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The concept of Cooperation with European Organizations and other stakeholders

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**The concept of Cooperation
with European Organizations
and other stakeholders**

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(Updated version, February 2025)



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Foreword

In May 2017, this Guide was updated to include the specific rights given by CEN and CENELEC to Societal “Partner” Organizations representing consumers and environmental and social interests in European standardization activities, and which are covered by Annex III of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European standardization.

In November 2021, this Guide was further updated following recommendations from the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards and the CEN and CENELEC Advisory groups to the Boards on Policy matters, as well as to align with the CEN and CENELEC Strategy 2030 goals, to further clarify the criteria defining the different categories of cooperation and overall wording of the concepts. This is a step towards strengthening the participation of European stakeholders for an inclusive European Standardization System.

CEN and CENELEC share the goal to develop European standards and other technical specifications to respond to the needs of European industry while meeting consumer, environmental and other societal expectations. CEN and CENELEC, through their active cooperation with all main stakeholders, are actively engaged in removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers and contribute to the consolidation of the European Single Market.

In this context, CEN, CENELEC and their members are fully committed to cooperating with key organizations for the development of sound cooperative relations aimed at meeting the scopes and missions of both CEN and CENELEC.

These cooperations are developed taking into account the complementary roles of each party and are respectful of the different levels at which such cooperation may take place, be it at national or European level. Therefore, partnerships developed under this Guide do not remove the need for the members of the cooperating organization to participate in the work of their National Standard Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees, where national opinions are formed, votes are decided, and consensus has to be reached.

<https://standards.cenelec.eu/> This document provides the guidelines of CEN and CENELEC’s policy towards building partnerships with European organizations, associations and other recognized stakeholders who have an interest in European standardization and are willing and able to provide added-value knowledge and to actively contribute with inputs and proposals to CEN and/or CENELEC corporate and technical bodies.

The six categories for Cooperation with CEN and CENELEC are:

- Partner Organization;
- Liaison Organization;
- Associated Body;
- European Counsellor;
- European Institutional Stakeholder;
- Other Cooperating Organizations not covered by this Guide.

All European cooperating organizations collaborating with CEN and CENELEC fall into one of the above categories depending on their private/public nature, representativeness, area of interest, as well as their corresponding financial support to the system.

CEN and CENELEC offer European organizations, associations, and stakeholders two main areas in which to build active cooperations:

CEN-CENELEC Guide 25:2021 (E)**Cooperation at the level of corporate bodies and their working or advisory groups**

Within the context of the European standardization system, CEN and CENELEC share with their cooperating organizations the major goals of contributing to the increase of the competitiveness of the European industry, as well as contributing to the welfare of European society. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, CEN and CENELEC seek to ensure valuable high-level cooperations with the European Union and EFTA, as well as with sectoral and pan-sectoral organizations representing at European level the interest of industry, SMEs and societal groups.

CEN and CENELEC will therefore seek cooperation with – and active contribution of – European institutions and organizations in the activities of their corporate bodies, such as the General Assemblies, Presidential Committee, their working/advisory groups, as well as the CEN and/or CENELEC Technical Boards.

Cooperation at the level of Technical Committees and other technical bodies

Standards making is the core business of CEN and CENELEC. Therefore, when necessary to ensure high quality and consensus-based technical deliverables, CEN and CENELEC will engage in cooperations at the level of their respective technical bodies, such as Technical Committees, sub-committees, working groups and other technical groups, as defined in the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, with:

- a) European organizations and consortia having specific technical knowledge with added value for the relevant technical bodies and work; or
- b) European sectoral and pan-sectoral organizations, representing specific interest groups, including SMEs and societal groups.

In seeking efficient and effective cooperation with the identified organizations, CEN and CENELEC will ensure that the cooperating organizations demonstrate at all times, as a minimum requirement, a dedicated interest in the relevant technical bodies' activities and a readiness to provide technical input into their work.

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1 Partner Organization

1.1 Why enter into agreement for *Partner Organization* status?

The status of *Partner Organization* is addressed to those organizations having an interest in cooperation at overall corporate and technical level with CEN and/or CENELEC.

This concept is likely to be of most interest to the organizations covered by Annex III of Regulation EC 1025/2012 on European standardization, as they have an overall - or very broad - interest in CEN and CENELEC work. In addition, business-related organizations with major standardization interests in multiple sectors may also find this level of partnership valuable.

The *Partner Organization* is expected to:

- a) have an interest in both 1) European standardization matters having policy impact and 2) the CEN and/or CENELEC technical activities; and
- b) be willing to actively contribute to the achievement of the CEN and/or CENELEC strategies, as well as to the technical work related to the development of European standards and other technical deliverables.

1.2 Benefit for the Partner Organization at the level of corporate bodies, their working/advisory groups, and of the technical work

The *Partner Organization* is entitled to benefit from partnership at the level of corporate bodies and their working or advisory groups at the conditions as set hereunder, as well as to participate - upon request and payment of associated fees - in specific technical activities of CEN and/or CENELEC Technical Committees and other technical groups.

1.2.1 Participation at the level of corporate bodies and their working or advisory groups

Corporate bodies encompass the CEN and/or CENELEC General Assemblies, Administrative Boards, Technical Boards and the Presidential Committee. These corporate bodies may establish working or advisory groups.

General Assemblies

The *Partner Organization* regularly receives invitations to participate in General Assemblies and high-level open meetings organized by CEN and/or CENELEC. This allows the *Partner Organization* to receive information on the main policy and strategic matters affecting the CEN and/or CENELEC standardization communities and to contribute actively to the debate held during these meetings. Participation in these meetings is as observers and without voting rights.

CEN-CENELEC Presidential Committee

The *Partner Organization* may identify the need to have a dialogue on a matter of policy and strategic relevance. In such a case, they can send a request in writing to the Director General with a short description of the topic they would like to discuss with the Presidential Committee. Following confirmation by the Chair of the Presidential Committee, the concerned *Partner Organization* will be invited to present their views to the Presidential Committee and contribute to the debate on this matter.

Other working or advisory groups

The *Partner Organization* can also participate as an observer in CEN, CENELEC or CEN-CENELEC Working Groups, Advisory Groups, Task Forces, Platforms, etc., dealing with issues having policy and corporate relevance, where such participation is envisaged in the relevant Group's Terms of Reference or upon the Chair's invitation. Participation in these meetings is without voting rights.

CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards

The *Partner Organization* has access to the documents of the CEN and/or CENELEC Technical Boards (BTs), and participates as an observer in the BT meetings. Observership status implies, inter alia:

- no voting rights;
- the possibility to formulate advice on current and future standards programmes, e.g. by stating needs and by proposing priorities;
- providing dedicated inputs for BT consideration;
- the right to lodge appeals as specified in the dedicated clauses (Appeal Policy) of the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 1, however limited to matters associated with work carried out by CEN and/or CENELEC Technical Bodies to which the *Partner Organization* has contributed.

1.2.2 Participation at the level of technical work

Participation in technical work is understood as attendance and contribution in CEN and/or CENELEC technical bodies; these are Technical Committees, sub-committees, working groups and other technical bodies¹, as defined in the [CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2](#).

The *Partner Organization* may request observership at any time in specific CEN and/or CENELEC Technical bodies. Such requests are decided upon by the CEN and/or CENELEC Technical Boards in line with the [CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2](#) upon advice of the concerned Technical bodies or groups when appropriate².

A *Partner Organization* benefits from the following advantages in terms of information and participation in these Technical bodies:

- a) access to working documents and to public enquiries.

In accordance with the rules governing the CEN and/or CENELEC's standardization activities, and within its area of competence, *Partner Organizations* are entitled to receive access to working documents, as well as to submit comments on draft European Standards undergoing public enquiry, associated with the Technical bodies for which participation has been granted.

In addition to the above, Societal Partner Organizations representing consumers, environmental and social interests in European standardization activities, and which are covered by Annex III of Regulation 1025/2012 on European standardization, and in line with their individual partnership agreement, are also entitled to:

- submit comments on draft European Standards submitted to formal approval (vote)
- submit an "Opinion" on draft European Standards undergoing public enquiry or submitted for formal approval (vote).

- b) participation in CEN and/or CENELEC Technical bodies.

Participation in Technical bodies implies:

- no voting rights;

¹ The right for Partner Organizations to participate in Joint advisory and coordination groups, as defined in CEN and CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2, is reflected in the Terms of Reference of each relevant group and subject to agreement.

² See CEN BT decision C131/2013 and CENELEC BT decision D146/026 "BT decides that the organizations listed in Annex III of (EU) Regulation 1025/2012 that have entered into partnership with CEN-CENELEC, are entitled to participate in any Technical Committee and its relevant working groups and this without any restriction."

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- the possibility to propose technical documents with a view of their possible conversion into CEN or CENELEC deliverables, through the regular consensus and approval process;
- the possibility to introduce preparatory work as a support to ongoing standardization activities;
- the possibility to submit technical contributions to the body's meetings and by correspondence;
- the possibility to formulate advice on current and future standards programmes.

Partner Organizations may participate in Technical Committees or Subcommittees as observers. In Working Groups, their representatives participate as experts.

For the sake of efficiency in the administration of the Technical body activities, the Technical Board may request the concerned Technical body Chair to provide assessments on the contribution of the *Partner Organization*. If necessary, the Technical Board reserves the right to withdraw the participation of the *Partner Organization* in a Technical body when it clearly emerges that the *Partner Organization* is not contributing to the corresponding work.

1.3 What are the conditions to become a *Partner Organization*?

An organization wishing to become *Partner Organization* of CEN and/or CENELEC is:

- a) an independent European or international European based *sectoral* organization representing, within its defined area of competence, a sector or subsector. In the case of CENELEC, the *Partner Organization* is expected to represent a sector or subsector in the electrotechnical field; or
- b) a recognized European pan-sectoral organization promoting, within its defined area of competence, the interest of a defined category of stakeholders, such as SMEs, or societal interests, such as consumers, social or environmental stakeholders.

In addition, the organization:

- is able to represent a very significant part of the European interest groups related to its defined area of competence across the geographical scope of CEN and CENELEC;
- is willing and able to provide on an active basis relevant inputs to the work of one or more CEN and/or CENELEC technical bodies in the development of standards or other technical deliverables;
- is willing and able to actively contribute, as appropriate, with inputs and proposals in dialogue with CEN and/or CENELEC corporate bodies and their working or advisory groups;
- is open to membership of appropriately qualified national organizations in the countries from the Members of CEN and CENELEC;
- has a legitimate interest in European standardization in general, or with regard to the sector/subsector of its activity;
- does not perform any activity that is regarded as in conflict or in competition with the CEN and CENELEC activities;
- can effectively and representatively support CEN and CENELEC objectives through the contribution of its own members and their internal organizations, including at the national level.

1.4 Obligations for the *Partner Organization*

With regard to the participation at the level of CEN and CENELEC corporate bodies and their working or advisory groups, the *Partner Organization* is subject to the following obligations: