

# Code of Practice on standardization for researchers

This is a **summary of the [Code of Practice on standardization for researchers](#) published by the European Commission in March 2023**. The document provides an overview on the benefits of standardization for research and innovation (R&I) projects, as well as a set of recommendations to R&I organizations and project partners on how to valorize project results through standardization.

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## Benefits of standardization for R&I projects

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- Standards help researchers and innovators **bring their innovation closer to the market and spread technological advances** by establishing uniform criteria and by developing methods, practices and procedures which are publicly available in a formal document.
- European and international standards facilitate **access to large global and regional markets** for new innovative products and services.
- Standards offer a **basis for the integration of diverse technologies into complex, innovative systems and solutions**. They remove technical barriers by **enabling interoperability** between components, products and services. Thus, avoiding vendor lock-in and providing more choice for customers globally.
- Standards **enable the free movement of products (goods, services and data)**. They set minimum safety requirements to the development, transportation and use of these, to protect the public and workers

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## Recommendations for R&I organizations and project partners

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- It is recommended to analyze the existing standards landscape and assess the contribution which standardization can bring to the research and innovation project.

**Standardization should be understood as a tool and not as an objective in itself.** When deciding whether standards and standardization could be included in a project proposal the following indications should be considered:

- a) the call for proposals mentions standardization and standards explicitly in the text and/or in the evaluation criteria;
  - b) the research or technology field requires interoperability of different technological components, devices, systems and data;
  - c) there are safety, security, environmental, performance, measurement or health issues to be defined and addressed;
  - d) there is a need to develop common terminology, concepts, methodologies or innovative use cases to be considered and used by different stakeholders;
  - e) there is a need to have clearly defined ways of quantifying, testing and measuring problems; and to demonstrate compliance with technical or regulatory requirements;
  - f) the technology field is evolving and new or amended standards are needed.
- In case of a **collaborative project**, it is recommended to **establish in the consortium a common understanding as well as a common strategic position on standardization** and standardization issues.

Project partners should have or gain knowledge of formal standardization processes, including the need to achieve consensus among many stakeholders; analyze the possibilities and limitations of the different standardization-related deliverables (such as European Norms, CEN Workshop Agreements, etc.); and to

understand the processes leading to these deliverables, including their requirements, consultations and timing.

- In case of a **collaborative project**, it is recommended to **involve partners with standardization experience** in the team, which will facilitate access to the standardization community.

National standardization bodies should be involved in the consortium, or at least some liaison with them should be ensured (for example, through letters of support, expression of interest, membership of project advisory board, etc.).

- It is recommended to **make standards a tangible component of the project**.

A standardization strategy should be defined within the project, and relevant activities should be translated into work packages or tasks.

- It is recommended to **invest in and cater for stakeholder engagement throughout the project**.

Regardless of the kind of contributions to standardization (whether the development of a new standard or technical specification, the amendment of an existing one, or an intermediate step such as a CEN Workshop Agreement), there is a need to have as much industry support and direct involvement as possible. This is essential for the standardization activities to succeed and to ensure the market uptake of the innovations developed.

*For further information, please contact the National Standards Body "OLN" (Organisme luxembourgeois de normalisation) by e-mail ([normalisation@ilnas.etat.lu](mailto:normalisation@ilnas.etat.lu)) or by telephone (+352 247 743 40).*

The logo for ILNAS, featuring the letters 'ILNAS' in a bold, serif font. The 'I' and 'L' are blue, the 'N' is yellow, and the 'A' and 'S' are blue.