

**Issue 1 (2009) February**

In this first edition of 2009, you will find an article from the Financial Times citing the CEPIS Skills Foresight project, information on the Commission's Communication 'New Skills for New Jobs' and the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training, as well as an update from the CEPIS Professionalism taskforce, and a new European Commission video 'e-Skills for Europe'.

A new section for news from CEPIS members includes contributions from Peter Federer (GI) on their IT Summit, Rafael Fernández Calvo (ATI) on the Novática Award, Bojana Minic (JISA) on DISKOBOLOS 2008 and István Alföldi (NJSZT) on their Digital Equal Opportunity Programme.

As well as events and calls for contributions, we also bring you information on the 2009 European year of Creativity and Innovation, the priorities of the Czech Presidency of the European Council and the Presidency Conclusions from the e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference.

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CEPIS Research cited in Financial Times

The CEPIS Skills Foresights project results were recently referenced in a Financial Times article on actions towards addressing the eSkills shortage and cybercrime in Europe.

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News Skills for New Jobs

The European Commission has recently launched the New Skills for New Jobs initiative that aims to help Europe recover from the current financial crisis by upgrading skills to enhance human capital, employability and better match the supply of skills with labour market needs.

[Read More](#)

NEWS**➤ EU Innovation Slowing Down**

The European Innovation Scoreboard for 2008, published by the EC on 22nd January, provides a comparative analysis of the innovation performance of EU Member States. Although progress was made during 2008 with the EU closing the innovation gap with both the US and Japan, the pace has slowed and the report is based on data which precedes the economic crisis.

While a rise in the number of science and engineering graduates is reported along with an increase in venture capital investment, innovative investments by businesses are still relatively weak, especially when compared to the US and Japan.

The report groups European countries into four categories: innovation leaders, followers, moderate innovators and catching-up countries. Switzerland, Sweden, Finland rank well above the EU average, while Malta, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland are classified as 'catching-up countries'.

[Click here for the European Innovation Scoreboard 2008](#)

[Click here for a country by country summary](#)



✦ **EC's New Skills for New Jobs initiative: Anticipating and matching labour market and skills needs**

The European Commission has recently launched the New Skills for New Jobs initiative that aims to help Europe recover from the current financial crisis by upgrading skills to enhance human capital, increase employability and better match the supply of skills with labour market needs.

This initiative is a part of the European Economic Recovery Plan to promote employment and the reintegration of redundant workers through retraining and up-skilling measures. The creation of a labour market that is adaptable to future skills requirements and socio-economic changes is crucial for competitiveness, short and long-term productivity, as well as gender equality and social cohesion.

The Commission's analysis of the EU economy shows a need to increase workers' flexibility and adaptability to better match the opportunities offered by the market. Most work activities require a progressive broadening of employee skills portfolios as well as transversal competencies such as problem-solving, self-management, and communication and linguistic skills. Skills upgrading is therefore a necessity for all Europeans, from highly-qualified professionals to traditional 'low-skill' workers.

To address the skills mismatch, the Commission outlines a number of actions including the establishment of a monitoring tool called the European Labour Market Monitor to assess short-term trends and variations in the labour market. The creation of an online Match and Map tool to provide citizens with information on occupations, skills and training opportunities across the EU is also planned for 2009. Additional actions include strengthening the EU's capacity to anticipate skills needs, deepening international cooperation and mobilising existing Community instruments.

The results of the "New Skills for New Jobs" initiatives will be evaluated by the EC and Member States on an ongoing basis starting in 2010.

[Click here to view the full text of the Communication.](#)

[Click here for further information.](#)



✦ **Czech Presidency on the Information Society**

On 1st January the Czech Republic assumed the 6-month rotating Presidency of the European Council and chose 'Europe without Barriers' as the motto for its Presidency.

Among its list of priorities announced on 6th January was the aim to achieve a Europe without barriers through continuing work on e-Inclusion with a particular focus on e-Accessibility and e-Government.

[Click here for the full priorities of the Presidency](#)



✦ **Presidency Conclusions published at e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference**

The e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference, held in Vienna from 30th November to 2nd December, marked the end of the Commission's 'e-Inclusion: be part of it' campaign and saw the publication of the conclusions of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as well as the announcement of winners of the e-Inclusion awards. The event gathered more than a thousand experts from 30 European countries and hosted an exhibition with 90 stands showcasing the activities of stakeholders including BCS, OCG, CCS, and ECDL Foundation.

The Presidency Conclusions recalled the importance of ICT for both competitiveness and societal cohesion and highlighted progress already made while underlining the increasing necessity for continued action for Europe's social and economic development. As a means of investing in the future, the Conclusions stress that digital inclusion, in particular e-accessibility and digital literacy, should be at the heart of public policies at all levels and be supported by a strong political commitment.

Echoing the recommendations of the Digital Literacy High-Level Experts Group, set up to provide expertise and guidance on digital literacy policies and of which ECDL Foundation is a member, the Presidency Conclusions emphasise the need to support vulnerable groups, in particular older people, disabled people and those with low levels of education, in gaining the access and skills needed to participate in the information society.

Digital literacy was also highlighted as an essential element for education and lifelong learning and both public and private employers were called upon to step up employee ICT training with tax incentives suggested as a means of encouragement. Progress on website accessibility was acknowledged as insufficient leading to a call for authorities to ensure the application of European and international specifications and implement the recent European Commission Communication, '[Towards an Accessible Information Society](#)'.

With almost half of the European population without regular Internet access or the skills to use it, the Presidency Conclusions underscored the need for further action and called for continued joint actions that will lead to the creation of new jobs and an increased quality of life for all. Linking the success of Europe to better digital inclusion, the Presidency concluded that ICT is an essential tool for the development of Europe's human capital and for supporting vulnerable groups, in particular during

these difficult economic times.

[Click here for the Presidency Conclusions](#)

[Click here for the Recommendations from the Digital Literacy High-Level Expert Group](#)

[Click here for more information about the winners of the e-Inclusion Awards](#)



➤ **CEPIS Taskforce on Professionalism**

Members of the Taskforce on Professionalism met Martin Curley, Director of Innovation at Intel on 20th January in Dublin to discuss synergies between the Taskforce and the Innovation Value Institute (IVI) (an organisation established by the National University of Ireland and Intel).

Martin Curley presented at the CEPIS Autumn Council in Brussels on the IT Capability Maturity Framework (IT-CMF). A core function of the IT-CMF is to act as an assessment tool and a management system that guides senior IT and Business Management in selecting strategies that continuously improve, develop and manage the IT capability in support of optimised business value delivery. IVI also offers a range of educational options for the Business and IT executive who aspire to manage IT for business value in their organisation.

The Taskforce has been invited to work with IVI to determine avenues of joint awareness raising activity in the EU. IVI has also invited CEPIS and its members to be involved in the further development of the IT-CMF.

For more information on IVI visit www.ivi.ie. Martin Curley is a prominent speaker at European and international events and his support for the CEPIS Professionalism initiative will assist the Taskforce in developing its activities further.



➤ **2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation**

The European Council has announced 2009 as the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. The objective of the year is to raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation in society for personal, social and economic development as well as to stimulate education and research and promote policy debate.

The themes to be addressed include promoting ICTs as essential tools for expressing creativity and emphasising the importance of education and training for mathematics, science and technological studies. The overall focus of the year will be on the development of creative skills and the promotion of lifelong learning as key factors of a political strategy for improving EU competitiveness in the long term.

[Click here for more information about the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation](#)



➤ e-Skills for Europe Video

As part of the renewed Lisbon agenda for growth and jobs, DG Enterprise and Industry has launched a video that stresses Europe's need to implement a long-term e-skills strategy to boost the productivity and the employability of its workforce.

Skills are essential for growth, jobs and social cohesion in Europe, and e-skills are a key competence to make lifelong learning a reality. We must ensure that the knowledge, skills, competences and creativity of the European workforce and citizens meet the highest standard and are constantly updated.

[Watch the video to learn more from key stakeholders on the strategy, its implementation and the next steps](#)



➤ CEPIS Research cited in Financial Times

The CEPIS Skills Foresights project results were recently referenced in a Financial Times article on actions towards addressing the eSkills shortage in Europe.

Authored by the chairs of the eSkills Industry Leadership Board, the article points to the eSkills and Careers portal as a means to help individuals, employers, educators, organisations and governments stay informed about ICT careers.

[Click here to view the Financial Times article](#)

[Click here to view the eSkills and Careers Portal](#)



➤ ECDL Foundation eSkills and Careers Quiz

ECDL Foundation has launched an interactive quiz, hosted on this eSkills and Careers portal, which links important end-user eSkills with typical job roles in the ICT industry as part of the ongoing strategy to promote eSkills in Europe.

[Click here to go to the ECDL Foundation eSkills and Careers quiz](#)

[Click here to visit the eSkills Career portal](#)



➤ Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training

In its communication, an updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, the European Commission highlights its vision of closer cooperation between Member States on education reform in order to address issues such as the skills deficit, an ageing society and to better prepare people for the labour market.

The Communication identifies four long-term strategic challenges and benchmarks around which Member States will adopt national targets in

the years to 2020:

- **Make lifelong learning and learner mobility a reality:** national lifelong learning strategies are to be fully implemented with a particular emphasis on the validation of non-formal and informal learning and guidance. All national qualification systems should link to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and support an outcome-based approach to learning in their standards, assessment procedures, curricula and quality assurance systems.
- **Improve the quality and efficiency of education provision and outcomes:** Increased cooperation is required to boost the take-up of maths and science in higher education and improve the professional development of teachers and trainers. Member States are encouraged to ensure that future skills requirements and labour market needs are assessed and incorporated into education and training planning.
- **Promote equity and active citizenship:** the Commission encourages stronger cooperation with Member States aimed at preventing early school drop-outs, as well as promoting the increased inclusion of migrants and learners with special needs in the education system.
- **Enhance innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training:** acknowledging the importance of innovation and creativity as key factors for the socio-economic development of Europe, transversal competences including digital skills, communication skills and entrepreneurship among others should be instilled in all citizens. The inclusion of ICT tools for learners and teachers is strongly encouraged in all curricula and qualifications.

[Click here to view the full text of the Communication.](#)



✈ Publication of UPGRADE 5/2008

Upgrade 5/2008 corresponding to the final issue of 2008 (Vol. IX, issue no. 5), is now available.

This issue contains a monograph entitled '**Innovation Driven by ICT Users**' which highlights the increasing importance of the active use of ICT in creating and promoting new successful business models and shaping a more open and participative information society. A wide variety of examples and case studies are presented, along with three interviews with some of the most distinguished experts in the field of innovation.

In addition, this issue includes an article by the CEPIS Legal and Security Issues SIN stating its position on the European Directive on Data Retention.

The guest editors are Alfons Cornella-Solans and Teresa Turiera-Puigbò (Infonomia, Spain), and Mads Thimmer (Innovation Lab, Denmark).

[Click here to download this issue](#)



➤ **ENISA report on Web 2.0 Security and Privacy**

This paper outlines the new security risks associated with Web 2.0 and provides a comprehensive set of initiatives in web standards, web architecture, and policy action for how to deal with them.

In compiling this report, ENISA conducted a survey of 1,500 web users from three European countries to gauge their attitude towards Web 2.0 security.

[Click here for the report](#)
[Click here for the survey results](#)



➤ **ENISA Quarterly Review now Available**

The final ENISA Quarterly review from 2008 is now available. This issue includes a call for contributions open to all areas of Network and Information Security but in particular on the Resilience and Security of Communication Networks. The closing date for submission of articles is 2nd March.

[Click here for more information](#)



➤ **CEPIS Newsletter Archive**

Missed an issue of the CEPIS Newsletter? All previous issues in 2008 are now available in the Members Area of the CEPIS website.

[Click here to view the archive.](#)

MEMBER NEWS



➤ **Successful Alliance Impresses German IT Summit 2008 Attendees**

One of the challenges that all informatics stakeholders face is the continuous attempt to attract young talent to informatics – through either starting university studies or by becoming a practitioner. Therefore, the projects introduced at the 3rd IT Summit of the German Federal Government by [GI](#) and partners ([DLGI](#) – the German ECDL provider, [BWINF](#) – German Federal informatics contest (an investment of GI), Fraunhofer Society and the German Federal Government) were extremely well received by attendees. Details of the projects included:

[Informatics Moodle](#), an open apprenticeship, learning and exchange platform by DLGI to motivate people using self-study materials (ECDL, Informatics Beaver, Open Office, Microsoft Office, and more planned). After only six months of operation the site has received 180,000 visitors and 2,350,000 pages have been visited.

[Informatics Beaver](#), an online contest to promote informatics and computer literacy and the German adaptation of the pan-European 'Bebras' initiative. 53,602 children aged 10 to 18 years, of which 22,042

were girls, participated and had fun with informatics.

[We're Informatics](#) is a web platform currently empowering several hundred GI student members with chat, conference rooms and cooperative web 'white boards'. Its international launch is planned for later this quarter.

All three projects integrate well in the broad portfolio of existing activities, projects and contests, thus showing the positive effects of continuous collaboration.

More information on the [German IT Summits](#) 2006-08.

For similar projects see links above and also: www.informaticup.de, www.informatiktage.de.

[Thanks to Peter Federer from [GI](#) for this contribution]



➤ 3rd. Edition of the Novática Award

The 3rd Edition of the Novática Award has been presented to the best article published in 2007 by Novática, the journal of the Spanish CEPIS society ATI (Asociación de Técnicos de Informática), and publisher of UPGRADE on behalf of CEPIS.

From a final shortlist of five articles, the jury, comprising of the 49 editors of Novática's various technical sections, selected the winner: "Adversarial Information Retrieval in the Web". This article was authored by Ricardo Baeza-Yates (Head of the Research Labs of Yahoo! in Santiago, Chile, and Barcelona, Spain), Paolo Boldi (Professor in the Dept. of Information Systems at the University of Milan, Italy) and José-María Gómez-Hidalgo (Head of R&D, Optenet, Spain).

This article is published in Spanish, in [Novática issue no. 185](#) (January-February 2007), and in English, in [UPGRADE, Vol. VIII, issue no. 1](#) (February 2007).

Detailed information about the award, including references to the other four articles that reached the final phase, [is available here](#) (in Spanish).

For further information, please contact [Llorenç Pagés-Casas](#), Chief Editor of Novática and UPGRADE.

Thanks to Rafael Fernández Calvo from [ATI](#) for this contribution.



➤ DISKOBOLOS 2008 – Awards for Best IT Achievements

On 18th December 2008, at the final ceremony of DISKOBOLOS 2008 in Belgrade, the most successful solutions in the application of information and communication technologies, in almost all spheres of economy and society in the SEE region, were announced.

Ms. Jasna Matic, Minister of Telecommunication and Information

Society of Serbia and Djordje Dukic, President of JISA – Union of Serbian ICT, opened the ceremony DISKOBOLOS 2008.

The award ceremony was attended by high profile Serbian government representatives as well as many guests, including the President of CEPIS, Mr. Niko Schlamberger; Ambassador of Canada, Mr. John Morrison and other regional representatives of chambers of commerce and IT associations who participated in the work of this year's jury.

For DISKOBOLOS 2008 there were about 160 competitors, but the special characteristic is that, besides the usual candidates from ex-Yugoslav countries, applicants from Kenya, South Africa and even two from Sri Lanka entered their solutions and contributions to the development of the information society.

In view of the importance of IT education, JISA would like to highlight the 'Shilpa Sayura Project' which was awarded in the category of education, as one of the DISKOBOLOS 2008 solutions for IT training in the rural areas of Sri Lanka.

The Economic Faculty of Subotica, which is one of biggest ECDL test centres in the Republic of Serbia, received an honorary award for a project entitled 'Students education by ECDL standard'. This project recognised that education to the ECDL standard enables students to acquire knowledge while teaching thus increasing productivity in areas of the business where computer support is used.

Thanks to Bojana Minic from [JISA – Union of ICT Societies](#) for this contribution.



✦ [John von Neumann Computer Society](#)

The John von Neumann Computer Society (NJSZT) was founded more than 40 years ago as a not-for-profit, scientific organisation in the field of IT. Today in the Information Society, NJSZT is also dedicated to playing a leading role in the nation-wide promotion of digital literacy. Our society is a member of both CEPIS and ECDL Foundation and works to disseminate and coordinate ECDL activity throughout Hungary.

In early 2007, NJSZT launched the **Digital Equal Opportunity Programme** (DE!), and in 2008 joined the e-Inclusion year of the European Union. The DE! Programme was set up out of a sense of responsibility on the part of NJSZT towards civil society and aims to integrate the majority of citizens into the Information Society. DE! Programmes are based on the triple principle of Infrastructure, Demand and Knowledge – elements that are indispensable to build and develop the Information Society.

An important part of the DE! Programme, along with ECDL is **AAL – Ambient Assisted Living**. NJSZT has joined an EU initiative in this area, and leads a national consortium, supported by the Ministry of Economy and Labour (GKM), to coordinate development and dissemination activities related to embedded and ambient systems that aim to facilitate (elderly) people's living.

Thanks to István Alföldi from [NJSZT](#) for this contribution.

EVENTS



➤ Events taking place soon:

- **12th -15th February**
[PProf-09 ICT Professionalism: a Global Challenge](#), Arnhem, the Netherlands.
Sponsored by: IFIP, HAN University of Applied Science.
- **25th -28th February**
[e-Society 2009: IADIS International Conference on e-Society](#), Barcelona, Spain.
Sponsored by: IADIS.
- **5th March**
[Growth and Innovation Day – ICT enabling today's and tomorrow's economy in Europe](#), Brussels, Belgium.
Sponsored by: Microsoft.
- **5th March**
[Workshop on Ethical issues in ICT Research and Development](#), Hamburg, Germany.
Organised by: TuTech Innovation.
- **9th -11th March**
[International Technology, Education and Development Conference](#), Valencia, Spain.
Sponsored by: IATED, elearningeuropa.info, World Scientific.
- **25th -26th March**
[2009 Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research](#), Brussels, Belgium.
Organised by: EC DG InfoSo, Africa Union Commission.

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



➤ **Call for Papers – eChallenges e-2009 Conference and Exhibition
21st - 23rd October 2009, Istanbul, Turkey**

Extended abstracts are invited for eChallenges e-2009, which will focus on Applied ICT research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges. Papers are actively encouraged from private as well as national, regional, international and European Commission funded research programmes. The conference language is English and abstracts should be for case studies, technical, legal or policy papers or proposals to arrange workshops. Proposals related to international cooperation, interoperability issues, multi-disciplinary research, grid applications, Smart and Virtual Organisations and papers showcasing commercialisation issues are particularly welcome.

Extended abstracts should focus on a research topic on which either a case study, initial or final results can be published. All papers must highlight the level of innovation. General project descriptions are not appropriate.

Extended abstracts of 800-1,200 words should be submitted [online](#) by 27th February 2009.

[Click here for more information about eChallenges 2009](#)



➤ **Call for Papers – 10th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises (PRO-VE'09)
7th -9th October 2009, Thessaloniki, Greece**

IFIP has launched a call for papers for the PRO-VE'09 conference, which will be held from 7th -9th October 2009 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The conference will focus on the latest research developments and industrial case studies on collaborative networks, virtual enterprises and professional virtual communities in different regions of the world.

Papers about innovation networks, networks of the future, the Internet of things and services, cognitive networks, health of collaborative networks, social networks and communities of the future are welcome. A particular emphasis will be placed on innovation management and techniques creating new opportunities for collaborative systems, as well as on new technologies around the Internet of things and the Internet of the future.

The closing date for the submission of abstracts is 28th February 2009. Proposals for special sections and discussion panels are also encouraged.

[Click here for more information about PRO-VE'09](#)



➤ **CEN Workshop on Learning Technologies – Guidelines for a European Learner Mobility Model**

Call for project team experts

CEN invites applications from experts who would like to work as a member of the new "Guidelines for a European Learner Mobility Model" project of the CEN Workshop on Learning Technologies. The subject of this proposal will be the provision of guidelines on a data model for the expression and exchange of European Learner Mobility information, as defined by the European Transparency instruments. The results of the proposed work will contribute to the effort towards interoperable European-wide IT systems that manage and exchange Europass-related information.

Interested candidate experts are kindly requested to send their nominations by 10th February 2009.

[Click here for more information](#)



➤ **CEN Workshop ICT Skills – End-User eSkills Framework Requirements**

Call for project team experts

CEN invites applications from experts who would like to work as a

member of the new "Guidelines for a European Learner Mobility Model" project of the CEN Workshop on Learning Technologies. The subject of this proposal will be the provision of guidelines on a data model for the expression and exchange of European Learner Mobility information, as defined by the European Transparency instruments. The results of the proposed work will contribute to the effort towards interoperable European-wide IT systems that manage and exchange Europass-related information.

Interested candidate experts are kindly requested to send their nominations by 10th February 2009.

[Click here for more information](#)



➤ **CEN Workshop ICT Skills – European eCompetence Framework in Action**

Call for project team experts

CEN invites applications from experts who would like to work as a member of the "End-User eSkills Framework requirements" project of the CEN Workshop on ICT Skills. The project aims to survey the requirements for a digital end-user skills framework as articulated by industry, certifying organisations, and individuals and propose practical tool sets derived from such a framework.

Interested candidate experts are kindly requested to send their nominations by 9th February 2009.

[Click here for more information](#)



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Interested candidate experts are kindly requested to send their nominations by 10th February 2009.

[Click here for more information](#)

SEKE 2009

- ✦ **Call for Papers: 21st International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering**
1st -3rd July 2009, Boston, USA

This conference aims to bring together experts in software and knowledge engineering to discuss relevant results in either software engineering or knowledge engineering or both. Special emphasis will be put on the transference of methods between domains.

Paper should be in English and can be submitted online. The closing date is 1st March.

[Click here for more information](#)

YOUR SUGGESTIONS



- ✦ **Your Suggestions**

We welcome your suggestions on items for the newsletter or any additions or amendments to the website.

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