



EDF and ANEC Webinar

Introduction to Standardisation

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Tuesday, 29 June 2021

15:30 – 17:00 Brussels Time

Agenda

15:30 – 16:15

- Welcome and Housekeeping rules
- Introduction to standardisation - Chiara Giovannini, Deputy Secretary-General, ANEC
- Short Q&A
- The role of the Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA) - Malin Rygg, Chair, SAGA
- Short Q&A

16:15 – 16:25

- Break

16:25 – 17:00

- Involvement of persons with disabilities in standardisation – Alejandro Moledo, Head of Policy, EDF
- Q&A session
- Closing

Housekeeping rules

- All participants are muted
- Chat box for technical questions and Q&A box for content questions
- Ask for the floor through chat box or by raising hand (Alt+Y)
- This is being recorded and will be published on EDF website
- Post-event survey will be launched at the end

Practical Information

- Accessibility features:
 - Real-time captioning in English available as subtitles or external link
 - International Sign Interpretation

Today's Speakers



Chiara Giovannini
Deputy Secretary-General
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Malin Rygg
Chair
SAGA



Alejandro Moledo
Head of Policy
EDF



Raising standards for consumers

Introduction to standardisation

ANEC-EDF webinar on European Accessibility Act & standards
29 June 2021, remote

Chiara Giovannini
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Content



About ANEC in a nutshell

What is standardisation and how does it work?

What are the main existing accessibility standards?



About ANEC

The Single Market



The New Approach



The Legislative Environment

- The European legislator sets essential safety requirements through horizontal and sectoral European laws ('directives')
- The European Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) are invited (through a 'mandate/request') to develop the European Standards (ENs) that can provide the technical detail to support implementation of the directives
- These 'mandated/requested' ENs are called 'harmonized standards' when their references are published in the Official Journal of the European Union

The Legislative Environment



- Although the use of harmonized standards remains voluntary, a manufacturer can presume that his product complies with the law if he complies with the harmonized standard(s)
- A product in compliance with the law is free to circulate throughout the European Economic Area (or 'Single Market')

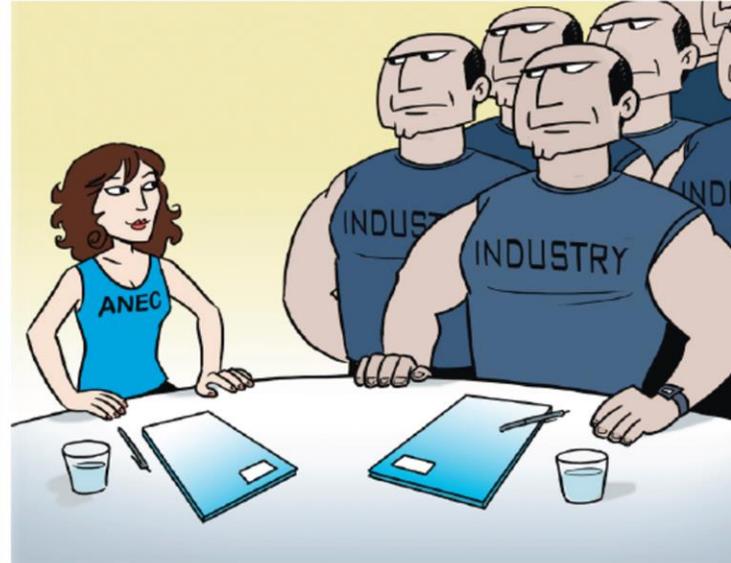


The Problem

- The New Approach/New Legislative Framework is a model of 'co-regulation' (a private/public partnership).
- European standardisation is a private activity and is based on national delegations (as in ISO & IEC)
- Yes, participation of all national stakeholders is encouraged in the development of European Standards . . . but (bigger) business has most to gain from influencing the content of standards and has the knowledge and resources to participate
- Moreover, national consumer expertise in standardisation is fragmented in many countries or simply does not exist

So consumer participation...

has been centralised at the European level since 1995:



'The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation'

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardisation')

What is standardisation and how does it work?



Role of standards

Many goods and services in Europe fall under Single Market regulations

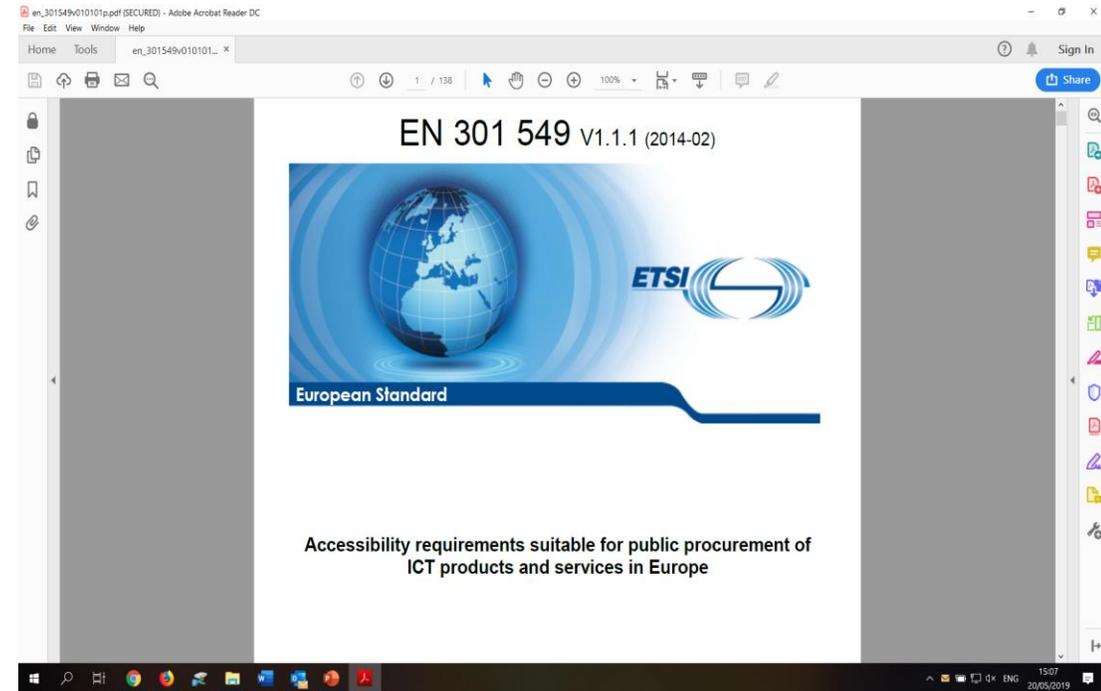
Example: Legislator defines basic safety requirements in directives

Technical solutions are left to the European standards bodies

Voluntary standards complement European legislation

Standard

- document
- voluntary agreement based on consensus amongst economic actors
- approved by recognised body (CEN-CENELEC-ETSI)
- establishes important criteria for products, services and processes



Standardisation process

- Formal request
- Technical Committee
- Draft standard
- Public enquiry & Voting (national representation)
- Publication



The National Delegation Principle

- An **essential but insufficient** platform for European standardisation
- Take the example of toy safety:
 - ✓ ANEC relies on **6** key experts from among its **34** countries to defend consumer interests
 - ✓ These experts speak directly for the consumer in CEN & CENELEC
 - ✓ Without ANEC, only **6** national delegations in CEN-CENELEC could call on consumer expertise
 - **28** national delegations would feature **NO** consumer expertise

The National Delegation Principle



Warning!

Without ANEC, there would be no effective consumer voice in European standardisation



How a European standard (EN) is developed (1)



Proposal

- A New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) is accepted by the competent CEN/CENELEC TC (or BT for new items). **ANEC can participate in both ballots.**
- Once accepted, the national work on the same issue has to stop or be withdrawn (“standstill principle”).

Drafting

- The TC allocates the work item to a Working Group (WG) of individual experts for the drafting of a standard. During the drafting, members of the TC or WG may be asked to **submit comments, including ANEC.**

Approval

- The draft EN is then released for Enquiry (or public comment) to the national members of CEN-CENELEC as a prEN. During the Enquiry, anyone **may comment on the draft, including ANEC.**
- In CEN, the Enquiry stage lasts 3 months and includes a weighted vote (YES, NO, ABSTAIN) with 71% of votes and simple majority needed for the possible, immediate adoption of the standard. In CENELEC, the weighted vote needed is 100% in order to skip the Formal Vote (FV). **ANEC does not have a right to vote.**

How a European standard (EN) is developed (2)



Formal vote

- After the WG agrees a revised text to reflect comments made during the Enquiry, it is sent to the TC for decision on whether to submit the text as an FprEN to the Formal Vote (FV). The TC is expected to reach decision through unanimity of the national members and partner organisations (such as ANEC) participating **but ANEC does not have a right to vote during the FV (YES/NO).**

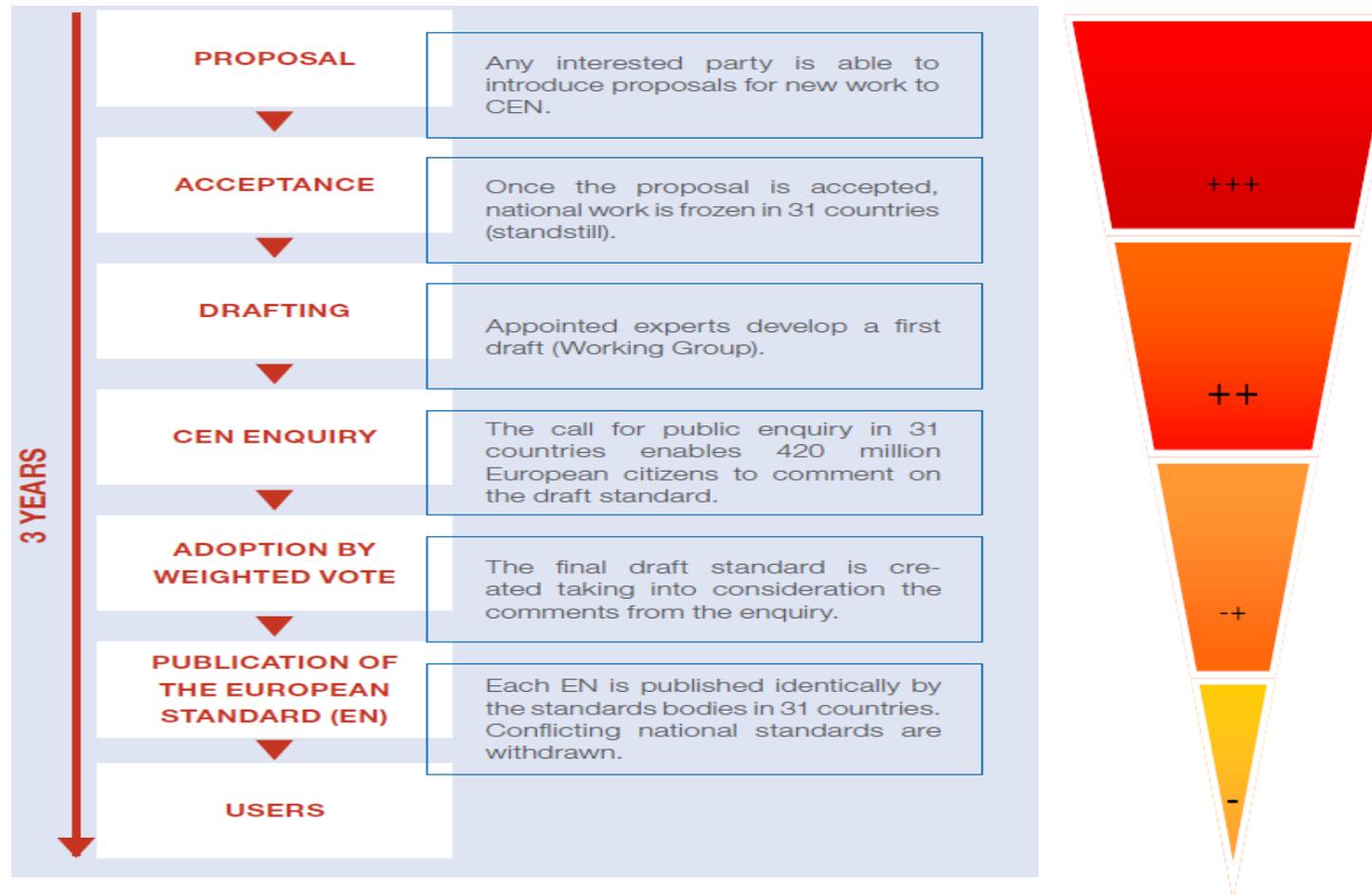
Publication

- Each EN is implemented at national level through publication of an identical national standard, and withdrawal of any pre-existing national standards in conflict. The EN is the only CEN-CENELEC deliverable that requires implementation (not for Technical Specifications).
- Published standards are not available for free but ANEC can buy standards, if needed

Revision

- Published ENs are periodically reviewed. In CEN, this occurs every 5 years at most while in CENELEC it is more variable (the review period is often mentioned in the foreword to the standard).
- As a result of the review, the EN is: confirmed, or amended, or revised as a new edition with a new date, or withdrawn.
- Every effort shall be made by a **TC to reach a unanimous decision, including ANEC, on one of the four options.**

Chances of effective influence in the standardisation process



Standardisation Regulation



- **Regulation (EU) 1025/2012**
- Entered into force in **1 January 2013**
- Scope: rules with regard to the cooperation between European standardisation organisations, national standardisation bodies, Member States and the Commission, the establishment of European standards and European standardisation deliverables for products and for services **in support of Union legislation and policies** (..) and stakeholder participation in European standardisation.
- Recital 24: 'The European standardisation system should also fully take into account the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (...)'.

Rules on EC standardisation requests



Articles of Reg.(EU) No 1025/2012 on mandating process

Art. 8(2): Planning (annual Union Work programme)

Art 10(2): Consultation of the **opinion of the Member States** and required **informal consultations**

Art 12: Notification (of the texts) of draft mandates **to all stakeholders** before adoption

Art 22(3): Application of the **examination procedure** during formal consultation

(Reg (EU) No 182/2011 "Comitology Regulation")

Function/aim of standardisation requests

An invitation to the ESOs to develop standards

A tool to get standards in support of EU legislation or policies

A way for Member States to give political and technical support for standardisation activities

Not legally binding – ESOs are free to respond (but if they accept, they commit).

Standardization Request a precondition for citation of hENs in OJEU.

What are the main existing accessibility standards?

Examples accessibility standards



EN 301549 'Accessibility requirements ICT products and services'

CEN/CLC/ETSI TR 101551 Guidelines on the use of accessibility award criteria suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe

CEN/CLC/ETSI/TR 101 552 Guidance for the application of conformity assessment to accessibility requirements for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe

Examples accessibility standards



EN 17161 'Design for All - Accessibility following a Design for All approach in products, goods and services - Extending the range of users'.

prEN 17148 Transport Services - Customer communications for passenger transport services - A Universal Design approach

CEN-CENELEC Guide 6: 'Guide for addressing accessibility in standards.'

Examples accessibility standards

EN 17210 Accessibility and usability of the built environment - Functional requirements

FprCEN /TR 17621 "Accessibility and usability of the built environment Technical performance criteria and specifications": fulfilling the requirements and recommendations of EN 17210

FprCEN /TR 17622 "Accessibility and usability of the built environment Conformity assessment"

ISO 21542 'Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment'

EN 81-70 'Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts - Particular applications for passenger and goods passenger lift - Part 70: Accessibility to lifts for persons including persons with disability'

Design for All in standards

- Who may use the product, system or service? (foreseeable use vs intended use).
- Can the product/service be accessed, understood and used by the widest range of people?
- Is the standard about design protocols, technical requirements or processes? (process standards vs requirements standard).
- How can accessibility following a DfA approach help?

Accessibility and Innovation



Innovation is seen as one of the main drivers of the EU economy recovery

Innovation means competitiveness

Innovative ideas can be turned into new products and services that create growth, quality jobs and help address European and global societal challenges

Innovative products and services can have a different design and can be disruptive

Accessible products and services can have a different design and can be disruptive!



Raising standards for consumers



Thank you !

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Questions and Answers





The role of the Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA)

Malin Rygg, convenor, SAGA

29th of June 2021

Topic

- **The role of the Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA) - Malin Rygg, chair, SAGA (15')**
 - What is SAGA and its role within the European standardisation process?
 - How can SAGA support the successful development of the harmonised standards for the Accessibility Act?

What is SAGA?

- Established by CEN/BT in 2011
- Meets normally twice a year
- Members from national standardisation bodies, CEN/CENELEC, ETSI and user organisations
- Advisory and coordinating body

Role within the European Standardisation process

- Advisory and coordinating body to the CEN and CENELEC BTs on political and strategic matters related to accessibility:
 - ensure that accessibility is addressed in accordance with the Strategic objectives for the European standardization system
 - be the main source of knowledge and expertise on accessibility issues for CEN/CENELEC BTs.

Role within the European Standardisation process

- SAGA also:
 - promotes best practices ([see SAGA website](#)),
 - helps raising awareness,
 - follows any EU and national legislative and policy initiatives and
 - promotes any new relevant initiatives in the field of accessibility.

How can SAGA support the successful development of the harmonised standards for the Accessibility Act?

- EAA is one of three major areas for SAGA in 2020-22
- Input to the standardisation mandate
- Source of best practise
- Promote user needs

Questions and Answers



Break

10 minutes





Involvement of persons with disabilities in standardisation

Alejandro Moledo, EDF Head of Policy

Content of Presentation

- Who we are
- Why are (European) Standards important for persons with disabilities? Why get involved?
- How will EDF be involved in standardisation for the Accessibility Act (EAA)?
- How can we support members?
- Questions?

Who we are



- European Disability Forum (**EDF**)
- **100 million** persons with disabilities in the EU
- Brussels-based umbrella organisation
- Advocating for the **rights of persons with disabilities**
- Implementation of the **UN CRPD** in the EU and member countries

Nothing about us without us!

Why are (European) Standards important for persons with disabilities?

- They harmonise approaches to accessibility requirements at European level.
- This means same rights and access level across EU - Freedom of Movement.
- They facilitate compliance with existing laws (e.g. Web Accessibility Directive).
- Improve service and product quality
- Increase consumer choice and reduce uncertainty.



Why get involved?

- Because standards effect our every day lives
- To make sure our needs and interests are considered during standardisation

Nothing about us without us!



EDF is active on

- ANEC Accessibility Working Group
- Liaison organisation at CEN (no voting rights)
- Full member at ETSI (voting rights but weak)
- SAGA
- EC advisory Multi Stakeholder Platform on ICT and Standardisation (gives yearly recommendations to the Commission)
- Members of the Technical Committee (TC) responsible for the ICT standard EN 301 549, and we were members of the TCs of the EN's on built environment and Design for All.

Standardisation for the EAA (1)

European Commission Draft Implementing decision on standardisation request to European Standardisation Organisations submitted – deadline 28 June 2021 – 6 Standards

- Revision of 3 existing standards on:
 - Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services (EN301 549 / Mandate M 376);
 - Accessibility and usability of the built environment (EN17210 / Mandate 420)
 - “Design for All - Accessibility following a Design for All approach in products, goods and services - Extending the range of users” (EN17161 resulting from Mandate 473).

Standardisation for the EAA (2)

- **Drafting of 3 new standards:**

- non-digital information related to products;
- support services related to products and services (help desks, call centres, technical support, relay services and training services);
- emergency communications (obligations for telecom operators) and for the answering of emergency communications by the emergency call centres, including to the single European Emergency number '112' (obligations for Public Safety Answering Points – PSAPs).

+ possibility of technical specifications for eBooks (tbc)

Standardisation for the EAA (3)

None of these standards provide presumption of conformity with the EAA!

1. Official mandate request must be submitted to and accepted by European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs)
2. ESOs must fulfil the mandate
3. European Commission must approve them
4. Standards must be published in the Official Journal of the EU with reference to the EAA

=> Harmonised standards for the EAA!

How will EDF be involved in EAA standardisation?

2 level involvement – EU and national (1)

EU level:

- Published recommendations for inclusive standardisation for EAA
- Requested EAA standards to be free of charge for DPOs to EC and ESOs
- Gave input through SAGA; ETSI; Tech Committee for the ICT standard
- Will give feedback to EC draft request (Summer - Autumn)

Once the work starts:

- EDF staff will be involved in EU-level TCs responsible for the different standards;
- We will nominate technical experts to draft the ENs
- We will coordinate our work with EDF members, and other European Networks (e.g. ANEC, AGE Platform, etc.)

How will EDF be involved in EAA standardisation?

2 level involvement – EU and national (2)

National level:

- Will coordinate our input to the draft request and official mandate with EDF members and experts
- Encourage EDF members to **participate in national mirror committees** in the national standardisation bodies (NSBs)
- Engage EDF experts on:
 - Transport, ICT, EAA, built environment, standardisation – policy advice, lobbying
 - national members – lobbying towards NSBs

How can we support members?

- Preparing technical comments to the ENs
- With workshops (like today), ad hoc guidance/support
- [EDF toolkit on transposition of the EAA](#) & [webinar on EAA transposition](#)
- EDF internal meetings on the EAA (21 June focused on standardisation; next one in October/November)
- Supporting members' ad hoc participation in European TCs when issues specific for them are being discussed
- Participate in members' workshops and meetings
- Hear from EDF members about their needs and adjust support accordingly

Questions and Answers





The European Disability Forum

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