InDiCo-Global Factsheet

Standardization and Education

New generations – new ways of working

An important horizon in the current debate on sovereignty, autonomy and strengthening European integration through standards is the intergenerational issue that has an impact on what is perceived as effective and relevant communication, the rate of adoption of AI tools and the effect on skill sets and practices that have been constant for the past thirty years.

One of the areas in which this is felt very strongly is in standardization. In a separate panel at the Digital Alliance SME Summit 2024 on this issue voices from different organizations stated that they lacked diversity and especially younger people to take up this process - for it is more a process than a practice - that is vital and necessary for bringing interoperability, safety, security. Ideas were in introducing quizzes, games and reducing the reading load. Juho Reeve, who won the Essay Competition on #ICT #standardisation! testified that the image of a number of grey haired men in a room, asking him to read thousands of pages before voicing an opinion on the standard at hand was a real experience.

This requires us to rethink training and education as well as rethinking the practice of standardization itself. Martel Innovate is involved in the current discussions on 6G standardization as opinions are voiced to try to bake sustainability, societal acceptance into the standard just as much as privacy, security and environmental aspects. This might attract a more diverse audience to engage in such practice.

As digital tools and AI are being introduced in the writing process, a generational change/conflict is rising which has as an effect that fewer younger people get involved in the process.

> "...young professionals are vital to help the evolution of our system and make it more resilient and fit for the future, in a context in which global challenges – such as climate change – require, to be addressed, the engagement of as many diverse stakeholders as possible."

Alexandra Horn (Head of Support for SMEs at the German Institute for Standardization) states that we need a harmonized European approach and joined forces to foster #standardization in #SMEs. Although the national systems may differ, the benefits of standardization remain the same for companies all over Europe: Interoperability, visibility on the market, more competitiveness are just some aspects to mention.

Recommendation from the Digital SME summit

Awareness:
Create awareness in the first instance about economic benefits of standardization

Information:
Provide tailored information about standards and standardization processes

Education:
Benefit on a long term from educational initiatives

According to Claire d'Esclercs (Director for Membership Development at ETSI) intergenerational aspects do play a significant role in shaping education about standardization, as they influence both the teaching methods and the learning outcomes.

> **"We will work hard to adapt our methods and materials to the younger generations, who favour interactive, flexible, and technology-driven approaches, such as gamification, digital resources, and online collaboration tools. I do see a growing use of AI tools. I'm not sure to what extent, but I'm pretty sure they will take more and more space in the future. They should be used to make our complex processes more efficient and faster."**

Standardization education becomes more important worldwide.

How InDiCo-Global Supports Your Engagement

InDiCo-Global is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that aims at establishing and strengthening bridges between Europe and partner geographies to coordinate and foster dialogues on digital policies and the standardization activities supporting them.

Visit the InDiCo-Global website to learn more about upcoming activities related to education and contact the project team to discuss a possible involvement.
https://indico-global.eu/