

Four reasons why societal stakeholders and SMEs make EU standards stronger

A quick introduction to “Annex III”

The success of the European Standardisation System rests on collaboration among experts from industry, public administrations, civil society, research, and academia.

This is crucial to deliver standards that truly meet the needs of our economies, as well as public policy objectives, while addressing major societal challenges, be it environment, workers, health and safety, or consumer rights.

The EU Standardisation Regulation successfully fosters effective participation of organisations representing societal and small business interests in standards-making. These organisations are known as “Annex III”, and focus on delivering public policy objectives for the environment, workers, consumers, and SMEs. This has opened the door to a wealth of knowledge and experience - bringing balance, legitimacy, and real-life insight into standardisation and ultimately ensuring that European standards are fit for a future-proof Single Market.

Why is this important?



Ensuring inclusiveness and representation of public interests

Crucial elements for the necessary democratic checks and balances and a credible representation of the European economic landscape.



Protecting the regulatory ambition and legal integrity

Annex III organisations actively participate in the drafting of technical standards, safeguarding the ambition of legal requirements and evaluating their suitability to support EU legislation.



National mobilisation

Annex III organisations support and mobilise their national and sectoral members, empowering them to engage directly in national standards-making.



Promoting EU values in international standardisation organisations

Ensuring that international standards used in Europe are in line with EU objectives, and inclusive of the voices and interests of societal stakeholders and SMEs.

Would you like to know more about the role of societal stakeholders and SMEs in European standards-making? Reach out to us:



Consumer spending constitutes over 50% of EU GDP. This underlines the importance of an effective consumer voice in standardisation, both in achieving competitiveness, and ensuring higher standards of protection and welfare.

anec.eu



EU standards that support a circular, sustainable, resilient, and competitive European economy are only possible when developed in an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach that involves environmental voices.

ecostandard.org



Firefighting gear, helmets and safety features of high-risk machinery. These are just a few examples of products shaped by technical standards. The impact on workers is clear: good standards mean safer workplaces.

etuc.org



Small Business Standards (SBS) is the voice of European SMEs in standardisation. We represent 22 million SMEs all over Europe, raising awareness about standardisation and financing SME experts to directly contribute to the drafting of European and international standards.

sbs-sme.eu



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