

INFORMATICS EUROPE

ECSS 2009

- Workshop for (New) Department Chairs -

Connecting the Informatics Departments and
Research Centers in Europe

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Agenda



- What is Informatics Europe
- What are Informatics Europe's goals?
- Achievements until 2009
- Some developments in European informatics (in which the association plays a role)
- Strategic priorities
- On being a "network of interest"
- What do YOU expect from Informatics Europe?
- Discussion

Informatics Europe: Origin



- In 2004: first ideas, ETH/EPFL Computer Science
- ECSS 2005: ETH Zurich, October
 - Informal start: need for cooperation recognized, Board formed
 - Inspired by CRA
- ECSS 2006: ETH Zurich, October
 - Formal start of the Association, President and 2 Vice-Presidents elected
 - *The Research and Education Organization of Informatics and IT Departments in Europe*
- ECSS 2007: TU Berlin, October
 - First Report Working group, on 'Student Enrollment and Image'
- ECSS 2008: ETH Zurich, October
 - With pre-Summit Workshop
 - Theme: Innovation, Impact, Image
- ECSS 2009: Université Paris 13/INRIA, October
 - With pre-Summit workshop
 - Theme: **Informatics among the Sciences - Scientific principles in Informatics**

Informatics Europe: goals



- To **foster** the **development** of high-quality research and of research-oriented university education (BSc, MSc, and PhD) in Informatics, Computing, ... at the **European level**.
- To **promote** the **public understanding** of the (past and potential) contribution of Informatics to the technological, economic, and social development of society.
- To **create effective relations** (at the European level) between Informatics departments and research institutes at universities and in industry, and with governmental authorities, for the benefit of the field, by bringing the leadership the respective institutions for research and education together.
- To **represent** the European research and education departments in Informatics, in relevant international organizations.
- To **serve the interests** of our members and of Informatics in any other issues related to the **'knowledge triangle'** (Research, education, innovation) for Informatics at the European level.

Achievements up to 2009 (1)



- Community, 52 members, truly transnational
- *5th Annual Summit: ECSS 2009*
- *2nd Pre-Summit Workshop*
- European Informatics: ACM, CEPIS, etc
- Partner in European QA network [EQANIE](#)
- Web site: fully re-styled in 2008, again in 2009
- Web support for working groups (wiki)
- *Wikipedia page*
- Computer Science Event List
- (Forthcoming) Computer Science Position List

Achievements up to 2009 (2)



- Working group: Image of the discipline
 - Coordinated by: Jan van Leeuwen
 - `Student Enrollment and Image of the Discipline' (Jan van Leeuwen, Letizia Tanca)
 - `Attracting (more) Students to the Informatics Discipline' (IEE III 2008)
 - `What type of Computer Scientist do we need for the future' (UPC 2009)
 - See IE Documents
- Working group: Informatics curricula
 - Coordinated by: Gregor Engels
 - Standard for European CS curricula at Universities (BSc, MSc)
 - Representation in European QA network EQANIE
- Working group: Research Evaluation
 - Coordinated by: Christine Choppy
 - Report at ECSS 2008
 - Opinion paper: CACM 52:4 (2009) 31-34
- Working group (in preparation): Department Evaluation
 - Tentatively coordinated by: Letizia Tanca
- Working group (in pre-preparation): Philosophy of Informatics
 - Tentatively coordinated by: Jan van Leeuwen

Some developments in European informatics in which IE plays a role



- **Data collection** effort by IE (J. Nievergelt at ETH), we need more ‘facts and figures’ to make the case for Informatics.
- Continued discussion on **research evaluation**: criteria for promotion and tenure in CS, role of conferences.
- Involvement in the debate on **renewing** (“re-inventing”) **informatics education** e.g. in IEE conferences, curriculum recommendations etc.
- **Quality standards** in Informatics education, in research, at group- or institute level. Euro-label discussion. Role in (as..) QA organization (EQANIE). Initiative for Informatics department “evaluation”.
- Making use of **industrial** memberships. “Best practices” in industrial involvement in research at universities.
- Providing more a **recognized European “entity”** for Informatics and giving the field a more uniform representation.
- Professional **societies** in Europe: EC initiative (Oct 13 meeting in Brussels), alliances, future role in IT domain.
- **Interaction and cooperation** with ERCIM, ACM Europe Council, ... to join forces e.g. towards the EC, or supporting activities (e.g. Turing Centennial).

Strategic priorities ...



- Increase the profile of the Association
- Position the Association among the professional organizations in Informatics/Computing/IT in Europe
- **Annual ECSS meeting:** 2010, format
- Publish more reports that address important issues for informatics in Europe at a high level
- Offer more services (which ones are needed..?)
- Increase membership in all European countries (and associated states), to 80-100 members
- Increase member involvement
- Develop organizational infrastructure
- (More)

On being a “network of interest” (1)

- Check that your department or institute is, or will become, a member (or part of a consorted member) ..
- Publicize Informatics Europe: on your homepage, on your department’s homepage that it is a member
- Get one new member
- Get involved
- Start a working group
- Help lobby
- Invite a Board member to talk about IE.
- Help determine (and prepare) actions which Informatics Europe can take

- Computer Science is special!
- Our colleagues are not always convinced
- Debate (Example: CACM paper by BM, CC, JvL, JS)

On being a “network of interest” (2)

- How to get involved ...
- Identify important topic of interest for you, your department, ...
- Use IE to form a collegial community: join a working group within IE, or form a new working group.
- Act as convenor, aim for results that count e.g. as publication or conference report
- Work on your 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.
- Propose a theme or a topic for the next ECSS.
- ...

What do you expect from IE?

- What is important for you?
- Advising reports (what issues)?
- Learning from best practices?
- (More than) annual contacts with colleagues on common issues?
- EU-political role of IE?
- National role of IE?
- ...?
- Discussion

Informatics Europe

A large orange globe is centered on the slide. The continent of Europe is highlighted in white, and the text 'Informatics Europe' is overlaid on the globe. The word 'Informatics' is in a white, outlined font, and 'Europe' is in a solid orange font.