

PIN-SME position on the EU Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation

Background

The EU Rolling Plan provides an overview of the needs for preliminary or complementary ICT standardisation activities to be undertaken in support of EU policy activities. Drafted by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation (MSP), it is addressed to all ICT Stakeholders. The plan aims at providing a transparent view on the process of policy planning and support.

The Rolling Plan outlines the importance of setting standards and a standardisation process in the policy making. It lists all the topic areas that have been identified as EU policy priorities where standardisation, standards, or ICT technical specifications ought to play a key role in the implementation of the policy. It covers technologies of 'horizontal importance', ones whose application have a wide impact across different technical fields, in the context of ICT infrastructures and ICT standardisation.

Position

This position refers to the 2013 ICT Standardisation Rolling Plan, session 3.2.4. "e-Skills and e-Learning".

Under the societal challenge on e-skills the plan should be updated by noting that the CEN/PC 428 Professions for ICT is already established and it is expected to take the leadership in the standardisation work regarding for e-skills.

Moreover, taking into account the Recommendation 2009/C 155/01 the on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET), the standards activities should include the development of a quality assurance scheme in order to ensure compliance of ICT education schemes and VET with the eCF - European eCompetence Framework. Thus we recommend that CEN/PC 428 is tasked to develop a certifiable standards for the implementation of an eCF quality assurance scheme.

We believe that this quality assurance scheme is necessary in order to ensure that different education schemes and VET are comparable and, thus, ICT workforce mobility in Europe be eased.

SMEs would in fact benefit from further harmonization of e-skills curricula at EU level, because this would enable further mobility of ICT skilled workers across countries and, thus, contribute to bridge the e-skills gap that often prevent SMEs to grow. In this respect, it should be noted that the issue of mobility is certainly more critical for small businesses than for large companies, the reason being that the latter can afford the resources to hire people coming from other countries, whereby in SMEs it is hard to compare candidates' profiles from different countries.

About PIN-SME

PIN-SME, the “*the voice of ICT SMEs in Europe*”, is the first European association of the ICT sector exclusively focused of representing the interests of SMEs. PIN-SME members are fourteen national sectorial SME associations from different EU countries. PIN-SME represents more than **50.000 enterprises**, which employ around 200.000 people across Europe. PIN-SME is a registered interest representative (ID: 66552321207-56) in the EU.

PIN-SME members

BASSCOM - Bulgarian Association of Software Companies (BULGARIA), **CNA** - Comunicazione e Terziario Avanzato, Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato e della Piccola e Media impresa (ITALY), **ESTIC / CONETIC** - Asociación Empresarial del Sector TIC (SPAIN), **GPNI** - Groupement Professionnel National de l'Informatique (FRANCE), **It-forum midtjylland** (DENMARK), **UKITA** - United Kingdom IT Association (UNITED KINGDOM), **SwissMedia** - Swiss IT & Multimedia Association (SWITZERLAND), **BITMi** – Bundesverband IT-Mittelstand e.V. (GERMANY), **Vojvodina ICT Cluster** (THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA), **Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, IT Association** (THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA), **STIKK** - Kosovo Association of Information and Communication Technology (THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO)

