

Market Study on Standardisation in EU Framework Programmes (H2020 & FP7)

CoU Meeting - Standardisation Governance
Brussels, 4 December 2018



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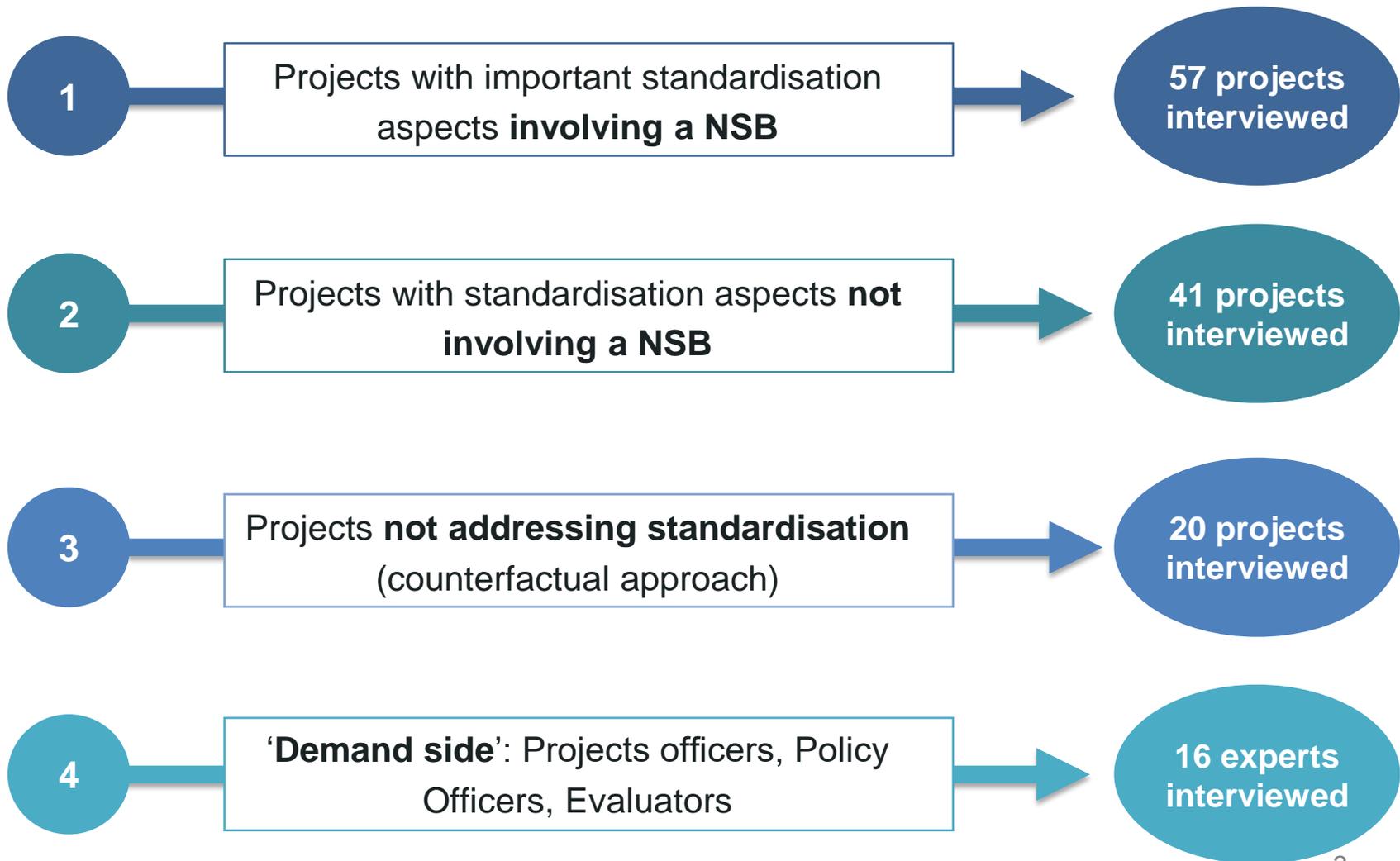


Objectives of the study

« *To **gather and analyse the facts** on standardisation in FP research and innovation projects with the objective to:*

- ***Create transparency on standardisation** in R&I projects with and without the participation of a national standardisation body (NSB)*
- ***Evaluate the experience** and arrive at key success factors and best practices for NSBs*
- ***Demonstrate positive results and impact** from standardisation carried out in R&I projects »*

Data collection approach — 4 audiences

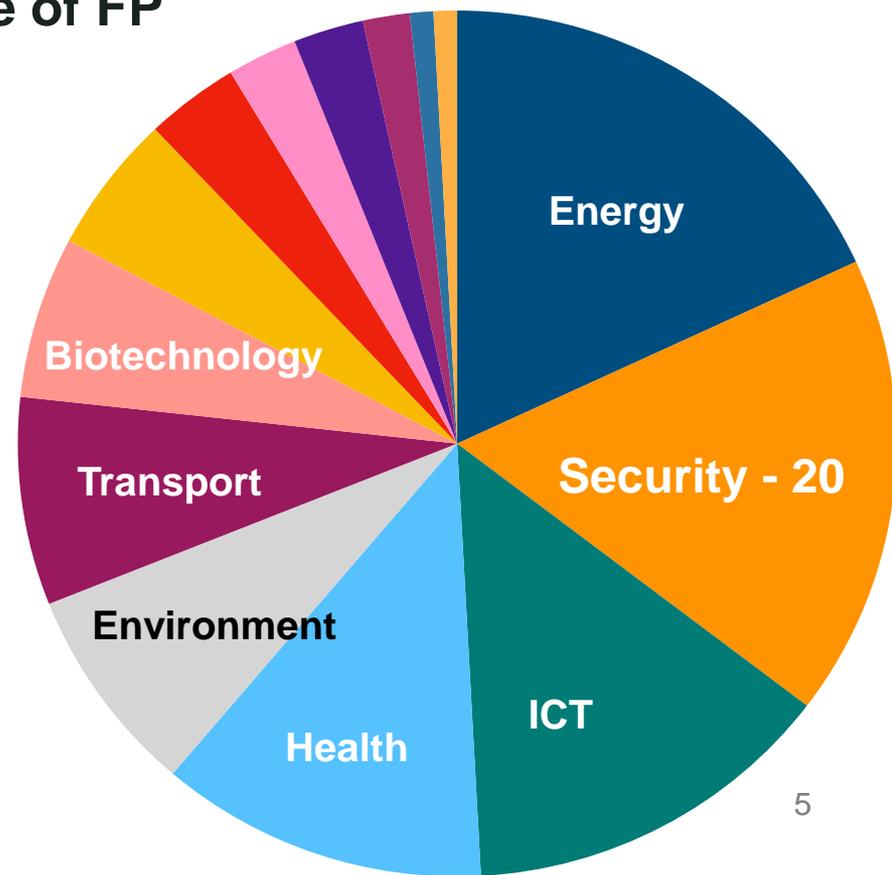


Main achievements

- **Raw data, field evidence and key findings** about standardisation in research projects
- **Suggestions** to further improve the quality of standardisation activities in FP
- **2 Validation workshops** with representatives from standardisation bodies, the EC and research organisations
- Final public **report** (being drafted)

About the 118 projects interviewed

- **48% FP7 vs. 52% H2020**
- Interviewees mainly from **RTOs and the Industry**
- With a **long-standing experience of FP**
- Mainly **projects coordinators**
- Sector representativeness



Summary of the key findings

- a. Reasons to address standardisation in FP projects
- b. Activities & deliverables performed
- c. Perception on & role of the standardisation bodies
- d. Appropriateness of standardisation in projects according to their maturity and time constraints
- e. Benefits and results of standardisation
- f. 'Demand side' (POs and evaluators)

a. Reasons to address standardisation in projects

Different and sometimes multiple reasons to include standardisation

- 30% of the replies “to ensure the success of their **exploitation or market strategy**”
- 25% of the replies “to meet the **requirements of the call topics**”
- 17% of the replies “to facilitate the conduct of the research activities”

References related to standardisation in the call topics is an important factor

- 75% of projects funded under a call topic referring to standardisation addressed standardisation to meet the **requirements of the call**

Including standardisation is perceived by the respondents as a **key catalyst for the success** of their projects, rather than an end result

Standardisation was not addressed because not a key objective and was perceived as a possible **obstacle to the innovation potential** (counterfactual approach)

b. Activities & deliverables performed

A variety of 'standardisation activities' in the projects:

- 25% "Using existing standards for the research activities"
- 21% "Developing, revising or proposing new standards"
- 18% "Drafting requirements or specification for possible future standards"

2 of the interviewed projects **deliver a formal standard**

70% of the projects with an NSB deliver a **CEN CENELEC product** and 56% deliver a CWA

Projects without an NSB mainly deliver "**Recommendations** / requirements for future standards"

50% of the projects encountered difficulties implementing the standardisation activities.

c. Perception on & role of the standardisation bodies

Projects involving an NSB:

- **87% of the projects** of the projects involved **UNE, DIN, CEN (FP7) and NEN**
- **87% of the projects** interviewees were satisfied of the collaboration with the NSBs
- The NSB enrolled considering its **nationality, field expertise and knowledge of FP**
- 40% of the interviewees agreed that “Addressing standardisation **turned out to be easier than expected**”

Projects not involving a NSB:

- **7% involve another standardiser** as a partner
- **38% do not have a specific partner** in charge of the standardisation activities.
- 85% of the respondents **did not consider involving** an standardiser

d. Appropriateness of standardisation in FP projects according to their maturity and time constraints

Projects from TRL3 to TRL8 and 9

Perceived link between the technological maturity and the need to include standardisation

- 90% of the projects involving NSBs have a TRL of at least 6
- 61% of respondents for projects with a TRL8 and 9 see standardisation as “very important”
- 28% of respondents in projects below TRL5 see standardisation as “very important”
- Main activity for projects of TRL8 and 9 is “Developing, revising and proposing new standards”
- No project below TRL5 “Developing, revising or proposing new standards” nor a CWA

TRL is one of the main reasons for not having addressed standardisation

Time constraint

- 61% of the respondents for projects involving an NSB agree the standardisation process was adapted to the timeframe
- 33% for projects not involving an NSB

e. Benefits and results of standardisation

56% of the respondents for projects with an NSB agree that **“Standardisation activities are/were critical to the success of their projects”**

Main benefits are:

- **“Standardisation activities helped identifying and using relevant standards”;**
- **“Standardisation activities ensured that the services/products developed in the project are compatible with the market”.**

One of the main difficulties raised is the **lack of continuity** between the standardisation results of the projects and future standardisation.

- **50% of the closed projects having involved an NSB** had some follow-up activities for their standardisation outcome.
- **29% for projects without an NSB**
- **4 projects having delivered a CWA had a follow-up** to this outcome,
- Only few CWAs are **turned into a standard**

d. 'Demand side'

Interviewed evaluators and project officers said to:

- have a **general awareness** of the role of standardisation and its benefits for the exploitation of the results
- Base their expectations in this area primarily on the **text of the call**
- Receive **few or no training** in this field
- This may **reduce their ability to assess** proposals and projects
- Be not very little aware of the involvement of **NSBs** in research projects
- Consider the **timescale and formalism of standardisation** not easy to adapt to the needs of research projects

Conclusions and food for thoughts

- H2020 stakeholders often lack of knowledge about the resources, time and expertise needed to address (formal) standardisation
- Standardisation plays a key role during the exploitation phase of the R&I projects by formalising the research outcome and increasing their uptake
- The text of the call topics plays a key role in the decision to address standardisation and to include a partner with the necessary expertise
- Dedicated tools and funding may improve the assessment, follow-up and uptake of the outcome of standardisation results in R&I projects
- Projects with an NSB seem to go further with the formal process of standardisation, conduct focused standardisation activities and deliver more mature standardisation deliverables.
- Collaboration with an NSB is positive and with multiple benefits for partners

A world map in shades of blue, serving as a background for the contact information. A vertical dotted line is on the left, and a horizontal dotted line is across the middle.

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