Standardization of Internationalized Country Codes

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Key Questions for Standardization

- What is required?
  - Internationalized Country Codes in the scripts of the world
- Who requires it?
  - Industry, end user communities
- When is it required?
  - Now or as soon as practicable
- How should a solution be facilitated?
  - via a trusted party adopting a process that is inclusive of key stakeholders and end user communities
First Stage In Standardization Process

**Methodology** must include:

- mapping to ISO 3166-1
- provision for key stakeholder and end user participation
- a method that will take into account similarities between scripts - UNICODE
- rules for allocation of standardized codes - conducted on a script by script basis
  - all Country Codes completed for a script before allocation as standardized codes
Deliverables and Timescales
Fast Track Option

- Methodology
  - 2 Months from project inception
- Industry Standard Publication (BS/PAS)
  - 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- First 3 or 4 scripts piloted and allocated
  - 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- Publication as ISO DIS
  - 6 to 9 Months from project inception
- Publication as International Standard
  - 18 to 24 months from project inception
  - or 6 stage ISO process taking 3-5 years
The Facilitators

- GeoLang Ltd
  - Directors have over 20 years of standardization experience working for both BSI and ISO
- BSI
  - The oldest standardization group in the world
- The World Language Documentation Centre
  - International board made up of 21 experts in fields of linguistics, technology industries, standardization
- Stichting Open Progress
  - Over 5 years experience in operating user led wikis
- ISO
  - International Standards Organisation
An Accepted Standardization Route

- ISO 9000 developed as a British Standard initially, adopted by ISO, now most widely used industry standard in the world
- Currently The standard for Names and Codes for Oceans and Seas is a French Standard proposed as an ISO by AFNOR
- 00XML proposed by ANSI and Microsoft for Fast Track Standardization
- Could create an NWIP, BSI happy to facilitate this route, for International Standard but would take 3-5 years before publication – codes would not be stable.
Collaboration is Key

Current liaisons sought:
- W3C – under discussion
- Unicode CLDR – under discussion
- ITU – under discussion
- IETF – still to respond
- MINC – endorses proposal liaison established
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