



ONLINE

GREEN JOBS

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR GREEN BUSINESS TRAINERS

PHASE 1: 3-WEEK CORE PROGRAMME
14 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2026 (40 HOURS)

PHASE 2: 11-WEEK TRAINERS' CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME
5 OCTOBER – 18 DECEMBER 2026 (50 HOURS)

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International
Trade
Centre

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



International Training Centre

INTRODUCTION: GREEN BUSINESS

The future of business is increasingly green. Climate change, environmental degradation and changing market expectations are transforming the way companies operate. For small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries, adopting greener practices can create new business opportunities, improve efficiency and reduce costs.

However, many SMEs require guidance to integrate environmental sustainability into their products, services and operations. This is where trainers, advisors and SME support organisations play a crucial role.

The Certification Programme for Green Business Trainers equips trainers, consultants and advisors with the knowledge, tools and practical training materials needed to support SMEs in their transition towards greener and more competitive business models.

Participants will gain practical knowledge of key green business concepts, access ready-to-use training materials, and develop the skills needed to design and deliver green business training programmes for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

OBJECTIVE

The programme provides participants with a solid foundation in green business concepts and practical tools to support small and medium enterprises in adopting environmentally sustainable practices.

Participants will develop a broad understanding of environmental sustainability in business and learn how to navigate the wide range of concepts and tools associated with green business.

The main content of the programme includes:

- What is green business? Drivers and challenges for businesses
- Different approaches to green business
- Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions
- Life-cycle management
- Resource efficiency and cleaner production
- Environmental management systems (EMS)
- Eco-certification and labelling
- Enterprise opportunities in the circular economy
- Sustainability Reporting for SMEs
- Introduction to green finance
- Green entrepreneurship methodologies
- Training tools, tips and recommendations.

The course uses the **ITCILO/GIZ/UNEP Green Business Guide and Green Business Training Manual** as core reference materials. Building on these resources, the programme expands the content to ensure trainers develop a strong conceptual understanding as well as practical training skills.

Participants will learn how to train, advise and coach SMEs and entrepreneurs to improve existing businesses or develop new green business opportunities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This programme will provide participants the ability to:

- **understand** the fundamentals of green business and environmental sustainability in relation to SMEs
- **analyse** drivers, opportunities and challenges for businesses transitioning to greener models
- **apply** key sustainability tools such as greenhouse gas accounting, life-cycle thinking, resource efficiency and environmental management systems
- **identify** green business opportunities including circular economy solutions and sustainable entrepreneurship
- **design** and deliver training programmes on green business for SMEs and entrepreneurs
- **use** the ITCILO/GIZ/UNEP Green Business Guide and Training Manual to support SMEs in developing greener products, services and processes
- **apply** practical tools and templates to support SMEs in implementing green business practices

TARGET AUDIENCE

The programme targets organisations and professionals supporting SMEs and entrepreneurs in developing countries.

It is particularly relevant for:

- SME support organisations
- business development service providers
- trainers and consultants
- programme managers working with entrepreneurship or sustainability programmes
- incubators and accelerators seeking to integrate environmental sustainability into their programmes
- financial institutions supporting SMEs
- professionals from other backgrounds who wish to develop a foundational understanding of green business and the ability to train SMEs on environmental sustainability.

PROGRAMME

The Certification Programme for Green Business Trainers consists of a **core learning phase** followed by a trainers' certification phase that enables participants to apply their knowledge in practice.

PHASE 1: Core programme from 14 September to 9 October 2026

Phase 1 provides participants with a comprehensive introduction to green business concepts and training methodologies through interactive live sessions, practical exercises and self-guided learning.

The core programme is delivered by experts from the ITCILO and guest speakers from partner organisations.

The core programme includes:

- **13 instructor-led sessions:**
 - **10 webinars** focusing on key green business concepts and their practical application for SMEs
 - **3 sessions** focused on training design, facilitation skills and delivery methods.
- **6 self-guided learning modules** (downloadable for offline study)
- **5 practical training sessions led by participants**, during which participants deliver short training sessions and receive feedback from ITCILO trainers and fellow participants.

Participants who successfully complete the core programme will obtain a **certificate of participation**.

The total estimated time commitment during this phase is **40 hours**.

PHASE 2: Trainers' certification programme from 11 October to 18 December 2026

After completing the core programme, participants may continue with the trainers' certification phase.

During this phase, participants apply the knowledge and tools acquired in the course by **organising and delivering a green business training programme for at least 10 SMEs or entrepreneurs**. To obtain the certification, participants must submit evidence of the training delivery, including:

1. training agenda
2. list of participants
3. training evaluation results
4. two video recordings (10–12 minutes each) showing the participant delivering parts of the training session

Participants who successfully complete this phase will obtain a **certificate of achievement as a Green Business Trainer**.

The total estimated time commitment during this phase is **50 hours**.

GREEN BUSINESS TRAINER TOOLKIT AND RESOURCES

Participants in the programme will receive a comprehensive set of training materials and practical resources designed to support both learning during the course and the delivery of green business training programmes for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

CORE REFERENCE MATERIALS

- **ITCILO/GIZ/UNEP Green Business Guide** – a practical guide used as a core reference throughout the course to help SMEs green their products, services and business processes. The guide is available in **English**, and course participants will also receive access to versions in **French** and **Arabic**.
- **Green Business Training Manual** – complementary guidance supporting trainers in delivering green business training activities.

GREEN BUSINESS TRAINER TOOLKIT

Participants will also receive a set of ready-to-use training materials that can be adapted and used to deliver their own green business trainings.

The toolkit includes:

- **Ready-to-use training slide decks covering the main course topics.** The slides are provided in **English** and are currently also available in **Arabic**. They are delivered as **fully editable PowerPoint files**, allowing trainers to adapt them to their local context and training needs.
- **Training needs assessment template**
- **Feedback and evaluation forms**
- **Knowledge check and multiple-choice exam questions** based on the course material
- **Template certificate of participation** for trainers to use in their own trainings
- **Marketing materials** for promoting green business training programmes
- **Simple and practical green business tools** that can be applied directly with SMEs.

Together, these materials enable participants to **strengthen their understanding of green business concepts and deliver their own training programmes for SMEs and entrepreneurs**, helping them improve environmental performance while strengthening their business competitiveness.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

The following schedule provides an overview of the live sessions and learning modules during the core programme.

PHASE 1: Core programme from 14 September to 9 October 2026

Webinars time: 11:30–13:00 UTC

Paris/Johannesburg 13:30–15:00 | Bangkok 18:30–20:00 | Brasília 08:30–10:00 | Panama 06:30–08:00

	DATE	SESSION	TOPIC
WEEK 1	Mon 14 Sept	Webinar 1	Opening webinar and programme overview
	Tue 15 Sept	Webinar 2	Green business drivers and challenges for SMEs
	Wed 16 Sept	Webinar 3	Green business approaches
	Thu 17 Sept	Webinar 4	Resource efficiency and cleaner production
		Self-guided module 1	Role of enterprises in the green economy
		Self-guided module 2	Supporting SMEs on sustainability
WEEK 2	Mon 21 Sept	Webinar 5	Greenhouse gas emissions
	Tue 22 Sept	Webinar 6	Life-cycle management
	Wed 23 Sept	Webinar 7	Environmental management systems
	Thu 24 Sept	Webinar 8	Eco-certification and labelling
		Self-guided module 3	Practical green business models
		Self-guided module 4	Resources and competencies for green business growth
WEEK 3	Mon 28 Sept	Webinar 9	Circular economy opportunities for enterprises
	Tue 29 Sept	Webinar 10	Green entrepreneurship methodologies
	Wed 30 Sept	Webinar 11	Tools and practices for course delivery
	Thu 1 Oct	Webinar 12	Preparation for mini-training week
		Self-guided module 5	Sustainability reporting for SMEs
		Self-guided module 6	Introduction to green finance
WEEK 4	Mon 5 Oct	Session 1	Participant mini-training delivery
	Tue 6 Oct	Session 2	Participant mini-training delivery
	Wed 7 Oct	Session 3	Participant mini-training delivery
	Thu 8 Oct	Session 4	Participant mini-training delivery
	Fri 9 Oct	Session 5	Course wrap-up and next steps

PHASE 2: Trainers' certification programme from 11 October to 18 December 2026

PERIOD	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
October – December 2026	Preparation and delivery of training	Participants organise and deliver a green business training programme to at least 10 SMEs or entrepreneurs.
October – December 2026	Documentation	Participants collect the required evidence of the training delivered.
By 18 December 2026	Submission	Participants submit the required documentation to ITCILO for certification review.

Participants may complete these activities at their own pace within the certification period. Extensions during Phase II can be provided under exceptional circumstances.

E-CAMPUS

The participants in the course have access to ITCILO's electronic campus where they can find:

- information about the course structure and participants
- self-guided learning modules
- all training materials used in the programme
- the ITCILO/GIZ Green Business Guide and Green Business Trainers' Guide

The E-Campus will be accessible **24 hours** a day, including for at least **one year after the end of the course**.

COSTS

The participation fee is **1.375 Euros**

For information about scholarship opportunities, please write to us at enterprise@itcilo.org after you have filled out the application form.

REGISTRATION

Participants are invited to fill in the online application form <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9719153/en> by **7 September 2026**

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact us at: enterprise@itcilo.org.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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