**Artificial Intelligence standardisation
Inclusiveness Newsletter**

Edition 8 – April 2025

The inclusiveness Newsletter aims at facilitating a large participation of all stakeholders to the preparation of European standards on Artificial Intelligence (AI). It shares updated information on the landscape of standardisation activities in international bodies: the European Union, CEN CENELEC Technical Committee JTC21, ISO-IEC Technical Committees, namely ISO-IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI, and other fora. It is distributed to several hundreds of people.

The writers try to be as accurate and factual as possible and the contents are reviewed by the CEN CENELEC JTC21 Task Group Inclusiveness. However, this newsletter is not binding and should not be considered as representing the official positioning of the bodies it quotes.

ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation is providing secretariat and contact services for the newsletter. You may register to the distribution list here. Any other correspondence should be addressed to TG_Inclusiveness@etuc.org.

All issues are also available on line:

•   JTC 21 website: www.jtc21.eu

•   CEN CENELEC JTC 21 LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8793224/

•   ETUC: https://www.etuc.org/en/artificial-intelligence-standardisation-inclusiveness-newsletter

News from the European Union

Annual Union Work Program on standardisation:

On March 20th, the European Commission published the document C(2025) 1654 which details the 2025 annual Union work programme for European standardisation. The programme has identified the following policy priorities among 78 actions:

• Bio-materials, bio-based, and wood-derived products

• Critical raw materials for batteries of electric vehicles

• Qualification of small modular reactor materials

• EU Digital Identity wallet

• EU Trusted Data Framework

• Standards driving quantum technology development and implementation of Post-Quantum cryptography protocols.

Among the actions related to the digital transition, the following should be noted:

• Cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements

• EU Trusted Data Framework

• Interoperability for data processing services

• Secure, interoperable virtual and augmented reality ecosystem and virtual economy

• Intermediary digital services

• Data dictionaries in the engineering sector

And of course, Support of EU policy on artificial intelligence, which is covered by CEN CENELEC JTC21

EU AI board:

On March 24th, the EU AI Board convened for its third meeting to advance EU AI policy.

The AI Office provided the AI Board with updates on recent advancements and forthcoming priorities related to the implementation of the AI Act. Key highlights included guidelines on AI system definitions and prohibitions, the third draft of the Code of Practice for general-purpose AI, and the launch of the call for the scientific panel. See:

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/ai-board-convenes-its-third-meeting-advance-eu-ai-policy?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

GPAI Code of Practice

The third draft of the General-Purpose AI Code of Practice, developed by a group of independent experts, was published on March 11th. This marks the final stage of the drafting process, with the Code set to be finalised based on feedback from stakeholders.

The draft lays out a concise set of high-level commitments, along with practical measures to support their implementation. It includes 2 Commitments related to transparency and copyright for all providers of general-purpose AI models, and further 16 Commitments related to safety and security that apply only for providers of general-purpose AI models classified as general-purpose AI models with systemic risk. See:

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/third-draft-general-purpose-ai-code-practice-published-written-independent-experts

Funding:

The EUACT-AI project launched a call for funding to support experts involved in the work of JTC 21. The responsibilities of selected experts will include participating in standardisation meetings, contributing to the drafting of technical documents, and reporting on their activities. Note that the application deadline for this call was March 27th.

<u>Scientific panel:</u>

On March 11th, the Commission adopted an implementing act to establish a scientific panel under the AI Act. This advisory body will play a key role in the governance, offer technical advice and input on enforcement, including the ability to alert the AI Office of risks posed by a general-purpose AI model. As a next step, the Commission will soon launch a call for expression of interest to select the experts. See:

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-adopts-implementing-act-establish-scientific-panel-under-ai-act?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

CEN CENELEC JTC21

<u>JTC 21 11th plenary meeting:</u>

The next plenary meeting will be held in Stavanger, Norway, from May 12th to 15th, and will be provided in hybrid mode. A summary of the main decisions from the meeting will be featured in Inclusiveness Newsletter #9, set to be published by early July.

<u>Timeline:</u>

The AI Act should come into force by August 2026. JTC 21 is monitoring very closely the development timelines of each standard; delays should however be anticipated. Draft standards are expected to enter the public consultation process one after another over the course of the summer.

<u>Appointment of a co-chair of the Inclusiveness Task Group:</u>

Cezara Popovici (ANEC) was appointed co-chair of the Task Group, joining Philippe Saint-Aubin (ETUC).

<u>Good practices in standardisation:</u>

JTC 21 published 2 new documents in March.

- *Best practice for JTC 21 Working Groups* aims at improving the internal dynamics of WGs, particularly during meetings involving a large number of experts.

- *Health and Safety Policy Paper for JTC 21* provides tips for managing stress experienced by experts due to heavy workloads.

Both document are available upon request from the JTC21 secretariat.

<u>EU results of standards assessment:</u>

As reported in Inclusiveness Newsletter #7, JTC 21 submitted provisional drafts of 6 standards to the European Commission in February.

o *AI trustworthiness framework*

o   *AI Risk Management*

o   *Cybersecurity specifications of AI systems*

o   *Quality and governance of AI in data sets*

o   *Quality Management system for EU AI Act regulatory purposes*

o   *Concepts, measures and requirements for managing bias in AI systems*

The European Commission has provided preliminary assessments for the first five drafts. These have been shared with the relevant working groups, who are now integrating the feedback into the ongoing standards development process.

Progress in JTC21 Working groups:

As a reminder, due to confidentiality rules, the details of draft standards are only made publicly available during the of public enquiry phase. However, should you be interested in a particular subject, you can reach out to your National Standardisation Body. Several of the standards currently in development are expected to enter public enquiry within the coming weeks/ months. Most are currently in the Comment Resolution stage. More precise information will be provided in Inclusiveness Newsletter #9, following the Stavanger plenary meeting.

- **WG2 – Operational aspects:**

Work is in progress on 3 documents: *Conformity assessment, Quality management system, Risk Management.*

CD (Committee Draft) ballots expected soon on these documents, which are seen as essential in the framework of the Standardisation Request.

- **WG3 – Engineering aspects:**

Work in progress on *Datasets, Bias, Computer vision, Natural language processing, Logging* (CD ballot in progress), *Robustness*. Also, *Taxonomy of AI system methods and capabilities* with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42: CD in July August.

- **WG4 - Foundational and societal aspects**

The Technical Report CEN/CLC/TR 18145:2025 Environmentally sustainable Artificial Intelligence was published in February.

WG4 main activity is the drafting of *AI Trustworthiness framework*, another essential document called by the Standardisation Request. The CD is still in the Comment resolution phase.

Other projects at earlier stage:

o   *Competence requirements for AI ethicists professionals*

o   *Guidelines on tools for ethical aspects handling in AI systems life cycle.*

o   *Guidance for upskilling on AI ethics and social concerns in organizations.*

o   *Sustainable AI – Guidelines and metrics for the environmental impact of artificial intelligence systems and services*

o   *Fundamental rights considerations* for AI providers

o   *Risk management on critical infrastructure*

A Preliminary Work Item has been proposed: *AI intervention labelling.* The scope is to establish the necessary links between potential graphical symbols and the relevant AI concepts to help stakeholders identify content generated by AI systems, content produced by humans, and hybrid content.

- **WG5 - Cybersecurity for AI**

Cybersecurity specifications for AI systems is in progress. A joint meeting was held with WG2 to discuss where and how to deal with cybersecurity risks. *Cybersecurity treats and mitigation* is also in progress with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC27.

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42

SC42 plenary meeting was held in New Delhi, India, from March 31st to April 4th. SC42 is a major international committee actively working on dozens of AI related standards, both published or in progress. This report concentrates on documents which may be of interest to civil society and skips those with a purely technical content.

Some key take-aways:

- General: given that AI is a transversal subject, SC42 has regular contacts with other bodies including IEC, for a common strategic approach for AI coverage, the United Nations, the OECD, the World Economic Forum, and with other committees: cinematography, particles, health informatics, financial services.

- WG1: Foundational standards

o   Two standards have reached the Final draft stage and could be published later this year:

ISO/IEC 42005- *AI system impact assessment* and ISO/IEC 42006 - *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of artificial intelligence management systems.*

o   ISO/IEC 24970 *AI system logging* is under Committee Draft consultation. This document is developed jointly with CEN CENELEC JTC21. ISO leads.

o   Work in progress ISO/IEC 42102: *Taxonomy of AI system methods and capabilities.*

o   WG1 is currently amending ISO/IEC 22989:2022 *Artificial intelligence concepts and terminology* and ISO/IEC 23053:2022 *Framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems Using Machine Learning (ML).* These serve as parent standards for many other documents developed in SC42. The amendments aim to better address generative AI systems, which were still

emerging at the time of their publication. The revisions are now at the stage of Committee Draft comments resolution.

o WG1 continues to prepare a Handbook to help SMEs applying ISO/IEC 42001:2023 *AI Management System.*

o Following contacts with OECD, WG1 opens a new project "*Artificial Intelligence – Common reporting framework for AI incidents".*

- WG2: Data

o ISO/IEC 5259 1 to 5 on data quality have been published. The current focus is on:

o ISO/IEC TR 5259-6 - *Data quality for analytics and machine learning (ML) — Part 6: Visualization framework for data quality*

o ISO/IEC 25590 - *Guidance for output data quality of generative AI applications.*

o ISO/IEC WD TR 42103 - *Overview of synthetic data in the context of AI systems*

- WG3: Trustworthiness:

o ISO/IEC 12792 - *Transparency* is ready for publication.

o ISO/IEC 6254 - *Objectives and approaches for explainability and interpretability of machine learning models and artificial intelligence systems.* The Committee Draft is under ballot.

Work is in progress for several other documents whatever their future status (standard, technical specification, technical report). This includes:

o ISO/IEC 18966 – *Oversight of AI systems*

o ISO/IEC 22443 - *Guidance on addressing societal concerns and ethical considerations*

o ISO/IEC 24029.3 – *Assessment of the robustness of neural networks*

o ISO/IEC 25029 – *AI nudging mechanisms*

o ISO/IEC 25566 - *Terminology and concepts for domain engineering of AI systems*

o ISO/IEC 25568 - *Guidance on addressing risks in generative AI systems*

o ISO/IEC 25570 – *Reliability assessment of AI systems*

o ISO/IEC 25571 - *Example template for documenting ethical issues of an AI system*

o ISO/IEC 42105 - *Guidance for human oversight of AI systems*

o ISO/IEC 42106 - *Overview of differentiated benchmarking of AI system quality characteristics*

A new project on ISO/IEC 42117 – *Trustworthiness fact labels* is being launched.

- WG4: Use cases and applications

o ISO/IEC TR 24030 ed.2 *AI – Use cases* was published in 2024. It includes 81 in-operation use cases out of 187 use case collection.

The work is ongoing on:

o ISO/IEC TR 21221– *Beneficial AI systems*. Committee draft submitted

o ISO/IEC TR 20226 – *Environmental sustainability aspects of AI systems*: DTR ballot about to be initiated.

o ISO/IEC TR 42109 – *Use cases of human-machine teaming*. Some use cases are being collected

o ISO/IEC 25589 - *Framework for human-machine teaming*: just started

A new project is also proposed for a document on potential graphical symbols to help stakeholders identify content generated by AI systems, content produced by humans, and hybrid content.

- A joint Advisory group was created on AI and sustainability with ISO/IEC JTC1/SC39 (Sustainability AI and data centers). This group is tasked with road mapping in this area and providing recommendations for potential new projects.

- A joint Advisory group was created with CASCO, the ISO body in charge of Conformity Assessment ISO/IEC AWI 42007 - *High-level framework and guidance for the development of conformity assessment schemes for AI systems.*

Fora

EU High Level Forum (HLF) on artificial Intelligence:

Workstream 12 of the HLF dedicated to AI met on March 4th and reviewed the past and future outreach actions in the field. SIS Sweden, Malta Digital Innovation Authority, British Standard Institute, Danish Standards, ANEC, ETUC have all planed events for 2025.

UK AI standard hub webinars:

On 4 February, over 350 participants joined the high-impact webinar, **Implementing the EU AI Act through Standards**, organised by the AI Standards Hub and the CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 AI Inclusiveness Task Group (TG). Considering that technical standards will play a critical role in ensuring compliance with key requirements of the EU AI Act, the webinar provided a crucial opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to learn about ongoing work within JTC 21, the committee responsible for developing these standards. The webinar focused in particular on the development of a European standard on AI Risk Management.

The webinar was followed by a workshop on April 22nd seeking inputs on risk management from civil society representatives.

On March 17th-18th, the AI Standards Hub Global Summit explored the role of standards in AI governance, examining recent developments, key challenges, and emerging needs to foster global inclusiveness and collaboration in AI standardisation.

See https://www.aistandardshub.org/

Nice to know, useful to read

Support for public buyers:

In order to support public buyers in procuring AI-enabled solutions that are trustworthy, fair and secure, the Commission has published model contractual clauses. An update is now available with;

- a full version for high-risk AI, aligned with the EU AI Act;

- a light version, customisable to specific needs for non-high-risk AI;

- a commentary, providing guidance on how to use, customise and apply the clauses in practice.

See : https://public-buyers-community.ec.europa.eu/communities/procurement-ai/resources/updated-eu-ai-model-contractual-clauses

HS booster training academy. Conformity assessment:

The HSbooster.eu Standardisation Training Academy offers a wide range of training courses and online sessions that have been carefully selected and developed by top-class researchers, trainers, and standard-developing organisations (SDOs). These resources cover a broad range of domains, including ICT and security standards, health and safety, quality management, energy management, environmental management, and food safety.

See https://hsbooster.eu/training-academy

Two courses on conformity assessment are of particular interest:

- The role of conformity assessment in quality infrastructure. https://www.hsbooster.eu/training-academy/role-conformity-assessment-quality-infrastructure

- Conformity assessment schemes and systems https://www.hsbooster.eu/training-academy/conformity-assessment-schemes-and-systems

New Factsheet on AI trustworthiness standard

ANEC published a new factsheet laying down the fundamentals of the upcoming trustworthiness standard. For more details check the document [here](#).

AI Taskforce on Standardisation

Thanks to funding from EAISF, ANEC set up a new taskforce bringing together consumer and civil society representatives which are interested in AI standardisation. The first meeting of the group is end of April and it will offer training on AI and standards building. This pilot taskforce shall run until the end of the year and be active at national level.

Webinar on AI standards and Human rights

On 9 April, ANEC organised a webinar on the role of human rights in AI standardisation. The webinar had guest speakers from the EC Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and an attendance of 78 participants. More details on this webinar and its relevant slides are available here ([ANEC public webinar: Fundamental rights and AI standards](#))

Standards at the workplace:

In March, ETUC published a handbook *[Standards at the workplace: What they are and why you need to know about them](#)* introducing the world of standards and explaining their impact on workers. This handbook is not specific to AI, but informs on what standards are, why they exist, how they affect people's working lives and how trade unions can use standards to improve the world of work. Alongside this publication, the ETUC has also released a compelling video, *[Trade Unions and Standardisation](#)*, aimed at further encouraging and empowering trade union participation in standard-setting processes.

ENDS.