

ETUC standardisation newsletter - January 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.

The German KAN celebrates their 25th Anniversary



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The KAN – Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung – is composed out of the interests of various German institutions and is the organized voice of OS&H in the field of standardization. The KAN includes social partners, the State, Länder, the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) and the German Institute for Standardization (DIN) in different weighting. They are collectively represented in opinions on current and planned standardization projects. KAN ensures that standards makers devote enough attention to the needs of OH&S.

On 3 and 4 December, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, KAN organized a seminar conference addressing the standard setting activities, their challenges and the way forward. Over 150 participants from different countries joined the event.

Heinz Fritsche, IG Metall and the KAN board member for the trade unions, provided an overview of the first 25 years of the organization. Dr. Watermann, General Manager of KAN, gave an overview of the state of play on standardization and its future challenges.

These introductory presentations gave way to a full day of discussions and reflections on the standard setting activities in Europe and the world.

Peer-Oliver Villwock (German Ministry of Labour protection and social affairs) and Stefan Olsson (European Commission, Director of Employment in DG employment and social affairs,) enlightened the audience with the current reflections on the use and enhanced use of standards in the context of the single market for products and services.

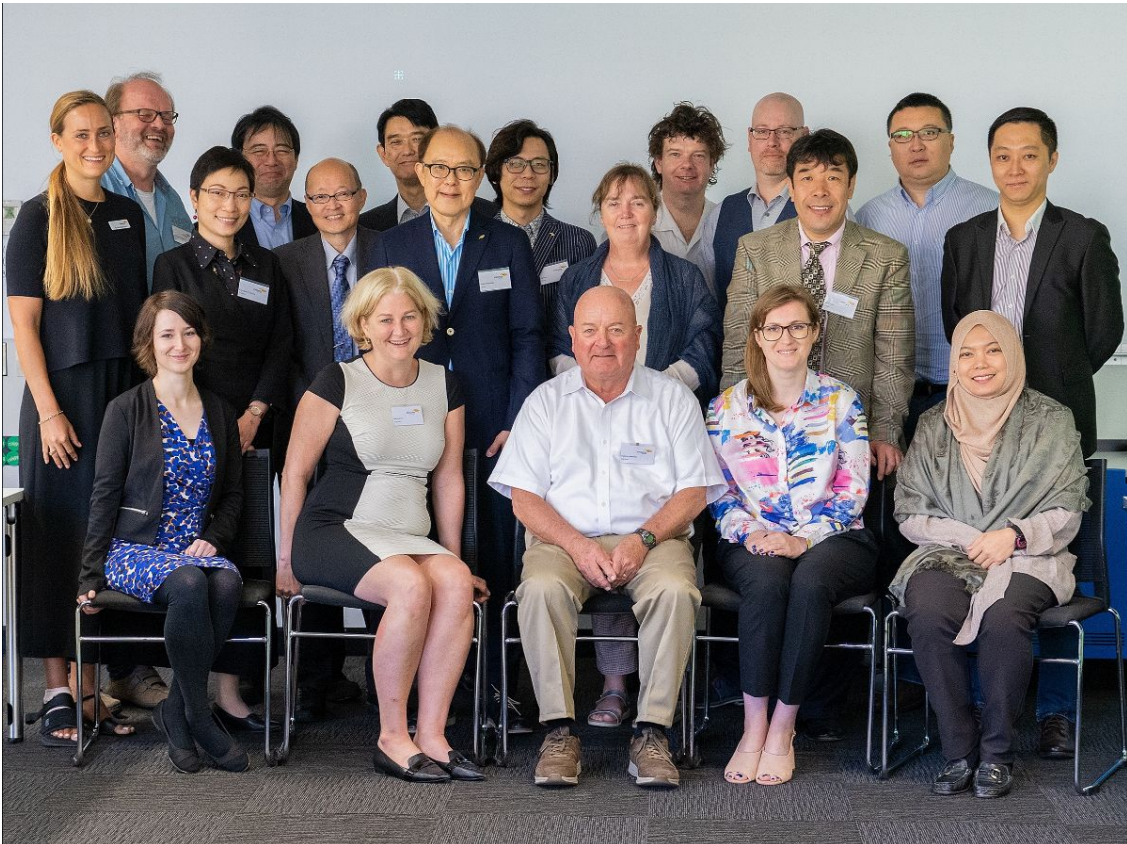
Details of the event are [here](#).

CEN-CENELEC webinar on standards and societal stakeholders

CEN and CENELEC organise a webinar on the European Standardisation System. The aim of the webinar is to have a better understanding of how standardisation activities work and how CEN and CENELEC address the inclusiveness of the societal stakeholders in the standardisation system.

The webinar will take place on 23rd January 2020, at 10h30, and can be joined by clicking [here](#)

ETUC participates in ISO/TC 314 "Ageing societies"



Standards Australia hosted the fourth meeting of the ISO Technical Committee on Ageing Societies (ISO/TC 314), which took place from 12 to 15 November in Sydney. Over 16 participating countries and 5 liaisons, including the ETUC, attended the ISO/TC 314 Working Group 1 meeting on 'Ageing workforce', tasked with the development of ISO 23617 'Guidelines for an age inclusive workforce'. During the first three days, the experts analyzed, discussed and resolved the - over 300 - comments submitted on the draft during the consultation period. The ETUC had submitted comments and most of them were approved by the group. The ETUC expert further contributed to the work with specific interventions conveying the trade union perspective, and the possible negative (for some cases) impact some aspects discussed could have on workers and their working conditions. For instance, the suggestion to include the concept of 'seniorpreneurship' in the guideline was opposed to by the ETUC expert, and it was supported by others in the group. The current working draft will be soon sent to Committee Draft stage, and the future version of the standard is expected to be developed next year in June, as agreed during the plenary.

Workshop on the standardisation needs for carers



On 22 November 2019, the ETUC co-organized in the context of its work in ISO/TC 314 'Ageing Societies', a workshop on standardization and the impact of standards on workers who provide direct care and support services. The workshop was held at the Griffith University, and saw the contributions of Anne Livingstone, expert in Community Resourcing and member in ISO/TC 314 WG 2 'Dementia', and of Dr. Sabrina Pit from Work Wiser and Convenor of ISO/TC 314 WG 1 'Ageing workforce'.

Adriana Ciacăru, the ETUC expert in ISO/TC 314 WG1 'Ageing workforce', also gave a presentation on the involvement of trade unions in the standardization process and on the impact of standards on workers and their working conditions.

The participants to the workshop had the opportunity to participate to the discussions that followed the presentations and shared the challenges they often face when providing care for a person with special needs/ disabilities. They further raised questions regarding the working conditions of carers and the psycho-social elements of this field of work. Finally, the involvement of the trade union movement was considered as an opportunity to make the worker's voice heard.

Positive outcome of the ETUC Opinion on the re-use and upgrade energy related products standard

CEN and CENELEC granted the ETUC an “Opinion Mechanism” to flag up issues on standardisation work. This opinion mechanism is one of the special tools over which the societal stakeholders dispose.

Over the summer, the ETUC made use of the “Opinion Mechanism” and submitted a Non-Favourable Formal Opinion on FprEN 45554 “*General methods for the assessment of the ability to repair, reuse and upgrade energy related products*“, which was out for Formal Vote.

Although the ETUC supported in principle the future adoption of the standard, we strongly recommended the development of a complementary standard, to address the material efficiency of the repair or maintenance operations of energy related products.

The ETUC opinion was noted and there was some support to elaborate a further document, covering the “*Material Efficiency of the Repair of energy-related products*”.

Overall, the ETUC welcomes the opinion mechanism and uses it only, when it has added value, such as with the example above. The ETUC does not use it automatically for every Enquiry and Formal Vote. We favour submitting comments via the traditional routes.

The ETUC expert, Laurent Zibell (IndustriAll) welcomed this decision and he looks forward to contributing to the future standard on “Material Efficiency of the Repair of energy-related products”.

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The ETUC STAND project is financially supported by the European Commission and EFTA



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