



## Issue 3 (2009) April

In this issue you will find an update on the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE), a proposal from OCG, (the Austrian Computer Society), to add e-Inclusion as a CEPIS thematic area, an article from GI on attracting new talent to informatics and details of a new ITU index which indicates that the world has made no progress in bridging the digital divide.

From the EC we bring you news of plans to increase ICT research funding, an opportunity for you to provide feedback on EU e-Inclusion policy, a code of best practices to be implemented by industry and an EC report on cross-border trade and online shopping.

Also included you'll find upcoming events and calls for contributions.

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## NEWS

➤ **CEPIS on the Executive Board of EQANIE**

CEPIS and its members have achieved a strong presence in the recently established European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE). On 16th March the General Assembly of the organisation elected CEPIS Vice President Hans A. Frederik as Treasurer of the Executive Board. Andrew McGettrick of the BCS was also elected to the Board and Ernst Mayer of GI was appointed as Internal Auditor. The Executive Board will immediately start working on the revision of the Euro-inf framework standards and is planning events for the second half of 2009. For more information on EQANIE please visit <http://www.eqanie.eu/>. Currently, the website is in pilot phase but will very soon have more information on activities and events.



#### ✦ **EC to Increase ICT Research Funding**

The European Commission has announced plans to increase funding available for ICT within its research programmes from €1.1 billion in 2010 to €1.7 billion in 2013. Member States are expected to match this increase at national levels.

Announcing this new ICT Research and Innovation Strategy, Commissioner Reding stressed the importance of ICT in economic competitiveness and noted its key role in spurring an economic upturn in Europe.

The proposed strategy builds on several existing initiatives and actions, in particular the i2010 ICT policy framework, the broad-based EU innovation strategy and ICT-related initiatives launched within the European Research Area.

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



#### ✦ **ICT Development Index Shows no Progress on Digital Divide**

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has recently launched an [ICT Development Index \(IDI\)](#) which compares developments in ICT in 154 countries over a five-year period from 2002 to 2007. Its main objective is to provide policymakers with a tool to benchmark and assess their information society developments and to monitor global progress in bridging the digital divide.

The report indicates that the most progress has been made on ICT access, which includes fixed and mobile telephony, Internet bandwidth, and the number of households with computers and the Internet. ICT use (which includes the number of internet users, fixed and mobile broadband and subscribers) has been much slower in comparison. The slow uptake in broadband has been a determining factor in this low level of ICT use across many countries.

One of the main objectives of the IDI is to measure the scale and evolution of the global digital divide. Based on the concept that the digital divide is 'relative' - meaning that it compares ICT developments in one country with those in another country - the report shows that overall the magnitude of the global digital divide remains unchanged between 2002 and 2007. Despite significant improvements in the developing world, the gap between the ICT haves and have-nots remains.

[Click here to view the ICT Development Index 2009.](#)



#### ✦ **IT Companies Sign Code of Best Practices on Women and ICT**

On 3rd March 2009 during the [Cyberella's are IT!](#) conference in Brussels, five major ICT companies signed a Code of Best Practices on Women and ICT. By signing the Code, Alcatel-Lucent, IMEC, Orange France Telecom Group, Microsoft and Motorola pledge to attract more women to careers in ICT as a key solution to the current economic crisis and the shortage of qualified ICT professionals in Europe predicted by 2010.

The Code is divided into four areas of best practices:

1. **Education:** the aim of this area is to attract more women to study and work in the ICT field through the organisation of events, job shadowing, and information days in schools, universities and other tertiary education institutions.
2. **Recruitment:** this section addresses practices aiming to ensure that women with ICT-related degrees have concrete recruitment and career development opportunities. It includes increasing transparency in the recruitment process and adopting active measures to augment the representation of women at managerial levels.
3. **Career Development:** this area aims to promote the career prospects of female ICT professionals and encourages them to acquire technical and managerial skills through Competence Development programmes, as well as through assessing the specific needs and challenges of mid to long-term career plans.
4. **Return to work after leave:** this section highlights the importance of encouraging female ICT professionals to return to work after periods of leave as well as encouraging women working in other sectors to consider a career in the ICT sector.

The European Commission will monitor the implementation of the Code in 2010. By then, Commissioner Viviane Reding hopes that more female professionals will be engaged in the ICT sector and will also have a more significant representation at executive and managerial levels.

[Click here to read the full version of the Code of Best Practices on Women and ICT.](#)

[Click here for more information about the EC initiatives for Women and ICT.](#)



#### ➤ [Survey on European e-Inclusion Policy](#)

The European Commission has launched an online survey to gather opinions on e-Inclusion. This survey intends to investigate the role of e-Inclusion in a post-2010 strategy of EU programmes and examine the possible cooperation between the European Commission and different stakeholders in this field.

The survey is available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish as an online form or as a word document. In addition, position papers (of maximum 3 pages) can be submitted to the [e-Inclusion portal](#). The deadline for submission is 2 April 2009.

[Click here to access the online consultation form.](#)



#### ➤ [Barriers to Cross-Border Trade Impede Online Shopping](#)

The EC recently published a report on 'Barriers to e-commerce', which analyses the current trends in e-commerce in Europe and warns about the numerous obstacles that still impede cross-border online shopping from developing to its maximum potential.

The report highlights that the popularity of e-commerce has been

increasing from 27% to 33% in the EU, with the UK, France and Germany having the highest peaks in online sales last year (50% of Internet users purchased products online at least once). The most popular goods purchased are IT products and leisure goods. Overall the study shows a high level of satisfaction among consumers who appreciate the convenience of e-commerce and the wider variety of products and suppliers available online.

In spite of the positive features of e-commerce, the reports also warns that several obstacles are inhibiting the development of cross-border trade which represents only 7% of all online shopping in 2008 (compared to 6% in 2006). These barriers include logistical problems related to the interoperability of payment systems, as well as regulatory issues concerning consumer law, VAT rules and national legislation on intellectual property protection. Linguistic problems in business transactions and consumer's worries about safety of online purchasing are also factors limiting the growth of cross-border online trade.

The EC will monitor the retail sector and present an updated report on barriers to e-commerce in Autumn 2009.

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

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#### ✦ **Digital Literacy Strengthens the Identity of Senior Users**

This article, published in the latest edition of elearning papers, examines the positive impact of ICT and digital literacy in building the identity of senior citizens in the Information Society.

An assessment of the needs of elderly is a key factor for the implementation of efficient inclusion policies at a time when the European population is progressively ageing. The article outlines the main challenges that citizens face in the Information Society during their senior years and highlights the potential contribution of e-learning and digital literacy in empowering them to maintain their identity and become socially active.

The recommendations for implementing efficient e-inclusion policies for senior users include not only the provision of suitable ICT facilities, but also the promotion of social networks and communities where citizens could access e-commerce and other useful web-based services, as well as the creation of learning opportunities and tailored literacy trainings.

**elearning Papers** is a digital publication created by the European Commission as part of the [elearningeuropa.info](http://elearningeuropa.info) portal to promote the use of multimedia technologies and the Internet in the field of education and training, and to enhance lifelong learning in Europe.

[Click here to read the full text of the article.](#)

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#### ✦ **Publication of UPGRADE 6/2008**

The latest issue of UPGRADE is now available. This issue features a monograph entitled 'New Trends in Network Management' which describes present and future solutions to be incorporated into networks to ensure a good quality of service to users and applications. It includes an interview with Radia Perlman (the 'Mother of the Internet') whose farsightedness on the issues addressed makes for compulsory reading.

The guest editors of this monograph are Ramon Puigjaner-Trepat (Illes Balears University, Balearic Islands, Spain) and Raouf Boutaba (University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada).

The UPGRADE European NETwork brings us an article from the German journal Informatik Spektrum which presents how the model-driven architecture paradigm is used in the field of model-based software development and discusses some issues that are still problematic and need to be dealt with carefully.

[Click here to view this issue.](#)



#### ✦ **ENISA Publishes Position on Privacy Features of European eID Card Specifications**

This paper provides an overview of the privacy features of eID (e-identity) cards across Europe. The aim is to raise awareness of the legal and social implications of new developments in eID card technologies and the lack of a coordinated strategy at European level addressing which and how features should be implemented. The paper analyses eleven risks to personal privacy resulting from the use of national electronic identity card schemes. It also lists eight practicable techniques available to address and mitigate these risks.

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



#### ✦ **CEPIS Newsletter Archive**

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

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

## MEMBERS NEWS



#### ✦ **OCG Proposes e-Accessibility and e-Inclusion as new CEPIS Thematic Areas**

The Austrian Member Society (OCG) has recently proposed to bring two of its activities to an international level through CEPIS. In a letter to the CEPIS President, OCG stressed CEPIS's suitability for playing a key role in facilitating the implementation of e-Inclusion in the mainstream ICT sector.

Drawing from its successful experience with ECDL for people with disabilities, the barrierefrei programme, and their certification for accessible web design, OCG points to the inclusive role of ICT and the potential to increase the employability of people with disabilities.

Members are encouraged to express their interest in this topic by contacting the [CEPIS secretariat](#).



## ✦ How to Motivate Informatics Fresh Blood

Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) encourages young informatics students to share experiences, knowledge and ideas and thus motivate them to communicate and collaborate.

To achieve this, GI and the students themselves have established open platforms that are not restricted only to members.

**Student Groups:** Grass-root initiatives have been founded at some universities to enable students to meet, learn from each other and plan and accomplish their ideas. These include for example visits to the CEBIT fair or the blackberry plant.

Self organised **Twitter Microblogging** named 'Informatics radar' enables students to discuss pertinent issues such as: What are the buzzwords of the month? What are upcoming trends students are faced with leaving university? What do employers expect now, in a year, in two years? For more on these discussion please see: <http://twitter.com/informatikradar>.

**Jabber Service:** As announced on 'We're Informatics', a jabber service came to life this year. Starting as a standalone service and now embedded into worldwide jabber network, conference rooms and private chats are constantly used as part of this service.

GI plans to establish rooms which provide opportunities to talk with specialists within their professional groups. By being active within these rooms, students will feel empowered to ask their questions – even anonymously - about their special interests or challenges faced with in their lectures. These talks shall be repeated periodically.

**Wiki:** Additionally GI plans to enrich its existing Wiki to let members share and exchange knowledge easily. This platform is highly recommended by GI membership. This collaborative platform enables the creation of a knowledge base on any issue that our professional groups have worked on. This concept was originally tested within a closed community.

Currently GI makes content readable for everyone, with only the publishing and commenting options closed to the public. This enables anyone to passively participate in what GI is working on.

These activities are part of the [education/ motivation/certification portfolio of GI Group](#). Including the new "K IT A" basic IT qualification for kindergarten teachers, and "you start IT" ECDL entry for 5th and 6th grade pupils.

Thanks to Marcus Kruger, Head of IT-Services, Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. (GI) for this contribution.



## ✦ News from CEPIS Member Societies

This section is dedicated to news submitted by CEPIS Member Societies. It provides a means for Members to publicise important news and information and to share best practice. As the newsletter is distributed to 36 informatics societies across greater Europe it can serve as a valuable method to share and publicise the activities of your Society.

Members are invited to submit their contributions for the next newsletter by **Monday, 20th April**. Articles should be sent in a word processing document of approximately 200 words in length.

Please send your contributions to [Fiona Fanning](#).

## EVENTS



Events taking place soon:

- **14th-18th April**  
[SirIKT 2009 - Interlaced education and research with ICT](#), Ljubljana, Slovenia.  
Organised by: Arnes  
Co-organised by: Ministrstvo za solstvo in sport, Zavod Republika Slovenije za solstvo; CMEPIUS, CPI.
- **15th-17th April**  
[EUROMEDIA 2009 - 15th Annual Media Conference](#), Bruges, Belgium.  
Organised by: EUROSIS
- **15th-17th April**  
[3rd Intl. Conference on Fundamentals of Software Engineering](#), Kish Island, Iran.  
Supported by: IFIP, SigSoft, Springer.
- **16th-17th April**  
[5th Hungarian National and International Lifelong Learning Conference](#), Sopron, Hungary.  
Organised by: MELLearn Association, the Hungarian partner network of EULLearn (European University Lifelong Learning Network) and the University of West-Hungary.
- **20th-24th April**  
[18th International World Wide Web Conference \(www2009\)](#), Madrid, Spain.  
Organised by: IW3C2 and Universidad Politecnica de Madrid.
- **22th-24th April**  
[International Conference on Multimedia and ICT in Education](#), Lisbon, Portugal.  
Organised by: FORMATEX Research Center.  
Supported by: elearningeuropa.info, Learning Review España.
- **22th-24th April**  
[Interactive Technology in Education 2009](#), Hämeenlinna, Finland.  
Organised by: Interaktiivinen Tekniikka Koulutuksessa.
- **22th-24th April**  
[3rd International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science](#), Fès, Morocco.  
Supported by: Ecole Marocaine des Sciences de l'Ingénieur, University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah Faculty of Sciences Dhar El Mahraz - Fez.
- **29th-30th April**  
[ICT brokerage 2009](#), Brno, Czech Republic.  
Supported by: EC, Southern Moravia Region, RHK Brno, Brno University of Technology, Masarykiana Universitas Brunensis, South Moravian Innovation Centre, Centrum Dopravniho Vyzkumu.
- **4th-5th May**  
[5th EduMedia Conference 2009: eCreativity and elnnovation](#), St. Virgil Salzburg, Austria.  
Organised in cooperation with: Land Salzburg, IdSpace, Open University of the Netherlands, Centre for Learning Sciences and Technologies, University Vienna, e-Motion.  
Supported by: EC Research - Seventh Framework Programme, elearningeuropa.info, Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture.

- **6th-8th May**  
[IST-Africa 2009 Conference](#), Uganda.  
Sponsored by: Ericsson, EC, IEEE.
- **6th-8th May**  
[eris at Annual Conference: Fostering Regional Creativity and Innovation: Technologies, Methods and People](#), Caceres, Spain.  
Co-organised by eris@, Fundecyt.  
Supported by: Junta de Extremadura, Diputacion de Caceres, EC, Institucion Cultural El Brocense.
- **11th-15th May**  
[Networking 2009](#), Aachen, Germany.  
Sponsored by: T-Mobile, CISCO, Ericsson, NEC, RWTH Aachen University, UMIC, GI.
- **14th-17th May**  
[4th EcoMedia Conference: The New European School - Digital Literacy inside](#), Limburg, Belgium.  
Supported by: EC Socrates Programme.

## CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



### ✦ **CYTER 2009 International Conference on Cyber Terrorism and Crime** **Prague, Czech Republic, June 22-24, 2009**

Papers are invited for the CYTER 2009 conference scheduled to take place in Prague on June 22nd-24th. Topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to: the future of cyber terrorism; activism, hacktivism, and cyber terrorism; the Internet – a tool for influencing foreign policy; offensive information warfare; assessing the risks of cyber terrorism; cyber war and other cyber threats; cyber-attacks and International law; threat from Information terrorism; the system vulnerabilities and its impact on security; and associative data mining in large Internet collected databases.

Abstracts are invited by 24th April and should be no more than 2000 characters including spaces.

[Click here for more information.](#)



### ✦ **Call for participation – FORTH Summer School on Network & Information Security (NIS '09)** **14th-18th September 2009, Crete, Greece**

ENISA and the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH) have launched a call for participation for the 2nd Summer School on Network and Information Security (NIS '09), which will be held from 14th-18th September 2009 in Crete, Greece.

The theme of the school will be “Privacy and Trust in a Networked World”. Participants will discuss the contributions of NIS to improving economic growth in Europe and to creating learning and leisure opportunities for citizens. Technological, economic and political experts will speak about the main challenges concerning privacy and security with the Internet of the Things, e-Citizen services, Social Networks and in the wireless home.

Experts in Information Security, policymakers from EU Member States and EU Institutions, decision makers from the industry, as well as members of the research and academic community are welcome.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## YOUR SUGGESTIONS



### ✦ Your Suggestions

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

Please send your thoughts and comments to [Fiona Fanning](#).

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