

Report on HZN's activities for SMEs in 2021

SMEs as HZN members

Number of SMEs members of HZN in 2021: 118

Number of SME representatives in HZN/TCs: 514

Number of HZN/TCs with SME representatives: 138

Rights of SMEs as members of HZN:

- ✓ participation in the work of HZN technical committees
- ✓ involvement in the work of technical bodies of European and international standardization organizations
- ✓ free insight into draft standards
- ✓ possibility to influence the content of future standards
- ✓ a 20-percent discount on standards, services, workshops

SME Corner

www.hzn.hr/default.aspx?id=40

The SME Corner of HZN web site publishes information on standardization activities for SMEs with a view to improving their involvement and their use of standards in their operations. In 2021 news about activities and events for SMEs and examples of good practice were published.

HZNacrti draft review tool on HZN's web site

<http://hznlive.67bricks.com/>

HZNacrti provides free-of-charge access to and commenting on draft standards at the enquiry stage. This promotes and enables participation of SMEs in the standards development process. Comments are forwarded to the relevant Croatian technical committee (HZN/TO). The comments accepted by the committee and drafted as the national position are forwarded to the European level at the voting stage. In 2021 1059 drafts were uploaded. No comments were received.

Repository of Croatian standards (HRN4You)

<https://repozitorij.hzn.hr/>

The Repository of Croatian standards (HRN4You) is a commercial tool operated by HZN that enables access to the digital collection of Croatian normative documents. Documents available in the Repository are Croatian standards (HRN), Croatian technical specifications (HRS), Croatian technical reports (HRI), Guides (HRU), etc. In 2021 the Repository was used by members of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers (HKIG), Croatian Chamber of Electrical Engineers (HKIE), the Croatian Chamber of Architects (HKA) and Croatian Chamber of Mechanical Engineers (HKIS) on the basis of Repository Access Agreements between HZN and these Chambers which grant more than 4500 of their members, mostly SMEs, free access to Croatian standards in accordance with all requirements applicable to the protection of copyright to standards.

Participation of HZN representatives in the SME working group of European standardization organizations (CEN/CENELEC SME WG)

The Working Group was established in 2010 with a view to implementing and following up activities aimed at SMEs and improving their involvement in standardization. A HZN employee participated in the virtual meeting of the Working Group in February 2021. In March the WG members collected success stories about the benefits of standardization for SMEs in their respective countries. The stories were published at the new CEN and CENELEC website in September.

HZN's participation in the EU *Translation of European Standards into Community languages* project

Within the Project, 30 harmonized European standards supporting the Union legislation and policies were translated into Croatian. The Project is funded by the EU based on the Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European standardization in order to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to fully benefit from understanding and using European standards, strengthen the cohesion of European standardization and ensure a fair and transparent access to European standards for all Single Market participants.

Promoting standardization for SMEs

Success stories about the benefits of using standards for Croatian entrepreneurs were published at the new CEN and CENELEC website in early September (<https://www.cencenelec.eu/>). Stories were shared by the manager of PA-EL, one of the leading companies in Croatia and the region in the field of design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of cathodic protection systems, and the manager of Centar za mjerenja u okolišu d.o.o. (Centre for Environmental Measurements LLC), one of the leading companies for independent testing and estimation of electromagnetic fields in Croatia. They highlighted the benefits that standardization had brought to support their business and positioning in the market. They also stressed the benefits of their years-long membership in HZN and participation in the work of several of its technical committees. The success stories of these Croatian companies are available at: <https://www.cencenelec.eu/get-involved/small-and-medium-enterprises-smes/smes-and-standards/success-stories-and-best-practices/>

On 24 September 2021 HZN held the Roundtable on the significance of standards for modern information systems in healthcare industry, at the initiative and in cooperation with the Croatian Society for Medical Informatics (HDMI). The purpose of the Roundtable was to encourage discussion and inform HDMI members about standardization levels, national standardization processes and availability of standards and other national, European and international standardization deliverables.

Participation of HZN representatives in events related to SMEs

2021-11-30 COVID – 19 RESPONSE UNECE Stakeholder Consultative workshop, Leveraging standards and trade facilitation for MSMEs' development

2021-11-16 SBS training "Revision of the Machinery Directive, standards and conformity assessment - What SMEs need to know"

2021-11-16 Workshop "Timely delivery of European standards for a Green and Digital, Single and Global Market"

2021-05-26 SBS Annual Conference - SMEs as drivers of green growth: Turning challenges into opportunities with standards

SME contact point

SME contact point has been established in order to provide direct and tailored support to SMEs in relation to standards and national standardization. The tasks of the SME contact point are performed by HZN's Standards Library as an information, documentation and communication point of HZN and the only point in Croatia that maintains collections of Croatian (HZN), international (ISO, IEC), European (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI), national (DIN, BSI) and industry standards (ASTM). The Standards Library maintains databases on and search tools for standards. Its holdings and services contribute to better involvement of Croatian SMEs in standardization activities at the national, European and international levels. The Standards Library enables all users a free insight into standards. Its staff also provides free advice on standards by phone or e-mail. Users are provided with scopes of standards by e-mail on request. In 2021 HZN's Standards Library was visited by 52 SME representatives. About 500 phone inquiries and 350 e-mail inquiries were answered.

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