



← What we do

Research and education

At ISO, we are dedicated to driving **global progress through the power of standards**. Our research and education initiatives aim to achieve two key goals: showcasing the transformative impact of standards and identifying emerging opportunities for international standardization. Together, we can shape a safer, more sustainable, and innovative future.

- [For researchers](#)

[For consultants](#)

[For students](#)

[For educators](#)

[For NSBs](#)

The benefits of standards

Standards have a profound impact on economies, societies, and the environment. They support economic growth, foster social progress, and promote sustainability by:

- **Helping companies** drive innovation, improve efficiency, and succeed in competitive markets.
- **Supporting governments** in crafting better regulations and reducing barriers to international trade.
- **Empowering consumers** with confidence in the safety, quality, and reliability of the products and services they use.

Our research focuses on measuring and communicating these benefits to businesses, governments, and consumers worldwide, ensuring that standards are recognized as essential tools for solving global challenges.

Learn everything about the [benefits of standards](#).



Explore our latest research



Publications

Standards & economic growth: ISO members’ research on the impact of standards on their national economies

Many of us believe that standards have a positive impact on society, but with such a large range of standards types and topics, how can we measure this impact? ISO members around the globe have probed this question, asking ‘what is the impact of standards on our national economy’?



Publications

Economic impact of standards - Methodological guidance

This report is a guidance document aimed at standards organizations around the world that are interested in assessing what impact standards have on the local economy.



Publications

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Publications

International Standards and Trade - What does the research say?

The relationship between standards and trade is a topic of great interest in the standardization community. In this synthesis review, a selection of emblematic studies draws together findings on the impacts of standards on trade across multiple contexts.



Capturing future opportunities for standardization

The world is evolving, and so are the challenges we face. From emerging technologies to urgent global issues like climate change, there are countless opportunities to use standards as tools for innovation and progress. ISO’s mission is to identify these opportunities and develop forward-thinking solutions that address:

- **Technological advancements:** Enabling interoperability, security, and trust in areas like AI, IoT, and blockchain.
- **Sustainability goals:** Driving progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Global health and safety:** Establishing frameworks to ensure the safety and well-being of all people.
- **Future economies:** Supporting new business models and markets, from the circular economy to digital economies.

Get involved

For researchers

- Access our [OpenData portal](#).
- Leverage ISO methodologies to measure the impact of standards.
- Publish your findings in the [ISO Research Library](#).

[Connect with our research team](#)

For consultants

- Apply for open RFPs and RFQs.
- Consult [open opportunities](#).
- Utilize ISO methodologies to enhance your projects.
- Share your expertise in the ISO Research Library.

[Connect with our research team](#)

For students

- Apply for the ISO Research Grant.
- Access exclusive data, standards and in-kind support, including expert interviews.
- Gain insights into the role of standards through hands-on learning opportunities.

[Connect with our research team](#)

For educators

- Access educational materials to teach the value of standards.
- Request guest presentations or site visits to ISO’s Central Secretariat.
- Inspire the next generation with engaging content about standards.

[Connect with our education team](#)

For National Standards Bodies (NSBs)

- Publish your research in the ISO Research Library.
- Use ISO methodologies to conduct impactful national studies.
- Join the Education about Standardization (EaS) Network.



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[Connect with our research team](#)

Students: Boost your career with the ISO Research Grant

The ISO Research Grant is awarded annually to a postgraduate student or a team (Masters, PhD or post-doc) to conduct a research study on the impacts of international standards related to a theme proposed by ISO. Whether your discipline is part of the humanities, social, natural, formal or applied sciences, you have the chance to submit a project proposal that is relevant to each year’s theme.

Benefits:

- CHF 25000 grant award
- Guidance and support (including comments on drafts, contacts facilitated with relevant practitioners from ISO members, and access to ISO-related data)
- Visibility of your research among researchers, standardization experts, and ISO’s wider network of partners in relevant industries and institutions.

The theme for 2025 was “**Standards for supply chain resilience**”.

The application is now closed.

Don't miss out!

Sign up for email notifications ahead of the next round of ISO Research Grant applications.

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Together, we shape the future

Whether you’re a researcher, educator, student, consultant, or part of a National Standards Body, we invite you to be part of our journey. By working together, we can use the power of standards to solve the challenges of today and shape a brighter tomorrow.