



Artificial Intelligence standardisation Inclusiveness Newsletter

Edition 1 – January 2024

You are reading the first issue of the AI standardisation Newsletter which will be regularly published by the Task Group (TG) Inclusiveness created in CEN-CENELEC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 21. This Technical Committee, set up in 2021, is responsible for standardisation in the field of AI and Data, and for providing guidance to Technical Committees concerned with AI. It aims to prepare standards on Artificial Intelligence (AI) that will help ensure the development of trustworthy AI systems.

In March 2023, the European Commission requested CEN and CENELEC, who accepted, to prepare a work programme of European standards and European standardisation deliverables. The list of standards to be prepared is given in [European Commission C \(2023\)3215](#).

In this standardisation request the Commission insisted on the need for “an appropriate representation and effective participation of the relevant stakeholders, including small and medium-sized enterprises and societal stakeholders”. The creation of TG inclusiveness aims at facilitating such participation by distributing updated information on the landscape of standardisation activities in international bodies. Such bodies may be:

- CEN CENELEC Technical Committees
- ISO-IEC Technical Committees, namely ISO-IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI
- Other international fora

The writers try to be as accurate and factual as possible and the contents are reviewed by the members of the TG Inclusiveness. However, this newsletter is not binding and should not be considered as representing the official positioning of bodies it quotes.

The ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation is providing secretariat services for the newsletter. Any request to be included to the mailing list or suggestions for publication should be addressed to TG_Inclusiveness@etuc.org.



Short news

Now is the time for Civil Society Organisations to get active at the National Level!

With the preliminary New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) for a ‘Trustworthiness framework’ and the open ballot for its approval, the CEN – CENELEC JTC 21 WG1 Task Group Inclusiveness encourages civil society organisations to be informed and get active in AI standards at the national level as soon as possible.

Now is the time for civil society organisations to contact their national standard bodies and ask to be informed about the CEN-CLC JTC 21 AI New Work Item Proposal for a European Standard (EN) “Trustworthiness framework” which is under activation as Preliminary Work Item (PWI) **until 23 January 2024**.

Civil society organisations can then express their support for the approval/rejection/abstention and hereby influence the national voting positions.

The proposed standard will support the implementation of the EU AI Act and the AI Standardisation Request, complementing the specific standards providing presumption of conformity with the legal requirements.

Trustworthiness embraces all the key aspects of AI that are needed by European society. Trustworthiness includes addressing AI ethical issues in a practical way for AI fitness for purpose in foreseeable use, as well as including security, privacy, safety and inclusivity with a risk removal/mitigation-based approach throughout a product’s lifecycle. It should be noted however, that more standards are needed on Trustworthiness requirements for civil society stakeholders and it is hoped that the present proposal for a Trustworthiness framework will be the basis for the development of other future standards.

Political agreement on the AI Act

More than 2 years after the first draft was published by the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have come to the final political agreement on the AI Act, the first-ever comprehensive legal framework on Artificial Intelligence worldwide. The final version of the act should be formally published within a couple of months. For more details, please see:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-welcomes-political-agreement-artificial-intelligence-act>



High Level Forum (HLF) on standardisation plenary meeting

In the framework of the Standardisation Strategy, the Commission, through its Decision C(2022) 6189 final of September 2022, set up the High-Level Forum on European Standardisation (HLF), which tasks are to advise the Commission on future standardisation needs, coordinate effective representation of Union interests in international standardisation, and ensure that European standardisation activities meet the needs to make the Union economy more green, digital, fair and resilient. Further to the HLF, three sherpa groups were created to support the HLF and to carry out the more practical work on different stands that include Green, Resilience, and Digital. If you are not familiar with the HLF, please see:

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/european-standards/standardisation-policy/high-level-forum-european-standardisation_en

The HLF meets in plenary once or twice a year. The latest meeting took place on 30 November 2023. It was chaired by Commissioner Thierry Breton and received a pledge on education and skills on standards signed by the majority of members with a list of practical outreach actions they will launch. It also reviewed the Annual Union Work Programme 2024, with among others a focus on AI.

Webinar "Future EU Legislation on Artificial Intelligence and the important role standards play"

On 24 November 2023, Workstream 12 'Artificial Intelligence' of the HLF organised a webinar on the "Future EU Legislation on Artificial Intelligence and the important role standards play". Presentations made during the webinar can be accessed at: <https://www.ds.dk/en/news/2023/future-eu-legislation-on-ai-and-the-important-role-standards-play>

EU funding for standardisation activities

StandICT.eu will provide € 2,925,000 of crucial funding to support the participation of European standardisation specialists in key international and global SDOs. Through nine open calls this funding will enable the specialists to contribute to and help create a fully integrated European Standardisation Ecosystem, thereby strengthening Europe's position in global standardisation initiatives. The call for participation is now closed, but it is worth to note that AI was among the top 3 targeted topics. And you might be interested to apply to the next funding. Find more at:

<https://standict.eu/standicteu-2026-2nd-open-call>



EC DG Grow European Standardisation Panel Survey

To gain a better understanding of industry's needs for standardisation deriving from Research & Innovation, the European Commission is launching the first edition of a European Standardisation Panel Survey. The Survey will address a large-scale population of EU industry, ensuring a balanced representation of companies of different sizes and from a wide variety of technology domains. A workshop took place on 8 December and addressed the following questions:

- What are the challenges for industry in terms of development and implementation of R&I based standards? How can the EU and Member States provide support?
- What are the most important steps for modernising the governance of standardisation and standard-setting process?
- What are the implications of the preliminary results of the ESPS for future R&I funding schemes?

See: <https://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/en/competence-center/politik-gesellschaft/projekte/esps.html>

What's on at CEN CENELEC JTC21?

The participation in the standardisation activities on AI is open to the National Standardisation bodies (NSBs) and to CEN-CENELEC partner and liaison organisations. The participation of stakeholders can further take place via the National Standardisation Body of your country. The next JTC 21 plenary meeting will take place in Dublin in February 2024. Below are the topics currently under discussion in various working groups. To note that others will most likely be formalised in Dublin.

More information will be provided in the next Newsletter.

WG1 – Strategic Advisory Group

- Answer to EU standardisation request and general organisation of JTC21 activities
- 3 TG (task groups): inclusiveness, horizontal /vertical, technical coherence forum

WG2 – Operational aspects.

- AI Conformity assessment.
- Risk management and risk catalogue. New Work Item proposal under ballot.
- Analysis, Adoption and adaptation of relevant deliverables of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC42
- Operational challenges from verticals like healthcare, automotive/transportation



WG3 – Engineering aspects

- Treatment of unwanted bias in classification and regression machine learning tasks
- Data governance and quality for AI in the European context
- AI system logging
- Natural Language Processing (joint development with ISO under ISO lead)
- Robustness of neural networks
- Guidelines of the testing of AI systems

WG4 - Foundational and societal aspects

- Green and Sustainable AI
- AI-enhanced nudging (joint development with ISO under ISO lead)
- Trustworthiness characterisation
- Competence requirements for AI ethicist professionals

WG5 – Joint standardisation on cybersecurity for AI systems (created in November 2023 from former TG in WG1)

What's on at ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42?

Participating to the works requires a registration by ISO/IEC. Next plenary meeting will take place in Seoul in April 2024.

ISO/IEC 22989 :2022 Information technology — Artificial intelligence — Artificial intelligence concepts and terminology is a basic introduction to matter. Following a decision by ISO, this standard is available free of charge. It is accessible at:

<https://cdn.standards.iteh.ai/samples/74296/c4efbadbf1a146d4af6d62fcad09438f/ISO-IEC-22989-2022.pdf>

ISO/IEC 42001- Artificial Intelligence Management Systems was published in December 2023. See: <https://www.iso.org/standard/81230.html>

You may be interested to know the topics currently under discussion in 2 key work groups:

Main topics being worked out in WG1 - Foundational standards

- Guidebook for implementation of ISO/IEC 42001 by SMEs
- How to deal with generative AI?
- System impact assessment
- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of artificial intelligence management systems
- Taxonomy of AI system methods and capabilities



Main topics being worked out in WG3- Trustworthiness

- Guidance on addressing societal concerns and ethical considerations
- Transparency taxonomy of AI systems
- Guidance for human oversight of AI systems
- Explainability of AI systems
- Treatment of unwanted bias in classification and regression machine learning tasks

Implementing stakeholders' panels

Algorithm Audit is a NGO European knowledge platform for AI bias testing and normative AI standards based in Netherlands. <https://algorithmaudit.eu/>

They have published the guide *Stakeholder panels for AI bias testing Towards inclusive, deliberative and transparent AI bias testing standards in JTC21 CEN-CENELEC, SC42 and ISO* dated January 2024. It explains what a stakeholder panel is, how it works and how it could be useful to better take into account larger audiences in the domain of fundamental rights protection and bias detection, mitigation. Jurriaan Parie presented this work in a CEN CENELEC JTC 21 meeting.

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Focus on accessibility for disabled people

There is a big attention in the ISO/IEC 25000 series on SQuaRE “Software Quality Requirements and Evaluation” about quality of products including accessibility.

Accessibility is defined in the standard 25012 on data as “the degree to which data can be accessed in a specific context of use, particularly by people who need supporting technology or special configuration because of some disability”.

In the recent updated standard 25010 on software product, the term is changed in user assistance “capability of a product to be used by people with a widest range of characteristics and capabilities to achieve specified goals in a specified context of use”.

In the new standard 25019 on quality in use, the term is defined as “extend to which products, systems, services, environments and facilities can be used by people from a population with the widest range of user’s needs, characteristics and capabilities to achieve identified goals in identified context of use”.

The topic of accessibility is mentioned many times in the Draft TR “Data governance and quality for AI in the European context”, in particular in the chapter 9.4 European Governance relating to the Directive on inclusivity and accessibility, with a link to EU Directive 2016/2102.



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Small Business Standards (SBS) Newsletter newly published

Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association co-financed by the European Union and EFTA Member States. Its goal is to represent and defend small and medium-sized enterprises’ (SMEs) interests in the standardisation process at European and international levels. Moreover, it aims at raising the awareness of SMEs about the benefits of standards and at encouraging them to get involved in the standardisation process. SBS Newsletter - Issue 4 - 2023 - SBS 10th anniversary year ends with a successful “Meeting Standards” campaign wrap-up 2023 Newsletter was published on 20 December 2023 and can be accessed at <https://www.sbs-sme.eu/newsletter/sbs-newsletter-issue-4-2023-sbs-10th-anniversary-year-ends-successful-%E2%80%9Cmeeting-standards%E2%80%9D>

Inclusiveness of Civil Society Stakeholders in the new AI Standards

On 11 October CEN – CENELEC JTC 21 Working Group 1 Task Group on Inclusiveness member and Annex III organisation, ANEC (*European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation*), The European consumer voice in standardisation, hosted an outreach webinar on 'Inclusiveness of Civil Society Stakeholders in the new AI Standards'.

This webinar was organised by ANEC with the kind support of the European AI & Society Fund.

ANEC were delighted to welcome grantees from the AI & Society Fund, ANEC Members and other civil society actors. ANEC Deputy Director-General, Chiara Giovannini provided a summary of the AI standardisation request (Sreq) and outlined the key points of interest for civil society stakeholders in CEN – CENELEC’s reply to the Sreq. The message being that they have the right and expectation to be actively informed and involved.

Philippe Saint-Aubin, the Chair of CEN – CENELEC’s JTC 21 WG 1 TG on Inclusiveness, prepared a presentation on the aims of the Task Group and the work ahead of it: to increase the access, knowledge and involvement of civil society organisations in the making of the AI Standards.

Antoine-Alexandre Andre, from the European Commission DG CNECT A.2, explained the standardisation workstream in support of the AI Act and stated that the key elements include



the representation and participation of relevant stakeholders, the taking into account of fundamental rights and data protection and the full alignment of standards with EU values and specificities.

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ANEC encourages Civil Society Organisations to get organised and active in AI Standards at the National level

On 6 December, ANEC hosted another outreach webinar about ‘How civil society organisations can get organised and active to influence AI standards at the national level?’

This webinar was organised by ANEC with the kind support of the European AI & Society Fund.

As AI Standards have been requested by the European Commission and are starting to be developed by the standard makers in CEN-CENELEC, now is the time for civil society organisations (CSOs) to get involved in AI standardisation. To promote inclusiveness in standardisation it is essential for CSOs to understand that the national level can also be a very influential place for them. ANEC encouraged CSOs to be present and able to shape AI standards there.

Participants from Civil Society and ANEC Working Groups (WGs) received a presentation by Chiara Giovannini, ANEC Deputy Director-General, about the 5 different CEN – CENELEC WGs on AI Standardisation, international level work and the importance of being active at the national level.

Inspiration was provided by Dr. Alexander Goschew, Project Manager at DIN Consumer Council, who gave the practical example of creating an AI expert group and getting involved in AI standardisation at the German national level.

Participants could learn from the experiences of Algorithm Audit's activity at the Dutch national level, which were shared by Jurriaan Parie, fellow CEN – CENELEC JTC 21 WG 1 TG Inclusiveness member and Algorithm Audit Board Member and Director.

An interactive Q&A session and guidance on identifying the skills, staff, support and time that could be useful for getting results at national level concluded this informative webinar.

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Helpful e-learning link for those new to standardisation

CEN-CENELEC, ANEC, ECOS and ETUC previously developed a free interactive online tool that gives clear and straightforward information about standards and the standardisation process in Europe, as well as at the national and international levels.

The course contains several modules to help users learn about standards, their development and the key role they play in protecting consumers, workers and the environment. It further demonstrates the importance for civil society to engage in standardisation in order to improve, strengthen and add legitimacy to the European Standardisation System.

If you want to discover the world of standards, this training is for you! Follow the course and find out why standards are relevant to you, and how you can participate in developing standards that benefit all!

Follow the course at the following link: <http://www.standards4all.eu/>

ENDS.