ECSS 2020 - National Informatics Associations Workshop
Schedule & Discussion Topics

Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Workshop Schedule

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome and Introduction

09:10 – 09:50 Session 1 - Research (Chair: Gerald Steinhardt)

09:50 – 10:30 Session 2 - Education (Chair: Bart Demoen)

10:30 – 10:40 *Coffee break*

10:40 – 11:20 Session 3 - Large-scale Trends (Chair: Paolo Atzeni)

11:20 – 12:00 Session 4 - Societal Aspects (Chair: Martin Glinz)

12:00 – 12:30 Conclusions and the Way Ahead

Discussion Themes

Session 1: Research

Chair: Gerald Steinhardt, *Informatik Austria*

Question 1:
How should interdisciplinary research be carried out so that Informatics benefits most from it? Does a significant increase of interdisciplinary research in Informatics weaken Informatics as a scientific discipline?

Question 2:
What structures and actions are suited best for advancing interdisciplinarity in Informatics research?

- Regarding research collaborations within universities: What are their opportunities/challenges, and what are the best ways to institutionalise interdisciplinary collaborations in research?
- How can the assessment of interdisciplinary research proposals be improved to ensure equitable treatment of discipline-specific and interdisciplinary proposals regarding funding decisions?
- How can we best include the outcomes of interdisciplinary research and assess them appropriately, when it comes to assessing the research achievements of an Informatics department/faculty or to making decisions on hiring and promotion within Informatics departments/faculties?

Session 2: Education

Chair: Bart Demoen, *i22n - Forum voor Informaticawetenschappen*

Question 1:
Interdisciplinary teaching is not a goal in itself, it must serve a goal worth pursuing, or solve a (possibly general) problem. What are the worthy goals of including Informatics in interdisciplinary teaching? What problems does it solve?

Question 2:
Which topics of Informatics should be included in an interdisciplinary curriculum (e.g. BioInformatics)? Should these topics be taught by and from the point of view of a computer scientist, or rather as independent interdisciplinary topics? Concerning Informatics, is it a matter of depth versus breadth?

Question 3:
What are best practices for interdisciplinary teaching including Informatics? Is it by team teaching, does it involve mainly a problem-based or project-based didactics? What are the showcases showing a substantial benefit of Informatics in interdisciplinary teaching?

Session 3: Large-scale Trends
Chair: Paolo Atzeni, *GII - Gruppo Ingegneria Informatica*

Question 1:
Do we need interdisciplinary people or multidisciplinary teams or something in between?

Question 2:
How should our Informatics background be tuned to allow our people to participate at multidisciplinary teams?

Question 3:
Do we need specialization (with respect to specific application domains) to prepare people with an Informatics background to multidisciplinary teams? Or is the only thing needed the attitude to listen?

Question 4:
When does multidisciplinarity give birth to new disciplines? Do interdisciplinary people need to have their "center of gravity" in a discipline or could they really have it at the border?

Session 4: Societal Aspects

Chair: Martin Glinz, *SIRA - Swiss Informatics Research Association*

Question 1:

What is the role of Informatics in a digital society and what can universities contribute?

- Experiences to report?
- Ideas/Needs/Topics for interdisciplinary research and teaching toward a digital society?
- Shall Informatics be a driver of change, an enabler of change or just an auxiliary discipline with other disciplines in the driver's seat?

Question 2:

How can/does Informatics contribute to today's societal grand challenges?

- Climate change, aging society, sustainable living, ...

Question 3:

What are potential contributions of Informatics as a discipline to the needs of a digital society? For example:

- Developing and maintaining dependable and explainable systems
- Mastering adaptive, autonomous systems
- Dealing with safety, security and privacy
- Serving stakeholders, not enslaving them
- Responsibility & ethics (for example, dealing with algorithmic bias, deep fakes, information monopolies or information bubbles)

Question 4:

How much Digital does society actually want?

- What is the added value of digitalization/digital transformation for humans and society?
- Will *Analog* be the new *Organic* and *Back to Nature*?