

## WHY THIS PROGRAMME OF STUDY?

The speed with which the COVID-19-induced economic crisis unfolded took enterprises by surprise, and micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were the hardest hit. Many did not have crisis response plans or came to realize that their plans were simply too rigid.

This was not the case of standards implementing MSMEs. The results of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) survey-based [impact assessments](#) show that these enterprises were able to maintain relevance and even thrive through production repurposing and upscaling their engagement in e-commerce. However, many MSMEs are hesitant to implement standards. This programme of study familiarizes MSMEs with the different aspects of standards implementation and provides them with useful tools for strategic planning.

## ABOUT UNECE

UNECE is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations, dedicated to promoting greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-six member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:

- policy dialogue,
- negotiation of international legal instruments,
- development of regulations and norms,
- exchange and application of best practices,
- technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.



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# Building Stronger Economies after COVID-19:

## Standards Implementation for Boosting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Resilience



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## PROGRAMME OUTLINE



### Course 1

#### **Stop-Breathe-Regroup-Assess Risk: What happened and what can we do?**

How international standards can help you improve your situational awareness and develop innovative risk management strategies.



### Course 2

#### **Reach out: Do we have safety nets that we are unaware of?**

A quick guided tour of the quality infrastructure world and approaches for establishing strategic alliances with global supply chain actors.



### Course 3

#### **Get the bandages: Sort out the first aid toolkit**

Alternative schemes for ensuring safe return to office drawing on internationally recognized standards.



### Course 4

#### **All hands on deck: Let the transformation start**

Quality, resilience and business continuity standards and associated concepts.



### Course 5

#### **Roar and Soar! What challenges shall we embrace next?**

The relations of inter-dependence between global disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change.

## GETTING STARTED



Up to 3 days online



Self-paced courses, 2-3 hours per day



Learn alongside a global cohort of like-minded entrepreneurs across the globe.



Use a laptop or a desktop computer



Available free of charge  
<https://e-learning.unece.org>

## SEQUENCE OF COURSES

### The courses are logically sequenced

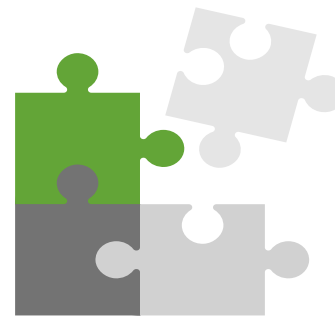
The courses are logically sequenced to familiarize you with the different aspects of standards implementation. They also follow your journey as you embark on identifying and setting out a plan to implement standards, including those that will enable you to bring your workplace and production facilities up to the World Health Organization's safety requirements. Thus, you must start with the first course. If you wish to start with a course that is of relevance to your business strategy, you are likely to run into difficulties because the courses are incremental and the knowledge of one of them is used in subsequent courses.

### When you complete a course

Take the test to obtain a certificate of completion and then close the window to proceed to the next course.

### Tell us what you think

Please take the time to fill out the evaluation form.



## KNOWLEDGE GAINED

Upon completion of this programme, you will walk away with:

- A clear understanding of standards and their role in bolstering your enterprise's resilience, growth prospects and competitiveness.
- Guidance for ensuring the safety and health of your entire workforce in the context of COVID-19.
- Insights into the main standards for improving:
  - Product quality
  - Environmental management
  - Energy efficiency
  - Resilience and business continuity
  - Circular production
  - Social responsibility
  - Risk management
  - Innovation
- Tools to help you identify standards of relevance to your business and set out plans for successful implementation.
- Tools, frameworks, and practices to help you navigate workplace challenges, and to further your ability to lead and turn challenges into opportunities.

