

ETUC Standardisation Newsletter - May 2025

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to share with you its newsletter on standardisation, bringing you regular updates on the ETUC's activities in this field. We are pleased to deliver information on European and international standardisation straight to your inbox. If you wish to receive additional information and/or documents related to the news presented below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

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ETUC Launches Handbook and Video on Standardisation



The ETUC Standardisation Committee turns 10 years old. Since 2015, the ETUC has worked to ensure better representation and more effective participation of trade unions in standardisation. This year, taking stock of long-standing experience and with the aim of further supporting trade union engagement in standardisation, the ETUC is pleased to launch practical and hands-on tools on standardisation, including:

- [Handbook “Standards at the Workplace”](#)
- [Video “Trade Unions and Standardisation”](#)

The idea behind this work is simple. Standards permeate the world of work, and importantly, they affect workers. There are countless cases of how they do so – from shaping the high-risk machinery or AI systems we use at work, to the safety and maintenance features of personal protective equipment used by workers in different sectors all over Europe, to many more examples. Sitting at the drafting table is necessary to ensure that standards support good working conditions, as is engaging in their implementation at the workplace.

Through the publication of new, practical tools, the ETUC STAND Project aims to support trade unions and their members in standardisation. Based on decade-long experience, through useful tips and tricks, interesting facts and helpful insights, these tools can hopefully support your journey as a worker in standardisation – whether you are just at the beginning of such a journey, or a more experienced expert.

ETUC Standardisation Committee Meeting in Naples



The latest meeting of the ETUC Standardisation Committee took place on 8-9 April. With around 30 participants, the meeting took place in hybrid format, with in-person participants joining discussions at Villa Colonna Bandini, kindly hosted by INAIL, in Naples.

Following anniversary celebrations for the 10-year anniversary of the project, during the meeting, ETUC affiliates were provided updates on policy developments in the field of standardisation. Focus was placed in particular on the revision of Regulation 1025/2012, including expected requests for feedback by the European Commission through a call for evidence at first, and a public consultation at a later stage. Additionally, updates were shared on the work of ETUC experts involved in European and international standardisation committees – ranging from OSH to machinery, AI, sustainable raw materials and human resource management. The secretariat additionally presented two new ETUC handbooks on standardisation, as well as a video on its relevance for workers; while affiliates also shared updates on their work in the field of standardisation.

The next meeting of the ETUC Standardisation Committee meeting will take place in the second half of the year, in November.

Survey on Inclusiveness in AI Standardisation



The CEN-CENELEC JTC21 WG1 Task Group (TG) on Inclusiveness, chaired by the ETUC, was set up to assess stakeholder engagement in the development of AI standards supporting the AI Act, and explore ways to enhance participation.

To facilitate broader stakeholder involvement, the Task Group has introduced several initiatives. A key measure has been to share updated information on AI standardisation and related activities to all interested stakeholders, via the regular publication of a newsletter available on the ETUC website: [Artificial Intelligence Standardisation Inclusiveness Newsletter | ETUC](#).

In addition, in March, the Task Group conducted a survey among committee members and experts to gather statistical data on diversity within JTC 21 Working Groups. The survey focused on nationality, gender and represented interests, with the aim of assessing progress in diversity. The collected data will be cross-referenced with attendance records from JTC 21 plenary meetings to track changes over time.

The survey closed on 31 March, and preliminary findings will be shared, if feasible, at the next CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 Plenary Meeting in May.

Implementing the EU AI Act through Standards: Workshop to Inform CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 European Norm on AI Risk Management



Building on the success of a [high-impact webinar on 4 February](#), the AI Standards Hub and the CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 AI Inclusiveness Task Group, chaired by the ETUC, hosted a follow-up invitation-only online workshop on 22 April.

As the EU AI Act moves toward implementation, the development of European harmonised standards will play a key role in supporting its requirements. CEN-CENELEC JTC 21, the committee responsible for this work, is expected to publish standards on transparency, data quality and risk management.

This workshop offered selected international civil society stakeholders with a unique opportunity to explore the development of the European standard on Risk Management and share their perspectives. Participants heard directly from the Project Editors, who presented the standard's overall structure, as well as from other key experts actively involved in shaping it.

ETUC Engages in Global AI Governance Discussions



On 17-18 March, the ETUC participated in the AI Standards Hub Global Summit in London, hosted by the AI Standards Hub, in partnership with the OECD, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Partnership on AI (PAI). This high-level event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from across the international AI ecosystem to examine the role of standards in shaping AI governance frameworks and the development of new legislation worldwide.

The Summit provided a valuable platform to assess the current landscape of AI-related standards, address the key challenges posed by this rapidly evolving technology, and identify emerging needs to promote global inclusiveness and cooperation—both in AI governance more broadly, and in standardisation specifically.

More information on the Summit and the event recording are available on the dedicated [page](#).

Interview with Susanne Wixforth on the 'Malamud' judgement: "For the moment, the judgement is only a problem in a restricted way"



European Court case C588/P21, commonly known as the 'Malamud case', was initiated by two public information non-profits, led by the US digital rights activist Carl Malamud. In a landmark March 2024 ruling relating to four harmonised standards specifically focused on toys, the Court found that EU citizens should have public access to harmonised standards (hEN) on the basis that they form part of EU law. The judgement not only calls into question the balance between public interest and copyright law but it also has the potential to disrupt the business model of the standardisation bodies, as the paywall protecting harmonised standards could be removed. Since the ruling, the Commission has received applications for access to various hENs and some national standardisation institutes have provided limited access to affected standards. In December 2024, the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) [initiated legal action against the European Commission](#) to annul its decision to grant access to international standards belonging to ISO and IEC.

[Here](#), we speak to Susanne Wixforth, deputy head of the economic policy department at the Vienna Chamber of Labour (AK Wien), which represents the interests of four million workers in Austria, and a member of the advisory council of the Austrian Standards Institute, about the significance of the judgement.

[Access the interview here.](#)

Special Edition of the ETUC Standardisation Newsletter: International Workers' Memorial Day



Striving for safer workplaces is a continuous effort that requires the commitment of all those involved. International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD), on 28th April, is dedicated to honouring those who have lost their lives or suffered injury due to workplace accidents and illnesses. More than just a day of mourning, it represents a powerful call to action, urging us to strengthen safety standards and prevent future tragedies. The ETUC believes that no one should have to die at work.

This year's IWMD looked at the fight against psychosocial risks at work. These are factors in the workplace that can negatively affect workers' psychological and physical well-being, arising from how work is designed, organised, and managed, as well as from the social context of work. Marking this year's International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD), we issued a dedicated ETUC Standardisation Newsletter looking at our work from the past years on combatting psychosocial risks at work, as well as at future plans.

You can access the full edition here: ["ETUC Standardisation Newsletter - Special Edition: International Workers' Memorial Day"](#).

New ETUC Standardisation BlueSky Account



We want to celebrate our 10-year anniversary by entering a new social media phase. So, this is it – follow us on BlueSky at: [@etuc-ces.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/etuc-ces.bsky.social)

We will share interesting updates and insights from the world of standardisation, and most importantly, its relevance and impact on workers. Stay tuned for more!

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