



## PRESS RELEASE

The STAND4EU project is a European initiative aimed at strengthening the links between research, innovation, and standardisation. As outlined in the previous press release, the project consists of four phases: i) identifying and creating awareness, ii) developing and validating remedies, iii) establishing the STAND4EU interface, and iv) ensuring sustainability and transferability.

We are pleased to announce the completion of Phase I of the STAND4EU project. This phase has highlighted the key obstacles impeding the standardisation process across four crucial technological domains: Additive Manufacturing, Welding, Smart Manufacturing/Industry 4.0/Artificial Intelligence, and the Circular Economy. This press release marks the culmination of a comprehensive study aimed at understanding the challenges faced by stakeholders in these domains and provides actionable insights to enhance standardisation efforts.

Phase I activities focused on mapping out the main stakeholders engaged in standardisation and identifying their specific needs. Given the diverse nature of the technological domains under review, the study sought to better understand and anticipate the requirements and expectations of actors involved in standardisation. This understanding is essential for identifying existing projects that address standardisation issues and mapping them within the context of the identified technological domains. These domains were selected to represent a range of technologies, from established methods such as Welding to emerging fields like Additive Manufacturing and the Circular Economy. The findings will be made available on the STAND4EU Portal, facilitating knowledge sharing and offering structured insights into project results and use cases.

Phase I was conducted in two stages. In the first stage, key stakeholders and standardisation bodies were identified across the four technological domains. This involved mapping Technical Committees and engaging with various stakeholders, including standardisation committees, innovation actors, technology providers, SMEs, research centers, academia, and political entities.

The second stage involved data collection through online surveys and interviews. The online survey aimed to gather comprehensive data from at least 120 participants, focusing on capturing the specific needs and requirements of stakeholders. The survey was open for three months and yielded 184 responses, including 108 complete responses, 62 partial responses, and 14 disqualified responses. Interviews were conducted with a target of 40 participants, ultimately reaching 45 respondents. These interviews provided in-depth, contextual insights into the challenges faced by stakeholders.

Survey results indicated that Research and Technological Organisations (RTOs) had the highest response rate, while Standardisation Bodies were most prominently represented in the interviews. The majority of participants acknowledged that standards have a moderate to significant impact



on emerging technologies and organisational processes. However, the study also identified several obstacles to effective standardisation.

A common challenge highlighted was a lack of awareness about the standardisation process. This gap in understanding affects how stakeholders engage with and implement standards. Interviews further revealed that time constraints and limited personnel were significant obstacles in applying or developing standards. These findings emphasize the need for greater support and resources to facilitate effective standardisation.

The report includes detailed case studies across each technological domain to illustrate how standardisation is being addressed:

- **Additive Manufacturing:** Projects like LASIMM, i-Tribomat, and INTEGRADDE showcase the need for standards in hybrid manufacturing, materials testing, and data-driven manufacturing processes.
- **Welding:** Projects such as JOIN'EM, RECLAIM, and QU4LITY emphasize the importance of standards in welding techniques, refurbishment of industrial equipment, and zero-defect manufacturing.
- **Smart Manufacturing:** GOOD MAN, EFPF, and SecureIoT highlight the role of standards in multi-stage manufacturing, connected factory platforms, and predictive security for IoT networks.
- **Circular Economy:** Projects like CircThread, DigiPrime, and KYKLOS 4.0 demonstrate how standards support circular economy practices, resource management, and sustainable manufacturing processes.

This phase of the STAND4EU project represents a vital step in understanding and overcoming barriers to the effectiveness of the standardisation work. By highlighting these obstacles and providing detailed case studies, the report contributes to advancing the standardisation process across key technological domains. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the findings and engage with the STAND4EU project to help shape the future of standardisation.

For more information and to access the full report, please visit the STAND4EU Portal or contact us directly through [info@stand4eu.eu](mailto:info@stand4eu.eu).