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# Standards in e-learning

***COPRAS***

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# About standards

- Standards in education ARE NOT the same as standard education; standards enable benefits, they do not prescribe the way education is done
- Analogy
  - A4 page is a standard
  - Enables exchange in Fax, printer, word processor, binder, envelopes, ...
  - Does not prescribe what you write on it such a poem or some trigonometry formulas
- Standards are basically agreements; the more global they are the greater the benefits

# Areas in which standards exist related to education

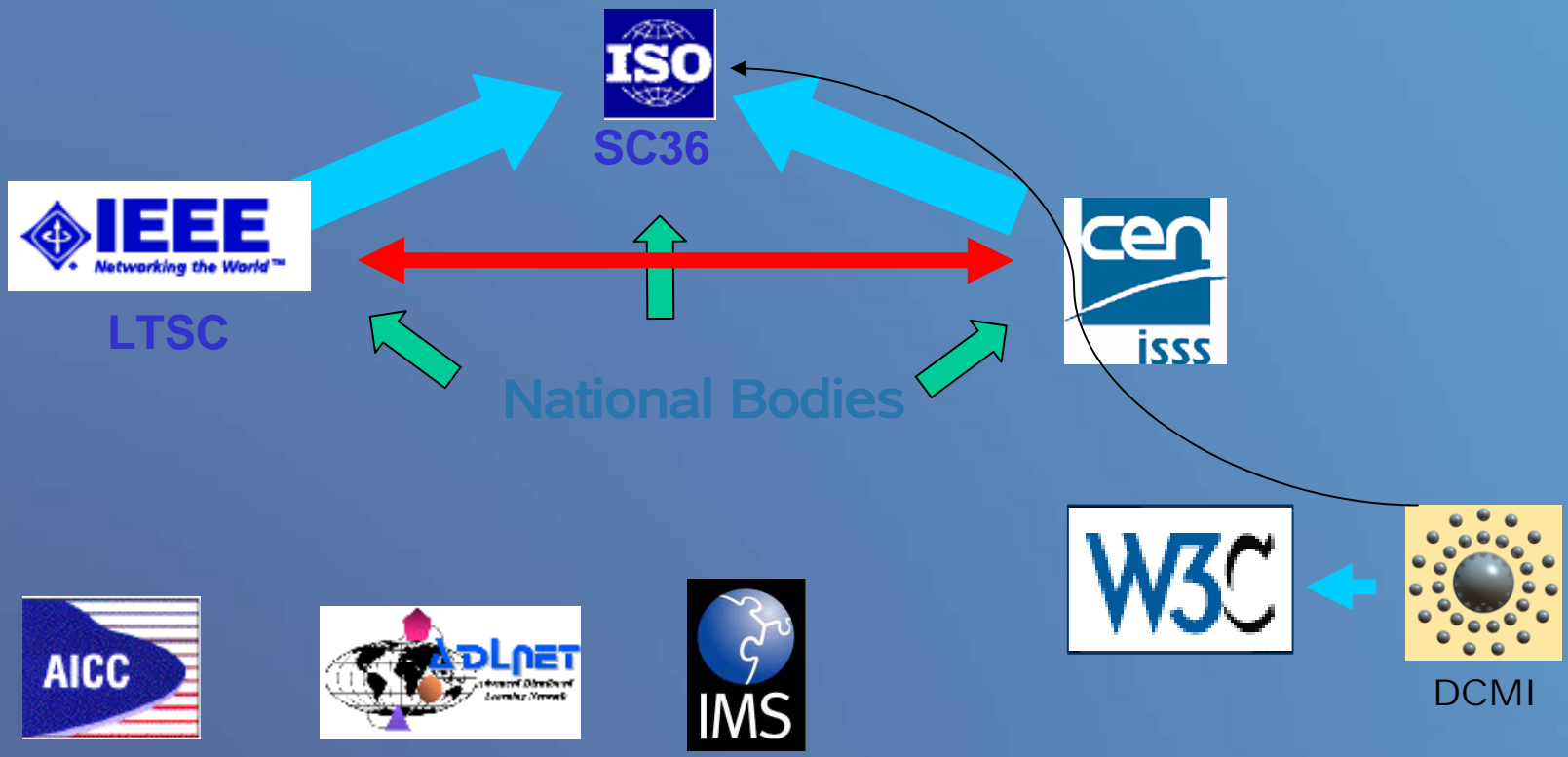
- Learning related
- Content related
- Data and metadata
- Infrastructure
- Systems and environments
- Administration
- Supporting teacher and student communities

# When would you use standards

- Avoid the administrative overload of typing student data again and again
- Have reliable information about the education of a learner
- Follow students from primary school to professional life
- Use tests developed by others or share compare results
- To share web-based learning resources

# Standardisation bodies, consortia, and contributors in Europe

- CEN/ISSS
- ISO
- National Standardisation Bodies
- Ariadne
- European Schoolnet
- eLIG
- European IMS
- European Commission
  - DG Industry, DG EAC, DG IST



Ariadne, European Schoolnet, CETIS, EDNA, ALIC, CANCORE

# Making Standards Work

- Standards are at different stages of development
- For example
  - Learning Object Model (LOM) is well adopted by tools and content providers
  - Learner Information Package (LIP) is not well adopted yet
- Different stages require different actors

# Making Standards Work (2)

- Specification
  - Innovators, domain experts, technical experts
- Adoption (sometimes stimulated by governments)
  - Tools providers
  - « Content » providers
- Adaptation for communities
  - Representative bodies, e.g. EUN, MoE, ...



- Comité Européen de Normalisation
- CEN works through procedures and principles:
  - openness and transparency
  - consensus
  - national commitment
  - technical coherence at the national and European level
  - integration with international work: other European bodies and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

# CEN/ISSS

- Information Society Standardization System
- mid-1997
- Information and Communications Technologies activities
- ISSS provides a middle way, bridging the gap between formal and informal standardisation
  - rapid process of informal specification
  - formal open consensus of traditional standardisation

# CWA

- CEN Workshop Agreement
- Consensus-based specifications, drawn up in an open Workshop environment
- CEN publication
- Usually free, some can be bought

# Workshop on Learning Technologies (WS-LT)

- Learning Technology Workshop
- Launched in 1999
- Meetings 4 times a year
- Some co-located with other groups
- [www.cenorm.be/iss/Workshop/lt/](http://www.cenorm.be/iss/Workshop/lt/)

# Information on Web

<http://ww.cenorm.be/iss/Workshop/lt/>

- Work Programme
- Business Plan
- Publications
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# Learning Technology Standards Observatory



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<http://www.cen-itso.org>

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## CEN/ISSS WS-LT

The [CEN/ISSS Learning Technology Workshop](#) was launched in February 1999. Its main objectives are:

- Encouraging participation in global initiatives in order to ensure that diverse European requirements are properly addressed by those global initiatives.
- Creating specifications, agreements, guidelines or recommendations where appropriate.
- Providing a forum for the development and implementation of requirements-driven Learning Technologies.
- Carefully examining and taking into account the various effects on learning and training technology standards which are due to the diversity of cultural backgrounds and languages that exists within Europe.
- Publicizing the Learning Technologies Workshop's activities and results to Relevant European projects, Technology developers and end users.
- Providing a forum for discussion for European project initiatives.

Several [CEN Workshop Agreements\(CWAs\)](#) have already been published as a result of this work . Current and future activities are identified in the Workshop [business plan](#)

## The CEN/ISSS WS-LT Learning Technology Standards Observatory

Uptake of learning technology standards is increasing, with numerous commercial products under development, and many R&D projects exploring the issues in this

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# CWAs

## Several workshop agreements and projects have been completed

- Internationalization of IEEE LTSC Learning Object Metadata (LOM)
- Availability of alternative language versions of a learning resource
- Description of language capabilities
- Quality assurance
- Educational modeling languages
- Educational Copyright License Condition
- Repository of taxonomies/vocabularies
- Learner Profiles from a European perspective
- Interoperability frameworks
- Learning Technology Standards Observatory
- Accessibility Requirements
- Translation of LOM into various European Languages - some complete
- Education copyright licensing conditions

# New Work Items

- PT 1 - European Model for Learner Competencies - 10 days 1 member
- PT 2 - Accessibility Properties for Learning Resources - 43 days 2 members
- PT 3 - Harmonization of Vocabularies - 100 days 4 members
- PT4 - Interoperability of Repositories for Learning - 80 days 4 members

# A place to hang your Euro hat

- WS-LT provides a European dimension
- Contributes to international standards and specifications
- By fostering collaboration and convergence

# If you have an interest in standardisation in Europe

Join the WS because

- no cost and easy rules to register
- you will benefit from wide experts base
- get updates on and links into international work in IEEE and JTC1/SC36