COPANT GATHERED ITS EXPERTS IN TOURIST SERVICES IN BUENOS AIRES

COPANT workshop on and participation in Plenary of ISO/TC 228

In preparation for an effective participation of its members in the Plenary meeting of the ISO committee on Tourism and Related Services, ISO/TC 228, COPANT organized together with IRAM and the sponsorship of PTB, a virtual workshop and then a face-to-face workshop just before the Plenary of ISO/TC 228 in Buenos Aires. Both workshops focused specifically on the Working Groups of that committee on Sustainable Tourism and Environmental Specifications for Tourism Services.

The virtual workshop was held in 2 different sessions, one in Spanish, 13 and 14 March 2018, and another version in English, 15 and 16 March 2018. In both versions 23 participants from the following 16 countries attended: Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.

The objective of this virtual workshop was to prepare experts from the region regarding the participation in the ISO/TC 228 plenary meeting and its working groups, analyze the documents to be considered and approved and have a better understanding of the ISO Directives for the participation in technical committees.

The content of the workshop was as follows:

- Structure, participants and work plan of ISO/TC 228
- ISO/TC 228 working groups
- Tools to participate in the ISO/TC 228 Working Groups
- Agenda of the plenary session of ISO/TC 228 in May in Buenos Aires
- Participation of COPANT members in ISO/TC 228

Then, on May 6, 2018, a face-to-face workshop was organized in Buenos Aires, Argentina, prior to the meetings of the ISO/TC 228 committee, in which 14 delegates representing the following 13 countries participated: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay. The content of this workshop was the following:

- Discuss the Agenda of the ISO/TC 228 Meeting with the National Standards Bodies of COPANT and discuss the mechanisms of the Assembly’s functioning and the working documents.
- Explanation about the operation and the documents in the working groups of ISO/TC 228.
- Presentations by the NSBs on the functioning of their National Committees Mirror of ISO/TC 228.
Conclusions:

Both workshops were facilitated by Cristian Vasquez of IRAM.

These were the conclusions that resulted from these activities:

- Consider the creation of an ISO Spanish Translation Task Force for this Technical Committee.
- Continue with this type of activities to:
  - Keep all the countries of the region updated,
  - Develop and improve their National Mirror Committees and
  - Encourage continued participation in ISO.
- Promote the exchange of opinions (videoconferences / emails) before the balloting of documents in preparation by ISO/TC 228.

Recommendations:

- Prepare a survey to identify possible topics that will be addressed in future workshops
- Consider possible NWIP proposal initiatives before the ISO/TC 228 meetings
- Relieving continued participation in ISO meetings and resource requirements
- Periodic exchange of information to issue comments / votes in a timely manner to avoid loss of membership.
- Reactivate the COPANT focal group to exchange positions in the different projects of the ISO/TC 228 work plan
- Hold virtual meetings and face-to-face workshops
- Organize workshops prior to the ISO/TC 228 plenary meeting to exchange positions and evaluate the possibility of unifying the criteria.

Source: Report and photographs by Cristian Vasquez (Facilitator / IRAM)