

COMMITTEE REPORT on SMEs for 2024

The Advisory Committee for Micro and Small Enterprises operating within SIST gathers chambers and associations representing SMEs in Slovenia. In 2024, the committee did not hold any in person sessions but it carried out the following tasks in 2024:

- monitoring the latest developments of technology,
- provision of extracts of new Slovenian standards,
- monitoring the work of SIST's technical boards in areas of interest to SMEs,
- promoting the video "Standards: A Business Tool for SMEs",
- promoting the participation of Slovenian experts in CEN and ETSI committees, representing SME interests in the standardization document development processes,
- provision of information on the activities of European organizations impacting micro and small enterprises,
- distribution of topical circulars.

Training and promotion of participation in standardization and the use of standards for SMEs

At SIST, we recognize that SMEs are a crucial part of the economy. The representatives of these companies should use standards more and they should engage more actively in standardization processes. Therefore, we organize free training sessions for SME representatives. For promotional and educational purposes, SIST also cooperates with different chambers and associations.

In 2024, SIST's Contact point organized four seminars for standards users and representatives of MSP with different chambers: The Chamber of exhibitions and events industry, Regional chamber of craft and small business Ravne na Koroškem, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Primorska and the Society of Safety Engineers Ljubljana (DVILJ).

Area of Work of SIST's Contact Point for SMEs

SIST's Contact Point operates in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/515 on mutual recognition and Regulation for construction products (EU) No. 305/2011, and the WTO/TBT agreement, where micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises can access free information on applicable standards and regulations, as well as other requirements to ensure that only safe and high-quality products are placed on the market.

SIST operates a Contact Point in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/515 on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State and Regulation (EU) 305/2011) laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products, as well as the WTO/TBT Agreement. It provides all interested micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with free information on the applicable standards and regulations and other requirements that their products must comply with to ensure that only safe and quality products are placed on the market.

In 2024, SIST responded to 179 written requests from Slovenian and foreign users. Most of the questions concerned existing standards and regulations, mutual recognition, and conformity assessment procedures. SIST's Contact Point also provided 42 written answers in 2024, concerning the requirements for placing construction products on the EU market. Enquiries were mostly done by domestic customers.

SIST's website dedicates a tab to SMEs

On SIST's website, SMEs can find a lot of information on the activities of various organisations and associations whose work or mission affects SMEs (CEN/CLC SME Helpdesk, SBS newsletter, European Small Business Portal). Information on current SIST training courses and other documents of interest to SMEs is also available.

- SIST updated the contents on our SME-specific webpages: <http://www.sist.si/standardizacija/skrb-za-mala-in-srednjevelika-podjetja>.
- A video is available specifically for SMEs on the SIST website, where interested parties can find out how and why they should get involved in standardisation. <http://www.sist.si/standardizacija/skrb-za-mala-in-srednjevelika-podjetja/aktualne-novice-za-msp/oglejte-si-nas-video-standardi-poslovno-orodje-za-mikro-majhna-in-srednja-podjetja.html>

Finding new projects in international and European standardization

A guide is also available on SIST website which provides SMEs and other interested parties with information on new standardization projects at IEC, ISO, CEN and CENELEC should they wish to contribute to the development of international and European standards. The information is intended for anyone whose work requires information on new areas of standardisation work in IEC, ISO, CEN and CENELEC.

Through links and articles, SMEs can get information on the activities of various organisations and associations whose work or mission affects SMEs (CEN/CLC SME Helpdesk, SBS newsletter, European Small Business Portal, SME e-learning tool), as

well as information on current SIST trainings and other documents of relevance to SMEs.

Notification of new standards proposals on SIST's website

SIST's website also provides free access to draft standards under public consultation, where all interested parties are encouraged to submit their comments on the subject.

Abstracts of published standards and information in Slovenian language

SIST's website provides free access to abstracts of Slovenian standards published in the current month. The scopes of their application are provided for better and easier understanding of their application in both English and Slovenian.

SIST's participation in international SME projects

- SIST participates in the CEN/CENELEC SME WG
- SIST cooperates with SBS (European SME Association) in various promotional campaigns
- SIST participates in international events with SBS.