

Report on HZN's activities in respect of SMEs in 2024

SMEs as HZN members

Number of SMEs members of HZN in 2024: 116

Number of SME representatives in HZN TCs: 469

Number of HZN TCs with SME representatives: 117

Rights of SMEs as members of HZN:

- participation in the work of HZN technical committees (TCs)
- 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 Contact Point

<https://www.hzn.hr/hr/kontaktna-tocka-za-msp-2862/2862>

<https://www.hzn.hr/en/sme-contact-point/2862>

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SME Contact Point has been established to provide direct and tailored support to SMEs in regard to standards and national standardization. It is a part of HZN's Standards Library - information, documentation and communication point of HZN and the only national point that maintains collections of Croatian (HZN), international (ISO, IEC) and European (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) standards, which can be viewed by users free of charge. Users can also view German (DIN) and US industry standards (ASTM) free of charge on request. They can use standards search tools (NAUTOS) or request the assistance of HZN's staff. The holdings, activities and services of the Standards Library enhance the involvement of representatives of Croatian SMEs in standardization activities at the national, European and international levels. Free-of-charge services of the Standards Library also include providing information on standards and their benefits, as well as on the HZNacrti draft review tool and the HRN4You Repository of Croatian standards by phone or e-mail. In 2024 HZN's Standards Library was visited by 54 representatives of SMEs and 1000 phone inquiries and 370 e-mail inquiries by SMEs were answered.

In 2024 HZN website has been updated for information on its activities and the activities of European and international standardization organizations for SMEs: events and publications aimed at improving SME representation in national standardization and increasing their application of standards in their business operations.

Draft review tool HZNacrti

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

The tool enables users to access free of charge and comment on draft standards at the enquiry stage. It is intended primarily for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to facilitate their participation in national standardization activities and the development of Croatian standards (HRN, HRN EN).

Repository of Croatian standards HRN4You

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

1,595 Croatian standards were uploaded to the HRN4You system in 2024 at their announcement in HZN e-Bulletin, subject to copyright protection of standards. More than 10,000 users have the right to view standards uploaded in the system, around 2 000 of which are SMEs. HRN4You allows viewing Croatian standards and other normative documents developed within the standards development process in HZN. It currently contains more than 58,000 (valid or withdrawn) documents. Subscription to the Repository is subject to the [Price list of HZN standards and services](#). The Repository of Croatian standards HRN4You is continuously upgraded with new functionalities and options, both on the user and on the administration sides.

Participation in the EU *Translation of European Standards into Community languages* project

10 harmonised standards were translated into Croatian in 2024 as part of the Project. HZN has participated in the Project on the basis of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European standardization in order to enable SMEs 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.

Participation in CEN/CENELEC SME WG

At the third meeting of CEN/CENELEC SME Working Group (WG) in its 2022-2025 term, held on 9 April 2024, its strategic and political priorities were discussed. The conference *Education on standardisation in Europe*, announced at the meeting, took place from 17 to 18 June 2024 in Delft, Netherlands. The event was organised by Workstream 1 of the High-Level Forum (HLF) on European Standardisation of the European Commission, led by Eindhoven University of Technology, CEN-CENELEC, and DIGITALEUROPE. Two representatives of HZN took part in the conference. Learn more at: <https://www.aanmelder.nl/hlf-edu/home>

Publication of a report and a series of recommendations prepared by HLF Workstream 3 on the inclusiveness in national standardization were announced at the meeting. Learn more at: <https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/brief-news/2024-10-16-hlf-reports/>

Cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and SME associations (HGK, HUP, HOK)

In 2024, HZN participated in the Ministry of Economy working group for the preparation of the call for proposals for grants to enterprises for product certification and implementation of management systems. The call was issued by the Ministry of Economy on 23 December 2024 as part of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Cohesion 2021-2027. The aim of the call is to support SMEs in increasing their international competitiveness by assessing conformity of their products, services or processes to internationally recognised standards and management systems and having them certified, demonstrating their quality and safety and contributing to customer confidence. HZN has used its participation in the working group as an opportunity for cooperation and exchange of experiences with state authorities and associations representing SMEs (HGK, HOK, HUP).

HZN provides free access to harmonised standards pursuant to the Decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union

On 5 March 2024, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) delivered its judgement in Case C-588/21 P concerning public access to four Harmonized Standards under Regulation 1049/2001. The judgement does not call into question that Harmonized Standards are subject to copyright protection. Pursuant to the judgement and in agreement with ESOs, all CEN and/or CENELEC members have provided free access to those standards as required by the European Commission. More information at: <https://harmonizedstandards.eu/>, <https://has.hzn.hr/>

Participation in the Balkan Conference

The Slovenian Institute for Standardisation (SIST) hosted the Balkan Conference from 4 to 5 July 2024. The event brought together representatives of national standardization bodies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia. In panel discussions the participants exchanged best practices and discussed their projects and awareness raising initiatives for promoting the role of standards among SMEs and the general public, including their challenges and success stories. HZN's Head of the Standards Library and the SME Contact Point, held a presentation titled *How to include SMEs, consumers, environmental organizations and trade unions in standardization processes*.

Marking the World Standards Day

HZN Doors Open Days were held in the week from 14 to 18 October 2024 following the World Standards Day. The Standards Library, Ulica grada Vukovara 78, Zagreb, was open for visitors without the need for an appointment every day from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They were able to obtain information on standards in their area of interest, read them or buy or order them at a 20-percent discount, which could be combined with the existing discounts listed in the [Price list of HZN standards and services](#). In this period this discount was granted to all buyers of standards.

Lecture for members of HZN technical committees

A lecture for new members of HZN technical committees (TCs) was held on 12 November 2024. 22 TC members from HZN member institutions attended. They were informed about HZN's role and activities, advantages of working in HZN TCs, TC rules of procedure, Internal Rules for Standardization (UPN), particularly UPN 5 (Establishment and work of technical committees), Standards Library and user e-tools. Members from SMEs participated, too.

European SME week 2024

HZN SME Contact Point organized HZN Doors Open Days from 25 to 29 November 2024 in order to raise awareness of SMEs about the importance of standards for competitiveness and sustainable growth in the European market. In this period, all visitors of the Standards Library and all buyers of standards were granted a 20-percent discount on standards, which could be combined with the existing discounts listed in the [Price list of HZN standards and services](#).