POLICY RESEARCH DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLE 3

Position paper on the integration of standardisation in research programming in crisis management

Concept for PRDR3

Standardisation is an acknowledged tool to support dissemination and exploitation of research and innovation project activities, and therefore the European Union promotes the use of standardisation in the current European Framework Programme Horizon 2020[1] as well as in the upcoming Horizon Europe Programme[2]. Hereby and within this position paper, the term standardization refers to formal standardization work conducted and standards published by national (e.g. AFNOR, DIN), European (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) and international (ISO, IEC) standardisation organizations.

Within DRIVER+, standardisation is considered to be an important component to enhance the uptake of project results by the different stakeholders. Stakeholders include practitioners and policymakers, solution providers and researchers, and thus standardisation will significantly increase the impact of these results. Already in the first DRIVER+ position paper, the standardisation of a methodology for trialing and validation of crisis management solutions was recommended to further support Disaster Risk Reduction[3]. During DRIVER+, contributions to standardisation include the development of CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs) on:
→ the Trial Guidance Methodology
→ building a common simulation environment
→ requirements on information exchange across borders and organisations
→ crisis and disaster management terminology[4]

Inputs are also presented into the ISO 22319:2017 draft standard on "Guidelines for planning the involvement of spontaneous volunteers"[5].

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[1] REGULATION (EU) No 1291/2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32013R1291
[2] COM(2018) 435 Establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0435
[3] https://www.driver-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/DRIVER_PRDR1_position-paper_FINAL.pdf
[4] CWA download area, in which all finalized CWAs of DRIVER+ are published - https://www.cencenelec.eu/research/CWA/Pages/default.aspx
[5] https://www.iso.org/standard/66951.html

The third Policy-Research Dialogue Roundtable (PRDR3) focused on research-related standardisation activities in crisis management. This was the final event of the PRDR series that DG HOME and DRIVER+ have jointly organized. The event took place on 18 February 2020 in Brussels and was more specifically concerned with reflecting on the possible ways to integrate standardisation in research programmes and to address standardisation needs in the crisis management sector. It also aimed to develop recommendations to inform and support the integration of standardisation in Horizon Europe.

Mainly two questions were tackled within the PRDR3:
→ What are the experiences, best practices and approaches which have been tried and adopted to better integrate standardisation in research programmes? Were they successful? What can be learnt from them?
→ In the Horizon Europe context, what could be the key recommendations to foster the integration of standardisation in research programming by the EU Commission?

The half-day event combined both presentations from research projects on their experiences with standards development and facilitated roundtable discussions. At first an overview of the DRIVER+ standardisation activities was presented, followed by a presentation of the BRIDGIT2 project[6] that has developed a set of tools to support the interaction between research projects and standardisation. Following this, the SMR project[7], recognized by the EC as success story, explained their successful integration of standardisation that resulted in CWAs which were up taken on ISO level. The ongoing Stair4Security project[8] presented among others their envisaged platform for supporting exchange between research projects and standardisation. CEN/TC 391 'Societal and Citizen Security' is directly involved in Stair4Security. Special attention was paid to those mechanisms and good practices likely to enable the involvement of research projects in standardisation activities. The wrapping-up of the session was done by Philippe Quevauviller (DG HOME) who stressed how timely the PRDR3 was, and took the opportunity of the event to convey DG HOME's call for recommendations from practitioners about standardisation needs for security.

Adoption of a SWOT analysis approach

As to guide the roundtable discussions, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis was adopted.

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[6] Results and information on the BRIDGIT2 project can be obtained via: www.standardsplusinnovation.eu
[7] see smr-project.eu/home/
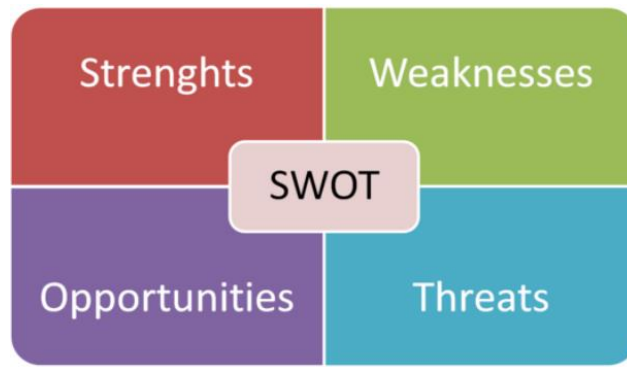[8] see www.cen-stair4security.eu/

Figure 1: SWOT analysis overview

The reasons underpinning this choice were the short timeframe of the roundtable, and therefore the need to use an assessment framework easy to understand and to manage the diverse groups of stakeholders which had to have a common reference framework and the dynamic approach supported by the SWOT perspective.

The use of the SWOT framework for PRDR3 permitted to gain an informed overview of the internal and external factors impacting the integration of standardisation in research programmes and projects, as well as current and future potentials in this area. It fostered realistic and fact-based considerations while emphasizing core assets and challenges.

Findings and recommendations

From the presentations and discussions which took place among the PRDR3 participants, several findings were collected and the following four respective recommendations were developed.
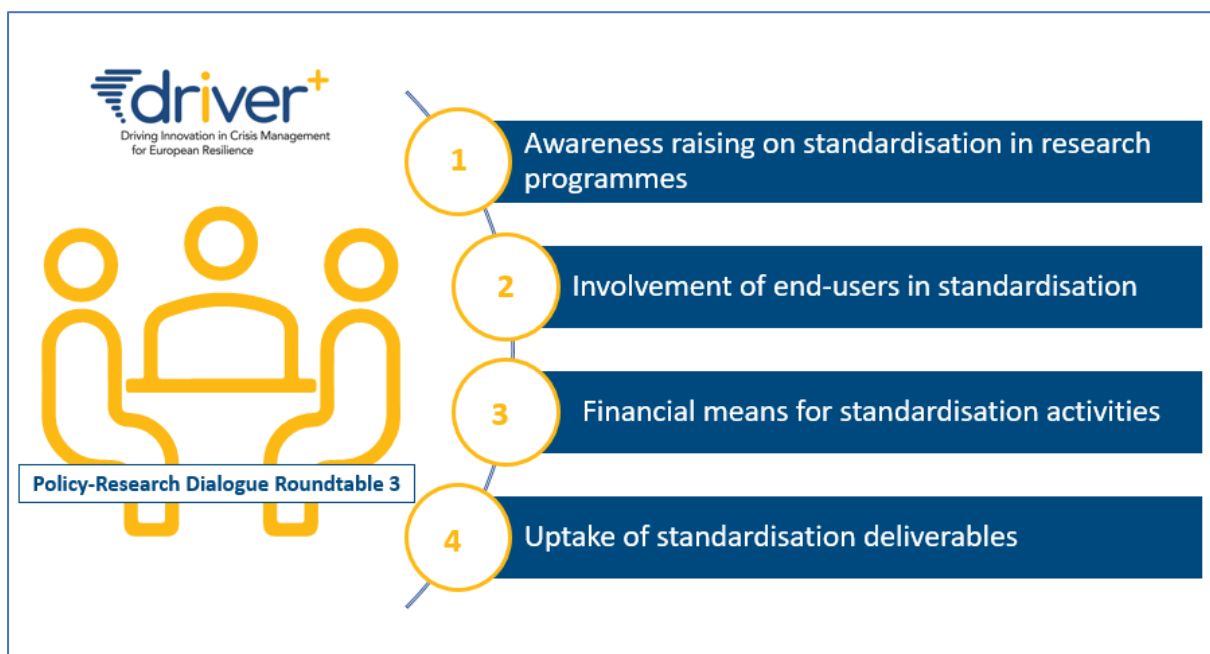

Figure 2: Recommendations of PRDR3

1) Awareness raising on standardisation in research programmes

Findings: There is an increased amount of references on standards and standardisation in FP7 and Horizon 2020 calls, but often these references are highly non-homogeneous by sectors and are not well addressed in the project proposals. This comes along with a lack of awareness on the benefits and possibilities standardisation is offering for research programmes and projects[9]. Therein often the understanding of the activity 'standardisation' is missing in comparison to the worldwide known 'standards'. Thus a lack of knowledge on how to use standardisation as a strategic tool for these activities is the result. The standardisation system is offering several tools for research projects to on one hand use existing standards within the projects, and on the other hand to contribute to standardisation and transfer the project results via giving input to existing standards or developing new ones. For the latter, fast track standardisation like CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements (CWAs) with a timeframe for development of about 6-12 months is one instrument. Furthermore the involvement of standardisation organizations in the project supports the identification of project results relevant for standardisation. Especially within the security area, related standards and joint standardisation efforts provide a common language for the actors involved and the opportunity to better cooperate cross-border in crisis management.

Recommendations: The EC, EU Framework Program call writers, etc. should systematically consider standardisation within the preparation of calls. The general references to standardisation should be increased consistently in the calls of Horizon Europe, the quality of references in specific topics improved and the standardisation outcomes recognized as KPIs to increase the projects' impact. All stakeholders such as National Contact Persons, EC, researchers knowing the standardisation tool, but also standardisation organizations should spread their knowledge with the support of existing tools such as available on www.standardsplusinnovation.eu[10]. The awareness of possibilities to integrate standards and standardization in FP projects need to be raised. Also more detailed support of projects that have no standardization body included but need or want to address standardization need to be provided/promoted by the EC.

2) Involvement of end-users in standardisation

Findings: Often there is a weak involvement of end-users in research projects in general or other relevant stakeholders are missing, especially practitioners (in the security sectors e.g. first responders, fire and rescue services, police forces, municipalities, social workers, educators and civil society actors). But especially in the security sector the community building and bringing academia and practitioners together are important assets for a faster uptake of research results, which can be supported actively throughout the standardisation of the research project results. Standardisation committees in the security domain have also end-users, practitioners and crisis management experts as members, who can support the standards development via for example project liaisons with this committee or via subcontracting of committee experts. By developing standards out of these results it is due to the open, inclusive multi-stakeholder process of standardisation relatively easy to integrate project externals and thus especially end-users and the target group of the standards. By

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[9] Related workshop findings were: possibility to get feedback on project results by the large standardisation network and thus project externals, have an end-user oriented and high quality documentation which is distributed by recognized standardisation organizations and the availability of in the project developed standards beyond the project which can be a basis for certification and uplift with national, European or international standards.

[10] Here especially the 'Guide for considering standardisation in European Framework Programmes, calls topics and projects' need to be considered.

taking these end-users on board, the time for market uptake of the standards' content is reduced as the potential users have already contributed to the standard and have influenced it in the way they can best use it afterwards. Also the impact of project results increases by this kind of acknowledged and credible documentation done by a wider group of stakeholders including the end-users. Involving the relevant stakeholders and especially the end-users in the standards development process fosters significantly the dissemination and outreach of the project results. Additionally end-users of the project can in the future join the standardisation work in their countries for supporting the uptake of these standardisation deliverables.

Recommendations: End-users such as crisis management practitioners should gain more knowledge on the standardisation system and should use existing standardisation tools such as CWAs to take part in the standards development and thus to path the way for faster uptake of the research results. The EC and the standardisation bodies should support increasing the knowledge of the end-users (e.g. via promotion of existing e-learnings[11]).

3) *Financial means for standardisation activities*

Findings: When a project had integrated standardisation activities and preferably also a national standardisation organization to support this work already in the proposal, then the financial means to conduct these activities is given. But there are challenges for projects with regard to funding for standardisation that have not considered standardisation in the proposal or that want to follow up on standardisation after the project ends. Also the involvement of end-users, as target audience of most security related standards, is due to their limited personal and financial resources difficult (even when they are already part of standardization committees). There are currently no financial possibilities provided by the EC to support these for the projects' dissemination and exploitation impactful activities. Additionally, there are cultural differences in each member state of the EU. Thus reaching consensus for uplifting e.g. a security related CWA or other European standardization deliverable (such as Technical Specification, Technical Report) into a full consensus European Standard (EN) is not easy, also due to a lack of language. Therefore time and resources for translations and future uptake of standard are needed.

Recommendations: The EC should set up tools for ad-hoc or flexible financing of standardisation activities in projects that have not considered standardisation, as a follow up of the project or for ensuring the end-user involvement in the standards development. Also the translations of standards deliverables other than EN (such as CWAs) in the different countries to support their uptake in the different EU member state need to be supported financially.

4) *Uptake of standardisation deliverables*

Findings: The uptake for project standardisation deliverables such as CWAs within the relevant standardisation committee (TC) is easier, when previous interaction of the project to this committee is undertaken via e.g. a liaison or through members of the committee already involved in the projects' standardisation activities (e.g. via participation in the CWA development). A link to these committees can be provided directly and is easier facilitated by an in the project participating standardisation organization. Furthermore, there is room for improvement in the interaction between the security related stakeholders such as policy makers, researchers, end-users, NCPs to discuss the results of research projects. With the Community of User (CoU) initiative of DG Home a

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[11] see for example www.standardspluselearning.eu/

networking and discussion platform is already available. However, the involvement of governments, decision makers and experts from standardisation bodies and their committees could be increased to allow following up faster on the standardisation deliverables of the research projects. Another issue is that governments and legal frameworks often do not use the standardisation results of the research projects (pro-)actively. But in order to ensure the market uptake of research results support from the governmental authorities is sometimes needed. For example in Europe are directives for product safety in place, but not for e.g. city resilience activities or applying disaster risk related technologies.

Recommendations: Standardisation organizations should explore further means to easier uptake standardisation deliverables deriving from research. The EC should actively promote with specific funded activities the standardisation outcomes of projects. Also, the EC should support the integration of foster and increase the Community of User activities with respect to the potential uptake of standardisation deliverables of research projects. Finally, the EC and the member states should check whether the developed standardisation deliverables of research results should be up taken in parts of or whole Europe via for example directives or regulations.