



THE GLOBAL AWARD FOR SME ACTION ON FORCED LABOUR

INFORMATION FOR ENTRANTS

Deadline for entries: 25 October 2021

Why an award?

The ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour (ILO GBNFL) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) are searching for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are successfully tackling forced labour.

The responsibility to respect human rights applies to all businesses regardless of size, sector, geography, or ownership. Yet SMEs are often overlooked by initiatives aiming to eradicate forced labour and drive responsible business conduct. This is at odds with the fact that SMEs make up 90 per cent of the private sector globally.

Given their reach and overall influence, SMEs could be catalysts in the fight against forced labour and play a crucial role in meeting Sustainable Development Target 8.7 by 2030. The ILO GBNFL and the IOE want to unleash this potential.

This award is an opportunity for SMEs to showcase their actions, receive recognition for the critical role they play, and to share their ideas, experience, and good practices with the wider business community as well as with national and international policy makers.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TARGET 8.7

'Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.'

How to enter

The competition is open to enterprises of all sectors and countries with approximately 250 employees or less. The submission must contain the following:

- A written document (maximum 5 pages long) detailing the actions taken by the enterprise to strengthen its ability to prevent and tackle forced labour. The submission must clearly set out the impact that has been achieved as a result.
- A video of maximum 1 minute and 30 seconds explaining the action and its impact. The video will be used for promotional purposes.



- Entries may be made in any language. All entries should be accompanied by an English translation. Please contact the [ILO GBNFL Secretariat](#) if assistance is required with English translations.
- All entries must be submitted by the **25th of October** deadline. No late entries will be considered.

The award

An award for first, second and third place will be given to the SMEs with the most innovative and sustainable solutions to eradicating forced labour. The winners will be formally announced, and receive a certificate, at a special ceremony at the ILO GBNFL's Annual Forum in November 2021. They will benefit from coverage through ILO GBNFL, IOE, [ILO](#) and [Alliance 8.7](#) communications. The winners will also be invited to participate in a dedicated [ILO GBNFL podcast episode](#).

Choosing the winners

All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Innovation
 - a. Presents creative solutions, actions, projects, or policies to overcome the challenges related to forced labour within the national context.
2. Impact
 - a. Demonstrates positive impact and concrete results in the development or implementation of regulations or policies aimed at eradicating forced labour.
 - b. Sheds light on the challenges faced in implementing the strategy and lessons learnt from the experience.
3. Sustainability
 - a. Provides sustainable solutions that ensure effective eradication and prevention of forced labour in the long term.
 - b. Ensures the solutions and actions are sustainable including during a crisis (e.g. a pandemic, climate change, natural disaster).
4. Collaboration
 - a. Shows the support of, or collaboration with, other partners such as other companies, local employers' organizations, government, trade unions, worker representatives, and/or community organizations to design or implement the actions effectively.

The judges

The judging panel will be composed of forced labour experts from organizations including:

- [The International Organisation of Employers \(IOE\)](#)
- [The ILO GBNFL Steering Committee](#)
- [The International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)



Can we help you?

The ILO GBNFL Secretariat can provide support for translations into English. If you require assistance with translations, please contact Laura Greene, Programme Technical Officer, ILO GBNFL, at <mailto:greenel@ilo.org>

If you would like advice on how to produce a high-quality video clip using your mobile phone, please read this [ILO GBNFL guide](#).

If you would like further information or have questions, please feel free to contact Laura Greene (email address above) or Mathias Thorns, Deputy Secretary General, IOE, at thorns@ioe-emp.com

Submitting your entry

To enter the competition please send the required information to Mathias Thorns, Deputy Secretary General, IOE, at thorns@ioe-emp.com **and** to Laura Greene, Programme Technical Officer, ILO GBNFL, at <mailto:greenel@ilo.org>

Conditions

- The decisions of the IOE, the ILO GBNFL Steering Committee and the judges on all matters relating to this award are final.
- The competition focuses on company action. Winning one of the awards does not constitute an endorsement by the ILO GBNFL or the IOE of the company itself.
- No use of the ILO GBNFL or IOE logos through any communication platforms is authorized without prior approval and all communication about the award will follow agreed wording and guidance. ILO GBNFL and IOE will provide the winners with messages to allow them to promote their award on communications platforms, including social media.