

UNECE Workshop hand-out

Towards gender-responsive standards – Relevant resources and reading materials

UNECE Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards publication:

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Guidelines%20on%20developing%20gender%20responsive%20standards%20Advanced%20Copy%20v0_1%20220119.pdf

The UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Initiative website is located here : <https://unece.org/gender-responsive-standards-initiative>

<https://genderchampions.com/impact/standards> → focus on the UNECE initiative

<https://www.agoria.be/en/legislation-finance/standardisation/gender-responsive-standards> --> an article giving background info about the initiative, and which mentions a survey that was done to understand the state of play

<https://www.iso.org/strategy2030/key-areas-of-work/diversity-and-inclusion/women-in-standards.html> → ISO, with a focus on representation of women / women's involvement; with a video

Gender and Standards: a flyer by WASQP (West Africa Quality System Programme) and UNIDO to raise awareness: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2019-03/UNIDO_Flyer_Standardization.pdf

Blogpost about the Society for Standards Professionals (SES) 70th Annual Conference that included a session for Diversity and Inclusion: Driving Change Through Action : <https://www.iec.ch/blog/need-diversity-and-inclusion-standards>

Examples of gender-bias:

- temperature in office buildings and public buildings set on the basis of men's metabolism (<https://www.workspacedesign.co.uk/gender-and-heating-in-the-workplace/>)
- piano keyboards for men's hand sizes (<https://www.musicalhow.com/ideal-hand-size-for-piano/>)
- safety and personal protective gear, e.g. for fire fighters, but also in the healthcare sector, not adapted to women's body forms and sizes (<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/03/09/personal-protective-equipment-is-sexist/>; <https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/how-can-we-fix-the-fit-of-personal-protective-equipmentbut>)
- undoing bias: a toilet to accommodate women astronauts in space (<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/10/space-toilet-nasa-women/616686/>)
- voice recognition with gender and race bias, e.g. in cars, garage doors, ... (<https://hbr.org/2019/05/voice-recognition-still-has-significant-race-and-gender-biases>)
- face recognition being biased (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03186-4>)

Here a short awareness-raising article, with examples: <https://econlife.com/2020/04/male-bias-for-one-size-fits-all/>

And many more examples in the book by Caroline Criado-Perez (2019) 'Invisible women – Gender bias in a world designed for men': a highly commendable resource

Gender Action Plan

GEAR – Toolkit on Gender Equality in Research and Academia: provides a step-by-step guide for setting up a Gender Equality Plan, instruments, inspiring practices, an action toolbox and more