Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
Advisory Group on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems meeting discussion notes and actions
19 January 2023, 11:00 CET

Item	Subject	Discussion / Action
1a	Roll call	**Present:** Donald Macrae (acting chair), Maria Barea, Andrei Batayeu, Roland Cormier, Monideep Dey, Leonid Dvorkin, Nir Elazar, Nazia A. Habib, Lucy He, Phil Kelly, Andrey Klimov, Markus Krebsz, Pierre Lauquin, Daria Michurina, Peter Morfee, Valentin Nikonov (co-coordinator), Paul Taylor **Secretariat:** Lance Thompson (secretary), Tauno Kangur **Excused:** Stephan Naundorf
1b	Approval of the Agenda	Reminder of the topics from the 22 September 2022 meeting. Today's agenda agreed with no modifications

2	WP.6 Annual Session	The acting chair briefly presented the WP.6 November 2022 Annual Session. He reminded that there were two panel sessions: one on "Back to Basics" and another on "Digital Green Transformations and Quality Infrastructure". (The UNECE will adopt a theme of digital green transformations in 2023-2025 and all working groups and subsidiary bodies are requested to help contribute to this theme.) The GRM was presented at both of these panel sessions.
		The GRM co-coordinator reminded the results of the WP.6 Annual Session as concerns the GRM. The report of the GRM was approved and is available on the website. The revised Recommendation T was approved and subsequently published.
		The WP.6 Programme of Work for 2023 was approved. For reminder, the GRM-related tasks for 2023 are:
		
		(a) Develop training materials and guidance documents on the implementation of the suite of risk management recommendations
		
		(b) Conduct a survey on the application of crisis management principles described in *Recommendation P on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems* during the COVID-19 crisis
		
		(c) Develop best practice on applying integrated risk management within the Single Window (in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business – UN/CEFACT)
		
		(d) Enhance cooperation through the secretariat of WP.6 with customs agencies, national trade facilitation bodies, and international organizations working in the field, with an objective to improve risk management procedures and harmonization and to contribute to the risk management activities of other international organizations
		
		(e) Establish and strengthen through the secretariat of WP.6 liaison with other risk management organizations
		
		The Secretary explained the development of a "WP.6 Working Procedures" document. This has been endorsed by the leadership of WP.6 and will be presented to the November 2023 Annual Session for final approval. This establishes a few base procedures:
		• Meetings: GRM should have one annual meeting (and can continue to have other meetings as needed).
		• Officers: Chairs and Vice-Chairs elected on an annual basis. Procedure for election described in the document. Bureau of GRM needs to meet at least one annually.
		• Membership: clarifies the general UNECE procedure.
		• Projects: Three step procedure for all deliverables:
		   o Project inception (background research, launching process)
		   o Project development (also underlines the IPR policy)
		   o Project finalization (a public review)

		o Also explains some of the roles of the secretariat in the process
		• Representation and liaison: only secretariat can do liaison; representation needs to be announced (and cleared) by secretariat
		• Use of titles: very limited and only valid during the term of office – this cannot be implemented until approved by the Annual Session.
		One of the participants agreed that this was a step in the right direction. Even if it does create some procedures, points are clear, and it provides a good direction for the group. There was a comment about other roles within the GRM and a draft which was circulated. It was reminded that there are official titles recognized by the UNECE (chair and vice chair) – and then the Advisory Group can have some internal organization, if they wish (but these would normally not be recognized by the UN).
		⇨ The acting chair requested that the draft working procedure be circulated to the participants in the meeting.
3	Digital Green Transformations and QI	The Acting Chair shared his presentation from the panel session on Digital Green Transformations and Quality Infrastructure, "Improving Risk Management with Digital Transformation". He reminded the base principles of managing risks that are known and unknown and how artificial intelligence can contribute. He further underlined how cybersecurity, digital twins and internet of things can contribute to quality infrastructure. He did underline some challenges of products which integrate AI as this can allow products to change, integrate bias or use stored data about consumers. Within the European Market, this may necessitate a change in the 40-year-old product safety regime as the notions of product, producer, harm and market within this regime may no longer be static in products with advanced technologies.
		It was underlined that the product conformity assessment today is still based on a linear approach to product lifecycle and does not take into account any potential changes in a product caused by integrated technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). AI-based functionality can potentially change every second, so what was conformant at market entry may become non-conformant. Until now, conformity assessment has been based on the conformity of the parts of a product based on standards – as long as all the parts were conformant to the standards, the product was considered performant; this model may no longer be possible.
		It will also be necessary to take into consideration the access to data (either by companies or by States) which may become a big topic in the future. It will be difficult to balance the positive use of data and data privacy.
		There are two distinct notions: the use of AI for the process of risk management or the conformity of products that integrate AI and other technologies.
		⇨ It was reminded that this presentation was one of a dozen presentations on digital green transformations and quality infrastructure and that this and the other presentations are available on the event website. (https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.6-Meetings/events/372005)
4	Digital Green Transformations and QI	The Co-coordinator who had made the second presentation was not present in the meeting.
5	Project on Artificial Intelligence	The project leader of the Artificial Intelligence project presented the project proposal. He reminded that this topic has been discussed within GRM for several years already. After discussion with the WP.6 Chair, it was recognized that this topic spans across all subgroups of WP.6 as well as the main mission of WP.6. For this reason, it has been proposed as a general WP.6 project directly under the Bureau, inviting all subgroups and experts to join with a wider vision. There is a need to bring together the regulatory environment and innovation.
		The project plans to develop a 2–3-page recommendation accompanied with a guidance document of 20-30 pages which will clearly define artificial intelligence with a product context, articulate a clear definition of software embedded into products, consider the whole product life cycle, balance the multitude of various legitimate regulatory objectives…
		⇨ The acting chair requested that the draft project proposal be distributed to the participants on this call.

6	Risk Mgmt in context of SDG14	Marine spatial planning is becoming important to the management risk of conflicts between users of marine space as well as to monitor maritime pollution. The UK government suggested a future standard on marine spatial planning. It was asked if the GRM could develop a guidance document on marine spatial planning. This work would be based on Recommendation T and the 2012 Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks: Towards the Better Management of Risks, providing a guidance on building risk-based regulatory frameworks within marine planning context. The secretariat explained that additional topics not planned in the 2023 Programme of Work could be added if needed, alternatively, to ensure is added into the 2024 PoW.
7	Project on Risk Mgmt and Single Window	Applying the principles of Recommendations P, S, V to Single Window as described in UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33. This project will develop a White Paper guideline to describe the best practices of coordinated risk management among multiple government agencies through a Single Window. It will be a practical example of applying the principles of WP.6 GRM Recommendation V (and preceding recommendations) to the principles of the UN/CEFACT developed Recommendation 33 (and subsequent SW recommendations). The project proposal is available on the WP.6 website. Any persons interested should contact the project lead (Mr. Valentin Nikonov) or the Secretariat (Mr. Lance Thompson).
8	Update on ISO TC262	ISO TC 262 received for comments ISO DIS 4980 "Benefit-risk assessment for sports, for recreational and sports facilities including equipment". The standard establishes a system for assessment of risks related to sport and recreational activities and is supposed to help designers, builders, operators, as well as other stakeholders of recreational facilities and equipment (basketball courts or tennis courts, for example) build such systems. Note that the definition of risk (3.11) in this document is different from the definition in the ISO 31000 series. A new chair was elected to ISO TC262. For information, the ISO TC262 received an email from ISO Central Secretariat that they need to take into account the WP.6 Declaration on Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
9a	AOB: WP.6 website	The Secretariat announced that the updating of the website is nearly completed. The work areas section has been updated. Appreciate if experts could please take a look and notify to the secretariat if anything needs to be modified. There is a section for Projects. All of the procedural documents of WP.6 are clearly updated under "About us". Still finalizing the Recommendations page.
9b	AOB: annual meetings 2023 and 2024	The Annual Meeting of the GRM is planned for 2023 as a virtual meeting on 25 May. The Annual Meeting of the GRM for 2024 is proposed as an in-person meeting (either in Geneva or elsewhere in Europe) the week of 22 April 2024.
9c	AOB: Stephan best wishes	The GRM Chair was not able to join due to an extended sick leave: the members of the GRM wish the Chair a speedy recovery.
9d	AOB: WP.6 Survey	The Secretariat circulated a survey accompanied by an update newsletter of activities throughout WP.6. The survey is to help improve communication of the secretariat with experts and all experts are requested to please take two minutes to fill it in.
		Next GRM call: 16 March from 11:00 CET (Geneva) It was requested that the meeting invite be circulated asap so that experts can reserve the time in their agendas.