

CEN/ISSS WS/eCAT

Multilingual catalogue strategies for eCommerce and eBusiness

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CEN WORKSHOP AGREEMENT (CWA) 2004-03-22

Under the perspective of ‘interoperability’ this report was commissioned by the European Commission via CEN/ISSS with the aim to identify solutions to the generally observed lack of

- technical interoperability (here referring to syntactic interoperability) because of too many industry standards not based on open standards
- semantic interoperability due to the lack of generic, system-independent methodology standards in the field of eCataloguing
- organizational interoperability, because of too many players with their smaller or larger user communities competing with each other in spite of the fact that global ICT infrastructures require global approaches especially with respect to content (in particular eCatalogues and eClassification) in eBusiness

The report identifies many aspects of these deficits in the interoperability of content in Europe – especially in the form of eCatalogues – and derives lots of conclusions, where to find solutions to the problems identified. It is based on in-depth studies of major aspects and problems concerning eCataloguing from ... via ... to ...

It can, therefore, be considered as most representative for the situation first of all in Europe, but most probably also in other world regions.

In addition to many indicative and revealing information the Report concludes with three major strategic recommendations concerning:

- the need for establishing generic and system-independent methodology standards in the field of eCataloguing as a basis for achieving syntactic and semantic interoperability mid-term
- the desirability to translate the findings of this Report into concrete actions comprising implementations – if possible having a snow-balling effect – and promotion activities at European level
- the appeal to European decision makers and institutions to take up this challenge and – in view of the highly multilingual and multicultural nature of Europe – use its competence to solve a number of fundamental problems for its own sake and for the benefit of eBusiness at large.