What happened at the 2018 Industry & Standards Event?

Executive summary of main accomplishments
In Dublin, Ireland from 10-14 September 2018, 358 people from 37 countries worked together at the GS1 Industry & Standards Event to transform business together.

Thanks to the commitment and energy of everyone present, the week was incredibly productive and successful.

Here is a brief summary of some of the key achievements.

**MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**General Merchandise MO Interest Group**
Participants met for the first time in this new MO Interest Group to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration in the General Merchandise Sector comprising categories such as Do-It-Yourself (DIY), Consumer Electronics, Luxury/Selective Cosmetics etc. Together the participants set out to create a common sector definition and started drafting a General Merchandise Industry Engagement kit.

**Identification (ID) Standards Maintenance Group**
This was truly an Industry and Standards session as we discussed the theme of “2D or Not 2D”. The topic was focused on consistent implementation of 2D beyond the traditional standards world of General Specification and Implementation Guideline, and there will be more details regarding the collateral development with Industry Engagement. The Identification SMG prioritized work to stay on schedule for the next General Specification 2019 January Release.

**Get started with the new GS1 Learning Management System**
In this session, MO Training Administrators were introduced to the new GS1 Learning Zone. The session began with a recap of the project history and migration process, and was followed by a live walkthrough of the platform. The live walkthrough showcased the new user experience for both learners and administrators, and administrators were shown how to leverage the newly-released guidebook. The latter part of the session featured an open discussion, in which participants shared their experience and expectations of the Learning Zone. For instance, one MO uses the eLearning material as part of a government-backed certificate. Therefore, it was explained how the system settings could be configured individually for that MO in order to comply with regulatory requirements. Lastly, MOs discussed ideas for new additions for the Global Office eLearning catalogue, on topics like SmartSearch and UDI.

**Last Mile: The time to act is NOW**
After an introduction setting the scene for on-going developments in Last Mile by GS1, Walter Trezek (chair of the UPU Consultative Committee) provided an overview of news, initiatives and developments in the world of Postal and Parcel deliveries. One key take-away is that the Postal world is beginning to take action to become an integral part of the end-to-end supply chain and accepts that the Postal Networks of the future must collaborate seamlessly both amongst themselves and with the rest of the supply chain. Next, the vision and views of the ALICE European technology platform on City Logistics were presented. The presentation highlighted the disproportionally high cost in terms of money and pollution for the last 20 odd kilometres of the end-to-end delivery of goods to customers. Already 70% of the European population lives in cities and the percentage is rising. In 2050, 70% of the world’s population will live in cities. So City Logistics is an increasingly important part of the supply chain that will need to undergo significant transformation in the near future.

The attendees then broke out in two workgroups covering “City Logistics: Key to excellent Customer Experience” and “Emerging Parcel Standards” to discuss challenges and opportunities. Eco2City an NGO specialised in City Logistics provided background and facilitated that session. Eco2City aims to build a collaborative network of GoodHubs. Each GoodHub provides City Logistics services within its city. However towards large shippers they appears as a single large company through the collaborative platform that Eco2City wants to realise on top of these independent GoodHubs. The intent is to compose a collaborative network of 500 GoodHubs across all of Europe, all of them using GS1 standards like SSCC for identification of the logistic unit. GS1 Poland and Brazil provided overviews of their initiatives in Parcel and Postal delivery networks.
**GDSN User Group Meeting**

During the meeting, the GDSN User Group discussed business issues related to WR’s that were entered for GDSN. Several industry updates and topics were discussed. An update of the the GDSN Simplification Project was provided. Teleflex presented how they are implementing GDSN as a Healthcare user of the network. The group discussed several OTAG topics and helped to make a recommendation on several outstanding issues.

**Lunch & Learn: Fight Against Illicit Trade**

This session was very well attended by the GSMP community and by many GS1 MOs CEOs which is a major breakthrough in terms of attendance, we were more familiar to have Technical and business expert attending the sessions this time many high level executives of GS1 have participated and gave us their perspective on the importance this initiative and the importance of engaging with local authorities. Bruno Aceto CEO GS1 Italy, sponsor of GS1 FIT, Francesca Poggiali, Scott Gray and Robert Beideman and our MOs representatives (GS1 Ireland, GS1 France, GS1 Germany, GS1 Turkey, GS1 Poland..highlighted the importance of this initiative and the GS1 support to the WHO Protocol vision and goals). Global, neutral, open GS1 standards can play an important role because they enable unique identification, high-quality data, tracked events and smooth interoperability.

**GS1 Cloud Services: Best Practices from the Beta Process**

This MO Only session was designed to update the community on the progress of the GS1 Cloud Services, Activate and Check, and to share insights and best practices from MOs’ experiences during the beta testing period. GS1 Bosnia and Herzegovina, GS1 Global Office (as an Activate implementer servicing countries with no MO), and GS1 Sweden best practices and learnings from their Activate implementations. GS1 Sweden, GS1 Brasil, and GS1 Netherlands shared best practices, experiences and tools for Check during their beta testing of the service. After the presentations, a panel format Q&A session was kicked off, enabling the attendees to query any of the panellists on their experiences with the GS1 Cloud Services.

**Omni-Channel Retail: Overview and update for newcomers**

In this session participants have been introduced to and updated on the latest activities in the Omni-channel world. A dedicated focus has been put on current standardisation work streams, such as Digital Link, Mobile Ready HERO Images and Web-Vocabulary. Next to the standards related topic, the participants have touched the relevance of marketplaces and opportunities from already existing GS1 standards, such as EPC/RFID and EPCIS being a driving force for Omni-channel Ready Merchandise and Visibility Data.

**Get FIT! The Fight against Illicit Trade**

Illicit trade and product counterfeiting are serious problems for manufacturers, brand owners, retailers, government authorities, consumers and patients – and unfortunately, many important business sectors and all regions of the globe are negatively affected. By helping detect, deter and disrupt counterfeiting and illicit trade, GS1 standards support government authorities and their partners to fight against illicit trade. Many of our GS1 Member organisations have joined this initiative and we want to thank each of them for their commitment and enthusiasm to work proactively with authorities, economic operators and all stakeholders to study how GS1 standards could add value to efforts to combat the illicit trade of tobacco products.

**Consumer IoT: Advancing the work with industry**

GS1 GO and GS1 US have been engaged in a joint initiative to explore opportunities for GS1 in a Consumer IoT (C-IoT) landscape. This creates opportunities for GS1 in three areas: (1) identifying gaps in our standards for a C-IoT world, (2) providing new applications to explore our connections to the growing intersections between digital and physical product domains, and (3) engaging our user community in new ways around consumer engagement.

During this session we gave a broad update on the initiative, specifically highlighting the ways that our description of C-IoT, our architecture principles, and use cases have evolved over the past 1½ years. In the past few months, we have engaged industry leaders in two face-to-face workshops. Our focus has been to dive deeper into concepts such as product provenance and consumer experience. We then described our next steps to outline options for a proof of concept that would engage industry to illustrate how globally unique identification can bring Consumer IoT to life.
Plenary Session

Industry & Standards Event attendees were welcomed by Robert Beideman, Chief Solutions & Innovation Officer at GS1 Global. Robert spoke to the audience about the changing technology landscape and what GS1 needs to do in order to keep up with the needs of its customers. He then introduced Mike Byrne, CEO of GS1 Ireland, who warmly welcomed everyone to Dublin. Andrew Hearm, Vice President of the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) gave a status update on GSMP, reminding everyone of the importance of participation and being “in the room” to have your voice heard through the standards development process. We also heard an operational update from Miguel Lopera, CEO of GS1 Global. Our audience also had the privilege of participating in a keynote speech from Michael Carey, Chairman of East Coast Bakehouse. Michael spoke to our group about his challenges in starting a new business within the food industry. The session concluded with the presentation of two Ken Traub Standards Awards to Sylvia Rubio Alegren, ICA Sweden and Ralph Troeger, GS1 Germany.

LEI, GLN and other GS1 keys; how do they all fit together?

The discussion in the workshop focused on explaining the differences and similarities of the GS1 GLN key and the external identifier LEI (Legal Entity Identifier), which is currently primarily used in the financial industry to comply with regulatory requirements. GS1 is able to provide both identifiers to customers, but we are missing a clear guideline and explanations on when to use which key. The group looked at a variety of examples from various industries and sectors. The learnings from this session are flowing into a revision of the high-level GLN/LEI relationship paper, which will give the MOs guidance and a common voice on the use of the two identifiers.

The New Global Traceability Strategy

GS1 standards provide the foundation needed for end-to-end traceability systems. Industry needs to deliver safety, trust and efficiency, and to transform the manner in which they identify, capture, share and raise visibility of information about themselves and about the movements and origins of their products. GS1 global standards, solutions and services will support industry traceability needs by enabling data pertinent to product identity, provenance and movement to be easily shared across any value chain.

A 3-5 year GS1 Traceability Strategy has been drafted and is being socialised and refined during September and October. This session covered a year of progress on traceability and the methodology and workshop for the new strategy was presented with the help of GS1 France and GS1 Germany.

Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) Mission Specific Work Group (MSWG)

Phil Archer brought the group and its guests up to date on what’s been happening since the previous meeting in early July, notably the ratification and publication of the base Digital Link standard on 13th August. Throughout the (northern hemisphere) summer, an outline of the work and a number of demos have been presented to a wide variety of people from MOs and industry. Augmented by many questions from the room, the group revisited fundamental ideas such as how the structure of a Web URI carries GS1 keys and how this might enable the use of QR codes and other data carriers to act as an entry point for consumer interaction as well as traditional supply chain functions. Much time was spent discussing the possible development of a resolver service at id.gs1.org to act as a brand-authorised identity management system that would act as a connection point for all manner of resources related to a given product. 3 months’ discussion, plus the work foreseen in phase I of the work, leads to three identifiable areas that the MSWG needs to address in phase II:

1. The precise, detailed definition of ‘a GS1 conformant resolver’. This is a Web server, so the technology is ubiquitous and cheap, however, aspects such as GS1 identifier validation need to be defined.
2. How a long URL can be compressed so that it can be encoded in a QR code but the GS1 keys extracted without having to do an online look up. This is not like bit.ly or tinyURL where an online lookup of a short URL redirects to a longer one; the GTIN and other identifiers must be available offline. Given the maximum size of QR code likely to be acceptable to a product owner and the level of reliability required for critical supply chain applications, there is an effective limit of around 44 characters in a QR code in this context.
3. The detailed semantics. GS1 conformant URIs may contain significant information, including a hierarchy of identifiers and an unsorted set of attributes and their values. These semantics are opaque to computers and will need to be spelt out in great detail such that an algorithm can be applied to reliably extract the correct meaning from a given URI. In the second part of the day, Laurent Tonneller (SERVICETAG) presented his existing compression algorithm, the IP for which he is prepared to donate to GS1. This relies on domain knowledge and a transformation, via binary, to a Base64 encoding. This is entirely reversible so that the original and full set of GS1 identifiers can be extracted. The group thanks Laurent for the generous offer and agrees to test/examine the solution to see whether it was indeed sufficient to meet the requirements.

Fellow co-chair, Dom Guinard of EVRYTHNG, presented his company’s existing work which has already been updated to work with the Digital Link standard. He highlighted again that the compression problem is the number one issue and needs to be solved as soon as possible.
The day ended with a discussion of how a broad range of stakeholders can meaningfully be engaged in such a technical topic. The outline agreement is that time will be set aside within the meeting schedule to cover business-orientated, non-technical issues.

**How to do business with Tesco Ireland – Lunch & Learn**

“How to do business with...” sessions give suppliers the opportunity to learn about key priorities, new initiatives, and the role of GS1 standards from their retail customers. This fosters communication, education and collaboration between trading partners, and demonstrates the value of GS1 standards for business. This “How to do business with Tesco Ireland session” featured opening remarks by Mr. Mike Byrne, CEO of GS1 Ireland who discussed the important role GS1 standards play in improving business processes and solving business challenges (e.g. enabling unique, persistent identification across the physical and digital shelf). The feature presentation was delivered by Mr. Sean Nolan, Head Of Commercial Operations at Tesco Ireland. Sean presented about the Product Lifecycle (vision, benefits for key stakeholders, process) and the importance of accurate, complete product information. He also shared about their new tool “myProduct Induct”, a platform for new item set-up for suppliers and Tesco buyers.

**Technical Industries**

In this open session both experts and new-comers were provided with abundant material highlighting the opportunities of Technical Industries (TI) for GS1 and vice versa. After a brief intro on this GS1 sector’s specificities, the attendees learned about the current efforts in the Industries in focus for 2017-2019, being Construction, CPG manufacturing, Defence and Rail. Recent successes in terms of global industry engagement, implementation and standardisation activities (a.o. in Maritime) were presented as well as a glimpse into what is in the pipeline. The highlight of the session was a clear use case of GS1 standards adoption in the Construction sector, presented by Per Lieng Stubberud, CFO of Gausdal Landhandleri, a large Norwegian building material wholesaler in B2B: it proved to be a perfect fit. The relevance of GS1 in the Industrial IoT was the thread running through all of the presented cases.

**EPCIS 2.0 Mission Specific Work Group (MSWG)**

This was a two day session and the following topics were discussed. Ralph lead the discussions regarding the first iteration of sensor solution development. The BRAD for sensor proceeded directly to community eBallot as there were no comments. Link to community eBallot: https://xchange.gs1.org/cr/ballots/Pages/ballot.aspx?rid=313&key=ballot/ 12-25 Sep. Craig presented the draft FIT Application Standard, and this work stream is the priority and next set of teleconference will be dedicated to FIT. The second day included discussions regarding REST binding, Extrinsic vs Intrinsic Dispositions, and Overview of the approach to JSON-LD and JSON enhancements.

**Barcode Identification Technical Group and Direct Part Marking**

This working group discussed technical changes to the General Specification that could simplify or clarify this core GS1 document. Discussions focused on symbol height requirements for GS1-128 barcodes for logistics and updates to the Symbol Specification Tables. The attendees also considered clarification of the decision tree within the General Specification to help users identify the appropriate barcode and parameters for their application or when looking to verify a GS1 barcode. Finally, the group is reviewing direct marking descriptions and specifications in order to align with industry needs. Any recommendations that achieve consensus will be forwarded to the ID SMG for consideration within the GSMP process.

**Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Standards Maintenance Group (SMG)**

The EDI SMG kicked off the 2018 I&S event with a hearty roundtable session of MO and Industry users sharing updates on national projects and business. As matters of business, the group discussed preparation for both the upcoming 3.4 Release and anticipated work resulting from the GS1 EDI Strategy. Finally, great thought and discussion was given to the impacts of the Fighting Illicit Trade (FIT) regulation and how the EDI SMG can best enable the FIT team and industry.

**Marketplaces: Leveraging GS1 standards in marketplaces**

During the Marketplaces session, we provided attendees with an overview of the Marketplaces sector, some of the challenges/needs facing Marketplaces, a view of how GS1 can help Marketplaces, and finally, the various ways that MOs can become involved in ongoing efforts focused on the Marketplaces sector. The Marketplaces are a key sector for growth across all digital commerce and represent millions of new potential members to serve for GS1. Marketplaces are technology platforms that connect sellers and consumers by creating an ecosystem that facilitates transactions between them. With industry leaders such as Amazon, Alibaba, and eBay, as well as increasing numbers of small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Marketplaces are poised for continued growth and expansion.
Traceability Awareness MO Task Force
The Traceability Awareness MO Task Force started in June 2018 with the objective to raise awareness on GS1 role and traceability offering in food sectors in the short term.

Key audiences, messaging and an execution plan have been agreed in the first phase of the project. The Task Force met for its second physical meeting in Dublin to get ready for the execution phase. The Task Force discussed engagement monitoring, challenges and tools to help deliver the agreed messaging to the right stakeholders.

Wednesday, 12 September 2018

Latest news on RFID across sectors and Technology update
Participants have been introduced to the latest news on RFID adoption across sectors such as Construction, Defense, Maritime, Rail, Automotive and of course Retail. Moreover, Roberto Matsubayashi from GS1 Brazil gave an overview on the current RFID project initiated by the Brazilian Post together with the UPU. Danny Haak from NEDAP has updated the participants on the latest news on RFID in Apparel retail and the challenges with adoption. Last but not least, the session touched on news about frequency allocation and GS1 and RAIN.

Transport & Logistics Strategy
We began by explaining the need for a new strategy, the process that was followed to create the strategy and also in quite some detail what the GS1 Transport & Logistics strategy is. They also highlighted how the strategy would effect on other sectors. The new T&L strategy aims to establish GS1 standards as an essential building block within the digital world of systems, services and solutions that will be used going forward not just for T&L operations but also directly for business functions that are traditionally not considered part of the supply chain such as production planning, customer service amongst others.

In short: Like the other GS1 sectors, T&L GS1 aims to bridge the gap between Physical and Digital.
After this introduction the attendees broke out into two workgroups: "Next Generation Collaboration" and "Doing more with what we have: Last Mile".

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Advisory Team
This session was focused on launching the deployment of the GS1 EDI Strategy that was approved by the General Assembly in May. With the need to handle multiple standards and with new technologies and services being requested it was agreed that the first priority needs to be a semantic model, i.e. a syntax and technology neutral layer that forms a common base for all EDI developments. This will be prototyped until Spring 2019 when development is to commence.

Global Product Classification (GPC) Member Organisation (MO) Translators Group
The Translators User Group had a comprehensive review of the current GPC Translation Process including the new GPC XML/XLS Schema files webpage. The result was recommendations on how to improve the Publication Tool and the Browser – all which will be added to the Publication Tool redesign documentation. There were also presentations and learnings shared by GS1 Czech Republic, GS1 Brazil, and GS1 Poland.

GS1 Standards & Blockchain
GS1 standards provide the foundation for blockchain data sharing implementations. Blockchain technology has the potential to transform trading partner business processes, improve the flow of products and enable more sustainable and transparent supply chains. Blockchain technology continues to earn attention due to the potential to deliver new capabilities for data sharing, visibility and trust. In this session we tested attendee knowledge on blockchain and distributed ledger technology. We also explored the practicalities and learnings of
an actual blockchain implementation through a presentation by Origin-Trail co-founder Ziga Drev. Mr. Drev confirmed that GS1 standards are fundamental to any data sharing business needs, and that companies cannot simply expect a shortcut to data sharing beyond 1-up/1-down when selecting blockchain technology.

**European Regulation on Product Data**
The session was the occasion to share an overview of the new and most important initiatives undertaken by the EU to develop the EU data economy and in particular on the new EU free flow of product data regulation [https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/free-flow-non-personal-data](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/free-flow-non-personal-data). An interesting discussion was developed regarding the barriers to the free circulation of data and on the actions undertaken to eliminate them in relation to data portability and data storage. The business impact of the new EU measures was considered from different perspectives: retailers, data pools, data service providers, Authorities... Particular mention has been given to the French situation because of the recent political initiatives on “data of general interest” definition. Outstanding speakers have facilitated the discussions: the Center for data innovation [https://www.datainnovation.org/](https://www.datainnovation.org/) and GS1 France.

**Putting it all together - Lunch & Learn**
In this lively, interactive session, Global Office staff from Solutions & Innovations got together with their close colleagues in Retail to show how their ‘separate’ work strands interweave to create a coherent, single story. Apparel, consumer IoT, fresh foods, traceability, innovation and Digital Link - it’s all part of one GS1!

**Achieving faster, fresher supply chains with GS1 standards**
The Fresh Foods sector is growing, driven by product demand from increasing numbers of health-conscious consumers and improved access to safe, fresh products through global trade. Longer and increasingly complex supply chains have increased the need to focus on speed and efficiency, as well as improve visibility and communications. This session featured approaches and best practices of user companies and GS1 Member Organisations across the world who are driving adoption of GS1 standards to solve fresh foods business challenges. Featured topics and presenters were:
- GS1 in Europe Fruit & Vegetable Implementation Group - Mr. Radbout Buijs, Business Consultant, Frug I Com and Mr. Ferran Domènech Fusté, GS1 Spain and GS1 in Europe Fruit & Vegetable Implementation Group
- Smart Fruit Logistics Project - Mr. Klaus Förderer, GS1 Germany
- Variable measure items at Point of Sale - Ms. Karen Arkesteyn, GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg
- Strategic Cooperation with Intergovernmental Organisations on Traceability - Cooperation with GS1 in Asia-Pacific - Mr. Patrik Jonasson, GS1 Global Office

**Global Product Classification (GPC) Standards Maintenance Group**
The GPC SMG reviewed work requests, the December 2018 Publication schedule and motioned 2 work requests in the DIY sector to Community Review. We also continued developing the new GPC Segment: WR 18-000123 – Services. The team reviewed the initial proposal and made changes, setting the path for it to move forward to community review on our next call.

**THURSDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**What’s new with GS1 Cloud Services: Check & Activate**
This informative, public session provided updates and an overview of GS1 Cloud Check and Activate services currently in development and beta testing. In addition to an overview of Check and Activate, attendees witnessed live demonstrations of both services and heard feedback on the services from the beta testing users.

**CPG, Fresh Foods & Food Service MO Interest Group**
The GS1 Member Organisation (MO) Interest Groups for CPG, Fresh Foods and Foodservice provide global platforms for GS1 MOs active in these sectors including: regular exchange of sector information, identification of sector priorities based on industry needs, sharing of best practices for industry engagement and adoption of GS1 standards. This session provided an overview of materials and resources available to GS1 MOs who are driving adoption of GS1 standards to solve business challenges in the CPG, Fresh Foods and Foodservice sectors. MOs provided inputs into Fresh Foods priorities and new materials for engagement. MOs also shared about local activities and initiatives.

**Fighting Illicit (FIT) Mission Specific Work Group (MSWG)**
Based upon the EC clarification, the group reconvened to discuss the updates to the AIDC Application Standards. The group motioned (1st by Ulrich Schäfer – GS1 Germany and seconded by Patrick Chanez – Inexto) the AIDC Application Standards to an extended community review which can be found via this link: [https://xchange.gs1.org/cr/community-reviews/Pages/cr.aspx?rid=563&key=cr](https://xchange.gs1.org/cr/community-reviews/Pages/cr.aspx?rid=563&key=cr) 14 Sep- 12 Oct.
The afternoon included draft updates from the subject matter experts. Eric Kauz presented the draft Business Message Standard for master data. Anders Grangard presented the update from EDI SMG meeting regarding
the EDI transactional messages. Craig Alan Repec presented the EPCIS standards and John closed the meeting with the next steps and timeline.

**Mobile Ready Hero Images implementation experience**

The GS1 Mobile Ready Hero Images guideline was ratified and published in August 2018, the first such document to be published by GS1 as HTML rather than as a PDF. Since this was very recent and coincided with summer holidays for many interested parties, the amount of feedback received so far is low. However, the assembled group were left in no doubt that it is being discussed and that feedback will be forthcoming. There was considerable discussion about how such feedback should be collated and whether the group should immediately begin working on a revision. The conclusion was that GS1 Global would collect and collate the feedback. As and when a critical mass of comments have been received, then further revisions would be discussed.

The highlight of the day’s discussion was a presentation of research done recently in the UK by Coca-Cola, AG Barr (UK distributor for Pepsi), Nestlé, Simple Usability and Tesco. The published guideline leaves open the question of how to present tall thin products, notably bottles of soft drink, and this was an attempt to settle the issue. However, it’s clear that despite the group’s best efforts, consensus remains elusive. Putting one or more coloured bars across the bottle to convey, for example, the specific flavour (the Which variety in MRHI terms) is not acceptable to everyone although it will be to many.

The group agreed that a Work Request would be submitted to GSMP to seek an update to the GS1 Image Spec to include MRHIs in the file naming convention, a recommended maximum file size and, potentially, a means to map GDSN attributes to the 4Ws at the heart of the MRHI guideline.

**GS1 Standards Development Certification Programme – Lunch & Learn**

In this lunch and learn session, attendees learned that since launch in February of 2017, the Standards Development Certification Programme has grown to over 250 participants. There was a mix of new people who were not familiar with the programme and those who have taken the programme and are currently certified. The group was presented with a high-level outline of each of the courses available in the programme and the benefits to becoming certified.

**Implementing a traceability solution using GS1 standards**

GS1 standards provide the foundation needed for end-to-end traceability systems. By building traceability systems based on global, open GS1 standards, trading partners can access, combine and analyse data from a variety of upstream and downstream sources. This session focused on approaches and specific initiatives of user companies, key stakeholders and GS1 Member Organisations across the world who are using GS1 standards. Attendees heard about business drivers and needs for traceability in industry sectors as well as cross-sector best practices. Presentations were made by:

- Ms. Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Ms. Roxana Saravia, Traceability Project Manager, GS1 Argentina
- Mr. Denis O’Brien, Director of Standards & Solutions, GS1 Ireland
- Mr. Andrew Kennedy, Interim Director, Global Food Traceability Center at the Institute of Food Technologists®

**GS1 Trends & SWOT Analysis**

GS1 has been creating a new process for identifying, organizing, and prioritising trends, opportunities and threats to ensure GS1 is adapting to changing industry needs. Additional benefits to this initiative will be: providing new thought leadership on industry trends, and providing recommendations for new programs to support our strategic growth goals. This presentation highlighted the work to date, including the effort to engage over 400 people across 80 MOs for input on business trends and technology enablers. A workshop was held on 3-4 September in Dublin, and we described how we prioritised trends and enablers, and mapped these concepts against the GS1 Value Chain to identify connections and relevance. Finally, we highlighted a SWOT process to identify organisational Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats – a process that will be used to tie the initiative together and create potential recommendations for next steps.

**Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) Validation Rules sub-team**

Twenty plus stakeholders in the GDSN Validation Rules came together at the Brussels meeting and progressed the open GSMP Work Requests related to GDSN Validation Rules. The group also reviewed the pilot work done to covert the GDSN Validation Rules to Schematron (a machine readable syntax), reflected on how to further improve the publication How to Write GDSN Validation Rules. Finally a number of proposals to improve overall communication/transparency on the future GDSN Release schedule were developed. The Work Group slides are shared only with those who have signed IP and are available on the GDSN Validation Rules Community Room.
**Architecture Group**
The architecture group met for one day and a half in Dublin. The group discussed the Semantic modelling approach that is part of the GS1 EDI strategy and that is relevant for all GS1 standards and services. Concrete recommendations on moving forward were agreed. A proposal on the syntax for representing hash values of GS1 ID keys and attributes was reviewed and supported. The need for this solution came from users involved in the GSMP working group dealing with the revision of EPCIS and CBV. It was agreed to review the format and content of the GS1 system architecture that is updated annually. The new version should be available early 2020. The group assessed its performance against its own terms of reference. It also discussed ways to better promote the system architecture and the role of the architecture group in the GS1 community.

**Presentation Skills & Cultural Diversity Training / Effective Meeting Facilitation**
At this year’s Fall event, we combined the two classroom Certification Sessions into one day. The GS1 Standards Development Certification Programme: Presentation Skills & Cultural Diversity course course brings the basics of presentation skills and how to interact with a multi-cultural audience. The GS1 Standards Development Certification Programme – Effective Meeting Facilitation course brings knowledge and interpersonal skills to GS1 group leaders on effective meeting practices and how to apply these into future group meetings, resulting in consensus-based agreements.

**SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 2019 EVENTS**

**GS1 Standards Event 2019 co-located with GS1 Connect**
17 - 21 June 2019
Denver, Colorado USA

**GS1 Industry & Standards Event 2019**
09 – 13 September 2019
Lisbon, Portugal

Look for details at [http://www.gs1.org/standards-development](http://www.gs1.org/standards-development)

**GSMP IN A NUTSHELL**

The GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) pairs efficiency with consensus building to develop standards that address real business challenges.

**GSMP is a collaborative forum for creating standards, guidelines and other materials to serve our global users.**

Through the GSMP, businesses facing similar problems work together to develop standards-based solutions.

As a neutral party, GS1 facilitates dialogue between participants from nearly 60 countries who work in sectors including retail, consumer goods, fresh foods, healthcare, transport & logistics and government.

Learn how we develop standards, find out what GS1 global work groups are developing, and see the different ways you can get involved by visiting our website at [http://www.gs1.org/standards-development](http://www.gs1.org/standards-development).