Regulatory Convergence, International Standardization and Participation: The INTERNORM Project

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International standards

• Ubiquitous
• Market globalization
... and sometimes dubious
The democratic deficit of international standardization

» Who defines standards?
  • Over-representation of corporations and business associations
  • Under-representation of civil society organization (CSOs)

» How to reinforce CSOs participation?
INTERNORM: Objectives

• Study democratic deficit in international standardisation (why? how?)

• Support direct involvement of civil society actors in the drafting of international standards
CSOs in standardization

• Institutionalization of dedicated policy committee (e.g. EU regulation 1025/2012; proposed ‘Regulatory Cooperation Body’ in TTIP)

-> Information

-> Consultation

• What about co-production?
INTERNORM means: research action
Results (1)
Mobilisation

• Overcome Mistrust
• Issues & strategic objectives
• Standard users → standards setters
• Scope of action (local/national vs international)
Results (2)
Knowledge pooling

• Symmetry of entry costs
• Technical and procedural expertise
  FDIS, TG, NWIP, CAG, SC, PG, TR, IWA,
  > 900 mails + attachments
• ... yet a very plural and ad-hoc expertise

If a mixture in concentration below the cut-off values in Table 1 has shown to have hazardous effects, the SDS for this mixture should be prepared as described in this document

Results (3)
Influence

• Well received in the club
• Open procedures...
  ...yet highly constraining
• Who takes part has power
INTERNORM Outputs
Bridging society and knowledge in co-production of standards

• Awareness of standardisation issues
• Strategic importance recognised by CSOs
• Increase of participation
• Reduction of entry costs
• Knowledge and expertise sharing
• ... and even some results in the shaping of standards
Participation in standardisation: pending issues

Difficulties
• Mobilisation & entry costs (procedural & technical)
• Scope & monitoring emerging items
• Structural imbalance; direct participation

Ambiguities
• Private regulation and democracy
• Added value on quality, but in whose interests?

Opportunities
• Regulation UE 1025/2012; EU Joint Initiative on Standardization 2016
• Interactive knowledge pools & formal openness of standardization organisations