



Document	Feedback gathering report FP6 IST Calls 4 & 5				
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1. Executive summary

During the first half of its lifespan, COPRAS established cooperation with a large number of projects in Calls 1 & 2, with the objective to facilitate these projects' interfaces with standards organizations. This activity not only supported these projects in terms of defining their standards deliverables and contacting the proper standards organizations, but it also generated a considerable amount of generic knowledge on the overall problem of facilitating and complicating cooperation and exchange between research projects and standards organizations. This knowledge was aggregated into a first set of 'Standardization Guidelines' that were distributed via the European Commission during summer 2005 to projects and projects consortia in IST Calls 4 & 5.

A year later, in the summer and autumn of 2006, COPRAS initiated a feedback gathering process, addressing the usage of these Standardization Guidelines by projects in Calls 4 and 5. The objective of this activity was to determine how relevant interfacing with standards organizations was for the projects in these calls, whether they had been able to use the COPRAS' Standardization Guidelines, how the guidelines could be improved, and whether other measures outside the scope of COPRAS could improve the research/standards interfacing process.

The questionnaire-based feedback gathering process managed to generate response from more than 40% of those projects in Calls 4 and 5 (>95%), for which contact details could be established before Christmas 2006. This result was considerably higher than the anticipated 25-30%, and again underlined that standards issues are increasingly important for IST research projects. Moreover, although only 25% of projects responding had received the guidelines, of these, more than 80% of those had actually used them, indicating a clear requirement among IST projects for standardization support.

The results of the feedback process further show that the Standardization Guidelines had a clear impact as Call 5 projects, that – contrary to Call 4 projects – had received the document before submitting their final proposals, had allocated considerably more resources to standardization, despite the fact that their expectations with respect to delivering standards related output were equal to those in Call 4. This is also confirmed by the fact that projects primarily used the Standardization Guidelines to define the standardization potential of their envisaged output, as well as to plan the allocation of work packages or resources.

Also emerging from the returned responses is the fact that choosing and contacting standards organizations appears to be a relatively complicated part of the process for many projects, partly due to the chaotic pattern of ICT standards bodies, given the many differences in backgrounds, working methods or priorities between different organizations. Consequently, this was identified as one of the main areas where an updated version of the Standardization Guidelines could provide additional support.

Finally, feedback shows that the Standardization Guidelines address only part of the issues currently complicating the research/standards interfacing process. Additional structural measures are necessary from the side of the standards community to facilitate and initiate cooperation and contacts with research projects, as well as from the side of the European Commission, addressing the 'standardization gap' between the termination of a project and the termination of the processes standardizing project's output.

2. Introduction

The Cooperation Platform for Research and Standards (COPRAS) aims to improve interfacing between ICT research and standardization. It started this work early 2004 with research projects in most of the Strategic Objectives of the first Calls. Based on feedback provided with respect to their standardization plans and objectives, COPRAS established cooperation with over 40 of these projects, and concluded 18 Standardization Action Plans, some of these structuring individual project's standardization activities, and some of these describing the activities of a cluster of projects. In addition, COPRAS also produced a set of 'Generic Guidelines for IST research projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations' (or 'Standardization Guidelines' in short). These Standardization Guidelines were first published in July 2005 and distributed, via the European Commission, to research projects in Calls 4 and 5.

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Between June and November 2006, COPRAS sent out questionnaires to projects in FP6 IST Calls 4 & 5, gathering feedback whether – and if so, how – projects had used the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines when preparing their project proposals, or when planning their project’s activities. In this respect, projects in the following 21 Strategic Objectives¹ were addressed:

Call 4	
2.4.3	Towards a global dependability and security framework
2.4.4	Broadband for all
2.4.5	Mobile and wireless systems and platforms beyond 3G
2.4.6	Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms
2.4.7	Semantic based knowledge and content systems
2.4.8	Cognitive systems
2.4.9	ICT research for innovative government
2.4.10	Technology enhanced learning
2.4.11	Integrated biomedical information for better health
2.4.12	eSafety – cooperative systems for road transport
2.4.13	Strengthening the integration of the ICT research effort in an enlarged Europe
Call 5	
2.5.3	Embedded systems
2.5.4	Advanced GRID technologies, systems and services
2.5.5	Software and services
2.5.6	Research networking testbeds
2.5.7	Multimodal interfaces
2.5.8	ICT for networked businesses
2.5.9	Collaborative working environments
2.5.10	Access to and preservation of cultural resources
2.5.11	eInclusion
2.5.12	ICT for environmental risk management

This document describes the process and methodology used for this feedback gathering process. Further it presents and analyses the data that have been gathered from projects in Calls 4 and 5. It then generates conclusions and recommendations towards future Framework Programmes that can be derived from the results achieved.

3. Objectives

During the first half of its lifespan COPRAS addressed research projects in FP6 IST Calls 1 & 2, and prepared Standardization Action Plans for many projects in these Calls, describing the concrete steps projects would take towards bringing their results to standardization. Feedback from projects in these Calls, as well as concrete experience from working towards Standardization Action Plans, provided COPRAS with the necessary input for a first set of ‘Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations’². These Standardization Guidelines, first published and distributed in July 2005, aim to support IST projects in FP6 Calls 4 & 5, as well as in subsequent Framework Programmes, in their interfacing with standardization, and describe the steps that should be taken by projects to determine and establish interfacing with standards organizations and processes relevant to their project.

Although the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines were first released halfway through the project, an updated and improved version was planned to be released further into its lifespan early in 2007, accompanied by an interactive platform version. A substantial part of COPRAS’ activities during the last 18 months were therefore committed to gathering feedback from several groups of stake-

¹ These 21 Strategic Objectives correspond with those addressed by COPRAS in FP6 IST Calls 1 & 2; also see COPRAS deliverables D05 and D09

² This COPRAS deliverable D15 can be downloaded from <http://www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/D15.html>.

holders – but primarily from the IST research community – with the objective to improve the Standardization Guidelines in view of the imminent launch of the 7th Framework Programme.

As a last step in Work Package 2 (gathering of information) COPRAS therefore decided to gather feedback from projects in Calls 4 & 5. The objective of this exercise was to determine how relevant interfacing with standards organizations was for projects in these calls, whether they had been able to use COPRAS' Standardization Guidelines, how the guidelines could be improved, and whether other measures outside the scope of COPRAS could improve the research/standards interfacing process.

The present report aims to provide a general overview of the activities and results achieved during the feedback gathering process for Calls 4 & 5. It documents the methods applied, provides a summary and analysis of the qualitative and quantitative results achieved, and captures recommendations that may serve to improve the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines, as well as the research/standards interfacing process in general.

4. Process description

The feedback gathering process addressing projects in Calls 4 & 5 was originally scheduled to be finalized early summer of 2006. However, due to the majority of projects in Call 5 not starting their activities until September 2006, the process had to be rescheduled in order to include feedback from projects in this Call into the analysis as well. Moreover, experience from the information gathering process in Calls 1 & 2 had shown that meaningful information on research/standards interfacing issues cannot be obtained from most projects until they are at least 3-4 months on the way, and have worked out their main project management and communication processes.³

In order to capture feedback from projects in Call 4 as well as Call 5, the process was carried out between June and December 2006. Although terminating the process end of December 2006 meant that not all process steps to optimize the feedback from Call 5 projects could be taken, this was regarded necessary to meet the end of January 2007 deadline for the updated – and interactive – version of the Standardization Guidelines, where this feedback report is an input document to.

The feedback gathering process partially followed the same methodological steps that were applied for the information gathering processes in Calls 1 & 2, with a few adjustments addressing the specific circumstances and specific output pursued. Basically, two types of information were sought:

- 1) A list of generic data (e.g. contact details, projects' web sites, start & finish dates, etc.): most of this information was based on publicly available information on research projects, and put together at the beginning of the process, serving as a basis for the subsequent step:
- 2) Generic information on research projects' standardization plans and resources, their usage of the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines, and their view on additional measures that could improve the research/standards interfacing process: this information was gathered through a multiple choice questionnaire that was sent to all projects in Calls 4 & 5 for which adequate contact details were available before closing the process.

Between April and November 2006 a virtually complete overview of generic data for 230 out of 234 (98,29%) projects in the targeted Strategic Objectives in Call 4 could be obtained, while in Call 5, this information could be found for 150 out of 164 (91,46%) projects in targeted Strategic Objectives. The main reason for the lower figure for Call 5 is the fact that in certain Strategic Objectives, projects started their activities at a considerably earlier point in time than in others. Therefore, in those Strategic Objectives that launched later during 2006, not all projects could be included in the feedback process. However, between Calls 4 & 5 the overall target rate is more than 95%, which would seem sufficient to support the analysis of the feedback.

The following sections will briefly describe the methodological steps followed during the feedback gathering process (in section 4.1), and will document and discuss the feedback received (in section 4.2). Also, in sections 4.3 and 4.4, qualitative and quantitative assessments of the results as well as a review of the processes applied are contained.

³ See also COPRAS deliverable D09, Information gathering report Call 2, page 3

4.1 Methodological steps

For the Call 4 & 5 feedback gathering process, the methodological steps previously applied in the information gathering process for Calls 1 & 2 were adjusted and applied in the following chronological way:

- 1) Distribution of the 'Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations' to projects in Calls 4 & 5.

During July and August 2005, 16 units in DG Information Society and Media of the European Commission, overseeing the Strategic Objectives targeted by COPRAS, were addressed with the request to make the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines available to projects or project consortia in Calls 4 & 5. This resulted in the document being distributed electronically or in paper, being signalled on units' web pages, or being referred to in newsletters.

- 2) Development of a list of projects: the purpose of this list was to assemble generic information and contact data enabling COPRAS to contact projects and distribute its questionnaires. For Calls 4 & 5, building up this list of projects proved to be considerably more time consuming than originally expected. Reason for this is the fact that – contrary to COPRAS' experience in Calls 1 & 2 – most of the required data had to be gathered from public sources other than CORDIS. Certainly for addressing Call 4, this however has proven not to be a major road-block as relevant data could eventually be found for almost all projects. As far as Call 5 is concerned, this situation is (partially) accountable for the fact that contact details could be found for only less than 85% of projects.
- 3) Development of a questionnaire. Prior to the launch of the feedback gathering process in June 2006, a 9-item multiple choice questionnaire was developed. In contrast to Calls 1 & 2, where the multiple-choice concept was not used, it was decided to take this option in order to try to lower the threshold for response. Similarly to the process in Call 2, the questionnaire could be filled in on-line on the COPRAS web-site, as well as returned via e-mail. The questionnaire itself can be found in Annex A.
- 4) Distribution of questionnaires among targeted projects. Questionnaires and information packages were sent out to all Call 4 & 5 project coordinators for which contact details could be established before the end of the feedback gathering process. For Call 4, questionnaires were sent out during June 2006, while the distribution to Call 5 projects was done in two steps. The first of these, at the end of September 2006, addressed Strategic Objectives 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 2.4.8, 2.4.9, and 2.4.10 and the second one, addressing the remaining targeted Strategic Objectives in this Call, was issued at the end of October 2006. Splitting up the distribution of questionnaires into two separate groups in Call 5 appeared to be necessary in view of the lack of full availability of project contact details at the start.
- 5) Distributions of reminders to those projects that did not respond. Similarly to the process applied for Calls 1 & 2, reminders were sent out to those projects that did not respond to the initial invitation to send out the questionnaire. Typically, these reminders were sent 4-5 weeks after the first invitation. This means that this process step could not be completed for the second group of Strategic Objectives that was addressed in Call 5, due to the fact that the feedback gathering process had to be concluded a month after this last group received its first invitation.
- 6) Contacting projects that had not reacted to the reminder. Due to the fact that the overall response rate in both Call 4 and Call 5 outperformed -expectations, there was no necessity to go through the step of contacting projects personally. However, in certain Strategic Objectives in Call 4 where response rates were remarkably low, this was done to determine the specific reasons for this low response rate.
- 7) Aggregation of responses received. End of November and early December 2006, the responses to the Call 4 & 5 questionnaire were aggregated and analysed to serve as a basis for improvements to the Standardization Guidelines, and to generate additional recommendations for improving the research/standards interfacing process in FP7. An overview of the results and the analysis can be found in section 4.2 of this report.

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4.1.1 Distribution of the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines

The basis for the feedback gathering process in Calls 4 & 5 was established by the distribution of the first release of the ‘Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations’, that COPRAS produced July 2005. However, at that time, information on projects or project consortia in these Calls was not publicly available, hence projects could not be contacted directly. Therefore, 17 Units within DG INFSO, overseeing the targeted Strategic Objectives in these Calls, were approached, asking them for their support in disseminating the document to projects in Calls 4 & 5:

Unit	Overseeing Strategic Objective(s):	Call
D1	Broadband for all	4
	Mobile and wireless systems and platforms beyond 3G	4
D2	Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms	4
D3	Software and services	5
D4	Towards a global dependability and security framework	4
D5	ICT for networked businesses	5
E1	Multimodal interfaces	5
E2	Semantic-based knowledge and content systems	4
E3	Technology-enhanced learning	4
	Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources	5
E5	Cognitive systems	4
F2	Advanced Grid Technologies, Systems and Services	5
F3	Research networking testbeds	5
F4	Collaborative Working Environments	5
G3	Embedded systems	5
G4	eSafety - Co-operative Systems for Road Transport	4
G5	ICT for Environmental Risk Management	5
H1	Integrated biomedical information for better health	4
H3	eInclusion	5

Following COPRAS’ request, more than 75% of the Units approached indicated the Generic guidelines would be distributed to the relevant projects, while almost 60% indicated their intention to signal the document on their respective CORDIS web pages, or to otherwise publish the link to the Standardization Guidelines on the COPRAS home page.

Based on this feedback, it may be concluded that a reasonable number of projects in Calls 4 and 5 had the opportunity to evaluate the relevance of the Standardization Guidelines in their specific circumstances. However, as COPRAS was not able to conclude the first release of its Standardization Guidelines before Call 4 closed (22 March 2005), projects in this Call consequently were not able to apply the guidelines when preparing their proposals. Nevertheless, the guidelines were available at the time most of these projects went through their negotiation processes with the Commission and prepared their work plans. As Call 5 did not close until 21 September 2006, many of the consortia working towards this Call would have received the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines before submitting their final project proposals.

4.1.2 Strategic objectives and targeted projects in Calls 4 & 5

In Call 4, COPRAS focused on 11 out of 13 Strategic Objectives as described in the Introduction section of this report. In these areas, a total of 234 projects were selected by the Commission, and for 230 of these, COPRAS was able to identify the relevant contact details during the course of the feedback gathering process, as indicated in the table below.

Strategic Objectives in Call 4 addressed in the feedback gathering process		Projects identified	Projects contacted
2.4.3	Towards a global dependability and security framework	19	19
2.4.4	Broadband for all	20	19
2.4.5	Mobile and wireless systems and platforms beyond 3G	32	31
2.4.6	Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms	15	13
2.4.7	Semantic based knowledge and content systems	25	25

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2.4.8	Cognitive systems	14	14
2.4.9	ICT research for innovative government	17	17
2.4.10	Technology enhanced learning	14	14
2.4.11	Integrated biomedical information for better health	24	24
2.4.12	eSafety – cooperative systems for road transport	22	22
2.4.13	Strengthening the integration of the ICT research effort in an enlarged Europe	32	32
Total		234	230
Percentages		100%	98,29%

As the table above shows, in Call 4 contact details for virtually all projects could eventually be found, with the exception of Strategic Objective 2.4.6 (Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms), where several projects did not start their activities until September 2006. As section 4.2 will show, this also has an effect on the quantitative feedback received from projects in this Strategic Objective.

In Call 5, 11 out of 13 Strategic Objectives were targeted. Here, the number of projects that could eventually be contacted was somewhat lower due to some Strategic Objectives not starting their activities until September 2006. Although this did – similar to call 4 – affect the quantitative response in these areas, feedback nevertheless remains sufficient to generate a meaningful response.

Strategic Objectives in Call 5 addressed in the feedback gathering process		Projects identified	Projects contacted
2.5.3	Embedded systems	21	18
2.5.4	Advanced GRID technologies, systems and services	20	20
2.5.5	Software and services	23	21
2.5.6	Research networking testbeds	10	10
2.5.7	Multimodal interfaces	15	12
2.5.8	ICT for networked businesses	17	15
2.5.9	Collaborative working environments	13	13
2.5.10	Access to and preservation of cultural resources	16	16
2.5.11	eInclusion	13	10
2.5.12	ICT for environmental risk management	16	15
Total		164	150
Percentages		100%	91,46%

Overall total (Calls 4 & 5)	398	380
Percentages	100%	95,48%

As the table shows, specifically for the 3-4 Strategic Objectives in Call 5 it has proven difficult to find all contact details in time. Nevertheless, when looking at the overall result, 380 projects out of a total of 398 in these Calls could be contacted before the closure of the process.

4.1.3 Questionnaire

The questionnaire for projects in Calls 4 and 5 was distinctively different from the questionnaire that was sent out to projects in Calls 1 and 2. Because – contrary to Calls 1 and 2 – COPRAS had no concrete support to offer to the projects, it was anticipated that the incentive to respond to the questionnaire had to be increased by making the process as easy as possible. Therefore the choice was made to use a multiple choice format rather than open questions, to use a limited number of questions, and to stimulate on-line response.

The questionnaire therefore consisted of 9 questions addressing 3 different subjects:

- Whether projects planned to deliver standards related output, and whether they had resources allocated to this activity;

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- Whether projects had received and used the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines, and whether they had suggestions for the improvement of the document;
- Whether projects could indicate additional research/standards interfacing issues that should be addressed outside the scope of COPRAS.

A complete list of questions can be found in the table below. Annex A contains the full questionnaire, which also includes the answer-options respondents could choose from.

#	Question
1	Will your project deliver specifications or other output intended to be European or global standards, or otherwise contribute to standardisation work?
2	Does your project have specific work packages or resources allocated to interfacing with standards organizations?
3	Were you (made) aware, before the launch of your project, of the COPRAS 'Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations'?
4	Did you receive or download the Generic Guidelines, and if so, how?
5	Have you been able to use the Generic Guidelines during the preparatory process, or during the early stages of your project?
6	If you used the Generic Guidelines, did this: (multiple answers possible)
7	If you did not use, and do not plan to use the Generic Guidelines, is this because:
8	What should be improved in the Generic Guidelines, in order to better support projects planning their interfacing with standardization? (multiple answers possible)
9	Could you indicate additional aspects that should be addressed to improve projects' interfacing with standards organizations? (multiple answers possible)

Taking into account that Call 4 projects had not been able to use the Standardization Guidelines when preparing their proposals, while Call 5 projects did have this opportunity (although the document became available only 2 months before the call closed), it was decided to use the same questionnaire for both Calls in order to be able to measure possible effects from this difference.

Also, as it proved to be virtually impossible to include all potential response categories into the questionnaire, several questions also offered projects the possibility to enter their own specific views, or reflect their own specific circumstances. This was done for all the three questions where multiple answers were invited (i.e. questions 6, 8 and 9).

Although it was recognized that response rates generated earlier in Calls 1 and 2 had been quite high, suggesting research/standards interfacing is an issue for many IST research projects, it was decided to lower the target response rate for Calls 4 and 5 to 25-30% (from the 40-50% target in Calls 1 and 2), mainly because this particular activity of COPRAS had no additional tangible benefits (such as resources supporting the coordination of projects' standards activities) to offer. In view of the larger number of projects in Calls 4 and 5 (398 as opposed to 287 in Calls 1 and 2) it was expected that this lower target would still generate a meaningful sample from the IST research constituency.

4.2 Feedback

The feedback gathering process towards projects in Calls 4 & 5 in total generated 155 responses. The table below shows the distribution of this response across the Calls and – as a comparison – shows the response rate that was achieved in the Call 1 & 2 information gathering process.

Calls	Targeted projects	Contacted projects	% of projects targeted	Response	% of projects contacted
Call 1 information gathering	171	164	95,90%	92	56,10%
Call 2 information gathering	111	107	96,40%	55	51,40%
Overall Call 1 & 2 result	282	271	96,10%	147	54,24%
Call 4 feedback gathering	234	230	98,29%	102	44,35%
Call 5 feedback gathering	164	150	91,46%	53	35,33%
Overall Call 4 & 5 result	398	380	95,48%	155	40,79%
Total	680	651	95,74%	302	46,39%

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The results in the table show that for both Calls 4 and 5 the target response rate of 25-30% was achieved, with a response rate across these two Calls of more than 40%, and an overall response rate of more than 46% across all 4 Calls addressed by COPRAS.

Although this confirms the overall high interest in standardization issues already demonstrated among Call 1 & 2 projects, there are however considerable differences between Calls 4 and 5 as well as between several Strategic Objectives in these Calls. These will be discussed in the subsequent sections, as will the aggregate response to the individual questions.

4.2.1 Call 4 feedback

With a few exceptions, feedback was distributed relatively equal across the Strategic Objectives in Call 4. This is demonstrated in the table below:

Strategic Objectives in Call 4 addressed in the feedback gathering process		Projects contacted	Projects responding	%
2.4.3	Towards a global dependability and security framework	19	6	31,58%
2.4.4	Broadband for all	19	9	47,37%
2.4.5	Mobile and wireless systems and platforms beyond 3G	31	19	61,29%
2.4.6	Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms	13	3	23,08%
2.4.7	Semantic based knowledge and content systems	25	13	52,00%
2.4.8	Cognitive systems	14	7	50,00%
2.4.9	ICT research for innovative government	17	10	58,82%
2.4.10	Technology enhanced learning	14	3	21,43%
2.4.11	Integrated biomedical information for better health	24	9	37,50%
2.4.12	eSafety – cooperative systems for road transport	22	10	45,45%
2.4.13	Strengthening the integration of the ICT research effort in an enlarged Europe	32	13	40,63%
Total		230	102	44,35%

As the table shows, there are two Strategic Objectives where response is considerably below average (Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms, and Technology enhanced learning). As far as the first is concerned, this was caused by the fact that the start of many projects in this Strategic Objective (“Call 41”) was delayed until September 2006, hence contact details for many projects were not available until Call 5 had already started. As far as the latter is concerned, this was caused by the fact that many projects in the eLearning area focus on application-oriented research, and hence probably have few interfacing requirements with standardization.

4.2.2 Call 5 feedback

Projects in this Call were approached in two steps. The first step addressed those Strategic Objectives in which projects activities were launched at a relatively early point in time (i.e. in the June-July 2006 timeframe) while the second step addressed projects in Strategic Objectives were activities started considerably later (i.e. in the September-October 2006 timeframe). The results are shown in the table below:

Step 1	Strategic Objectives in Call 5 addressed in the feedback gathering process	Projects identified	Projects responding	%
2.5.4	Advanced GRID technologies, systems and services	20	10	50,00%
2.5.5	Software and services	21	10	47,62%
2.5.8	ICT for networked businesses	15	8	53,33%

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2.5.9	Collaborative working environments	13	3	23,08%
2.5.10	Access to and preservation of cultural resources	16	7	43,47%
Total in step 1		85	38	44,70%
Step 2	Strategic Objectives in Call 5 addressed in the feedback gathering process	Projects identified	Projects responding	%
2.5.3	Embedded systems	18	2	11,11%
2.5.6	Research networking testbeds	10	3	30,00%
2.5.7	Multimodal interfaces	12	1	8,33%
2.5.11	eInclusion	10	5	50,00%
2.5.12	ICT for environmental risk management	15	4	26,67%
Total in step 2		65	15	23,08%
Overall total		150	53	35,33%

The table shows a significant difference between the results achieved in the first and second step: Whereas results in the first step are virtually identical to the overall results achieved in Call 4, feedback from the projects approached in the second step was considerably lower. The two main reasons for this are most likely:

- the fact that many projects approached in the second step were not sufficiently “up and running”, hence were not yet in a position to respond (this would underline experience generated in Calls 1 and 2);⁴
- the fact that the process could not be completed for these projects (i.e. there was no time left to complete the full follow-up process subsequent to sending out the initial invitation to respond to the questionnaire).

Further, although many projects in ‘Collaborative working environments’ launched their activities already at the end of spring 2006, feedback here was considerably below the average response rate for step 1. This is most likely caused by two reasons:

- the fact that, similar to technology-enhanced learning in Call 4, many projects in this Strategic Objective focus on application-oriented research;
- the fact that COPRAS, prior to their launch, had already initiated cooperation with 4 IP projects in this Strategic Objective, aiming to structure their cooperation towards standardization of their output, decreased the necessity to use the Standardization Guidelines.⁵

4.2.3 Aggregate response per question

As explained in section 4.1.3, the questionnaire aimed to identify three issues: projects’ intentions with respect to standardization, their usage of the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines, and their recommendations with respect to improving the research/standards interfacing process.

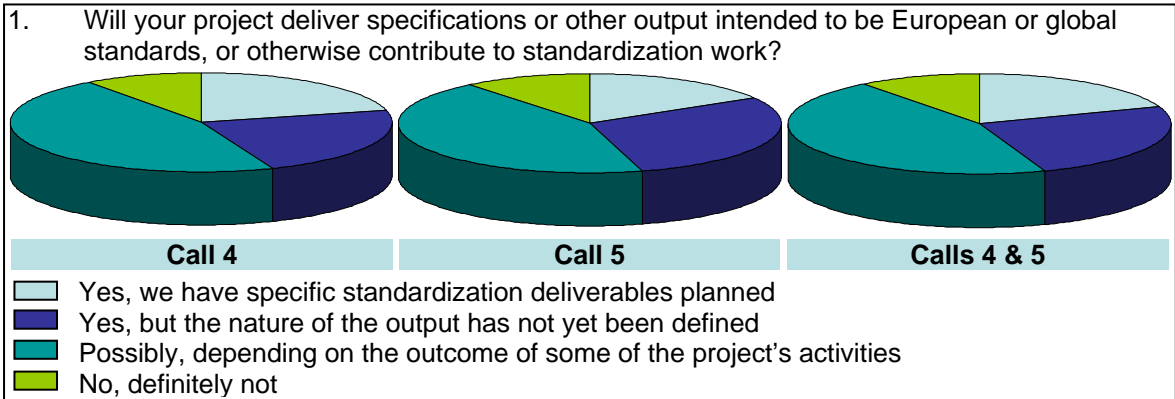
The first of these issues was addressed by questions #1 and #2 of the questionnaire. As the distribution of answers across the 4 categories shows, around 45% of the responding projects already determined at the start of their project that they are likely to contribute to standards work, whereas only 10% is certain they will not do this.

Although the results in Calls 4 and 5 are not exactly the same, the only significant difference is that in Call 1 relatively more projects appear to have determined their contributions to standardization at the start of their activities. This may be caused by the fact that, overall, research in Call 4 Strategic Objectives would seem to be slightly closer to market implementation than in Call 5.

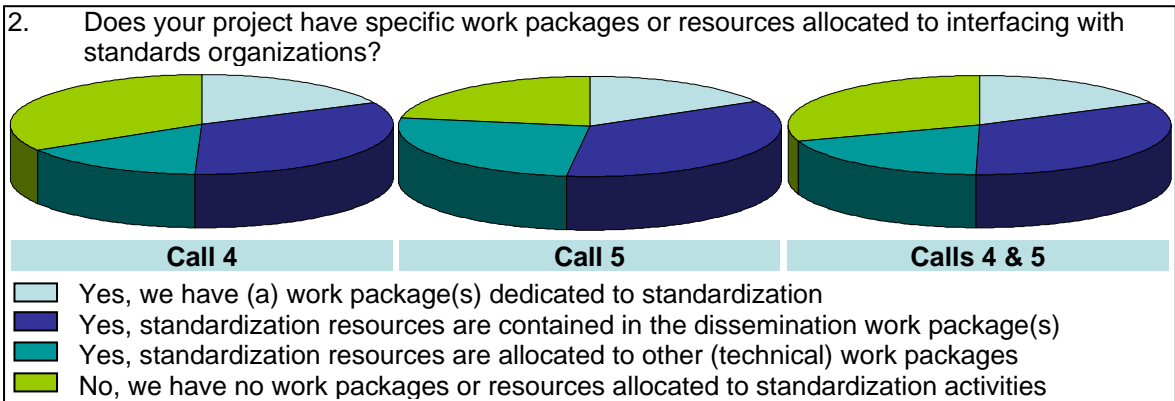
⁴ See also COPRAS deliverable D09, Information gathering report Call 2, page 3

⁵ See also COPRAS deliverable D16B, pages 84-91

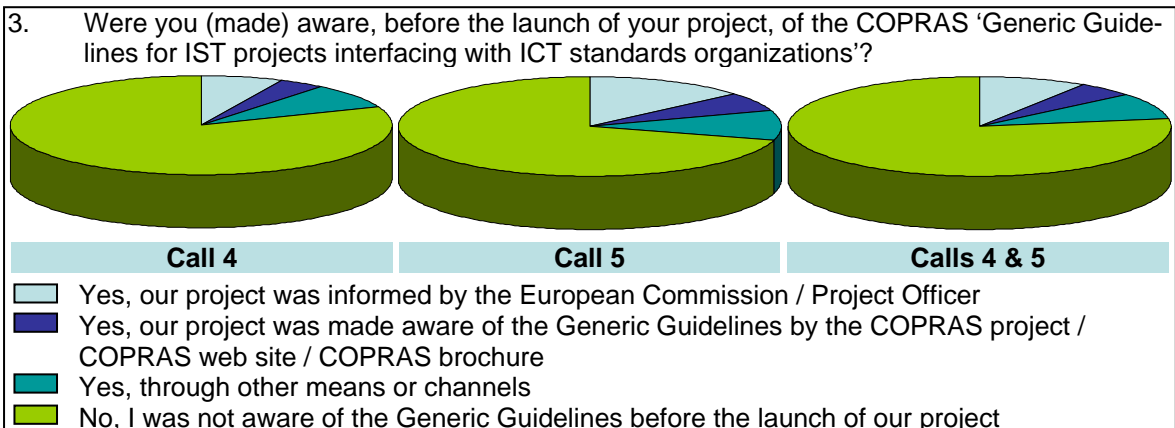
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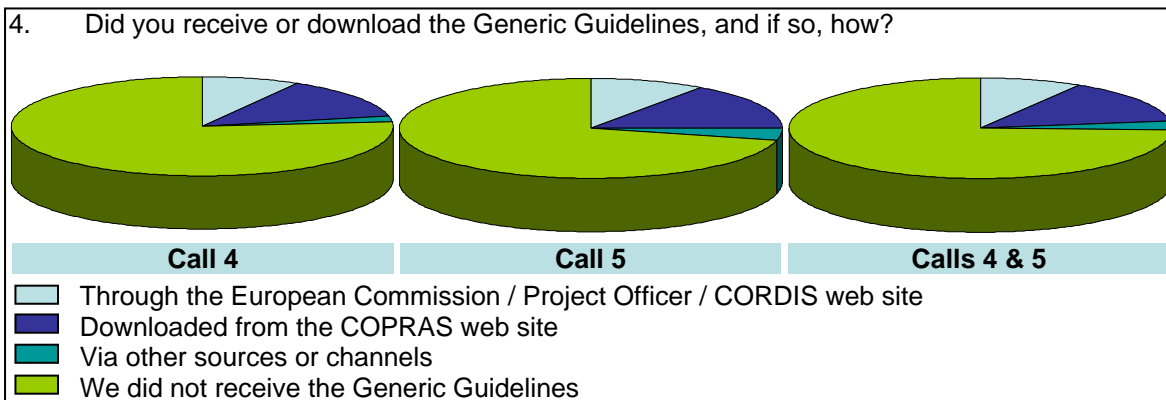
When comparing these results with the response to the second question – addressing the resources projects allocated to standards activity – a clear difference shows between Calls 4 and 5. Whereas a relatively large part of Call 4 projects (more than 35%) did allocate any resources to standardization, this is considerably less (22%) in Call 5.



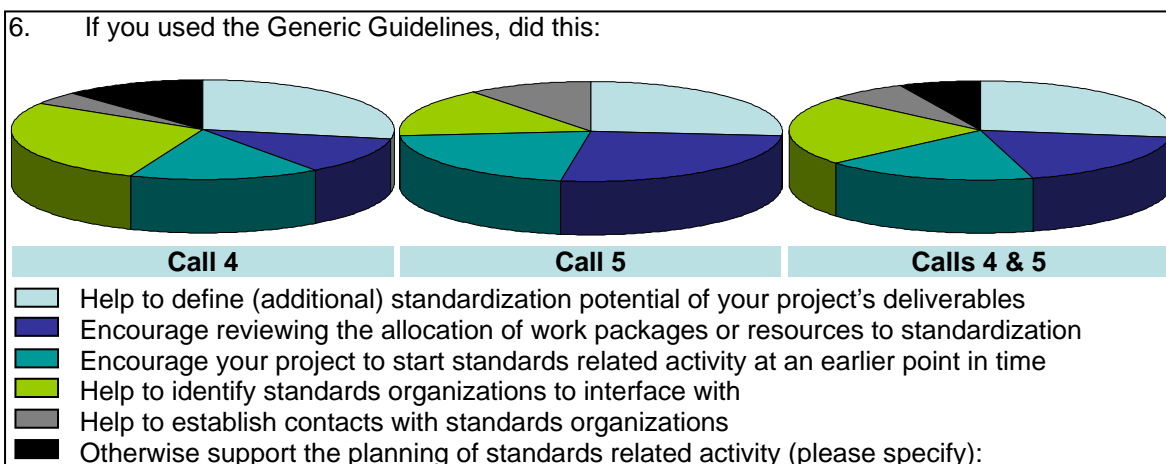
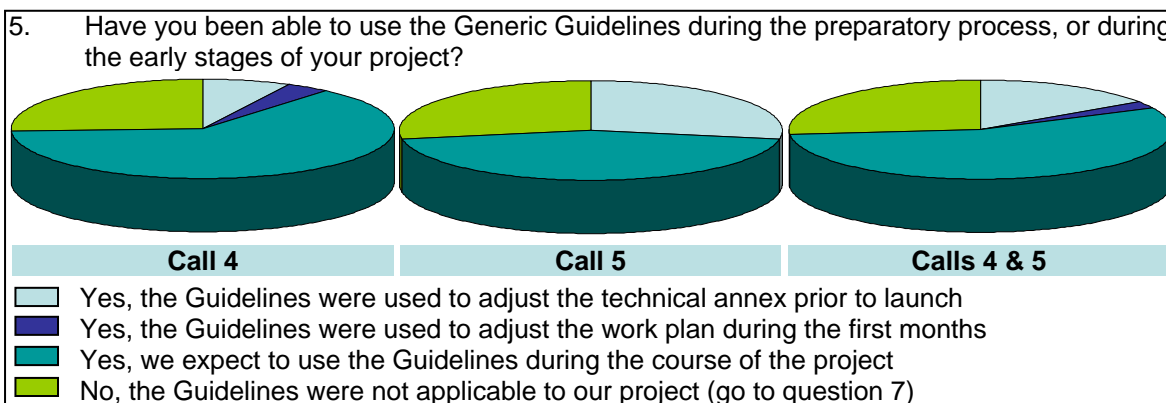
Taking into account that projects in Call 5 would have been able to use the Standardization Guidelines while preparing their proposals, these figures seem to indicate at least a preliminary effect here. This is also underlined by the results in questions 3 and 4, as shown in the figures below.



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As these figures show, the number of projects that were aware of the Standardization Guidelines and received or downloaded them was (obviously) a bit higher in Call 5 (29%) than it was in Call 4 (24%). Overall however, more than a quarter of projects responding (38 in total) actually received the Standardization Guidelines, and establish the base for the subsequent questions on the usage of the guidelines. Questions #5 and #6 addressed this aspect, and aimed to establish this actual usage of the document.

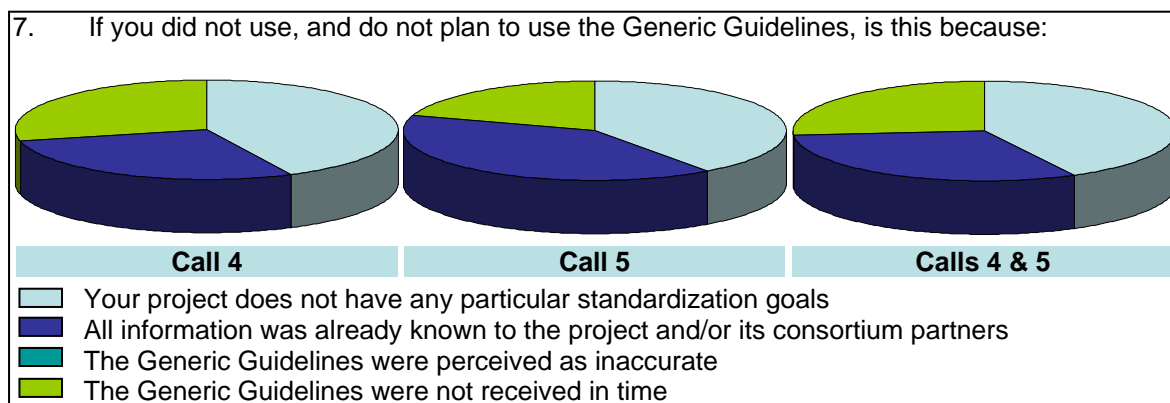


The figures clearly show that almost 75% of those projects that did receive the Standardization Guidelines also used them, or expect to use them during the course of their project. With respect to the actual usage, there does however not seem to be a single (or several) aspects that clearly establish the main focal point for the projects. However, there is a significant difference between the response in Calls 4 and 5 here. Whereas Call 4 projects mainly (56%) used the Guidelines to define additional standardization potential for their projects, as well as to define standards organizations to interface with, Call 5 projects clearly took the advantage of having received the Guidelines prior to submitting their proposals, and primarily (53%) used them to define standardization potential and allocate resources to standardization.

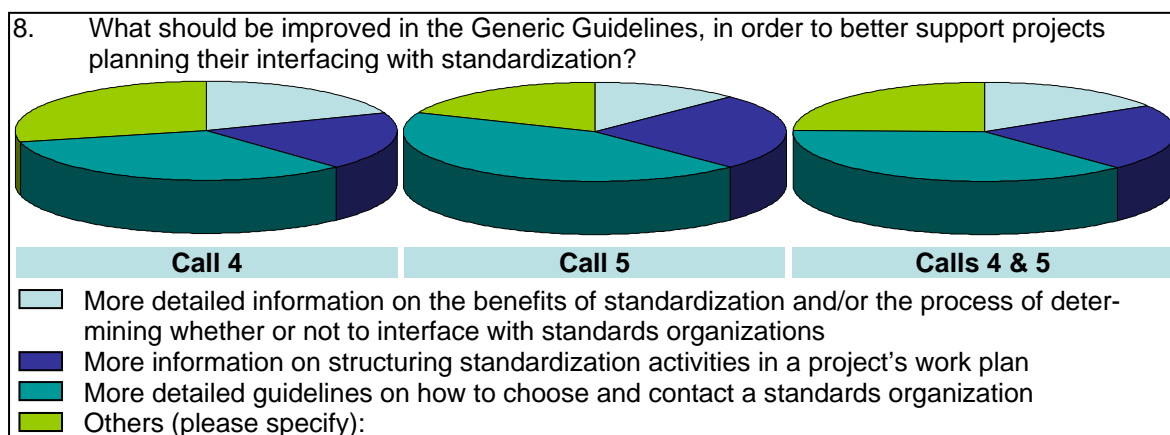
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Question #6 also offered the possibility to specify other forms of Standardization Guidelines usage. Although a few projects provided comments here, there was however no clear pattern recognizable.

When looking at the relatively few projects that did receive the Standardization Guidelines but did not use them, the figures in the diagrams below show that the reason in most cases simply is that these projects did not have any particular standardization goals, followed by the fact that the information contained in the Guidelines was already known. None of the projects that received, but did not use, the Guidelines perceived them as inaccurate.



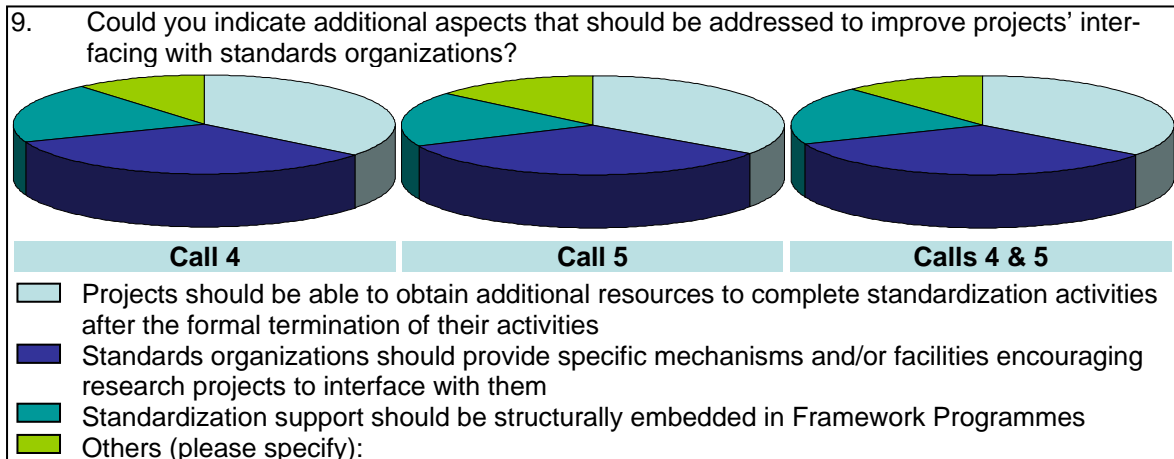
Finally, the response to question 8 indicated the areas where projects meant the Standardization Guidelines could be improved. Here, the two aspects most frequently mentioned were ‘More information on structuring standardization activities in a project’s work plan, and – even more important – more detailed information on how to choose and contact a standards organization. Although the results show some slight differences, there does not seem to be a significant difference between Call 4 and Call 5 projects here.



Question 8 also invited comments in conjunction with the last multiple choice option (‘others’). Although there was no distinct pattern across these comments, several of them pointed out that there are considerable differences between standards organizations, both in terms of the processes they use and the priorities they have. A more detailed description of these aspects per standards organization was consequently suggested.

The third and last aspect that was addressed by the questionnaire, were the additional improvements that – according to the responding projects – could be made to the research/standards interfacing process, outside the scope of COPRAS. Here, projects were invited to select more than one answer, in case they were of the opinion that this was applicable. Also, this question featured the possibility to provide additional comments and suggestions that were not pre-defined.

The results here show that there are clearly two aspects most frequently mentioned by the projects: the possibility to obtain additional resources for completing standards activities, and facilities provided by standards organizations that would encourage research projects to engage in standards related activities.



Also, under 'other', a reasonable number of additional suggestions were provided by projects. Although not all equally relevant in view of the nature of the question, this provided an interesting overview of some of the other research/standards issues that projects are concerned with. Basically, these can be grouped into 4 categories:

- Participation in standards activities sometimes costs a lot of money (e.g. membership fees, or requirements to fund specific standardization processes); this is specifically an issue for SME companies. Specific membership facilities could for example address this.
- A lack of (internal) coordination between business and research departments inside project consortium partners often complicates standards work in a project, even though consensus can be reached between the consortium partners.
- Projects' usage of (and consequently contribution to) standards could be encouraged by providing a comprehensive list of standards that could – or even should – be applied by projects.
- It cannot always be determined at the start of a project what potential contributions to standardization can be, and what the value of these contributions eventually will be. Research programmes could for example include measures to 'reward' output that has the most 'standardization value' when projects are terminating their activities (e.g. by funding the standardization process that will subsequently have to be initiated).

4.3 Analysis of feedback

As far as the analysis of feedback is concerned, it was decided to concentrate this on the actual impact the Standardization Guidelines had (and could have in the future) by comparing the two calls, as well as the overall results. Although the data gathered (technically) allow comparing results between individual Strategic Objectives, it was decided not to go to this level of detail because the size of the samples would become too small to make meaningful comparisons. The following sections provide the results of this analysis, focusing on the three main issues the questionnaire aimed to address.

4.3.1 Planning of standards related output & allocation of resources

The first aspect that is clearly emerging from projects' response to the questionnaire, is the fact that standardization – and hence research/standards interfacing – establishes an important issue in ICT research. Almost 90% of projects responding indicate that they will – or may – interface with standards organization. Even when taking into account that projects with a higher interest in standardization are more likely to respond to the questionnaire (and vice versa), this remains a high figure.⁶

Comparing the results for question 1 in Call 4 with those in Call 5 further leads to the conclusion that there are no significant differences with respect to projects' standardization intentions. When

⁶ Research carried out by the INTEREST project towards projects in FP5 showed that, across the entire research programme, only 1/3 of project engage in standards activity; also see INTEREST deliverable D02, December 2005, pages 22-32.

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looking at the differences between Strategic Objectives, the only real deviation can be found in Cognitive systems, where a significantly higher number of projects does not expect to deliver contributions to standardization. This however confirms COPRAS' experience in Call 2, where virtually no feedback was received from projects in the Cognitive Systems Strategic Objective simply because there were virtually no requirements for interfacing with standards organizations here.⁷

As far as question 2 is concerned, there is a clear difference between Calls 4 and 5 with respect to the percentage of projects that allocated resources to standardization. Whereas only two thirds of Call 4 projects did this, the percentage in Call 5 is almost 78%. As Call 5 projects – contrary to the ones in Call 4 – were able to use the Standardization Guidelines before submitting their proposals, this difference could potentially point out an impact that the guidelines had. This is also reflected by the considerably higher percentage of projects in Call 5 that used the Guidelines for 'reviewing the allocation of work packages or resources to standardization' (see also the answer to question 6 in section 4.2.3 above).

Overall, the discrepancy in Call 4 between the amount of projects that (may) interface with standardization on one hand, and the number of projects that actually allocates resources to this activity on the other hand, appears to have disappeared in Call 5, possibly as a result of the Standardization Guidelines. This suggests that the effect of the Guidelines may be that a higher percentage of projects in Call 5 would eventually be capable of finalizing their standards work, than in Call 4.

4.3.2 Usage of the Standardization Guidelines

Questions 3 and 4 of the questionnaire addressed the issue of whether, and if so how, projects had received the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines. Here it shows that around 25% of projects were made aware of the Guidelines (mostly through the European Commission) and did receive them (mostly by downloading them from the COPRAS web site).

Although this figure is considerably lower than COPRAS had anticipated, it is also recognized that – specifically within larger consortia – communication processes cannot be optimal from the start. In many cases, individual project consortium members may therefore have had knowledge about the Standardization Guidelines, or may have in fact received them, but were not able to share this with the person within the consortium that was addressed by COPRAS. Nevertheless, of the 38 projects that received or downloaded the Standardization Guidelines, 32 actually used them. The distribution of these projects over Calls 4 and 5, as well as over the different Strategic Objectives, is given in the table below.

Strategic Objective	Projects responding	Projects using the guidelines	ratio	Strategic Objective	Projects responding	Projects using the guidelines	ratio
2.4.3	6	1	0,17	2.5.3	2	0	0,00
2.4.4	9	1	0,11	2.5.4	10	3	0,30
2.4.5	19	4	0,21	2.5.5	10	1	0,10
2.4.6	3	1	0,33	2.5.6	3	1	0,33
2.4.7	13	1	0,08	2.5.7	1	0	0,00
2.4.8	7	1	0,14	2.5.8	8	3	0,38
2.4.9	10	1	0,10	2.5.9	3	1	0,33
2.4.10	3	0	0,00	2.5.10	7	1	0,14
2.4.11	9	1	0,11	2.5.11	5	3	0,60
2.4.12	10	4	0,40	2.5.12	4	0	0,00
2.4.13	13	4	0,31	Total	53	13	0,25
Total	102	19	0,19				

The table not only shows a very high usage rate (32 out of 38, or 84%) for the Standardization Guidelines, but also indicates the usage is reasonably spread over the Strategic Objectives in each of the Calls, with the exception of the low result in 2.4.10 (already elaborated on in section 4.2.1),

⁷ Also see COPRAS deliverable D09, page10

and the high results in 2.4.12 (eSafety – cooperative systems for road transport), and 2.5.8 (ICT for networked businesses).

When looking at the distribution of the response over the 4 categories, it is clear that most projects expect to use the Standardization Guidelines during the course of their projects' activities. Although there are not really significant differences between the two Calls, the percentage of projects that used the Guidelines to adjust their Technical Annex is more than twice as high in Call 5. This again underlines the impact and relevance of the Guidelines in the preparatory process, when work packages have to be defined and resources have to be allocated.

The actual usage of the Standardization Guidelines, that is documented in more detail through question 6, as already mentioned, does not point out a single particular aspect as the most obvious reason for using the document, although, across the two Calls, identifying a project's standards potential and identifying the standards organizations that go with it are the most frequently mentioned. However, the difference between the response in Calls 4 and 5 with respect to 'Encourage reviewing the allocation of work packages or resources to standardization', reflecting the higher number of Call 5 projects that have allocated resources to standardization work (see the response to question #2), suggests that this could be among the most important usage aspects as well, once projects will have access to the Guidelines during the whole of their preparatory process.

Finally, questions 7 and 8 focus on the reasons for projects not using the Standardization Guidelines, and on the aspects where the Guidelines could be improved. Here, specifically the Call 5 results show, that, in addition to those projects that are able to use the Standardization Guidelines, there will always be projects that have sufficient standardization knowledge and contacts on board (e.g. IP projects in which larger industrial companies participate), as well as those that will not interface with standards organizations (e.g. focus entirely on application oriented research).

Although none on the projects perceived the Guidelines as inaccurate, the difference between the question-8 results for Calls 4 and 5 suggest that structuring standards work in a project's work plan is one of the main areas of improvement, followed by additional information on how to contact (specific) standards organizations. This appears to be in line with the question 6 feedback, which indicated a strong tendency among Call 5 projects to use the Guidelines to define their standardization potential, and to allocate work packages to standards work.

4.3.3 Additional research/standards interfacing issues

Because COPRAS, and the Standardization Guidelines it produced, can only address part of the issues that complicate the research/standards interfacing process, the last item in the questionnaire focused on improvements that could be made to the research/standards interfacing process outside the scope of COPRAS. In order to optimize feedback, in addition to 3 pre-identified aspects, projects were invited to point out additional areas where improvements could be achieved, and were also given the possibility to select more than one aspect.

As already indicated in section 4.2.3, most projects pointed out two specific areas of potential improvement: facilities and resources to continue standards work after their own lifespan, and additional mechanisms/facilities provided by standards organizations easing and encouraging research/standards interfacing. As the results of the questionnaire show virtually no differences between Calls 4 and 5 here, it is not likely that the availability of the Standardization Guidelines sufficiently satisfies the latter aspect.

A second aspect emerging from this last question is the fact that relatively few projects support embedding standardization more structurally into research programmes, again with little difference between Calls 4 and 5. This would underline the results in question 1, indicating that the vast majority of projects identifies their standardization deliverables during the course of their activities, and hence would not be in a position to commit to these a priori.

As indicated in section 4.2.3, additional areas of improvement pointed out in comments made by projects under answer 9D, can be clustered together into 4 categories. Most of these categories however also point out additional facilities or measures that could be provided either by the standards community or by the authority managing the research programmes (i.e. the European Commission). However, one category also points out areas where project – or projects' consortium part-

ners – will have to work themselves to improve the interfacing process. Summarizing the results for this question, this means that activity is required from all major stakeholders in the research/standards interfacing process.

4.4 Quality review feedback gathering process

The aim of the questionnaire targeting projects in Calls 4 and 5 was to generate feedback with respect to the following 3 issues:

- the overall relevance of research/standards interfacing for IST projects (addressed by questions 1 & 2);
- the usage of and recommendations for the Standardization Guidelines (addressed by questions 3-8), and;
- the identification of additional areas outside the current scope of COPRAS, where research/standards interfacing can be improved (addressed by question 9).

Although the questionnaire for projects in both Calls was identical, the starting point was not, as Call 4 projects received the Standardization Guidelines after their Call closed, while Call 5 projects received it before their Call closed (i.e. were able to use the document in their preparatory process, contrary to the first). This allowed for a better analysis of the impact of the Guidelines, and consequently created a basis for recommendations for future Framework Programmes.

As already demonstrated in section 4.2, the quantitative target of a 25-30% response rate that was set for the feedback gathering process, was met in Call 4 (44,35%) as well as in Call 5 (35,33%). The difference between the result in the two Calls can be explained as a result of the limited time COPRAS had to carry out the full process in Call 5: whereas the results in the Strategic Objectives that were addressed earlier (see section 4.2.2) are almost identical to the Call 4 results, the results for the second step are clearly worse, due to the fact that the process could not be completed. Although these consequently influence the overall result in Call 5 in a negative way, there is no reason for assuming additional differences between the results in the two Calls other than that caused by process circumstances.

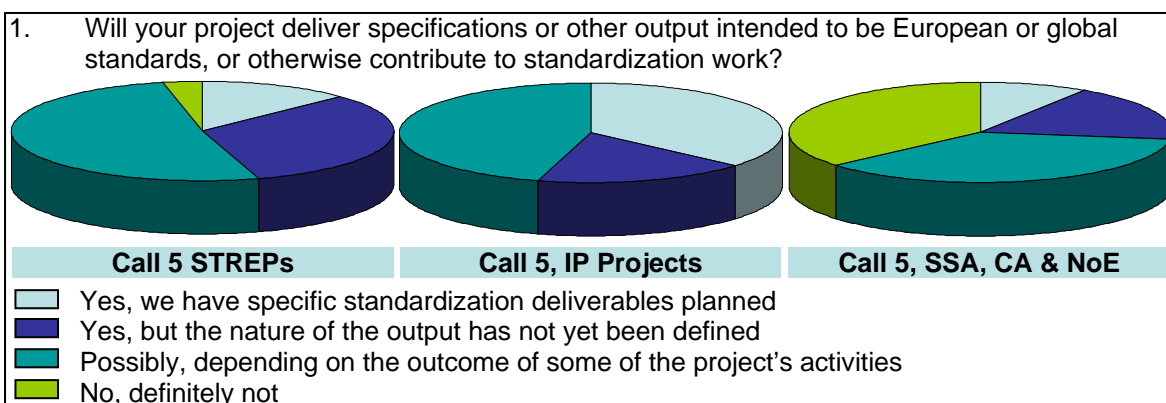
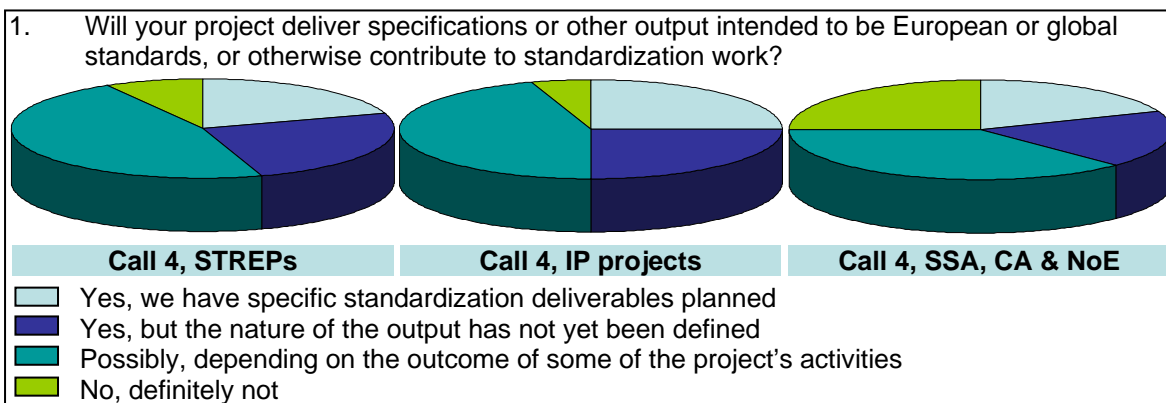
However, similar to the information gathering process in Calls 1 & 2, STREP and IP projects established the main target group for COPRAS, as these are more likely to deliver standards related output, than NoE, SSA or CA projects. In view of the conclusions and recommendations that can be derived from the feedback gathered, it should therefore be checked again whether STREP and IP projects are over- or underrepresented in the survey result.

Type of project	Projects addressed				Responses received			
	Call 4		Call 5		Call 4		Call 5	
	absolute	ratio	absolute	ratio	absolute	ratio	absolute	ratio
STREP	150	0,65	97	0,65	66	0,65	32	0,60
IP	48	0,21	30	0,19	19	0,18	10	0,19
NoE	12	0,05	1	0,01	4	0,04	1	0,02
SSA & CA	20	0,09	22	0,16	13	0,13	10	0,19
Total	230	1,00	150	1,00	102	1,00	53	1,00

As the table above shows, there are no significant differences with respect to the distribution of feedback across the different instruments when comparing between the two Calls, or when comparing the ratios of projects addressed and responses received per instrument. This means that COPRAS managed to reach its main target group in Calls 4, as well as in Call 5.

When comparing the differences between the response to questions 1 & 2 from STREP, IP, and NoE/SSA/CA projects in Calls 4 and 5, the picture is confirmed that IP and STREP projects more frequently plan for delivering output to standards organizations. Also, when comparing between STREP and IP projects, this appears to be even stronger (as could be expected) for the latter. The following tables show these differences.

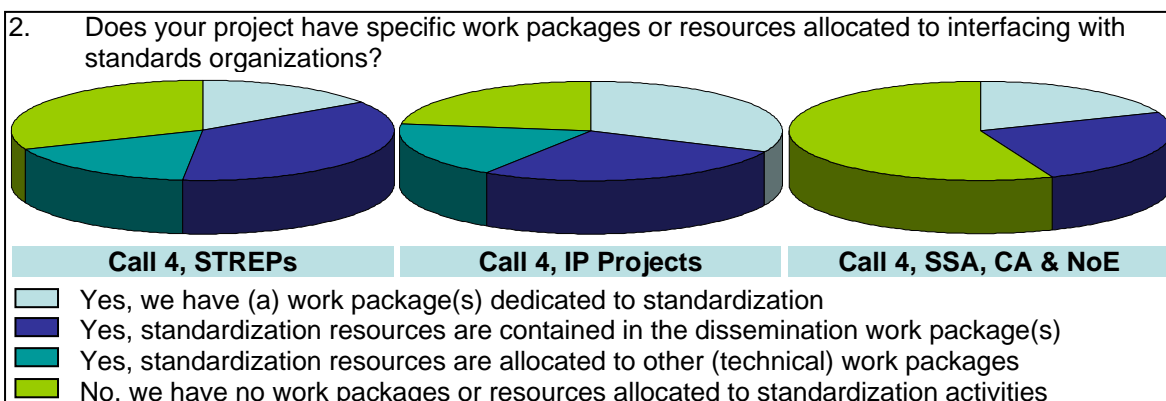
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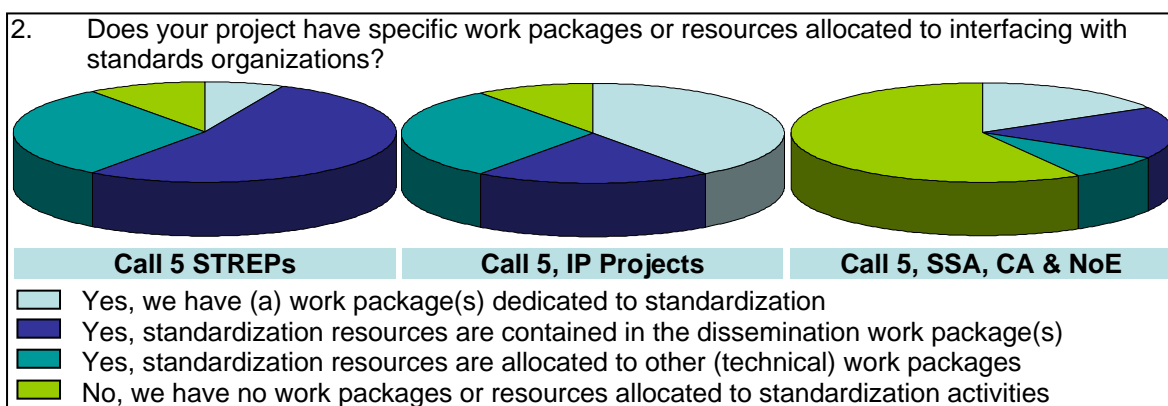


As the two tables above show, there are no significant differences between Calls 4 and 5, although it could be argued that the results in Call 5 are even more significant.

When holding these findings for the question 1 response against the figures for question 2 (as shown in the two table below), it is clear that STREP and IP projects also allocate resources to standards activity far more frequently than NoE, SSA and CA projects.

The same effect that was found in the overall analysis, i.e. that the Standardization Guidelines most likely had a stimulating effect for Call 5 projects resulting in more projects allocating resources to standardization, is also found when splitting up the results over the different instruments, with the addition that the effect was clearly stronger among STREP projects than it was among IP, NoE, SSA and CA projects.





For the second part of the questionnaire, addressing the actual usage of the Standardization Guidelines, the number of responses was understandably smaller. As the figures in 4.2.3 indicate, 38 projects received or downloaded the guidelines, and 32 of these actually used them, or expected to do so during the course of their activities. Compared to the total number of projects addressed in the two Calls, this number is relatively low, and the question as to whether the quality of the results is sufficient to draw valid conclusions towards the whole ICT research constituency would be justifiable.

However, as the analysis in section 4.3.2 shows, usage of the Standardization Guidelines was relatively equally spread over the various strategic Objectives. Moreover, additional feedback generated outside the scope of the D24 process (e.g. that received from a number of conferences, seminars or workshops where COPRAS representatives presented the Generic Guidelines), appears to be relatively consistent with the findings in questions 6 & 8 focusing on usage and potential improvement of the Guidelines. It can therefore be assumed that, despite the lower numbers, the feedback provides a reasonably accurate summary of the main usage and improvement areas.

Finally, when looking at the response to question 9, results were overwhelming. Although in total 155 projects responded to the questionnaire, this last question (where multiple answers were possible) generated 224 responses, i.e. almost 1,5 answers per project. Also, 26 projects (almost 17%) provided additional comments. These on one hand allowed for the identification of some additional opportunities for the improvement of the research/standards interfacing process, and on the other hand also confirmed the relevance of the pre-identified options as the main areas of improvement. Also because the feedback for this question was in line with feedback COPRAS received outside the scope of the present report, it can therefore be assumed that the outcome here provides a balanced view of the main areas where the research community sees the main improvements to the research/standards interfacing process.

4.5 Conclusions

The feedback gathering process towards projects in Calls 4 and 5 generated a response rate that outperformed the original expectations. Instead of 25-30%, more than 40% of projects addressed provided their feedback. This generated valuable information with respect to the 3 main issues that were addressed by the questionnaire, i.e. whether projects planned to deliver standards related output, how they used the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines, and whether there were other areas outside the scope of COPRAS where research/standards interfacing could be improved. The following sections will summarize the main conclusions with respect to each of these issues.

4.4.1 Research/standards interfacing requirements among IST projects

Feedback shows that almost 90% of IST projects is either certain they will provide input for standards processes, or sees this as a possible outcome of their activities. This number is significantly higher than the overall figure of one third of projects interfacing with standards organizations across all research areas in the Framework Programmes, and underlines the specific needs projects in the ICT domain have.

What is also clear from the feedback is that the number of projects allocating the necessary resources to standardization, that was clearly ‘out of sync’ with the above findings as far as Call 4

was concerned, was brought in line in Call 5, possibly as a result of the Standardization Guidelines underlining the need to do this at an early point in time. This stresses first of all the need among projects for guidance in this area (a need which is underlined by feedback to other questions), but the sheer volume of projects that is likely to interface with standardization also underlines the importance of such guidelines with respect to the dissemination and innovation potential projects in the ICT area will eventually demonstrate.

4.5.2 Usage of the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines

Although the number of projects that actually received or downloaded the Standardization Guidelines was relatively low, almost 75% of projects that did, also used the document prior to launch, or during the first months of their activities, or expects to use these during the course of their work. This again stresses the fact that the vast majority of IST projects foresees interfacing with standardization, but also needs support to accomplish this in the best possible manner.

Also, when looking at the actual usage, a clear increase in Call 5 in the percentage of projects that used the Guidelines for adjusting the technical annex prior to launch, confirms the conclusions in the previous section, that these Guidelines will support more projects being able to carry out standards related activities, once the results they achieve offer this opportunity. However, further results show that projects' requirements for standardization support are quite diverse, which leads to the conclusion that when providing standardization support for ICT projects, it is not sufficient to focus on one or two aspects prior to launch. Despite the fact that the Standardization Guidelines will improve projects' starting position, support throughout (and beyond) a project's lifespan will remain necessary to optimise their standardization results.

5. Recommendations

The objective of the feedback gathering process towards projects in Calls 4 and 5 of FP6 was to generate input with respect to the initial version of the Standardization Guidelines.

Results of the process show that standardization constitutes an increasingly important issue for IST research projects. The majority either plans, or expects to, interface with standards organizations during the course of their activities. This is underlined by the fact that more than 40% of projects addressed provided their feedback to COPRAS, as well as by the fact that the most projects (more than 80%) that received the Standardization Guidelines actually used them, or planned to use them during their activities.

In terms of the nature of this usage, the guidelines clearly helped – and encouraged – projects to define the standardization potential of their envisaged output, as well as to allocate resources to standardization activities. In addition, they were used to identify standards organizations projects should interface with, although only few managed to use the guidelines as a means to actually establish contacts with standards organizations.

This latter aspects also emerged as the main area where the Standardization Guidelines should be improved. As it was identified by projects, there are considerable differences between standards organizations with respect to their background, priorities, working methods, or membership rules. Therefore, the process of selecting a standards organization to interface with can sometimes be relatively complicated. The COPRAS Standardization Guidelines could consequently be improved by providing more detailed information on how to choose and contact a standards organization. In addition, the guidelines may be improved by elaborating more on how to structure standards activities into a project's work plan.

Further to the potential improvements to the Standardization Guidelines themselves, many project pointed out that additional issues need to be addressed to improve research/standards interfacing in future Framework Programmes. Most frequently pointed out here are the fact that insufficient means currently exist for projects to continue their standards activities, even when the project these activities originate from has ended, as well as the fact that the ICT standards world does not provide proper mechanisms for encouraging and facilitating research projects to initiate a cooperation process.

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Despite the fact that the (improved) Standardization Guidelines clearly facilitate research/standards interfacing and will contribute to more research output finding its way to usage in industry and society more rapidly, it will only address some of the issues currently complicating the process. Additional – and concrete – support activity in Framework Programmes, e.g. initiated from the side of the standards community, will remain necessary, as will additional measures that can address the ‘standardization gap’ at the end of a project’s lifespan in a more structural way.

Further, the results for question 9 confirm the conclusion that improving research/standards interfacing cannot only be addressed by providing a set of Standardization Guidelines. Additional actions, from the side of the research and standards communities, as well as from the side of the European Commission will be required in the standardization domain as well to gradually improve the process, and establish structural improvements so that ICT research projects’ overall contribution to innovation processes in Europe as well as on a global level can be improved. These actions should primarily address:

- A more permanent and unified platform, system and/or methodology for research projects and standards organizations to facilitate the start of their cooperation;
- A better internal coordination between project consortium partners as well as within individual consortium partners enabling projects to work towards output that can be submitted to standards organizations when the opportunity arises;
- Additional mechanisms within research programmes that will enable projects to continue their standards work also beyond their project’s lifespan.

Annex A: Questionnaire for projects in Calls 4 & 5



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR IST-PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 4TH AND 5TH CALL OF THE EU FP6 RESEARCH PROGRAMME

This questionnaire aims to identify whether COPRAS' 'Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with IST standards organizations' have been helpful in determining and planning standardization objectives and activities for projects in FP6 calls 4 and 5. In addition it seeks to determine how the Guidelines can be improved, and how other supportive measures could improve interfacing between IST research projects and standardization.

CONTACT DETAILS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Project acronym	
Respondent	
E-mail address	

QUESTIONS

1	Will your project deliver specifications or other output intended to be European or global standards, or otherwise contribute to standardisation work?
	A. Yes, we have specific standardization deliverables planned
	B. Yes, but the nature of the output has not yet been defined
	C. Possibly, depending on the outcome of some of the project's activities
	D. No, definitely not
2	Does your project have specific work packages or resources allocated to interfacing with standards organizations?
	A. Yes, we have (a) work package(s) dedicated to standardization
	B. Yes, standardization resources are contained in the dissemination work package(s)
	C. Yes, standardization resources are allocated to other (technical) work packages
	D. No, we have no work packages or resources allocated to standardization activities
3	Were you (made) aware, before the launch of your project, of the COPRAS 'Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations'?
	A. Yes, our project was informed by the European Commission / Project Officer
	B. Yes, our project was made aware of the Generic Guidelines by the COPRAS project / COPRAS web site / COPRAS brochure
	C. Yes, through other means or channels
	D. No, I was not aware of the Generic Guidelines before the launch of our project
4	Did you receive or download the Generic Guidelines, and if so, how?
	A. Through the European Commission / Project Officer / CORDIS web site
	B. Downloaded from the COPRAS web site
	C. Via other sources or channels
	D. We did not receive the Generic Guidelines (go to question 9)
5	Have you been able to use the Generic Guidelines during the preparatory process, or

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	during the early stages of your project?
	A. Yes, the Guidelines were used to adjust the technical annex prior to launch
	B. Yes, the Guidelines were used to adjust the work plan during the first months
	C. Yes, we expect to use the Guidelines during the course of the project
	D. No, the Guidelines were not applicable to our project (go to question 7)


6	If you used the Generic Guidelines, did this: (multiple answers possible)
	A. Help to define (additional) standardization potential of your project's deliverables
	B. Encourage reviewing the allocation of work packages or resources to standardization
	C. Encourage your project to start standards related activity at an earlier point in time
	D. Help to identify standards organizations to interface with
	E. Help to establish contacts with standards organizations
	F. Otherwise support the planning of standards related activity (please specify):

7	If you did not use, and do not plan to use the Generic Guidelines, is this because:
	A. Your project does not have any particular standardization goals
	B. All information was already known to the project and/or its consortium partners
	C. The Generic Guidelines were perceived as inaccurate
	D. The Generic Guidelines were not received in time

8	What should be improved in the Generic Guidelines, in order to better support projects planning their interfacing with standardization? (multiple answers possible)
	A. More detailed information on the benefits of standardization and/or the process of determining whether or not to interface with standards organizations
	B. More information on structuring standardization activities in a project's work plan
	C. More detailed guidelines on how to choose and contact a standards organization
	D. Others (please specify):

9	Could you indicate additional aspects that should be addressed to improve projects' interfacing with standards organizations? (multiple answers possible)
	A. Projects should be able to obtain additional resources to complete standardization activities after the formal termination of their activities
	B. Standards organizations should provide specific mechanisms and/or facilities encouraging research projects to interface with them
	C. Standardization support should be structurally embedded in Framework Programmes
	D. Others (please specify):

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO:

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