

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Standardization; Understanding and supporting SME involvement in ICT standardization

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Foreword

This Special Report (SR) has been produced by ETSI Special Task Force STF 376, reporting to the ETSI Board. ETSI STF 376 was established with the aim to improve the participation of innovative SMEs in European ICT standardization. The project has taken a pro-active approach with the following high level objectives:

- 1) to increase the participation in ETSI standardization of R&D performing SMEs;
- 2) to increase the competitive advantage of European R&D performing SMEs by connecting them to the standardization process.

The project performed a wide analysis of the current best practices/behaviour of successful SMEs using standardization for improving their results, and then developed tools/methods/best practices which can be applied by SMEs, and more particularly, by SME advice and support agencies, in their efforts to support the development and growth of SMEs.

ETSI STF 376 and the development of the present document have been co-financed by the European Commission and EFTA under the Standardization Action Grant SA/ETSI/ENTR/000/2008-11.

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1 Scope

The present document addresses the subject of the SME participation in Standardization.

It is based upon the outcome of ETSI STF 376. This STF, co-financed by the European Commission and EFTA and reporting to the ETSI Board, has conducted a study into SME participation in ICT standardization, evaluating the main benefits of participation and the main barriers which prevent SMEs taking a direct role. A number of case studies were developed of SMEs who actively participate in standardization. The present document provides the background to the project and describes the methodology used. It presents the main findings from a survey and from the case studies. It also proposes a number of tools and best practices which have been researched and which should support a greater level of SME participation in ICT standardization.

2 References

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the reference document (including any amendments) applies.

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2.1 Normative references

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Not applicable.

2.2 Informative references

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

[i.1] Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

NOTE: Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>.

[i.2] SME Performance Review 2008: "First Section of the Annual Report on EU Small and Medium-sized Enterprises", EIM Business & Policy Research, January 2009.

NOTE: Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/craft/sme_perf_review/doc_08/spr08_annual_reporten.pdf.

[i.3] Eurostat Statistics in Focus 72/2007: "Community Innovation Statistics".

NOTE: Available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-07-072/EN/KS-SF-07-072-EN.PDF

[i.4] Council of the European Union, 2769th COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry and Research) Council meeting: "Council conclusions on a broad-based innovation strategy: Strategic priorities for innovation action at EU level".

NOTE: Available at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/91989.pdf.