**Artificial Intelligence standardisation
Inclusiveness Newsletter**

Edition 4 – July 2024

The Inclusiveness Newsletter aims at facilitating a large participation of all stakeholders in the preparation of European standards on Artificial Intelligence (AI). It shares updated information on the landscape of standardisation activities in international bodies. Such bodies may be:

- CEN CENELEC Technical Committees, namely Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 21

- ISO-IEC Technical Committees, namely ISO-IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI

- Other international fora

The writers try to be as accurate and factual as possible and the contents are reviewed by the members of the Task Group (TG) Inclusiveness. However, this newsletter is not binding and should not be considered as representing the official positions of bodies it quotes.

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 by August 23rd for the next issue planed by early September.

All issues are also available on line:

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

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

• We are pleased to announce that the newsletter is now also referenced in CEN CENELEC *On the Spot* magazine. See https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/newsletter/on-the-spot-issue-52-may-2024/

News from the European Union

• The Commission launched the public consultation on the evaluation of Regulation 1025/2012 on European standardisation. The consultation is open until 25 July 2024. See https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13446-European-standardisation-evaluation/public-consultation_en

• On 19 June, the Commission hosted the first High-Level meeting for the upcoming EU's AI Board. Its target is to drive AI Act implementation forward. See https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-hosts-high-level-meeting-upcoming-eus-ai-board-drive-ai-act-implementation-forward?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

• The 7th Sherpa meeting of the EU High Level Forum on standardisation took place on 14 May. It reviewed the draft 2025 Union Work Programme on standardisation, which includes several recommendations on AI. Digital Europe and SBS presented a proposal for potential new areas of focus/work for the Forum. Working streams (WS) presented the progress of their activity, namely:

- • WS2 - Fundamental rights and standards

- • WS3 - Peer review of National Standardisation Bodies

- • WS4 - Alignment between European and international standards

- • WS5 - Greater civil society inclusion in standardisation at

- • WS12 – Artificial intelligence. This WS met on 28 June. It reviewed many initiatives to increase awareness on AI and AI standards taken by ANEC, ETSI, Digital Europe and NSBs in Denmark, Ireland, Malta or Sweden. More info is available from each of these bodies. The European Commission presented the *Enterprise Europe Network* dedicated to SMEs. See https://een.ec.europa.eu/

- • A new WS 16 is launched on Quantum technology

• The European Commission (EC) is preparing a standardisation request (SReq) for a European trusted data framework with 5 standards: data transaction, data catalogue, trusted ontology and data models, quality assessment of internal data governance process, maturity assessment of common European data space. This SReq is independent from the SReq on AI, but there are obvious connections between both of them.

• On 14 May, the European social partners (employers' and employees' representatives) of the banking sector published a *Joint declaration on employment aspects of artificial intelligence,* which details the way AI systems should be designed, implemented and operated. See https://www.ebf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Press-Release-Final-1.pdf

CEN CENELEC JTC21

• JTC 21 plenary meeting together with meetings of its 5 working groups took place in Bath (UK) from 3 to 5 June with decision making meeting on 7 June. More than 150 people from at least 20 European countries attended physically or on line, in addition to observers from Australia, Canada and Japan.

• EC **DG Connect mentioned that a slightly updated SReq supporting the AI Act is in preparation.** Most provisions of the AI Act should enter into force by July 2026, with some of them one year later. The EC reminded JTC21 plenary participants the very short deadlines and that working groups should concentrate on the actual production of usable harmonised standards.

• JTC21 chairman and WG convenors noted that the SReq requires a significant amount of work. It is essential that new experts join the working groups. Given the size of the AI community, it should not be so difficult to find competent people in CEN CENELEC member countries.

• Civil society organisations were significantly present with reports presented by ANEC, Equinet, ETUC, For Humanity and SBS.

• Several new projects are being launched either as Preliminary Work Items (PWI) or as New Work Item proposals (NWIP):
  o NWIP direct adoption of the ISO/IEC 5259-series on Data quality for analysis and machine learning
  o NWIP "AI Conformity assessment framework"
  o NWIP "AI – Quality management system for regulatory purposes"
  o NWIP "AI– Evaluation methods for accurate computer vision systems"
  o NWIP "AI – Taxonomy of AI tasks in computer vision"
  o NWIP "AI – Cybersecurity specifications for AI Systems"
  o NWIP "Information technology – AI – Taxonomy of AI system methods and capabilities"
  o PWI "Sustainable AI – Guidelines and metrics for the environmental impact of AI systems and services"
  o PWI "Guidelines on tools for ethical aspects handling in AI systems life cycle"
  o PWI "Guidelines for upskilling on AI ethics and social concerns in organizations"

• On average it was noted an acceleration in the standard development process for:
  o WG2: risk management, conformity assessment, quality management
  o WG3: data management and logging
  o WG4: trustworthiness
  o WG5: cybersecurity

• Next plenary meeting is planned in Torino (Italy) from 4 to 6 November while working groups will continue their intense pace of meetings.

• More information may be obtained from the participants or from your National Standardisation Body (NSB).

• Since the plenary in Bath, the following 2 international standards have been proposed for adoption as European standards:
  o ISO/IEC 25059 "Software engineering - Systems and software Quality - Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) - Quality model for AI systems.
  o ISO/IEC 12792 "Information technology - Artificial intelligence – Transparency taxonomy of AI systems".

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42

Among the many standards under preparation at ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI, one should note:

• In WG1, 2 standards are close to adoption: AI system impact assessment and Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of AI systems. Work has been initiated for a standard on reliability of AI systems.

• 	In WG3, 2 standards are close to adoption: bias and transparency while a standard on logging is in full development.

• 	Reminder: the Inclusiveness Newsletter No.3 reported with more details on the SC42 plenary in April.

• 	The ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 Secretary has kindly shared with CEN CENELEC JTC21 the published SC 42 standards from Feb 2023 to Jun 2024. These are available for JTC21 members at: https://sd.cen.eu/documents/ui/#!/browse/cen/cen-clc-jtc-21/library/6/ISO-IEC%20JTC%201-SC%2042%20documents/Published_SC42_Documents

Contact your National Standardisation Body for further information.

More forums

• 	Equinet 2024 meetings: the gender impact of AI (April 11th); Practical & Ethical Issues Surrounding the Use of AI in Communication (May 29th-30th); and webinar series on gender equality scheduled for September 2024. See https://equineteurope.org/mini-webinars-on-ai-and-gender-equality/

• 	CPDP conference in Brussels. 'New Governance and Inclusiveness in AI Standardisation - how far have we gone?' To discuss this topic, ANEC brought together on 23 May the European Commission, CEN-CENELEC JTC 21, ETUC and SBS, allowing the audience to learn about the expectations for increased inclusiveness in AI Standardisation, which actions have been undertaken and what has been achieved so far. The panelists and moderator acknowledged that challenges to participation in the process remain and that more actions, funding and training are still required to achieve the goal of better representation of consumer and civil society stakeholders in AI Standardisation. ANEC thanked the European AI and Society Fund for financing this event and took the opportunity to tell the audience about ANEC's activities to promote inclusiveness in AI standardisation via the Mercator and the European AI and Society Fund projects. Our CPDP panel debate is available to view here https://bit.ly/3R8etdO

• 	On 5 June, SBS and CEN-CENELEC co-organised a workshop with the support of the Belgian FPS Economy. The goal of the workshop, organized under the High-Level Forum on European standardisation (HLF) and its workstream on inclusiveness in national standardisation, was to tackle issues of access and participation in standardisation at the national level and discuss and promote best practices. In order to do so, the event brought together government representatives, officials from national standardisation bodies (NSBs) and standardisation practitioners from a wide range of stakeholder communities (SMEs, large companies, consumers, environmental NGOs, trade unions, academia) to share their insights and expertise. More at https://sbs-sme.eu/event/driving-inclusiveness-in-standardisation-how-to-strengthen-national-participation/

• 	On 19 June, ANEC and BEUC organised a workshop on "Civil society engagement in AI standardisation: How to maximise participation?" This virtual event gathered over 40 participants from civil society organisations. Participants received information on the state of play of AI standardisation from Antoine-Alexandre André (AI Office) and standardisation tips from Emilia Tantar (chair of JTC 21 WG 2 and SBS representative). The workshop concluded with break-out rooms where participants could discuss the

barriers to joining AI standardisation and how to engage or better engage. The Mercator Foundation supported this workshop.

- CEN CENELEC webinar on 27 June '*Inclusive Standardization - Enhancing the involvement of societal stakeholders and SMEs in the standard development process'*. The presentations and recording are available at https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/events/2024/2024-06-27-webinar-inclusive-standardization/

Nice to know, useful to read

- The EU AI Act Newsletter is a brief biweekly newsletter by the Future of Life Institute providing with up-to-date developments and analyses of the EU AI law. With 26 000 subscribers, it is a mine of useful info (beyond standards). For example #52 includes free tools to navigate the final text of the AI Act. See https://artificialintelligenceact.substack.com/

- An excellent paper by Christian Grafenauer from ANEC "Protecting consumer rights with AI Act and JTC21 standards". See https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/protecting-consumer-rights-ai-act-cencenelec-jtc-21-grafenauer-hdbjf

- Spain: an agreement has just been reached with the two main Spanish employers' organisations (CEOE and CEPYME) and the two largest trade unions (CCOO and UGT). The "5th Agreement for Employment and Collective Bargaining", which is binding on all parties, contains a substantial section on "*Artificial Intelligence and guaranteeing the principle of human control and the right to information on algorithms*".

- Italy: a law project on AI will be soon studied by the Parliament. It includes 2 articles on AI in the work environment. See https://www.reuters.com/technology/italys-cabinet-outlines-framework-investment-artificial-intelligence-2024-04-23/

- Poland: a project of modification of the trade union bill was submitted to the Polish Parliament on 11 June. The project concerns supplementing the catalogue of information that the employer is obliged to provide at the request of the company's trade union organisation. It will enable trade unions to request information about parameters of the algorithms (involved, for instance, in profiling) used in the workplace to make decisions related to the employee's situation.