

Project context:

AdvanceETV (www.eu-etv-strategy.eu) is a coordination action on Environmental Technology Verification (ETV).

ETV aims to provide independent verification of environmental performance claims. In Europe an Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) scheme was launched in December 2011 – the EU ETV Pilot Programme.

In practice the recognition of a European ETV system beyond the continent is a key issue for many vendors and technology developers. Similar considerations known from the other ETV systems in place outside Europe led to discussions between the members of the international ETV community and resulted in the establishment of the International Working Group on ETV (IWG-ETV) in May 2008.

Objectives:

The objectives of AdvanceETV are to:

- Provide a European basis for mutual recognition
- Coordinate requirements for co-verification and joint verification
- Develop a framework for international harmonization.

Work performed:

The support of the elaboration of a EU ETV scheme was in the focus of AdvanceETV during the first and the second project period. Results of previous activities on ETV and expectations have been collected. For the EU ETV scheme a draft General Verification Protocol (GVP) was developed and provided to the Commission for discussion with the member states. In order to show how ETV fits into or completes other European policy instruments an evaluation on “complementarities of ETV schemes and other European environmental policy instruments” was carried out.

The R&D roadmap for ETV was revised and completed. It is more a Research, Development & Innovation action plan, due to its nature and wider coverage in terms of actions.

A close relation to the IWG-ETV was continued to bring forward international cooperation. The roadmaps for co- and joint verification were elaborated and discussed with experts and stakeholders. For two case technologies verifications were performed and the results were analysed in a workshop on co- and joint verification. The final co- and joint verification roadmaps aim to support the consensus process towards a set of international procedures in ETV.

AdvanceETV examined how standards could support ETV schemes in Europe and internationally. Based on this the scope of standards for a unified framework for ETV was determined. In consultation with the IWG-ETV two documents were elaborated that are used to prepare an ISO-ETV standard, a common global standard and framework for the whole world.

The activities and results fed into conferences, newsletters and workshops.

Main results up to now:

For the EU ETV pilot programme a draft General Verification Protocol (GVP) was developed and provided to the EU DG Environment. The GVP serves as a normative reference for the implementation of ETV procedures.

The R&D Roadmap for international cooperation and mutual recognition, which is more a Research, Development & Innovation Action Plan, was further specified and completed based on comments that derived from the development of the EU ETV pilot programme and the Eco-Innovation Action plan.

For co- and joint verification roadmaps were developed and discussed in different workshops and the AdvanceETV conference in May 2011. They contain descriptions of how each major step of co- and joint verification may be done in order to achieve the specific objectives of two or more ETV programmes.

For two technologies in the water and wastewater sector verifications were performed. The experiences were integrated in the final co- and joint verification roadmaps.

The IWG-ETV was supported in the elaboration of a framework for mutual recognition. In this framework a set of 14 items was defined.

With respect to standardisation the needs of an international ETV scheme were characterised and how standards can support ETV. Quality assurance of verification is a key issue for creating an international organisational framework for ETV. Aligning the IWG-ETV quality assurance tasks with the development of the EU ETV pilot programme (Reference Framework and GVP) was achieved. Standardised approaches consisting of an “ETV Framework and Policy” and “ETV Procedure” were developed jointly. The two documents are written in the format of ISO standards, and the IWG-ETV used the documents as annexes for the proposal for an ISO-ETV standard. As the EU ETV GVP and the two documents mentioned above were developed in parallel, all the documents were kept aligned and compatible.

AdvanceETV prepared a final consensus document that presents the achieved developments towards mutual recognition (e.g. co- and joint verification roadmaps). Special emphasis is on the description of the steps taken by the IWG-ETV towards an ISO-ETV standard, which contents could be seen as the “consensus”.

An AdvanceETV brochure summarizes the project results and contains a “Guide for Proposers to the EU ETV Pilot Programme”.

Expected final results, potential impact and use:

It is expected that the items identified for mutual recognition together with the IWG-ETV that were elaborated by AdvanceETV will support international cooperation and harmonisation. The R&D roadmap for international cooperation and mutual recognition, that has the structure and the contents of a Research, Development & Innovation Action Plan, analyses the R&D needs out of the EU ETV pilot programme, the co- and joint verification experiences and the R&D needs to support the initiation of standardisation action. In a second step it identifies measures and actions to overcome the needs and barriers in order to facilitate the link between technology development, ETV and creating innovation.

The two documents on “ETV Framework and Policy” and “ETV Procedure” that were prepared by AdvanceETV are used by the IWG-ETV as annexes in the development of the ISO-ETV standard. First steps in the official standardisation process were taken in June 2012 and will go on after the end of AdvanceETV.

The final consensus document aims to support the elaboration of a framework for international cooperation by the provision of a basis for further discussion and developments towards mutual recognition.

The “Guide for Proposers”, the annex of the AdvanceETV brochure, can be used, e.g. by the member states or EC DG Environment, to support stakeholders who wish to have their technology verified under the EU ETV Pilot Programme.

Website:

www.eu-etv.strategy.eu



Contact details:

DECHEMA e.V.

Dr. Thomas Track

Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25

60486 Frankfurt am Main

Germany

Phone: +49 69 7564-427

Fax: +49 69 7564-117

Email: track@dechema.de

www.dechema.de