SGFS N1421

Title : Questionnaire for the SGFS Liaison Organizations on their profiling activities
Source : ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS Plenary Meeting, May 1997, London, UK
Status : For consideration and response by the SGFS Liaison Organizations

There are strong indications that the activity on functional standardization within JTC1 is entering a new phase:
- the change in membership from P-member to O-member by the USA, Germany and Australia. Two of these countries (USA and Germany) had a leading role within SGFS from the beginning.
- the Regional Workshops, as "feeder-organizations" of SGFS, are changing their directions. The question remains open whether they still require a separate body within JTC1 as a channel to internationally harmonize, approve and publish profiles within ISO/IEC.
- while it seems that the interest in profiling itself outside JTC1 does not decrease, SGFS has noted that during the past two years the interest in the formal standardization of profiles within ISO/IEC has decreased.

Consequently SGFS considered the future evolution of functional standards within JTC1. Some preliminary conclusions on this issue are presented to the JTC1 Ad Hoc on Re-engineering in document SGFS N1422 (appended to this document).

However, in order to finalize these conclusions (and, if necessary, to prepare an orderly transition to a future structure of work), SGFS needs to know what its "customers" require in the near or long term future. SGFS, therefore, is requesting responses from the Regional Workshops, its A-, B-, C- and S-liaisons organizations the relevant SCs/TCs, and ITU-T on the following questions:

Q1: Which profiles are you planning to submit in the short term for approval by SGFS/JTC1? The answer to this question is particularly important for the assessment of the amount of work to be done during a transition period, and the length of this period.

Q2: Do you feel that there continues to be a need for profiling activities?

Q3: If so, do you see value in the formal standardization of (i.e., to publish) profiles through ISO/IEC?

Q4: Do you see a continuing value in the guidelines and taxonomy, as presented in TR 10000, and consequently, in the maintenance of that document?

Q5: If there is value in the standardization of profiles through ISO/IEC, is there a need for publishing the documents as ISPs? Would an IS (if there are conformity requirements in the profile) or a TR (for a profile without conformity requirements) satisfy your needs?

Q6: If there is a need for publishing ISPs through ISO/IEC, should there be a separate body (SGFS) to channel the ISP into JTC1, or would the PAS-procedures be appropriate for the submission of your profiles to JTC1 for approval? If SGFS is disbanded, would you consider becoming a PAS-submitter for ISPs?

In order to provide JTC1 with all relevant information for the planning of the future of functional standardization within JTC1, answers on the above questions (as detailed as possible) are requested to be sent to the SGFS Secretariat no later than 31 August 1997. It should be noted that a lack of response to the questions will be interpreted as a (possibly very valid) absence of interest in the continuation of functional standardization within ISO/IEC JTC1.