



Press Release
2018-10-23

NEW FOCAL GROUP OF COPANT ABOUT IEC

The new COPANT Focal Group had its first meeting in Mexico City

On October 9, 2018, the first meeting of the recently created COPANT Focal Group on IEC was held in Mexico City. The meeting was held with the cooperation of ANCE and DGN of Mexico.

The **objective of the regional Focal Group** is to generate forums for the exchange of information and analysis on the IEC Technical Committees of interest to COPANT; as well as organizing dissemination and training events, according to the needs of the region. This Focus Group replaces the Technical Committee of COPANT 151 on Electrotechnics and Smart Grids.

At the beginning of 2018, the Executive Secretariat of COPANT sent a survey to members about the need to maintain technical committees 151, Electrotechnics and Smart Grids and 152, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies.

The members voted to maintain TC 152 and to convert TC 151 into a Focal Group that would take over the work of that committee, but mainly focused on following up on IEC activities.

During the October meeting the **Coordinator of the Focal Group** was elected, a responsibility assumed by Mr. Luis Iván Hernández of ANCE/DGN/Mexico, who served as Coordinator of the disband TC 151.

The first meeting of the Focal Group was attended by representatives of 10 National Standards Bodies representing the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.



With regard to the transition of the works and documents under study by TC 151, the Focal Group took the following **decisions**:

- The documents developed by the Focal Group will be published as guides. The procedure for developing the guides will be the same as the one currently followed for the development of COPANT standards.
- In order to follow up on the documents under development and their future updates, a Working Subgroup will be formed that is dependent on the Focal Group. A period of 30 days will be given, from the distribution of the minutes, so that COPANT members can nominate their experts who will participate in the Focal Group and the Working Subgroup.
- It will be requested that in addition to appointing the experts that will participate in the working group, the members indicate if they are interested in coordinating the working subgroup and the name of the person they propose as coordinator.

On the other hand, it was decided that the Focal Group will be in charge of **coordinating a training program** so that members of the IEC Affiliate Program receive more training and can participate more proactively in the IEC activities.

It was proposed to extend the training in the following topics:

- Participation in IEC;
- Affiliates: Rights, obligations, access, adoption of standards, operation of NECs, among others;
- Adoption of international standards;
- IEC conformity assessment schemes; and
- Specific technical training on participation in particular IEC Technical Committees.

To this end the Executive Secretariat of COPANT will seek the necessary funding.

The Focal Group will be able to hold virtual meetings and training via WebEx, and it was defined that the next meeting will be held in Lima in 2019, together with the meetings of TC 152 and FINCA.