



Issue 6 (2009) July

This issue brings you news of a new initiative from the EC on relaxing requirements to access European Social Funds, a report from Cedefop that forecasts future skills supply in Europe and an OECD study on the impact of the crisis on ICT and ICT-related employment.

Also included you'll find an invitation from the ATI Working Group on Software Quality to participate in their new online survey, while the EC invites comments on a proposed regulatory strategy for broadband through a new consultation. DND provides an update on its recent EUCIP success with Microsoft sponsoring certification for its partners in Norway.

In addition we also bring you news about recent and upcoming events, an opportunity to apply for funding to stimulate ICT uptake as well as other calls for proposals.

In this issue...

- [News](#)
- [Member News](#)
- [Calls for Contributions](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Your Suggestions](#)

New Report Forecasting Future Skill Supplies in Europe

A new report from Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, outlines a medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe up to 2020.

[Read More](#)

Impact of the Crisis on ICT and ICT-Related Employment

This OECD paper analyses short and medium-term trends in ICT employment, and in the ICT goods and services sectors and compares them to broader trends across the economy.

[Read more](#)

NEWS

➤ **Software Quality Survey open to CEPIS Members**

The Working Group on Software Quality of ATI, the Spanish member of CEPIS, is carrying out a study on Software Testing Practices and invites CEPIS members to [participate in this online survey](#) to get a broader European perspective.

Two previous studies of the Working Group revealed poor results in real software testing practice both at the organisational level and in terms of

the individual efficiency and effectiveness of software developers when designing test cases. In fact, on average, organisations only implement 8 of 20 recommended practices in software testing; when designing test cases 50% of developers and testers cover less than 50% of options in programmes.

In order to investigate possible reasons for these and other issues, a panel of 25 experts (from academia and industry) identified what they call "factors with negative influence" on testing.

To gain the wider opinion of software professionals and assess the real degree of negative influence on devoting effort to testing processes or implementing best practices, the ATI Software Quality WG would appreciate your collaboration by completing their short survey.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

CEPIS members are invited to express their potential interest in working on this subject through a SIN. If this topic interests you please email [Fiona Fanning](#).



➤ **The Impact of the Economic Crisis on ICT and ICT-Related Employment**

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has recently published a study on ICTs and the impact of the current economic crisis.

It analyses short-term indicators of ICT goods and services and long-term trends in ICT employment as indicated by the performance of 80 global ICT firms and compares them with the overall developments in employment in the global economy. It also offers possible policy solutions to improve the skills sets of ICT-related employees.

While global unemployment is expected to continue to rise, the ICT firms included show less dramatic employee shedding than in 2002 and ICT employment overall is performing better than other sectors such as automobiles and financial services. In general, large ICT firms have been retaining their employees during this phase of recession, with the exception of Internet firms, which have been losing the biggest share of the labour force.

[Click here to read the OECD paper](#)



➤ **Relaxing EU Social Fund Rules to Fight the Economic Crisis**

Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions, has welcomed the EC plan to relax the requirements to access the European Social Fund as a means of stimulating the European economy and overcoming the current economic crisis.

As current rules for EU social funds require co-financing of up to 50%, EU regions and cities often cannot access the funds allocated to them due to the lack of financial resources to meet this criterion. Greater flexibility in EU regional aid rules is necessary to boost training and employment projects and increase the competitiveness of EU regions in

vital sectors, such as infrastructure, research and eco-friendly technologies.

A proposal to extend the co-financing derogation to all structural funds has also been made by the Committee of the Regions, which has called on Member States and the European Parliament to give their support and approve legislation to relax the social funds rule.

[Click here for more Information](#)



➤ **Public Consultation on Regulatory Strategy to Promote Broadband Now Open**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on its revised proposal for the regulation of Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband networks. The revised draft recommendation intends to encourage increased investments in very high speed Internet services while preserving the competitive structure of the market for an effective access to NGA networks. The public consultation will close on 24th July 2009.

[Click here to participate](#)



➤ **2009 Report on R&D in ICT in the EU**

The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTs) has recently published the first report of the PREDICT (Prospective Insights on R&D in ICT) series focusing on ICT research and development activities in the EU.

The first section of the report provides an international and sectoral analysis of data on ICT R&D, including statistics on business and government R&D expenditure, as well as data from the Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard of the biggest world R&D spenders. The second part focuses on R&D performances, presenting a conceptual framework for the assessment of innovative activities in the field and providing an overview of ICT patenting in the EU and in Member States.

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



➤ **'Tallinn Process' Launched to Secure Europe's Critical Information Infrastructure**

The EU ministerial conference on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection, which took place in Estonia in April, launched the 'Tallinn process' aimed at improving the capability of Member States to protect their critical information infrastructure.

The 'Tallinn process' intends to reinforce Europe's capacity to respond efficiently to future network and information security challenges, through stronger cooperation between EU Member States and stakeholders. The process will be underway by 2010 and will be supported by an annual ministerial conference on critical information infrastructure protection.

[Click here for more information.](#)



✈ **Forecasting Future Skills Supply in Europe**

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), in cooperation with several research teams (IER, ROA, CE) and Skillsnet experts, has recently published a forecast of skills supply in Europe up to 2020.

The report presents macroeconomic projections at national, local and sectoral level, as well as alternative scenarios for each Member State and aggregate results for Europe. Results suggest an overall growth in the numbers of people holding medium and high-level qualifications both in the population and in the labour force. In contrast, the population aged 15+ with low-level or no qualification is expected to fall by more than 28 million between 2007 and 2020.

Despite this overall positive picture, the report highlights policymakers' concern that the current financial crisis could have a negative impact on these trends, discouraging investments in human capital or increasing individuals' educational participation as a way of delaying entry to a depressed labour market. Policymakers are encouraged to ensure that investments in education and lifelong learning are realised to prevent a less positive scenario.

[Click here to read the full version of the report.](#)



✈ **European Commission Outlines a new Action Plan to Promote the 'Internet of Things'**

The European Commission has recently announced a new 14-point Action Plan to promote the evolution of the 'Internet of Things' and address challenges related to privacy, security and protection of personal data.

Acknowledging the rapid growth of connected devices, which is expected to increase exponentially over the next decade, the 14 actions outlined in the plan emphasise the importance of improving technology standardisation, increasing funding for research, and prioritising the protection and security of personal data in order to increase the benefits of the 'Internet of Things' for European citizens.

[Click here to read the Action Plan.](#)



✈ **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



Microsoft Norway Sponsors Partners for EUCIP Certification

Since its launch in 2007, EUCIP Norway has been welcomed by organisations such as ICT-Norway and Abelia. In addition, Microsoft Norway, an organisation that promotes its own certifications, will sponsor EUCIP training for some of its partner organisations. This move underlines EUCIP as an industry standard for IT professional competence and bodes well for certifying more of the 100,000 IT professionals that make up the Norwegian market. CEO Renny Bakke Amundsen is optimistic that this, coupled with the economic crisis will steer many more towards EUCIP certification.

[Click here to view a translation of the article that appeared on Digi.no](#) (automated translation).

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



Call for Proposal: ICT PSP Call 3 Bis

The eParticipation Call for Proposals ([ICT PSP Call 3 bis](#)) has recently been launched to stimulate the uptake and best use of ICT and digital content by citizens, governments and businesses. It aims to advance the information society for all through ICT-based solutions and services.

The call is based on the Work Programme 2009 of the ICT Policy Support Programme, which supports specific pilot actions in a range of areas, including ICT for inclusion and ICT for government and governance, for a total investment of €7 million. The deadline for proposals is 23rd September 2009.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Call for Peer Reviewers

eLearning Papers has launched a call for peer reviewers to review submitted articles. Peer reviewers are expected to be active and fair-minded, with academic background and experience in industry, NGO or public sector. Each peer reviewer will review 1-3 articles per year and advise possible improvements.

Peer reviewers contribute on a voluntary basis, therefore no monetary compensation is offered. Please contact the [editorial board](#) of the eLearning Papers to submit your application, together with a brief description of your experience.

[Click here for more information](#)

EVENTS



International Conference on Semantic Systems - I-Semantics 2009 2nd-4th September 2009, Graz, Austria

The international I-Semantics '09 conference will take place in Graz, Austria, from 2nd-4th September 2009 and will offer a forum of exchange for businesses, research institutions and companies that work on semantic technologies.

Products and services will be presented by vendors and developers, while developments and trends will be discussed by international experts. Participants will also debate on the most challenging technological, social and economic aspects of semantic systems.

A SigPrag (Special Interest Group on Pragmatist IS Research) International Pragmatic Web Conference Track (ICPW 2009) will be held during i-Semantics 2009. This special track will focus on 'pragmatics' in the Semantic Web, in particular pragmatic web media for communication.

[Click here for more on I-Semantics '09.](#)

[Click here for more on the Pragmatic Web Track.](#)

e-ID Management Technologies & Services Conference 22nd-25th September 2009, Sophia-Antipolis, French Riviera

The e-ID Management Technologies & Services conference will take place in Sophia-Antipolis, French Riviera, from 22nd-25th September, as part of the Innovation Forum for Mobility and Trusted Technology Services.

The conference will provide e-ID innovators and policymakers with a comprehensive outlook on major deployments from across the globe and open a debate on the latest e-ID technologies, services & standards.

Participants are invited to [register](#) by 10th July to benefit from the early bird rate.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Other events coming up:

- **15th-17th July**
[9th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies](#), Riga, Latvia.
Sponsored by: Technical Committee Learning Technology, IEEE.
- **20th-23rd July**
[International Symposium on Systems, Architectures, Modelling, and Simulation](#), Samos, Greece.
Sponsored by: IEEE.
- **27th-31st July**
[24th IFIP TC7 Conference on System Modelling and Optimization](#), Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Sponsored by Ministerio De Ciencia, Tecnologia e Inovacion Productiva Argentina.
- **27th-31st July**

[9th IFIP World Conference on Computers in Education](#), Bento
Goncalves, Brazil.

Supported by: UNESCO, RITLA.

- **4th-6th August**

[International Conference on the Applications of Digital Information
and Web Technologies](#), London, UK.

Supported by: London Metropolitan University, Digital Information
Research Foundation (DIRF), The British Computer Society (BCS).

- **5th-7th August**

[The 2009 IEEE Conference on the history of technical societies](#),
Philadelphia, USA.

Organised by: IEEE

- **16th-18th August**

[International Conference on Social Robotics](#), Incheon, Korea.

Organised by: FIRA Korea and Incheon information Technology
Industry Promotion Agency.