INFORMATICS EUROPE

ECSS 2010

**Workshop on Research Leadership
for Department Chairs and Research Directors**

**Strategies of The Association of Informatics Departments
and IT Research Centers in Europe**

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Agenda

- Introducing… Informatics Europe

- Summits and an anniversary

- What does Informatics Europe do

  - Recent activities

- Some developments in European informatics

- Strategic priorities

- Discussion

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Goals of Informatics Europe

- **Strengthen** the development of high-quality research and teaching in the information and computing sciences,

- **Improve** the general understanding of the discipline and its importance for society, at all levels of public and governmental policy-making in Europe, and

- **Achieve** greater effectiveness by connecting the European Informatics departments and research centers at universities and in industry and acting for the discipline, together.

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Informatics Europe : 5th anniversary?

- **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 WG Report: `*Student Enrollment and Image of the Discipline*'

- **ECSS 2008: ETH Zurich**, October
  - Pre-Summit Workshop
  - Theme: *Innovation, Impact, Image*

- **ECSS 2009: Université Paris 13/INRIA**, October
  - Pre-Summit workshop
  - Theme: *Informatics among the Sciences - Scientific principles in Informatics*

- **ECSS 2010: Czech Technical University, Prague**, October
  - Pre-Summit workshops
  - Theme: **Informatics – The changing landscape**

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The Board...

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Informatics needs Informatics Europe

- Science is little known outside our field
- No widespread philosophy of the discipline
- Students seen as expert … programmers … only?
- Debates: is Informatics
  - Technology and Engineering-oriented
  - Application-oriented
  - Profession-oriented
  - Science
  - Which league
- Funding policies
  - EU more pro-active than national policies?
  - ICT and innovation
- Policy makers (and our colleagues) are not easily, and not always, convinced
- Role of IE
  - European platform of the relevant institutions and industry
  - Speaking for
    - the field as it is (to be) shaped by our members,
    - high-level academic curricula and high-quality research, fundamental, industrial *and* o/w
  - *Leadership responsibility*

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(Some) recent activities anno 2010

- *General secretary appointed* (Dr Cristina Pereira)

- Advancing `services for members' concept
- Monthly information bulletin for members.
- Membership drive: 14 new members (60-70 members total), expanding
- Industrial members: Google, Intel, Microsoft Research, Springer (a)
- New members in the Board

- *6th* Annual Summit: ECSS 2010
- *3rd* Pre-Summit Workshop*, now also with EQANIE Workshop*
- Progress with accreditation concept for Informatics curricula (BSc, MSc, ..)
- European policy:
  - EC contacts,
  - cooperation with ACM Europe Council and ERCIM
- Working groups
  - WG's on `Image of the Discipline', `Research Evaluation', …
  - WG on `Department evaluation'
  - (more in preparation)
- Wikipedia page (please link to it within Wikipedia)

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`Services for members' strategies

- **Services**
  - Department evaluation (`evaluation agency offering assessment of research quality ')
    - *Report at the Summit*
- **Documentation**
  - Informatics Europe reports
    - CACM article on research evaluation
  - Informatics Europe presentations
- **Information**
  - Computer Science Event List
  - Data collection (`Institute profiles')
  - (Forthcoming) Portal for Informatics Research and Education in Europe
  - (Forthcoming) Computer Science Position List
- **Membership**
  - More contact with (industrial) members
  - Monthly newsbulletin
  - Working groups
  - Information on http://www.informatics-europe.org

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Some developments in European informatics

- **Investments** in (very) large projects, and the lack thereof, in selected areas (*selected by others*), especially in applied ICT domain. Increasing role and need of external and industry funding.

- **Community effect** of interdisciplinary (and inter-school) projects, technology platforms (KIC etc), industrial cooperation or support increasingly `mandatory'.

- **Universities cutting back**, not good for informatics?

- **Research evaluation**: criteria for promotion and tenure in Informatics, role of conferences. IE standard for department evaluation in Informatics.

- **Inventing/renewing MSc programs in informatics,** viz. in applied domains (game technology, web science, …), new curriculum formats (dual degrees, joint degrees across Europe, …), etc.

- **Quality standards** in Informatics education, in research, at group- or institute level. Euro-label discussion. Role in EQANIE.

- **Scientific and professional societies** in Europe: EC initiative to achieve more unity (what do the communities want? cf panel), future role in IT domain. Cooperation with ERCIM, ACM Europe Council,…

- **Supporting activities** (e.g. Turing Centennial).

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Strategic priorities

- Increase the profile of the Association

- Position the Association among the professional organizations in Informatics/ Computing /IT in Europe

- Annual ECSS meeting: 2011 (!)

- 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 further

- (More)

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Discussion

- !!!

- What role should Informatics Europe have for you?
  - Policies or services?
  - Role at EU level? National role of IE?
  - What must IE do more, what less
  - More activities?
- Department evaluation
  - Aim at `evaluation' or `advising' (both?)
  - Other services?
- What is important for you?
  - Identify important topic of interest for you, your department, …
  - Propose a theme or a topic for the next ECSS
  - Reports (on what issues, and who will write)?
- Help determine (and prepare) actions Informatics Europe can take

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Check that your department or institute is, or will become, a member (or part of a consorted member) ..

Informatics Europe
Setting The Pace for IT Research and Education in Europe

Is your institution a member of Informatics Europe?

About

Informatics Europe (IE) is the association of computer science departments of universities and research laboratories, public and private, in Europe. It is a nonprofit membership organization that maintains close ties with other academic and professional organizations.

Its main mission is to foster the development of quality research and teaching in information and computer sciences, also known as Informatics.

IE was created as a result of the first two European Computer Science Summits (ECSS), held at ETH Zurich in October 2005 and October 2006, where heads of Informatics departments from all over Europe joined forces for the first time to define and promote common policies and study common issues.

Events, Projects and Initiatives

ECSS

Annual summit of deans, department chairs, senior faculty and research directors of European Informatics faculties, departments, research institutes and industrial laboratories. The meeting place for anyone interested in issues of research, education and policy in Informatics.

Working Groups

Joining experts in the field to examine issues of critical interest with the aim of producing reports and concrete results leading to direct action.

Computer Science Event List

Repository of conferences and events in Informatics and related fields from all over the world.

Department Evaluation

Project under development where IE will function as an evaluation agency offering research quality assessment to Informatics Departments and Research Institutes in Europe.

Research and Education Portal

Project under development that will create a portal to a large database of university-level institutions involved in Informatics Research and Education in Europe and neighboring regions.

www.informatics-europe.org

Publicize Informatics Europe: on your homepage, on your department's homepage that it is a member.
Get one new member

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What does Informatics Europe (aim to) do?

- **Foster** the development of high-quality research and research-oriented education at BSc, MSc, and PhD level in Informatics (Computing) in Europe.

- **Promote** the public understanding of (the science of) Informatics and of the contribution of Informatics to the technological, economic, and social development of society.

- **Create** effective relations between the Informatics departments and research centers at universities and in industry in Europe, *and* with governmental authorities, for the benefit of the field, by bringing the leadership the respective institutions for research and education together.

- **Represent** the European research and education departments in Informatics in relevant international organizations.

- **Inform** about trends and developments in research and education policies and good practices at the European and related national levels, to help members position their programs optimally.

- **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.

THANK YOU

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