

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

GRSI meeting report 15 Sept 2022, 10:00 CET

Item	Subject	Discussion / Action / Decision
1	Approval of the agenda	Agenda approved as written
2	Brief introductions	<p>Lance Thompson – UNECE (WP.6 Secretary) Tauno Kangur – UNECE Stephanie Eynon - BSI, UK (GRSI Lead) Azizah Alogali – Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization Clementine Kamu – Africa Deborah Wautier – CEN/CENELEC Florence Uwatwembi - Rwanda Standards Board Grace Bolan – ASME Hayk Zeynalyan - National Institute of Standards of Armenia Ihsan Övüt – Turkey Joanina Gajdek – Austrian Standards Karin Lindmark – Swedish Institute for Standards Léon Lee Dossou – Republic of Guinea, Western-Africa Louis Fredricks – ASME Lucy He – New Zealand WorkSafe (PT1 Lead) Marianna Kramarikova – IEC M’Lahfi Basma – Morocco Standardization Institute Nargiz Azizova – UN WOMEN Patrice Braun – Federation University, Australia Peter Morfee - New Zealand WorkSafe Philibert Zimulinda – Standards Board of Uganda Philip Okungu – ARSO Ray Walshe – Dublin City University (PT3 Lead) Sandra Umugwaneza – Kenya Bureau of Standards Sarid Sriduandao – Thai Industrial Standards Institute Sevde Özbey - SMIIC</p>
3	LearnQI e-learning	<p>The secretariat has finalized its e-learning platform on quality infrastructure with its first four modules on conformity assessment, market surveillance, risk management and gender-responsive standards. These have been established as introductory courses on each of these themes. They are being translated to all five other official UN languages (French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese). The French and Russian should be online shortly and when this is done, an official “launch” will take place.</p> <p>It was suggested that this platform could be used to help explain the initiative to other stakeholders who are perhaps not familiar with the work. It can also be widely circulated. It is free of charge.</p> <p>There was a question on the link between this and the April/May workshops. The latter were established with the gender focal points as the main target audience. All of the material from this workshop is available on the event webpage. The e-learning is currently an introduction level training.</p> <p>There was a question if we might consider developing further trainings on gender-responsive standards (perhaps around the methodology, on gender action plans or other). The current e-learning modules had been developed thanks to an extrabudgetary contribution from Germany; the secretariat is currently seeking funds in order to further develop this platform.</p> <p>Link to the LearnQI platform: https://learnqi.unece.org/</p>

		Link to the WP.6 April-May workshop event: https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.6-Meetings/events/366923
4	GAP Best Practice Template	<p>Based on the experience from the Trade Facilitation Section and its Single Window Repository, it was suggested to have a repository of best practices of gender action plans (GAP). This can be used by organizations looking for guidance / best practices on GAP. It will be a good tool to share approaches. After a critical mass of responses are received, these can be compiled into stories to demonstrate good experiences on implementation and/or areas that were problematic.</p> <p>It was suggested to perhaps call this “good practice” instead of “best practice” as this is something that will evolve and that many are at the beginning of their implementation. In UNECE, we usually talk of “best practices” but this is not seen as an end point and so it will be possible to periodically update the submissions.</p> <p>It was suggested to have an additional question on the length of the GAP (is it a two-year plan, a three-year plan; what is the frequency of review). This will underline that it is an ongoing activity that will need to be updated and to see if this has been considered in the initial work.</p> <p>There was also a suggestion to ask who (if not the focal point) is responsible for the roll-out of the GAP.</p> <p>The GAP is being translated to French, Spanish and Russian and the secretariat should be able to accept responses in at least these three languages.</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the coming week, Secretariat to do a mass mailing requesting input • In November/December, target requests will be sent • Deadline for completed submissions of end of the year will be requested • Early 2023, the responses will be compiled and analyzed with a view of creating stories that could be published. <p>It was asked if we could circulate the information on social media. The secretariat will set up a webpage for the templates and the responses; once this is done, it will announce on its Linked-In page. Others are more than welcome to share on their own social media channels.</p>
5	GRSI project teams	<p>Project Team 1 is working on knowledge sharing & training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy He is leading this group • The group completed a survey last year. • Currently compiling available material (training and GAP) with a view of eventually establishing a database of such material and making it publicly available. Also looking at what could be additional needs for workshop or maybe a check list. <p>Project Team 2 is working on methodology for assessing and developing gender-responsive standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Parkouda is leading this group • The group completed a Methodology / Guidelines for developing gender responsive standards this past period which will be published in the coming months • The group may work in the near future on creating criteria / methodology for assessing if a standard is gender responsive. <p>Project Team 3 was originally intended for network development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Walsh is leading this group • The secretariat reminded that capacity building and outreach to other organizations must be coordinated through the secretariat on an ad-hoc basis. Presentations must also be cleared by the secretariat before use. • It was suggested that PT3 might work on a model, pre-approved presentation about the initiative, perhaps with single-slide options on key points (such as the Declaration, GAP, Methodology) ... Perhaps also having presentations that target different types of stakeholders. • It was also noted that PT3 could work on identifying other organizations or types of stakeholders that could be contacted / engaged by the Secretariat.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Bolan volunteered to help with PT3.
6a	Any Other Business	IEC and ISO Joint working group on gender-responsive standards has developed a guide on developing gender responsive standards which will be circulated to all NSBs and Technical Committees. It targets specifically how to write gender-responsive standards and is very much aligned with the UNECE guidelines produced by PT 2
6b		A UN budget committee in New York apparently requested in 2020 that the term gender-responsive be replaced with gender-sensitive. This has only come to the attention of the working party in the past week. The Chair and the GRSI leadership feel strongly that this change should not be implemented and has requested that the secretariat compile the arguments they submitted in order to prepare an informal document for the annual session.
6c		Deborah Wautier of CEN/CENELEC provided an update on their GAP. The current GAP is reaching its end and they are in the process of finalizing a new GAP which is expected to be approved in November 2022 by their board.
6d		Philip Okungu of ARSO provided an update on their work implementing their GAP. This includes encouraging the participation of women on technical committees and also supporting women-owned business to benefit from the use of standards.
	Next meetings	<p>Next GRSI meeting: GRSI meeting, 07 December 20:00 pm (Geneva-time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will most likely need to be an official meeting and would involve elections <p>To note: WP.6 Annual Session meeting 7-9 November 2022 (in person meeting in Geneva)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.6-Meetings/events/363380