

General Economics

National Standards in the Quality Infrastructure and their Harmonization with the European Standards

Professor Ștefan Dragomir, PhD
“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
Professor Georgeta Dragomir, PhD
“Danubius” University of Galați

Abstract: In this paper it is made an analysis on the national standardization activity as a part of quality infrastructure from our country. This analysis is included in a legislation frame in accordance with the principles and stipulations of European and international normative. In the some time it is shown the complex effects that are produced while it must be introduced the European and international standards necessary for a sustainable development.

Keywords: quality, competitively, standardize, equitable trade, harmonization

Jel Classification: H54, R10, R28, R34

1. Introduction

The European Standards System gave to its citizen the certainty of a quality life and a sustainable development into a globalized economy.

In the process of integrating, the main decision persons in our country establish that it is important to develop actions in standardization domain, in accordance with the practice and principle of international recognition of our national products.

This international recognition of our products and the compatibility between the European standards and our national products, economics, environment and trade

standards represent an important indicator of the way to complete integration of our country in the European community. This means to create new organisms of quality infrastructure, the develop compatibility and consolidation according to the European practice, new institutions for evaluation and accreditation in order to integrate in the European standards.

The standards offer a disposition for the organizations, societies, plant products, trade societies by the European organism – that cooperate with national organisms of standardization.

This standard helps to obtain success for the organization, economics agents, societies, that must know all its settlement (European standard in harmonization with the national standards).

2. ISO - International Organization for Standardization

The ISO 9000 has documentation and procedures that allow understanding all the European norms system from ISO 9001....9020...14200. The Standard is a document that establishes a language for all users in order to promote the circuit of products between sales and buyers and to protect the healthy life style.

The guide ISO/CEI 2:1996 establishes that the standard is a document approved by consent to insurance rules, lines, direction of development and results for obtaining an efficient economical activity.

The standard has technical specifications elaborated by important organisms that developed standardizing activities in the domains such as technologies, industries, economics etc.

The national standard is identifying as *Romanian standard* – SR.

The standard incorporates also the intellectual propriety rights and constitutes an entity for author's right. In Romania the standard benefits of protection according to the Law No. 8/1996 - the reproduction or use integrally or partially the national standards (SR) is admissible just in the written approval of ASRO (Romanian Standards Association).

The standards are in every aspects of life and improve our life style.

2.1. Case analysis

The Standard ISO 14063 analyzes the environment management through directives and examples that allow the enterprise to value the performances in the environment protection. These standards show a transparency in all the performance in the environmental protection domain. The standard ISO 14063 allows the communication strategies and the achievement of economical agents in the domain of the pollution risks. This standard can be applied in all societies that implement the environment management.

Other example is in the AFNOR standard (French National Standardization Organism). AFNOR gives a reference text about the equitable trade – agreement AC X50-340, which presents the three principles of **the equitable trade**. These principles result after the analysis made of four commissions: costumers, administration, trade organizations and greatest distributed.

After a pertinent analysis, it results the three principles of equitable trade:

1. the trade equilibrium of the relationship between partners;
2. the trade understanding between the producer and organizations;
3. informing the customers, beneficiary and public about the principles of equitable trade.

3. National Standards in Relation to the European Standards.

The national activity of standardization is making part of quality infrastructure from Romania. At the basis of this activity is a frame of laws, according to the principles of European norms. The main responsibility of the national infrastructure is in charge of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, National Standardization Organism, Harmonization of National Organism, National Laboratory of Evaluation etc.

The activity of National standardization is recognised by the Governmental Decision: OG nr. 39/1998, Law no. 355/2002 and Law no. 177/2005, through HG 985/2004.

ASRO (Romanian Standards Association) has the mission to evaluate the needs, to create new standards, to coordinate and examine the new standards projects, to disseminate, promote and organize courses of perfecting in the standardization

domain. ASRO represents the interest of Romania in the international instances and it also coordinates the activity of national committee competence in standardization domain.

The quality infrastructure is coordinated by the Strategy of Development on Medium Term, approved in Order of MEC no. 634/2004.

ASRO represents the interest of Romania in the International Standardization process and the company can bring trade advantages, if they participate at standardization activity such as:

- the access to all information in domain;
- the influence of technical contain of the standard;
- diminishing risks for the research and development activity.

4. The Advantage of Standard Usage

The adoption and implementation of European standards in the new country (Romania and Bulgaria) is the most important condition to participate at the unique market.

The European standard represents a powerful competitive modality for the growth of the companies. The standards give solutions for solving and facilitating trade and cooperation in the European community; it also helps the protection of health security and the sustainable development.

The standards must represent a major subject for the government, for economy, for economical agency and for costumers. The technical harmonization includes three concepts: Old Approach, New Approach and Global Approach.

The Old Approach is a technical regulation of European Union that describes technical demands for each product at the highest level.

The New Approach represents a technique of settlement for European Union based on technical harmonization and standardization. The Law harmonization includes the essential demands that the product must satisfy for the free circulation in the European Community framework. The technical specifications of the product are established in the European harmonization standards.

The product made in conformity with the harmonization of European standards benefit by essential demands. The European harmonized standards are published in the Official Journal of the European Community. The essential security task establishes the most important elements for public protection and defines the results that must be obtained. Also they included the risks for health, the procedure that must be followed before the products come in the market. The product must be the mark of the European Community that indicates that the product is according to all procedures and to the security demands (Law no. 608/2002 modified by H.G. nr. 487/2002 and H.G. no. 298/2004).

The State is a Member of the E.U and it must accept that the product with the mark (C.E. conformity) can enter without any problem on the European Union market.

The Global Approach is a technique of settlement of the European Union that establishes:

- a. practical normative for conformity evaluation:
 - the appliance of quality management and promotion of agreements that refer to certificate, trust and competence.

The standardization is a strategic tool and it helps the firms to obtain access on the markets. The standard EN (Euro norms) and ISO are documents with technical conditions and criteria used as rules, definitions and guidelines that show that the materials, product, processes and services is according to their purpose.

The use of standards helps the economical changes. An efficient distribution of innovations is a condition for economical growth. The standard is a tool for disseminating new ideas, products and technologies and it has a major contribution to the product. The Standards have the capacity to structure the way in which it functions the activity sectors, the dissemination of knowledge and it develops the market. The application of our national standard provides a new openness at national level.

5. Conclusions

The use of standardize contributes to diminishing the costs of sale and product. It gives economical solutions for the technical problems of new products, performances, costs and new characteristics.

The standards insure a positive effect on the buyer power and self security health against chemical materials, radiations, blast etc. The quality management environment is an introduction for a sustainable development. These standards *can be used in* the audit process. It is important for our society to harmonize our national standards with the European standards because it would obtain:

- most sure, healthy and ecological products and services;
- a good compatibility between the services;
- a decrease of the product and services costs;
- a facility access to the greatest number of types of products and services;
- a very good information on the goods and services;
- the full access with services and product on the European Market.

6 References

Anghelescu, Mihaela, Cazan, Gabriela, Bichir, Mihaela. (2005). *Avantajele utilizării standardelor*, București: ASRO.

Dragulănescu, N, Broché, S. L. *Impactul transpunerii sistemului calității din Uniunea Europeană în anumite sectoare industriale românești*, Institutul European din România.

*** *Revista Standardizarea 2005-2008*.

*** *Obiectivele României în activitatea de standardizare în vederea integrării în Uniunea Europeană*, ASRO, 2004.

*** *Strategia de dezvoltare pe termen mediu a infrastructurii pentru evaluarea conformității*, 2004 - 2007, a study of The Ministry of Economy and Commerce.

Online Sources.