



Press Release
2017-07-13

COPANT PREPARES THE PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEMBERS IN THE ISO/TC 207

COPANT WORKSHOP ON THE ISO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN HALIFAX, CANADA

As a parallel activity to the meetings of the ISO Technical Committee on Environmental Management ISO/TC 207 in Halifax, Canada, last June, COPANT organized a workshop on this committee for its members, held in the same city on June 11th.

To carry out this workshop we had the support of PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt), in the framework of the regional project on Quality Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Climate Change.

13 people representing of the following 11 countries attended the event: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, United States, Mexico and Uruguay.

The workshop was prepared and delivered by María Aurora Agulló, Senior Coordinator of the Management and Sustainability Department of IRAM, who has a great experience of participating in meetings of committee ISO/TC 207.

The **objectives** of the workshop were as follows:

- Improve participants' knowledge of the structure of ISO/TC 207 and their participation in ISO/TC 207 subcommittees and working groups through the creation of national mirror committees in their countries and strengthen the participation of stakeholders.
- Define standardization priorities, determine resource demands and allocations for participation in international processes, use regional cooperation to position themselves in international processes.
- Prepare the members of COPANT; especially those who are participating for the first time or do not participate regularly, for their participation in the Meeting of the ISO/TC 207.
- Face to face meeting of the COPANT Focal Group on ISO/TC 207.
- Harmonize approaches and positions of the COPANT members ISO/TC 207.

The Workshop **Program** included the following:

- Discuss with the COPANT NSB the Agenda of the ISO/TC 207 Meeting and comment on the mechanisms of the functioning of the Assembly and the working documents.
- Explanation on the operation and the documents analyzed in the subcommittees ISO/TC 207:
 - ISO/TC 207 / SC 1 Environmental management systems
 - ISO/TC 207 / SC 3 Environmental labeling
 - ISO/TC 207 / SC 7 Management of greenhouse gases and related activities
- Presentations by participants on the functioning of their National Mirror Committees



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Some background

COPANT previously conducted a survey among COPANT members on their participation in ISO/TC 207, the functioning of their national mirror committees and the involvement of stakeholders.

The results showed that only four members actively participate in the international standardization of ISO/TC 207 and 10 members participate as P members in ISO/TC 207. From the members who answered it was also possible to conclude the percentage of participation:

- Only 20% attend meetings
- 40% carry out document review
- 30% review and submit comments to documents
- 10% propose new working elements for standardization

Among the issues that hinder participation, it was mentioned that one of the main problems is the lack of resources, economic and human, since the number of documents to analyze is very large, which complicates getting local experts on such broad issues. Several organizations expressed the need for support tools to facilitate the work (e.g. IT, webinars, summaries of key issues).

Conclusions and recommendations

Participants suggested the following recommendations for future activities:

- Countries should better prioritize issues of interest to attend meetings because it is a very large committee and delegations, especially from developing countries, are small.
- Training activities should be continued (face-to-face or virtual)
- The COPANT Focal Group on ISO/TC 207 should be more active in analyzing and sharing positions of the documents being studied on this committee, using the tools already available in Collaboration Tools and WebEx.



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COPANT WORKSHOP ON ISO TC/207, JUNE 11TH, HALIFAX, CANADA



ISO/TC207
Plenary Meeting

