



## Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development | QuISP

**A training course on quality infrastructure – enhancing cooperation  
and creating a network for building trust in trade**

Since 2009 PTB, the German national metrology institute, has implemented a unique training course to raise awareness of and introduce Quality Infrastructure (QI) to trade professionals early in their career: **QuISP – Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development**.

This course is led by international experts and encourages the exchange of information and experience for the continuous advancement of QI in the PTB-partner countries. It also promotes the establishment of long-lasting professional relationships between course participants from different countries and organizations.

### **What is Quality Infrastructure?**

Quality is the degree to which products or services comply with specified requirements. It ensures products and services satisfy stated needs with features that can be objectively measured or verified and be legally or contractually defined. Proving that products and services are compliant with national and international requirements calls for a cohesive network known as the Quality Infrastructure (QI) consisting of metrology, standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance. This network comprises various institutions active in these five elements of QI that provide services to government, industry, businesses and consumers. An internationally recognized quality infrastructure provides a basis for trade and competitiveness in global markets, as well as for safety, healthcare, and environmental and consumer protection. It therefore contributes to sustainable economic, ecological and social development.

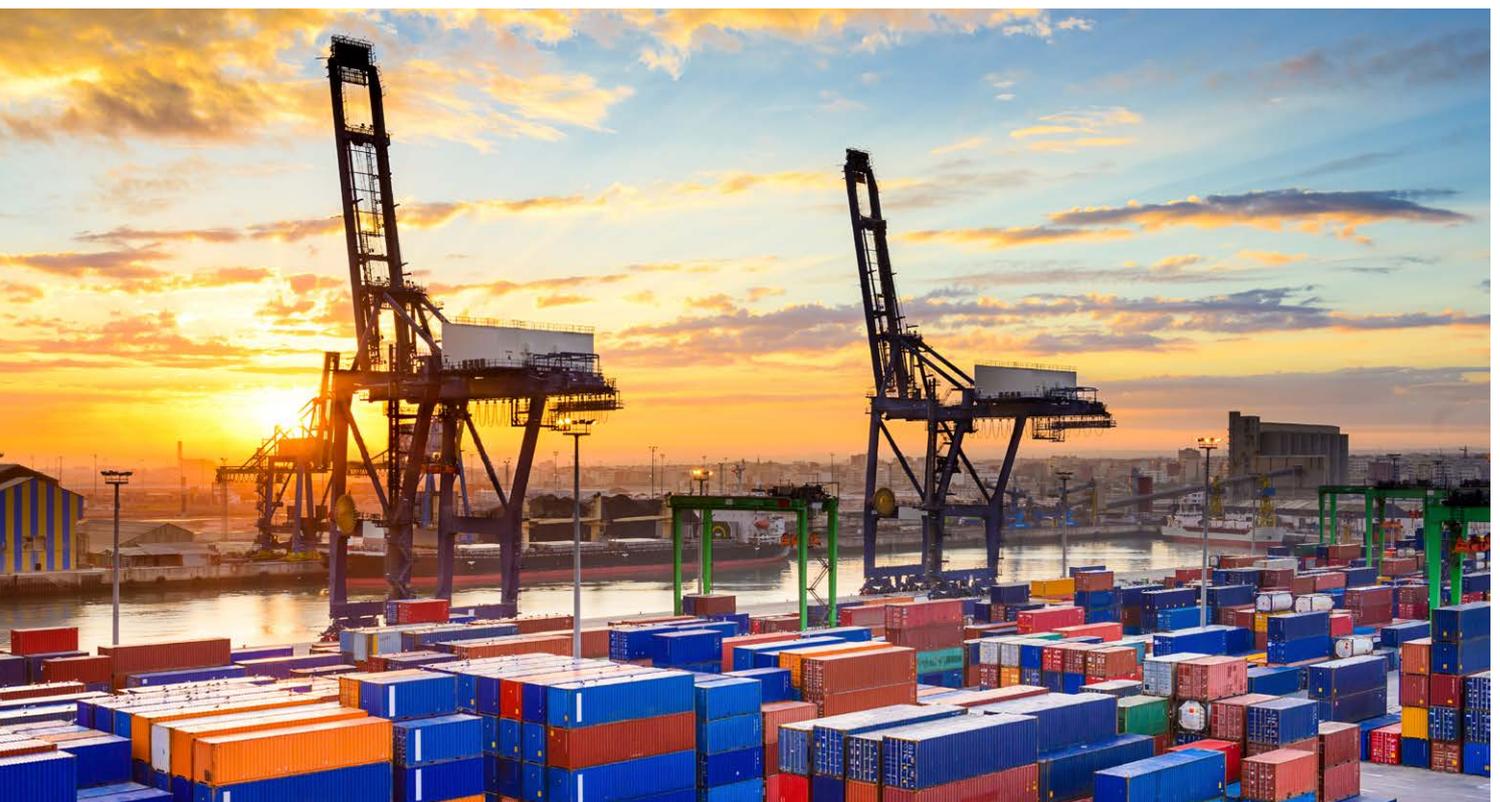
### **The training course**

Depending upon the needs of the partnering organization within the region where the course is to be implemented and its subsequent agreement, the QuISP blended learning course may comprise different options of online or face-to-face events, durations, teamwork, and assignments. However, in each case its structure consists of an organizational preparatory phase, a kick-off event, an e-learning phase, and a final workshop.

The organizational preparatory phase is designed to ensure participants can access the e-learning platform and are prepared for the remainder of the course.

The kick-off event, which may be held either online or in the target region, aims to introduce the topic of QI, the course-related prerequisites and expectations, and prepare participants for the e-learning phase of the training course which comprises a series of online chapters that provide the foundation of the course. These will give a broad understanding of QI and its benefits, the elements (standardization, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance), the main organizations involved, and the relationship between QI and trade.

The e-learning phase is supplemented by additional learning opportunities designed to translate the course's content into practical know-how. The format will be decided before the course starts and may include collaborative tasks within



teams, individual assignments related to the topics of the course, a mid-course workshop, and taking part in online sessions to consult with facilitators and experts as necessary.

The culmination of the training is a final workshop in Germany where participants will continue an in-depth exploration of the elements and systemic organization of QI through both theoretical content and visits to QI institutions. There will also be elements of group dynamics such as role plays and simulated discussions to learn from different perspectives and experiences.

Participants that undertake the e-learning phase and the final workshop will receive a certificate to confirm they have successfully completed the course.

After the training course, participants are invited to join the QuISP Alumni Network that has been established to continue the discourse on QI among participants of all QuISP courses implemented around the globe.

### Who should participate?

The purpose of the QuISP training course is to raise the awareness of professionals who are early in their career and who work in fields related to trade negotiations, trade promotion, implementation of free trade agreements, and to QI.

Each training course is offered to no more than 25 professionals from trade-related institutions such as ministries of trade, trade promotion organizations and chambers of industry and commerce. Participation is sponsored by PTB and offered free of charge – however, participants are expected to dedicate the time and effort necessary to successfully complete the training and need to prove the support of their superiors. A support letter from their employing organization must be submitted at the time of application.

### Eligibility criteria

Potential participants of the training course should:

- work on issues related to trade, trade promotion and facilitation
- have at least five years' work experience, preferably in trade related positions
- have the support of their employer (written support required as part of application)
- have a very good command of the English language (equivalent to B2 level of the CEFR)\*
- have experience in using electronic tools for communication
- be respectful of other cultures
- be open to teamwork, reflection, and a broad variety of working methods



### Other essential requirements for participation

Access to a stable internet connection is essential for the kick-off workshop, access to the e-learning platform, and other virtual activities. Due to the nature of the online tools used, participants need to use a laptop/PC as the screen size of mobile devices such as smartphones or small tablets will be insufficient.

\*<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>. Last opened January 27, 2025.

## **PTB – the national metrology institute of Germany**

In Braunschweig and Berlin, time comes from atomic clocks, lengths are measured far into the nano-world, scientists do research on fundamental questions concerning the physical units, and the employees in the laboratories calibrate measuring instruments, meeting the most demanding requirements. Therefore, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt is among the top names in metrology worldwide. As Germany's national metrology institute, PTB is Germany's highest authority when it comes to correct and reliable measurements. It is the supreme technical authority of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and employs a total of approx. 1900 staff members.

A visit to PTB is one of the highlights of the final workshop of the QuISP course.

### **PTB's International Cooperation group**

Since the early years in 1960, PTB has been sharing its core competence in international development cooperation. It supports developing and emerging economies in the comprehensive field of quality infrastructure. PTB contributes to sustainable economic, social and ecological development. It is committed to the development policy of the German government and pursues international goals (e.g., Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Declaration).

QuISP was developed by PTB in cooperation with the German Institute for Standardization (DIN e.V.) and is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

