

Open Source Solutions: Call for Participation

CEN and CENELEC | Digital Transformation |
April 2021

What's happening?

The "Open Source Solutions" project started at CEN and CENELEC in 2018 and has been progressively building up a draft framework inspired by several existing use cases (eg: EN 16931 developed by TC 434 Electronic invoicing which produced an open source testing tool to check invoices complied with the standard).



The project is part of CEN and CENELEC's joint [Strategy 2030 Goal 2: Our customers and stakeholders benefit from state-of-the-art digital solutions](#). It aims to harness the benefits of open source to add value to standardization activities.

CEN-CENELEC hereby issues an **open call** for project team members and new pilot proposals for the next stage of the project.

What is "open source"?

Open source is a **concept** based on being open and transparent in the way things are designed as well as giving people freedom to use and modify them.

Back in the day, developers kept their code secret to prevent competitors from copying it and making money. Today, industry business models have changed, and interoperability is far more important than protecting the secret of the source code. Indeed, the biggest tech giants have gone "open" and it is considered to be the way of the future.

Open source projects are characterized by short development times (release early and often), community-based development, higher-quality, flexibility and a focus on interoperability. Even though open source has become best practice in software development, it is not restricted to source code. There are many different ways to be open, and we need to figure out the way that is right for us.

The advantages of being open include many of the usual strengths of standardization, for example: consensus, interoperability and peer-reviewed quality. But additionally, it can:

Further enhance innovation

– because people don't need special permission to build on existing ideas (I can take your design, modify it with my innovative ideas and publish it on my website, because your licence allows it.)



Keep standards relevant in the digital era

– because openness and digital solutions are definite societal shifts



Since open source has already become the go-to reference point in some specific fields, it has become unavoidable. There are different approaches between open source communities and standards developing organizations (SDOs), but there are also many points in common. It is now up to us to develop a common strategy on how both worlds can benefit the most. Linking standardization and open source together allows us to be part of what is driving innovation.

Are you who we're looking for?

Open call for new participants!

The project is looking for two different types of participants:

Have skills to share?

Become a member of the core project team

Activities & skills: The members of the project team will be responsible for designing the way CEN-CENELEC works with open source solutions. We need team members to handle topics like:

- Strategy/goals
- Legal/licensing/liability
- Processes/procedures
- Systems/tools
- Community building/marketing

Time commitment: Starting as soon as possible for between 1 and 3 years. Time commitment will be minimum 0.5 days per week depending on agreed tasks.

Positions available: 1 leader and around 5 team members for each of the 5 topics above.

Eligibility: Anyone who would like to apply via a Member. The project leader will review applications.

About to start building a reference implementation or a testing tool?

Run a pilot project

Activities: The pilot project teams work together with the core project team on the development and implementation of open source deliverables by adapting the proposed framework. You might want to develop something like:

- An example of something built in conformity with a standard (a "reference implementation")
- A testing tool that helps you test for conformity with a standard
- A marketing tool that demonstrates the advantages of products that conform to potential buyers

Or you might want to create one of these before or in parallel with creation of a standard.

Timing: The start of the pilot project should start between April and December 2021.

Positions available: 2 to 3 pilot projects/deliverables starting in 2021.

Eligibility: Any interested group willing to operate under open principles.

What's in it for you?

For everyone:

- ✓ Innovate
- ✓ Contribute to the European economy/society
- ✓ Ensure that the interests of your industry are represented
- ✓ Ensure diversity in standardization
- ✓ Shape the future of standardization

Specifically for pilot project participants:

- ✓ To make your standard more relevant towards industry by including an open source product
- ✓ Provide a practical application of interoperability, which helps drive market adoption
- ✓ Connect with new open source communities (for those who haven't already)

Who can you contact?

If you have questions or are interested in joining the project, please contact:

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