

CEN/ISSS Workshop eCAT

Multilingual eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness

Revised Business Plan (version 17)

Date: 23 September 2009

Source: CEN

Status: endorsedⁱ

1. Workshop Title

Multilingual eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness (WS/eCAT)

2. Proposers

The Workshop was proposed in 2002 by the following organizations: CEDI, CIDX, eClass, EMF, ENSMA/pLIB, GS1, IIM, OILCATS, Phoenix EDH, PIDX, TermNet and Infoterm.

3. Background

Companies are more and more carrying out their transactions and interfacing with customers using electronic tools. Interoperability of catalogues and harmonization of product classification systems is a key issues for industry for reaping the full benefits from eBusiness.

Multilingualism in the European Union is often seen as an obstacle for the European economy in terms of competition and of the opening up of new markets, but is has also political dimensions relating to consumer protection, freedom to move, etc.

Products and services are sold in the language of the target market. eCommerce and eBusiness can function well, only if the virtual marketplaces and all their major elements (product classification schemes, user interfaces, product catalogues, etc.) are multilingual from the outset. This would create insurmountable financial barriers for SMEs.

Workshop eCAT¹ was set up in 2002 by CEN with the support of the European Commission, Enterprise and Industry Directorate General, to address these concerns.

The Workshop published six CEN Workshop Agreements²:

CWA 15045:2004

Multilingual catalogue strategies for eCommerce and eBusiness

CWA 15294:2005

ePDC project - Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification and Description

CWA 15295:2005

ePDC project - Description of References and Data Models for Classification

CWA 15556-1:2006

Gen-ePDC project - Product Description and Classification - New Property Library

CWA 15556-2:2006

Gen-ePDC project - Product Description and Classification - Product Classes with sets of Properties.

CWA 15556-3:2006

Gen-ePDC project - Product Description and Classification - Results of development

¹ For information on WS/eCAT until 2006 see URL:

http://linux.termnet.org/english/projects/eCAT_Documents.php

² CWAs are available at the URL:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/cwa/electronic+business.asp>

in harmonization and product classification and in multilingual electronic catalogues and their respective data modeling.

4. Workshop objectives 2009-2010

At the Workshop eCAT 8th plenary meeting on 4 February 2008, a new project ePPS (electronic product property server) was approved. The ePPS project aims at defining a systematic and generic approach to implement an operational product property server.

At the Workshop eCAT 11th plenary meeting on 3rd April 2009, a new project CC3P (classification and catalogue systems for public and private procurement) was approved.

5. Workshop work programme, timescale and deliverables

The Workshop eCAT was re-launched in 2008 with a proposed duration of two years.

The Workshop 's main deliverables will be two CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs)

- 1) ePPS project will deliver a CWA on «Guidelines for the design, implementation and operation of a product property server».
- 2) CC3P project will deliver a CWA containing an analysis of the main classification systems used in Europe (CPV, eCI@ss, GPC and UNSPCSC)

1) Detailed content of the ePPS CWA:

- a) analysis of the state-of-the art of product property servers in general (content-related, technical, legal, operational, organizational and other aspects) and of the basic requirements concerning semantic interoperability (incl. granularity of the data model);
- b) definition of the metadata, input/import and output/export formats, types of data involved, comprising preparation of dictionaries of harmonised product properties, as well as required methods of data modelling;
- c) requirements of the workflow management of distributed updating and maintenance as well as for the preparation of multilingual product property data, the control of correspondence between the data and metadata, etc.;
- d) types of needed skills and competences, taking into account people with special needs, etc.;
- e) legal and economic requirements of a product property server: IPRs; data protection, voting procedures for data preparation, etc.;
- f) terms of reference and rules of procedure of running the secretariat and for hosting the product property server system.

A demonstration model populated with data, based on rules and requirements of the CWA will be tested in a real application by the industries involved towards the end of the project. The results will be included in the final CWA as appropriate. These guidelines will be drawn on the basis of data tested mainly in two industrial sectors - heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, sanitary-ware (HVAC) and optical - and then extended to other industries.

2) The CC3P CWA will contain:

- a study on similarities and differences between the 4 main existing product classifications in Europe and proposed harmonisation and mapping methodologies;
- a list of identified missing domains in CPV, eCI@ss and GS1/GPC in relation with existing sectors in UNSPSC and, when time permits, its application to some chosen sectors;
- recommendations on the use of classifications and mapping in e-catalogues.
- description on how to use the mapping tools that will be developed by software providers so as to increase the interoperability between all four classifications.
- Recommendations on a coherent product chain and its associated business processes (properties, product description, dictionaries, classifications and catalogues), for the public and private sectors altogether.
- Identification of areas of improvement in the CPV like internal structures of the existing divisions, description, etc.

The mapping tools will not be part of the CC3P CWA.

Both CWAs will be submitted to ISO and/or UN/CEFACT to become part of an International Standard.

The CC3P project will also organize two informative seminars to raise awareness of standards and interoperability issues on the use of electronic catalogues and classifications.

Table: Workshop eCAT timescale (see next page)

Activity	Date	Milestone	Who
Workshop eCAT meeting with ePPS launch	4 February 2008	8 th WS/eCAT plenary meeting in Brussels	CEN and DIN
ePPS Project Team appointment	February 2008	Project Team kick-off meeting	Selection Panel
Research and analysis phase	ongoing		ePPS PT
ePPS CWA Part1: description of metadata and data modelling principles and requirements	23-24 June 2008	9 th Workshop eCAT plenary meeting, Berlin	WS
WS comment on first draft ePPS CWA Part 1	summer 2008		WS
ePPS CWA Part 1 revised draft - Interim report to European Commission	October 2008	10 th WS plenary meeting, Brussels, 21 November 2009	PT
ePPS CWA Part 2 first draft (replies on questionnaire) plus launch CC3P project	March 2009	11 th WS plenary meeting, 3 April 2009	CEN DIN AFNOR
WS comment on first ePPS draft CWA Part 2	April/May		WS
ePPS CWA Part 2 revised version	June	WS/eCAT ePPS-FG CDC seminar, 4-5 June, Paris	DIN/AFNOR
CC3P first draft CWA: gap analysis	beg September		CC3P PT
ePPS CWA ePPS: merge Part1,2 and3	September		ePPS PT
Comments on CC3P draft CWA	September	13 th WS meeting (CC3P), Brussels 23 September	WS
CC3P draft CWA V2– interim report to EC	end September		CC3P PT
Public comment period on ePPS CWA & run industry pilot	October- Nov	WS/eCAT ePPS Conference Rotterdam, 11 November	All
Final ePPS draft CWA for endorsement –Closure of ePPS project	End Dec/beg. Jan		ePPS PT DIN
CC3P draft CWA public comment period	Jan – Feb 2010	1 st seminar, 25 January, Cologne	WS
CC3P final draft CWA	March 2010	2 nd seminar	PT
CC3P CWA endorsement	April 2010	WS eCAT 13 th plenary meeting (CC3P)	AFNOR CC3P PT

6. Workshop organisation

The CEN/ISSS Workshop eCAT will have a Chairman. The ePPS and CC3P projects will run in parallel with separate Secretariats – DIN for ePPS and AFNOR for CC3P – and two separate Project Teams.

Dr Christian Galinski, Director Infoterm (International Information Centre for Terminology) was elected Workshop eCAT at the 8th plenary meeting on 4 February 2008.

The Chair's main responsibilities are:

- to chair Workshop plenary meetings;
- to ensure that the Workshop delivers in line with its Business Plan;
- to manage the consensus building process;
- to interface with the Secretariat(s) and CEN/CMC regarding strategic directions, problems arising, external relationships, etc.

The Workshop Secretariats have the following main tasks:

- Workshop meeting support;
- Workshop document management and distribution to membership list;
- electronic document repository management.

The working language is English. CWAs will be published in English only.

Participation to the Workshop eCAT is free of charge. Each participant will bear his/her own expenses for attending Workshop meetings.

7. Resources

The Workshop is supported by two Project Teams. A total of 150 man/days for ePPS Project Team and 150 man/days for the CC3P Project Team. Funds from the European Commission and EFTA are available, provided that the Workshop meets enough participation.

The Project teams were selected following an open call. Details are contained in the Terms of Reference for the Project teams.

8. Liaisons

The CEN/ISSS Workshop eCAT liaises with:

- CEN/ISSS Workshop BII
- CEN/ISSS Focus Group eSMEs
- CEN/ISSS eBusiness Interoperability Forum (eBIF)
- ISO/TMB/AHG "Standards as Databases"
- ISO/IEC JWG 1 "Product properties and families"
- IEC/SC 3D Data Sets for Libraries
- ISO/TC 29/WG 34 "Cutting tool data representation and exchange"
- ISO/TC 37 "Terminology and other language and content resources"
- ISO TC 172 "Optics and photonics"
- ISO/TC 184/SC 4 "Industrial data"
- ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 "Data management and interchange"
- UN/CEFACT TBG1 « Supply chain »

The Workshop liaises with the PEPPOL projectⁱⁱ.

9. Contact Points

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ⁱ The Business Plan was updated in 2009 and endorsed by CC3P participants at the CC3P meeting on 23 September 2009 and by ePPS participants electronically in September 2009

ⁱⁱ www.peppol.eu