

The Trade Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN) 2005 - 2010

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Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) - Working Group



TSPN is a multi-stakeholder forum of industrialised and developing countries:

- Multilateral organisations
- Development community
- Business
- Non-governmental organisations
- Research institutes
- Private standard setters and certifiers

Members:



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Our Mission is

to better enable **developing countries**
to take **advantage of**
and **participate more effectively**
in **standard-based markets.**

**TSPN provides a platform for policy research,
knowledge management and exchange.**

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STDF



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Objectives:

- to enable decision-makers in developing countries to address private standards in a strategic way;
- to address potential negative impacts of private standards while maximising the benefits they can provide;
- to improve the impact of technical assistance interventions by promoting “good practices” along the value chains;
- to encourage public-private partnerships for developing countries to effectively respond to trade related standards.

The scope of TSPN:

Private standards setters focus on the harmonisation of **procedures** for implementation and monitoring.

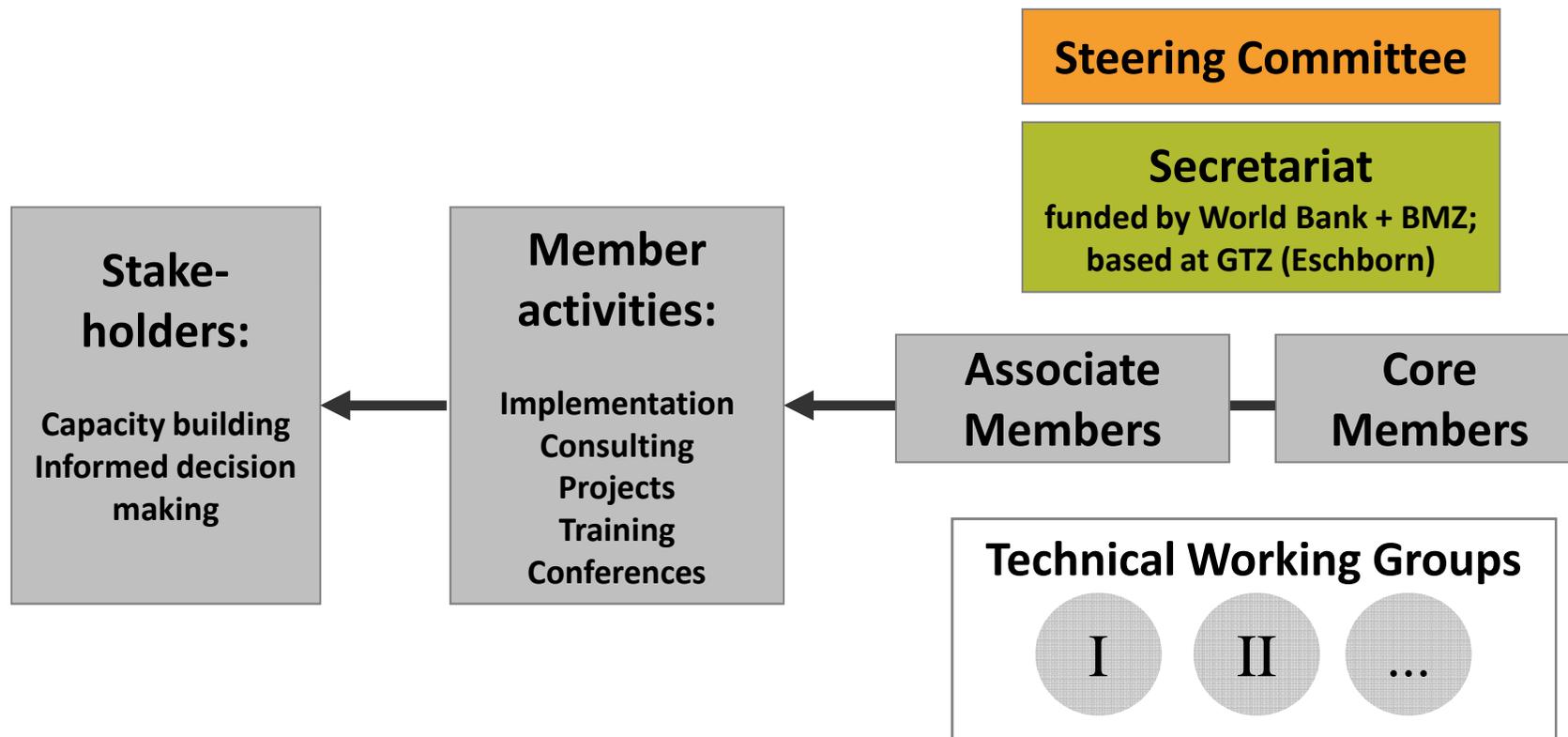
"Private"
standards for
product differentiation

The public standard sector focuses on the harmonisation of **regulations and standards**.

Food Quality / SPS

mandatory: technical regulations / SPS measures
voluntary: international standards, e.g. ISO, FAO-WHO-OIE

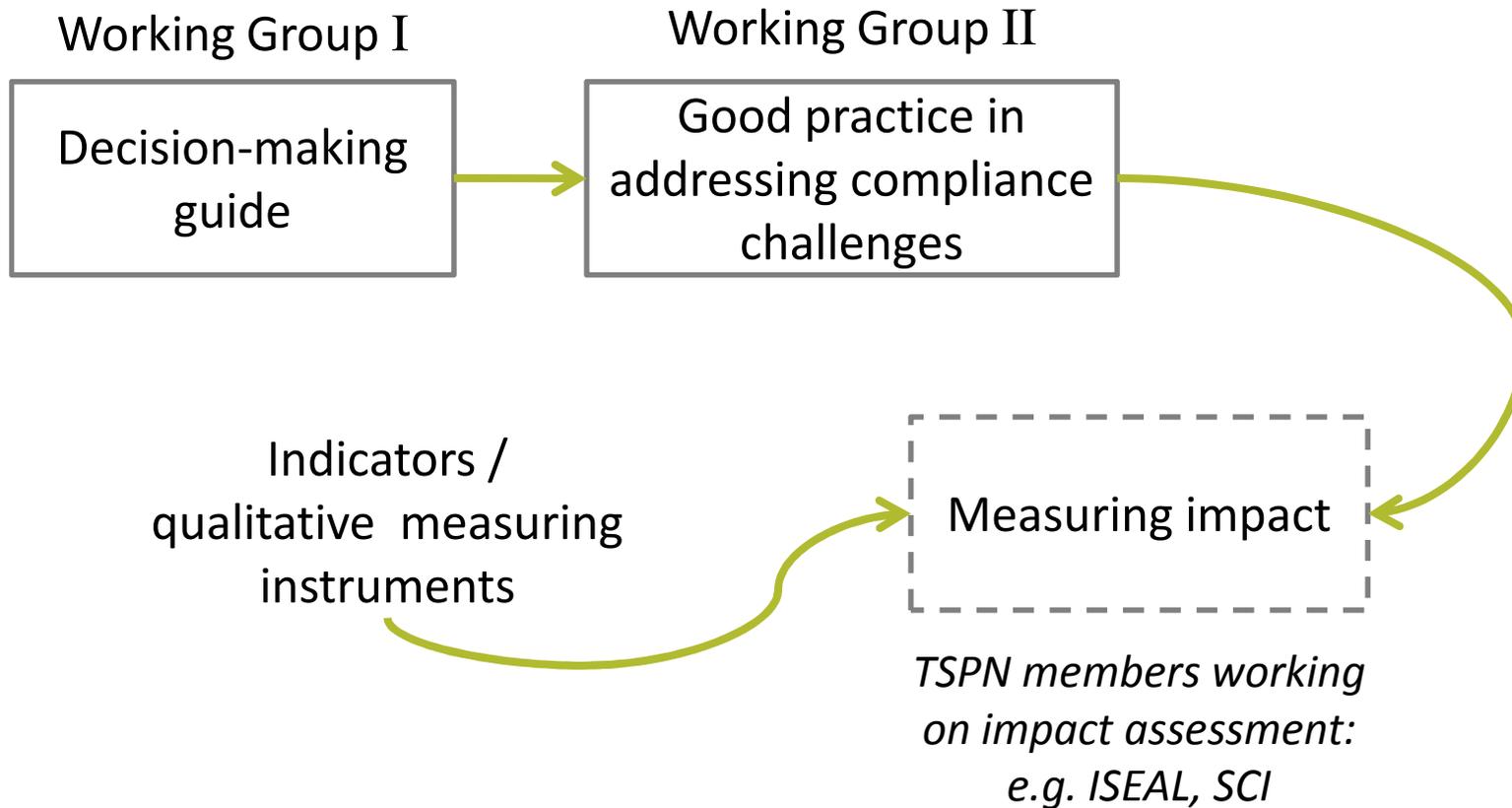
The TSPN acts through its members



Areas of activity:

- Knowledge sharing and dissemination;
- Policy dialogue, creating awareness for private standards and facilitation of informed decision-making;
- Joint research and development of assessment tools;
- Standards data base and learning platform;
- Web site and newsletter.

TSPN Tools along the implementation chain



STDF and TSPN overlap:

What's the point?

"While public regulations and private standards are frequently seen as distinct entities, a value chain perspective highlights the interaction between public and private entities in the governance of agri-food systems."

Henson, S.J. & Humphrey, J. (2009): *The impacts of Private Food Safety Standards on the Food Chain and on Public Standard-Setting Processes*. Paper prepared for FAO. Institute of Development Standards, Brighton.

"In many cases it can be difficult to disentangle the requirements of specific public regulations or private standards, and indeed often these are promulgated and evolve to one another."

Humphrey, J. (2009): *Trade Compliance, Regulations and Standards: A Value Chain Approach*. Paper presented for UNIDO. Institute of Development Standards, Brighton.

STDF and TSPN - possible synergies ?

- Similar overall targets (orientation towards developing countries, trade promotion ...);
- Common topics such as "informed decision-making", "co-regulation", "impact monitoring"; "enabling environment for standards and regulations";
- Joint work on methodologies and validation of tools;
- Joint dissemination of information that could optimise audience reach.

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