



ASRO Report on SMEs - 2021

1. Introduction

The report presents ASRO efforts in 2021 to support SMEs in the use of standards and to encourage them for participation in the standardization process.

The document highlights ASRO actions resulting from the implementation of **Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012** of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Standardization, which were carried out to facilitate small and medium-sized businesses in Bulgaria to benefit from standards and standardization.

Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Standardization is the legal basis for the Union to use European standards for products and services in support of Union legislation and policies, to identify ICT technical specifications and to finance European standardization. The Regulation also sets obligations to European standardization organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) and national standardization bodies on transparency of standardization processes and on stakeholder participation in European and national standardization activities. The Regulation implies targeted efforts to involve and facilitate SMEs in the standardization process and in benefiting from standards.

The Romanian Standards Association encourages and facilitates the access of the Romanian SMEs to standards and standards development processes in order to reach a higher level of participation in the national, European standardization system, for instance by:

2. Participation:

- SMEs participate to standardization activities without being forced to become a member of ASRO. They can be members of the national technical committees, they can consult the texts of standards in ASRO's library, free of charge, and they can make comments on drafts standards.
- SMEs benefit of special rates to participate in standardization activities; Micro- enterprises have special rates for participating in national technical committees and all the SME's – members of ASRO benefit of special rates to subscriptions of standards.

3. Free of charge documents

- The draft standards are available for SME's free of charge
- Abstracts of standards are available free of charge on ASRO's Web store;
- For the moment, ASRO does not apply special rates for the provision of standards or providing bundles of standards at a reduced price, especially for SME's.

4. SME Portal on ASRO website

- In March 2021, ASRO released its new website, which was developed to be more informative and user-friendly to all interested parties, incl. SMEs.
- The [web-portal](#) contains information for SMEs representatives to raise their awareness both in terms of participation in the standardization process and the use of standards. The portal helps SMEs better identify standards and use them. SMEs can also find the answers of all questions dealing with standardization and on how to participate in standards work.

5. Activities

- Romanian Standards Association provides targeted products, services and events – information, webinars, collections of standards at special rates, online subscription on actuality of standards, etc. – which support SMEs in the vast world of standardization.

6. Events

- ASRO finalized its successful participation in the implementation of a project funded by Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission - STUNED - Standards Teaching in University Education. Within the project students from 5 universities in Europe took courses in standardization and in particular standards relevant to their specialties. This will provide them with ability to use standards when they start their professional career in the national economy and will indirectly support SMEs with knowledge on standards.

ASRO exchanges best practices with other CEN/CLC members regarding standardization practices through participation in all ESO governing bodies, working groups and workshops.

Planned:

- A digital system meant to identify standardization projects which are of particular interest to SMEs. The system will be part of a dedicated application and this is planned to be launched depending on the financial resources and national market support.