COPANT AND UNE SPEARHEAD A REMARKABLE TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR THE PAN-AMERICAN REGION:

The Internship on International Standardization Engagement

The COPANT-UNE Online Internship, held from November 13 to 16, 2023, stands out as a successful milestone in optimizing participation in international standardization. Organized by COPANT (Pan American Standards Commission) and UNE (Spanish Association for Standardization), this event brought together 144 representatives from 25 countries, consolidating global commitment to standardization and continuous improvement.

During the internship, crucial topics were addressed to strengthen effective participation in the international environment. Participants shared their expectations and experiences, identifying priority areas of interest and proposing concrete solutions. Additionally, ISO strategies, the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and essential aspects of ISO/IEC rules were explored.

Tools for achieving effective participation were an integral part, highlighting best practices for virtual meetings, stakeholder engagement strategies, and practical cases applied in groups. Sensitization was deepened to raise awareness about the importance of standardization.

The event also highlighted how to get involved in key international issues, with discussions on mirror national committees, practical examples in groups, and the promotion of participation in specific ISO technical committees.

The final day focused on exploring opportunities to lead technical committees in ISO. The ISO action plan for developing countries was presented, along with strategies for proposing topics and leading projects and groups. Practical examples of leadership in projects and groups within ISO inspired participants, who identified crucial topics to elevate and lead in the ISO domain.
International participation in the training was notable, with representatives from 25 countries, including Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. This event has strengthened international collaboration in standardization and provided practical tools for more effective participation in global standardization processes.

About UNE
The Spanish Association for Standardization leads the promotion and development of technical standards in Spain. Recognized nationally, it collaborates closely with various stakeholders, including industries, government institutions, and society, to adopt standards that drive innovation, quality, and safety. With over 30,000 standards in areas ranging from technology to sustainability, UNE enhances competitiveness, interoperability, and sustainability at the national and international levels. Its commitment to technical excellence and harmonization contributes to an efficient and secure environment in the public and private sectors, supporting progress and the quality of life of society.

About COPANT:
The Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) is a regional standardization organization that promotes standardization and conformity assessment activities in the Americas. COPANT fosters cooperation among its member countries to develop and implement standards that enhance quality, safety, and efficiency, making life easier, safer, and better.

Note: You can access the recording of the training through this link.