



Information Society Standardization System of the European Standardization Committee (CEN/ISSS)

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Projects within the Workshop eCAT

eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness' (eCAT)

Multilingualism in the Union is often seen as an obstacle for the European economy in terms of competition and the opening up of new markets, but it also has political dimensions relating to consumer protection, freedom to move, etc. However, new economies have emerged in the wake of trying to overcome the language barriers, such as the language industries (incl. activities and the language technologies for making language resources and terminologies available at a large scale), where Europe has a leading edge thanks to the R&D programmes of the EU Commission.

It has been recognised that products and services must be sold in the language of the target market. There are strong indications that e-commerce and e-business can only function well, if the virtual marketplaces and all their major elements (such as product classification schemes, user interfaces, product catalogues etc.) are multilingual from the outset. This, however, would create insurmountable financial barriers for SMEs, if they cannot benefit from synergies through a systematic approach to multilingual data, the methods for their management and the respective tools, as well as the integration of these data, methods and tools into the company's whole ICT environment.

Activities were concluded with a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA):

CWA 15045:2004 "Multilingual catalogue strategies for eCommerce and eBusiness" (2004).

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<http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/cwa/electronic%2Bbusiness.asp>

Further information: [Workshop document "Business Plan" \(03/010\)](#)

Global Multilingual Product Description and Classification for eCommerce and eBusiness (ePDC-1)

The project was conceived in 2003 with the initial objective to harmonize existing standards for product description and classification into a common horizontal, i.e. cross-industry, system, then maintain, promote, and make it available to the public under a royalty-free license on an on-going basis. It was quickly ascertained that this objective was very ambitious and it was felt necessary to divide the project into two parts: ePDC-1 and gen-ePDC.

Activities were concluded with two CWAs:

CWA 14294:2005 "Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification and Description" (2005)

CWA 14295:2005 "Description of References and Data Models for Classification" (2005)

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Further information: [Workshop document "Project Plan" \(03/006\)](#)

Generic Product Description and Classification (gen-ePDC)

This project is aimed at diffusing the global common, interoperable classification architecture defined under part 1 and having the main existing classification schemas adopting it as well as converging towards a common base. The project also contains a part dedicated to the link between product classifications and catalogues, taking as reference [CWA 15045:2004](#). The kick-off meeting was held in March 2005.

It is foreseen to conclude its activities in April 2006 with 3 CWAs:

1. CWA1 - New Property Library
2. CWA2 - Product Classes with sets of properties
3. CWA3 - Results of development in harmonization of product classifications and in multilingual electronic catalogues and their respective data modelling

Further information: [Workshop Document "ePDC Project Plan" \(05/002\)](#)

Contact the Workshop Secretariat



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