



**Meeting Minutes of the National Associations (NAs) Working Session
ECSS 2018 - October 10, 2018
Goteborg, Sweden**

2:15 - 2:45 (30 min) Introduction

- Welcome and brief introduction by Helene Kirchner, Director of the High Level Activity Strengthening Relations Among Community, Improving Networking and Enrico Nardelli, President of Informatics Europe (IE). *Since this is our first experience in doing such a workshop with NAs, any feedback and suggestions to improve are welcome.*
- Introduction of IE and brief information on IE activities on Informatics at University, Informatics and women. The participants received flyers and a USB stick on which this information is available. Our main goal is to become a common voice for Informatics in the European continent. An updated presentation of Informatics Europe, to be used for disseminating information about it at country level, is attached to these minutes.
- Two working sessions in parallel with this working session on NAs were addressing other questions, which are also of interest to us :
 - how should universities respond to the massive changes caused by informatics becoming truly pervasive? (new working group on interdisciplinary informatics teaching at universities)
 - women in informatics research and education (WIRE working group)
- A document with a one-page description of each participating association is distributed. A quick “tour de table” was done where everyone present introduces himself (name of the organisation, kind of organisation and representative).

Points of discussion:

- IE has no individual memberships but institutional membership. NAs, if they want, can also become member of IE. Current NA members: CODDI, CPHC, GRIN, Fakultatentag. Membership of the NA does not replace or count as membership of the individual Informatics University Departments.

- Each NA has different goals and purposes, which should be kept in mind in the discussions we have.
- We agreed that it would be very valuable to organise this meeting during future ECCS conference editions, regardless of the fact whether NAs are member of IE or not.

Actions [Responsible]:

- [IE] will provide a web page with the information (short description of each participating association) provided in the above document. This could be beneficial both for the visibility of these associations as well as for Informatics Europe.
- [Associations] *If any association disagrees, please contact Pepa Echanove at: administration@informatics-europe.org.*

2:45 - 3:30 (45 min) Informatics4all

- Informatics for all : children, elderly people, society in general, mediation activities. Enrico presents the I4All initiative. A PDF version of his slides are joined. At the end he asked the following two questions to the participants:
 - Is this a shared vision?
 - How to cooperate to achieve a common vision of Informatics4all?

Points of discussion:

- Several associations reported on their own experiences. This made clear that different European countries are at different stages of Informatics curricula development. It seems interesting to share the status of implementation and best practices towards informatics education in schools in the different countries.
- A broadly accepted I4All initiative could help to convince politicians in some countries.
- Informatics curricula should also evolve and offer topics related to society.
- When politicians do not want to pay, initiatives such as Class'Code in France can help. Also in UK interesting initiatives exist.
- It seems useful to jointly work on a "meta-curriculum" (defining competences) for the various level schools, in the line of K-12 education in US. See: <https://k12cs.org/>

Actions [Responsible]:

- [NAs] IE would like NAs who support our position to endorse our «Informatics for All» strategy. NAs should discuss this possibility within their country and report back at latest by mid- december.
- [IE+NAs] Joint definition of a European “meta-curriculum”, for the various level of schools. NAs wishing to cooperate should indicate one representative by writing to Pepa Echanove at administration@informatics-europe.org, IE will coordinate.
- [NAs] Send to Pepa Echanove at administration@informatics-europe.org a short (max 3 pages) english description of the status of implementation and curricula (even if just proposed) in their own country regarding informatics education at school.
- [IE] will organize, jointly with ACM Europe Council and CEPIS an event in Brussels to discuss again with the European Commission the status of Informatics education in schools. It can be a good idea to have also NAs who have endorsed “Informatics for All” attending the event. IE will propose this to the other partners. In such a case, a working meeting of the NAs could be held.

3:30 - 3:45 (15 min) Coffee Break

(in reality the coffee break started at 3:40 and ended nearly at 4:00)

3:45 - 4:30 (45 min) Evaluation

- Evaluating research in Informatics : our report, further initiatives. Hélène presented the IE report on research evaluation. A pdf version of her slides is attached. The report is available at <http://www.informatics-europe.org/publications.html> and on the distributed USB stick.
- She proposed to discuss the following points:
 - Research Assessment in Informatics
 - Publication models : role of Conferences and Journals; rating Conferences ; open access
 - Open Science criteria

Points of discussion:

- Although not perfect, the IE report on research evaluation is useful to defend in each country the fact that research in informatics should be evaluated according to approaches different from those used in other scientific areas.
- There is a debate on the need for new models of publications combining conferences and journals.

- Several associations report on their own experience. Different countries have different criteria, going from considering only 5 better publications versus counting WoS references only. Evaluation methods rarely take into account criteria different from publications (artifacts like software, transfer to industry, or contributions to standard for example).
- It is felt important to discuss the issue of tools helping in giving to national communities a way of evaluating conferences, which otherwise would be invisible to bibliometric evaluation. The italian-spanish proposal is presented (slides are attached). More discussion and information on how it is built is needed for National Associations to decide whether they can accept it. The item should be discussed again.

Actions [Responsible]:

- [NAs] discuss the italian-spanish proposal for rating of conferences and the opportunity to use it in their countries or possible adversarial effect.

4:30 - 5:00 (30 mn) Conclusion

- How to work together to improve the visibility and impact of Informatics particularly at the European level.
- Future actions planning.

Points of discussion:

- Discussions need to be continued on the two themes of this meeting.
- Another meeting at ECSS 2019 is proposed as well as an intermediate meeting to further discuss the two topics (Informatics for all, researchers evaluation)

Actions [Responsible]:

- [IE] Organisation of another Meeting of National Informatics Associations at ECSS 2019 in Roma, Italy, end of October 2019.
- [IE] Organisation of an intermediate meeting in Brussels in February 2019.