Artificial Intelligence standardisation
Inclusiveness Newsletter

Edition 2 – March 2024

We are happy that edition 1 of the Inclusiveness Newsletter drew positive comments and an enlarged audience. The letter was published as CEN CENELEC JTC21 WG1 N332. Issues are also available on line:

- The ETUC website

- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8793224/

The ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation is providing secretariat and contact services for the newsletter. Any request or correspondence should be addressed to TG_Inclusiveness@etuc.org.

Feel free to submit contents for the next issue planed by early May.

Feedback on CEN CENELEC JTC21 plenary meeting February 12th to 16th

More than 100 people attended this meeting either physically or via a web link. The 5 working groups presented their progress and the meeting took several formal decisions to proceed on the drafting of standard documents. The European Commission also presented the last changes of the AI Act, soon to be officially published and the likely evolutions of its related Standardisation Request (SR): this SR will be completed in the coming months on a couple of new fields like resources performance or energy consumption. The following simply lists the subjects under consideration.

- **WG1– Strategic Advisory Group**
  - Work on the interplay between horizontal standards applicable to all activities and vertical standards applicable to a given domain (health, transports…). The work has identified ways to avoid conflicts between these two types of standards.
  - Update on the document "architecture of standards" which details how CEN CENELEC will answer Commission's Standardisation Request (SR). The document is put to ballot.

- **WG2 – Operational aspects**

  - Conformity assessment: adoption by CEN CENELEC of ISO/IEC TR17894 is under ballot. A new work item is proposed on Conformity assessment requirements in the context of the AI act.

  - Risk management: the European adoption of ISO/IEC 23894, a standard that has guidelines on AI risk management, is proposed. As this standard pre-dates the latest developments with respect to the EU AI Act, it by itself does not fully cover all AI Act requirements. To fulfil SR, the writing of a "home-grown" European standard which will fill the gaps will therefore also start soon.

  - Quality management: ISO/IEC 42001 will be submitted for European adoption by CEN CENELEC.

  - Testing: parallel development with ISO lead of "Software testing Guidelines on the testing of AI-based systems" is proposed.

  - Requirements on bodies performing audit and certification of AI systems. Parallel development with ISO lead is proposed.

- **WG3– Engineering aspects**

  - Bias: final round of the adoption of by ISO/IEC and CEN CENELEC "Treatment of unwanted bias". New work "Concepts, measures and requirements for managing Bias" has been initiated possibly with parallel development with ISO.

  - Data: new work initiated on "Dataset", then will focus on "Quality and Governance of data set" initiated and "Data quality for analytics in machine learning".

  - Reference architecture of knowledge engineering. A preliminary work item has been launched

  - Other works are in progress on Logging, Natural Language Processing, Robustness and Computer Vision.

- **WG4 – Foundational and societal aspects**

  - Trustworthiness framework: the preparation of a standard is now running full speed.

  - Impact assessment in the context of EU fundamental rights: it has been decided to start a project.

  - Nudging: a draft is document in progress.

  - Competence requirements for AI ethicists professionals: work has been initiated.

- Green and sustainable AI: a draft document is under ballot. See also the ISO section below.

- **WG5 – cybersecurity**

This newly created working group will start working on ISO/IEC 27090 (Cybersecurity — Artificial Intelligence — Guidance for addressing security threats and failures in artificial intelligence systems). It will also discuss technical solutions to address AI specific vulnerabilities. Liaison will be made with CEN CENELEC JTC13 on cybersecurity.

- **How to get more info?**

The above gives just a hint of the work being done at CEN CENELEC. You may get details from the representative of your National Standardisation Body (Danish Standards for Denmark, AFNOR for France, DIN for Germany, UNI for Italy, BSI for Great Britain etc.…): they all have active participants to the working groups. You may also be put in touch with representatives of partner or liaison organisations representing SMEs (Small Business Standards), consumers (ANEC), environmental organisations (ECOS), NGOs (Adra-E, Equinet, 5-rights for children, For Humanity), and trade unions (ETUC)

- JTC21 next plenary meeting will take place in Bath (UK) from June 3rd to 7th with possible participation on line. Details of the agenda will be provided later. The next one will take place in November when it is expected that most documents of the SR will be in a well advanced stage.

What about at ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI?

Among many documents under drafting or discussion, one should note:

- In WG1, the preparation of a handbook for SMEs related to the implementation of ISO/IEC 42001 standard *AI management system*, now officially released and the final round of validation of ISO/IEC 42005 *AI systems impact assessment*. A public video presentation of ISO/IEC 42001 is available on You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4iKEr5AIi4

- In WG3, work on AI transparency requirements (final stage), and ethical aspects of AI. Initial discussions on human oversight, seen as how the human is involved in the governance of AI (process) and how he/she can control an application (red button). Work on AI environmental impact in liaison with CEN CENELEC JTC21 WG4.

- It is reminded that non-profit organisations which are not members of SC42 can apply to establish a SC42 Category C liaison relationship. This gives access to the documents being prepared and to the possibility to provide contributions and attend the experts meetings.

Procedure is as follows:

1. Identify the working groups in SC 42 in which to participate
2. Complete this form for each WG - http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/Open/19409988
3. Send the completed form to Heather Benko <HBenko@ansi.org>

News from the European institutions

- High Level Forum on Standardisation: AI is a key part of EU 2024 program of standardisation. See https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/56294. The EU standardisation program for 2025 is under preparation and it is likely that AI will still be high on the agenda.

In this High Level Forum, Workstream 12 addresses Artificial Intelligence. The group met on February 27th to review outreach actions. Two of them initiated by Danish Standards and by NSA Ireland are mentioned in the resource bank below.

- Evaluation of standardisation Regulation 1025/2012.

The Commission has initiated an evaluation. It should open shortly a public consultation, surveys and interviews.

- EU Court of Justice ruling on availability of harmonized standards (March 5th). In 2018, the European Commission refused the request of two non-profit organisations to be granted access to harmonised technical standards concerning the safety of toys. In 2021, the General Court upheld that refusal, however, on appeal, the Court of Justice finds that there is an overriding public interest in the disclosure of the harmonised standards on the safety of toys, since they form part of EU law owing to their legal effects. The actual judgment is now available and can be read here:

https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=283443&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=6368932

The impact of this ruling on other harmonized standards including those expected on AI is still to be evaluated. See the press release by CEN and CENELEC: https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/brief-news/2024-03-05-ecj-case/

New webpage on AI & Standards

• ANEC and BEUC, the European Consumers Bureau have created a new webpage to explain why and how civil society organisations should engage in AI standardisation. Civil society organisations will find there useful information on the different ways to get involved. The webpage was designed for people who are not yet familiar with standardisation and who do not know "where to start". It gathers in one place all one needs to know to join the work.

• ANEC organizes a Webinar "Fundamental rights and standards: Where to draw the line?" It will be held on 20 March at 10:00 (CET). Attendance at this webinar is by invitation only; if you are interested in attending, please contact cdo@anec.eu .

This webinar will bring together a panel of stakeholders from EU institutions, academia, business, civil society and standardisation organizations to discuss the interplay between standardisation and fundamental rights.

• *Fair and Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Consumers* is the theme of Consumers International's campaign for World Consumer Rights Day 2024, celebrated on 15th March each year.

In recognition of this important day, ANEC invited civil society stakeholders and consumer organizations to an online workshop on Tuesday 12 March, to learn about 'Influencing AI standards that deliver for civil society - the international approach'. This event was organised with the kind support of the European AI & Society Fund.

This training and learning session was aimed at those who want to shape international standards that deliver safe, fair and responsible AI for global consumers and civil society stakeholders. Participants were helped to understand the impact of AI on consumers, citizens and society, learn about international AI standards and how these link with EU activity, discover how best to influence AI standards to deliver good outcomes for civil society and received advice on how to overcome barriers to involvement in standards development

Resources and events for civil society stakeholders

• Danish Standards hosted a Webinar, supported by NSAI Ireland on Future EU legislation on AI and the important role standards play. See:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUw6A1qfLmk&list=PLyxbEn5pz1BXiO6UUTSaRjQKbka zA9RxV

• NSA Ireland has been preparing info videos on AI standardisation in English with subtitles in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian and Portuguese. Check their You Tube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/user/NSAImedia.

• The European HS booster program provides free standardisation support for EU projects and compensated participation to standard experts who offer consultancy and expertise regarding standards to Horizon Europe, Digital Europe Program and Horizon 2020 projects. This is a good opportunity to get funding for potential stakeholders. More info at:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tu3MPQqrob15ulx8aI7uiB6nFuU7Fvzx/edit?pli=1#slide=id.g2b989ab0d4c_0_0

Interested people may contact Sharon Farrell at ADAPT Center Ireland sharon.farrell@adaptcentre.ie

• The Small Business Standards (SBS) Newsletter issue 1, 2024 has been published with a report of CEN CENELEC JTC21 plenary. See https://www.sbs-sme.eu/newsletter/sbs-newsletter-issue-1-2024-ess-crossroads-what-role-sbs-and-european-smes

• The 17th Computer, Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP) conference will be held in Brussels from May 22nd to 24th. This year topic is "to govern or to be governed, that is the question". More at https://www.cpdpconferences.org/

With support from the European AI & Society Fund, ANEC, the Consumer Voice in Standardisation will be hosting the panel on 'New Governance and Inclusiveness in AI Standardisation - how far have we gone?'.

The panel will review what the impact of measures to increase inclusiveness in CEN – CENELEC has been, what has been achieved so far and identify the challenges that are still faced by civil society, as well as standardisation governance itself.

There will also be a panel in "Inclusiveness in AI standards" hosted by Ansgar Koene co-convenor of CEN CENLEC JTC21 WG2.

• The United Nations AI Advisory body published in December 2023 its interim report "Governing AI for Humanity". It is available at:

https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/ai_advisory_body_interim_report.pdf

Further consultations of stakeholders groups are ongoing. The final report is expected by mid-2024.

- In UK, the AI Standards Hub is kicking off a research and engagement workstream led by Turing Institute researchers, which will focus on the use of AI in recruitment and employment. See https://aistandardshub.org/ai-recruitment-employment

ENDS.