Informatics for All

A joint effort by a coalition of the major informatics organisations

- Ongoing work since 2012
- Formally founded in 2018 by
  - Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Europe Council
  - Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS)
  - Informatics Europe
- The International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) Technical Committee on Education (TC-3) joined in 2020
- To advocate for the inclusion of Informatics as a foundational discipline in schools across Europe

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- **ACM Europe Council**: Judith Gal-Ezer and Andrew McGettrick
- **Informatics Europe**: Michael E. Caspersen and Enrico Nardelli
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- **IFIP (TC3)**: Don Passey and Mary Webb
- **Advisor**: Bobby Schnabel
- Activities described on the site [http://informaticsforall.org](http://informaticsforall.org)
Informatics for All: The strategy
ACM Europe & Informatics Europe
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Informatics as a Fundamental Discipline for the 21st Century

BY MICHAEL E. CASPERSEN, JUDITH GAL-EZER, ANDREW McGETTICK, AND ENRICO NARDelli

Informatics for all is a coalition whose aim is to establish informatics as a fundamental discipline to be taken by all students in school. Informatics should be seen as important as mathematics, the sciences, and the various languages. It should be recognized by all as a truly foundational discipline that plays a significant role in education for the 21st century.

The European scene. In Europe, education is a matter left to the individual states. However, education competencies, and preparedness of the workforce are all important matters for the European Union (EU). Impantly, there is a recognition that the education systems of Europe do not collectively prepare students sufficiently well for the challenges of the digital economy. These systems need to be fundamentally transformed and modernized. In January 2018, a Digital Education Action Plan, which set out a number of priorities, was published by the EU. The most relevant priority for our initiative is “Developing relevant digital competencies and skills for the digital transformation,” and the Plan suggests one way to implement this is to “Bring coding classes to all schools in Europe.” This is important; but there is a need, as we will explain in this article.

ACM Europe and Informatics Europe - ACM (Europe) (acm.org) was established in 2008, and Informatics Europe (informatics-europe.org) in 1994. From the early days, the two organizations have collaborated on educational matters. Through these initiatives, they are keen to project to the wider community a single message about aspects of Informatics education. In 2013, the two groups got together and funded a Committee on Europe Computing Educators (COCE) to undertake a study that would capture the state of informatics education across the administrative units of Europe generally, these units are the countries, but within Germany, for instance, there are 16 different administrative units with autonomy regarding education.

The COCE study paralleled the highly influential U.S. study Report to the President (RPT; 1987) that had drawn attention to the state of computer science education in the U.S. The COCE study gathered data from EU administrative units (countries, nations, and regions) of Europe (nine levels) with autonomous educational systems through the use of questionnaires and a wide network of reliable contacts and official sources. The report on that work was published in 2017. The three themes of informatics, digital literacy, and teacher training provided the framework for the study. Informatics was
Informatics for All
Activities 2019-2020

2019 Brussels Workshop

In February 2019 the Informatics for All coalition hosted a hands-on workshop in Brussels for over 50 representatives from leading European universities and industry where the top challenges for the initiative were identified and discussed.

2020 Workshop Webinar

Following the successful Informatics for All Workshop that took place in Brussels in 2019, we planned a second Workshop on 17th March 2020. The event was scheduled to take place in Brussels, however due to COVID-19 outbreak, a webinar took place. The event was on invitation only.

Rome Declaration

An important outcome of the Informatics for All coalition was the issuing of a declaration to national and international institutions to draw attention to the role that these institutions might play in the promotion of Informatics for All.

Public Consultation: New Digital Education Action Plan

The Informatics for All coalition participated to the consultation phase on the renovation of the Digital Education Action Plan which ran until September 4th, 2020, by submitting a position paper.
Update of DEAP
• A top priority in Ursula von der Leyen’s Mission Letter to Mariya Gabriel in 2019 when the new EC was formed.

Action 10

A focus on inclusive high-quality **computing education (informatics)** at all levels of education.

Proposal for

* A coherent vision and shared terminology related to providing informatics to all students in Europe.*

as requested in action 10 of DEAP.