

## ELEVENTH COPANT STANDARDIZATION INTERNSHIP

### Held in Bogotá, Colombia - October 2019

The Eleventh COPANT Standardization Internship was held on October 28-31, 2019 in Bogotá, Colombia, organized by ICONTEC, the national standardization body (NSB) of Colombia and a member of COPANT.

This training was attended by 21 representatives of 16 NSBs from the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The main topics discussed during the training were as follows:

- Strategic Direction
- National Quality Subsystem
- National standardization strategy
- Standardization process
- Committee management
- Public consultation
- Adoption of normative documents
- Sectoral units
- Innovation in the regulatory process
- Sustainability of NSBs
- International standardization
- Innovation Workshop
- Incubator project
- Conformity assessment:
  - System and product certification
  - Inspection
- Sustainable development
- Metrology Laboratory
- Education
- Health Accreditation
- Planning and innovation
- Competence program - Role of the Standardization Manager.
- Cooperation and special projects - technological platforms for the dissemination of their content - Electronic Publications
- Marketing Management oriented to Standardization
- Monitoring, measurement and improvement of the standardization process



*Participants of the XI COPANT 2019 Standardization Internship*

In addition, National Standardization Bodies were invited, who shared some best practices in topics related to standardization in which they have a lot of experience:

- On behalf of Spain, the event was accompanied by Virginia Vidal, Director of Processes and Technology of UNE (Asociación Española de Normalización), who commented on Innovation in the standardization process and Sustainability of standardization bodies.
- From the UK, Sally Swingewood, Lead standards development Manager at BSI (British Standards Institute), made a presentation on International Standardization.
- And finally, from Australia, Roland Terry-Lloyd, Head of Standards Development Australia (SA), spoke about the Incubator Projects.

The main **conclusions** of the training were the following:

- The relevance and timeliness of standards have always been seen as the challenges of standards bodies, however, sustainability, new technologies and competition from private organizations have added to these challenges. This requires standards bodies to reinvent themselves or their sustainability may be at risk.
- Currently, none of the participating standards bodies is recognized in their country for such important topics as Information Technology. If NSBs are not aware of trends, they are not covering the market.
- NSBs may not have the expertise to work on trend issues, but alliances can be made with organizations with that expertise.
- Work with technical experts should be strengthened, this helps to increase the capacity of standardization bodies to participate in international standardization.
- Further work on stakeholder relations is required. The importance of belonging to technical, standards process and NSB committees should be identified and promoted. Stakeholders should recognize the value of standardization.
- The project management approach will contribute to an improved control of the standards process. Simple tools are required to assist project management.
- Standards bodies should generate spaces for innovation and testing, where ideas proposed by stakeholders to improve the standardization process/products/services can be put into practice and their impact assessed.
- Although technologies have been implemented, most standardization bodies have not noticed an increase in public consultation participation. This remains an element for revision.
- The WTO should be consulted on whether public consultation time can be reduced on certain types of standards.
- The spaces offered by COPANT should be used to work together and in international standardization, rationalizing resources. (For example, participation in the JTC1 committee).