Annual Report

2013

ENTE ITALIANO DI NORMAZIONE
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In writing this letter, I couldn’t help going back in time and measuring my own journey against my recollections of these years spent within the UNI System (or should I say “family”?). I have come to know the Organisation’s rhythms, commitments, concerns, disappointments, farewells, worries, transformations, and successes, but above all, I have come to know its people: people whom I should like to thank, because they have succeeded – by virtue of hard work, commitment and professionalism – in giving the Organisation increasing importance and increasing legitimacy, in this weary, uninspired and unhappy Italy.

UNI does not live in its own happy bubble, however. The palpable difficulties it faces, combined with the inconsistency and inconclusiveness of the political and institutional world, are increasingly forcing the Organisation to act in a quasi-surrogate capacity, to fill the vacuum of representation left by the most profound crisis of legitimacy known to modern history.

The difficulties faced by politicians, the institutions and the state in meeting the country’s expectations are summed up clearly in Senator Ichino’s comments about a draft law under discussion in parliament: “...the text is literally unreadable even for us, the legislators tasked with debating it, and this poses a highly significant political problem: if only a handful of high-priests of the holy mysteries are capable of understanding the text, it means that legislative power is exercised by parties who are unaccountable to the nation for their decisions”.

This uncertain backdrop has brought about a considerable increase in the importance of UNI’s role as a civil instrument at the service of the nation’s interests, competitiveness and development (in a manner reminiscent of the ideas of Giacomo Elias, a Chairman who marked the history of the Organisation) and increasingly, its equilibrium and social harmony. Some people call this role “community state”, others call it “counter-environment”, “smart regulation” or “soft law”, but there is an increasing need for it as vehicle of socialisation, innovation, regeneration of sentiments, cooperation and “gratuity”, for building communicating communities, and sharing balance, fairness, simplicity and sobriety in social choices and processes.
A number of events in recent years confirm the role and potential of the above: EU Regulation 1025/2012 on voluntary technical standardisation reiterated and consolidated the role of standardisation as a tool for supporting and complementing legislation. Italian law 4/2013 concerning unregulated professions gave UNI the task of defining the “knowledge, abilities and skills” of the 150 or so unregulated professions (in which some 3 million people work) in order to meet the needs of qualification, recognition and assurance.

The stance of the regulated technical professions, which asked the Government to make more incisive use of UNI standards to make up for the weaknesses and critical defects with which legislation meets the needs of the market and society: “...technical standards can bring efficiency and innovation to the system as an antidote to the lengthy processes and often the unreliability of a stifling bureaucracy sometimes lacking in the necessary skills”, marks a possible consolidation in Italy of the principle of the new approach.

The continuing economic crisis is forcing people to adjust their life-styles: consumption is being reduced and modified, we are becoming more selective in assessing our needs, habits and aspirations; and standardisation has a role to play in this area too!

Standardisation helps us understand the characteristics of goods and services, and learn the importance of knowledge in our choices; it raises awareness and hence also our bargaining power, provides a better guarantee of professionalism and, above all, provides stronger safeguards for users. Standardisation is thus a preventive platform of shared rules on which to apply practical models of collaboration between suppliers and users of goods and services (without exception, as demonstrated by the “Prassi di Riferimento” on the organisation and quality of services provided by the Public Administration). For this reason, UNI’s work has increasing potential to represent an instrument of “open democracy”, a system for managing relationships of cooperation and collaboration, and a “counter-environment” without hegemony, serving as an alternative to and substitute for corporatism and interest-group lobbying. By disclosing knowledge, rebalancing positions, reconciling interests and turning shared assets to account, standardisation represents a great opportunity. It’s up to us to recognise that and put it to practical use, including as a support for legislative decision-making.

In drawing up and implementing UNI 2011-2013 Policies we have made efforts to anticipate, interpret and apply the above principles, on the basis of the guidelines established in EU Regulation 1025/2012, which find expression in the formal extension of European standardisation to the services sector. In Italy, this is vigorously represented by the work done by the liberal professions, by the increased access of SMEs, micro-businesses, consumers and workers to the forums and content of technical standardisation, by the identification of new forms of specifications of practices in use on the market, especially in the most innovative sectors, which until now have been channelled through consortia of parties outside the world of consensual, transparent self-regulation.

Within the framework of major strategic and operational initiatives, the Organisation has taken steps to enhance its image, in relation to the values represented by technical standardisation, and to raise its profile at grassroots level. The new membership policy approved in 2013 is the outcome of a process involving all the economic and social members operating at a national level, with strong local roots and international perspectives alike. In conjunction with the business world – which has always been a firm supporter of standardisation – these members are bringing to fruition the concept of voluntary participation and consensual decision-making. Small and medium enterprises, professional
associations, providers of unregulated services, local administrations, consumers, union representatives and the third sector are all parties with which UNI has stepped up its dialogue by opening new channels of collaboration and encouraging the mutual exchange of views, experience and opportunities.

In addition to complete implementation of the “Prassi di Riferimento” – with the publication of the first titles in the fields of tourism, services, construction-site safety, critical infrastructures and quality of Public Administration – the past year has seen the realisation of a series of initiatives in support of the Organisation’s Policy Lines, with particular reference to areas with a high degree of transverse content, such as social responsibility, public safety and financial education. Such standardisation, in other words, has focused less on specific aspects of business sectors and more on horizontal issues affecting society and its evolution.

The latest-generation communication channels have been instrumental in making contact with a new public. With its new website, backed up by initiatives on Twitter and YouTube, UNI has reached target audiences that were previously extraneous to the world of standardisation, thereby arousing interest and curiosity and opening up new opportunities for dialogue. Coverage of UNI initiatives in leading news publications, which are paying increasing attention to the world of voluntary regulation, culminating in front-page articles in the national daily press, give an idea of society’s attention to UNI’s contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the national system.

Piero Torretta
Chairman
In presenting the draft budget to the Members’ Meeting held on 28 April 2013, emphasis was given – in relation to the funding deriving from Law 46/90 and accruing to 2012 but not yet disbursed – to the fact that: “...the uncertainty of recent government policy and the complete failure of a new government to emerge from the general election, does not give grounds for optimism and warrants close attention in order to avoid irreparable damage to the entire standards system”.

The presentation concluded that: “...we are reassured, however, by the support shown by key Members, who have provided practical assistance in raising awareness of the issue with the Minister, the Under-Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development. Although this has not led to full disbursement of the amounts due, the Ministry has at least acknowledged the essential role played by national technical standardisation in the development of Italy’s economic system.”

The positive results of the awareness-raising campaign emerged with funding tranche 46/90 of 2013, which was issued in full by the Ministry of Economic Development, but attracted a 12% cut by the Ministry of Economy and Finance at the payment stage as a result of yet another desperate spending review involving unjustified horizontal cuts.

It is also regrettable to note that an expert European Commissioner, who had repeatedly and comprehensively urged the political establishment not to neglect the importance of technical standardisation and its benefits for the economic system, once in office as head of government, ignored the concerns of the Chairmen of UNI and CEI and allowed a cut of over 60% of the funding assigned by law to standardisation bodies in 2012.

The overall situation is summed up in the definitive financial statements for 2013 which, without re-stating credit entries that have since become entirely unfounded, show a deficit of approximately 3 million euros, chiefly attributable to non-payment of the two funding tranches in question.

Thanks to shrewd management policy and the provisions set aside over the past decade, UNI’s
overall capital position remains positive, but will certainly require careful monitoring, as it is now significantly less flexible than it was two years ago.

The entry into force of European Regulation 1025/2012 necessitated a series of administrative updates, which were promptly put in place. Having acquired the communication from the European Commission, which, in relation to the European standardisation bodies CEN-CENELEC-ETSI, indicates UNI and CEI as the Italian standardisation bodies, and having drawn up a specific UNI-CEI-ISCT agreement defining the national procedures for interfacing with ETSI for EN standardisation purposes, steps were immediately taken to address the issues of facilitated access to standardisation for the so-called “disadvantaged categories”, compliance with the operating rules established for standardisation bodies, cross-checks on the respective functions, publication and updating of the annual standardisation programme, and so on.

Using the membership policy management procedures of CEI and other European national standardisation bodies as a reference, a new membership policy was drawn up and checked in advance with the main stakeholders, some of which were not yet members, to fine-tune its details. To enable the policy to come into force on 1 January 2014, with the necessary prior information campaigns, the entire project was submitted to the Board of Directors – which has statutory responsibility for it – on 25 June 2013. The proposed changes elicited a positive response from the Board, which unanimously authorised their implementation, and instructed management to monitor developments on an ongoing basis, so as to allow improvements to be made where applicable.

With effect from 2014, UNI will have 9 forms of membership, divided by category. With the first changes introduced under the European Regulation, associate membership will be split into 2 categories (standard and with access to additional services), and full membership will be split into 3 categories (concessionary, standard and special) according to the European classification criteria for micro and small enterprises, medium enterprises, and large and multinational enterprises. The update also sees the introduction of 3 new full membership categories for associations, federations and confederations representing enterprises and professionals, with 10 quotas [representative membership], 20 quotas [supporter membership] and 50 quotas [sponsor membership] respectively, in addition to the statutory “major member” entitled to 200 quotas annually.

Together with the new configuration, the services available to the various categories of association have been diversified, and a variable-value discount bonus has been introduced, which can be spent on subscriptions to offset the historic and counter-productive discount of 50%, which now stands at the more realistic level of 15%, in order not to penalise customers unduly on the basis of list price.

Distribution policy, which already saw changes in the Spring with the protection of standards available for download and the removal of unprotectable CDs and DVDs from the catalogue, has developed further with the replacement of subscriptions authorising access to downloads from the entire catalogue or from rigid sub-sectors thereof, with subscriptions offering consultation rights only, not just from PCs, but also from tablets and other mobile devices, with the possibility of downloading standards at a single fixed price reserved for members.

To facilitate users, the complete catalogue [some 20,000 standards] has been divided into over 400 sub-sections corresponding to the different technical bodies of UNI [by individual work groups, grouped into committees and/or sub-committees]. The price list is simple: a subscription to a group of standards with a list-value of 1,000 euros is offered at 100 euros for an annual subscription, with the right to download any standard covered by the subscription for 30 euros, for the full duration of the subscription.

All of these initiatives are in line with or ahead of those envisaged at European and international level, which have been formally analysed and approved by the governance of ISO and CEN. With regard to combating breach of copyright in relation to standards, the specialised body appointed by ISO on a trial basis, to act on behalf of ISO itself and all its member standardisation bodies, including UNI, has achieved significant results. In the first 10 months, no fewer than 250,000 unauthorised postings of standards were removed, 60 websites engaged in the illegal sale of standards were shut down, and a string of agreements have been signed and implemented with several of the highest-risk countries, aimed at blocking transactions on electronic payment systems.

We are now dealing with the problem of transposal of technical standards into national
legislation and their consequent availability to users free of charge, with a view to finding a way of preventing the standards organisations from suffering economic losses as a result. The United States Congress has introduced an innovative solution to the problem in its relations with ANSI/ISO, the results of which are currently under examination.

All initiatives relating to both membership and commercial policy are backed up by the complete upgrading of the information systems, which was launched in Spring 2013 and is due for completion by the end of 2014. Improvements to e-commerce, a new business administration system, the replacement of UNIONE with the ISOlution system, disaster recovery, a new website, a new firewall and antispam package, a new email system, regular new supplies of PCs and so on, are all making their contribution to the goal of general improvements in functionality and substantial annual savings compared with current total expenditure.

2013 saw the publication of the first 5 “Prassi di Riferimento”, which can be downloaded free of charge from the UNI website, with a further 8 in progress and due for publication in 2014. The number of viewings and presentation events have confirmed the success of the initiative and the attention paid to it by a target audience consisting primarily of non-members making their first contact with UNI thanks to this new opportunity.

In response to requests from many members, no fewer than 556 standards (amounting for 46.8% of all EN and ISO standards adopted) were translated into Italian and published in 2013. 103 Italian standards were issued and a total of 1,876 standards saw publication. A target of 50% of standards translated into Italian has been set for 2014. This will make life easier for users and facilitate protection of the Organisation’s copyright. In the absence of public or EU aid, all consequent costs were charged directly to ordinary operations.

On the European and international front, UNI has been elected to the ISO Council for the 2014-2016 term, the new formation of the Administrative Board of CEN has been finalised - it now has just 13 members, 4 of which are permanent (AFNOR, BSI, DIN and UNI) with the remaining 9 elected on a rotating basis between two groups - and preparations are under way for the peer assessment mentioned earlier.

To ensure that national standardisation bodies apply the new European Regulation and CEN directives and procedures correctly, CEN has set up a pool of 15 inspectors, one of whom is Italian. Once it has established the necessary guidelines, this inspectorate will conduct audits of all standards institutes, and is empowered to highlight non-conformities and propose improvements where appropriate, along the lines of normal management system audits.

With a view to checking and fine-tuning the UNI System, a series of preliminary analyses were made in 2013, which brought to light the system’s strengths and areas for improvement. Improvement action was taken, in conjunction with the Federated Bodies, in preparation for an internal self-assessment, prior to the external audit scheduled for the second half of 2014. UNI was strongly in favour of this auditing initiative, partly because the European situation now involves 34 countries, some of which are from outside the EU and EFTA. UNI urged the CEN’s Administrative Board to make this decision, supported its organisation and, in view of its awareness of the importance of checking its overall results, asked to be one of the first Organisations to be audited. And that is what will happen!

Alessandro Santoro
General Director
In the course of 2013 – as required by EU Regulation 1025/2012, which forms the legal basis of all European standardisation – UNI prepared the National Standardisation Programme, which was published on its website. This programme sets out the basic details (title, aim and scope in Italian and English) of all national standards projects under development at UNI and its Federated Bodies, arranged according to the technical body responsible for each. The document is updated every three months so as to ensure the constant availability of an up-to-date overview of the work being done.

With the completion of the reorganisation of the technical bodies making up the UNI system, the secretariats of the technical committees responsible for “Welding” (previously managed by the Italian Welding Institute), “Rail transport” (previously managed by UNIFER) and “Aerospace and defence” (previously managed by UNAVIA) have come under the management of UNI.

In the course of 2013, CEN’s Technical Board completed its plans for reviewing European technical standardisation initiatives set out in the “BT Action Plan 2010-2013”, in line with the major changes taking place at a European and worldwide level, starting with the process of reform of the world of standardisation, which received a significant boost from the recent publication of EU Regulation 1025/2012. Over the next ten years, standardisation will retain a key role in extensive fields and sectors, such as European competitiveness, consumer protection, improved access systems for differently-abled people and people with special needs, and effective solutions for combating climate change. It is now clear that CEN standardisation must become more flexible, must fully embrace the needs of the outside world, must be inclusive and efficient, and above all must keep pace with the latest technical developments at all times. The main initiatives that BT has in progress are:

- linking innovation with standardisation,
- focusing on newly identified fields of standardisation (e.g. services),
- strengthening relations with the European Union and EFTA with a view to promoting and consolidating the role of the European standardisation system, in light of the publication of EU Regulation 1025/2012,
- further improving links with the European agencies,
improving standardisation in ICT and communication with “fora & consortia”, partly through the publication of the new CEN-CENELEC Guide “Adoption of third-party specifications as European Standardization Publications”,

stepping up collaboration with ISO and implementing a policy for enhancing the standing of European standardisation worldwide, through the “BT Action Plan 2014-2016”.

CEN/BT has also approved – in conjunction with ISO/TMB – the revision of its guide to implementing the Vienna Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN, which will come into effect in 2014. Also within the framework of synergies with ISO standardisation, CEN/BT has set up a strategic group tasked with developing the future “Action Plan 2014-2016”, aimed at identifying and implementing a comprehensive range of initiatives designed to increase European participation in the work of worldwide standardisation, increase influence in the technical work of ISO and to transfer European standardisation work and CEN standards to an international context. BT has included UNI in the group that has already implemented this strategy in recent years, with proposals for establishing, for example, ISO/TC 270 “Plastic and rubber machines” and ISO/TC 280 “Management consultancy”.

CEN/BT has also completed the work of the CEN/CENELEC special group designated “Market relevance”, the aim of which is to develop a methodology for assessing the market relevance of proposals for new standardisation work, including in relation to the needs of small and medium enterprises. The results have led to the adoption of the new forms for use by national standardisation bodies for presenting studies of new standards at CEN level, or for creating new European technical committees, on the basis of selection criteria designed to be more effective and more closely matched to the real needs of the market, and to identify correctly the parties to involve.

In 2013, UNI followed the various works of the steering and coordination groups within CEN/BT in relation to:

- the environment, under the CEN “Strategic Advisory Board for Environment SABE”;
- the construction industry, under the CEN/CSN “Construction Sector Network and Core Group”; and
- occupational health and safety, under the “CEN Advisory Group on Occupational Health and Safety OH&S”;

- healthcare, under the “CEN Advisory Board for Healthcare ABHS”;
- the service industry, under CEN BT WG 163 “Strategic Advisory Group on Services” and subsequently under the “Sector forum SAOS”;
- accessibility for all, under the “SAGA Strategic Advisory Board on Accessibility”;
- information technology, under CEN/CLC WG 6 “Information Technology standardization policy”;
- the textile industry, under CEN-CLC BT WG 8 “Protective textiles and personal protective clothing and equipment”;
- smart and sustainable cities, under the CEN-CLC “Smart and sustainable cities and communities coordination group”;
- smart grids, under the CEN-CLC-ETSI “Smart Grid Coordination Group”;
- ecodesign and energy-efficiency, under the CEN-CLC “Coordination group on Ecodesign”.

Lastly, at an organisational level, the CEN/BT made it obligatory to use the Livelink web platform for managing technical bodies. At UNI level, all the CEN TCs with Italian secretariat are operational on the system, and we have completed work on the regularisation of the working groups.

With regard to UNI’s presence on TCs and SCs at CEN level, 130 Italian delegations were appointed in 2013, and 300 Italian delegates took part in the respective meetings. At worldwide level, meanwhile, UNI appointed 90 delegations to ISO, thus involving a total of 194 accredited delegates in various ISO/TC and SC meetings.

With regard to international relations, last September the Organisation played host to a delegation of managers and directors from the regional departments of the SAC, the standardisation body of the Peoples Republic of China. The aim of the meeting was to present and discuss the technical and operational aspects of the standardisation work carried out in Italy, including: standards development processes; the

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<td>UNI</td>
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role and integration of UNI within CEN and ISO; the relationship between “private standards” and UNI standards, and between technical standards and binding legislation; and the role of technical standardisation in the light of the new philosophy underpinning the European system of CE marking of products.

Spotlight on...

Below is a summary of the main standards-related subjects covered in 2013 within the framework of national, European and international technical management (with particular reference to the supranational bodies managed by the UNI).

Unregulated professional services

At the beginning of the year we published the first standards on unregulated professional practitioners since the publication of Law 4/2013 “Provisions covering non-organised professions”, with particular reference to naturopathy professionals (UNI 11491), communication professionals (UNI 11483), motor science professionals (UNI 11475), photographers (UNI 11476) and extrajudicial counsellors for compensation for damage (UNI 11477). December saw the publication of UNI 11511 “Non-regulated professions. Tax consultant.

Knowledge, skill and competence requirements.” Other projects regarding translators/interpreters and clinical monitors are also nearing completion, and the pre-standards phase (i.e. the preliminary fact-finding phase that culminates in a preliminary public inquiry) was successfully completed for yoga teachers, thereby adding to the work already done on controllers and professional physicists (for which working groups have already been set up).

Management consultancy

UNI proposed the formation of worldwide technical committee ISO/PC 280 “Management consultancy”. The proposal was accepted, and covers an area of particular relevance to current developments, which has already been tackled at European level, where UNI managed the secretariat of the CEN committee that published EN 16114. For the first time at ISO, a standardisation study will be conducted with a view to comparing the different technicalities involved in management consultancy in various countries with those defined at a European level and consolidated in EN 16114.
Information security management systems

ISO has finally published the new edition of ISO/IEC 27001 and 27002 covering the management of information security. The contents are aligned with the evolution of management systems, and the first covers the new high level structure, while the second covers the progress of tools and techniques available to the market. In both cases, the work benefits from 8 years of experience in applying the previous edition of the standards in Italy and the rest of the world, thanks to the constant participation of committee SC 27 UNINFO, which is now engaged in the translation of the standard.

Services

In the field of financial education – to complement the work done to date on services to individuals – as of September, technical specification UNI TS 11503 will be available, which provides instructions on applying and verifying UNI 11402 (Financial education of citizens - Service requirements) with particular reference to the requirements to be fulfilled by parties who provide various forms of financial education services. The “Services” committee has also set up GL17 “Socio-healthcare and social services”, which relates primarily to the updating of existing standards in line with current requirements. Lastly, it has started work on studies of various proposed standards for the unregulated professions, with particular reference to insurance assessors and multi-household building managers (update of UNI 10801).

Rail transport

The first meeting of 2013 established the basis for reorganising the work, reviewing structure and staffing, distributing documents and voting by means of the UNIONE system. At a European level, the railway standards system is connected with CEN/TC 256 “Railway application”, which comprises no fewer than 50 working groups, and CEN/TC 242 for cableways and chairlifts. At a national level, meanwhile, various national standards are in production in relation to rolling stock for urban and suburban transport (tramways, underground railways, light railways).

Revision of ISO 9001

The process of revision of the two main quality management standards (ISO 9000 on fundamentals and vocabulary; ISO 9001 on Quality Management System requirements) is now under way: last September, UNI’s “Quality management and statistical methods” committee expressed a negative opinion on both of the committee drafts (CDs), along with another 10 countries, including Germany, Japan and the United States. Although we appreciate the efforts made to simplify the document, the technical maturity of the CDs was still not adequate to proceed to the draft international standard (DIS) phase. The drafts introduce three new macro-requirements (regarding the organisation’s context, stakeholders and risk) which did not

The results of November’s plenary meeting were positive as a whole, and the majority of objections raised by Italy were taken into consideration. The first objective was to prevent work starting immediately on the formulation of draft international standard ISO 9001 without first resolving some of the structural shortcomings of the committee draft. The main critical areas that we identified can be summarised as congruity, completeness, terminological uniformity and innovative content, all of which are now being resolved.

Nicola Gigante
Sole Director of TQ-Service S.r.l.
Head of UNI’s delegation to committee ISO/TC 176
appear to be sufficiently connected to the aim and scope of the standard, both of which remained unchanged (product conformity and customer satisfaction). Over 80 proposed improvements were submitted, and were discussed at the ISO technical committee meeting in November.

**Conformity assessment**

Now that the transition from EN 45000 series to EN ISO/IEC 17000 series is complete, the start of 2013 saw the addition of two further cornerstones to the corpus of standards. The first of these is UNI CEI ISO/IEC TS 17021-2, the first in a series of technical specifications designed to supplement UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17021 (general section), regarding the competence requirements for auditing and the certification of specific management systems. The TS in question specifies the competencies required of all personnel involved in the process of certification of environmental management systems, starting, of course, from the individual auditors. Recent publications also include UNI CEI ISO/IEC TS 17022, which also complements UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17021, and establishes additional requirements and recommendations regarding the content of third-party audit reports on management systems. This document also serves as an aid to the effectiveness and transparency of management system auditing and certification processes.

**Welding**

November 2013 saw the publication (in English - translation into Italian was in progress at the time of going to press) of UNI EN ISO 9606-1 “Qualification testing of welders. Fusion welding. Part 1: Steels”. This standard specifies the requirements for qualification testing of welders and lays down a set of technical rules for systematic qualification testing, so that qualifications thus obtained are uniformly accepted, irrespective of product type, place, examiner or examining body. The standard covers manual and semi-automatic fusion welding processes, and not automatic or totally mechanised processes. The standard backs up UNI EN 287-1 on the same subject, which remains in force until October 2015 because it is a harmonised standard for the purposes of Pressure Equipment Directive 23/1997.

**Innovation in building**

In response to a proposal to CEN regarding a new standardisation initiative on BIM “Building Information Modelling”, CEN/BT/WG 215 was formed under decision BTC 125/2013, and will hold its first meeting in April 2014. The UNI working group on the codification of construction products and processes in the building industry will act as a national interface for the above CEN technical body, and the Italian experts will be appointed shortly.

When NIST study (USA) was applied to the Italian system, it emerged that 500 million euros go up in smoke every year in the construction industry as a result of additional costs caused by inefficiencies in the information flow. 2/3 of the time that goes into producing a public work is dedicated to bureaucratic and design aspects, while just 1/3 is dedicated to actual realisation, and yet – according to the Authority for Public Works – the Public Administration loses 99% of arbitration cases, at a cost to the treasury of some 425 million euros. BIM&M, meaning “Building Information Modelling” and more particularly “Management”, may now prove to be the only truly efficient and effective response for contracting authorities, investors, designers and contractors (on a mandatory basis if operating outside Italy). Thanks to UNI 11337 and its technical specifications and – above all – to the “INNOVance Project”, Italy will be able to play an active role in this process revolution, which is culture-driven even more than technology-driven.

Alberto Pavan
Milan Polytechnic, Scientific Director INNOVance – BAEC Coordinator of the UNI “Product and process codification” committee
Construction materials

Most of the work done in recent months has been on the drafting of projects U96000290 “Alkali-aggregate reaction in concrete. Determination of the potential alkali-reactivity of the aggregate for concrete. Petrographic examination to detect potentially alkali-reactive phases of the aggregate”, and U96000300 “Alkali-aggregate reaction in concrete. Determination of the potential alkali-reactivity of the aggregate for concrete. Test of accelerated expansion of mortar bars” (already published as UNI 11504). Lastly, a radical revision has been made of the standardisation framework covering the main basic materials following the publication of a long series of standards on test methods for cements (UNI EN 196 series), concretes (UNI EN 206-9, UNI EN 12390 series, UNI EN 12350 series) and their additives (UNI EN 480 series, UNI EN 934 series), aggregates (UNI EN 1097 series, UNI EN 933 series, UNI EN 1367 series, UNI EN 1744 series), building lime (UNI EN 459 series), mortar for masonry (UNI EN 998 series).

Floor screeds

In 2013, UNI was assigned the presidency of CEN/TC 303 “Floor screeds”, having assumed the secretariat for it in late 2012. At the plenary meeting held in April, revisions were made to the Business Plan, which had already been submitted to CEN/BT for approval in the wake of changes designed to enhance the clarity of the tile and aim. At the same meeting, the decision was taken to restart work on revising the product standards, partly for terminological reasons and partly to align them with the new EU Construction Products Regulation:

- EN 13813 “Floor screeds and screed materials. Screed materials. Properties and requirements”
- EN 14016-1 “Binders for magnesite screeds. Caustic magnesia and magnesium chloride. Definitions, requirements”
- EN 13318 “Floor screeds and screed materials. Definitions”.

With regard to the structure of CEN/TC 303, it was decided that for the time being only WG 1 [tasked with revising the above standards] and WG 2 [responsible for test methods] should be kept active.

Floating floor systems

In the building industry, the correct installation of sound-insulation materials and systems is a particularly important concern. Incorrect installation seriously compromise the acoustic performance of the materials and cause significant discrepancies between the estimated passive acoustic requirements and the results actually achieved on completion of work. UNI 11516, published at the end of 2013, provides installation instructions for the components involved in the construction of new floating floor systems for sound-insulation, consisting of:

- horizontal structure or levelling layer supporting the resilient material;
- layer of resilient material;
- perimeter insulating strip or turn-up of the resilient material;
- vapour barrier if applicable;
- distribution networks, terminals and drainage systems if applicable;
- thermal insulation layers if applicable;
- screed for dividing the load or heat in radiant systems;
Following publication of UNI 11368-1 “Wood flooring. Installation. Criteria and methods of assessment. Part 1: Glueing installation”, the “Wood” committee published UNI 11368-2 on floating flooring comprising solid wood or multilayer elements, which establishes the assessment criteria and the methods to apply to assessing the installation of wood flooring and parquet for indoor use.

Prevention of legionella

In the course of the year we published UNI CEN/TR 16355, which provides basic information about legionella growth conditions in buildings and recommendations for preventing its development. The document focuses exclusively on the effect of temperature, and highlights the range in which legionella is unable to proliferate and methods of thermal disinfection. The document complements the legislative provisions on the subject, including the “Guidelines for the prevention and control of Legionnaires’ disease” drawn up by the Ministry of Health and adopted by the State-Regions Conference.

Fire safety

Following completion of the relevant revision work, last October we published the new edition of UNI 9795 “Automatic fire detection and fire alarm systems. Design, installation and operation”, the reference standard for the sector, which is cited in the “systems decree” of Italian Ministerial Decree 20.12.2012. The standard lays down criteria for the design, installation and use of automatic fire detection and fire alarm systems, whether or not they are connected to fire extinguishing or protection systems (of either active or passive type) installed in buildings, irrespective of their intended use.

In June, furthermore, we published the new edition of UNI 9994-1 “Fire fighting equipment. Fire extinguishers. Part 1: Initial verification and maintenance” which specifies the criteria for initial verification, surveillance, regular control, revision and testing of fire extinguishers. It applies to the ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of portable and trolley-mounted fire extinguishers, including fire extinguishers for class D fires.

Good technical practice was needed to implement the standardisation of the “fire doors” sector, and the same approach will give installers and maintenance personnel a reference point for their work. UNI 11473-1 connects with the past by regulating operations on previously installed doors, and looks to the future European harmonised standard FprEN 16034, which introduces the issue of installation and maintenance for CE marking of fire doors.

Fire-resistant doors and windows

At the beginning of 2013 we published UNI 11473-1 on requirements for the installation and maintenance of fire-resistant and/or smoke control doors and openable windows, previously tested according to UNI EN 1634, UNI 9723 or Circular 91/1961. It applies to fire-resistant doors, provided they are identified as such, and to fire-resistant doors installed in escape routes. The standard implements the requirements of due and proper installation and maintenance set down in Italian Ministerial Decree 10.3.1998 “General criteria for fire safety and emergency management in workplaces” and Legislative Decree 81/2008 on occupational health and safety.

Sports and recreational facilities and equipment

As was the case with the publication of UNI/TR 11449 “Spectator facilities. Separating elements. Explanation of some aspects of UNI EN 13200-3”, which compares the European standard with the equivalent withdrawn national standard [UNI 10121], the “Sports and recreational facilities and equipment” committee decided to embark on a study for a similar technical report on the differences between UNI EN 13200-1 “Spectator facilities. General characteristics for spectator viewing area” and the old UNI 9217. By publishing technical reports, the committee aims to provide an aid to the application of European standards, partly by linking the old national standards with the new standard of European origin.
Safety lighting in buildings

In February we published the new edition of UNI CEI 11222, which specifies procedures for periodic inspection and maintenance of safety lighting systems in buildings, for the purpose of ensuring their operational efficiency. It is applicable to the class of systems designed to prevent or eliminate hazards, and which must undergo regular maintenance and operating checks. The checks in question are designed to demonstrate the efficiency of the safety lighting system and the correct operation of specific components.

Lifts

The “Lifts, hoists, escalators and similar equipment” committee has made an active contribution to the development of the following two major European projects: prEN 81-20 “Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Lifts for the transport of persons and goods. Part 20: Passenger and goods passenger lifts” and prEN 81-50 “Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Examinations and tests. Part 50: Design rules, calculations, examinations and tests of lift components”, the definitive text of which will be put to formal vote by CEN in the opening months of 2014. The two projects, previously published as European standards, will replace the two main standards for the sector, namely UNI EN 81-1 and UNI EN 81-2.


The “Revision of UNI standards concerning lifts” working group started work on the joint revision of UNI 8725 “Residential building. Electrical traction-drive lift installations. Instructions for integration into buildings” and UNI 8999 “Electrical traction-drive lift installations. Instructions for integration into office, hotel and hospital buildings” so as to replace both with a single document.

Acoustic impact of wind farms

Technical specification UNI/TS 11143-7 was drawn up as an aid to the realisation or modification of wind farms, in compliance with the applicable national legislation governing environmental noise pollution and power generation from renewable sources. It describes a method for estimating acoustic impact and acoustic climate for the purpose of defining a clear approach for designers, consultants and the relevant public bodies. Acoustic climate can be characterised either within the framework of an impact assessment or on a stand-alone basis, for example for the purposes of verifying legal limits for an existing wind farm.
Increasingly, the current evolution in cultural heritage conservation techniques requires a systematic approach and reproducible methods, especially for the characterisation of materials and their state of conservation. The development of new UNI standards in this field responds directly to this requirement. The process often involves optimising procedures traditionally applied in other fields, for the purpose of facilitating their dedicated application to the conservation sector. The publication early this year of two important standards on restoration mortars (a key issue in the conservation, maintenance and restoration of surfaces of architectural assets of cultural interest) adheres this underlying principle, and makes a positive and practical contribution to the updating of methods of assessing materials.

Ernesto Borrelli
Higher Conservation and Restoration Training Institute - Ministry of Cultural Heritage
Coordinator of UNI’s WG 2 “Characterisation and analysis of porous inorganic materials constituting cultural heritage” and a member of CEN/TC 346 WG2 “Characterization and analysis of porous building materials constituting Cultural Heritage”

The work of the “Cultural heritage” sub-committee culminated in the publication of two important standards in early 2013 covering mortars for use in restoration, which is a key consideration in the conservation, maintenance and restoration of surfaces of architectural assets of cultural interest. The aim of UNI 11488 “Cultural heritage. Guidelines for the classification, the identification of the composition and the evaluation of the performance characteristics of restoration mortars” is to introduce an unequivocal common language into the definition of terminology and into the definition of composition characteristics, whereas UNI 11471 “Evaluation of pozzolanic activity of a material. Chemical method (pozzolanicity test)” provides a definite and scientifically correct method for assessing the hydraulic behaviour of materials for use in the preparation of mortars.

Textiles and clothing
The “Textiles and clothing” committee held a plenary meeting of CEN/TC 248 “Textiles and textile products” in Italy. The textile industry is one of the flagships of Italian manufacturing, and the committee has restarted the process of reorganising all standardisation work, and stepped up its commitment to chairing CEN’s European work and ISO’s worldwide work. Of particular interest is EN 13402-3 “Size designation of clothes. Part 3: Body measurements and intervals”, for which the committee submitted a proposed revision.

Pietro Pin
R&D Project Manager, Benetton Group
Chairman of UNI’s “Textiles and clothing” committee

Increasing attention to technical standards enables the manufacturers directly involved in their development to consolidate their position in the market and among their purchasers. The presence and commitment of many Italian companies in CEN and ISO working groups has yielded significant results and enabled the plenary meeting of CEN TC 248 to be held in Treviso in October last year. Another major achievement will be the holding of the meeting of ISO committee TC 133 in June 2014, which will discuss the matter of worldwide standardisation of clothing sizes. This is a strategic issue for Italian manufacturing, because it enables our companies to differentiate their own characteristic style, and turn it to account.
In the course of 2013, the dissemination of knowledge and culture in relation to standardisation was marked by the development of UNI social network channels, the self-production of audiovisual materials and the especially high profile of several initiatives. Over the year, the Twitter account @normeUNI published 1,500 tweets, which were re-tweeted and disseminated by institutions (Ministry of the Environment, INAIL, ISPRA, Municipality of Milan, etc.), organisations (Accredia, Sodalitas, Confartigianato, etc.), standardisation bodies (ISO, CEN, DIN, etc.) and the mass media (IlSole24Ore, ItaliaOggi, etc.), thereby consolidating the process of interactivity that characterises the social media. A specific account was also set up for the communications of the Training Centre: @formazioneUNI.

In the course of 2013, we also produced in-house - and published on the “normeUNI” channel on YouTube - over 30 video-interviews with technical committee chairs, working group coordinators, rapporteurs on specific standards, and members of Italian delegations to CEN and ISO. The key topics addressed include financial education, the revision of ISO 9001, unregulated professions, “Prassi di Riferimento”, urban design for the purposes of crime-prevention, and food safety.

With regard to the Organisation’s public profile, two events raised awareness significantly among a target audience from outside the sector: both the Saving Expo and the 4th International Forum on Financial consulting and Education saw us involved in advertising campaigns in the main daily news titles, key events at the Expo and an advertisement broadcast for the Forum on TV Class/Telesia at airports throughout Italy and at Milan’s underground stations.

The main events held by the organisation in the course of the year included:

- a conference entitled “Presentation of the quality standards governing the professional activities of surveyors” held in partnership with the National Council of Surveyors and Graduate Surveyors, focusing on the results of the project aimed at professional qualification for the category by specifying the requirements of knowledge, competence, ability and experience,
- a meeting with MOICA, the Italian housewives movement, for disseminating knowledge of technical standards and an understanding of their role in everyday life,
as part of an awareness-raising initiative on standardisation, which are still often lacking in Italy,

→ a presentation entitled “Preview of UNI ISO/TS 14067. Quantification and communication of the carbon footprint of products”, held in conjunction with Accredia and the Ministry of the Environment, with a view to raising the awareness of businesses and consumers of their respective roles in reducing global emissions,

→ a seminar entitled “Standardisation for the agrifood industry: safety, assurance and quality” aimed at presenting the activities of the technical committee, which could have fare higher potential if they were better known and applied by all the parties concerned,

→ a workshop entitled “Quality financial education: an invitation to Action44” held in conjunction with the Municipality of Milan, the Sacred Heart Catholic University and PROGeTICA, to present the results of the pilot phase of the project and launch the trial phase, for which invitations will be extended to members of the socio-economic system who are keen to join forces to improve the well-being and future prospects of citizens/savers,

→ initiatives aimed at equipping consumer organisations with a working knowledge of UNI’s role and procedures, in accordance with the cooperation agreement with the National Consumers’ Council and CNCU Users. 4 meetings were held (in Ancona, Bari, Palermo and Venice) between May and November, focusing on the value of standards in everyday life, in the home and in leisure time.

With regard to the participation of UNI representatives in third-party public events, the following were of particular importance:

→ a presentation entitled “Living in the city: urban quality and the quality of life in public spaces” held by the Women’s Council of the Municipality of Bergamo and Milan Polytechnic, aimed at presenting the result of a study of quality of life in the public spaces of the city, which highlighted how urban design in accordance with UNI EN 14383 plays a key role in crime prevention. These standards were then cited in the revision of the Municipal Building Regulations,

→ a seminar entitled “From organisation and management models under Legislative Decree 231/01 to corporate social responsibility: tools and applications for health and safety in SMEs”, held by INAIL, which discussed certification in the construction industry in accordance with “Prassi di Riferimento” UNI/PdR 2 and social responsibility in accordance with UNI ISO 26000,

→ a workshop entitled “Law 4/2013, Legislative Decree 206/2007, declaration of competence and UNI certification: practical guidance on requirements for professional associations”, held by Confassociazioni for the purpose of explaining to associations how to proceed in the various qualification pathways of unregulated professionals,

→ a meeting on the same subject entitled “Training and Certification for Economic Recovery” held by CoLAP (Coordinamento Libere Associazioni Professionali).

The press department saw intensive interaction with the mass media, and gained extensive coverage of the following topics:

→ unregulated professional services,
→ financial education for citizens,
→ revision of ISO 9001 on quality management systems,
→ road traffic accident recording,
→ biodegradable and compostable bags for shopping and organic refuse collection,
→ calculation and division of heating costs for centralised heating systems,
→ snow chains.
The purpose of the Paolo Scolari Prize is to recognise distinguished achievement in the world of standardisation. Now in its seventh edition, the awards ceremony for the prize was held within the framework of the Members Meeting. The 2013 winners were:

→ **Sergio Bracco** (former UNI Vice-Chairman) for his major contribution to the development of institutional policy. Having identified technical standardisation’s need for a new, timely response to the requirements of changing markets, he laid the foundations of the pathway that led to the drawing up of the “Prassi di Riferimento”;

→ **Gianni Cavinato** (representative of CNCU, the national council of consumers and users), for the commitment and enthusiasm with which he represented the national consumer system in standardisation activities, culminating in achieving the objective of stable involvement of the institutions by means of a cooperation agreement with the CNCU, not so much for the use of technical standards but – much more significantly – for their drafting;

→ **Giulio Costa** (Chairman of the “Welding” technical committee for 18 years) for his prolific work in the historic sectors of non-destructive testing and welding, in which he was professionally active for many years, through both national and international appointments dedicated to standardisation, dissemination and operator training;

→ **Paolo Tattoli** (Chairman of the “Lifts, hoists, escalators and similar equipment” technical committee) for his drive and commitment in the field of standardisation of one of the most delicate sectors in the UNI system, whose products are in daily use by the public and whose safety is vital;

→ **Arianna Rigo** (Quality Manager of Prodeco Pharma) for her assiduous, consistent participation in numerous UNI training courses, characterised at all times by interest and long-sightedness, and an awareness of the effectiveness of standardisation in personal and professional development: while standards have to be applied, it is equally true that they have to be known in order to be applied.
To meet the needs expressed by Members, in accordance with the new European Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation, in order to facilitate the involvement of the so-called “disadvantaged categories”, on 25 June 2013 the Board approved a diversification of membership categories, with a view to constructing a tailor-made membership system in which the current membership categories - Associate Membership and Full Membership - will be divided according to various packages of services.

As of 1 January 2014, therefore UNI Membership represents a new, more extensive, more exclusive set of values, more closely targeted at specific requirements. This diversification is necessary to take account of the differing standardisation requirements of natural persons, small businesses, multinationals, organisations for the representation of professionals, consumers and workers; trade associations, local associations and national confederations.

The new membership policy was formulated with a view to increasing the market’s interest in the potential of voluntary standardisation, and in the certainty that members would respond positively and that numerous socio-economic entities representing national interests would take part.

Associate Membership, which already existed, has been retained under the designation of “Basic Associate Membership”, but for parties looking for more from standardisation, “Associate Membership Plus” has been created, which entitles such members to take part in a UNI technical body as observers, and enjoy favourable terms for the purchase of subscriptions for on-line consultation of standards.

Full Membership has been diversified by type and size of organisation:

- “Full Membership with Concessionary Rates”, for small and micro-businesses (with fewer than 50 employees), consumers’ representatives, unions, environmental NGOs and level-two and level-three educational
New 2014 Membership Policy

Services for Full Members

→ Vote in the Members’ Meeting
→ Use of the UNI Member logo
→ Active participation in UNI technical committees
→ Appointment of “Observer” representatives on UNI technical bodies
→ Annual subscription to the publication U&C
→ “UNInotizie” institutional newsletter, with selection by “ATECO” economic activity code and technical committee
→ Access to the new reserved area of UNI.com
→ Personal area of UNI.com
→ Free consultation of CEN project texts under public enquiry
→ Free access to the new multilingual terminology database “UNITerm”
→ Trial service for the explanation of standards
→ Free participation in standards previews
→ Concessionary rates on UNI products and training courses
→ 15% discount on the list price of UNI standards
→ One-off bonus for the purchase of subscriptions for the on-line consultation of standards
→ Access to special projects (CEN/ISO Secretariat, “Prassi di Riferimento”, etc.)

In the second half of 2013, all UNI members were contacted for the purpose of classifying them according to the types of interest most appropriate to their requirements and enabling them to take advantage of the new services as of 2014.

→ “Full Membership with Standard Rates”, for medium enterprises (with more than 50 employees and revenues of less than 500 million euros), public and private bodies, universities, and associations and organisations not falling within the scope of the other two categories;
→ “Full Membership with Special Rates”, for large enterprises (with revenues in excess of 500 million euros), multinationals and large contracting authorities.

Lastly, professional registers, associations, federations and confederations can choose to subscribe to the three multi-quota classifications reserved for them, which divide UNI membership into “Representative Membership”, “Supporter Membership” and “Sponsor Membership”.

Each classification corresponds to a wide range of dedicated membership services, designed to ensure direct participation in the work of drawing up technical standards, receiving general and dedicated information on standardisation, benefiting from concessionary rates on training courses and access to national, European and international standards.
WHERE WE ARE

UNI operates through two main offices, in Milan and Rome, and a network of "UNI Points" at which it is possible to obtain information, consult standards and take part in briefings and training courses.

The network of UNI Points

In order to fulfil its remit and social function properly, with particular reference to the task of disseminating the culture and principles of voluntary standardisation in accordance with the guidelines of EU Regulation 1025/2012, including by means of free access to standards by businesses (large, medium and small), professionals, the Public Administration, consumers and students, UNI operates a network of local centres for consultation, dissemination, information and training in standardisation, known as UNI Points.

At UNI Points, it is therefore possible to consult the entire collection of UNI and ISO standards free of charge in a dedicated space for visitors, which disseminates basic information about technical standardisation and the main activities relating to quality, environment, safety and local specialisation sectors (basic information are replicated in their websites). UNI Points also play host to courses delivered by the UNI Training Centre or sponsored by UNI.

The UNI Points facilitate the involvement of operators at local level for the purposes of identifying specific access requirements to sector standards and the participation of experts in UNI technical committees.

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UNI in short

UNI – Ente Nazionale Italiano di Unificazione – is a private association founded in 1921 and recognised by the Government and the European Union which studies, approves and publishes voluntary, agreed technical standards – the so-called “UNI standards” – in all industrial, commercial and tertiary sectors (excluding electrical and electro-technical sectors).

The scope of the Organization is to contribute to the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Italian economic and social system, providing the tools to support technological innovation, competitiveness, trade promotion, consumer protection, environmental protection, product and process quality.

The UNI standards are documents which define the “state of the art” of products, processes, services and professional services, describing “how to do things well”, guaranteeing safety, respect for the environment and correct performance.

These documents are produced in agreement with representatives of all stakeholders (producers, users, professionals, traders, Public Administration and consumers: tens of thousands of experts in Italy and around the world) through a self-regulation process and, although applied voluntarily, provide operators with certain references with clear contractual relevance. The standards do not however have a merely technical and economic role. In the past few years the social role of standardisation as a tool for improving safety at work, in the home, for citizens as well as financial security, has become increasingly important. A role played in synergy with legislation which, with a view to soft law (bottom-up standardisation), can effectively respond in an aware and joint manner, to the needs and expectations of society, reducing the need for recourse to statutory regulations (top-down).

The standardisation activity is carried out in a multi-level structure comprising more than 1,100 technical bodies (commissions, sub-commissions, working groups), under the supervision and in line with the instructions of the Central Technical Commission.

For particularly specialist subjects the Body seeks the collaboration of independent external organisations (Federate Organisations) which,
UNI in short with specific appointments and in compliance with UNI rules, draft national standards, take part in CEN European and ISO international standardisation projects and contribute to the national implementation and adoption of CEN and ISO standards.

Currently the Federate Organisations are:

- CIG (Italian Gas Committee)
- CTI (Italian Thermotechnical Committee)
- CUNA (Motor vehicle Harmonisation Technical Commission)
- UNICHIM (Association for the Harmonisation of the Chemical Industry)
- UNINFO (Information Technologies and applications)
- UNIPLAST (Italian Harmonisation Body for Plastics)
- UNSIDER (Italian Metalworks Harmonisation Body).

UNI represents Italy before European (CEN) and global (ISO) standardisation organisations.

The open and super-partes organisation is confirmed by the composition of its managing bodies: the Governing Board includes not only the elective component but also representations from the ministries involved in standardisation activities (currently 7), representatives of the CNR and State Railways, representatives of the Central Technical Commission, the Chairman of the Italian Electrotechnical Committee, the Chairmen of the Federate Organisations and member representatives who provide particularly important support to standardisation.

In synergy with the core business activities, the Organization also works in the field of training and product certification (granting the UNI conformity mark for use by various accredited certification bodies and coordinating the national authorisation activities for the use of the European Keymark mark).

Territorial coverage is assured not only from the headquarters in Milan and the Rome office but through a network of standards information, assistance and training centres: the UNI Points.

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**UNI in figures at 31.12.2013**

- Established in: 1921
- Staff: 104
- Members: 4,648
- Number of membership fees: 5,802
- Current standards: 19,843
- Standards published in 2013: 1,876
- National TC, SC, WG managed by the UNI System: 1,140
- Members of national TC, SC, WG: 4,337
- Federate Bodies: 7
- European and International TC, SC, WG managed by the UNI System: 219
- National delegations with European and International TC and SC: 220
- National delegates with European and International TC and SC: 494

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