

10-10 webinar of 2021-03-10

Inclusive European Standardization – the case of Gender

Questions & Answers

1	Is there data available on whether we would need two categories for the same product (men/women in their own right) or that we better try to amalgamate the needs?	As standardizers, we aim at producing 1 consensus-based deliverable that encompasses all the relevant points of views and needs. The aim is not to duplicate standardization solutions but to integrate all specificities into a consolidated document that reflects all needs, equally benefitting all end-users, hence more relevant to a wider audience and thus reaches greatest market acceptance. Gender is one aspect, similarly to Accessibility, etc.
2	Stephanie refers to involvement of women and refers to men and women. Surely any concept of gender, to be inclusive, needs to go beyond the binary of male and female.	The UNECE Declaration is linked to UN SDG 5 which is specifically about women's equality and inclusion. Of course, the inclusion of all is the ultimate goal but the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative is looking specifically at equal inclusion of women and men.
3	Surely a central concept that will have to be defined in any standards process is the concept of gender itself?	This is not covered by the current CEN-CENELEC Gender Action Plan.
4	Why shouldn't standards be gender responsive? ... Stephanie asked. But what about the need to greater attention to women in context of ageing / older people where the disparities (in number) are MUCH greater?	An intersectional approach to Gender Responsive Standards is the ultimate objective to ensure that men and women equally benefit from standardization and are equally enabled to participate in standards development. While this webinar particularly focused on the gender dimension of standardization, the end-goal is to ensure the inclusion of <i>all</i> stakeholders and the consideration of the diverse needs, in the broadest sense, within the system.
5	Will WECLUB be a liaison organization for (all) energy TCs? My TC has several female experts (even as chairs) so it would be interesting to see what they can bring.	The Women in Energy Club (WeClub) mentioned during the presentation is an informal network of women based in Brussels and working with energy questions. CEN-CENELEC participate in the exchanges organized by the network. There is no formal agreement (e.g. Liaison) with the WeClub. For more information on the initiative, you can get in touch via this link .

6	<p>ISO seem reluctant to open up to online processes for greater inclusion / engagement in standardisation process. Will CEN CENELEC, whilst seeking further internationalisation of standards, be adopting a different path that is more linked to UN SDGs, human rights, etc. rather than allowing dominance by big commercial entities?</p>	<p>The importance of inclusiveness, openness and diversity in standardization is at the heart of CEN-CENELEC system and makes the uniqueness of the European System, as reflected in our Strategy 2030. CEN-CENELEC encourage and facilitate the participation of all relevant stakeholders (e.g. civil society, SMEs, researchers, regulators,...) to the CEN and CENELEC activities.</p> <p>In addition, CEN and CENELEC are currently working on integrating the SDGs in their work as to better identify how standards support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
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