



COPRAS
Cooperation Platform for
Research & Standards

The link between
the IST FP6
objectives
and eEurope



With the Support of the EU Commission,
Information Society Technologies, IST



www.copras.org

COPRAS in a Nutshell

COPRAS is a 3-year Specific Support Action under the **European Union's Information Society Technologies (IST)** programme. COPRAS is created by a consortium of the European Standards Organizations (CEN, CENELEC & ETSI) and two major international specification providers (The Open Group & W3C), put together with the aim to improve the research/standards interface under FP6.

The **COPRAS** consortium partners are all members of the ICT Standards Board, commonly known as **ICTSB**, the coordinating forum for European ICT standardization,

which will be kept regularly informed of the project's progress, and will discuss the emerging results to ensure that the project outputs are directed appropriately.

The overall strategic objective of **COPRAS** is to establish a supporting action to enable the FP6 IST projects (in all the three envisaged calls) to interface with standardization activities in Europe and elsewhere in a consistent and effective manner while increasing standards awareness within the research and technical development area.



Why COPRAS?

In the fast-moving world of ICT, **Research & Standardization** are closely interlinked:

- Technologies need standardization, preferably **global** standards, in order to fully exploit all market opportunities.
- Research results need to be brought into standards as quickly as possible in order to ensure interoperability & compatibility.

COPRAS intends to fulfill this gap and provide the necessary platform that will encourage and facilitate the interaction between research projects results and standardization.

COPRAS will thus examine new standards-related technologies involving over 300 European Commission funded IST Research Projects under FP 6, spanning most of the key technology domains.



Background to COPRAS

COPRAS was born from the necessity to integrate ICT Research Projects into the international standardization arena for the benefit of society.

It is essential in the ICT area to ensure that standardization and research proceed in parallel as far as possible, with adequate cross-fertilization to ensure that the standards community can rapidly receive contributions from the research programmes, and, conversely, that research projects are familiar with the latest state of the standardization art.

Interfaces with standardization is foreseen for Research Projects under EU Framework Programmes, a feature that has already proved beneficial in some activities. However, in ICT, we see that the traditional standards bodies in Europe and at global level are frequently outpaced by a large number of industry standards consortia. This situation has created a fragmented approach that does not encourage interoperability in key areas such as e-business, and which is the cause of most interoperability problems occurred in the past few years. It is the intention of COPRAS to challenge the proliferation of parallel standardization “agencies” and to provide a consistent platform for the development of standards in a coordinated, efficient and objective way through formal standardization channels. As reality shows, cooperative research generates standards that are more successful in international consensus building processes than in independent sub-sector forums or agencies.

COPRAS will therefore enable FP6 IST projects to interface with the standardization activities in a consistent and effective manner while increasing standards awareness within the research and technical development area.

Strategic Objectives COPRAS will address in Calls 1 & 2

CALL 1

- Broadband for all
- Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G
- Towards a global dependability and security framework
- Multimodal interfaces
- Semantic-based knowledge systems
- Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms
- Networked businesses and governments
- eSafety of road and air transport
- eHealth
- Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage

CALL 2

- Open development platforms for software and services
- Cognitive systems
- Embedded systems
- Applications and services for the mobile user and worker
- Cross-media content for leisure and entertainment
- GRID-based systems for solving complex problems
- Improving risk management
- Inclusion

eEurope and FP6 IST Objectives

The **eEurope 2005 Action Plan** was launched at the Seville European Council in June 2002 and endorsed by the Council of Ministers in the eEurope Resolution of January 2003. It aims to develop modern public services and a dynamic environment for e-business through widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices and a secure information infrastructure.

A key objective of the IST programme is to ensure European leadership in the generic and applied technologies at the heart of the knowledge economy, as agreed on the **Lisbon Strategy** of March 2000. The standards programme for eEurope will facilitate the adoption of the research results and provide feedback about their acceptance and problems in their use. **COPRAS will thus act as an important link between the objectives of the IST FP6 programme and eEurope.**



About the Partners



European Committee for Standardization

Based in Brussels, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is responsible for standardization in areas other than the electrotechnical and telecommunications fields. In the fast-moving domain of information and communications technologies, CEN has created the Information Society Standardization System (CEN/ISSS). In addition to the traditional CEN Technical Committees, this makes use of open Workshops, which are standards committees created whenever there is an identified need for consensus.



European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization

Based in Brussels, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) is officially responsible for standardization in the electrical and electrotechnical fields. Its members have been working together in the interests of European harmonization since the 1950s, creating both voluntary and Harmonized Standards which have helped to shape the European Internal Market. CENELEC works with 35,000 technical experts from 28 European countries.



European Telecommunications Standards Institute

Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is officially responsible for standardization in telecommunications, broadcasting and certain aspects of information technology within Europe. As such, it also plays a major role in global standardization. ETSI's membership unites all the key players in the telecommunications arena from around the world.



World Wide Web Consortium

W3C was created to lead the Web to its full potential by developing common protocols that promote its evolution and ensure its interoperability. It is an international industry consortium jointly run by the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) in the USA, the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) in France and Keio University in Japan. To date, nearly 400 organizations are Members of the Consortium.



is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. Its role is to capture, understand and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and open source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service.



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