Intersessional Developments

Lorenza Jachia
Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Highlights of UNECE's WP.6 intersessional activities
1. Normative work

Finalization of new Recommendation V

- Risk of product non-compliance in international trade
- Outlines options for cost-effective management of non-compliance risk
- Cooperation among product regulators and Customs:
  - IT infrastructure
  - Data integration
Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities
1. Normative work (cont’d)

Revision of Recommendation P

- The current crisis has reiterated the importance of integrating continuity management in every regulatory system, from education, to health, to trade, to urban areas…

- Recommendation P developed in 2011 retains its urgency as every US$1 invested in risk reduction and prevention can save up to US$15 in post-disaster recovery.

- Work on update ongoing under GRM

20 organizations have signed the declaration since November 2019, including:

- Fairtrade International
- Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
- Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)
- New members from all continents incl:
  - Georgia, Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Argentina, Brazil
  - Rwanda & Mauritius
  - Papua New Guinea
  - The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities

2. Awareness raising: Re-Tooling for Sustainability (19/3/20)

- Aimed at enhancing contribution of standards to gender equality, women’s empowerment, sustainable development

- Organized with UN/WOMEN as part of the UN Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

- Enhanced awareness of bottlenecks & opportunities for inclusive decision-making & policy-makers’ uptake of voluntary standards.

Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities

2. Awareness raising: participation

- Participation in UNIDO series of events on the contribution of quality infrastructure in the fight against COVID-29 (15/5)

- Participation in event organized by Dublin City University Professor Ray Walsh on European Challenges & Opportunities of COVID-19
Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities

2. Awareness raising: Joint blog post

- Joint blog post by UNECE Executive Secretary Olga Algayerova & UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Alia El-Yassir

- Calling attention to the need for gender responsive PPE as rates of infection to COVID-19 are skewed towards women in health-care personnel


Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities

3. Training

- Operationalization of online courses on:
  - risk management
  - conformity assessment
  - market surveillance
Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities
4. Technical cooperation projects
Participation in the UN COVID-19 Surge project

- Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector”, which aims “To strengthen the capacity and resilience of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis.”
- WP. 6 will develop online training courses to help MSMEs select and plan the implementation of appropriate, voluntary, public and private standards to enable them to recover from the COVID-19 induced crisis, with 5 modules:
  1. Self-assess & make evidence-based decisions;
  2. Network with partners, competitors, supply-chain, chambers of commerce, etc
  3. Implement standards relevant to the COVID19 emergency (and future emergencies);
  4. Implement standards relevant to recovery;
  5. Understand challenges of certification

Further development of the Portal on “Standards for the SDGs” (launched on 14/10/2019, World Standards Day)

- Showcases the role of standards for the achievement of the SDGs
- From 1000 to 1600 standards, with addition of one more goal – SDG 12
- 12 more case studies, now 32
- Easy to use, easy to update; we plan to expand it to cover all of the goals, and many more standards organizations
Highlights of UNECE’s WP.6 intersessional activities

5. Work continued in the groups

- Number of group online meetings held: 14
- Decision on creation of 3 Working Groups under GRSI to advance on the following topics:
  i. Knowledge Sharing & Training
  ii. Methodology for assessing and developing gender responsive standards
  iii. Network development

Thank You!

LORENZA JACHIA
Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
lorenza.jachia@un.org