



Standardization of Internationalized Country Codes

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Key Questions for Standardization

- What is required?
 - Internationalized Country Codes in the scripts of the world
- Who requires it?
 - Industry, end user communities
- When is it required?
 - Now or as soon as practicable
- How should a solution be facilitated?
 - via a trusted party adopting a process that is inclusive of key stakeholders and end user communities



First Stage In Standardization Process

Methodology must include:

- mapping to ISO 3166-1
- provision for key stakeholder and end user participation
- a method that will take into account similarities between scripts - UNICODE
- rules for allocation of standardized codes
 - conducted on a script by script basis
 - all Country Codes completed for a script before allocation as standardized codes



Deliverables and Timescales

Fast Track Option

- Methodology
 - 2 Months from project inception
- Industry Standard Publication (BS/PAS)
 - – 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- First 3 or 4 scripts piloted and allocated
 - – 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- Publication as ISO DIS
 - 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- Publication as International Standard
 - 18 to 24 months from project inception
 - or 6 stage ISO process taking 3-5 years



The Facilitators

- GeoLang Ltd
 - Directors have over 20 years of standardization experience working for both BSI and ISO
- BSI
 - The oldest standardization group in the world
- The World Language Documentation Centre
 - International board made up of 21 experts in fields of linguistics, technology industries, standardization
- Stichting Open Progress
 - Over 5 years experience in operating user led wikis
- ISO
 - International Standards Organisation



An Accepted Standardization Route

- ISO 9000 developed as a British Standard initially, adopted by ISO, now most widely used industry standard in the world
- Currently The standard for Names and Codes for Oceans and Seas is a French Standard proposed as an ISO by AFNOR
- OOXML proposed by ANSI and Microsoft for Fast Track Standardization
- Could create an NWIP, BSI happy to facilitate this route, for International Standard but would take 3-5 years before publication – codes would not be stable.



Collaboration is Key

Current liaisons sought:

- W3C – under discussion
- Unicode CLDR – under discussion
- ITU – under discussion
- IETF – still to respond
- MINC – endorses proposal liaison established



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