



FACTSHEET

# Global Project Quality Infrastructure — Mexico

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# Reducing technical barriers to trade, enhancing product safety, strengthening consumer protection

Mexico is Germany's most important trading partner in Latin America, just as Germany is Mexico's leading trading partner in the European Union (EU) market. The volume of trade between the two countries amounted to more than 20 billion euros in 2021. There are more than 2,000 companies with German capital based in Mexico. Both countries share a strong interest in working towards a harmonised system of quality infrastructure (QI), as well as fair market access and production conditions.

## GPQI in Mexico

In 2018, the Mexican Ministry of Economy (Secretaría de Economía) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz - BMWK) signed a Joint Declaration of Intent for the bilateral dialogue on QI. GPQI supports this QI dialogue with experts from public and private sectors – including technical organisations, associations, and industry. The German-Mexican Dialogue on QI strengthens

## Main topics addressed by GPQI in Mexico

- Political dialogues on standardisation, conformity assessment and market surveillance
- Industrie 4.0 and cybersecurity
- Machinery safety
- Mobility
- Medical devices

bilateral trade relations but also promotes economic progress.

Mexico is the sixth largest car producer worldwide. In addition to the automotive industry, other key economic and trading sectors for Mexico and Germany include mechanical engineering, the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, transport, and logistics. These sectors are of particular importance for QI cooperation.

**For global market access, our companies have to solve various technical challenges. Direct access to relevant government agencies or other affected companies helps enormously.**



Hermann Wegner, VDMA



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## Dialogue matters

### Improving machinery safety

Unsafe machines can cause serious occupational injuries. For this reason, Germany and Mexico are working jointly towards achieving a solid quality infrastructure to improve safety in machinery for workers and the environment. Currently, the Mexican Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social – STPS) is revising the regulation for machinery safety NOM (Norma Oficial Mexicana)-004-STPS.

Through GPQI, German experts from the QI institutions and industry – for example from TÜV Rheinland and the Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau – VDMA) were able to contribute decisively to the revision. They have closed regulatory gaps and have worked on harmonisation with international standards. GPQI established an expert group that supports the process until the implementation of the regulation. This NOM will improve plant and occupational safety as well as competitive conditions for the mechanical engineering sector in Mexico.

## Supporting a systemic approach to QI

Mexico and Germany both acknowledge the importance of efficient QI. QI elements are only effective when they are harmonised. To achieve this, a common understanding of the role, scope and importance of QI elements is needed. BMWK and the Mexican Ministry of Economy, therefore, organised a Cycle of Workshops about the QI systems in both countries. Five virtual workshops with more than 1,300 participants from both countries took place between March and November 2021. Actors of the German/European and Mexican QI systems explained how QI elements work. They have exchanged experiences and good practices.

## Strengthening electromobility

The automotive industry, a key economic sector for Germany and Mexico, is transitioning to electromobility. An internationally harmonised QI is essential throughout this transition. Within GPQI, German and Mexican experts from the public and private sector, as well as QI institutions, jointly develop a series of white papers to address priority topics, f.e. charging infrastructure, battery safety, public transport and heavy-duty vehicles. They present applicable standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures in Mexico, Germany, and internationally. Like this, the expert group strengthens awareness and improves understanding the QI framework for electromobility.



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## GPQI – Dialogues for innovation and trade

In the Global Project Quality Infrastructure (GPQI), BMWK engages in technical policy dialogues with important trading partners worldwide. With Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Mexico, the project is implemented with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

GPQI serves as a dialogue platform to internationally harmonise quality infrastructures. QI is the system that covers all tasks required to ensure products and services are safe and of high quality. It sets the standards and regula-

tions that protect people, health, and the environment. QI consists of standardisation, conformity assessment and accreditation, legal metrology, and market surveillance. It plays a vital role in innovation, trade, and climate protection – both nationally and across borders.

It brings together political authorities, the business community and specialist organisations from Germany and partner countries. All participants share their know-how and discuss the challenges they face in QI. Within GPQI, they jointly develop politically and economically smart solutions for technical trade barriers, fair competition and for sustainable economic development.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) has commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to implement the Global Project Quality Infrastructure (GPQI).



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