

**Issue 8 (2009) September**

In this issue you'll find news of a new public consultation launched by the EC on the post i2010 strategy that provides you with an opportunity to voice your view or your society's views on the European Commission's revised strategy for the information society in the 2010 – 2015 period. Also included is an invitation to participate in a web-based seminar organised by the Innovation Value Institution (IVI) on their new management roadmap to help CIOs systematically improve their IT capabilities and business value.

In addition we bring you a report from the EC on digital competitiveness in Europe, news of increasing university dropout rates in science and technology courses and an update on the new informatics education accreditation framework adopted by EQANIE.

In this issue...[➤ News](#)[➤ Member News](#)[➤ Calls for Contributions](#)[➤ Events](#)[➤ Your Suggestions](#)**Public consultation on post i2010: a new strategy for the European information society (2010-2015)**

The European Commission has recently launched a public consultation to help prepare a new EU strategy for the information society to follow up the current i2010 initiative.

[Read More](#)**Over 20% drop out of university science and technology courses**

A recent report in The Irish Times indicates that the dropout rate from university science and technology courses is on average over 20% in Ireland.

[Read more](#)**NEWS****➤ CEPIS Council & Presidents' Event - November 19th**

Two CEPIS events will take place in Brussels on November 19th. The 43rd CEPIS Council will be held on the morning of the 19th from 9:00 to 13:00.

The CEPIS Presidents' event will take place that afternoon and will bring together the Presidents of CEPIS member societies as well as Past Presidents and invited guests who will reflect on CEPIS achievements over the past 20 years and shape the CEPIS strategy for the coming years.

CEPIS member society delegates are welcome to attend both meetings. Separate registration is required for each meeting.

[To register for Council please click here](#)

[To register for the Presidents Strategy event please click here](#)



✦ **Call for participation: IVI Webinar: Sept 3rd, 14:00-15:00 GMT +1 (British Summer Time)**

CIOs are faced with significant, growing and often conflicting challenges as they wrestle with the ongoing operational and strategic management of IT to support their organisations. On September 3rd a web-based seminar will introduce a new design pattern, called the IT Capability Maturity Framework (IT-CMF™) which can act as a generally reusable solution for CIOs to help systematically improve IT capability and the associated value contribution. The IT-CMF provides, for the first time, a concise management roadmap to optimise the business value derived from IT investments, by allowing organisations to assess their IT maturity level, benchmark against industry peers and develop a clear roadmap for improvement - evaluating investment decisions strategically from a holistic perspective at the corporate level and thereby reducing the complexity of choice for the CIO.

The Innovation Value Institute (IVI) is a consortium of leading industry, consulting, not-for-profit and academic organisations that has spent the past three years developing and testing new ways to more firmly align IT investments with business results using the IT-CMF.

Following a decision of the 42nd CEPIS Council, CEPIS has become an affiliate member of IVI. It has grown to include more than 40 members, with some of the world's foremost companies including Intel, The Boston Consulting Group, Microsoft, Chevron, SAP, Northrop Grumman, British Petroleum (BP) and ESB all becoming members. The key areas of focus for IVI are the developments of approaches - such as the IT-CMF - to improve IT effectiveness and innovation within organisations..

Please contact IVI at ivi@nuim.ie, phone: +353-1-708-6931 before Sept. 3rd to express an interest in joining this webinar.



✦ **Public consultation on post i2010: a new strategy for European information society (2010-2015)**

The European Commission has recently launched a public consultation to help prepare a new EU strategy for the information society to follow the current i2010 initiative.

Citizens and organisations are invited to participate in the consultation in any of the official EU languages. Representatives of organisations are invited to read [relevant information on the Interest Representative Register](#) before submitting their contribution. Additional position papers are also welcome and should be submitted via the [post i2010 email address](#).

The identities and emails of all contributors to the consultation, as well

as a summary of the outcome of the consultation will be published on the [consultation web page](#). The consultation officially closes on 9 October, 2009.

[Click here to view the questionnaire](#)

[Click here for more information on the protection of personal data](#)



➤ **EQANIE adopts European Framework Standards and Accreditation Criteria for informatics programmes**

On July 2nd, the Board of the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE e.V.) adopted European Framework Standards and Accreditation Criteria for informatics programmes and established it as an official basis for the accreditation of informatics programmes in Europe.

A test version of the framework standards and accreditation criteria had already been developed during the course of the Euro-Inf Project (2006-2008), a joint project co-funded by the EC, involving CEPIS and other relevant stakeholders in informatics education in Europe.

The adopted document represents an official and improved version of the Euro-Inf Framework Standards and Accreditation Criteria for Informatics Programmes. The new document is created in such a way as to be open to cultural diversity in Europe in the design and delivery of informatics degree programmes and intends to enhance further quality standards of informatics teaching in the EU higher education system.

[Click here for more information](#)



➤ **Publication of UPGRADE 3/2009: Libre Software for Enterprises**

This issue features a monograph entitled “Libre Software for Enterprises”, which describes how companies of all sizes working in the ICT sector are defining their strategies regarding free/libre software and, in particular, how they relate to other players (other enterprises, volunteers and professionals) within that scenario.

UPENET presents a case study on the implementation of the Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) in Nigeria. It shows how beneficial it is to introduce such technologies in developing countries and provides some insights into the problems these countries face in this industry compared to those of the developed world.

In addition, this issue includes an article by the ECDL Foundation that discusses the importance of keeping skills at the centre of all capital investment projects in these challenging times.

[Click here for this issue](#)



➤ **Digital Competitiveness report published by the European Commission**

The European Commission has recently published a Digital Competitiveness Report illustrating the progress made by the digital sector in Europe since 2005 and outlining unsolved challenges as well as actions needed for the post-i2010 initiative period.

The report shows that Europe is a world leader in broadband connection, as well as the only continent with more mobile subscribers than citizens (with a take-up rate of 119%). The youth sector, aged 16-24, are the most active and advanced Internet users: 66% of them use the Internet everyday to access online services, to shape their professional lives, and also to create and share contents. These “young digitally savvy” Europeans are therefore recognized as key players in boosting growth and innovation in Europe.

Commissioner Reding highlights however that despite the tremendous potential of the digital sector to boost growth and employability in Europe, stronger leadership is needed from national governments, along with a pro-active policy at European level in order to ensure that high-speed Internet connections are available for everyone and that there is an online single market for transnational services. A public consultation has been launched by the EC to gather citizens’ suggestions about a new EU ICT strategy after the official conclusion of the i2010 initiative at the end of this year.

[Click here for the Digital Competitiveness report, factsheets and the public consultation](#)

[Click here to view results of the EU ICT policy under the European Commission](#)



➤ **Over 20% drop out of university science and technology courses**

According to a report in [The Irish Times](#) 39% of students who began a science and technology degree at Dublin City University, Ireland’s leading ‘high-tech’ university, dropped out after the first year. At the same time, the non-completion rate for these courses was 26%. The national average dropout rate in this field of study is reported to be over 20%.

These figures raise concerns about the quality of teaching of mathematics and science in secondary education as many fear that students are ill-equipped to continue their education in technology and science at university level. In attempt to encourage students to study science, the threshold for admission to science and technology courses has dropped significantly, though it seems that this strategy has not had the desired outcomes.

The report is indicative of similar problems across Europe. Although governments recognise the importance of science and technology for the economy and competitiveness, the number of graduates in these disciplines is falling, for several reasons including the quality of education in secondary schools. With regard to IT studies and professions, other factors include the image of the IT professional which is not appealing to young people and particularly to women.

There is also scepticism about the career opportunities offered in IT which, to a certain extent, is attributed to the misleading view that these opportunities are constrained to the IT industry and telecommunications



✦ [EU Internet domain name suffers](#)

Recent statistics from EURid, the group responsible for .EU Registrations, indicate that the .EU domain name has slipped below the 3 million user mark in August 2009.

EURid officials attribute this to the economic crisis but state that new registrations are still growing, if somewhat slower than previously, while renewal rates stayed strong at 78%.

[Click here for the EURid report](#)



✦ [CEPIS Newsletter Archive](#)

Missed an issue of the CEPIS Newsletter? All previous issues in 2009 are now available in the Members Area of the CEPIS website.

[Click Here to view the Archive.](#)

MEMBERS NEWS



✦ [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 practices. 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, September 21st**. Articles can be sent in a word /text document format and should be approximately 200 words in length.

Members should note that commercial submissions, advertisements or articles unrelated to CEPIS member societies will not be published.

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

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



Call for Expression of Interest to set up National Points of Contact of the European Centre Women and Technology

The European Centre for Women and Technology (EWCT) has launched a call for expression of interest to select highly qualified organisations to take leadership in setting up and acting as National Points of Contacts (N-POCs) in all EU Member States and in greater Europe (as bordered by the Ural Mountains).

Each N-POC will run a national multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of activities related to women and ICT.

Interested organisations are invited to send their application to the ECWT Secretariat. The closing date for submission is 4th September 2009 at 5:00 pm.

[Click here for further details on the EWCT and requirements for N-POCS](#)

EVENTS



Invitation to the Information Security Solutions Europe Conference 2009 6-8 October, The Hague, the Netherlands

ENISA, the European Network and Information Security Agency, invites you to participate in the Information Security Solutions Europe 2009 Conference (ISSE 2009), which will be held from 6-8 October in The Hague, The Netherlands.

This event will bring together over 400 security professionals and network and information security (NIS) stakeholders from all over Europe to discuss the latest developments in corporate and government security and identity management, as well as to exchange experiences and best practices.

Interested participants can benefit from ENISA's promotional booking code *ISSE09EA* and save 250€ on the standard conference rate.

[Click here for more information](#)

Other events coming up:

- **10 – 12th September**
[13th Pan-Hellenic Conference on Informatics](#),
Corfu, Greece
Sponsored by: IEEE, CPS
- **10 - 11th September**
[4th European Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#),
Antwerp, Belgium.
Organised by: Academic Conference International.
- **16 - 18th September**
[International Conference on Quality Engineering in Software Technology, Nuremberg, Germany.](#)

Organised by: GI, Fraunhofer, Bayern Innovativ, Indian Testing Board.

Sponsored by: sepp med, spiritse, MKS, AFRA, testingtech, anecon, MID, projektron, software quality lab, Austrian testing board, Diaz Hilterscheid, capgemini sd&m, sqs, puretesting, dpunkt.

- **22 - 25th September**
[World e-ID 2009](#),
Sophia Antipolis - French Riviera.
Sponsored by: Eurosmart, Gemalto, Entrust, CNRFID, NFC Forum, JMPT, Smart card forum, W3C, e-Forum, ETSI, EBF, Global Platform, Javacard Forum.
- **23 – 25th September**
[International Conference on Interactive Computer Aided Learning](#),
Villach, Austria.
Sponsored by: credis, Villach Stadt, IBM, Kaernten, IAOE, IEEE, Fachhochschule Kaernten.
- **23 – 25th September**
[7th IFIP WG13.5 Intl. Working Conf. on Human Error, Safety, and Systems Development](#), Brussels, Belgium.
Organised by: The Belgian Laboratory of Computer-Human Interaction (BCHI).
- **23 – 25th September**
[9th IFIP Conference on e-Business, e-Services, and e-Society](#), Nancy, France.
Supported by: INRIA, Loria, Nancy University, GDR-I3-CNRS, Région Lorraine, Communauté Urbaine du Grand Nancy.
- **5 – 8th October**
[Open days 2009](#), Brussels, Belgium.
Organised by: the Committee of the Regions
- **6th October**
[AGE Joint Workshop "Towards a New Ageing Vision: The Contribution of ICT Industry and Businesses"](#), Brussels, Belgium.
Organised by AGE- the European Older People's Platform together.
Supported by: the European Commission, EPP-ED.
- **6 – 8th October**
[Information Security Solutions Europe Conferences](#), The Hague, The Netherlands.
Co-organised by: eema, ENISA, identity 2009, the Municipality of The Hague, Teletrust.
Supported by: isc2, ECP, silicon-trust, ISSA, oasis-open.org.
- **7 – 9th October**
[10th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises](#),
Thessaloniki, Greece.
Organised by IFIP WG5.5
Supported by: Socolnet.
- **12 – 13th October**
[3rd European Conference on Games Based Learning](#), Graz, Austria.
Supported by: eJournal of eLearning, goingtomeet.com, emapps, play think learn, Autodesk, ODELUCE.
- **12 – 14th October 2009**
[International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology](#), Mr?gowo, Poland.
Organised by: PTI under the patronage of the Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education.
Supported by: Institute of Computer Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPI PAN), IEEE, Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBS PAN), ATI.

- **12 – 14th October**
[17th IFIP/IEEE International Conference On Very Large Scale Integration](#), Florianopolis, Brasil.
Sponsored by: IFIP, CEDA, SigDa.
- **15 – 16th October**
[EduTech 2009](#), Florianopolis, Brazil.
Organised by: IFIP, VLSI.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS



Your Suggestions & Contributions

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

Member contributions to the newsletter are also always warmly received.

We also encourage you to distribute the CEPIS Newsletter further within your society.

Please send your thoughts, comments or requests to [Fiona Fanning](#).

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