



## Update on WP.6 activities

December 2022

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of WP.6, 7-9 November 2022

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session approved the [Revision of Recommendation T](#), the [Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards](#), the [Revised Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms](#), the [Revised CRA EEE](#), the [education module on environmental issues](#), the [Programme of Work for 2023](#) and the [Revised Terms of Reference of WP.6](#).

During the Session, there was a [panel discussion on digital and green transformations](#) and their relation to WP.6 themes. As the theme of the next UNECE Commission Session, all Working Parties will be requested to contribute to this cross-cutting topic. Digitalization has entered into many areas of quality infrastructure from metrology and testing to standardization and risk management for example. The importance of keeping a gender lens on this topic as well as supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises was reminded during this discussion. As some possible ways forward, it was suggested that WP.6:

- Looks into some advanced technologies and provide guidance on the implications for market surveillance and conformity assessment – a project on artificial intelligence will likely be launched;
- Undertakes studies on documentary needs (i.e. certificates of conformity, certificates of quality, test results or other) that could be harmonized at an international level to be followed by eventual electronic messaging, which could be proposed through UN/CEFACT semantics;
- Continues its efforts on education on standardization in order to disseminate and ensure that information is available to all; and,
- Eventually develops a recommendation on digital and green transition in relation to quality infrastructure.

Prior to the session, a [panel on “Back to Basics”](#) reviewed the base principles of quality infrastructure (standardization, national technical regulations, international regulatory cooperation, metrology, market surveillance, risk management, conformity assessment). The presentations are available on the event website and the secretariat will make best efforts to make the recordings available on its YouTube channel in early 2023.

### Procedures

A document on working procedures is being developed that outlines several key points such as elections for subgroups and project development. The purpose is to align our working methods and the related vocabulary to the general UNECE guidance on the work of inter-governmental bodies. It is therefore proposed that elections within the subgroups (MARS, GRM, GRS, START) take place annually and that official titles be used (i.e. chair and vice-chair). It is also proposed that work be more oriented on projects as is the case within the rest of Trade Subprogramme of UNECE; the proposition is a light version of the procedures used in UN/CEFACT, which have been used for nearly two decades with success and provide a certain level of transparency and inclusion.

The WP.6 website is in the process of being updated. It will hopefully go live in January 2023.

### Upcoming events (see individual subgroups for their next meetings):

23-24 November 2023: WP.6 Annual Session

### WHERE YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

- Request standards development organizations to become signatory to the [Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development](#).
- For those standards bodies that already have standards-related gender action plans, to fill out the [questionnaire template](#) for a future best practices guide on the topic.
- Market surveillance agencies with positive experiences to share on combatting counterfeiting to propose presentations for the [21 Feb. webinar](#). Deadline 15 January, please.
- Participate in the WP.6 meetings in view of the proposed topics (outlined on the next page).
- Any best practices in market surveillance, gender-responsive standards, risk management in regulatory systems or education on standardization to propose presentations by 15 March 2023.

# MARS



*Advisory Group on Market Surveillance*

At the [June 2022 annual meeting of MARS](#), a panel discussion on best practices in market surveillance was held with presentations for New Zealand, Finland, Sweden and the World Customs Organization. Electrical equipment safety, radio equipment controls, decentralized model of market surveillance, equipment for explosive environments and cooperation with border agencies was discussed. The presentations are available on the [website](#) and in the [MARS report](#).

One of the future topics that MARS plans to study is the continued pertinence of [Recommendation M](#) on combatting counterfeiting. A [webinar](#) on this topic will be organized on 21 February. The group will also review [Recommendation N](#) in view of a potential update.

Next meetings: 21 Feb. 2023, 26 May 2023.

# START-Ed



*Education on Standardization Initiative*

The Education on Standardization initiative finalized a new module on environmental standards for the [UNECE model educational programme on standardization](#). They also initiated establishing a focal point network of academia experts to further study the education initiative, propose new or updated modules and guidance documents, and implement the existing material.

During this period, an e-learning platform called [LearnQI](#) was launched with four modules on market surveillance, conformity assessment, risk management and gender-responsive standards. This will soon be available in multiple languages (French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese) and it is hoped that more modules will be added.

Next meetings: 1 Mar., 23 May 2023.

# START



*Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques*

In 2023, the Team will initiate analysis of experiences of current regulatory initiatives.

Next meetings: 23 May 2023. Possibly a webinar as well at another time.

# GRS



*Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards*

At the June 2022 annual meeting of GRM, a panel discussion on "[Gender, digitalization, the environment: ensuring a sustainable future for all](#)" was held. An [event](#) which presented the results of the extrabudgetary project on gender-responsive standards was held on 1 June. Four [workshops](#) on gender-responsive standards were held in April/May. The GRS was present at two meetings of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, the first on a round table organized by [UN-WOMEN](#) and a [side event organized by WP.6](#). A [video animation](#) has been put on line as well as a number of [testimonies from standards development organizations](#).

The GRS is now working on standards-related gender action plans and has developed a questionnaire template which organizations are requested to fill out. The results will be compiled in early 2023 in order to prepare a publication on the topic. The GRS will also continue to share best practices during its annual meetings.

Next meetings: 8 Feb., 5 Apr., 24 May, 5 July, 27 Sept., 22 Nov. 2023 (the meeting of 22 Nov. is planned as an in-person meeting; all others are virtual)

# GRM



*Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems*

The GRM completed a joint publication with the International Trade Centre on [Managing Risk for Safe and Efficient Trade: Guide for Border Regulatory Agencies](#). Discussions have also begun with UN/CEFACT on integrated risk management in relation to Single Window systems, applying the principles of [Recommendation V](#) and the WP.6-ITC Guide. The GRM has also held five virtual meetings which have allowed to progress these topics and exchange good practices. The GRM have been discussing artificial intelligence and risk management.

The GRM will be working on risk management in relation to Single Window as well as contributing to a future WP.6 project on artificial intelligence. GRM will also conduct a survey on the application of the principles described in [Recommendation P](#).

Next meetings: 15 Dec. 2022; 19 Jan., 16 Mar., 25 May, 6 July, 14 Sept., 22 Nov. 2023 (the meeting of 22 Nov. is planned as an in-person meeting; all others are virtual)