

Standards Build Trust

CEN and CENELEC standards help Europe meet today's technological and societal challenges as well as those we will face tomorrow. They support Europe's priorities through improving business performance and creating trust.

CEN and CENELEC can help you achieve your policy objectives



A harmonised Single Market

Creating value for Europe while offering a cost-efficient and easier way to show product compliance with Union law.



A competitive European industry ready to lead in international trade

Supporting European technological change while promoting European interests in international standards.



Trust in new technology

Providing European best practices to lead the digital transformation of society with citizens' interests in mind.



Enhanced innovation for Europe

Enabling research and scientific results to reach the market.



The Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda

Implementing the sustainable use of resources and energy while protecting consumers, workers and the environment.



CEN and CENELEC standards define good practice for Europe, representing the pan-European consensus of broad and representative stakeholder communities. These experts codify their knowledge through an independent, inclusive and transparent system. The resulting standards, for voluntary use, reflect the current technological state of the art, are future-proofed, and integrate seamlessly with international standards.



A harmonised Single Market

Creating value for Europe while offering a cost-efficient and easier way to show product compliance with Union Law.

A strong EU Single Market means a stronger and more competitive Europe globally. With the ability to reduce Trade Barriers and foster harmonization among Member States, consumers can be assured about the safety and quality of both the goods and services that they purchase.

Cooperation of different stakeholders



Through the European Standardization System (ESS), standards development is the result of a long-standing and successful cooperation among all interested actors, including: industry, SMEs, consumer organizations, societal stakeholders and policy makers. As such, the ESS is a unique system, where standards are established through the consensus of all stakeholders, and published by the recognized European Standardization Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI).

Economic growth



Standards play a vital role in supporting economic growth by boosting productivity and competitiveness in Europe. For example, in Nordic countries, standardization has contributed to 38% of growth in productivity and 28% of GDP growth since 1976. In Germany, standards have contributed an average of 16,77 billion Euros every year to the economy (0,72% of Germany's GDP).

Tradition of working together



European Standards help support the introduction of new products, boosting innovation and competitiveness. Under Regulation 1025/2012 on European Standardization, in the context of the New Legislative Framework, it is clear the principles of this public-private partnership and clarifies the role that standards play in assisting the delivery of EU public policies.

Harmonised standards



CEN and CENELEC help the implementation of the EU legislation through the development of "harmonized standards", based on standardization mandates coming from the Commission and EFTA. Today, about 25% of all European standards are specifically supporting harmonized product legislation. When this partnership is strong and standards are timely cited in the Official Journal of the EU, this is a very powerful and innovation-friendly way to ensure compliance with EU legislative and policy objectives.