

Call for Participation Standards of the Future (machine readable standards)



CEN and CENELEC | Digital Transformation | September 2021

Project objectives & timeline

This project aims to facilitate the creation of standards that meet the needs of standards users working in digitalized industries. The aim is to have a complete framework in place, fully tested in production, by December 2024.



What happens today

Today, many standards users invest significant time and effort in copying and pasting small pieces of text from PDF standards into their systems (such as requirement management systems, along with requirements from other sources like customer contracts and local government regulations), in an effort to integrate the information into their processes and systems. At the same time, they have to interpret the ambiguities in standards and restructure the content in a way that is usable for them.

What will happen in the future

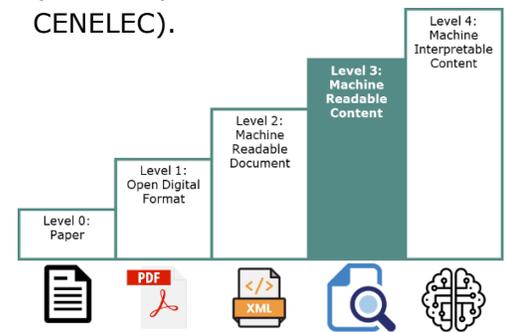
We aim to help standards users save time and reduce error caused by copy/paste activities and misinterpretation.

But there are a lot of things we don't know yet. We're still exploring. There may be many other benefits and changes, but these are not yet clear. For example, will standards still be sold as one whole document, or as pieces of data? Will there be more shalls and less shoulds, resulting in standards users implementing the standards differently? The team will explore these topics.

What are machine readable standards?

This project is about making the "traditional" content of standards (including text provisions like "The wood shall be minimum 3cm wide") machine readable, so that standards users can import them into their systems and do all kinds of tech savvy things with them.

Simply put, this involves breaking up sentences and other content into their constituent pieces and tagging them with the type of information they contain. We will aim for Level 3 machine readable standards, as defined by the SMART Standards Utility Model (used by IEC, ISO, CEN & CENELEC).



So far, we have been running pilots exploring things like: information model, sentence vs data centricity, XML tagging, RDF, triples, ontologies, links with the Internal Regulations (ISO/IEC Directives)...



This project supports Goal 2 of CEN-CENELEC's Strategy 2030: "Our customers and stakeholders benefit from state-of-the-art digital solutions."



We will collaborate with ISO and IEC who are running similar projects in order to represent European interests at international level.

Are you who we're looking for?



We are looking for people with a diverse range of skill sets to join the project team for a time commitment of around 2 to 4 hours per week. Take a look at how the team will be structured and consider how you might be able to contribute.

- Workstreams are made up of work packages.
- Workstreams were defined up front in the charter approved in June 2021. They have a leader who is responsible for proposing the work packages that are needed and coordinating them.
- Work packages will be defined later, as we kick each one off. They will have a leader and several team members, and will often involve an agile approach including pilots, iterations, testing and learning.

Workstreams	Example Work Packages	# people required from members (2 to 4 hours per week)	
		This call (2021)	Future calls
1. Standards maker engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Requirements gathering · Training · Communications 	12	To be confirmed
2. Standards user engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Requirements gathering · Marketing 	12	
3. Technical solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Prototypes · Storage · Creation · Use · Information model · Integration into the ecosystem · Version control 	10	
4. Operationalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Processes & procedures · Support · KPIs · Release management 	15	
5. Business model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Legal arrangements · Commercial arrangements · Pricing · Intellectual property 	15	

Interested in contributing? Not sure yet? Either way, please register for one of these info sessions for prospective project team members:

- Option 1: 2021-09-13 from 10 to 11am [Register](#)
- Option 2: 2021-10-04 from 10 to 11am [Register](#)

Just want to stay informed? See all the latest info on the Standards of the Future project pages on the [CEN](#) & [CENELEC](#) experts sites.

Next steps & keep informed