

Maturity/Readiness for standardisation

	Ad-hoc	Emerging	Defined	Systematized	Standardized
Questions	1	2	3	4	5
1. Are key concepts and terms clearly defined and consistently used?	Concepts are ambiguous or vary by actor; no common language.	Some definitions exist but are not widely accepted or used across the domain.	Key terms are defined consistently within the specific domain.	Definitions are documented and used across the entire ecosystem of actors or domain	Concepts are globally recognised, integrated into guidelines, training or policy, and serve as a baseline
2. Is there a well-established body of knowledge in the theme?	Knowledge is anecdotal, fragmented, or undocumented.	Emerging research exists but is inconsistent; few validated frameworks.	A growing body of knowledge is available; some peer-reviewed case studies exist.	Comprehensive synthesis of scientific and operational evidence is documented.	A mature, globally recognized body of knowledge is regularly updated via a formal mechanism.
3. Are there proven, effective practices that are widely adopted?	No proven practices; experimental or "trial-and-error" approaches.	Early-stage practices exist but lack validation across different contexts.	Some practices are proven effective within specific contexts.	Proven practices are adopted by multiple stakeholders and documented.	Practices are institutionalized and serve as the mandatory "gold standard" across contexts/sectors.
4. Are methods and techniques validated, reproducible, and adaptable?	No clear methods; ad-hoc or proprietary techniques with no documentation.	Some methods exist but lack validation; results vary wildly between users.	Methods are documented and validated for specific use-cases.	Methods are validated, reproducible, and documented; tested across different settings	Methods are globally validated, peer-reviewed, and embedded in international guidelines.
5. Are objective evaluation criteria established and applied?	No evaluation criteria; outcomes are subjective or undefined.	Some informal criteria have been identified but not widely agreed upon or used	Evaluation criteria are defined and used in internal reviews; limited stakeholder buy-in.	Criteria are established, accepted by key stakeholders, and used consistently	Criteria are harmonised, transparent, and integrated into e.g. policy or reporting mechanisms
6. Can the subcomponent be scaled/adapted without losing core value?	Not scalable; highly context-specific; no adaptation potential.	Limited scalability; adaptation is possible but requires high cost or total redesign.	Scalable within similar contexts; modular design allows for some replication.	Highly scalable; proven adaptable across diverse regions, sectors, or governance models.	Fully scalable and adaptable; proven in diverse global contexts; widely reused
7. Is there regulatory or policy support for standardisation?	Informal support; some policy mentions its relevance	Policy-level recognition; some mandates or guidelines exist.	Active policy support; integration into national strategies or sectoral plans.	Strong regulatory backing (e.g. EU directive); mandatory rules or protocols, financial backing and institutional or sectoral embedding/mainstreaming	Strong regulatory backing; mandatory adherence to the standard is required for funding/operation.
8. Is there clear demand for the standardization of this subcomponent?	No visible demand; low awareness or interest.	Emerging interest; some stakeholders express potential future need but not urgent.	Clear demand from key sectors; pilot interest.	Strong demand; multiple sectors actively seeking harmonise guidelines, technical or evaluation procedures	High, sustained demand; industry, government, and civil society pushing for formal standards.