAC, ISO, OIML and UNIDO)</p>	

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that have mandates to strengthen technical infrastructures and deliver capacity building in metrology, standardization and conformity assessment (including accreditation). ITU joined the Network in September 2002.

The Joint Committee was renamed to the Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS Network) in 2010. UNECE joined the Network in 2010.

INetQI is a network initiated in 2018 by the members of DCMAS (Developing Countries Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization) and with the involvement of a multitude of global organisations. The goal in increasing the membership and changing the focus of DCMAS is to address the needs of all economies in the development of efficient and effective quality infrastructure systems, instead of only focusing on emerging economies. Fair global trade, sustainable development, protection of life and environment are areas where all economies need to be involved and need to co-operate.

Consequently, responding to the challenges of globalisation, industrial revolution 4.0 and sustainable development, 12 international organisations involved with quality infrastructure, trade, and international development met in Geneva on 30th November 2018, to enhance their co-operation in promoting the understanding, value and acceptance of the quality infrastructure and providing guidance and support for its effective implementation and integration worldwide. INetQI was born.

The evolving mandate of the INetQI reflects changes in the composition of its membership over time, as well as ongoing technological, social and policy developments in the field of quality infrastructure more broadly.

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2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	See 2.4. IIOC and IQNet joined the Network in 2019.	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	The “practice” is “global co-operation”. The network brings together global actors which do not have a given meeting platform anywhere else and thus involves all parties which can contribute to the achievement of an efficient and effective quality infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to promote fair trade without unnecessary technical barriers – to facilitate the developing economies’ participation in global value chains – to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to implement technologies within the Industrial Revolution 4.0 for sustainable development – to support the trade initiatives of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries 	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	The fact that it is a network means that anything that is agreed is not necessarily binding for the participating organisations. However, a lot can be achieved through continuous dialogue among the global actors of the network. It is also a fruitful platform for having multilateral discussions and collecting the views of all IOs in the network which gives a major added value to the participating organisations.	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary?	No. The practice is voluntary.	

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2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	Co-operation is ongoing.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	<p>The systematic part of the co-operation is the fact that all IOs involved can bring their own topic to the table to discuss from a multilateral point of view.</p> <p>The normal meeting frequency has been twice a year. Extra meetings have been arranged, usually video meetings, for topics needing extra discussions.</p>	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice	See 2.3	
3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and Intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	See 2.4	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	IOs, via both Secretariat staff and members.	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	Agreeing on the terms of reference for the INetQI took about 6 months from the date of setting up the network. The basis for these terms of reference was informed by those of the predecessor networks JCDSMAS and DSMAS, with a broader scope.	
3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	There is need for a chair, a secretariat and meeting venue when physical meetings are called upon. This is a network so each organisation carries its own costs. The secretariat is at the moment provided by ISO/CASCO and it is ILAC that has the chair position. Meeting venues have been provided by	

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		UNIDO and ISO/CASCO and other members have also offered meeting venues for the future.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	It was welcomed as timely and necessary by all the global organisations. However, deciding on the ToR was challenging but not impossible. The challenges were primarily about the rules for membership and to make sure not to duplicate work done in other groups.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	No, this is a pioneer initiative.	
4	Implementation of the Practice		Comments and Intersections
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	Liaison officers in participating IOs participate in the meetings of INetQI and co-ordinate activities.	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	N/A	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Documents and websites produced and/or branded by the network or with the contribution of the network are used by regional organisations within the quality infrastructure. Also any solutions or ways forward discussed can be taken on board by the participating IOs.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	The network has no fees, budget or employed personnel. It functions on a voluntary basis. Number of participants per organisation varies depending on the topic. The normal number is 1-2 but we have had up to 4 participants when specific topics have required specific expertise from the member organisation.	

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5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and Intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	Not relevant	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	Not relevant	
5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	Not relevant	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and Intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	https://www.inetqi.net https://www.business-benefits.org https://www.publicsectorassurance.org	
Sources			
https://www.inetqi.net The secretariat archive.			