INFORMATICS EUROPE – MAIN BENEFITS & SERVICES

As a member of Informatics Europe (IE), you can fully benefit from being part of our large and influential community, including all IE benefits and services:

⇒ Gain recognition as part of the growing body of institutions advocating for Informatics in Europe
⇒ Bring forward your institution’s interests, gain international visibility and strengthen your expertise
⇒ Influence Informatics agenda decisions at the European level
⇒ Connect, discuss and share international insights on strategic management issues
⇒ Gain insights into the European Informatics education landscape
⇒ Join one of our Awards committees
⇒ Take advantage of our Academic Leadership courses and Department Evaluation services
⇒ Enhance your talent pool and career prospects through our Job Platform and CV Repository
⇒ Access our publications such as reports and recommendations, offering a unique European view
⇒ Get involved in EU-funded projects

Gain recognition as part of the growing body of institutions advocating for Informatics in Europe

Informatics Europe members share a common interest: advancing European research and education in Informatics, improving its visibility and securing funding within universities and among industrial and political stakeholders. Through our membership size and diversity, IE is a significant voice heard at both national and international levels.

Since its establishment in 2006, IE has grown to nearly 200 members, spanning 33 European countries. They include top-tier international research universities and labs, as well as research-active departments from Universities of Applied Sciences, and institutions from new EU member countries. Joining IE does not only enhances international involvement for each institution, but also strengthens our organization’s impact on the Informatics discipline as a whole.

Representatives of IE members can join any of the monthly Board of Directors meetings, and nominate candidates to steer the association’s strategic agenda by serving as Board members.

Bring forward your institution’s interests, gain international visibility and strengthen your expertise

As a member, your institution can take over an active role in IE and help shape the agenda of our discipline in Europe by joining or proposing Working Groups. The current working groups include Education Research, Diversity and Inclusion, Data Analysis and Reporting, Open Science, Ethics, and Green ICT. Specific details about each group are available on our webpage; the general goal is to make a difference for the Informatics community in all those areas, as demonstrated by our successful efforts on the complex matter of having
Informatics taught in schools across Europe (see below). Our webinars series, held by IE members but open to all, is another example of exchange and visibility-boosting opportunities offered to our community.

**Connect, discuss and share international insights on strategic management issues** with leaders from university departments, faculties, and research labs in Informatics, representing both established and emerging institutions.

In addition to the pan-European exchange and collaboration opportunities offered by our Working Groups across Europe, the annual European Informatics Leaders Summit (ECSS) serves as a crucial gathering for leaders and decision-makers in Informatics research and education. ECSS is the place to debate strategic themes and trends in research, education and policies within Informatics. These discussions often yield valuable inputs for department growth and extend into enduring connections and collaborations. Take advantage of our members’ special fee and attend the next ECSS to immerse yourself in these unique aspects of the IE community.

**Influence Informatics agenda decisions at the European level**

In collaboration with other organisations, IE has developed a comprehensive and ambitious plan to establish Informatics as an essential discipline across all levels of education throughout Europe. This effort includes publishing influential reports, collecting data from across European countries, and forming the Informatics for All Coalition. Activities include the organisation of a Workshop in Brussels and the creation of the Rome Declaration, currently counting more than 270 signatures. In March 2022, the coalition released the Informatics Reference Framework for School, which supports the advancement of Informatics as a fundamental discipline for the 21st century and outlines its potential to drive renewal and innovation across other disciplines.

Other examples of IE actions taken at the European level include the policy recommendations by our dedicated working group, the Digital Talent Gap Workshop jointly organised by Informatics Europe and the European Commission, and our shared effort with ACM Europe to raising our voice and nominate an Informatics scientist to the ERC Scientific Council. We also maintain close relations with our other sister organisations such as ERCIM, CEPIS, and most National Informatics Associations in Europe. With them, we collaborate on various projects of mutual interest.

**Gain insights into the European Informatics education landscape**

The Informatics Higher Education Data Portal, an IE initiative, aims to offer the Informatics academic community, policymakers, industry and other stakeholders a complete and reliable picture of the state of Informatics higher education across Europe.

The Data Portal provides user-friendly access to a wealth of fundamental data such as statistics of students enrolled and degrees awarded at Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD levels, including gender distribution in absolute numbers and percentages, both at research universities and universities of applied sciences. Our efforts were recognised in 2023 with the article “Informatics Higher Education in Europe: A Data Portal and Case Study”, prepared by members of the IE Working Group on Data Analysis and Reporting and published in the Communications of the ACM Journal. Full access to the Data Portal and download of the comprehensive dataset spanning over 10 years is an exclusive benefit for IE members.
Join one of our Awards committees

Nominate yourself to participate in reviewing and selecting the recipient of our next Minerva Informatics Equality Award sponsored by Google, the Informatics Europe Best Dissertation Award sponsored by Springer, or the Best Practice in Education Award (currently on hold, seeking sponsorship).

Examples of impactful initiatives can be found across various European institutions. If you know about an endeavour at your institution that has made significant contributions or achieved innovation in these fields and deserves broader recognition, we encourage you to nominate it for one of these awards. In addition to a financial reward, award recipients receive visibility at the annual European Informatics Leaders Summit (ECSS).

Take advantage of our Academic Leadership courses and Department Evaluation services

Effective academic leadership in Informatics is increasingly crucial, given Informatics’ integral role in driving innovation and influence across all aspects of society. IE offers unique Academic Leadership courses, catering to current and emerging academic leaders in Informatics.

Conducted by internationally recognized researchers with expertise in evaluation, the IE Department Evaluation service is a neutral, peer-reviewed process. It offers an unbiased and transparent way of assessing the research activities of a given institution, providing a thorough analysis of strengths, opportunities, and areas for improvement. With a multidimensional approach, where "research" is not limited to research results. Aspects such as research management, research policy, research facilities, PhD training, and the societal relevance of research are considered integral parts of the quality of the work of an institution and its programs.

While both services are open to any institution, IE members benefit from discount rates.

Enhance your talent pool and career prospects through our Job Platform and CV Repository

IE offers two special membership services to support talent search: unlimited free job advertisements on our Informatics Job Platform for scientific and academic positions in Europe, and access to the Informatics CV Repository in search of PhD candidates and early career professionals.

Access our publications such as reports and recommendations, offering a unique European view

You can find all IE publications on our website, some of them only accessible to members. Among the most recent ones are:

- EUGAIN Booklet "Policy Recommendations for Gender Balance in Informatics"
- Recommendations on the Use of AI in Informatics Education
- European Values for Ethics in Digital Technology
- Bridging the Digital Talent Gap: Towards Successful Industry-University Partnerships
- When Computers Decide: European Recommendations on Machine-Learned Automated Decision-Making

Get involved in EU-funded projects

IE stands ready to support its members as a partner in EU-funded projects, leveraging our unique network spanning over 30 countries and nearly 200 member institutions. We contribute to projects by organising networking events, sharing awareness and best practices, providing access to relevant data and experts, and
disseminating news about activities and outcomes. Our current working groups also offer expertise and support. Notable ongoing or accomplished partnerships include the Erasmus+ Project Ethics4EU - Ethical Computer Science Education for Europe and its sister project Inclusion4EU, as well as the COST Action - European Network for Gender Balance in Informatics (EUGAIN).