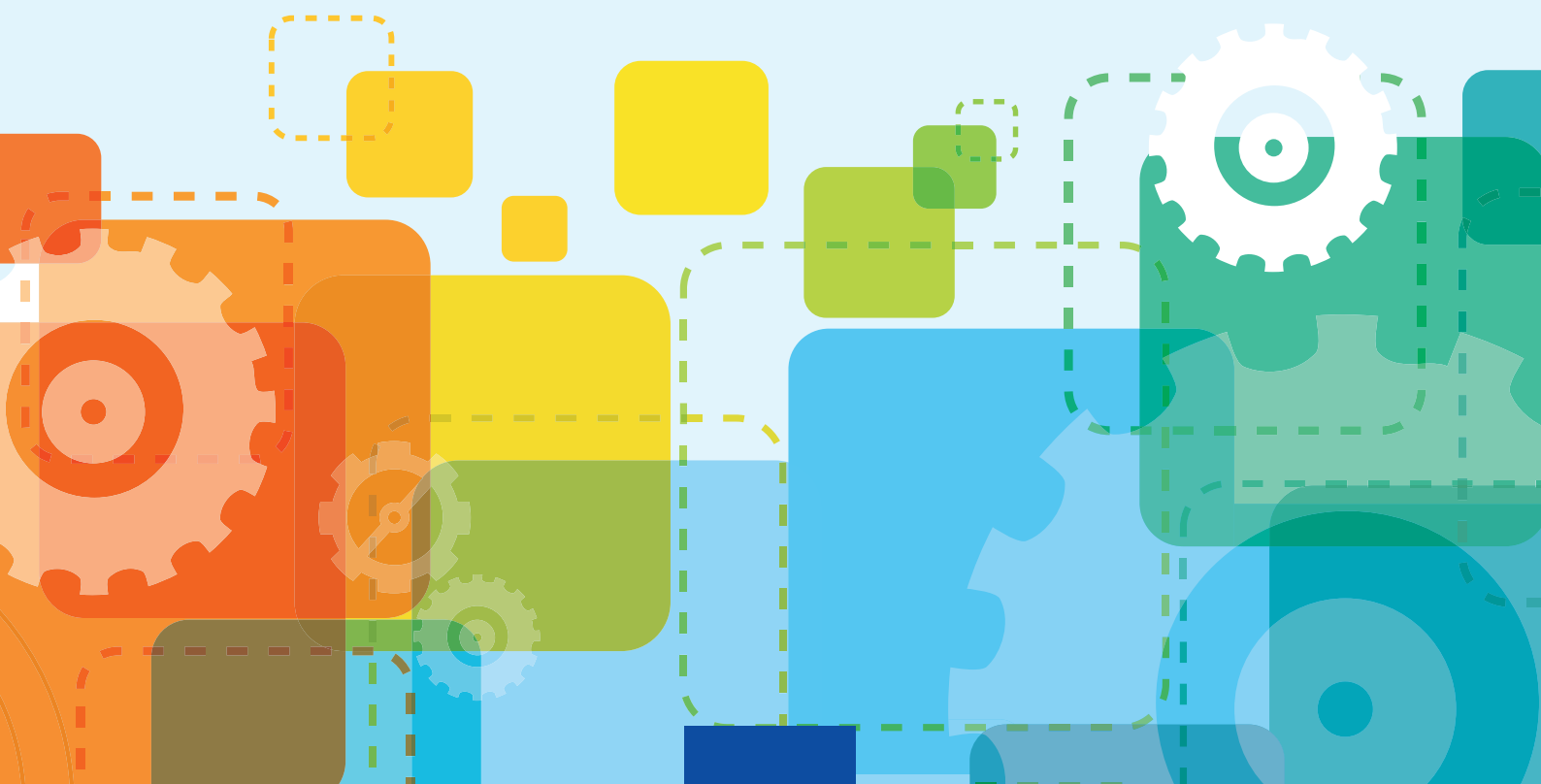




High-Level Forum on European Standardisation

EDUCATION & SKILLS ON STANDARDS

PLEDGE



The undersigned parties, wishing to contribute to the education of the new generation of European standardisation professionals, have voluntarily decided to commit themselves to one or more concrete actions as outlined below.

Background

Early 2023, the European Commission (EC) established the High-Level Forum on European standardisation (the Forum) to advise on strategic political matters in this field. Within the Forum, horizontal and topical workstreams have been launched to further the work in diverse areas. Among them, the workstream on Education & Skills on standards, a topic which has been recognised as one of the critical factors for a good functioning standardisation system in Europe, and to ensure a pool of future experts.

Also in the 2022 Communication of the EC on the EU Strategy on Standardisation (COM(2022) 31 final), the need for education and skills on standardisation is highlighted. The importance of standards is growing, and the importance of standardisation for competitiveness and for the public interest is undisputed, but the general awareness and training on standardisation is comparably small. There is little formal education nor vocational training on standardisation. Many EU companies – whether large or small – lack a structured and strategic approach to standardisation capturing its relevance for various economic operations, whether it is legal compliance, market access or general business strategy.

The success of the European standardisation system rests on experts from industry, public administrations, civil society, research or academia to deliver on all the critical aspects of standards development. Europe needs the best standardisation experts to successfully pursue its global ambitions and support a digital, green and resilient single market.

The engagement of all organisations and authorities present in the Forum could substantially contribute to this purpose. Consequently, in addition to the efforts of the workstream for (i) taking stock of the current state of the art across the EU states; and (ii) Identifying the main challenges and ways forward; all members of the Forum are invited to commit to undertake a series of concrete actions.

This initiative sets up a list of actions the members of the Forum voluntarily agree to undertake with respect to Education & Skills on standards.

Actions for the voluntary commitment of the members of the Forum with respect to Education & Skills on standards

The undersigned parties, wishing to contribute to the education of the new generation of European standardisation professionals, commit themselves to undertake one or more actions in the below categories:

- 1. Provide training opportunities for students and young graduates, such as internships.**
Such internships may be offered by the Forum's members but also by the organisations or companies they represent.
- 2. Promote the engagement of students and young graduates in standardisation-related work.**
- 3. Promote standardisation education by means of awareness campaigns.**
Such campaigns may address educational institutes, but also companies /organisations at different levels, including the board/CEO level.
- 4. Develop dedicated educational modules on standardisation for business, law or engineering degrees.**
Such modules may be aimed at research universities (bachelor or master level), but also at other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Preferably, such materials are made openly available to others via a Creative Commons or similar license.
- 5. Develop standardisation expertise through Vocational and Education Training (VET).**

The EC, on its side, will disseminate training openings to facilitate the search for suitable candidates, and will offer trainees and young professionals the opportunity to participate as observer in the meetings of the Forum and the Sherpa sub-group during the time of the traineeships.

Signatory members will inform the European Commission once a year on their actions taken to implement the above voluntary commitment, using the format attached as Annex 1.

It is the understanding of all signing parties that the above voluntary commitment should serve as contribution to EU standardisation strategy. This voluntary commitment is not legally binding and does not now nor in the future create any contractual or precontractual obligations under any law or legal system. Nothing in this voluntary commitment shall be construed as creating any liability, rights, waiver of any rights or obligations for any parties or as releasing any parties from their legal obligations. This voluntary commitment shall not be construed in any way as replacing, extending or interpreting the existing legal framework. This voluntary commitment is not to be used as, or form part of, evidence in any legal proceedings.

List of signatories: EU and EEA Countries



BELGIUM

.....



BULGARIA

.....



CZECHIA

.....



DENMARK

.....



GERMANY

.....



ESTONIA

.....



IRELAND

.....



GREECE

.....



SPAIN

.....



FRANCE

.....



CROATIA

.....



ITALY

.....



CYPRUS

.....



LATVIA

.....



LITHUANIA



LUXEMBOURG



HUNGARY



MALTA



NETHERLANDS



AUSTRIA



POLAND



PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



SLOVENIA



SLOVAKIA



FINLAND



SWEDEN



NORWAY



ORGANISATIONS



Alliance for IoT and Edge Computing Innovation (AIOTI)



APPLiA (Home Appliance Europe)



Association of the European Heating Industry



Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs



BusinessEurope



CECIMO



DIGITALEUROPE



Eindhoven University of Technology



Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)



EPIA SolarPower Europe (SPE)



T&D Europe



European Building Automation and Controls Association (eu.bac)



European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)



European Committee for Standardization (CEN)



European DIGITAL SME Alliance (DIGITAL SME)



European Free Trade Association (EFTA)



European Furniture Industries Confederation



European Lift Association (ELA)



European Quantum Industry Consortium (Quic)



European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association



European Telecommunications Standards Institute



EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION



Orgalim – Europe's Technology Industries



Small Business Standards (SBS)



SMEUnited aisbl (SMEUnited)



The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation



UNIFE



Young European Enterprises Syndicate for Space

ANNEX 1

Reporting form

Party: _____

Date: _____

Please provide below information on the activities done in the context of the Forum Pledge on Education & Skills on Standards.

Category 1: Provide training opportunities for students and young graduates, such as internships

What is the topic and objective of the traineeship?	
What is the (intended) profile of the candidate? (e.g., educational level, type of study)	
What is the (intended) period?	
What is the status? (planned/ published/ candidate found / candidate started / ended)	
Other relevant information	

Category 2: Promote engagement of students and young graduates in standardisation-related work

What has been done to realize such promotion?	
To which precise standardisation-related work was the promotion directed?	
Did the promotion activities result in a tangible effect?	
What is the status? (planned/ ongoing / finalized)	
Other relevant information	

Category 3: Promote standardisation education by means of awareness campaigns

Please describe the awareness campaign that were set up	
Which audience were the campaigns addressing?	
What communications channels and materials/messages were used?	
What is the status? (planned/ ongoing / finalized)	
Other relevant information	

Category 5: Develop standardisation expertise through Vocational and Education Training (VET).

Please describe the Vocational and Education Training (VET) that was set up	
What is the status? (planned/ ongoing / finalized)	
Other relevant information	