



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - October 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.

Slovenian "Union Youth Plus" co-proposes a pre-standard for a European Quality Framework for Student Internships



The Slovenian trade union "[Mladi Plus](#)" ("Youth Plus", member of ZSSS) co-initiates the elaboration of a European pre-standard (or Workshop agreement) on a European Quality Framework (EQF) for Students Internships.

Internships - or traineeships, according to the jargon of the European governing bodies - play a key role for young people's integration into the labour market. They are essential in bridging the skills gap between education and work. Many initiatives and legislations have sprung up around Europe to provide a quality framework and guarantee the professional development of interns, like the Quality Framework for Traineeships. Nevertheless, proliferation of various

quality frameworks and the extended misuse of these schemes to substitute jobs leads to a lack of credibility and hinder the mobility of young professionals as different standards may apply in different countries, making it more difficult to identify “quality” internships. Mrs Tea Jarc, president of Mladi Plus, states that: “In Slovenia we have been very successful, advocating to ban all unpaid internships. In 2014 we managed to convince the government to ban them and since then unpaid internships are no longer an option in Slovenia. With this project we want to bring best practises also to European level and ensure decent working conditions for young interns. We also hope the project will inform employers and raise the awareness about this topic and encourage them to apply those quality standards”. Improving the quality of traineeships schemes is also a long-standing priority of the ETUC and its Youth Committee, and the latter will also get involve in the elaboration of this pre-standard.

A common standard of quality for internships in higher education in Europe aims just that. If you want to join in drafting the EQF, contact the ETUC Standardisation team or the Mladi Plus president.

The elaboration of this pre-standard is financially supported by the European Commission ([SPRINT project](#)).

Free online course on Societal stakeholders and standards

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Standards have a broad impact on society and contribute to making our everyday lives safer. In Europe, regulators have turned to standards to support the implementation of laws and policies, including in areas of public interest. This makes it even more important for civil society to engage and participate in standardisation.

Therefore, the ETUC has joined with ANEC, ECOS and CEN-CENELEC to develop a free, interactive eLearning course that gives clear and straightforward information about standards and the standardisation process in Europe, as well as at the national and international levels. It is designed to be used by everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge or their background. If you want to discover the world of standards, this training is for you! Follow our course and find out why standards are relevant to you, and how you can participate in developing standards that benefit all!

The course can be found at the link: www.standards4all.eu.

LOOK AROUND
standards are everywhere

From the products we buy and the places we live, to the services we receive: standards play a key role for consumers, workers and the environment.

LEARN MORE
a free online course

Our online course is divided into 7 modules, which will help you understand how civil society can engage in the standardization work.

PICK AND CHOOSE
a modular approach

Based on your area of interest, you can choose to follow a specific module (consumers, workers or the environment).

LOG ON
anyone can do it

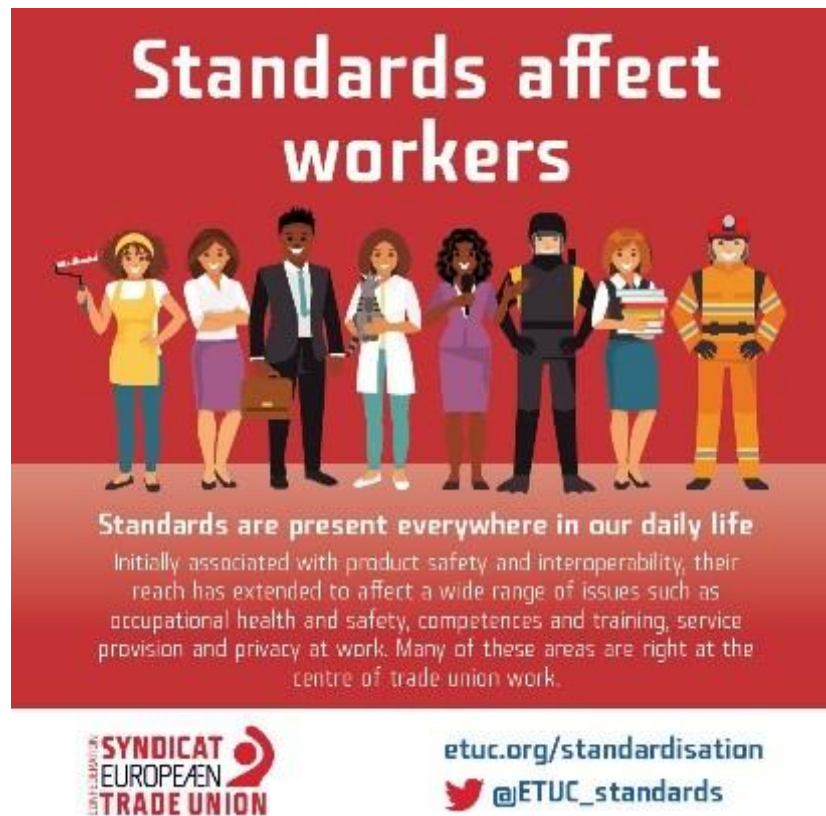
The course was designed for everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge and background.

THE COURSE WAS DESIGNED BY

CEN **CENELEC** **ANEC** **ECOS** **SYNDICAT EUROPEAN TRADE UNION**

CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)

New ETUC leaflet: Standards affect workers



The ETUC STAND project has published a new leaflet for trade unionists that gives information about standards in a nutshell. The publication explains the power and challenges of standards and how trade unions can get involved in setting them. The leaflet can be downloaded from our [website](#).

Paper copies are available on request. The ETUC will soon publish the leaflet in some national languages.

ETUC language course focussing on standards

English is the *lingua franca* spoken in the European and international standard-setting contexts. To help trade union experts involved in standardisation to improve their level of English, the ETUC organised a technical language course in September 2018. The course took place in Malta at the [Unilang International School of Languages](#). The course was tailored to discuss topics of standardisation. In addition, the English language course included a study visit to MCCA, the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority, which is the national standards body of Malta.

Social labels workshop - ETUC contributes to the discussions of EFFAT and IUF



Labels are more and more used as a marketing tool to distinguish products, services and companies. Several national trade unions have different national 'fair' labels for hotels and restaurants. And there are even labels for car dealers and cleaning companies.

The IUF (International Union of Food, Hotel and Restaurant Workers Association) and its European regional organisation EFFAT (European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions) organised a two-day workshop to take stock of all the different national social (or 'fair') labels and their related criteria.

On behalf of the ETUC, Guido De Jongh participated in this two-day seminar, sharing views, knowledge and experience on labels, criteria and standards. He explained that the ETUC secretariat finds that there is a growing demand from both the trade unions and the business environment to set up a social label scheme. Such a social label should be sector-wide and have a European and/or international approach. A possible next step is to reflect on a common branding of the different national labels. Once established, further countries (trade unions) could join and benefit from the common branding or label. This approach was approved by several workshop participants. The ETUC secretariat offered to provide a platform for a debate among its members and support on the elaboration of a common branding.



The ETUC has expanded its active participation in standard setting activities which directly address workers' issues

Over the last 12 months, the ETUC has substantially expanded its activities in standardisation projects which address the wellbeing of professionals and workers. This active participation is the core activity of the ETUC STAND project and a necessity: standard-setting activities have expanded to new sectors, in particular the services industry. On [this webpage](#), we list in detail the standardisation projects which we actively follow up. For further information, contact the ETUC STAND team at standards@etuc.org

Publication of the Annual Union Work Programme 2019 on Standardisation

The European Commission has published its 2019 Union Work Programme on Standardisation (AUWP). The AUWP lists the strategic priorities for European standardisation in support of EU legislation and policies. It foresees actions in fields like the circular economy, energy union, deeper and fairer internal market, security, etc. But the AUWP also tackles issues such as international

cooperation (e.g. trade agreements) and the governance of standardisation bodies. In particular, it invites the European standardisation bodies and ANEC, ECOS, ETUC and SBS to step up their cooperation. The AUWP 2018 is here: [COM\(2018\)686](#) and [SWD\(2018\)434](#).

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The ETUC STAND project is financially supported by the European Commission and EFTA



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