

ETUC standardisation newsletter - December 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

ETUC STAND Calendar for 2021



2020 has been a challenging year for most of us. Come New Year's , we're all looking for a little inspiration for the year ahead. The ETUC therefore prepared

a paper table calendar with interesting facts and ideas around standards and their link with the world of work.

Should you be interested in receiving a copy of the calendar, please send an email to kbehnke@etuc.org.

We hope you like it!

Cast your vote on guidelines for older workers



Countries increasingly see the need to adapt to new demographic trends, as they move inevitably towards ageing societies. The ETUC has been working for many years on active ageing and intergenerational solidarity. We are participating in the development of ISO/DIS 23617 *'Ageing societies – Guidelines for an inclusive work force'* to ensure our views are also reflected in the standards setting activities. The aim of this ISO standard is to set out provisions to ensure that older employees have among other things: meaningful work, access to training, and an adapted workplace design. The work is taking place in the ISO/Technical Committee 314, which was set up towards the end of 2017 so as to develop standards in the field of ageing societies.

The draft standard will be open for comments before moving on to its final

stage. Should you wish to put forward your views on the draft, please do not hesitate to contact the ETUC or your national standardisation body.

The commenting phase will close on 3 March 2021.

Finnish Awareness Event on Standardisation: It is also important for unions!



Virtual awareness event

“Standardisation - It is also important for unions”

Thursday 19th November 2020

14h00 (Helsinki time) – 13h00 (Brussels time)

meeting: link: <https://etuc.zoom.us/j/86441230539>

The ETUC organised on 19 November an online National Awareness event on standardisation and its importance for trade unions. Finnish trade unions AKAVA, SAK and STTK met with the Finnish Standardisation Association (SFS) and the European Commission to discuss the impact of standards on working conditions, their link with legislation, and shared best practices for increased trade unions' participation.

ETUC Confederal Secretary Isabelle Schömann highlighted in her intervention the four pivotal points supporting ETUC engagement in standardisation. The first one is **vigilance**; trade unions need to remain vigilant about standards potentially tackling issues that are better addressed in legislation and collective agreements. Second and thirdly, trade unions should be **active** in promoting standardisation when relevant and **focus** on the activities where trade unions can actually exert influence. And finally, it is important to be well **equipped** when engaging in standardisation in order to shape it in a way that is compatible with legislation and collective agreements. The ETUC will therefore continue to train and to raise awareness on standardisation among unions to strengthen their capacity to contribute developing better standards that take

into account the interests of workers.

Are your employees engaged?



“The idea of employee engagement focuses on mutual gains in employment relationships, seeking the good of employees and the good of the organization they work for.” This is what the new draft international standard says, which ISO is preparing to provide organisations with practical guidelines on how to achieve engagement. The document, titled ISO/CD 23326 ‘Human Resource Management – Employee Engagement – Guidelines’, summarises examples and recommendations for a better communication, job design, well-being, etc. This draft standard is part of a series of international standards in the field of human resource management.

Until 15 January 2021, members of the ISO Technical Committee 260 ‘Human Resource Management’ are invited to put forward their views on the draft and can decide whether the draft standard can move to the next development stage – the last one before the final vote.

The ETUC has been very critical in the beginning of this work as many issues touch upon core areas of the trade unions. We however welcome the draft now contains several references to the consultation of worker representatives and provides guidelines that are good for employees.

Should you wish to put forward your views on the draft, please do not hesitate to contact the ETUC or your national standardisation body.

ETUC presenting at the CEN-CENELEC annual Technical Body Officers' seminar

Enhancing the involvement of SMEs & societal stakeholders: Annex III organizations



Deborah
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The ETUC STANDardisation project joined forces with CEN-CENELEC and co-hosted a joint session on the occasion of the CEN-CENELEC's annual Technical Body Officer's seminar, which took place entirely online this year.

The joint CEN-CENELEC-ETUC session '**Enhancing involvement of societal stakeholders and SMEs: Annex III organizations**' featured a presentation on the regulation on European standardisation (1025/2012), the so-called Annex III organisations, and their cooperation with CEN-CENELEC. It was followed by an introduction to the ETUC and its STANDardisation project, aimed at strengthening the participation of trade unions in standardisation. And finally, a testimonial from an ETUC expert who contributed to shaping European standard EN17371-1:2019 on Service Procurement, shed some light on the importance of involving societal stakeholders in the development of standards.

The recorded session, together with all the other presentations of the seminar, are available at the following link:

<https://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Events/Pages/EV-2020-25.aspx>

We wish you a very Happy Holiday season and
a peaceful and safe New Year



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