



Getting standards bodies closer to ICT research: the COPRAS Standardization Guidelines

Presentation at COPRAS workshop:

New tools to improve interfacing between research and standardization in FP7

IST2006, 23 November 2006, Helsinki

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Research/standards interfacing is a specific issue in ICT

- Interfacing with standards organizations is not equally relevant across all research areas
 - In ICT considerably more than 25% of research projects produces output that is relevant to standardization*
 - In other areas this number is considerably lower than 25%*
- The number of organizations addressing ICT standards work has increased dramatically over the last 15 years
- Cross-fertilization has become increasingly important as R&D and innovation progress at ever higher speed in ICT

*As demonstrated by the results of recent studies performed by the COPRAS and INTEREST projects

Overlap between ICTSB members and research projects considerable

- In FP6 ICT Calls 1 & 2, the vast majority of standards areas covered by ICTSB members is also covered by research projects
- Projects often address multiple areas covered by multiple standards organizations
- Some ICTSB members found that > 100 projects in Calls 1 & 2 addressed standards areas covered by their organization

ICTSB member organization	# main standards areas currently addressed by ICTSB members	# main standards areas also covered by FP6 Calls 1 & 2 projects	%
CEN/ISSS	13	10	76,9
CENELEC	10	5	50,0
ETSI	21	14	66,7
ATM Forum	7	4	50,0
DVB	16	8	50,0
Ecma	9	2	22,2
ERTICO	1	1	100,0
OASIS	19	19	100,0
OMG	7	7	100,0
RosettaNET	7	7	100,0
W3C	9	9	100,0

Standardization and research should ideally proceed in parallel but...

...research projects...

- Don't start thinking about standardization in time
- Plan insufficient resources for standards work
- Stop standards work when their project ends

...and ICT standardization

- Lacks mechanisms for addressing project results
- Is scattered across many different entities
- Doesn't provide a single entry point for projects

Consequences: insufficient benefits from research/standards interfacing processes

- Lack of cross-fertilization
- Slower innovation processes
- Inefficient use of standards as well as research resources

Group of ICTSB members initiated COPRAS to address these issues



Longer term goals

1. Encourage ICT research-standards interfacing through 'Standardization Guidelines'
2. Establish more permanent support for RTD/standards interfacing in ICT by means of a (FAQ) platform, addressing issues encountered by projects
3. Identify remaining issues to be addressed

Step 1: Standardization Guidelines for ICT research projects

- Document version Guidelines released 07/2005
 - Clarify the benefits from interfacing with standardization for research projects and their consortium partners
 - How to determine whether research projects should plan to interface with standardization
 - How to build standardization effort into a project's work plan: timing, resource allocation, synchronizing processes, etc.
 - Most common processes & deliverables in standardization
 - Criteria that can be applied for selecting standards bodies matching projects' objectives
- Distribution to projects in FP6 Calls 4 & 5

Guidelines: www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/D15.html

Guidelines brochure: www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/D20.pdf

Testing the water: initial responses from projects in FP6 Call 4

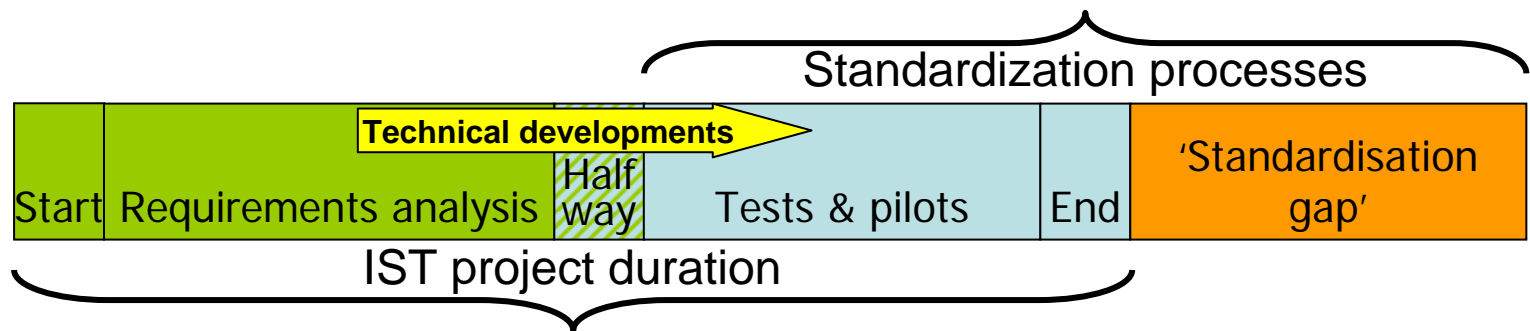
- Questionnaire send out to > 200 ICT research projects that recently launched activities
 - Response rate > 40%
 - Less than 10% is sure they will not generate results that may be relevant to standardization, but almost 25% does not have any resources allocated to standardization activities
 - 75% of projects that received or downloaded the Generic Guidelines expects to use them during their lifespan
- Main usage of Generic Guidelines so far
 - identifying standards organizations to interface with and establishing contacts with them
 - Reviewing the allocation of (standardization) resources
 - Encouragement to start standards activity at an earlier point

Step 2: transforming the Guidelines into an interactive platform

- FAQ platform to guide stakeholders through their most relevant research/standards issues
- Addresses differences between stakeholders:
 - Industry & SME
 - Academia
 - Government bodies & regulators
- Additional issues covered such as:
 - Cost of participating in standardization processes
 - Finding and contacting standards organizations
 - Initiating new standardization processes
- Links to relevant information on other web sites

Guidelines FAQ Platform: www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/faq

Main objectives of the Standardization Guidelines platform



- Help identifying standardization opportunities early and shorten the 'standardization gap'
- Allow projects as well as project consortium partners to identify the benefits from standardization specific to them
- Allow research projects to identify and find the standards organizations most applicable to them

Step 3: identifying the remaining issues to be addressed for FP7

- Which improvements are needed in the platform to address the challenges in FP7
- How can standardization be better embedded into EU funded research programmes
 - Specific resources addressing the standardization gap
 - Additional contributions/input from standards community
- Further feedback from main stakeholders
 - Input from Call 4 & 5 projects through questionnaires
 - Input from standards community
 - Input from Commission representatives

Formal launch of the platform 17 January 2007 at the COPRAS conference on “ICT research and Standardization – Towards FP7”



Thank you for your attention;

Questions?

Kirit Lathia, Chair ICT Standards Board

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