How to link standardization with EU research projects

Why you?

With Horizon 2020 and other European research programmes calling for standardization, interaction between research and standardization is becoming essential.

You as NCP or other organization supporting researchers when they plan to participate in research projects can take over a significant role in initiating and facilitating this interaction.

A simple checklist provided in the middle of this flyer helps you to look out for those proposals that might add value to their projects by considering standardization aspects in the most appropriate way.

Ways to do this might be to

➔ Take into account existing standards

➔ Consider developing new standards to disseminate research findings

➔ Contribute to the work of existing Technical Committees developing standards

When you and the research proposer have found any potential for integrating standardization aspects or for interacting with standardization, you should recommend them to contact the national standardization organization in your country (see contact details) to ensure close cooperation from the very beginning.

You yourself can also obtain more detailed information about the link between research and standardization from the same national standardization organization to better advise your clients.

Contact details

A majority of CEN and CENELEC members have appointed a dedicated national contact for research, development and innovation.

Their contact details are available at **www.cencenelec.eu/research**

Information for National Contact Points (NCPs)

Evolution of standardization towards research

Throughout Europe, national standardization organizations develop voluntary standards that meet the requirements of their markets.

To respond to the need for transnational standards, these national bodies also operate collectively as the European Standardization Organizations, CEN and CENELEC. These bodies rely on the national members to bring together technical experts from industry, research, academia and other backgrounds. The resulting consensus-based national positions are combined through a European process into European Standards.

These common, pan-European standards ensure the protection of consumers, facilitate cross-border trade and provide for the interoperability of products. They can encourage innovation and technological development, incorporate environmental protection and enable businesses to grow.

The European Union recognizes CEN and CENELEC as European Standardization Organizations and promotes European standardization in support of the European Single Market (see also Regulation 1025/2012).

In recent years, standardization has broadened its reach to the research community and has become increasingly recognized as an effective tool for disseminating and transferring research results into marketable products and services. This is also reflected in Horizon 2020 with a number of calls explicitly requiring standardization.

Check-list

Below you find a checklist to determine the need for standards. If a research proposer answers any of the questions with "yes", you should recommend them to seriously consider standards and to contact their national standardization organization!

❏ Do your results have a potential European or international market application?

❏ Do you intend to bring your research results to the market?

❏ Will your research results need to be compatible and interoperable with products, systems or services already on the market?

❏ Will you need to ensure reliability and comparability of your research activities or results?

❏ Would you like to display some kind of mark of product or process quality?

❏ Will any products or processes arising from your project be of interest for public procurement?

❏ Will you need to reassure consumers and others regarding the safety of your innovation?

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Benefits for your applicants:

→ Improving the evaluation result of the research proposal

→ Determining the state of the art by analyzing existing standards

→ Disseminating research results effectively

→ Opening up a discussion of the research results within an international network

→ Facilitating market uptake of innovations

→ Ensuring compatibility and interoperability with the market

→ Providing a wide and focused dissemination of research results

→ Codifying knowledge using a strong and established documentation system

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