



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - April 2018

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

ETSI brochure on standards and society



ETSI, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, has published a [brochure](#) to explain how its work takes account of the interests of societal stakeholders and SMEs. ETSI is a 'European Standards Organisation' dealing with standardisation of telecommunications, broadcasting and other electronic communications networks and services. Through its 3SI Programme, the ETUC and other societal organisations such as ECOS, ANEC and the SME association can increase their visibility in ETSI's standardisation work. The 3SI programme includes a 3SI Advocate for societal and SME interests, together with a regular high-level exchange on issues related to societal stakeholders, SMEs and inclusiveness.

Standards and sandwiches

The ETUC organised a lunchtime event: 'Standards and sandwiches – Standardisation on the radar screen of trade unions?' on 13 March. A wide range of issues such as occupational health and safety, skills and training are addressed by standards. The event raised awareness of the importance of trade unions being involved in the standardisation process. The aim of the event was to inform Brussels-based trade union representatives about the activities of the ETUC on standardisation and to discuss the opportunities and challenges of standardisation for trade unions.

The European Commission, as well as FGTB, spoke at the event, explaining how standards can be a policy instrument for European legislation. This means trade unions must focus more closely on standardisation. FGBT gave some examples of how trade unions have participated in standardisation work, such as on Occupational Health and Safety issues.



StandarDays – Discovering the world of European standards

CEN and CENELEC are organising a two-day information session on 3-4 May 2018 in Brussels on the role and advantages of European Standards. CEN is the European Committee for Standardisation and CENELEC is the European Committee

for Electrotechnical Standardisation. Participation is free.

Participants will learn about the process of forming European Standards and their role in an international context. The event will also cover current and upcoming trends in standardisation and the link between legislation and standardisation.

The ETUC will participate in this event to explain how standards support workers' interests.

More information and registration available here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycshoopy>



Latvian seminar to raise trade union awareness of standardisation

[LBAS](#), the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, LVS, the Latvian Standardisation Body, and the ETUC are organising an information seminar to raise awareness among trade unionists about standardisation. The event will take place on 13 June in Riga.

Standards can be used as a policy instrument for legislators and social partners. The event will therefore also include a simulation of the standards-drafting process.

More information and the programme will be made available soon at our [website](#).

2018 Rolling Plan on ICT standardisation released

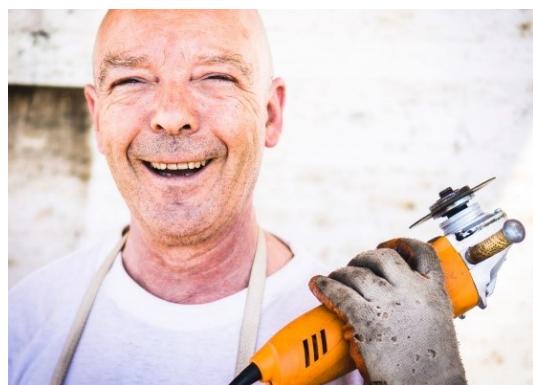
The European Commission published the 2018 Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation at the end of March. The plan is updated every year to identify ICT standardisation activities in support of (new) EU policies. The 2018 edition includes new chapters on 'blockchain and distributed digital ledger technologies' and 'regulatory technology'.

The ETUC participates in the CEN Focus Group on blockchain and distributed digital ledger technologies, which is currently preparing a White Paper.

The Rolling Plan was developed with the support of the [Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation \(MSP\)](#). The MSP represents ICT standardisation stakeholders and advises the Commission. The ETUC is a member of the platform and follows in particular its work on IoT, advanced manufacturing and robotics.

More information can be found in the [2018 Rolling Plan](#) and its [Executive Summary](#).

Standards and ageing workforce: the PROGRESSIVE contribution to adaptive and inclusive workplaces



The notion of ‘Active and Healthy Ageing’ (AHA), one of the touchstones of the PROGRESSIVE Project, is not just a matter of healthy lifestyles. It recognises that older people can be workers, innovators, entrepreneurs, carers, politicians, community activists and more.

Demographic realities have obliged our societies to adapt our welfare systems. The extension of working lives in many European countries has led to an increase in the number of older workers. Yet standards, certification schemes, and procedures framing our work environments are only incrementally adapting to the diversification and ageing of the workforce.

The recent publication by the European Commission of a call for proposals on adaptive smart working and living environments supporting active and healthy ageing (SC1-DTH-03-2018) demonstrates the current shortfalls.

The PROGRESSIVE project is thus exploring how to ensure that future standards increasingly encourage designs and approaches for products, services and environments that are fit for all, as we age. This paradigm change would lead to more inclusive labour markets offering flexible work organisation and partial retirement as well as workplaces adapted to everyone’s abilities and pace.



Learn more about PROGRESSIVE on <http://platform.progressivestandards.org> and subscribe to the project newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/cWMCAv>

Improving working conditions of hairdressers

Hairdressers are obliged to undertake a lot of physical movement. Physical pain is one of the main reasons for hairdressers to limit (and sometimes even stop) their professional activities.

It is therefore important that hairdressers have good working environments and workplaces. Ergonomically designed workplaces and hairdressing tools can improve their wellbeing at work. The European Commission project 'ErgoHair' (<http://www.ergohair.eu/>) is trying to achieve that.

Ensuring a good workplace is also beneficial for the social security. France subsidises the replacement of traditional hairdressers' chairs with ergonomic models, which are designed according to ergonomic principles laid down by European or International Standards.

UniEuropa invited the ETUC to contribute to the 'ErgoHair' workshop in Paris, with a presentation on how European standards can improve hairdressers' working conditions. During the workshop, it became clear that there are already a number of standards in use, but they are borrowed from other sectors. There are no specific standards (for products or services) focusing on hairdressers' needs. Further reflection amongst the hairdresser social partners will take place in the near future.

New colleague joins the ETUC STANDardisation Team

Ben Egan has joined the ETUC STANDardisation team on a part-time basis. Ben has extensive experience in the trade union movement and also covers labour market policy and health and safety at the ETUC. In particular, Ben will support the project by providing political advice and liaison with affiliates.

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