Global Research, Education and Innovation in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit

Developing usable standards

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The aim of TC-173 is to include all aspects within standardisation in the area assistive technology. New countries from developing countries are invited to update current standards and to work on new work items. A cooperation between WHO and ISO has been established to cover WHO’s Priority Assistive Products List (APL) of the 25 most important products.

Your research, education or innovation snapshot

TC-173 is the technical committee within ISO dealing with assistive products and services. The TC consists of a variety of sub committees and working groups within the area and new groups are started as there is a need for one or as the research and innovation areas asks for it.

The research shows that there is a need for Minimum Requirements for certification, like Europe. One way of doing it is by annexes with different (and cheaper) test methods including requirements, taking conditions in developing countries into consideration. Another way is to change existing standards so that they include cheaper and more time efficient test methods, and add requirements so that they meet all kind of conditions.

Implications for Products, Provision, Personnel or Policy?

Although APL covers some product standards that are dealt with in other ISO committees the majority is within TC-173 that also might serve as a hub for developing standards regarding assistive products and services for developing countries.

One important aspect is to have the Terminology in line with WHO, regarding Assistive products (including the approach of removing the term persons with disabilities), including the work within ISO TC 173 SC 2 WG 12 Classification and terminology (ISO 9999).

There are ongoing negotiations/agreements between ISO and WHO for making standards in this area available, for example making ISO 9999 part of the WHO family of classifications.

Provision

TC-173 consist of many different groups with different skills within AT. By adding the competence from developing countries and people working within this area the knowledge to write standards will increase and the use of them will be more worldwide.

Personnel

It is important to have the knowledge of the need for developing countries to be added with the competence already existing within TC-173. Initiatives and expert participation are welcome.

Policy

The project to develop standards that can be used worldwide was initiated by WHO and TC-173 as a project to cover the list of the 25 priority products needed.

Implications for other aspects of the Global Research Agenda

It is important that the research and the innovations will be taken care of in a correct way. By having a cooperation between standardisation and the research within AT, new and existing standards will be able to include test methods and requirements that are in line with proven research. TC-173 is already doing this by including the researchers, end-users, manufacturers and other competences. To be able to get the correct information, the cooperation from developing countries and those researchers working within this area need to be intensified.

Strategies to share and build global capacity based on this work

TC-173 welcome all interested developing countries and researchers working within the area to discuss and include their knowledge into future work. The work within TC-173 will be open to all interested partners who would like to attend.

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