Artificial Intelligence standardisation **Inclusiveness Newsletter**

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. 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 TG Inclusiveness. However, this newsletter is not binding and should not be considered as representing the official positioning of 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.

The distribution of this sixth Newsletter has been slightly delayed in order to provide information on the CEN CENELEC JTC21 plenary meeting which took place from November 4th to 6th.

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/

News from the European Union

- The European Commission is drafting an amendment to the AI standardisation request, which will detail the link between this request and the relevant articles of the AI Act (Regulation 2024-1689). It also clears some difficulties raised during standard preparation like the definition of a risk: "the combination of the probability of an occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm".

- EU JRC (Joint Research Center) has published a policy brief on AI standardisation: "Harmonised Standards for the European AI Act". The brief discusses the key characteristics expected from upcoming standards that would support the implementation of the AI Act. See:

https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC139430?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

- Over one hundred companies sign AI Pact pledges:

The European Commission has announced over a hundred initial signatories to the AI Pact, including multinational corporations and SMEs from various sectors. The Pact supports voluntary adherence to the AI Act principles before its official implementation and deepens engagement between the AI Office and stakeholders. Signatories commit to at least three core actions: developing an AI governance strategy to comply with the Act, mapping high-risk AI systems, and promoting AI literacy among staff. More than half of the participants have also pledged to ensure human oversight, mitigate risks and transparently label certain AI-generated content. The Pact remains open for companies to join and commit to both the core and additional pledges until the AI Act is fully applied.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4864

- The iterative drafting of the General-Purpose AI Code of Practice launched by the EU reached an important milestone with the publication of a first draft Code of Practice on November 14th. This concluded the first drafting round. More will follow until April 2025. The document was prepared by independent experts, appointed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of four thematic working groups during the September 30th kick-off meeting. The work is ongoing. See:

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

Meetings to gather feedback were held from November 18th to 22nd.

- Empowering Standardisation through Education in Europe (not specific to AI):

EDU4Standards.eu is a brand-new research project funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme. Led by Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the consortium brings together universities, higher education institutes, standardisation bodies and associations, and SMEs. More at https://www.edu4standards.eu/

- Stephane Sejourné hearing at European Parliament

On November 12th, four parliamentary committees questioned Stephane Sejourné, French candidate for the Prosperity and Industrial Strategy portfolio. His portfolio includes the EU standardisation policy. More at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20241029IPR25052/hearing-of-executive-vice-president-designate-stephane-sejourne

- Multi-stakeholder consultation on the application of the definition of an AI system and the prohibited AI practices established in the AI Act:

The European AI Office is launching this consultation targeted to stakeholders of different categories, including providers and deployers of AI systems such as businesses, authorities (including local public authorities) and other organisations, academia and research institutions, trade unions and other workers' representatives, civil society organisations, public supervisory authorities, and the general public. More at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Prohibitions-and-Definition-Survey-2024

CEN CENELEC JTC21

- First JTC21 published document: CEN/CLC/TR 18115:2024 Data governance and quality for AI within the European context

Prepared by WG3, this technical report is the first concrete deliverable of JTC21. Domenico Natale, project leader of the publication on behalf of the WG3 convenor James Davenport, highlights the importance of the paragraph concerning inclusiveness in the TR. It briefly describes a practical experience in the field of Italian Public Administration applying also through existing national law, the EU Directive 2016/2102 on accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public bodies. The experience does not concern AI but could be useful to organise also the data governance and the quality of AI systems. The general activity about this topic is shown on the European Directive on Web Accessibility (EU Directive 2016/2102) with regard to monitoring reports.

The organisational and technical rules proposed, which will have to be implemented by the Member States, are described with a diagram and with a specific sample realised in Italy according to the Directive.

- JTC21 plenary meeting took place in Torino (Italy) from November 4th to 6th. More than 120 people from 21 European countries attended physically or on line. The EU Commission and representatives of Japan, industry associations, consumers, workers and NGOs also participated.

- The EU Commission announced additional standardisation requests on biometrics and resource performance beginning 2025. Requirements on general purpose AI systems will come at a later stage. The Commission urged to accelerate the work on the 10 standards mentioned in its AI SR (Standardisation request).

- Liaison and partner reports were provided by ANEC, 5 Rights foundation, Equinet, BDVA (Big Data Value Association), Digital Europe, OWASP (Open Worldwide Application Security Project), SBS (Small Business Standard) and SME.

- **WG1 - Strategic Advisory Group**

WG1 reported the discussion on key definitions to be used in all AI standards. TG Inclusiveness also reported its activity. The work program should from now on concentrate on the standards that are part of the SR, with less priority on other projects. A New Work Item on Functional safety has been proposed for joint development with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42.

- **WG2 – Operational aspects**

WG2 is actively working on Conformity assessment, QMS (Quality Management System) and Risk management. For the latter, it is expected that a working draft will be circulated for comments by late 2024 / early 2025. The deadline for a draft submission to CEN Enquiry was extended to August 2025.

- **WG3 – Engineering aspects**

WG3 announced:

o   In the projects drafting the standards on Bias and Datasets, all contributions so far have been processed.
o   The start of work on computer vision (taxonomy and accuracy).
o   The joint work with ISO/IEC SC42 on robustness, natural language processing and logging.

- **WG4 - Foundational and societal aspects**

WG4 reported:

o   <u>Work in progress</u>:

- AI trustworthiness framework: a working draft was circulated for comments just after the plenary meeting. The draft reflects ANEC's extensive input on the lifecycle perspective of AI as a product/service on the market".
- Environmentally sustainable Artificial Intelligence.
- Sustainable Artificial Intelligence – Guidelines and metrics for the environmental impact of artificial intelligence systems and services.
- Competence requirements for AI ethicists professionals.
- AI-Enhanced Nudging in parallel development with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42.

o   <u>Preliminary Work Items</u>:

- Guidance for upskilling organisations on AI ethics and social concerns
- Guidelines on tools for handling ethical issues in AI system life cycle
- Impact assessment in the context of the EU Fundamental Rights

- **WG5 - Joint standardisation on Cybersecurity for AI**

WG5 agreed on the structure of the cybersecurity standard. A Committee Draft ballot is expected by January 2025. There is an ongoing joint work with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC27 Cybersecurity threats and mitigation.

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42

- More than 150 people from at least 33 countries attended the plenary meeting held in Versailles (France) from October 7th to 11th under Wael Diab's (USA) chairmanship. 70 National Standardisation Bodies and more than 800 experts are registered in the subcommittee among 5 working groups:

o   WG 1 - Foundational standards
o   WG 2 - Data
o   WG 3 - Trustworthiness
o   WG 4 - Use cases and applications
o   WG 5 - Computational approaches and computational characteristics of AI systems

Other working groups have been set-up between SC42 and partners

o with SC7 (Software and system engineering): Testing of AI-based Systems; supporting ISO/IEC 25059 2° edition adding safety and supporting ISO/IEC 5259-2:2024 on Data models: in both standards the accessibility characteristics is included to support inclusiveness of disabled people and all and users

o with ISO TC 215 (Health informatics) : AI-enabled Health Informatics

o with SC65A and IEC TC 65 (Industrial-process measurement, control and automation): Functional safety and AI systems

o with TC 37 (Language and terminology): Natural language processing

o with CEN CENELEC JTC21: Joint development of standards.

• SC42 has published 32 standards so far (12 since last year). 44 projects are active, of which 23 new projects added to the work program since last plenary. It would then be too long to mention all active projects. Some of them are of special interest for civil society representatives.

• **WG1**

o <u>Ongoing projects</u>

  ▪ ISO/IEC 22989 AI concepts and terminology and ISO/IEC 23053 Framework for Systems Using Machine Learning. These 2 existing reference standards (22989 is available free of charge) present AI basic concepts. They are being amended in order to take generative AI into account.

  ▪ ISO/IEC 42005 – AI system impact assessment. Should be published in the coming weeks

  ▪ ISO/IEC 42006 Artificial intelligence – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of artificial. Final ballot stage.

  ▪ ISO/IEC 29470 — AI system logging: joint development with CEN CENELEC JTC21.

o <u>New projects</u>

  ▪ ISO/IEC 42007: High-level framework and guidance for the development of conformity assessment schemes for AI systems. Joint development with CASCO (ISO Committee on Conformity assessment)
  ▪ Implementation guidance for ISO/IEC 42001. Targeting mainly SMEs
  ▪ Joint expert group with SC27 to consider Trustworthy AI Systems Evaluation Criteria and Trustworthy AI Systems Evaluation Methodology

• **WG3**

o ISO/IEC 12791: Treatment of unwanted bias and ISO/IEC 12792 – Transparency taxonomy of AI systems are ready for publication.

o ISO/IEC 6254: Explainability of AI systems. Work in progress.

- o   ISO/IEC 42105: Guidance for human oversight of AI systems. Work in progress.

- o   ISO/IEC 25029 - AI enhanced nudging: joint development with CEN CENELEC JTC21

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

- o   <u>New projects launched:</u>

    - ▪   Watermarking / system labelling: aim is to help the general public to identify AI generated output.
    - ▪   Documentation template for Ethical implications of an AI system
    - ▪   Reliability of AI systems

- •   **WG4 Technical reports in the making**

- o   TR 20226 - Environmental sustainability aspects of AI systems: draft TR expected soon.
- o   TR 21221– Beneficial AI systems.
- o   TR 25589 - Use cases of human-machine teaming.

Forum

- •   On December 6th, ETUC and OGBL (Luxembourg union) holds a national awareness event in Luxembourg on standardisation **"Standardisation: It is also important for Unions"**. The event is organised in collaboration with ILNAS, Luxembourg's national standardisation body. It aims at raising awareness around standardisation and its relevance for trade unions. Participants hear about the interconnection between standards and legislation, the geopolitical dimension of standards, the role of ILNAS, and learn more about European and International standard setting activities, including practical case studies.

- •   High-Level Conference - Coding Equality in the EU AI Act: Equality Bodies rising to the Challenge

This High-Level Conference will take place *online* and in **person in Brussel**s *on 12 December 2024 from 9.00 to 16.45 CET.* The conference is organised by Equinet, with the support of Unia, the Swedish Equality Ombudsman, the Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud and Luminate. It is aimed at Equality Bodies, European law and policy makers, civil society organisations, experts and activists working on the implications of AI systems for equality and non-discrimination. Registration by December 10th at https://crm.equineteurope.org/form/coding-

- •   The 2024 DIGITAL SME Summit will feature the Small Business System Forum for ICT Standardisation, titled "Strengthening Europe's Standardisation Expertise through Education". Scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, the event will be held at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. It will spotlight the specific educational needs of the industry, particularly SMEs. See https://summit.digitalsme.eu/

- The Athens Roundtable on AI and the rule of law Sixth Edition will be hosted at the OECD Headquarters in Paris and online on December 9. This edition will address urgent challenges in ensuring the secure, safe, and trustworthy development of advanced AI systems. See:

https://www.aiathens.org/dialogue/sixth-edition

- Arnaud Latil (Sorbonne University) and Marion Ho-Dac are coordinating 2 live webinars for/with the EU AI Office on 28/11 and 17/12. The objective is to present the EU AI Act to all stakeholders so that it can be implemented gradually (AI Pact). Here is the link to the first (past) seminar "Exploring the architecture of the AI Act) : https://www.youtube.com/live/eLlSXs1f9Jc

- The AI standards Hub from UK and TG Inclusiveness will organise on February 4th a webinar presenting to civil society organisations the EU standardisation request on AI and the role of CEN CENELEC JTC 21, the current work on the Risk Management standard, and the question of fundamental rights. More information to come with registration details for the recipients of this Newsletter.

Nice to know, useful to read

- OSD platform will be the default choice for developing any eligible ISO/IEC deliverables:

Starting January 2025, Committees will begin new projects and revisions within OSD unless an exemption request is submitted to use the traditional Word-based template. This transition is supported by an extensive change management campaign, including comprehensive training. See:

 https://sway.cloud.microsoft/s4WjFoQKazarZFpF

- How to be Gender-Responsive in Standardization: CEN and CENELEC published a brochure on September 24th. See https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/publications/how-to-be-gender-responsive-in-standardization-read-cen-and-cenelec-s-new-brochure/

- 2 books for those who read French:

o Enrico Panai: *L'éthique de l'intelligence artificielle expliquée à mon fils*, éditions Mimesis (AI ethics explained to my son). Enrico Panai, an AI ethicist, is JTC21 WG4 convenor. While preparing pasta at home, Enrico and his son explore the domain of trustworthiness and risk in AI and discuss on the job of ethicist.

o Jean-Denis Combrexelle: *Les normes à l'assaut de la démocratie*, éditions Odile Jacob (Standards assaulting democracy). Why do our societies produce so many standards – laws, codes, regulations, etc.? Jean-Denis Combrexelle examines the political, legal and administrative mechanisms that, in France and Europe, contribute to the multiplication of standards and the lengthening of texts. Jean-Denis Combrexelle was president of the litigation section of the Council of State, chief of staff to Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne, director general of Labour.

ENDS.