



HZN

Hrvatski zavod za norme
Croatian Standards Institute

Report on HZN's activities for SMEs in 2013

SMEs as HZN members

Number of SMEs members of HZN in 2013: 265

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

A SME portal posted on HZN web site: SMEs Corner (www.hzn.hr/default.aspx?id=40)

Publications for SMEs, free download

Uključivanje MSP-a u normizaciju (Including SMEs in standardisation) (January 2013),

Norme za industrijske proizvode (Standards for industrial products), BIZIMPACT (November 2013)

Primjena norma kao potpora rastu, konkurentnosti i inovacijama (Using standards to support growth, competitiveness and innovation) (November 2013)

Free information for SMEs

SMEs can access the following at HZN's web site:

HZN e-Bulletin, SMEs Corner, HZN on-line catalogue, HZN's work programme, translations of publications

HZN's participation in projects related to SMEs

SMEST PROJECT, aimed at improved involvement of SMEs in standardization activities and improved cooperation of SME associations with HZN; the workshop „Standards – big benefits for small business“ has taken place (February, 2013)

E-COMMENTS PROJECT, aimed at the implementation of an effective system of enquiry on draft Croatian standards via HZN's web platform, implemented within the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) 2007-2013 supported by CCMC

Participation of HZN representatives in the SME Working Group of European standardization organizations (CEN/CENELEC SME-WG)

A HZN employee participated in three meetings of the SME Working Group (SME-WG) (one in Brussels and two via web conference).

Participation of HZN representatives in the Commission for Grants for SMEs

A HZN employee participated in the project of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts „Standardization and quality marks for grants for SMEs“ as a member of the Commission.

SME contact points

The STANDARDS LIBRARY as an information, documentation and communication point of HZN is the only point in Croatia that maintains collections of Croatia (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. It provides all users with a free insight into standards and professional assistance. Its staff also provides free advice on standards by phone or e-mail.

The HZN Standards Library's holdings and services contribute to better involvement of SMEs in standardization activities aimed at representing their interests at the national, European and international levels.

Contact: normoteka@hzn.hr

WTO/TBT Enquiry Point – information on technical regulations of the Republic of Croatia, Croatian standards, conformity assessment procedures and agreements within the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

Contact: wto.tbt.info@hzn.hr

Codex Contact Point for the Republic of Croatia; Codex Alimentarius is the basis for many national food standards and regulations.

Product Contact Point – information on technical rules for non-harmonized sectors for specific products, prior authorizations and mutual recognition, bodies competent for product surveillance, available legal remedies
400 e-mail inquiries by SMEs have been answered.

HZN's workshops for SMEs

In 2013 HZN organized two workshops for SMEs.

The first workshop, „Standards – big benefits for small business“, was held on 8 February 2013 at Ulica grada Vukovara 78, Zagreb, in cooperation with the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts (MINPO), the Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK) and the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP). It was a part of the European SMEST 2 project aimed at strengthening and promoting relations between SMEs and standardization.

The objective of the workshop was to inform SMEs of the benefits of the implementation of standards and on how to use standards to improve efficiency and competitiveness, reduce waste and costs, ensure quality and safety of products and services and facilitate their sale throughout Europe and globally.

The workshop has provided a unique opportunity for representatives of SMEs to see on the examples of good practice how to improve their businesses by implementing standards and participating in European and national standardization. More than 50 representatives of SMEs took part in the workshop. In the evaluation forms they gave the highest ratings to the workshop as a whole, the topics and the moderators.

The other workshop, “HZN at the service of SMEs“, took place on 28 November 2013 in the Large Hall of the Ministry of Economy, Ulica grada Vukovara 78, Zagreb, within the European SME Week 2013 campaign.

The aim of the workshop was to inform SMEs on contact points at HZN, government authorities and public institutions that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The information and contact points at the Croatian Standards Institute (HZN), Ministry of Economy (MINGO), Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning (MGIPU), Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts (MINPO) and the Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK) have been presented. At the event, acknowledgements for the exceptional contribution to standardization have been awarded to HZN members.

More than 60 participants took part in the workshop. In the evaluation forms they gave the highest ratings to the workshop as a whole, the topics and the moderators.

Participation in both workshops was free of charge, upon prior registration.

Acknowledgements to SMEs for the exceptional contribution to national standardization

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