



BSI Standards Publication

European Professional Ethics Framework for the ICT Profession (EU ICT Ethics)

National foreword

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**European Professional Ethics Framework for the ICT
Profession (EU ICT Ethics)**

Europäischer berufsethischer Rahmen für den IKT-
Beruf (EU ICT Ethics)

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 17 July 2022 for provisional application.

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17834:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 428 “ICT Professionalism and Digital Competences”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

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Introduction

The current document, the European Professional Ethics Framework for the ICT Profession (EU ICT Ethics), provides a foundation for defining practical guidelines to improve ethics for different organisations across all technical areas. In addition, it provides a basis for aligning existing guidelines and initiatives and establishing comparisons to support the vision of an ICT professional workforce. It offers the possibility to coalesce other ethics focused initiatives around a common structure.

Professional ethics is an essential component of any profession; mutual understanding leads to improved outcomes and differentiates professions from jobs. A professional ICT workforce across European society and industry (founded on the four building blocks of ICT professionalism: Professional Ethics; Education and training; Bodies of Knowledge; Competences) will support and enhance the exchange of ICT resources and services throughout Europe and internationally.

This document is related to EN 16234-1 e-Competence Framework (e-CF) – A common European Framework for ICT Professionals in all sectors – Part 1: Framework and incorporates the structural concept. It describes a blueprint of requirements and highlights connections to the competences, skills and knowledge required to identify and address the ethical challenges that ICT professionals face in daily activities.

This strong association with the EN 16234-1 (e-CF) naturally extends to the ethics principles described in the Transversal Aspects of the EN 16234-1 (e-CF) and enables ethics related requirements and procedures to be defined and implemented in the context of specific ICT professional roles and environments.

This document organises Professional Ethics into a manageable structure and provides guidance on practical use through a methodology and application guide to support implementation through a range of methods and contexts. It also provides a platform for universities and vocational training institutions to design and improve ICT ethics courses specifically for ICT professionals. This makes qualification attainment more transparent in European internal markets and, in addition, it offers input into accreditation processes provided by relevant national ICT professional bodies.

The European Professional Ethics Framework for the ICT Profession benefits all ICT Professionals and all stakeholders reliant upon the capability of ICT Professionals. This includes wider society and a trusted, ethical and professional ICT workforce that contributes to enabling the goal of an economically vibrant, socially just and sustainable Europe.

The document is based on a fixed structure, which is intended to ensure the uniformity of such CEN documents and their reliable placement in the context of other standards, specifications and reports.

The following recommendations are given to support the readability of the document.

- **Newbie / Beginner:** If new to the topic of professional ethics and for example an ICT professional or a manager in an organisation primarily interested in the basic aspects, it is recommended to first read Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 as an introduction. Then read Clause 5.2.4 and especially the Case Studies in Clause 5.2.5 before reading Clause 5 in total and the rest of the document from the start.
- **ICT Ethics in the European Context:** If interested in the embedding of the Framework in the European context, then read Clause 4.4 before reading the rest of Clause 4 in context.
- **Ethics and organisational culture:** If interested in the connection between organisational culture and ICT ethics and want to know how you can implement this topic in your organisation, it is recommended to jump directly to Clause 7.
- **Practical application:** If already on the way to take some practical first steps in the field of ICT professional ethics in an organisation and you are interested in practical help and tools, it is recommended to jump directly to Clause 8.

1 Scope

This document contains basic information and fundamental considerations on embedding ICT in European values. It includes concepts and structures for using the framework and practical suggestions for the concrete implementation of organisational and individual aspects as scoped by the European ICT Professionalism framework and its basic underlying references.

The scope of occupations associated with Information and Communication Technology is very wide and therefore, to define a boundary, this document is based upon the target audience of the EN 16234-1 (e-CF) – “Competence Framework (e-CF) – A common European Framework for ICT Professionals in all sectors. Part 1: Framework”.

Beneficiaries and users of this document include educational institutions embracing universities and VET, public and private, certification providers, industry, including HR departments, large companies and SMEs, and the ICT professional community.

An extended benefit of a common ethics framework is the enhanced perception of ICT as a ‘professional’ career. The overall attractiveness of employment within ICT from the perspective of potential employees will be improved by the establishment of a recognised ICT Profession in which ethics play a significant role.

EN 16234-1 (e-CF) is the starting point and guiding document for this technical publication, being closely connected with the other deliverables and references for a shared European language for ICT professional development.