Standards and Society

The ETSI 3SI Programme

ETSI

ETSI is Open

Open and inclusive – these two characteristics of ETSI are at the heart of our principles and form the basis of our Long Term Strategy.

All our work at ETSI is guided by openness and inclusiveness, as can be seen by our
- Transparent consensus-based decision making process
- Direct participation of all interested stakeholders, locally and globally
- Free download of all our standards
- Network of partnerships with other similar organizations worldwide
- Dedicated representation of societal stakeholders and SMEs
- Specific measures to ensure our work takes into account society's needs.

Our standards are not merely technical documents. A choice of technology can have a wide-ranging impact. We can choose technologies which have little, or significant environmental impact. We can choose technologies which assist, or impede users with specific abilities. We can choose technologies which meet, or ignore society's needs. We can choose technologies that can be implemented by all players, big and small.

It is important that our work takes account of market and societal needs at the same time, and that societal stakeholders are represented alongside the technical experts from our other members.

ETSI 3SI Programme: Societal Stakeholders, SMEs and Inclusiveness

The ETSI 3SI programme is designed to increase the visibility of the societal stakeholders' and SMEs' interests in our standardization work.

The 3SI programme combines a 3SI Advocate for societal and SME interests, together with a regular high-level exchange on issues related to societal stakeholders, SMEs and inclusiveness.

3SI Advocate

The 3SI Advocate is a volunteer, nominated by the ETSI Board, who is an advocate for societal and SME interests in ETSI standardization.

The 3SI Advocate:
- Is independent, impartial and neutral.
- Is available for all ETSI Members and chairmen for support or issues on matters related to inclusiveness.
- Receives opinions raised by the representatives of societal stakeholders and SMEs concerning adopted European Standards.
- Takes a view on these opinions and transmit this view and the opinions to the relevant ETSI committees.
- Catalogs ETSI standards in development that may be relevant to societal stakeholders and SMEs, and provides this list to the organizations representing societal stakeholders and SMEs, and to the ETSI Board.

3SI Meeting

On a regular basis, and at least once a year, ETSI organizes a high-level exchange on societal stakeholders, SMEs and inclusiveness. This exchange involves representatives of the organizations representing societal stakeholders - ANEC, ECOS and ETUC - and SMEs, represented by SBS, the 3SI Advocate, ETSI management (Director General and chairmen of the General Assembly and Board), the European Commission and the EFTA Secretariat. Other ETSI members or experts may be invited as needed.

This meeting provides a regular exchange in order to consider the needs of these organizations, discuss any critical issues and work towards effective ways for finding solutions.

Contact the 3SI Advocate

The 3SI Advocate can be contacted at: 3SI.Advocate@anec.eu.

The interests of society in standardization

Four organizations are recognized by the European Commission to represent the interests of societal stakeholders and SMEs in European Standardization. The societal stakeholders are ANEC, ECOS and ETUC, representing respectively consumers, environmental and social interests - and SBS, the European association of SMEs in standardization. Their role is outlined in the European Union's Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European Standardization.

The European societal stakeholders and the SME association are ETSI members and participate directly in our work alongside our members, with the same rights as any other member.

About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardization, open to the representa¬tion of national consumer organizations in 34 countries. ANEC defends consumer interests in standardization and the use of standards, and in the setting of policy or legislation that intends to refer to standards.

www.anec.eu

About ECOS

ECOS is the European Environmental Citizens' Organization in Standardization. Supported by over 40 members across Europe and beyond, ECOS defends the environmental interests in European and international standardization.

www.ecostandard.org

About ETUC

ETUC is the voice of European workers in standardization. With 45 million members from 89 trade union organizations in 39 European countries, plus 10 European Trade Union Federations, ETUC promotes high quality working conditions for workers in the standardization process.

www.etuc.org/issue/standardisation

The contribution societal stakeholders bring

ANEC, ECOS and ETUC bring a wealth of technical expertise to the standards development process. Through their participation, the standards development process benefits from perspectives that are otherwise often missing.

Not only do ANEC, ECOS and ETUC enhance the quality of standards, they also contribute to building confidence in the standardization system. This has long been recognized by policy makers and cemented with the adoption of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European Standardization.

About SBS

Small Business Standards (SBS) is the association representing European SMEs in the standardization process at European and International levels. SBS members are national and European sectorial and interprofessional associations representing SMEs all over Europe working in and out of the EU. The work conducted under SBS is mandated and financed by the European Commission.

www.sbs-sme.eu

About ETSI

ETSI produces globally-applicable standards for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), including fixed, mobile, radio, aeronautical, broadcast and internet technologies and is officially recognized by the European Union as a European Standards Organization. ETSI is an independent, not-for-profit association whose more than 800 member companies and organizations, drawn from 66 countries across five continents worldwide, determine its work programme and participate directly in its work.

For more information please visit: www.etsi.org.

Since its foundation, ETSI has understood the need to consider the interests of society at large in its work. Standards can bring significant benefits to society:

- Consumers benefit from the economies of scale and interoperability enabled by standards
- Large markets, enabled by standards, unlock economic growth and job creation
- Standards reduce barriers to entry into markets, benefiting SMEs
- SMEs also benefit from participation in standards development, through enhanced reputation and contact with potential partners and customers
- Standards may address specific topics of societal interest, such as environmental protection, or ensuring products are accessible and can be used by all.

We have taken pragmatic and practical steps to ensure the interests of users and SMEs are genuinely represented at ETSI, in a manner which is meaningful and visible.

Representation in ETSI governance

The ETSI General Assembly is our highest decision making authority, and all members are entitled to participate. One of the positions of vice-chair of the General Assembly is reserved for a representative of users of standards.

Our Board, of up to 30 persons, is elected by the General Assembly. Two seats are reserved, one for a representative of users, and one for a representative of SMEs.

In addition, we offer reduced membership fees for SMEs, micro-enterprises, universities and publicly funded research bodies and not-for-profit user associations. Strong participation by government bodies in our work provides further assurance of a balance of interests.

Societal impact of new standards

We take account of the potential impact of the standards we develop. Issues related to environmental, user and consumer considerations are highlighted at the earliest opportunity in the standards development process, when a proposal for a new standard is made.