



Boosting the Exploitation of Standardisation inputs from European Projects

The STAND4EU initiative is addressing the barriers to innovation and standardisation between research and industry by **proposing solutions aiming at fostering standardisation as a mean of knowledge valorisation**, identifying more agile approaches for standards setting processes, and ensure standards facilitate the entry into the market of innovative solutions addressing major societal challenges such as climate change, digitalisation, sustainability, and resilience.

To achieve this goal, comprehensive online surveys, where more than 180 responses were gathered, and 45 interviews were conducted across national, European, and international levels across four technological domains: **Additive Manufacturing, Welding, Smart Manufacturing & AI, and Circular Economy**. The collected data was subjected to thorough analysis using descriptive statistical methods. The surveys and interview results revealed a widespread belief in the importance of standards for emerging technologies. However, they also highlighted common challenges including a lack of awareness regarding the standardisation process and constraints related to time and personnel resources.

The activities of STAND4EU and the STAND4EU portal are supporting the standardisation work of different European research projects and their researchers, among other stakeholders.



RECOMENDATIONS ...

The insights gathered from the surveys, interviews and validation workshops allowed STAND4EU to formulate the following policy recommendations for different groups of stakeholders. Through this work, it was possible to validate some of the recommendations of the [Code of Practice on standardisation in the European Research Area](#), as it can be observed in what follows, but at the same time it was possible to formulate new recommendations and to dive in deep into those that were already previously identified.

... for SMEs

SMEs should assign internal responsibilities to cover and address standardisation, not only for personnel development, but also to improve the work within the projects and the impact of their results on the standardisation groups, considering the demonstrated growing impact on the surveyed company activities. Moreover, it is recommended that SMEs attend available trainings to build up their own standardisation and sustainability experts.

... for Policy Makers including the European Commission

The development of a Lean Standard Development Process for EU standards is crucial for the engagement of different stakeholders in standardisation. A European “Standardisation Training Centre/Service for SMEs” to encourage adoption and contribution to standards should be created. Within the European Digital Innovation Hubs (E-DIHs), **a dedicated service to support and encourage SMEs to adopt standards** should be established: either as a training service or as Standardisation test cases, where the competence centres associated with the DIHs support the SMEs with standardisation activities. A clear description and **guidance of what is expected from the European Research Projects concerning contributions to standardisation** should be provided for the call topics, such that those projects should be aware from the proposal stage of what is expected in terms of contribution to standardisation and present an initial mapping of relevant standards and/or standardisation committees. **New funding opportunities** to promote and value the involvement of organisations (R&D centres, companies, etc.) to participate in the discussions of standardisation technical committees and operationalisation activities, and also to support the costs of access to standards. Further strategies to inform and **create awareness to standards to young professionals and the new generation of researchers** should be developed. The creation of a European **Centre of Excellence for Standardisation (CoE)** to manage the implementation of the recommendations should be promoted. The services of this centre are targeted at various standardisation stakeholders and should include (but not limited to): Identification of standardisation gaps on EU level; Provide EU-level standardisation roadmaps for different domains; Testing and validation of standards in collaboration with regional standards testbeds. **This CoE should complement the existing structures and initiatives**, such as the EU Excellence Hub on Standards (to facilitate stronger internal cooperation within the Commission) and the High-Level Forum for Standardisation (to identify standardisation priorities in support of EU policies and legislation).

... for Standardisation Development Organisations (SDO)

Support to industry and standardisation experts to participate in standardisation events should be provided to stimulate the engagement of organisations with standardisation. An easier **contact between SME's and SDOs** should be promoted to ensure an easier contribution to standards. Advantage of digital tools to get in touch with an SDO should be taken, providing an online open comment section or an easier and quicker on-boarding process to get contribution by experts and SMEs not involved in the standardisation committees. **Independent access to consulting services for SMEs should be enabled** to get an overview on ongoing activities, and to get support on dealing with existing standardisation needs. The complexity of some standards should be simplified by creating a **guide for implementation** that reduces or deconstructs the standards, clarifying all the dependencies for SMEs, making the standards adoption more agile.



... for Research Projects

It is recommended for project consortia to **adequately plan standardisation activities while preparing proposals**. This may include the **establishment of the project into the STAND4EU portal** and access previous standardisation work performed on the topic, to be followed by direct interaction and engagement with experienced experts, and potential advice on the actions to be taken towards standardisation. **Research projects should seek for available training, which can be found directly in the STAND4EU portal**, at the beginning of and during their research activities, so they can ensure an effective contribution to standardisation. **The engagement of Universities and Research Centres into standardisation activities** will also support shortening the time between innovation and the development of associated standards. Furthermore, considering the necessity of ongoing engagement with standardisation activities beyond the project duration, it is crucial to **include partners**, such as industrial associations, **that maintain a continuous involvement with standardisation bodies**. This ensures a lasting impact and relevance of the standardisation efforts initiated during the project.

SOLUTIONS

Following the activities carried out on STAND4EU, there is a clear necessity to develop and implement solutions to overcome the obstacles identified.

The **STAND4EU interface** was created to centralise valuable information related with standardisation both from projects and other initiatives, streamlining the process, as well as to promote the interaction with people and organisations involved in standardisation.

The **coaching programme** of STAND4EU can enable familiarity towards navigation of the standardisation work, encompassing guidance through domain-specific technical committees of standardisation and demonstrate tools/resources for accessing standardisation, along with identifying relevant stakeholders for discussions.

The development of a **training service** dedicated to researchers to span generic and domain-specific training, which emphasizes a content-related analysis, discussion and knowledge enhancement, complementing the coaching programme that is focused on the identification of relevant standardisation committees, stakeholders and tools.



Note from STAND4EU Consortium:

STAND4EU has the suitable conditions to be a key part of standardisation activities. The involved partners have a strong involvement in different aspects of standardisation for different domains, thus allowing to continue the development of recommendations and support their implementation. The training for standardisation is also an essential aspect, which can use the expertise of the partner SBS in training standardisation experts to tailor training on standardisation. To ensure that support is immediately provided for both newcomers or experts in standardisation, the STAND4EU portal offers quick access to valuable information and interaction between the people involved in standardisation, whether in research projects or other activities, thus contributing to enhance the standardisation process as a whole, ensuring that each citizen can benefit from the efforts of standardisation.

