KIC/SDF

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Resume of Sandra Feliciano, from the Knowledge Innovation Centre, intervention as discussant at the WP.6 2019 Annual Session - afternoon panel on Education about Standardization

Good afternoon! I would like to thank UNECE for the invitation to participate in this interesting session and to congratulate all panel speakers for their relevant contributions:

Prof. Blind informed us that the market demands standardization professionals – and did so based on hard data collected through research, which reinforces significantly this feeling we all had – and alerted us that we might be overlooking the potential of **s**tandardization as a knowledge transfer channel – something I totally subscribe.

Mr. Bollens highlighted the need to bridge education, research and standardization and **r**eminded us how education about standardization will increase the quality infrastructure, innovation and capacity building across countries – another two statements I fully subscribe.

And Prof. Pankina provided us with concrete examples of education about standardization in Russia.

So, after these interventions, it seems consensual that we need more education about standardization – but how do we respond to this need? Implementation has its complexities and its easier said than done.

As someone who has been working with education about standardization for over a decade, I suspect we might need to take a step back. All materials produced by CEN, ISO, UNECE (curricula, pedagogic materials, etc.) are important and needed, but although they have been freely available for years, their adoption has not been as wide as we all expected. And this is probably because people don't value, nor use, what they don't understand. So, we might need to focus on motivating the people that can use the tools, instead of developing and publishing more tools.

We need to make lecturers/researchers and HEI leaders familiar with standardization, otherwise they will not use the materials we develop, nor allow their peers too. I have been trying to have a course exclusively on standardization and quality infrastructure on the Master degree I teach at Porto Polytechnic since 2013. I managed 5 contact hours on 2013; which I managed to increase to 14 contact hours in 2019. But I am still fighting for a 6 ECTS course.

 This "familiarization" with the "formal" standardization world might be done through involving higher education lecturers and leaders in standardization activities. Ideally, we would invite all lecturers, teachers, researcher and education leaders to become Delegates and Experts at technical committees and work groups of national, regional and international standardization bodies. This would be superb but, unfortunately, it is not realistic. So, we might need to find more subtle, day to day opportunities to involve them in standardization work. That is what I, at KIC, have been doing in the last years – taking every opportunity I find to educate colleagues about standardization and would like to share today with you, one of those approaches, which is to use ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships projects to educate the partners – who are researchers, lecturers, teachers, educational

organizations' leaders, SMEs' representatives, etc – about standardization, by convincing them to transform intellectual outputs of each project, that are proprietary standards or have a standard-like content, into new work item proposals to the transferred to standardization bodies. This is a win-win approach as it not only educates citizens about standardization but also solves one of the biggest challenges all partners face during ERASMUS+ applied research projects, which is to assure dissemination and exploitation of the intellectual outputs developed, after the end of the project – in other words, after the end of the funding.

A few recent examples from the ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships world:

- **SAPS/learntowork (https://learntowork.eu/)**: one of the intellectual outputs included a collection of practices' cases on apprenticeship and we added a case based on the ISO Secondment Programme (https://learntowork.eu/3568/)
- **HEALINT (https://healint.eu/) & ApprenticeshipQ (https://apprenticeshipq.eu/)**: both projects developed proprietary standards with requirements to evaluate and assure the quality of apprenticeships and we are currently negotiating with the British and Portuguese national standardization bodies (BSI and IPQ) so they can be submitted as new ISO International Workshop Agreements (IWA)
- **VET21001 (https://vet21001.eu/)**: one of the intellectual outputs is developing rules for joint EQAVET-ISO 21001 certification and we are negotiating with the Mexican national standardization body to submit a new ISO technical specification (ISO/TS 21002)

Regardless to say, it would help immensely if the EC would motivate this as a default in the ERASMUS+ Guidelines. A simple line highlighting the possibility to use standardization as a knowledge transfer channel to assure dissemination and exploitation of ERASMUS+ projects' intellectual outputs after the funding ends would help this approach to become mainstream.

Thank you for your attention!