Monograph

Internet of Things
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CEPIS and IVI Win European Commission Tender on e-Skills and ICT Professionalism!

Project kick-off: Pan-European framework for ICT professionalism and new CIO programme will boost innovation and competitiveness.

With the cost of IT project failures in business estimated at up to €4.5 trillion worldwide, and with research indicating that half of IT projects incur budget overruns of more than 80%, the European Commission has engaged with the **Council of European Professional Informatics Societies** (CEPIS) and the **Innovation Value Institute** (IVI), to advance the development of ICT Professionalism in Europe. Together, IVI and CEPIS will undertake a pioneering research project which will strengthen and further professionalize the vital role of ICT professionals and will see the development of a pan-European training scheme for ICT managers.

CEPIS and IVI are inviting all interested parties to engage with the research project.

During 2011, CEPIS and IVI researchers will conduct in-depth interviews with over 100 leading CIOs, ICT professionals and academics across Europe and develop:

- A Europe-wide framework for ICT professionalism, with the goal of enhancing ICT practices and mobility for qualified professionals across Europe.
- A European Training Programme for ICT Managers to promote new competences with a view to better addressing the challenges of ICT-driven innovation.

André Richier from the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission said that the development of the ICT profession was one of the most important challenges facing modern business and administration: "In Europe we see this as a key enabler of economic growth, innovation and competitiveness. The development of a common framework for understanding, communicating and measuring the pivotal role played by ICT and ICT professionals is a significant priority of the European e-Skills agenda".

Addressing the lack of a European ICT Professionalism framework and enhancing the competences and training of ICT practitioners is crucial in the quest for inclusive economic growth and for a knowledge-based society. The predicted skills shortage of up to 700,000 ICT practitioners by 2015 in Europe can be alleviated through the professionalization of the field and providing formalised training for ICT practitioners. As shown during the European e-Skills Conference on this topic, fostering ICT Professionalism can bring added value at social, organisational and practitioner levels, as well as increasing the quality of service provision. Building upon the New Skills for New Jobs initiative, the project is a timely response which will contribute significantly to the Europe 2020 strategy and the Digital Agenda for Europe.

CEPIS, with its extensive network of national ICT societies committed to maturing the ICT Profession, is ideally placed to drive forward ICT Professionalism and propose answers to the various challenges visible in the ICT arena.

IVI and CEPIS, who won the contract following a competitive bid process, will carry out the work jointly, under IVI’s project management, and have appointed a full-time research team for the project. Progress will be regularly posted to a dedicated website (details of which will be available from www.cepis.org and www.ivi.ie) with the exclusive opportunity for all interested parties to engage on a continuous basis. ICT professionals should regularly review the website and contact IVI and CEPIS with their feedback.

Read more about this project via the [Professionalism page of the CEPIS website](http://cepis.org/index.jsp?p=827&n=940).

**ECDL National Operators and CEPIS Members Pledge Action in the Digital Agenda for Europe**

Informatics association representatives from Austria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina exchanged experiences, ideas and information on the topic of digital literacy during the 4th Regional ECDL Foundation Forum in Sarajevo on 3rd December 2010.

The forum topic of "The Role of ECDL in Digital Literacy" proved to be very relevant, as there are low levels of digital literacy in the countries mentioned above.

The European Commission’s ten-year strategy, the Digital Agenda for Europe seeks to maximise the social and economic potential of ICT and refers to digital literacy in particular.

Conclusions from the Forum listing eight specific points that each CEPIS Member Society in attendance would adhere to in promoting digital literacy and advocating for the Digital Agenda in their respective countries have been published.

More information about the conclu-
Have your Say on Improving the EU Research and Innovation Funding Process!

The European Commission has recently presented a Green Paper which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding. All interested individuals and organizations are invited to give their opinion on the proposed changes and questions presented in this Green Paper. View the Green Paper at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfri/index_en.cfm?pg=documents>.

The proposed changes will:
- Make participation easier
- Increase scientific and economic impact
- Provide better value for money

This consultation is open to all interested individuals, who can contribute via an online questionnaire; by commenting on various blogs (that will be created regularly by the European Commission on topics within the Green Paper and received responses); or by attending specific events which will be organized throughout the consultation period.

The finalized changes will be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, and after the consultation is closed the European Commission will host a major event that will bring together the main conclusions and outcomes.

The closing date of the consultation is 20th May 2011.

You can participate in the consultation online questionnaire at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfri/index_en.cfm?pg=questionnaire>.

Europe’s Innovation Performance is still Falling Behind USA and Japan

The European Commission has recently published the results of the first edition of the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2010 (IUS) which shows that overall progress in innovation is not fast enough by Member States.

Countries such as Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania scored very low in terms of innovation performance, and have been categorized as such in the IUS as "Modest Innovators", meaning they have performed lower than 50% of the average performance of the EU27.

In general Europe is maintaining its lead over India and Russia however where Brazil is catching up steadily, China is closing the gap very rapidly.