



# Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work

## Addressing productivity and decent work deficits across policy, sector and enterprise levels for win-win solutions that improve productivity and create decent jobs.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) have jointly launched a new Programme to address constraints to productivity growth and decent job creation, ensuring through social dialogue that gains are equally distributed.

### Rationale

Achieving a virtuous cycle between productivity and decent work is required if economic growth is to lead to poverty alleviation and higher living standards. To create and strengthen this virtuous cycle, the ILO has developed, together with SECO and NORAD, the Productivity Ecosystems Programme. The Programme is built on the recognition that productivity growth and the pre-Covid slow-down are determined by a myriad of interfacing dynamics, including the prevalence of the informal sector, across policy, markets and enterprises (see figure below). Furthermore, the virtuous cycle between productivity and decent work, where productivity growth leads to decent job creation and vice-versa, is not automatic.

---

SECO country/region

Ghana, South Africa,  
Vietnam.

---

Executing agency

International Labour  
Organization (ILO)

---

Duration

2021 – 2025

---

Total budget

CHF 15'604'821

---

SECO contribution

CHF 9,080,000



International  
Labour  
Organization

---

## The Productivity Ecosystems approach

Rather than using a "one size fits all" approach or intervening at a single level, the Programme addresses productivity and decent work deficits across policy, sector and enterprise levels for win-win solutions that improve productivity and that ensure that gains are distributed equitably through social dialogue. For this purpose, the Programme will select a "slice" of the local productivity ecosystem, i.e. a sector and associated segment of the overall ecosystem in which the potential for productivity growth and decent job creation are aligned with feasibility to intervene.

The Programme aims to achieve lasting change by addressing the root causes of low productivity, including through tackling informality; and by promoting the capacity and ownership of local and national actors. Implemented by the ILO's Enterprises and Employment Departments, the Programme is piloted in South Africa, Ghana and Viet Nam.

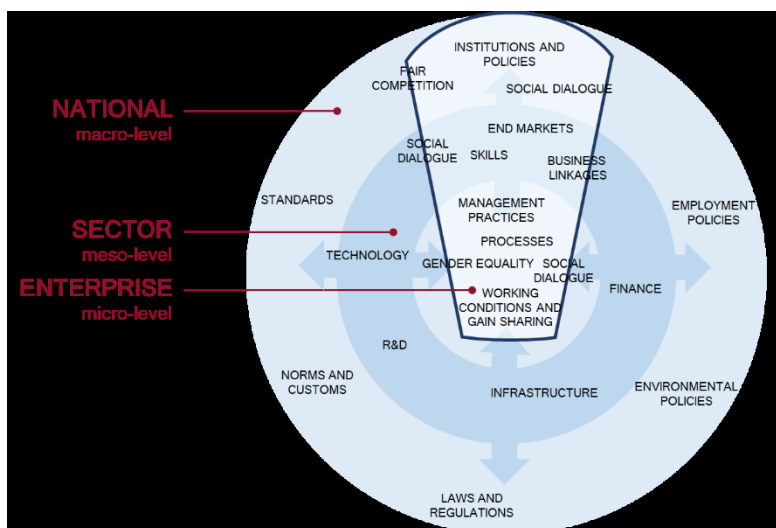
### Objectives and activities for Phase I

The Programme works to achieve two outcomes:

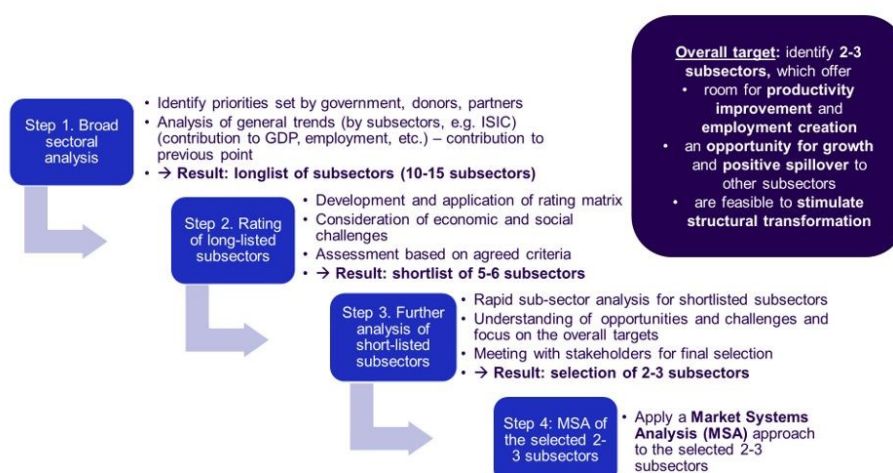
**1: Constituents and Public-private platforms have an improved capacity to support productivity enhancement through evidence-based policies.**

**2: Sectoral and enterprise constraints that prevent productivity growth and the creation of more, better, and formal jobs are addressed and relaxed.**

Activities are being defined in an inception phase through selection of economic sectors and a market systems analysis as well as a review of current employment policies.



## Sector Selection for a Productivity Ecosystem Approach



### Further information and contact details

- For more information, you can visit our website: <https://www.ilo.org/empent/Projects/productivity-ecosystems/lang--en/index.htm>
- You can also write to ILO Programme Manager Stephan Ulrich at [ulrich@ilo.org](mailto:ulrich@ilo.org) or SECO at: [info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch](mailto:info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch)