

BACKGROUND

The subjects of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge are progressing continuously and are widely affecting the industry in all sectors. In CEN and CENELEC, the concepts "Data" & "Dataspaces" are spread across several TCs. In order to support Data Economy as a foundational driver for Europe's Digital Transition and without the intention to remove any work from those TCs, there is a need to cover gaps and ensure a horizontal approach. Similarly, Cloud and Edge have industry-related use cases that could benefit from a systemic/horizontal approach to be combined with vertical inputs from connected TCs.

For those activities it will be necessary to connect to various stakeholder groups currently either not or poorly connected to CEN and CENELEC. Some of the mechanisms currently in place to liaise with these organizations may not be a perfect fit for the particular character of the ICT-related domains. It would be beneficial for CEN and CENELEC to review potential stakeholders and assess potential hurdles for deeper partnerships.

CEN-CLC/BTWG 6 'ICT Standardization Policy' has been discussing this topic and how it fits into the standardization landscape and presents a proposal to establish a CEN & CENELEC Focus Group on 'Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge'. The full rationale is provided in Annex 1.

Scope

Coordinate on the identification of standardization needs in relation to data economy and how to address them focusing on:

- The data economy along the value chain in various dataspaces, including data governance, data interoperability and quality, data lifecycle as outlined in the Rolling Plan 2023 for ICT Standardisation;
- Cloud and edge computing models and frameworks;
- Ensure interaction between all relevant European stakeholders interested in standardization in the field of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge;
- Assessment of the adequacy of the provisions of the current CEN-CENELEC rules and processes on partnerships with external organizations and initiatives such as funded projects in terms of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge (and, more generally, ICT) standardization requirements;
- Identify specific European standardization needs with a special attention on interoperability and regulatory issues;
- Map identified needs with the current work items in other TCs and SDOs;
- Provide guidance in terms of legislative and policy environment to CEN and CENELEC technical bodies, possibly impacted by Data, Dataspaces Cloud & Edge;
- Liaise with any relevant standardization initiatives at European and International level, as well as with fora and consortia developing on Data, Cloud and Edge;
- Provide recommendations on Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge;
- Consider potential work in CEN-CENELEC on the Digital Product Passport (DPP), noting that DPP itself is outside its scope.

Deliverables

- develop standardization landscape and gap analysis report for Europe's data economy with specific focus on "data, dataspaces, cloud & edge", taking into account existing technical bodies, existing and proposed regulations and the EU RP for ICT Standardisation;
- provide recommendations to BTs on priority areas for standardization to address the gaps identified;

- liaise with CEN-CLC/BTWG 6 to provide input for the annual EU Rolling Plan for ICT Standardization and support the work of CEN-CENELEC representatives in the EC Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation;
- provide recommendations to BTs on possible improvements on collaboration with external organizations and initiatives.
- Provide yearly reports on the advancement of the work as well as a final report with a proposal on the way forward to the Technical Boards

Timeline

The Focus Group is expected to have a kick off meeting as soon as possible, but not later than 2 months after its creation and to provide its first recommendations to the Technical Boards on addressing the standardization gaps identified within six months after its creation.

CEN-CLC/BTWG 6 has also drafted Terms of Reference (see Annex 2), to serve as a basis to for the Focus Group to build on.

PROPOSAL(S)

BT,

- having noted
 - the CEN-CLC/BTWG 6 'ICT Standardization Policy' rationale and recommendation to create a CEN-CENELEC Focus Group on 'Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge' (see Annex 1);
 - the proposed objectives and composition of the Focus Group (see Annex 1 and Annex 2)
 - that the group at its first meeting will have to develop detailed Terms of Reference for approval by the BTs, based on the Terms of Reference proposed in Annex 2
- decided to establish a CEN-CENELEC Focus Group on 'Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge' for a period of 3 years as from this decision;
- invited Members to propose candidates for the FG secretariat and convenorship;
- decided that if there are no candidates for the FG secretariat, this decision will be repealed

Rationale

Legal Frameworks

In Europe's Digital transition there are many legal and policy initiatives that may require supporting standardization. Related to Data, some important legal frameworks (proposed or in place) can be observed:

- **Data Governance Act (DGA)** to provide a regulatory framework for accessing government data (B2G)
- **Data Act** (building on DGA) to provide a business regulatory framework (B2B)
- **GDPR** compliance with GDPR Data Protection principles for personal data privacy with a regulatory framework DPO supervision / admin in the AI Act
- **Digital Market Acts (DMA)** focus on data interoperability to avoid monopolistic practices impacts the data act. Could require standardization e.g. for algorithmic fairness and data-handling
- **Digital Services Act (DSA)**
- **Interoperable Europe Act**, laying down measures for public sector interoperability.

These frameworks connect to and interwork with the AI Framework (AI Act, AI Product Liability directive) and the Cybersecurity Framework (NIS2, Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), Cloud Certification Schema (EUCS), ENISA Cybersecurity Certification schemes,...)

Connection to standardization

The EU Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation 2023 (RP 2023) identifies Data Economy as a foundational driver for Europe's Digital Transition supported by key enablers such as 'Cloud and Edge Computing', and 'Big data, open data public sector information'.

The RP2023 (and the previous versions) clearly point out the need for standards supporting the Digital Transformation. It calls clearly for standardization activities, addressing:

- availability of data, imbalances in market power, data interoperability and quality, data governance, data infrastructures and technologies, data lifecycle (collection, record, keeping, archival and long-term preservation of information) as focal policy initiatives and needs for the data economy;
- portability of cloud services, interoperability, data protection and management of multiple clouds;
- the edge/cloud X-continuum paradigm and standardisation challenge - embracing the notion of computing continuum, where the right compute resources are placed at optimal processing points;
- DCAT-AP (W3C's Data Catalogue vocabulary - Application Profile), with a direct invitation, since RP 2020, to CEN to coordinate with W3C on the standardization process, as well as the other vocabularies provided by the former ISA2 programme.

The RP 2023 refers clearly to the need to interlock between standardization and open source on these topics and connection to ISO/IEC JTC 1 (e.g. cloud architecture).

There is a lot of activity ongoing in different fora, consortia and other organizations developing technical specifications and architectures.

In CEN and CENELEC, the concepts "Data" & "Dataspaces" are spread across several TCs. In order to support Data Economy as a foundational driver for Europe's Digital Transition and without the intention to remove any work from those TCs, there is a need to cover gaps and ensure a horizontal approach. Similarly, Cloud and Edge have industry-related use cases that could benefit from a systemic/horizontal approach to be combined with vertical inputs from connected TCs.

For those activities it will be necessary to connect to various stakeholder groups currently either not or poorly connected to CEN and CENELEC. Some of the mechanisms currently in place to liaise with these organizations may not be a perfect fit for the particular character of the ICT-related domains. It would be beneficial for CEN and CENELEC to review potential stakeholders and assess potential hurdles for deeper partnerships.

Recommendation by CEN-CLC/BTWG 6 to the BTs:

Given the rationale developed above, CEN-CLC BTWG 6 recommends the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards to establish a 'Focus Group on Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge' with the following scope and deliverables:

Scope

Coordinate on the identification of standardization needs in relation to data economy and how to address them focusing on:

- The data economy along the value chain in various data spaces, including data governance, data interoperability and quality, data lifecycle as outlined in the RP 2023 for ICT Standardisation;
- Cloud and edge computing models and frameworks;
- Ensure interaction between all relevant European stakeholders interested in standardization in the field of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge;
- Assessment of the adequacy of the provisions of the current CEN-CENELEC rules and processes on partnerships with external organizations and initiatives such as funded projects in terms of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge (and, more generally, ICT) standardization requirements;
- Identify specific European standardization needs with a special attention on interoperability and regulatory issues;
- Map identified needs with the current work items in other TCs and SDOs;
- Provide guidance in terms of legislative and policy environment to CEN and CENELEC technical bodies, possibly impacted by Data, Dataspaces Cloud & Edge;
- Liaise with any relevant standardization initiatives at European and international level, as well as with fora and consortia developing on Data, Cloud and Edge;
- Provide recommendations on Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge;
- Consider potential work in CEN-CENELEC on the Digital Product Passport (DPP), noting that DPP itself is outside its scope.

Deliverables

- develop standardization landscape and gap analysis report for Europe's data economy with specific focus on "data, dataspaces, cloud & edge", taking into account existing technical bodies, existing and proposed regulations and the EU RP for ICT Standardisation;
- provide recommendations to BTs on priority areas for standardization to address the gaps identified;
- liaise with CEN-CLC BTWG 6 to provide input for the annual EU Rolling Plan for ICT Standardization and support the work of CEN-CENELEC representatives in the EC Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation;
- provide recommendations to BTs on possible improvements on collaboration with external organizations and initiatives.

Timeline

The Focus Group is expected to have a kick off meeting as soon as possible, but not later than 2 months after its creation and to provide its first recommendations to the Technical Boards on addressing the standardization gaps identified within six months after its creation.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

II. Title

CEN-CENELEC Focus Group on Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge (FG-DDCE)

III. Status

The group is a focus group as defined in CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2 and reports to the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards (BTs). It will gather relevant stakeholders interested in standardization in the field of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge (DDCE). This focus group is considered officially as a short-term group.

IV. Scope

The purpose of the FG-DDCE is to ensure interaction, such as workshops, between all relevant European stakeholders interested in potential standardization in the field of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge to map ongoing standardization activities, define needs and opportunities and recommend further action to ensure that standardization activities will support data economy and the deployment of Data, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge across the CEN and CENELEC scope of work in line with market demand and EU legal & policy requirements. Digital Product Passport (DPP) is taken into consideration but is excluded from scope.

The FG-DDCE does not develop standardization deliverables.

V. Setting-up and lifetime

The FG-DDCE is set-up by the CEN and CENELEC BTs. The lifetime of the FG-DDCE is expected to remain open until the Objectives are reached for a period of up to 3 years that can be extended once by 2 years.

The Focus Group is expected to have a kick off meeting as soon as possible, but not later than 2 months after its creation and to provide its first recommendations to the Technical Boards on addressing the standardization gaps identified within six months after its creation.

VI. Chair and secretariat

The candidate for the chair of the FG-DDCE is proposed by the CEN or CENELEC member holding the secretariat of the FG-DDCE. The chair is appointed by the CEN and CENELEC BTs for 3 years with a maximum extension of 2 years.

The secretariat of the FG-DDCE is provided by a member of CEN or CENELEC, as agreed by the CEN and CENELEC BTs. UNI is available to serve as Secretariat.

VII. Membership

As defined in CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations part 2 the membership of the FG-DDCE is decided by the CEN and CENELEC BTs and is generally composed of all or part of the following, having an interest in the subject:

- Representatives (SDO representatives and Delegates nominated by NSBs or NCs) of the NSBs/NCs;
- Representatives of the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC) and ETSI Secretariat;
- Representatives of relevant Technical Bodies in CEN, CENELEC and/or ETSI;

- Relevant European Commission DGs and the EFTA Secretariat;
- Not limiting further liaisons, specific attention shall be given to liaison with:
 - CEN-CLC JTC 13-Cyber Security
 - ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 38 Cloud Computing and Distributed Platforms;
 - ISO/IEC JTC 1/ se 32 Data management and interchange;
 - ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 40 IT service management and IT governance;
 - Existing or new CEN and CENELEC workshops, e.g.:
 - CEN Workshop on Trusted Data Transaction;
 - CEN Workshop on "Elements of fair and functioning data economy: identity, consent and logging" (CWA 17525);
 - CEN-CENELEC Workshop on Digital sovereignty - European perspective, general approach and implications on standardization;
 - CEN-CENELEC Workshop on Zero defect in digital manufacturing technology
 - CEN Workshop on CBRNe SENSOR API Network Protocols, Data Formats and interfaces
 - CEN-CENELEC workshop on European Connected Factory Platform for Agile Manufacturing Interoperability (EFPFinterOp)
 - CEN Workshop on 'Digital health innovations - Good practice guide for obtaining user consent for personal health information'

Additional participants may be invited as members to contribute to the work, including relevant European associations, international fora and consortia, research projects, national authorities or companies. This has to be agreed firstly, by the FG-DDCE and requires a two-thirds vote of the NSBs participating to FG-DDCE (abstentions not count) and secondly, by the CEN and CENELEC BTs.

The FG-DDCE leadership (chairperson and secretariat) may invite special guests to give presentations at a particular FG-DDCE meeting, and to participate in discussions related to such presentations. Special guests may include representatives of other SDOs.

VIII. Reporting line and frequency

The FG-DDCE reports regularly to CEN and CENELEC BTs. It reports at least once a year by correspondence or, when a decision is expected from the CEN and CENELEC BTs, at their meeting.

IX. Objectives

The task of the FG-DDCE will be the analysis of existing activities and needs for standardization that can lead to new standardization activities.

Therefore the goals of the FG-DDCE are as follows:

Identify standardization needs in relation to Data, Dataspaces, Cloud & Edge and how to address them focusing on:

- the data economy along the value chain in various dataspace, including data governance, data interoperability and quality, data lifecycle as outlined in the RP 2023 for ICT Standardisation;
- cloud and edge computing models and frameworks;
- assess the adequacy of the provisions of the current CEN-CENELEC rules and processes on partnerships with external organizations and initiatives in terms of concrete data (and, more generally, ICT) standardization requirements.

The FG-DDCE has the following deliverables:

- develop standardization landscape and gap analysis report for Europe's data economy with specific focus on “data, dataspace, cloud & edge”, taking into account existing technical bodies, existing and proposed regulations and the EU RP for ICT Standardisation;
- provide recommendations to BT on priority areas for standardization to address the gaps identified;
- input to the annual EU Rolling Plan for ICT Standardization provided to CEN/CLC/BTWG 06 to support the work of CEN/CENELEC representatives in the EC Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardization;
- provide recommendations to BT on possible improvements on collaboration with external organizations and initiatives on the basis of concrete requirements, for example ensuring better support of EU RP ICT Standardisation actions in the areas covered by CEN and CENELEC.

X. Working methods

As far as possible, the FG-DDCE works electronically, through e-mail, electronic platforms, telephone conferences and web conferences. Collaborative authoring may be used. However, some physical meetings shall be held as required.

The FG-DDCE uses the electronic platform of CEN or CENELEC, depending on who is holding the secretariat. All documents provided by the FG-DDCE to FG-DDCE members (during plenary meetings or provided by sub-groups) are available to all members through this platform.

For particular topics, the FG-DDCE may agree to set up specific temporary sub-groups to consider and report back, where participation shall be open to all FG-DDCE members. The FG-DDCE may organize open stakeholder consultative meetings when required. One champion (editor) per each temporary ad-hoc group shall be nominated.

FG-DDCE can receive incoming liaison messages from other organisations, including other SDOs. These messages shall be put on the agenda of an FG-DDCE meeting as incoming contribution. FG-DDCE may also send outgoing liaison messages to other organisations, including SDOs. Examples of these can be a review of a document from another organisation, or the sharing of FG-DDCE documents with another organisation, e.g. for information or for review. Where appropriate, a temporarily working group may be established for this purpose.

The FG-DDCE shall work by consensus. It will function under the umbrellas of the CEN and CENELEC BTs in terms of the follow-up of activities and approval of reports. Recommendations by the FG-DDCE are non-binding for participants' organizations. Any difficulties shall be brought to the attention of CCMC.

The FG-DDCE may choose to make some documents publicly available. This shall be approved in each case separately by the CEN and CENELEC BTs.

XI. Revision of Terms of Reference

Any updates to these Terms of Reference shall be approved by the CEN-CENELEC BTs.