

## Report on HZN's activities in respect of SMEs in 2023

### SMEs as HZN members

Number of SMEs members of HZN in 2023: 114  
Number of SME representatives in HZN/TCs: 471  
Number of HZN/TCs with SME representatives: 133

Rights of SMEs as members of HZN:

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

### SME contact point

<https://www.hzn.hr/default.aspx?id=170>  
e-mail: [mzp@hzn.hr](mailto:mzp@hzn.hr); [normoteka@hzn.hr](mailto:normoteka@hzn.hr)  
phone: 01 6106 051

SME Contact Point's task is to provide direct and tailored support to SMEs in relation 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. These standards, as well as German (DIN) and US industry standards (ASTM), can be viewed by users free of charge. Users can view standards from the Standards Library holdings using standards search tools (NAUTOS) or relying on the assistance of HZN's staff. The holdings, activities and services of the Standards Library contribute to greater 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 by phone or e-mail. Users are provided with scopes of standards by e-mail on request.

In 2023 HZN's Standards Library was visited by 45 representatives of SMEs, and 1000 phone inquiries and 380 e-mail inquiries by SMEs were answered.

### HZNacrti draft review tool on HZN's web site (HZNacrti)

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

HZNacrti tool provides easy access to draft standards at the enquiry stage. It is intended for Croatian professionals in the relevant fields not involved in the work of HZN technical committees, particularly for SMEs. Registration is free of charge for all interested users. 884 draft standards were uploaded in 2023.

## **Repository of Croatian standards HRN4You**

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

HRN4You allows reading Croatian standards and other normative documents developed within the standards development process in HZN. It currently contains more than 55,700 (valid or withdrawn) documents. The digital Repository contains Croatian standards (HRN), Croatian technical specifications (HRS), Croatian technical reports (HRI), Croatian Guides (HRU), etc. It is intended for members of professional chambers, academia, organisations with a significant number of employees, professional associations and societies with a significant number of members, state administration bodies and similar organisations whose members or employees use standards in their daily work, perform administrative activities and supervisory and technical tasks using standards, etc. The right of access to the tool is based on an agreement with HZN. Subscription rates are established in the Price List of standards and services of HZN. In 2023 the Repository was used by members of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers (HKIG), Croatian Chamber of Electrical Engineers (HKIE), Croatian Chamber of Architects (HKA) and the Croatian Chamber of Mechanical Engineers (HKIS) on the basis of Repository Access Agreements. Under these agreements 4109 employees and members of these chambers, for the most part SMEs, have free access to Croatian standards subject to requirements applicable to the copyright protection of standards.

## **HZN supports European Standardisation Panel Survey**

To further support the uptake of R&I results through standardisation, the European Commission launched the European Standardisation Panel Survey on 14 October 2023, the World Standards Day. HZN invited its members to participate in the survey, which had been developed by Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI) with the support of the Department of Innovation Economics at the Technical University of Berlin, involving Prof. Knut Blind, chair of CEN-CENELEC working group STAIR (Standards, Innovation & Research).

[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/thematic-focus/european-standardisation-panel-survey-launched-world-standards-day\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/thematic-focus/european-standardisation-panel-survey-launched-world-standards-day_en).

The survey results are to be published in early 2024 and will ultimately support the development of recommendations for policy-makers, industry representatives and standardisation bodies to create a match between industry's demand for R&I based standards and their current supply.

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

Within the Project, 28 harmonised standards were translated into Croatian in 2023. HZN participates in the Project on the basis of Regulation (EU) No. 1025/2012 on European standardization in order to (MSP) 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.

## **At the Doors Open Day of the Society of Civil Engineers (DGIZ) the Croatian Standards Institute (HZN) presented Croatian standardization in the field of building and construction.**

HZN was a partner, speaker and exhibitor at the seventh DGIZ Open Doors Days, which took place on 8 and 9 September 2023 at Lake Budek in Zagreb. At the event sponsored by the Croatian Engineering Association (HIS), Croatian and foreign companies presented their products and services. The programme included numerous presentations of eminent experts and panels on topical issues of building and construction in Croatia focusing on climate change.

HZN Director-General held a presentation on “Climate Change and Standardisation in the Field of Construction”, emphasizing the importance and role of European standardisation and standards in the implementation of the European strategy for climate change adaptation. He singled out new standardisation activities in the field of building and construction which, in addition to the second generation of Eurocodes and harmonised standards related to the application of Regulation (EU) 305/2011 on construction products, include sustainability of construction works and building information modelling (BIM) standards. He presented the functionalities of the Repository of Croatian standards HRN4You and invited the visitors to become a member of HZN and participate in standardization in the fields of their interest. At the event, HZN distributed promotional leaflets on the work of technical committees HZN/TO 548, *Eurocodes*, and HZN/TO 551, *Building and Construction*, informing the visitors, especially SMEs, about the advantages of involvement in national standardisation processes.

