



The Cooperation Platform for Research and Standards: improving the interface between ICT research and standardization

Presentation at EASST2006, 24 August 2006

University of Lausanne

Bart Brusse, COPRAS Project Manager



Standardization and research should ideally proceed in parallel but

...research projects...

- Don't start thinking about standardization until they are in the final stages of their activities
- Discover they don't have sufficient resources and time to pass their output through standardization
- Don't have the means to continue the path through standardization after

...and standards bodies

- Don't have mechanisms for addressing projects' output
- Are scattered and don't provide a 'guichet unique' where standards and standards bodies can be addressed
- Are missing out on valuable contributions to ongoing standardization processes

COPRAS aims to address these issues for current & future projects

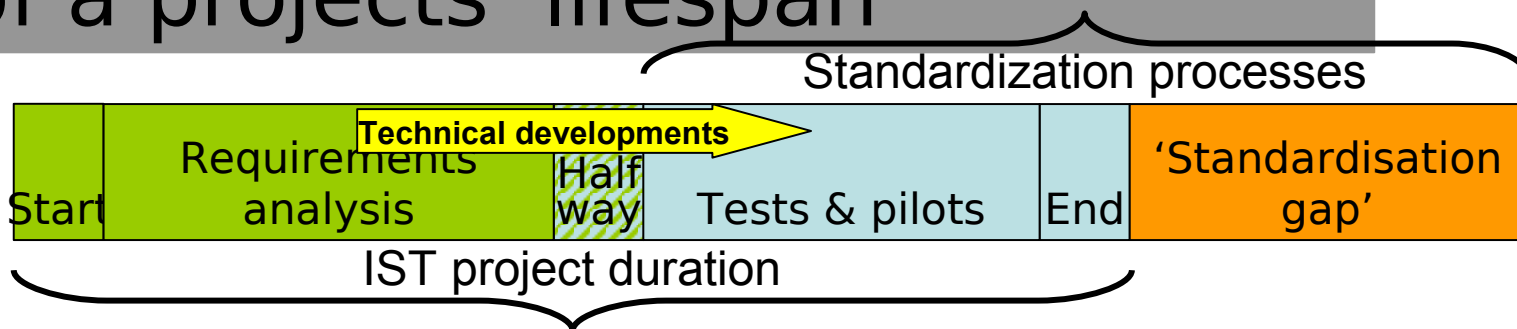


Principal goals

1. Support ongoing research projects by developing 'Standardization Action Plans' (SAPs) with them
2. Support future projects by developing 'Generic Guidelines' on interfacing between IST research & standardization
3. Establish more permanent support for RTD/standards interfacing in ICT



SAPs: addressing the standardization gap at the end of a projects' lifespan



- Identify standards related output among projects earlier & focus their standards related activities
- Arrange broader exposure of projects' objectives among standards organizations
- Initiate constituency building at an early point in time pre-empting projects' tangible standardization output

COPRAS addressed virtually all IST projects in FP6 calls 1 & 2

Call 1

- 164 projects addressed
- 92 projects responding to questionnaire (55,49%)

Call 2

- 107 projects addressed
- 55 projects responding to questionnaire (51,40%)

Issues addressed in Standardization Action Plans

- Plans with 10 projects
- Define cooperation possibilities between projects
- Focus projects' standardization efforts on targets actually achievable
- Help selecting standards bodies early and prepare contacts with them
- Structure preparatory process (e.g. creating industry awareness) for making submissions
- Define concrete action steps for constituency building, preparing technical specifications and disseminating results

First experiences point towards broad requirement for support

- Response & feedback from projects is very high
- Intention to interface with standardization is high across virtually all areas
- Few projects started standards activity in time
- Few projects allocate sufficient resources
- Financial implications are sometimes not

➔ Standardization support is an issue for many projects but poor preparations and bureaucracy complicate RTD/standards interfacing process (financially) complicated

But several aspects on the side of the industry also create barriers...

- Projects focus on too many standards bodies
 - Time and resources required per organization underestimated
 - Misjudgement standards generating potential of their project
- Standardization processes are running trains
 - Synchronization problems due to projects' short lifespan...
 - ...but waiting too long means loss of momentum

➔ Market dynamics are essential when determining projects' standardization potential

- Window of opportunity may be closed or not yet open
- Insufficient market requirement hence little industrial

...and a scattered environment complicates initiating cooperation

- No tools for determining and/or finding the right standards organization to interface with
 - Over 100 organizations crowding the ICT standards world
 - Lots of overlap between different organizations
- No generic mechanisms to find standards in a maze of standards bodies & industry consortia
- Different commercial arrangements used

➔ Effort is required on the side of standards organizations addressing these issues

- Membership rules, availability of output
- Confidentiality & IPR policy

Addressing the issues: Generic Guidelines for ICT research projects

- July 2005: “Generic Guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations”:
 - 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 efforts into a project’s work plan
 - Most common processes & deliverables in standardization

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
 - Reviewing the allocation of (standardization) resources
 - Encouragement to start standards activity at an

Additional aspects that need addressing according to projects

- > 55% feels research projects should be able to obtain additional resources to complete standardization activities after the formal termination of their activities
- > 45% feels standards organizations should provide specific mechanisms and/or facilities encouraging research projects to interface with them
- > 20% feels standardization support should be structurally embedded in publicly funded ICT research programmes

Further improvements that may help breaking down barriers

- More facilities are needed for projects presenting new technologies for standardization in a pre-competitive environment
- Specific arrangements for temporary (and low cost) membership of standards organizations should be made available to research projects
- Differences in the background and working methods of standards organizations should be clarified

Breaking down the barriers between research & standards: towards FP7

- Generic Guidelines
 - New and updated release planned early 2007
 - Transformation guidelines into interactive platform version
- COPRAS Open Meeting 17 January 2007
 - Conference addressing all aspects of ICT research and standards interfacing
 - Focus on 7th Framework Programme
 - Registration at:
www.w3.org/2004/copras/meetings/open07/registration
- Planning of COPRAS follow up activity
 - Support of ICT research standards interfacing in FP7
 - Address pending issues and further improvements



Thank you for your attention;

Questions?

Bart Brusse, COPRAS Project Manager

bart@contestconsultancy.com

Tel: +31-653-225260



THE *Open* GROUP

