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- *inforeview*, magazine from the Serbian CEPIS society JISA
- *Informatica*, journal from the Slovenian CEPIS society SDI
- *Informatik-Spektrum*, journal published by Springer Verlag on behalf of the CEPIS societies GI, Germany, and SI, Switzerland
- *ITNOW*, magazine published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the British CEPIS society BCS
- *Mondo Digitale*, digital journal from the Italian CEPIS society AICA
- *Novática*, journal from the Spanish CEPIS society ATI
- *OCG Journal*, journal from the Austrian CEPIS society OCG
- *Pliroforiki*, journal from the Cyprus CEPIS society CCS
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*Fiona Fanning*

### **New Research Shows that Future IT Professionals Need Career Paths and More IT-Focused Training to Give EU Competitive Edge**

A worrying picture of Europe's future emerges from new research showing that as the population ages and the demand for skilled IT professionals increases, the flow of fresh, young talent into the field of IT is sadly lacking. The lack of career paths damage the attractiveness of the IT profession for new entrants, while continuous professional development is needed for established professionals.

Europe's chances at becoming a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy are severely threatened by the lack of Europeans with the right skills. As ICT pervades all industries, companies rely increasingly on technology for productivity and to compete globally. Yet the cost of IT project failures is estimated at €4.5 trillion worldwide, and with over half of IT projects running over budget - IT professionals are inextricably linked with Europe's ability to thrive and compete globally. Until now there has been little information on what e-competences are currently held by IT professionals in Europe.

The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS) has carried out pioneering research into the actual e-competences of IT professionals across Europe and has just published the European report. The findings show that European IT professionals are ageing with a lack of young talent entering the IT profession; there is a clear need for further initiatives to promote the IT profession among young people. Further, only one out of every six IT professionals who responded is female, indicating that all countries need to urgently address this gender imbalance and increase the participation of women in IT careers.

Overall only one fifth of IT profes-

sionals who participated in the research actually had the right e-competences for their IT career profile. The report also shows that a significant proportion of IT professionals do not have an IT-focused educational background and as a result continuous professional development for IT professionals is needed, through the completion of IT certifications for example.

Developing and identifying the e-competences of IT professionals in Europe can help towards better matching the skills of our labour market to future jobs. More importantly knowing the e-competences of IT professionals can enable European employers, industry, policymakers, and educators to develop and implement a vision to manage the mismatches and shortfalls that hinder Europe's competitiveness and productivity.

Almost 2000 IT professionals in 28 countries across greater Europe participated in the CEPIS Professional e-Competence Survey. The European report by CEPIS compares all countries involved in the survey and creates a picture of the overall status of e-competences in Europe at the moment. The survey is a web-based self-assessment tool, based on the European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) and uses 18 IT career profiles recognised by the labour market.

The European report and the Executive Summary Brochure are available at: <https://www.cepis.org/professionalecompetence>.

### **Greek CEPIS Member Society to Host Digital Trends 2011**

The Hellenic Professionals Informatics Society (HePIS), and CEPIS are hosting Digital Trends 2011, the first forum in Greece to encourage dialogue on the contribution of the ICT sector to economic growth, increased productivity, the advancement of a creative digital

culture, the adoption of Green and Cloud practices and the strengthening of the overall role of industry professionals within the business community.

The event will take place on December 5 in Athens, Greece. All CEPIS members and CEPIS UPGRADE readers are invited to participate.

You can find more about this conference at: <http://www.digitaltrends.gr/default.asp?la=2>.

### **Digital Agenda for Europe is Going Local – Events in Every Country in Europe**

The European Commission has announced the second round of Digital Agenda Going Local. Following on from 2010, a series of meetings are being carried out in all Member States and other European countries.

Some of the events announced by the European Commission have already taken place in several European countries, including Romania, Denmark, Poland and the Czech Republic. These events focused on IT security, and e-government among many other topics related to the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) such as innovation for digital inclusion. For all European citizens involved in DAE actions, this is an opportunity to influence your national environment and promote your digital agenda actions.

The Digital Agenda Going Local initiative aims to:

- Report on progress of the DAE
- Identify challenges for the future
- Stimulate actions and commitments

If you would like to get involved in the Digital Agenda Going Local, or if you wish to find out more about the events taking place in your country, please click here: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda/local/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/local/index_en.htm).