

Informatics Europe

ECSS 2008, ETH Zurich

-Forming a Collegial Network-

Workshop for (New) Dept Chairs

Bertrand Meyer/Jan van Leeuwen



Agenda

- What is Informatics Europe
- What does Informatics Europe do
- What do YOU expect from Informatics Europe
- Forming a collegial network
- Discussion

From an email of Jan. 2005

- The departments of computer science at EPFL and ETH are taking the initiative of a first meeting of heads of departments in Europe, and would like to solicit your involvement.
- In all European countries, teaching and research in information technology are facing constant challenges, some shared with our colleagues in other regions, some more specific.
- The heads of departments are in a unique position to appreciate the issues and to look for solutions. **As far as we know there hasn't been any effort, comparable to the Computing Research Association in the US with its annual "Snowbird" conference**, to provide a forum where they could discuss these matters and coordinate their efforts.
We feel it's time to start.
- (B. Meyer/W Zwaenepoel)

Origin

- In 2004: first ideas, ETH/EPFL Computer Science
- ECSS 2005: ETH Zurich, October
Informal start, Boards formed
- ECSS 2006: ETH Zurich, October
Formal start of the Association
- ECSS 2007: TU Berlin, October
- Report Working group on 'Image and Enrollment'
- ECSS 2008: ETH Zurich, October
- With pre-Summit Workshop
- Theme: Innovation, Impact, Image

Members, Oct 2008

- Atlanstic Research Federation, France
- Ecole des Mines de Nantes, France
- Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France
- École Normale Supérieure, France
- Eindhoven U of Technology, The Netherlands
- EPFL, Switzerland
- ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Fakultätentag Informatik, Germany
- GRIN, Italy
- Imperial College London, UK
- INPG - ENSIMAG, France
- IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Odessa Nat. Polytechnic U., Ukraine
- Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- RTWH Aachen University, Germany
- Technical University Berlin, Germany
- Technical University Darmstadt, Germany
- TOBB U. Econ. & Technology, Ankara, Turkey
- Université Paris-Dauphine, France
- University College London, UK
- University of Aarhus, Denmark
- University A. I. Cuza of Iasi, Romania
- University of Atilim, Turkey

- University of Cadiz, Spain
- University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- University of Debrecen, Hungary
- University of Eötvös Loránd, Hungary
- University of Lugano, Switzerland
- University of Magdeburg, Germany
- University of Milano, Italy
- University of Nizhny-Novgorod, Russia
- University of Paderborn, Germany
- University of Paris 13, France
- University of Sofia, Bulgaria
- University of Stuttgart, Germany
- University of Twente, The Netherlands
- University of Vilnius, Lithuania
- Univ. of West Bohemia, Czech Republic
- University of Zurich, Switzerland
- University Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
- Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- Vienna University, Austria
- West University of Timisoara, Romania

What does Inf Europe do



- The purpose of the annual Summit is:
 - To bring together the heads of departments of Informatics **or equivalent** in PhD-granting universities and leading research Institutes in the European region.
 - To provide them with a forum for the discussion of common issues, joint solutions, and relevant developments of joint interest.
 - To examine ways in which department heads and directors can work together to improve teaching and research, inspire the developments in forming, certifying and renewing programs at the BSc, MSc, and PhD level, and set standards for research evaluation.
 - To mobilize department heads and research leaders in Informatics in Europe to further the interests of the discipline, represent the field, and influence the policies of universities, of governments and the EU.

Achievements up to 2008 (1)

informatics
eu0pe

- Community, truly transnational
- 4th Annual Summit: ECSS 2008
- Tech Watch Digest, weekly (free e-subscription) - Editor: **Peter Kiowski**
- Web support for working groups (wiki)
- Web site: fully re-styled September 2008
- Computer Science Event List
- European Informatics: ACM, Cepis, etc
- (Forthcoming) Computer Science Position List
- (Forthcoming) Partner in European QA network

Achievements up to 2008 (2)

- Working group: Image of the discipline

- Report (in Summit materials)
- Edited by Jan van Leeuwen and Letizia Tanca
Released October 2007
- Follow up in preparation (Venice 2008)

- Working group: Curriculum

- Coordinated by Gregor Engels
- Cagliari meeting (Euro-Inf Final Conf 2008)
- Representation in European QA network

- Working group: Research Evaluation

- Coordinated by Christine Choppy
- CACM opinion paper
- Report at ECSS 2008

Six strategic priorities



- 1. Raise the profile of the Association
- 2. Create infrastructure
- 3. Make it worthwhile to join: offer more services
- 4. Produce more reports that address important issues at a high level
- 5. Raise membership to 80 institutions, in all European countries
- 6. Increase member involvement

Strategic goals for Annual ECSS

- Successful as it is: 80-100 people, excellent keynotes, excellent interaction
- Must bring it to new format in 2009
 - (Much) Greater part based on member input
 - Next workshop(s) for new department chairs
 - Technology keynotes
 - Panels, workshops
 - 200 participants
 - (...)

Concrete action: membership

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide features a horizontal sequence of five circles. The first, third, and fifth circles are solid light purple. The second and fourth circles are hollow with a light purple outline. To the right of the circles, the text 'informatics europe' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. The word 'informatics' is on the top line, and 'europe' is on the bottom line, with the 'e' in 'europe' partially overlapping the bottom of the fourth circle.

- **Check that your department or institute is a member (or part of a consorted member) ..**
- **Get involved..**
- **Help lobby..**

Concrete action: industrial partners



- Do you have good industrial contacts?
- If so, encourage them to become
- industrial associates!

Concrete action: research evaluation



- Computer Science is special!
- Our colleagues are not always convinced
- Earlier work of Computing Research Association (Paterson et al.)
- CACM paper by BM, CC, JvL, JS
- Debate
- What action can InformatICS Europe take?

The top of the slide features a decorative graphic consisting of four overlapping circles. The second circle from the left is white with a thin blue outline, while the others are solid light blue. To the right of the circles, the text 'informatics europe' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font, with 'informatics' on the top line and 'europe' on the bottom line, partially overlapping a light blue semi-circle.

What do YOU expect from IE?

- What issues?
- What best practices?
- What services?
- (More than) Annual contact with colleague department heads and research directors?
- More?

- Discussion

What you can do

- Identify **one** topic of interest for you, your department, etc.
- Form a collegial community for it: join a working group, form a working group, or form a collegial network within IE.
- Work on this topic, with an eye towards results (i.e. ambitious enough to be interesting, but modest enough to be feasible, with first outcomes in 6 months), report at next Summit.
- Publicize Informatics Europe, link to it (with logo) on your Web page; publicize in your department's Web page that it is a member.
- Invite a Board member to talk about IE to a conference or other relevant meeting.
- Get **one new member**; don't neglect envy factor.
- Propose a theme or a topic for the next ECSS.
- (...)

Workshop for (New) Dept Chairs



Thank You!