

Standard Recommendation S.R. CWA 16234-1:2010

European e-Competence Framework 2.0 -Part 1: A common European framework for ICT Professionals in all industry sectors

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AGREEMENT

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European e-Competence Framework 2.0 - Part 1: A common European framework for ICT Professionals in all industry sectors

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Foreword

The formal decision to start work on this CEN Workshop Agreement "e-Competence Framework in Action" was taken at the CEN ICT Skills Workshop meeting of December 2008 in Brussels.

The development of this CEN Workshop Agreement took place in the CEN ICT-Skills Workshop between April 2009 and June 2010. The draft CWA was made available for a 60 days commenting period and the final draft (part I, part I annex, part II and part III) was approved by CEN Workshop ICT Skills, including the following organisations:

Association Pasc@line

CEPIS - Council of European Professional Informatics Societies

CIGREF - Club informatique des grandes enterprises françaises

DEKRA Akademie

ECDL Foundation

EXIN

EUCIP Norge

EeSA – European eSkills Association

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IG Metall

IWA - International webmasters association - Italy

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NIOC – Nationaal Informatica Onderwijs Congres / Dutch Congress on IT Education

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Comments or suggestions from the users of the CEN Workshop Agreement are welcome and should be addressed to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre.

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Introduction

The European e-Competence Framework (**e-CF**) is a reference framework of ICT competences that can be used and understood by ICT user and supply companies, ICT practitioners, managers and HR departments, the public sector, educational and social partners across Europe.

The framework has been developed by a large number of European ICT and HR experts in the context of the CEN Workshop on ICT Skills. The workshop provides a discussion and working platform for both national and international representatives from the ICT industry, public and private vocational training organisations, social partners and other institutions. It aims to create long-term human resources (HR) and competence development solutions for the European Information and Communication Technology (ICT) community.

In 2005, further to the recommendations of the European e-Skills Forum, the ICT Skills workshop members agreed that national ICT framework stakeholders as well as European ICT industry representatives - both human resources and ICT experts – should consider developing a European e-Competence Framework. With the encouragement of the European Commission, ICT framework stakeholders, representatives from several European larger companies and an applied research foundation met for a kick-off early 2006 in order to put this intention into practice. During an intensive follow-up, they designed a programme for the work towards a European e-Competence Framework under the umbrella of the CEN/ISSS workshop on ICT Skills. These efforts were welcomed and recognised in the Communication of the European Commission on "e-Skills for the 21st Century: Fostering Competitiveness, Growth and Jobs" of September 2007 and the Competitiveness Council Conclusions of November 2007.

In order to achieve a European agreement and useful results at an international and national level, the Europe-wide involvement of further ICT sector players and stakeholders from business, politics and education has been crucial to the framework development philosophy and strategy. Whilst at the political level it was important to get the larger multistakeholder public of the European ICT sector engaged; at the expert working level focus was placed upon HR and IT management expertise from the European ICT industry.

The European e-Competence Framework version 1.0 was published in 2008 from the outcome of two-year e-Skills multistakeholder, ICT and human resources experts' work from multiple organisation levels (CWA 15893-1 and CWA 15893-2).

The European e-Competence Framework 2.0 and the user guidelines presented in this CWA build upon the e-CF version 1.0, and take into account the first e-CF application experience and feedback from ICT stakeholders across Europe.

In addition to competence description updates across the entire framework, four new competences have been added. Furthermore, dimension 4 has been fully populated: samples of knowledge and

skills relate to each e-Competence in dimension 2. These knowledge and skills samples are provided to add value and context and are not intended to be exhaustive.

However, care has been taken to ensure that existing users of version 1 are able to adopt version 2 without excessive effort. For instance no competences have been deleted and wording changes have been made to add clarity without changing the original meaning.

The European e-Competence Framework 2.0 presented here (CWA 16234-1), the user guidelines for e-CF 2.0 application (CWA 16234-2) and documentation describing the methodological grounding for the e-CF development (CWA 16234-3), are the outcome of the "European e-Competence Framework in action" project which took place from 2009 to 2010 in the European ICT multistakeholder context of the CEN Workshop ICT Skills.

European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) structure and look

The European e-Competence Framework is structured from four dimensions. These dimensions reflect different levels of business and human resource planning requirements in addition to job/ work proficiency guidelines and are specified as follows:

- <u>Dimension 1</u>: 5 e-Competence areas, derived from the ICT business processes PLAN – BUILD – RUN – ENABLE – MANAGE
- <u>Dimension 2</u>: A set of reference e-Competences for each area, with a generic description for each competence.
 36 competences identified in total provide the European generic reference

definitions of the e-CF 2.0.

- <u>Dimension 3</u>: Proficiency levels of each e-Competence provide European reference level specifications on e-Competence levels e-1
 to e-5. which are related to the EQF levels 3 to 8.
- <u>Dimension 4</u>: Samples of **knowledge and skills** relate to e-Competences in dimension 2.
 They are provided to add value and context and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Whilst competence definitions are explicitly assigned to dimension 2 and 3 and knowledge and skills samples appear in dimension 4 of the framework, attitude is embedded in all three dimensions.

e-CF user guidelines, methodology documentation and e-CF profiling tool online



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