LINKING RESEARCH AND STANDARDIZATION

Integrating standards in your research project:
a pocket guide for project proposers

Table of contents

Things you need to know about standards

➜ Standards are consensus-built

Standards are bottom-up documents created by bringing together all interested parties such as manufacturers, researchers, consumers and regulators concerning products, raw materials, processes or services. A standard is a technical document designed to be used as a rule, guideline or definition. It is a consensus-built, repeatable way of doing something.

➜ Standards can be fast-track

According to the needs and specificities of the interested stakeholders, there are different solutions. Fast-track standards are relevant to quickly-evolving environments such as R&D.

➜ European Standards can help you to go global

Working in Europe can produce very fast results. You can also easily access the international market. Through the close relationship between the European Standards Organisations and the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC) you can easily access the international market as all CEN and CENELEC Members are a member of ISO as well. It is through these relationships that your interests are also ensured at the international level.

Who are we?

➜ The European Standards Organisations

CEN, the European Committee for Standardization,
CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization,
are two of the three European Standards Organisations (ESOs).

The Members of CEN and CENELEC are National Standards Bodies in 31 European countries.

Through Technical Committees and other groups of interested stakeholders, the ESOs provide platforms for the development of European Standards and other consensus-based publications.

➜ The CEN-CENELEC Management Centre

The close collaboration between CEN and CENELEC was consolidated by the creation of the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre at the beginning of 2010.

The CEN-CENELEC Management Centre, located in Brussels, is in charge of the daily operations, coordination and promotion of all CEN and CENELEC activities.

What is the end-result of standardization?

➜ European Standards (ENs)

The European Standard (EN) is the flagship of the standardization activity in CEN and CENELEC. The process to deliver an EN normally takes a maximum of 3 years from the date that the technical work starts. Once approved, ENs are implemented at national level as identical national standards and conflicting national standards withdrawn. One EN therefore replaces 31 national standards. An EN may not be achievable for outputs that are at an experimental stage, though.

➜ Technical Specifications (TSs)

A Technical Specification (TS) can be produced when there is no immediate need or not enough consensus for an EN, or where technology is not mature enough, and the subject matter is still under technical development. A TS does not come with an obligation for national standardization bodies to adopt it as a national standard.

➜ Workshops

Workshops are fast, relatively informal, consensus-building groups, open to direct participation of any interested party. They are particularly suited to innovative experimental topics, often in connection with the output from research and innovation project. Their result is published as a CEN or CENELEC Workshop Agreement (CWA).

Why include standardization in your project?

In many EU calls for research and innovation projects, standardization is identified as a key activity, deliverable or targeted outcome of future projects.

Even if, in some other calls, standardization is not mentioned as such, you may still need to think about participating in standardization and benefit from:

- Dissemination of your research results
- Opportunity to network
- Possibility of licensing revenues from patents
- Faster and easier access to markets
- Helping access to public procurement markets
- Enhancement of the economic value of your research project
- Codification of the state of the art
- Interoperability
- Reassurance for consumers

Do you need standards?

Please have a look at these questions. If you answer "yes" to at least three of them, you may need to think seriously about standards!

- Have you developed or are you developing potentially innovative products or services? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Does your project have a potentially wide market application? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Do you intend to export your innovation to other countries in Europe or elsewhere? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are there elements of your project/innovation, which may be covered by regulation? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are there any existing standards or standards (national, European or international) in development related to your project? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Will any products arising from your project/innovation be of interest for public procurement? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are there likely to be any market-ready products within the next three years? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Will you need to be able to reassure consumers and others regarding the safety of your innovation? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Will you need to establish a new measurement regime to ensure reliability and comparability of results? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Will your innovation need to be compatible with other technologies? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Will you need to display some kind of mark of product quality? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Some examples of projects thinking "Standards First"

➜ Environment

The I-SOIL project, funded by the EU 7th Programme for Research and Development (FP7), aims at developing, validating and evaluating necessary concepts and strategies for the transfer of measured physical parameter distribution into maps.

Among the activities of the 'Dissemination' work-package of I-SOIL is the development of a CEN Workshop Agreement around a Best Practice Approach for electromagnetic induction measurements of the near surface.

➜ Manufacturing technologies

The SMART-CM project, funded by the EU 7th Programme for Research and Development (FP7) will provide a solution for the interaction between public administrations and the market players involved in the container transport chain management and administration business.

The 'Dissemination and consensus building' work-package of SMART-CM foresees the development of a CEN Workshop Agreement which is currently being prepared (Container Security & Tracking Devices).

➜ Chemistry

COST Actions (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) can also lead to standardization activities. Based on the proposal of COST Action 540, dealing with Photocatalytic Technologies and Novel Nanosurfaces Materials, the CEN Members agreed to put into place Technical Committee 386 which is currently elaborating a European Standard on the measurement of efficiency of photocatalytic devices used for the elimination of VOC and odour in indoor air, in active mode.



When is it relevant to integrate standardization in your project?

This figure shows you that the sooner you get in touch with us, the easier it will be for you to integrate standardization in your project.

LINKING		
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION	AND	**STANDARDIZATION**
Developing a new project proposal	⟷	Screening existing standards and needs for standards
Drafting your project	⟷	• Identifying where standardization can benefit the project • Defining how you will work on standardization during your project and who will be your standardization partner
Performing your project	⟷	• Identifying standardization potential of project results • Working with your standardization partner • Contributing to standardization
Protecting, disseminating and using your project results	⟷	Using standards and standardization as dissemination channels

➜ We advise project proposers to contact us when they set-up their project so that we can identify how they can benefit and contribute to standardization.

But if your project is already running, it is not too late. We can still provide support and try to set up some links, including contacts with relevant relevant National Standards Bodies.

Integrating a standardization partner in your project

Once you have identified the benefit of integrating standardization in your project, you can decide how to do it. There are indeed several ways.

- If you think that you need the formal participation of a standardization partner in your project, please contact our Research Helpdesk (see back page) and we will try to find the best possible way to do this.
- The CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or a National Standards Body can also be associated with your project, for example in a Steering Group. This informal participation will only be possible in projects where there are specific work packages for standardization. Please contact our Research Helpdesk if you want to learn more about this.
- We can also support your project by signing a letter of intent, stating that we are willing to give full consideration to the project's future standards contributions when these are available.

What if your project is already up-and-running?

If your project is already up-and-running and there are existing standards activities, then you have the following options:

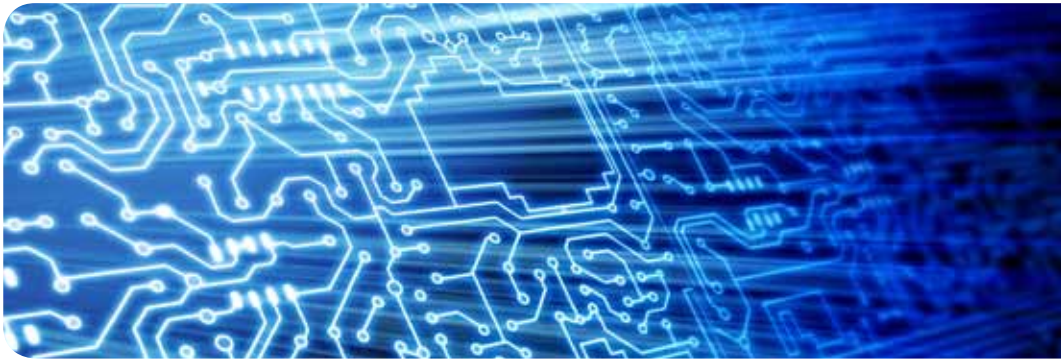
➜ Liaison

A project can request a liaison status with an existing CEN or CENELEC Technical Committee; as soon as this liaison status has been granted, the project can participate in the Technical Committee's plenary meetings and contribute to work in the working groups, for instance to assist the progression of the new work item that it has proposed.

➜ Participation in a workshop

In the case of a CEN or CENELEC Workshop, the individual partners in the project's consortium can directly participate in the Workshop that will deliver the CWA. Workshops operate by consensus of the contributing participants.

…in addition to these direct participation modes, one or more partners in a project consortium may join the CEN or CENELEC national member activities as a means to influence the Technical Committee work at the European level.



The CEN-CENELEC Research Helpdesk

The CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has put in place a Helpdesk dedicated to provide support to the research and innovation community on standards issues.

We are ready to answer your questions directly or to put you in contact with our Members.

If you want to have our opinion on how your project could benefit and contribute to standardization, please get in touch with us.

The research and innovation pages, provide detailed information about how to link research, innovation and standardization:
www.cen.eu/go/research or **www.cenelec.eu/go/research**

Contact the Research Helpdesk at the following email address:
research@cencenelec.eu

Avenue Marnix 17 - B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
info@cencenelec.eu
research@cencenelec.eu

www.cen.eu - www.cenelec.eu