Standards for European Examinations

Albert J Mifsud

CESMA meeting
Cork
2nd / 3rd May 2025

Development of Standards

2021: CESMA Executive accepted a proposal to develop Standards for UEMS examinations
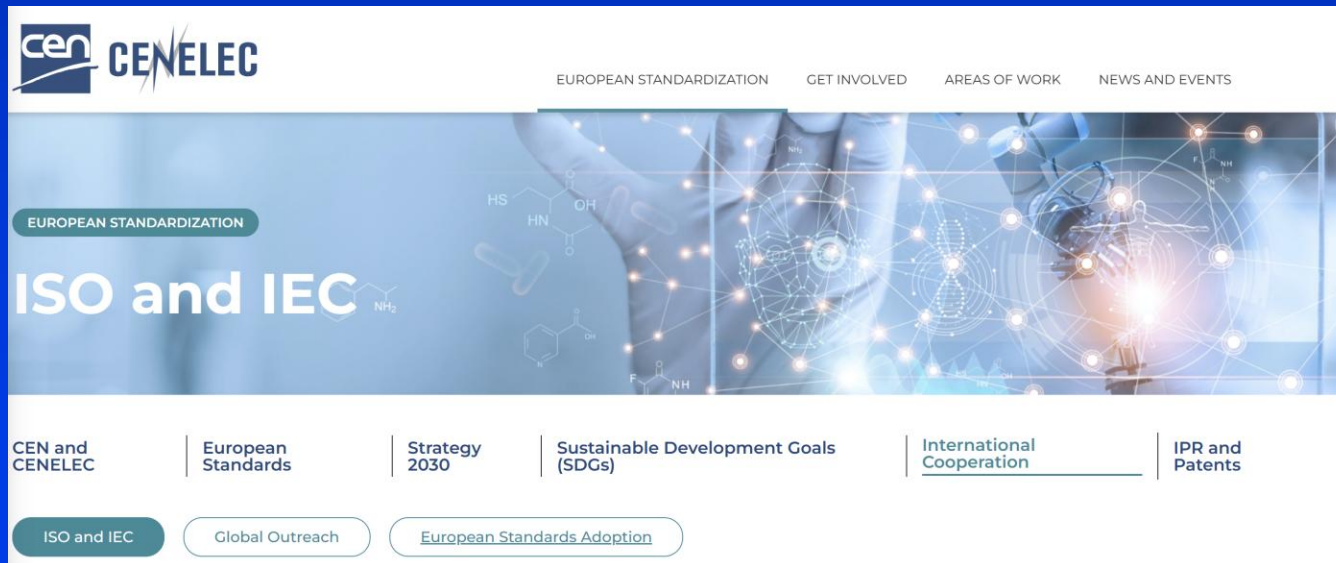
Document 1: Standards for European examinations

Lead: Albert Mifsud

Document 2: Guidance on appraisal process by CESMA

Lead: Danny Mathysen

Standards design

- Based on International Standards Organisation (ISO) methodology
- Informed by ISO/IEC 17000 standards series

History

o First version written June 2021

o Iterative reviews

- CESMA Exec (circulated x4)
- CESMA members (circulated x3)
- Working Group (est. Feb '23)
- Shared with Prof Papalois (Mar '25)
- Reviewed by CESMA Exec (Apr '25)
- Abbreviated significantly, grazzie a:

Working Group on CESMA Examination Standards document

Danny Mathysen
CESMA Exec

Andrew Brittlebank,
Psychiatry

Vesna Kusec,
Laboratory Medicine

Albert Mifsud
CESMA Exec

David Rozsa,
EPNIC

Shruti Sharma
EJD, PGT

Julie-Lyn Noel,
Eurospine

Controversial points

o Should CESMA's remit be restricted to medical doctors?

o What are the criteria for award of Diploma or Fellowship?

o Should examiners be drawn exclusively from UEMS states?

o Does delivery of courses constitute a conflict of interest?

o Should a 'reasonable adjustments' policy be required?

o Should eligibility criteria depend on continent of training?

o Should CESMA require a UEMS-approved ETR for appraisal?

o Can anchor questions be used in exams delivered remotely?

o Should UEMS appraise remotely-delivered examinations?

Proposed next steps

AIM: SUBMIT TO UEMS COUNCIL OCT '25

- Immediately after the meeting share the document as is with CESMA delegates to Cork '25 meeting FOR INFORMATION
- WG to review AND finalise the document (within circa 1 month)
- Share document with full CESMA membership as FINAL DRAFT
- Seek advice from Maitre Hanoteau (and update)
- Share document with UEMS Exec and seek advice on best mechanism to ensure support from Groupings and NMAs ……