

Minutes of the meeting of the STaRT-ED Group

(Geneva, 26 November 2014, in the framework of WP.6 session of 24-26 November 2014)

Present experts from the following countries:

Belarus – Mr Vladimir Shaucchenka, Rector, Belarusian State Institute for Qualification Improvement and Retraining of Staff on Standardization, Metrology and Quality Management, Minsk.

France – Mrs E. Lamoot, GMCA company.

Russian Federation – from Academy of Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ASMC), Moscow – Mrs. G. Pankina, Rector; Mr Siniakov, Head, ASMC branch, St. Petersburg; Mrs J. Yakimova – Head, ASMC branch, Novosibirsk; Mr. I. Yashin, Head, ASMC branch, Kazan;

Mrs T. Guseva, Rector Council, Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology, Moscow;

Mrs Bogdanova, Director, Institute of International Business and Law, St. Petersburg;

Mr G. Sharag, Assistant to the Director, Institute of International Business and Law, St. Petersburg;

Mrs E. Shendrikova, Public Affairs Officer; Moscow State Regional University (MSRU);

Mrs I. Karapetyants, Vice Dean on International Relations, Moscow University of Railway Engineering (MIIT);

Netherlands – Mrs T. Egyedi, Director of DIRoS and Senior Researcher Standardization, Delft University of Technology;

Slovakia – Mrs M. Orviska, Professor, Matej Bel University, Banska Bystrica;

Switzerland – Mr L. Baccaro, Geneva University (Département de Sociologie, Faculté des sciences de la société);

Ukraine : Mr K. Ohdansky, Dean, National Academy for Public Administration, Kiev/Dnepropetrovsk;

Mrs O. Pavlenko, Head of the chair, Ukrainian Customs Academy, Dnepropetrovsk;

UNECE secretariat: Ms L. Jachia, secretary to UNECE Working Party 6,

Mr S. Kouzmine, Coordinator, Education on Standardization project.

During the meeting the following presentations were made:

- From ASMC – on the preparation of teaching modules as foreseen by UNECE model programme;
- From Moscow State Regional University (MSRU) – on first results of an introduction of a programme on standards (based on 2013-2014 educational year and first quarter of 2014);

- From EURAS – on latest developments;
- From the Institute of International Business and Law, St. Petersburg on the need of elaboration of supra-national educational standards based on competencies and skills required by the market (not national but global);
- From Ukrainian universities - on approaches to teaching on standards;
- From Slovak Matej Bel University (Banska Bystrica) - on experiences of teaching standardization and on related scientific research (including a proposed new study programme prepared for the accreditation process with a new course that had been developed on the basis of the previous recommendations and cooperation within the UNECE STaRT-ED group);
- From Switzerland – on a master programme on standardization (at Geneva University), etc.

The Group took note of the provided information and thanked the speakers.

The main focus of the discussions at the meeting was on the possibility (and ways) of using the ASMC modules in educational process and on related experiences and problems from the representatives of the educational institutions.

During the debate participants stressed the high quality of the first three modules prepared by ASMC (and took note of the presentations of experts that elaborated them) that cover the following areas: “benefits of standards”; “standards at WTO context” and “performance management standards” (these modules are available on the WP.6 webpage menu item “[Education on Standardization](#)” – Key deliverables and Other resources subheadings).

It was a general agreement that these modules allow for the practical use both as a part of the UNECE model educational programme and as well as separate modules for organizing specific types of training (for example, on WTO standards-related issues).

The modules represent a good mix of international and national experiences and during discussions participants underlined the importance for experts of understanding global approaches at the today’s globalized world

It was also suggested that other UNECE programmes working on standards can use the prepared modules (and UNECE model programme, in general) as a basis for organizing specific educational sectoral trainings. Such approach, in the opinion of experts, would allow to elaborate consistent and harmonized UNECE policies relating to standards (on their definition, on recognized practices of “reference to standards” , of a common understanding on “having an access to standards” and of other horizontal issues). An interest in preparation of new specialized educational modules on UNECE standards (for instance, in transport area, energy efficiency for buildings and on meat standards) was noted.

The Group requested experts and delegates to promote the use of the new modules as a means of practical implementation of the Recommendation “I” and of the UNECE model programme.

It was suggested that the free access to educational modules shall be provided on the basis of an “open source software” licensing principle (e.g. GPL), which entails that the user of such a module may use it (a) on the condition that the source of the module is

acknowledged and (b) that changes and possible improvements to the module are given back to the UNECE, with c) the additional request to the user to timely inform the UNECE about the context and place in which the module was used.

During the meeting following issues were also discussed: international and regional developments in education area; changes in the techniques used by web search engines; practice of teaching standards at educational university programmes and as a part of vocational training of public officials and experts (positive experiences in Belarus, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine were noted). The Ukrainian delegate suggested to publish an information on the discussions at STaRT-ED Group in the Customs Scientific Journal. The Group also noted the growing importance of issues relating to social responsibility of business and decided to initiate in future an exchange of information on relevant issues and on education in this area.

The positive results of introducing standardization as a new discipline into bachelor programmes at MSRU were noted. During the debate on teaching experiences, it was noted that in general students seem to have already a certain knowledge of standards but at the same time have difficulties in understanding the notion of technical regulations (TRs). Participants were informed about a new activity at the Customs Union on teaching technical regulation issues (and on preparing experts to be able to elaborate TRs).

The participants underlined the important work done by WP6 in the education area, thanked UNECE secretariat for an assistance and noted the positive and supportive position of the UNECE Executive Secretary (Mr. C. F. Bach) during his meeting with the representatives of universities on 24 November 2014.

Note from UNECE secretariat

The results of the discussions from the STaRT-ED Group were presented to the Working Party 6 plenary meeting under a special session “education on standards-related issues” (on 26 November 2014).

After deliberations, the Working Party made the following decisions on this subject:

DECISION 13: The Working Party thanked the Russian Academy for Standardisation, Metrology and Certification for developing the modules based on the UNECE Curriculum

DECISION 14: The Working Party endorsed the work on first teaching modules under UNECE model educational programme and invites UNECE programmes to contribute to it

DECISION 15: The Working Party invited interested educational institutions in UNECE region to initiate new courses on the basis of new modules

DECISION 16: The Working Party requested delegations to raise awareness about new educational tools

DECISION 17: The Working Party stressed the need for more cooperation and coordination on education on standards issues on a regional and international level and entrusts secretariat to undertake necessary initiatives to this end

DECISION 18: The Working Party noted information on education on standards-related matters provided by the Coordinator of the STaRT-ED initiative. The Working Party recommended that the activities under the STaRT-ED group be continued