

**The initiative of Informatics Europe's PhD School on Informatics Education Research, in collaboration with IBM Research Europe**

European countries need to invest in Informatics Education in schools. This need has been clearly laid out in the recent [Recommendation](#) by the Council of the European Union on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training, adopted on 23 November 2023. The Recommendation recognizes that it is necessary to promote quality education in informatics, regardless of curricular choices. It suggests that Member States should support high-quality education in informatics at school, using age- and developmentally-appropriate teaching methods, and quality resources, and promoting gender-balanced uptake and representation. It also recommends investing in research on Informatics Education to promote diversity and reduce stereotypes in teaching and learning of informatics.

Unlike other established fields of research in Informatics, where large networks of researchers discuss and exchange theoretical and practical knowledge on how to teach the subject, how pupils learn and come to understand the subject, and how to deal with common misconceptions, there is currently no European initiative focused on connecting Informatics Education researchers. There are a number of experts in this field, but they have limited interaction with each other. Even the existing European informatics education conferences do not truly support an inclusive European informatics education research network as they often focus on local or regional topics. The emerging community in informatics education research is fragmented and fragile. There is very little sharing of insight and experience between countries, except for smaller regional networks. There are significant cultural differences between Eastern and Western Europe, and similarly between Southern and Northern Europe.

The proposed PhD School on Informatics Education Research (SCHIER) aims to fill this gap by providing a sound and comprehensive introduction to research methods and tools in the field of Informatics Education in schools. Attending SCHIER is important for establishing relations among researchers and enabling the establishment of a solid and wide Informatics education research community across Europe. SCHIER aims at PhD students who wish to work in this area, as well as post-docs and other researchers interested in learning more about the topics and challenges in this field, which has been given increased prominence by the Council Recommendation.

SCHIER is organized as a residential in-presence event, with a high-level structure, featuring one major theme for each morning/afternoon.