

The Portuguese Institute for Quality (IPQ) does not undertake any specific activity in what concerns Information and Communication Techniques (ICT). We nevertheless rely upon the fact that the comments produced by the ESOs reflect the correct position of the European standardization system on this matter.

Taking into account the possibility of any kind of interaction with fora and consortia (f&c), within the frame of EC recommendations (h) to (k), the comments from IPQ, as Portuguese Standards Body, could be summarized as follows.

Assuming that EC issues a mandate for a specific ICT standard, two situations are likely to happen:

- being recognized that there is already an informal f&c standard on that subject, the ESO in question should negotiate the purchase of the proprietary rights with the owner organization. Based on that document, the corresponding TC would then undertake the procedure towards the formal EN standard, without neglecting the necessary public survey;
- in the lack of any kind of standard addressing the scope in question, but being recognized that a particular f&c entity has the qualification for developing the work, such organization could be subcontracted, in a similar way of what is common with, for example, laboratories, by the NSB responsible for the mandate. The draft produced would then undergo the normal standardization steps and procedures, leading to its final approval as EN standard. For this very specific case, we suggest that EC should predict a subcontract scheme with no need for call for tenders, the same way it occurs with the so called monopoly situations.