

## « When civil society joins technical diplomacy: prospects and limits of participation in international standardization »

Interdisciplinary Workshop

19<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Anthropos Café, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

This workshop is organised by *INTERNORM*, *interactive knowledge centre in international standardisation*, a pilot project supported by the University of Lausanne. The project is part of a research programme of the University of Lausanne called "Living together under uncertainty" (Vivre ensemble dans l'incertain) set to reinforce the relationship between academic knowledge and civil society. *INTERNORM* explores and supports the involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in international standard setting bodies such as the ISO. Its objective is both to study and to respond to the democratic deficit attested in the field of international standardisation, formally open to civil society participation, but still largely dominated by expert knowledge and market players. The workshop will be held on **19<sup>th</sup> of March 2013** at the University of Lausanne. It is linked to a public conference taking place the day before, where civil society organisations, public officials, members of the academic community and standardization professionals will discuss the paths for an increased inclusion of societal demands within standardization.

The aim of this interdisciplinary workshop is to bring together a group of scholars whose disciplinary environment often gets in the way of reflecting upon shared issues related to the participatory dynamics shaping international standardization. The formal and informal transfers of authority to standard-setting organisations and the increased use of international standards for regulatory purposes call for a better understanding of the place and role of CSOs in standardization arenas. The workshop will pay particular attention to the practices of major consumers' associations, environmental NGOs, and trade unions. The relevance of CSOs' involvement in standardization relates, among others, to the legitimacy and credibility that it potentially brings to standard-setting arenas and to the procedural settings that channel participation in transnational regulations. It also pertains to the ability of CSOs to co-produce the knowledge embodied in the technical specifications for products and emerging technologies, as for instance in the case of nanotechnologies. More specifically, the workshop will address the following questions:

- How to analyse the normative, cognitive and instrumental dimensions of participation in transnational regulation?
- What are (and could be) the distinct arrangements put into place to sustain the participatory dimension of international standardization? What are their effects? How do they affect the credibility of standards or the ability of CSOs to shape standard-writing activities?
- What are the barriers and incentives for participation? How do CSOs cope with the "technical expertise" that is characterizing standardization processes?
- How are stakeholders defined and categorized?
- How setting standards can mobilize civil society organizations and, inversely, how their own experience can be recognized and taken into account in standardization arenas?

The workshop will provide ample opportunities for general and informal exchanges and discussions in order to promote fruitful exploration of participatory dynamics shaping transnational regulation and international standards.

A dozen of scholars from various backgrounds (international relations/international political economy, science and technology studies, organizational studies, law, etc.) are invited to contribute to the workshop.

Speakers are expected to provide in advance a **written communication**, which will be forwarded to all participants. The papers are intended to form the basis for a future publication as a special issue of an international scholarly journal. Early contacts have already been made in that sense.

All travel (economy) and accommodation costs will be covered by the University of Lausanne.

Organisers: INTERNORM steering committee ([www.unil.ch/vei/internorm](http://www.unil.ch/vei/internorm))

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## **Preliminary program**

09:00 - 09:15 Welcome  
Jean-Christophe GRAZ, University of Lausanne, CH

### **Panel 1: Institutions, standardization and participation**

09:15 - 09:30 "Framing markets for emerging science and technology based products"  
Aurélié DELEMARLE, ESIEE Paris, FR

09:30 - 09:45 "Transnational standard-setting: Framing and mobilizing across borders"  
Sigrid QUACK, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Köln, DE

09:45 - 10:15 Discussion  
Moderation by Jean-Christophe GRAZ, University of Lausanne, CH

10:15 - 10:45 *Coffee Break*

### **Panel 2: Standardization practices and participation**

10:45 - 11:00 "Transnational participation in sustainability standard-setting: the cases of palm oil and soy"  
Eve FOUILLEUX, Montpellier 1 University, FR

11:00 - 11:15 "Standardising Social Responsibility. Analysing ISO representation issues from an SME perspective"  
Tineke EGYEDI, Delft University of Technology, NL

11:15 - 11:30 "International Standardisation and Participatory Dynamics: The INTERNORM Project"  
Christophe HAUERT, University of Lausanne, CH

11:30 - 12:15 Discussion  
Moderation by Dominique VINCK, University of Lausanne, CH

12:15 - 13:45 *Lunch*

### **Panel 3: Nanotechnologies, international standards and participation**

13:45 - 14:00 "Conceptualization of the legitimacy of transnational technology regulation: First empirical insights from nanotechnology standardization"  
Evisa KICA, University of Twente, NL

14:00 - 14:15 "Managing standards for nanotechnologies: insights from a technical committee convenor"  
Geoffrey HUNT, St Mary's University College, UK

14:15 - 14:30 "Standardizing Responsibility"  
Fern WICKSON, GenØk Centre for Biosafety, NO

14:30 - 15:00 *Coffee Break*

15:00 - 15:45 Discussion  
Moderation by Marc AUDETAT, University of Lausanne, CH

15:45 - 16:00 Conclusions and next steps  
Jean-Christophe GRAZ, University of Lausanne, CH