



The newsletter of INNOVAFUN

Under the EUROPA INNOVA Standards Network



WFC endorses ISO 10303-236 as electronic standard for furniture sector

HOSTED by the Decorate Life Fair, the World Furniture Confederation held its committee meetings and General Assembly meeting in Frankfurt on July 4th.

On proposal of its directors' board, the members of the World Furniture Confederation chose Mr Jia Qwen, Mr Andy Counts, Mr Valentin Zverev and Mr Chan Huang Choi as vice presidents of the organisations during the meeting of its general assembly.

Mr Jia Qwen is president of the CNFA, the Chinese manufacturing organisation that is celebrating its 20 anniversary this year.

Mr Andy Counts is CEO of the AHFA, the American Home Furnishings Alliance.

Mr Valentin Zverev is president of Amedoro, the Russian furniture manufacturers' federation.

Mr Chang Huang Choi is

president of KFFIC, the Korean Furniture Manufacturers' organisation and also president of Capfa, the Confederation of Asia Pacific Furniture Associations.

Mr Mohsen Sellami, president of UTICA, the Tunisian Wood and Furniture federation was chosen as convener of the Technical and Environment Committee.

The general assembly also ratified the choice of Moscow as the venue of the third World Furniture Congress. The Congress will be organised by Amedoro and will take place on 10-11 November 2009.

The members of the general assembly also approved two new resolutions.

Resolution 3 of the WFC appeals to the national and transnational standards bodies to work on the harmonisation of a standard to measure the emissions

of formaldehyde from wood panels. Currently several European, American and Chinese standards are being used. This is seriously complicating the trade of furniture, specifically considering the various legislations on this subject that are being enacted all over the world.

Resolution 4 of the WFC endorses the international ISO standard 10303 - 236 as the electronic communications standard for the furniture sector. It suggests the use of this open standard in software used in the international furniture trade.

The members also discussed the illegal harvesting of timber and legislative efforts to reduce this such as the Lacey Act in the US which renders all imports of illegally cut wood and wood products a criminal act, and the similar EU initiative currently being discussed in the European Union.

INNOVAFUN at InnovaWood workshop organised by COSMOB

INNOVAFUN was present at the workshop organised by InnovaWood in Pesaro on 30 June/1 July.

The presentation, made by Ms María José Núñez, was entitled "Open Stan-

dards as a way for supporting innovative business relationships among furniture related SMEs".

The audience, all of them involved with organisations focused on RTD, education and training for

the wood-based and furniture sector, was impressed by the exposition made and showed a big interest in the funStep project.

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INNOVAFUN PROJECTS PARTNERS

AIDIMA Asociación de Investigación y Desarrollo en la Industria del Mueble y Afines (Spain)

UNINOVA Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Novas Tecnologias (Portugal)

DESIGNMARKET Design Market Europe AB (Sweden)

FEDERMobili Federmobili Società di Servizi SRL (Italy)

UEA Unión Européene de l'Ameublement (Belgium)

UHP University Henri Poincaré Nancy I (France)

FIRA International Ltd (United Kingdom)

FCVRE Fundación Comunidad Valenciana Región Europea (Spain)





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InnovaWood is an umbrella organisation that integrates four European networks in the forest, wood-based and furniture industries into a more effective mechanism to support innovation in these sectors. Through a

strategic approach and the creation of new ideas and partnerships, InnovaWood aims to help the development of greater cohesion amongst the providers of research, training & education, and knowledge transfer in the European forest

based industries sector.

InnovaWood has close to 70 members from 23 countries in Europe and beyond. Among these members are technology institutes and universities focused on wood and furniture.

ISO 10303-236 “funStep” Products and Services: Conformance Testing System



Figure 1 - Conformance testing to support SW development

THE funStep community has different software services that enable the easy adoption and use of funStep products. These software applications can be useful to the different stakeholders identified in the funStep community. The newsletter will be used as a window to show the different products and services INNOVAFUN offers.

The **Conformance Test System** intends to build industrial consensus on innovative standards-based solutions, validating implementations of ISO-STEP standards, eg the funStep™ standard, in new products and services for the different sectors.

Conformance Testing (CT)

will help many organisations to integrate and adopt the open standards.

Using this service, organisations could iteratively validate the progress of new software development according to the standard they are implementing. CT reports might save programmers significant time, avoiding the propagation of standard interpretation errors.

As support to legacy data systems development, companies can ensure the conformance of XML instance data with STEP standard conceptual models, thus improving interoperability within and among different industrial supply chains.

The CT system is also used to ensure a correct data exchange between companies (see Figure 2), guaranteeing that the data is in compliance with the STEP standards adopted. The data validation can be made on-the-fly, ie every time a sender/receiver exchanges data, or as a way to validate that software packages are able to process data compatible with the standard.

In the last case, the testing only occurs at software development and validation stages.

The CT System developed for XML data analyses data in two ways, both semantically and syntactically.

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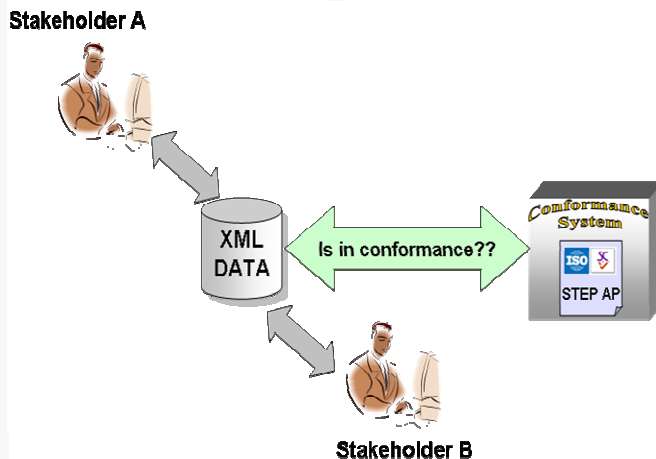


Figure 2 - Conformance testing on data exchange

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INNOVAFUN is supported by the European Comision under the Europe INNOVA initiative.



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It uses XSD models to check the XML data and extended schemas to ver-

ify the correctness of the instances. The CT system is available in multiple formats, eg web application, stand-alone applica-

tion, and through web-services, enhancing an easy and fast integration with existing software.

UK seminar to promote data exchange

FIRA is to host a free one day seminar on October 16th to promote standardised data exchange throughout the European furniture supply chain.

Manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, interior designers and specifiers all need to share information electronically, but to date there has been no widespread adoption of a common electronic data interchange (EDI) solution for the industry.

This seminar marks the

culmination of the European Commission funded Innovafun project, which has built support for the funStep standard 10303-236.

What will the day include?

- The importance of data exchange, and the restrictions caused by a lack of standardisation
- Data re-entry problems and other unnecessary work

- The development of funStep standard 10303-236 as an industry-wide solution

- How adoption of funStep can benefit your business

- Case studies from around Europe.

To register for the seminar and for more information, call Ms Catherine Boyd on 01438 777 784, cboyd@fira.co.uk or see FIRA's website www.fira.co.uk/training.

Europe INNOVA Conference. INNOVAFUN presents the "funStep" Handbook.

THE city of Lyon in France will be hosting the 2nd Europe INNOVA Conference from 22-24 October 2008.

The Conference is being organised in collaboration with [the French Presidency of the European Union](#).

The Europe INNOVA Conference will be mainly focused on accelerating innovation in Europe as well as on how to optimise knowledge transfer, strengthening industry's innovation capacity through strategic partnerships and supporting innovative entrepreneurs.

The conference will join the Europe INNOVA community and key innovation stakeholders from different arenas such as politics, aca-

demia and business, notably innovation agencies, universities and research institutions, technology transfer offices, business incubation and support services, financing intermediaries and cluster organisations to explore the most effective ways of accelerating and supporting innovation and to debate innovation policy priorities for Europe.

The INNOVAFUN standards network will present the funStep handbook to the Conference.

The handbook is a project deliverable which is entitled "Improving interoperability in furniture SME's using funStep standard-based solutions", and intends to be a guide of

who, what, when, where and how to implement and adopt the ISO 10303-236 standard.

The handbook includes references to some technical documents where readers can find more detailed information, together with details of the different contact points from whom more support is available if needed.

The handbook will be distributed in the Europe Innova Conference in Lyon.

Registration to the Conference and more information can be found at <http://www.europe-innova.org>.

NEXT EVENTS

UK INNOVAFUN SEMINAR. Stevenage, UK. 16 October. Info and registration at www.fira.co.uk and cboyd@fira.co.uk

Europe-INNOVA Conference. Lyon, France. 22-24 October. www.europe-innova.org

INNOVAFUN WORKSHOP. Brussels 20-21 November. More info www.funstep.org

