



# SESEI

SECONDED EUROPEAN  
STANDARDIZATION  
EXPERT IN INDIA

## Newsletter



European  
Committee for  
Standardization



European Committee  
for Electro Technical  
Standardization



European  
Telecommunications  
Standards Institute



European  
Commission



European  
Free Trade  
Association



Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the "February 2026 edition" of the SESEI Newsletter – India, featuring major developments in Europe and India–EU cooperation across digitalization, green transition, research, innovation, and standardization.

A central milestone is the publication of the **CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026**, outlining strategic priorities for strengthening Single Market through digital and sustainable standards. Key focus areas include Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and the Digital Product Passport (DPP), alongside continued support for clean technologies, renewable energy, and the circular economy.

Digital transformation remains a strong theme. CEN has signed agreement with the OPC Foundation (Open Platform Communications Foundation) to strengthen standardization of Digital Product Passport (DPP) solutions, with the OPC Foundation contributing expertise to CEN-CLC/JTC 24 on DPP frameworks and systems.

**ETSI** has advanced discussions on AI-native standardization during its "AI & Data Conference", emphasizing ecosystem collaboration, human-centric AI, and next-generation methodologies. Complementing this, ETSI's OpenSlice 2025Q4 release introduced AI-native orchestration and enhanced telco cloud capabilities, while Open-Source MANO (OSM) Release NINETEEN modernized its codebase to support long-term innovation and cloud-native deployments. Meanwhile, **3GPP** progressed 5G Advanced (Release 20) and initiated early 6G RAN studies, reflecting global momentum toward next-generation connectivity.

The newsletter underscores the importance of closing the digital standards participation gap, particularly for developing economies. The World Development Report 2025 highlights underrepresentation in ICT standardization, which can lead to technological lock-in. European bodies, including CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI, are supporting inclusive international participation through initiatives such as SESEI and InDiCo-Global.

Two years after entering into force, the **Digital Services Act** continues strengthening online safety and platform accountability across the EU.

In **Green and Clean Technologies**, the European Commission adopted the first voluntary methodologies under the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation, establishing the EU's first comprehensive framework for permanent carbon removals. Complementary initiatives include a new CEN Workshop under ClimateEurope2 to standardize climate services co-production and a study providing assessment tools for emerging clean energy technologies aligned with EU climate neutrality goals for 2050.

EU–India cooperation features prominently. Exploratory talks were launched on India's possible association with **Horizon Europe**, marking a significant step in research & innovation collaboration. Additionally, Union Ministry - MeitY and the European Commission have signed an Administrative Arrangement on **Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals** to enable interoperability of PKI systems, facilitating secure cross-border digital trade. The launch of the **European Legal Gateway Office** in New Delhi will streamline legal migration pathways for ICT professionals, while the 2026 India–France Year of Innovation elevated bilateral ties to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. Discussions with Finland further emphasized cooperation in AI, 6G, quantum technologies, renewables, and sustainable development.

Overall, the newsletter reflects deepening India–EU strategic alignment in digital governance, , sustainability, and innovation, positioning standards as foundational tools. The newsletter also provides details of upcoming events organised by European Standardization bodies which could be of interest to you. We hope that you will find this newsletter informative.

Happy Reading,

**Best regards,**  
**Dinesh Chand Sharma**

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## Generic/ Standards



### Explore the CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026

CEN and CENELEC announced the Work Programme 2026. The Work Programme is one of the flagship publications of CEN and CENELEC; it outlines the key priorities and actions that will shape European standardization in the year ahead. 2026 will be a pivotal year for European standardization. Against a backdrop of rapid technological, industrial, and global change, CEN and CENELEC remain clear in our mission: to make Europe's Single Market stronger, more digital, and more sustainable through standards.

This year, CEN and CENELEC are focusing on some of the technologies that will shape the future: Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and the Digital Product Passport. The standards CEN-CENELEC will develop will give Europe the tools to lead the digital transition safely, responsibly, and with confidence.

At the same time, supporting the green transition continues to be a priority: from clean tech to renewable energy and circular economy. Standards are the invisible engine driving Europe's transformation.

CEN and CENELEC will continue to embed standardization more deeply into the European research and innovation ecosystem. Together with academia, research institutions, and innovation networks, we will identify new and emerging areas for standardization and contribute to shaping Europe's next research framework.

The CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026 presents the main standardization developments and strategic priority areas for CEN and CENELEC in 2026, across 16 business sectors. For each sector, the reader will find a list of the technical bodies involved in carrying out the work, the number of standards published by CEN and CENELEC, and a detailed overview of the topics where standardization work is expected.

The last section gives a horizontal overview of the most important strategic highlights that will shape CEN and CENELEC's development over the course of 2026 and beyond. This part includes the continuing implementation and reprioritization exercise of the Strategy 2030, commitment to strengthening the representativeness of societal stakeholders in standardization, support for promoting gender-responsive standards, continued international cooperation activities, and close collaboration with the European Commission to deliver solutions for a more efficient, more open, and future-proof European Standardization System.

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## Digitization

### CEN Strengthens Digital Product Passport Standardization Through Cooperation with the OPC Foundation



The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the OPC Foundation (Open Platform Communications Foundation) are delighted to announce that they have signed a Liaison Agreement. The organizations will collaborate on the topic of Digital Product Passport (DPP) solutions.

As part of this liaison, the OPC Foundation will contribute directly to the work of [CEN-CLC/JTC 24 'Digital Product Passport – Framework and System'](#) by providing added-value expertise and high-quality contributions through direct participation. The cooperation aims to harmonize digital twin modelling and promote interoperable frameworks for DPP solutions across cloud and embedded environments, ensuring high-quality data, compliance, and scalable deployment in sector-specific dataspaces.

The [OPC Foundation](#) has been promoting the development and adoption of the OPC information exchange standard since 1996. Its mission is to provide specifications, technologies, processes, and certification to ensure secure and reliable, semantic interoperability across vendors and platforms scaling from sensor to IT/Cloud enterprise level. The agreement is set for an unlimited period, as long as the OPC Foundation continues to participate in the work of JTC 24.

This cooperation reflects the organizations' shared ambition to advance a coherent and internationally aligned approach to Digital Product Passports. Bringing together strong industrial expertise and the European standardization system reinforces the commitment to open, interoperable, and globally relevant standards that support Europe's digital transformation and sustainability objectives.

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### ETSI AI & DATA Conference Ecosystem Collaboration, Education and "AI-Native" Standardisation

ETSI concluded its AI and Data Conference, bringing together leading researchers, industry experts, policy stakeholders and standards developers to explore the future of artificial intelligence and data technologies in Europe and beyond. The two-day event showcased ETSI's broad and growing role in the AI landscape, from horizontal Standardisation to specialised vertical domains.

With contributions ranging from live demonstrations to expert panels on data, policy, and next-generation standardisation methodologies, the conference emphasised the importance of a holistic ecosystem approach to AI.

#### ETSI's Broad AI Expertise

Throughout the event, ETSI highlighted the depth of its activities in AI and data, spanning transversal technical committees such as TC SAI (Securing Artificial Intelligence), the recent TC DATA, TC CYBER, TC HF (Human Factors), eHealth and additional vertical domains. This rich cross-committee expertise positions ETSI as a key actor in developing trustworthy, interoperable and human-centric AI standards.

The conference attracted passionate academic and industrial researchers who presented innovative posters and demonstrations, including breakthroughs in semantic communications and advanced data architectures for 5G and the upcoming 6G. The strong research participation reinforced ETSI's role as a bridge between scientific innovation and standardisation.

One of the most dynamic discussions addressed how the standards-making process itself can evolve to support an AI-native environment. Participants explored proposals such as new API-based approaches, improved internal methodologies, AI-enabled or AI-supported drafting processes & more agile and developer-friendly tools. But key takeaways also included that AI is a mean not an objective and that AI agents for instance should be developed to help users and take into account user-centric AI tools.

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## Closing the Digital Standards Gap: Why Participation Matters for Development

Digital standards increasingly shape how digital markets function, how public services are delivered, and how innovation scales across borders. From digital identification and payment systems to Digital Product Passports (DPP), data exchange, and cybersecurity, standards form the technical foundation of the digital economy. The [World Development Report 2025](#) (WDR) highlights that these standards are not neutral: they embed choices about interoperability, competition, and governance. This perspective is also reflected in the [European Framework for Science Diplomacy](#), which recognizes standards as practical instruments for international cooperation, trust-building, and market shaping.

The WDR 2025 clearly points to a persistent participation gap. Low- and middle-income countries continue to remain underrepresented in international digital standardization, particularly in fast-moving ICT domains. Limited participation often means adopting standards developed elsewhere, with little influence over how they adequately reflect local market realities, regulatory priorities or capacity. In the digital domain, this gap can therefore translate into technological lock-in and reduced policy space.

Participation in international standardization, like recently initiated standardization activities for the DPP at ISO and IEC, is therefore a strategic issue. Decisions taken in technical committees today shape future digital infrastructures and markets. Active engagement ensures that countries can contribute their perspectives and help shape rules that reflect their priorities.

European & international standardization organizations support more inclusive participation. CEN, CENLEC and ETSI, as well as European National Standards Bodies and National Committees, contribute to international standardization and cooperate closely with ISO and IEC. Beyond developing standards, they bring experience in consensus-based processes and in linking technologies and services with research, innovation, and regulation.

Discussions at the [2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference](#) in December 2025, including the session “Boosting European competitiveness through science & tech diplomacy”, underlined that standards provide a practical, rules-based platform for technical cooperation and trust across borders. In this context, Pouline Terpiger, Sherpa at the High-Level Forum on Standardization representing CEN and CENELEC and Director International Policy at Danish Standards, highlighted how standardization can shape markets for emerging technologies, support global cooperation, and contribute to European competitiveness.

As reflected in the CEN and CENELEC paper “[Integrating Standardization into EU Science Diplomacy – Using standards for global cooperation and competitiveness](#)”, standards provide a practical, rules-based platform for technical cooperation and trust across borders. Capacity-building and peer exchange are essential to lower barriers to participation and enable countries to move from standards adoption towards informed engagement.

Initiatives such as [SESEC V](#), [SESEI VI](#), [InDiCo-Global](#), [INSTAR](#), and GIST support this transition, closing the digital standards gap and promoting more inclusive, interoperable, and development-oriented digital ecosystems.

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## Two Years of the Digital Services Act Ensuring Safer Online Spaces

Two years ago, the Digital Services Act (DSA) entered into force. The DSA protects fundamental rights online by regulating online services such as social media platforms, marketplaces, app stores, and online travel and accommodation services. Its goal has been to [ensure a safer digital space](#) by addressing issues like addictive design, illegal content, manipulative tactics, and more.

Since February 2024, the DSA applies to most platforms in the EU, except micro and small enterprises. Enforcement is shared between national authorities (Digital Services Coordinators) and the EC. The Commission oversees the largest platforms.

To ensure compliance, the Commission has opened several investigations. In some cases, they led platforms to make concrete changes. Some investigations are still ongoing. For example, the Commission recently launched an [investigation into X](#) and its deployment of Grok and extended its ongoing investigation into X’s recommender systems. It has also launched an [investigation into Shein](#) for its addictive design, lack of transparency and sale of illegal products.

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## ETSI Open-Source MANO Announces OSM Release NINETEEN, Bringing a Significant Modernization of its Codebase

ETSI announced OSM Release NINETEEN, a Standard release of OSM, produced by the OSM Community, meeting the established cadence of two releases per year. OSM Release NINETEEN brings a modernisation of the codebase and dependencies and makes future development easier and friendlier for OSM contributors in multiple key areas:

### LTS and code maintenance.

- Python 3.13 in all Python-based modules. This release updates all Python-based modules to use Python3.13 version, which will prevent EOL of Python versions.
- Angular Framework upgrade for NGUI. In addition, the Angular Framework has also been upgraded for the GUI module to use the latest Angular framework.
- Upgrade of Kubernetes version and Helm version in OSM modules. All OSM modules have been properly updated to support the latest versions of Kubernetes and Helm, and their associated libraries, which will guarantee the flawless interaction of OSM with modern Kubernetes clusters in the public clouds, even with the Kubernetes versions planned for the next year.
- Updates of the OSM installation to use the latest versions of operating system and dependencies. Ubuntu 24.04 LTS has been selected as the new base Operating System for community installation of OSM, and the OSM installer has been updated to work flawlessly with the new OS. In addition, the installer supports upgraded versions of subcharts in OSM helm chart and upgraded client tools, all oriented to grant community support of these dependencies for the coming years.

### Friendlier OSM development.

- Self-contained repos. Until this release, OSM contributors had to know the intricacies of OSM to know how to contribute to an OSM module, which added unnecessary difficulty to the process. This release has made every OSM repo fully independent by discontinuing the Debian package generation, simplifying the dependencies on common modules, and providing a single Dockerfile and Jenkinsfile per module that will allow OSM developers to test their code easily and replace existing modules on a running OSM installation. In addition, all contributions to OSM will be tested by a simplified pipeline, much easier to follow and maintain.

- New pipelines to automate project management tasks. Finally, this release will incorporate an automated pipeline to ease the launch of point releases, transforming this process into a one-click operation. In addition, besides the daily jobs that run daily E2E tests of OSM in our internal testbeds, new pipelines will run weekly to monitor our stable releases, mimicking the OSM installation done by our end users, and allowing us identifying promptly errors in any OSM outdated dependencies.

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## MeitY signs Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals with DG CONNECT of European Commission

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission have signed an Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals on 27 January 2026.

The arrangement was signed by the Secretary, MeitY, and the Director-General, DG CONNECT. The cooperation will be implemented by MeitY through the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), in line with India's legal and regulatory framework according to the applicable provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 within the established framework regulated by Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA).

The arrangement provides a framework for cooperation on interoperability of electronic signatures, electronic seals, and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) systems, consistent with the laws of India and European Union with the aim to strengthen India-EU digital cooperation by promoting the use of secure and trusted electronic signatures and seals in cross-border digital transactions and trade.

Under this cooperation, India and the European Union intend to link their respective trusted lists of recognised service providers thus helping in easier validation of electronic signatures and seals issued in India and the European Union for cross-border use. The arrangement lays the foundation for deeper cooperation in the future.

Indian exporters and EU buyers will be able to sign contracts, invoices, and compliance documents digitally using trusted electronic signatures without paper or courier delays.

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## ETSI OpenSlice 2025Q4 Release Introduces AI Native Orchestration and Telco Cloud Advancements

ETSI's Software Development Group for OpenSlice (SDG OSL) has released OpenSlice 2025Q4, delivering major advancements toward AI-native, autonomous network operations. This release marks a significant evolution of the platform, bringing AI capabilities directly into the operational core.

A key highlight is the introduction of the OpenSlice MCP Backend, enabling local LLM deployments that offer full data sovereignty and private model fine-tuning. Combined with enhancements to the MCP Server, this AI foundation powers the new OpenSlice AI Assistant, providing a chat-based interface to access platform tools securely and efficiently.

The release also implements Agentic Orchestration, allowing OpenSlice to coordinate internal and external agents throughout a service lifecycle. This bridges the gap between intent and execution, supporting more autonomous and adaptive network behaviour.

Strengthening its Telco Cloud layer, OpenSlice introduces GITER, a lightweight controller that uses Git for asynchronous coordination across distributed or intermittently connected environments. A new native controller for Nokia's Network-as-Code (NaC) platform ensures seamless integration by mapping NaC entities to TMF Resource Specifications.

In addition, a prototype TMF Product UI enhances product modelling by linking business logic to underlying cloud-native controllers. A new repository of ready-to-deploy blueprints, including a full 5G Core, simplifies onboarding for new users.

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## 3GPP Update on RAN Working Groups Meeting held in Goteborg

A week of RAN WG meetings, attended by over 1500 experts. During the week, the five RAN Working Groups continued progress on 5G Advanced specification work, with the attention now clearly on Release 20 features, with Rel-19 now complete and only subject to maintenance and post freeze technical enhancements.

The early stages of the 6G RAN effort are now well underway, with the first two RAN study items progressing steadily. The first, the 6G Scenarios and Requirements SID, will result in the Plenary-level report TR 38.914 (expected mid-2026). The second is the 6G radio study in WG RAN1, which will explore the potential for a new "6GR" access technology. This study, due in early 2027, aims to address how 6GR will further advance the use cases and requirements identified in TR 38.914.

In March (9-12), the TSG RAN plenary (TSG RAN#111) will meet to approve the progress made this week, during the RAN Working Groups, hosted in Goteborg, Sweden.

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## ETSI SNS4SNS: Building an Open Software Ecosystem for Future Connectivity and Services

The ETSI SNS4SNS Software & Standards for Smart Networks & Services event (SNS4SNS), held from 2–5 February 2026, brought together policy makers, industry leaders, researchers, developers and open source communities to shape the future of 6G and smart networks and services. With a multidisciplinary approach, this year's edition placed a strong emphasis on collaborative innovation, showcasing among others the strategic activities of ETSI's five software development groups (SDGs).

The event featured 40 live demos and posters, illustrating how open source initiatives and industry partnerships are accelerating the development of next-generation networks. Attendees explored cutting-edge technologies through interactive tutorials, presentations, panel discussions, and hackathon outcomes. The hackathon challenged teams to develop new use cases combining software from multiple ETSI SDGs. The winning team presented "Network Testbeds as a Service" (NTaaS), an open source, on-demand virtual platform for testing 5G/6G applications.

The event highlighted latest research, industrial and open source innovations in topics such as cloud-edge continuum, network exposure, telco APIs, 6G innovations, AI driven cybersecurity and agentic AI.

*"These four days demonstrated how standardisation, research and open source communities collaborate to foster resilient, secure and interoperable networks and services." says Dr. Ricard Vilalta, Chair of the event's Programme Committee. "This collaboration is key to supporting broader EU initiatives that promote innovation and technological sovereignty."*

The SNS4SNS event served as a platform to discuss the growing opportunity for open-source adoption, brought by the upcoming EU open source strategy. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event provided a neutral environment for cross-community collaboration in a standards based open software ecosystem.

For more information, visit the [ETSI SNS4SNS 2026 event page](#).

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# Green and Clean Technologies

## EU Sets World's First Voluntary Standard for Permanent Carbon Removals

The Commission adopted the **first set of methodologies** under the [carbon removals and carbon farming \(CRCF\)](#) Regulation to **certify activities that permanently remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere**. By adopting these first voluntary certification methodologies, the EU is setting clear rules and creating new opportunities for climate **innovation, investments in carbon removal technologies and addressing greenwashing**. This milestone positions the European Union as a global leader in carbon removals, helping to create an emerging market for both innovative start-ups and a major EU bioeconomy while supporting the EU's objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

The new rules cover **three types of permanent carbon removal activities**, selected for their technological maturity and potential contribution to the EU's climate objectives:

- [Direct air capture with carbon storage \('DACCS'\)](#).
- [Biogenic emissions capture with carbon storage \('BioCCS'\)](#).
- [Biochar carbon removal \('BCR'\)](#).

With the certification framework and the governance rules now in place, carbon removal projects using DACCS, BioCCS, and biochar can start applying for EU certification. This marks the transition from rule-setting to action, allowing the first projects to be certified and recognised under the EU's carbon removal framework in the coming months.

### **A European standard for permanent carbon removals**

The three methodologies adopted set out clear legally grounded and voluntary rules for permanent carbon removals, defining what counts as a tonne of removal, how permanence must be ensured, and how the key risks such as leakages and liabilities are addressed. Together, they establish the European Union's first comprehensive standard for permanent carbon removals, providing **long-awaited clarity for companies and investors active in this rapidly growing field**. By building on existing EU climate legislation, the certification framework **ensures environmental integrity while keeping administrative complexity to a minimum**.

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## Launch of the CEN Workshop 'Climate Services Guidance for Co-production'

A new CEN Workshop is being planned as part of the activities of the EU project 'Climateeurope2'. The aim of this project is to provide reliable and usable quality-assured climate services to benefit society.

Across many industries, there is increasing demand for precise climate-related insights to inform decision-making. Combined with this need is the reality of a fast-evolving climate-service market which seeks to provide accurate information while adapting to the growing awareness of climate risks and opportunities shaping the market environment.

In such a changing landscape, standardized ways of working are necessary. The Climateeurope2 project has identified a need for guidance for co-production processes across the climate service lifecycle. The proposed workshop will bring together a diverse group of participants from the climate services ecosystem. Their collective expertise will aid climate service provision in becoming more consistent, effective and transparent in a way that really benefits climate service users.

The proposed CEN Workshop Agreement will be a key deliverable of the Climateeurope2 project. It will support the goals of providing climate information that is credible, relevant, and useable, and will uphold scientific robustness, accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of industry. More concretely, it will offer a framework for an integrated and transparent approach to service development. For users this means confidence in the climate information and the reliability and relevance of the outputs of the co-production processes due to the development of a standardized and clear methodology.

The work undertaken in this workshop will complement the activities of CEN/TC 467 'Climate services – principles, requirements and guidelines'.

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## Clean and Just Energy Transition: New Study Provides Tools to Assess Emerging Energy Technologies



As the European Union continues on its pathway towards climate neutrality by 2050, its energy mix is undergoing dramatic changes. Clean sources make up ever greater shares of the EU's energy mix, but a great part of the future transition relies on the maturation of new solutions that are currently still in the pipeline of research and innovation (R&I).

The unprecedented shift to clean energy presents new challenges such as the sustainable use of resources, the resilience of the supply chains or the environmental and social impacts that R&I needs to address while developing the new generations of clean energy technologies.

The [new study](#) aims to increase the alignment of emerging clean energy technologies with EU goals to maximise their positive impact. This requires early and continuous assessment of environmental, economic and social sustainability, circularity as well as their contribution to EU resilience and technological autonomy.

The study provides an extensive overview of the available assessment methods, presents the findings of relevant stakeholders consultations and proposes a set of actionable approaches validated and refined in collaboration with ongoing Horizon Europe projects at different technology readiness levels. The study defines a flexible methodological framework taking into account different maturity stages and technology-specific guidelines meant to support new concepts in their journey from the laboratory to the market.

It contains five sector-specific guidelines for application, covering carbon capture, utilisation and storage, energy infrastructure, energy storage, renewable and low carbon fuels and renewable energy technologies.

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## EU/EFTA-India

### EU and India Launch Talks on Horizon Europe Association

The European Commission and India have launched exploratory discussions on the possible association to Horizon Europe. The launch of these talks follows the 16th EU-India Summit in New Delhi, where leaders from both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic cooperation across trade, security, science, innovation and mobility.

**Ekaterina Zaharieva**, European Commissioner for Startups, Research, and Innovation, said: "Science works best when borders do not get in the way of ideas. Exploring India's association to Horizon Europe is about connecting talent, ambition and trust, and building solutions together at global scale."

If India becomes associated, Indian researchers and institutions would be able to receive funding directly from Horizon Europe and lead projects, with India making a financial contribution to the programme.

#### R&I cooperation with India

EU-India cooperation on research and innovation is governed by the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in 2001 and recently renewed until 2030 at the [New Delhi summit](#).

The [Joint EU-India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030](#) places research and innovation at the centre of the strategic partnership and includes the launch of exploratory talks on Horizon Europe association as a concrete deliverable.

In recent years, this cooperation has also been strengthened through the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Commissioner Zaharieva's visit to India last year, including exchanges in the TTC context, helped advance shared priorities and reinforce links between research and innovation ecosystems on both sides.

#### Horizon Europe Global

Association to the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is **the closest form of international cooperation in science and technology** between the European Union and a non-EU country.

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### Launch of the European Legal Gateway Office Pilot

The European Union launched the first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in India, in New Delhi in the presence of Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Dr S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India. Representatives of the EU Member States also took part in the event.

The European Legal Gateway Office in India is the first of its kind in a partner country and will facilitate safe, legal, and well-informed migration and mobility from India to EU Member States in the ICT sector. It will support Indian students, researchers, and professionals in the ICT sector by providing clear and reliable information on mobility pathways and their various skills and qualification requirements, across all the 27 EU Member States. It will also support EU-based employers and higher education institutions to engage with Indian talent.

The European Legal Gateway Office in India will operate through three connected pillars: a Gateway Office in India, a Support Office in the EU and a Digital tool that will function as a one-stop hub for clear and reliable information on work, study and research mobility opportunities.

The European Legal Gateway Office pilot in India was announced at the 16th EU-India Summit held on 27 January 2026 in New Delhi by President of the European Commission von der Leyen and also in the Joint Communication on the new EU-India Strategic Agenda and in the Union of Skills Communication.

Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Technological Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, European Commission stated.

*"Digital skills are the backbone of the digital transition. Thanks to the European Legal Gateway Office in India, the European Union will boost its capacity of being a magnet for talent and will attract the Indian students, researchers and professionals in the ICT sector. European companies will be able to tap into this larger pool of talent which will help to strengthen European competitiveness."*

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## India – France Joint Statement - 2026 India-France Year of Innovation

At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the French Republic H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron paid an official visit to India from 17 to 19 February 2026 and participated in the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026. During the visit, the two leaders held bilateral talks and jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on 17 February. This is President Macron's 4th visit to India and it follows PM Modi's visit to France in Feb 2025.

On this occasion, both leaders agreed to elevate relations to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" to guide bilateral cooperation in the coming decades. The upgrading of relations reflects the growing ambitions and vision shared by the two leaders on India-France relationship, to act as a force for global good that can help build not only prosperity and resilience in their economies and advance their countries' security, but also work collectively towards addressing challenges in an increasingly uncertain global environment and, thus, help build a stable rules-based international order. Both countries celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership in 2023, on the occasion of which they adopted the Horizon 2047 Roadmap to set the course for the bilateral relationship up to 2047, the centenary year of India's independence, the centenary of diplomatic relations between the two countries & 50 year of Strategic Partnership. The leaders established an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue for regularly reviewing the progress of bilateral cooperation and implementation of the elevated partnership, and the Horizon 2047, particularly, in the areas of economic security, global issues and people to people exchanges.

Through a Special Global Strategic Partnership, India and France are committed to strengthening cooperation at bilateral, regional, and global levels under the India-France Horizon 2047 Roadmap.

Both Leaders, acknowledging the importance of advancing scientific knowledge, research and innovation, and the long and enduring engagement between India and France in these areas, **jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation**. This year will feature a series of high-impact collaborations in India and France spanning diverse sectors such as Innovation, Science and Technology, Cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare, Sustainable Development, Cultural and Creative Economy, and Research and Education. These engagements aim to enrich existing collaborations and foster new collaborations between startups, academic institutions, research bodies and industry, showcasing the shared commitment of India and France to co-develop solutions for a smarter, more sustainable future.

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## Republic of Finland on the Margins of the AI Impact Summit



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with H.E. Mr. Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland in New Delhi on 18 February 2026 on the margins of the AI Impact Summit. Both leaders welcomed the recent conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement during the 16th India-EU Summit, which will serve as a catalyst for shared progress and prosperity. They committed to continuing efforts to further enhance bilateral relations in the spirit of the India-EU Strategic Partnership.

The leaders underscored the pivotal role of digitalization and sustainability in driving future economic growth and development. In this context, they recognized and welcomed the increasing presence of their leading technology companies in each other's economies through expanded operations and partnerships. The Finnish Prime Minister applauded India's vision for just and inclusive AI development.

The leaders called for doubling bilateral trade and greater technology collaboration, including in co-development of quantum and 6G, renewables, circular economy and defence. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, and on greater cooperation in global governance.

The leaders looked forward to enhancing bilateral engagement including meeting again at the 3rd India-Nordic Summit later this year.

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## Whitepaper/Publication

### *ECOS Work Programme 2026 – Environmental Coalition on Standards*

The renewed focus on competitiveness and global competition must go hand-in-hand with environmental ambition. A true green industrial transformation will help with safeguarding of natural resources, biodiversity, social justice, and environmental health.

As the only environmental NGO systematically at the table where standards are developed, ECOS is perfectly placed to drive, define and assess how to drastically improve the environmental sustainability of key sectors and products.

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### *CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026!*

CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026 has been published. The Work Programme is one of the flagship publications of CEN and CENELEC; it outlines the key priorities and actions that will shape European standardization in the year ahead. 2026 will be a pivotal year for European standardization. Against a backdrop of rapid technological, industrial, and global change, CEN and CENELEC remain clear in our mission: to make Europe's Single Market stronger, more digital, and more sustainable through standards.

[Read More/Download >](#)

### *Standardization Roadmap for Hydrogen Technologies 2025*

In 2025, the second edition of the Standardization Roadmap Hydrogen Technologies was published by DIN, together with six other partners. With the standardization roadmap, the project partners have created the conditions for bringing hydrogen from pilot projects into widespread use.

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### *ETSI's Statement on European standardisation and the European Commission's forthcoming European Product Act*

ETSI welcomes the European Commission's initiative to revise the New Legislative Framework (NLF)<sup>2</sup> and the Market Surveillance Regulation<sup>3</sup> and enhance consistency and enforcement across the internal market of the European Union. Please read ETSI's statement on European standardisation and the European Commission's forthcoming European Product Act.

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## Whitepaper/Publication

### *New Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-27*

The European Commission Work Programme for 2026-2027 sets out the R&I funding opportunities under Horizon Europe.

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### *European Commission work programme 2026*

The 2026 Commission work programme sets out the key strategies, action plans and legislative initiatives that will lay the foundation for the work ahead during this mandate and help deliver on our ambition to build a strong, secure, and prosperous Europe.

The Commission aims to building a more sovereign and independent Europe and reduce its dependencies with regard to critical technologies. Therefore, the Commission plans to propose the Cloud and AI Development Act, the Chips Act 2.0 and the Quantum Act in the first half of 2026. Simplification agenda holds significant relevance for the innovative digital sector, with upcoming initiatives including 28th Regime, a European Research Area Act, and a European Innovation Act to facilitate business and access to financing for all innovative companies, including SMEs.

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### *ETSI Work Programme 2025*

The ETSI Work Programme 2025 provides an overview of our current standardisation projects.

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## Upcoming Events

### EU Energy Summit 2026

**When: 4-5 March 2026**

**Where: Egmont Palace, Brussels**

The EU Energy Summit 2026 will explore how to transform Europe's policy foundations into real-world progress: deploying clean energy infrastructure, accelerating innovation and building an energy system that is stable, affordable and fit for a net-zero economy.

[More Information](#) >

### CSC Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference 2026

**When: 12 March 2026**

**Where: Brussels / Online**

The European Standardisation Organisations [CEN](#), [CENELEC](#) and ETSI together with [ENISA](#), the EU Agency for Cybersecurity, are pleased to announce 10th Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference

European standardisation supporting new legislative cybersecurity landscape.

[More Information](#) >

### CRA Standards Unlocked: Deep Dive Session on Cybersecurity Requirements

**When: 18 March 2026**

**Where: Online**

This exclusive deep-dive session continues the conversation started in the introductory webinar (25 February 2026) and takes it to the next level. In this interactive 4-hour workshop, participants will work directly with the experts behind the standard to explore its structure, scope, and key technical elements in depth. It's a unique opportunity to ask questions, exchange insights with peers, and actively contribute stakeholder feedback that will help shape a harmonized standard supporting CRA compliance

[More Information](#) >

### 12th UCAAT - User Conference on Advanced Automated Testing

**When: 14-16 April 2026**

**Where: Sophia Antipolis, France**

ETSI's UCAAT conference, now in its 12th year, is dedicated to all aspects of automated testing including model-based testing, cloud testing, mobile testing, test methodologies, test management and standardised test specification by focusing on the practical challenges that are often faced in industry and standardisation.

[More Information](#) >



## Upcoming Events

### Electronic Attestation of Attributes (EAA) Plugtests

**When: 04 May- 01 June 2026**

**Where: Online**

ETSI's Centre for Testing and Interoperability, with the support of ETSI's Technical Committee for Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (TC ESI), is organising the Electronic Attestation of Attributes (EAA) Plugtests event. This event is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The aim of this event is to check the interoperability of EAA, a key component of the European Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI Wallet). The testing will cover the ETSI Technical Specification TS 119 472-1, with a special focus on the formats built on SD-JWT VC and ISO 18013-5.

[More Information](#) >

### 10th MCX PLUGTESTS

**When: 18-22 May 2026**

**Where: Sophia Antipolis, France**

ETSI, with the support of the Critical Communications Association (TCCA) and the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (UIC), is organising the tenth MCX Plugtests. Co-funded by the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA), this Plugtests event will take place in the ETSI premises in Sophia Antipolis, France.

[More Information](#) >

### ETSI/IQC Quantum Safe Cryptography Conference 2026

**When: 16-18 June 2026**

**Where: Ottawa**

Designed for members of the business, government, and research communities with a stake in cryptographic standardisation, this forward-looking conference facilitates the knowledge exchange and collaboration required to transition cyber infrastructures and business practices to make them safe and resilient in an era with quantum computers. It will showcase both the most recent developments from industry and government and cutting-edge potential solutions coming out of the most recent research.

[More Information](#) >

## ABOUT PROJECT

The SESEI project (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) is a project cofunded by five European partners, operating from New Delhi, India, with the objective to increase the visibility of European standardization in India and to promote EU/EFTA-India cooperation on standards and related activities. The SESEI Project (<http://sesei.eu/>) is managed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI - <http://www.etsi.org/>) and is further supported by two other EU recognized Standards Organization, namely the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) - <http://www.cencenelec.eu>, as well as by the European Commission ([www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)) and the European Free Trade Association (<http://www.efta.int/>). It is a Standardization focused project, with a priority emphasis on the sectors falling under Digitization and Clean & Green Technologies etc.



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