WP.6 report to SCTCS
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UNECE – Working Party 6
for
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WP.6 is “quality infrastructure”

- In 2022, the WP.6 Bureau initiated an internal process to streamline its work
  - A revised terms of reference (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11)
  - A revised internal organization
  - Questionnaire to WP.6 experts
  - Organization of Forums of all the subgroups the same week
• This was a request of the internal review of WP.6 (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/4)

• Revised mission statement
  • WP.6 aims to promote regulatory cooperation, standardization policies and activities which contribute towards reducing technical barriers to trade, promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions including, for example, gender equality, climate and environmental protection, circular economy and the adaptation to new technologies.

• Streamlining of the (six) objectives

• Addition of an IPR policy
Revised internal structure
Questionnaire to WP.6 experts (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/INF.1)

Relevance of WP.6 thematic areas of work
WP.6 news pieces

• 5 September 2022, “Managing Risk for Post-Pandemic trade: UNECE and ITC launch a Guide for Border Regulators”
• 4 October 2022, “Setting the standards for women’s inclusion”
• 14 October 2022, “On World Standards Day, UNECE launches new e-learning module on Standards”
• 18 November 2022, “How can digital and green transformations improve quality infrastructure in trade”
• 12 January 2023, “Promoting the role of market surveillance to combat counterfeit goods”
• 1 February 2023, “Bringing standards to supply chain experts”
• 27 April 2023, “UNECE to discuss challenges of products with integrated artificial intelligence”
• 19 May 2023, “Quality infrastructure is centre stage at UNECE WP.6 for World Metrology Day”
WP.6 plans to continue its work on streamlining its work

- Currently working on internal “Working Practices” to:
  - Clarify membership / observer status
  - Clarify the roles of officers in the subgroups and nomination procedure
  - Establish a project development process
  - Clarify how to conduct representation of WP.6 work and liaison to other bodies
  - Clarify how officers in WP.6 can use a “title”

- Request a decision from SCTCS to present such working procedures to next year’s session
WP.6 working on artificial intelligence

• “Regulatory compliance of products with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies”
• Project launched on 1 February 2023
• All of WP.6 project involving all subgroups
• A White Paper is out for Public Review until 10 July 2023
• Team will then work on:
  • Guidelines
  • Maybe a recommendation or maybe a Common Regulatory Arrangement (as per Recommendation L)
  • Maybe a “Declaration” for member States to commit to the base principles
Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS)

• Sharing of best practices (Belgium, Estonia, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, EU Commission DG GROW, WCO…)

• Webinar on 21 February on Market Surveillance Role in the Combat Against Counterfeits (Serbia, Denmark, United Kingdom, WTO)

• Planning to launch a revision of Recommendation M

• Planning a webinar (early 2024) on Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices – and possibly a revision of Rec.N
Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS)

- Webinar on “Gender, digitalization, environment: ensuring a sustainable future for all”
- Webinar on “Best practices and challenges in gender action plans”
- Template for a repository of gender action plans (submissions from Australia, Austria, Ecuador, CEN/CENELEC, New Zealand and Rwanda)
- “Guidelines on Development of Gender-Responsive Standards”
- Finalization of the German (PTB) – funded project
  - E-learning, video animation, testimonies, workshop for gender focal points, Standards-4-SDGs platform…
82 signatories of the Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards
Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards
WP.6 inclusive meetings guidelines

- Contributions
  - Strive for balanced contributions from both women and men participants
  - Keep individuals’ speaking time balanced (avoid monopolizing)

- Interruptions
  - Avoid interrupting the speaker
  - Avoid talking over each other

- Coded language
  - Be mindful of coded language that may perpetuate gender stereotypes
    - Example: Are women described as aggressive for behavior that would lead to a man being considered confident?

- Recognize contributions

For more information, see Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards (ECE/TRADE/472)
Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS)

• Soon to have another publication on “Why Gender-Responsive Standards Are Better For Everyone”

• Webinar on Gender, Standards and Sustainable Development (tentatively 27 September 2023)

• Probably one more publication on gender action plans before end 2023
Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM)

- Finalization of revision of Recommendation T
- Publication of joint ITC-UNECE “Managing Risk for Safe and Efficient Trade: Guide for Border Regulatory Agencies”
- Exchange on best practices (Georgia, Greece, Nigeria, Mexico, New Zealand, NAPPO, ITC, WTO, EU DG TAXUD)
- Launch of project on integrated risk management through single window systems
- Launch of a survey on the application of principles in Rec. P were used during the COVID period
- Possible project on risk management in relation to SDG14
Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START)

- Quiet during COVID…
- Future work:
  - SIPS plans work on trunk pipeline safety for growing markets such as hydrogen or ammonia.
  - SIEEE plans work on equipment needed in hydrogen industry
  - SI Cybersecurity plans to capture further use cases complying with the common regulatory arrangement
  - Studying the evolution of Recommendation L to accommodate processes, services and systems
Education on standardization initiative

- Launch of focal point network of academic experts interested in education of standardization

- New module on environmental standards

- LearnQI platform: 400 registrations; 250 completed
SCTCS Decisions related to WP.6

- Endorsement of report (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/2)
- Endorsement of PoW 2022-2023 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12)
- Endorsement of revised ToR (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/11)

- Request that WP.6 present Draft Working Practices to the next SCTCS session

- Also for information:
  - Completion of revision of Recommendation T on Standards for Sustainable Development (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/6)
  - Guidelines on Developing Gender-Responsive Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/09)
Thank you

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