



The COPRAS Standardization Guidelines interactive platform

How will the ICT standards community facilitate its interfacing with research in FP7

Kiritkumar Lathia, Chair, ICT Standards Board

ICT Research and Standardization: towards FP7, 17 January 2007, Bedford hotel, Brussels



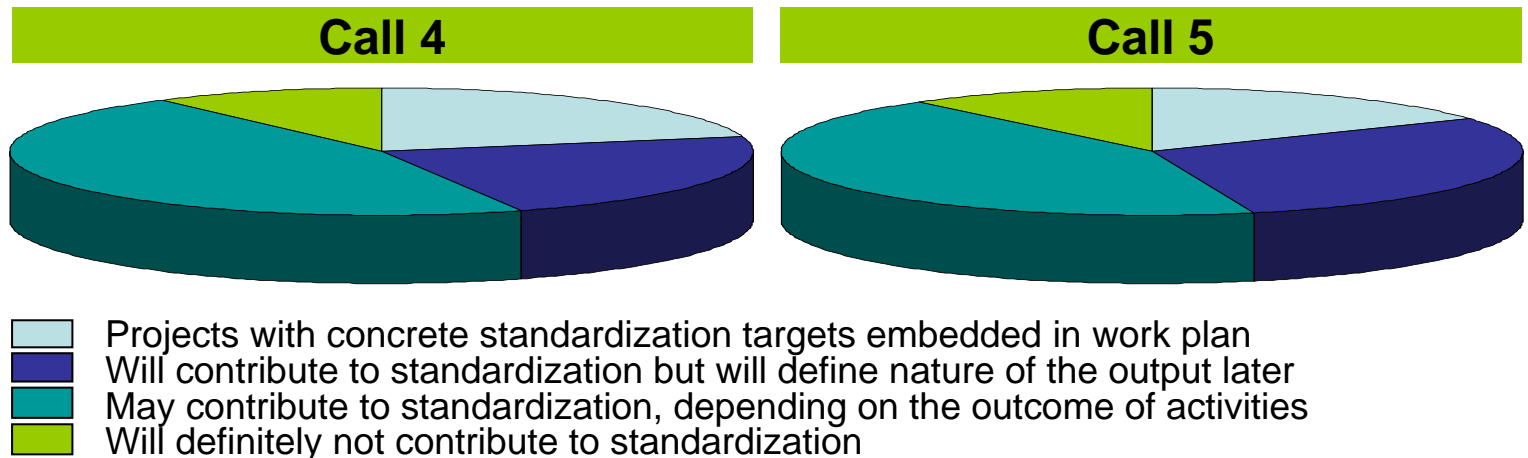
Research/standards interfacing vital to industrial & societal progress...

- ICT Standardization plays a key role in achieving overall longer term objectives for Europe
 - Increasing competitiveness in the industry
 - Increasing the quality of life
 - Establish a leading position for Europe in ICT development
- Standardization can make research results available to industry & society more rapidly
- Cross-fertilization necessary to address the ever increasing development cycles in ICT

➔ When relevant, research projects should include standards interfacing into their dissemination strategy and signal relevant output to the applicable standards organizations

...and appears specifically relevant to ICT research projects...

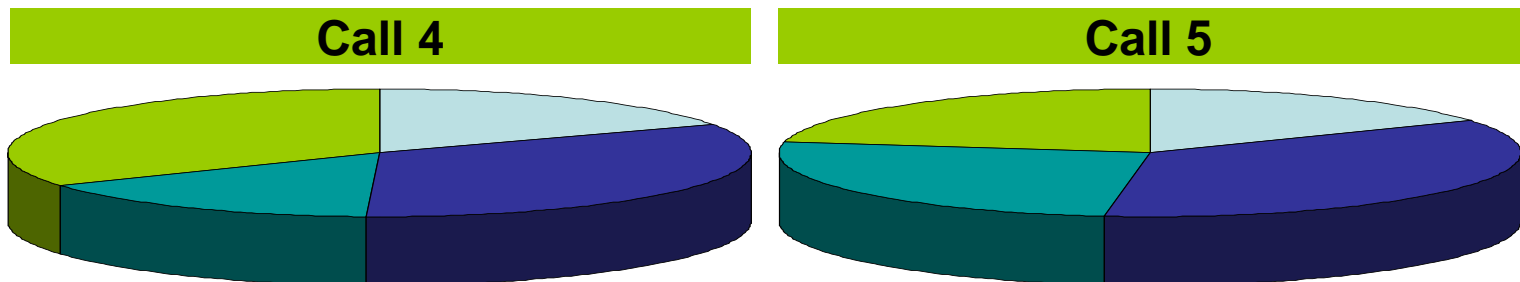
- In FP6 IST Calls 4 & 5, only 10% of projects will definitely not contribute to standardization, while at least 45% is certain to do so*
- In other key areas only 1/3 of projects eventually contributes to standardization*



*As demonstrated by the results of recent studies performed by the COPRAS and INTEREST projects

...although many times not reflected in the allocation of work packages

- At least 30% of recently started IST projects did not allocate resources to standards activity*
- Only half of the projects that will interface with standards organizations have work packages dedicated to this activity



- Yes, we have (a) work package(s) dedicated to standardization
- Yes, standardization resources are contained in the dissemination work package(s)
- Yes, standardization resources are allocated to other (technical) work packages
- No, we have no work packages or resources allocated to standardization activities

*As demonstrated by the results of recent studies performed by the COPRAS project

Overlap between projects' activities and standards work also increases

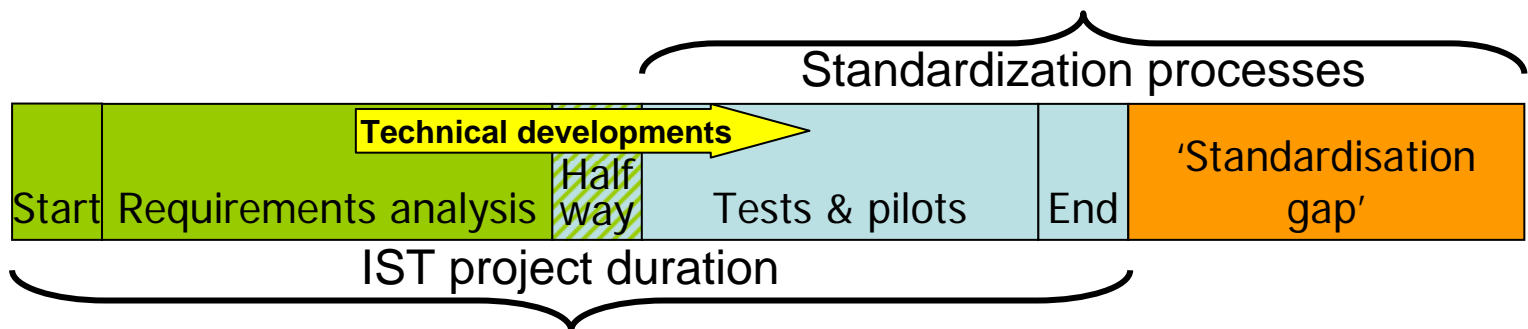
- >70% of standards areas covered by the ICTSB members also addressed by Call 1 & 2 projects*
 - Many projects cover multiple standards areas and require interfacing with several standards organizations
 - Several ICTSB members found 100% of their working areas covered by one or more projects*
- More structural approach towards research standards interfacing necessary
 - Reduce overlap between work done in standards organizations and research projects
 - Allow synchronizing between research projects and standards organizations as early as possible
 - Make standards processes more easily accessible to projects

*As demonstrated by the results of recent studies performed by the COPRAS project

Standardization and research should ideally proceed in parallel...

- Standards work mostly requires more resources than usually anticipated in projects' work plans
- Standardization deliverables can sometimes not be defined before the end of a project's lifespan
- No possibilities in Research Programmes to continue standards work after a project ends

➔ Circumstances create a 'gap' at the end of a project causing the standards community to loose out on many valuable contributions



...but how to find the right standards organization and interface with it...

- ICT standardization is a scattered environment
 - Many different organizations with different backgrounds, working methods, rules and priorities
 - No single entry point to find the standards or the standards organizations relevant to a project's activities
 - No single method to synchronize a project's work plan with the road map of a standards organization
 - Little coordinated activity to approach ICT research projects in a structured way
- Establishing contacts can be complicated without the right partners in a project consortium
- Membership issues (cost, confidentiality, IPR) may complicate adequate cooperation

...and what can the standards world do to improve interfacing processes

- Cooperation Platform for Research and Standards (COPRAS)
 - CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, Open Group, W3C with ICTSB support
 - Targeted support for projects seeking to interface with standardization (development of Standards Action Plans):
At least 6 research projects managed to deliver new contributions to standards work
 - Generic Standardization Guidelines for projects (July 2005)
More than 80% of projects that received the guidelines actually applied them when preparing or conducting their work
 - Interactive single entry information exchange platform, supporting all stakeholders to the research/standards interfacing process (January 2007)
Creating a single entry point – work in progress

...and what should be continued in FP7

- Further development and maintenance of interactive platform
- Targeted support for specific groups of projects
- Encourage standards bodies taking an active approach towards research projects (address membership issues, ...)
- FP7 projects to have a verifiable standards component in their project plan
- Project Officers to actively promote and verify compliance of standards component
- **Who finances these initiatives for benefit of EUROPE?**

Document version Standardization Guidelines released July 2005

- Clarify benefits to research projects from interfacing with standardization
- How to determine whether research projects should plan to interface with standardization
- How to build standardization efforts into a project's work plan
- Most common processes & deliverables in standardization
- Criteria that can be applied for selecting standards bodies matching projects' objectives

 Guidelines available at: www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/D15.html

Interactive platform version released January 2007

- FAQ platform to guide stakeholders through their most relevant research/standards issues
- Addresses differences between stakeholders:
 - Industry & SME
 - Academia
 - Government bodies & regulators
- Additional issues covered such as:
 - Cost of participating in standardization processes
 - Finding and contacting standards organizations
 - Initiating new standardization processes
- Links to relevant information on other web sites

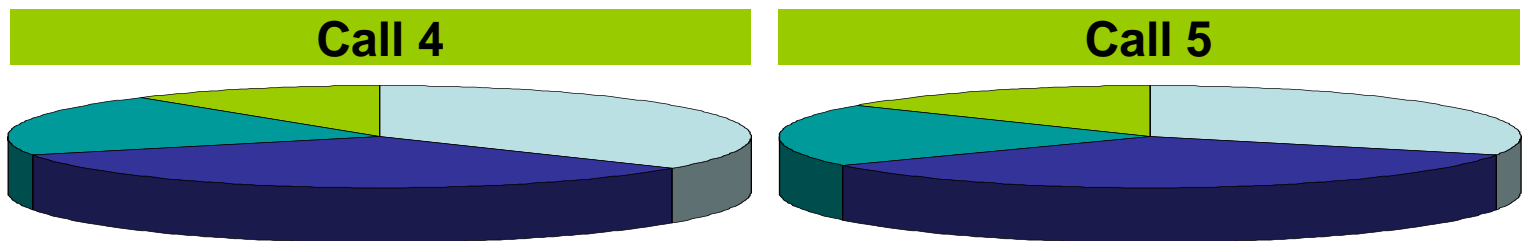
 Guidelines FAQ Platform: www.w3.org/2004/copras/docu/faq

Guidelines proven to be step ahead in research/standards interfacing...

- Standardization Guidelines used by >80% of projects that received or download the document
 - Better perspective on a project's standardization potential
 - Better allocation of work packages & resources
 - Earlier start of standards related activities
 - Easier to determine standards organizations to interface with
- Improvement targets for the interactive platform
 - Better perspective on the benefits of standardization
 - More guidance on structuring standardization activities into a project's work plan
 - More support for choosing & contacting standards organizations (how to choose which entity due to potential overlaps in Europe and USA?)

...but not all issues can be addressed by Standardization Guidelines

- Main remaining issues pointed out by projects:
 - Mechanisms to address standards work exceeding a project's lifespan are necessary
 - Additional actions on the standards side to bring standards and standards organizations closer to ICT research projects



- Additional resources to complete standards work after a project's lifespan
- Standards world should provide facilities encouraging research/standards interfacing
- Structurally embedding standardization support in Framework Programmes
- Other

➔ Standardization Guidelines establish a first step towards improved research/standards interfacing but more effort is necessary

Main challenges ahead for improving research/standards interface in FP7

- Upgrading the interactive Standardization Guidelines into a single entry information exchange platform with broader functionality
- Broaden facilities within EU funded research programmes stimulating research/standards interfacing issues
- Encourage standards bodies becoming active in their approach towards research projects
- Encourage project partners to improve internal coordination of their standardization objectives

➔ Improving research/standards interfacing is a step-by-step process in which multiple constituencies have to participate



Thank you for your attention;

Questions?

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www.copras.org

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