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National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

I.S. CWA 15249:2005

ICS 35.240.99

GUIDANCE INFORMATION FOR NAMING, VERSIONING, EVOLUTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF ELEMENT DECLARATIONS AND APPLICATION PROFILES

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CEN

WORKSHOP

AGREEMENT

CWA 15249

April 2005

ICS 35.240.99

English version

Guidance information for naming, versioning, evolution, and maintenance of element declarations and application profiles

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

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Foreword

The production of this CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) was formally accepted as part of the CEN/ISSS Workshop on Metadata for Multimedia Information - Dublin Core (WS/MMI-DC) in the Workshop's plenary meeting on 2004-01-18.

This CWA was agreed upon by the contributing partners in the CEN/ISSS Workshop on MMI-DC, representing a wide mix of interests, including administrations, libraries, on-line education and geographic information systems. The list of company individuals who have supported the document's contents may be obtained from the CEN/ISSS Secretariat.

The CWA was approved by the Workshop's plenary meeting on 2005-01-12.

The final text of this CWA was submitted to CEN for publication 2005-02-10.

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Introduction

The Internet was revolutionary because it made the resources of any connected server accessible via a single global address space. The vision of a future Semantic Web further generalizes this notion of a global space of addresses to that of a global space of identifiers. According to Tim Berners-Lee, "The most fundamental specification of Web architecture, while one of the simpler, is that of the Uniform Resource Identifier, or URI. The principle that anything, absolutely anything 'on the Web' should be identified distinctly by an otherwise opaque string of characters... is core" [BERNERS-LEE].

URIs can uniquely identity not just "information resources" – Web pages, scientific pre-prints, satellite photos, video clips, and the like – but also any metadata terms used to describe those resources. As compact character strings associated with known institutional domain authorities, URIs can stand alone as self-contained references to metadata terms. While relevant to all data technologies, they are usable most directly in Web-based description technologies such as XLink, Topic Maps, and RDF.

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) uses URIs to identify both the individual versions of terms and the Web pages documenting term sets, though these methods have not yet been documented in detail – hence the need for this CWA.

As such, this document acts as a description of emerging best practice and aims to offer this as example and guidance material for others who are faced with the same issues of naming, versioning, evolution and maintenance of metadata terms.

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