

SMEST

The SME Standardization Toolkit



Why you need European Standards

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are a vital part of the European economy. They represent 95% of the businesses in Europe and provide 55% of total jobs in the private sector. However, running an SME can be a difficult and time-intensive task.

European Standards can help make running your business easier, safer, and more successful. With one common standard for 30 European countries, a product can reach a far wider market with much lower development and testing costs. European Standards also promote interoperability of products and services, and facilitate the uptake of innovation.

Because of the consensus model used in the development of standards, it is to the benefit of all concerned that the maximum of stakeholder voices are heard in the process. Unfortunately, SMEs are often under-represented in European standardization.

The SMEST project invites SMEs to learn more about the European standardization process. The CEN National Standardization Bodies and CENELEC National Electrotechnical Committees, of the 12 new CEN and CENELEC Member Countries, will make use of an 'SME Toolkit' to support the implementation of EU policies and activities in this field. The project will consist of training and awareness-raising events in 12 countries, concluding with a final workshop in Brussels to present and discuss the findings and results.

The SME Standardization Toolkit

The training material for SMEs focuses on three main issues: awareness, information, and participation.

It answers the following important questions:

- How can standards support my business?
- How are standards related to regulation?
- Which standards are relevant for my products or services?
- How should I use those standards?
- What are the benefits of participation in standardization?
- How can I participate?

The SME Toolkit is a dynamic system that is publicly available at www.smest.eu

see over



Learn more !

An awareness-raising event for SMEs and other public/private stakeholders will take place in each country. At these events, the potential benefits of standards and standardization will be demonstrated and supported with practical examples.



DATE	COUNTRY
6 May 2009	Czech Republic
13 May 2009	Bulgaria
20 May 2009	Cyprus
3 June 2009	Estonia
10 June 2009	Hungary
17 June 2009	Latvia
1 September 2009	Lithuania
9 September 2009	Poland
16 September 2009	Malta
23 September 2009	Slovakia
30 September 2009	Slovenia
7 October 2009	Romania
19 November 2009	Brussels

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Information

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