



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - December 2018

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.

European Commission launches a call for tender for a "*Study on the Functions and Effects of European Standards and Standardisation in the EU and EFTA Member States*"



The aim of the study is to conduct a comprehensive and comparative quantitative analysis of the economic effects of European standards in the EU and EFTA Member States.

It will look mainly at how European standards function in driving European innovation and industrial competitiveness. In addition, it will seek to clarify the interplay between societal interests such as health, safety, environmental and consumer protection, and the development, manufacture and use of products, services, materials and key enabling technologies.

The role of conformity assessment and manufacturers' use of European harmonised standards should also be investigated.

The submission deadline is Friday 22 February 2019. The Budget for the study is maximum €1 million.

Full details, for interested tendering parties, are [here](#).

European standardisation system makes safety net for Brexit



BSI, the British Standards Institute, is a member of CEN and CENELEC. It produces technical standards for various products and services, which have an impact on society and also on workers. Due to current political discussions on Brexit, between the EU and the UK, BSI may face legal uncertainties and disruptions on technical and policy levels among all the experts contributing to the development of European standards.

Therefore, CEN and CENELEC agreed in November to apply a transition period from the date of Brexit (expected to be 29 March 2019) until 31 December 2020. During this transition period, BSI will continue to have full membership rights and obligations, independent of a political agreement or otherwise between the EU and the UK.

In the course of this transition period, CEN, CENELEC and BSI will gather more information on the political situation within the EU and the UK, and its impact on market access through standards. These elements will help determine CEN and CENELEC developments with regard to membership criteria and the membership status of BSI after 2020.

Lithuanian Standardisation Body invites trade unions to take part



On 18 October 2018, the Lithuanian Trade Union Solidarumas (LPSS), in cooperation with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation (LPSK), the Lithuanian Labour Federation (LDF), and the Lithuanian Standardisation Department, hosted a seminar *Standardisation – It Is Also Important for Trade Unions*, in Vilnius.

The event raised awareness among Lithuanian trade unions of the benefits of being more actively involved in standard-setting. At the end of the seminar, the Lithuanian Standardisation Department thanked everyone for a very useful and worthwhile conference and suggested signing a cooperation agreement with the Lithuanian trade unions, to participate in designing new standards and sharing information about recently adopted ones. The agreement will be signed in mid-December and will be a first step towards a fruitful collaboration.

Dutch seminar reiterates the importance of trade union involvement in standardisation



Together with the Netherlands Trade Union Confederation FNV and the Dutch Standards Institute, NEN, the ETUC organised an awareness-raising seminar on 25 October 2018. The event focused on the participation of trade unions in standardisation at national and European levels. It gave rise to an animated discussion with a lot of questions and comments.

The seminar laid a good foundation for the (further) involvement of workers and their trade unions in standardisation. The participants concluded that at both national and European levels, workers have the opportunity to influence standards and thus improve their health and safety. And the added value of workers' participation in the field of health and safety standardisation is undeniable. Moreover, since 2018, the Dutch ministry has facilitated trade union participation in standard-setting activities. This support has led to a renewed relationship between the trade unions and NEN.

News of ISO work on human resource management standards

ISO/TC 260 'Human resource management', which is developing a series of standards for HR managers, has approved ISO FDIS 30414 'Guidelines for

human capital reporting for internal and external stakeholders’.

The ETUC had serious concerns about the proposed indicators in the standard that will be used to measure employees’ contribution to an organisation’s performance. We consider the indicators on ‘Organisational health, safety and wellbeing’ and ‘Organisational culture’ to be inadequate. The proposal by the ETUC to add metrics, to effectively and correctly provide information, was not included in the final draft standard. The ETUC therefore asked for an amendment to this standard. We hope this will be discussed at the next TC 260 meeting in Milan in February 2019.

Furthermore, ISO/TC 260 is developing several other standards, which the ETUC is following:

- Metrics to support ISO FDIS 30414 on "Internal and external human capital reporting"
- ISO AWI 30416 ‘Human resource management – workforce management’
- ISO standard WD 23326 ‘Human resource management – employee engagement – guidelines’
- ISO/NP 23595 ‘Human resource management – learning & development’

For more information, please contact the ETUC STAND Secretariat at standards@etuc.org.



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