

Joint Initiative on Standardisation
under the Single Market Strategy

Summary of Actions

13 June 2016 (Amsterdam, NL)

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7 June 2019 (Bucharest, RO)

Draft, v1

Title of the Action

Joint Initiative on Standardization Action 11: Pilot Project on Increased use of standards in Public Procurement

Objective of the Action [max 100 words]

The project aims to improve the use of standards in public procurement to increase the efficiency of public procurement activities, strengthen the competition and better achieve the ambitions of the EU procurement directives. Overall, it is about stimulating a more efficient single market including public procurement and contribute to growth. Ensuring better understanding between contracting entity and tenderer cross border and thereby achieving higher performance on contracts with focus on quality is key. More simple processes in procurement by referencing standards can also reduce total costs, which can be beneficial for both parties. To achieve such growth, the development, adoption and use of relevant standards in public procurement is recognized as a prerequisite.

Description of the Action's activities [max 200 words]

Output 1: An analysis of the use of standards within public procurement in Europe is to be carried out. Focus is on the current use of standards in public procurement documents. The activity aims at identifying the main barriers to the use of standards in public procurement, highlighting best practice within Construction, Medical devices, and Waste. The countries that were involved for case studies were: Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden.

Output 2: Guide on how to reference standards: The aim was to produce an overall European guide for public procurement with the content of how to reference standards in public procurement. The guide contains information on how to refer to standards in public tenders with reference to Article 42 and other standard related articles in Directive 2014/24/EU on Public Procurement.

Output 3: Integrity and Accountability standard (IAS): The output shall generate the establishment of a new technical committee on Public Procurement within the CEN system and the development of a draft European standard in a CEN/TC, in accordance with the standardization process.

Output 4: Dissemination: The output will disseminate the results from outputs 1 & 2 in order to increase the use of standards in public procurement through the development of teaching materials with case examples, workshops for public procurers and NSB:s in five European countries, and the development of a total dissemination package available for download.

Important milestones [max 100 words]

- Opening meeting for participants of Action 11, organized by SIS in February 2017
- Selection of external experts for the outputs, Selection Panels represented by CCMC, DS, MSZT and SIS (March-June 2018)

- Finalization of the Public procurement Guide in December 2018 (output 2) and of the Feasibility study for the analysis (output 1)
- Launching the online questionnaire on public sector procurement activities in January 2019 (output 1)
- The creation of CEN/TC 461 with 88% approval rate January 2019 (output 3). Secretary sent out a welcome letter to CEN/TC 461. Announcement and invitation was made to the first plenary meeting of CEN/TC 461 Public procurement taking place 12th June 2019.
- Dissemination workshops conducted from February 2019 (output 4)

Achievements [max 300 words]

Activity 1: Publication of the Report on analysis of public sector procurement activities in April 2019 written by an external expert, including recommendations for the European Commission within the scope of the output.

Activity 2: The first achievement of the JIS Action 11: the Guide for referencing standards in public procurement in Europe under SIS lead. It was published in December 2018 and translated into Swedish and Spanish. It is about to be translated into Czech language. This guide has been disseminated on the [CEN-CENELEC website](#), on the [EC website](#) and during the workshops under activity 4.

Activity 3: Initialized [CEN/TC 461](#) in January 2019 with focus on integrity and accountability for an efficient and sound public procurement system, on SIS initiative. Participating national standardization bodies are BSI, ASRO, SFS, SN, SIS. The work will continue beyond JIS.

Activity 4: A dissemination package with case examples and exercises were created ready to use for workshops on the use of standards in public procurement, under DS lead. The package was tested and adjusted on the basis of five national workshops held in February and March 2019 in Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland. The workshops were attended by public procurement officers, responsible ministries/authorities, procurement organisations, a few suppliers, staff from National Standardisation bodies. Good feedback was received and many NSB's plan to hold more workshops. The package is completed by a dedicated webpage to Public procurement on the CEN-CENELEC website.

Proposal to carry over to Commission Mandate [max 150 words + yes/no]

No.

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